



Lessons learned from past GEOs

Based on:

Bakkes, Cheatle, Mzavanadze, Pinter and Witt (in prep.)

Topics

1. GEO is as much a process as a set of reports
2. Success as an EIA model
3. Impacts
4. Changes
5. Scenarios for GEO's future
6. Bottom line

GEO is as much a process as a set of reports



GEO's essential formula, in retrospect:

1. Broad spectrum of issues
 2. Regional + global + cross-scale
 3. Collaborative, participatory
 4. Science based + policy relevant
 5. Past + present + future
 6. Assessment of policies, not prescription
- + Learn by doing

Major success as a model

for Integrated Environment Assessment

Global GEOs

- + Regional
- + National
- + Local

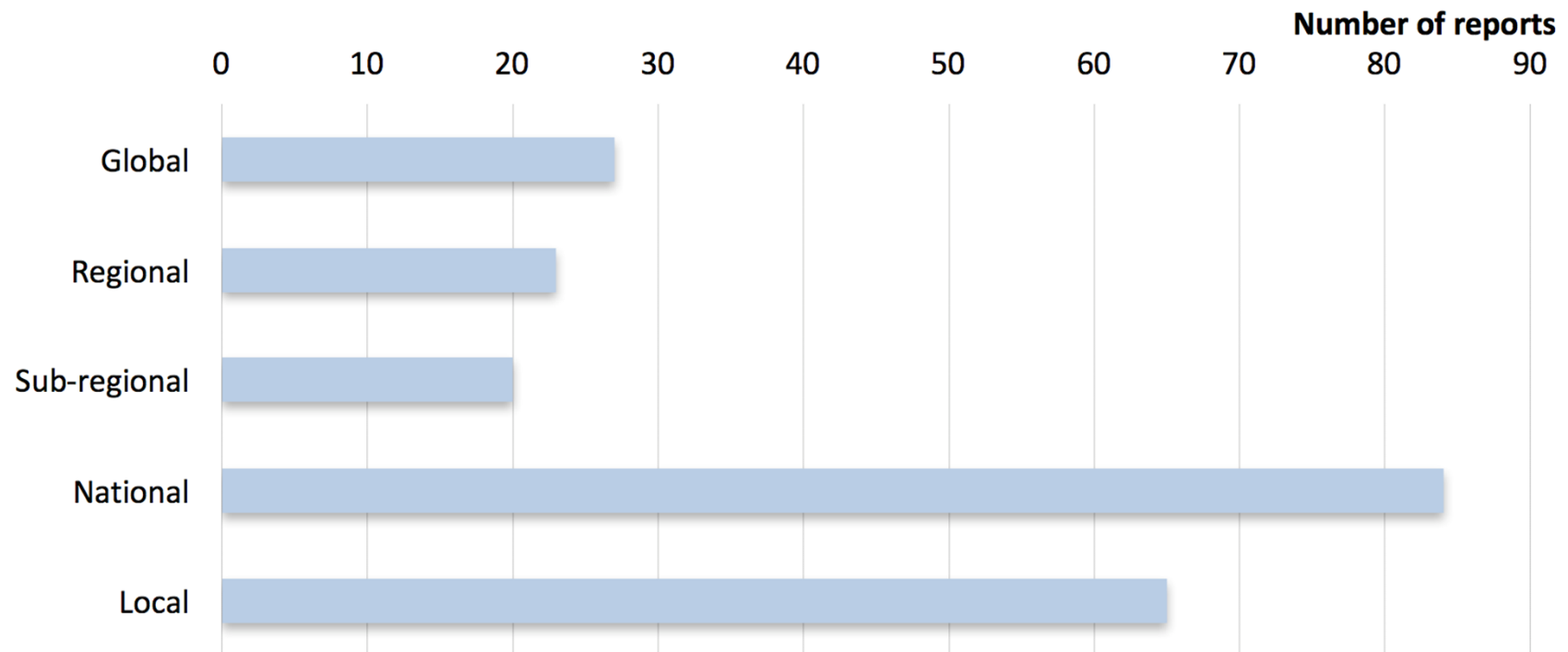
Firm actual basis + broadening + foresight

→ Many more than previously thought

GEO reports, 1997-2018*



Number and Scope of GEO Reports



* Provisional numbers

Numbers in this chart do not include either meeting or technical reports stemming from GEO processes. Numbers for global reports include GEO Year Books and manuals.

Impacts of GEO

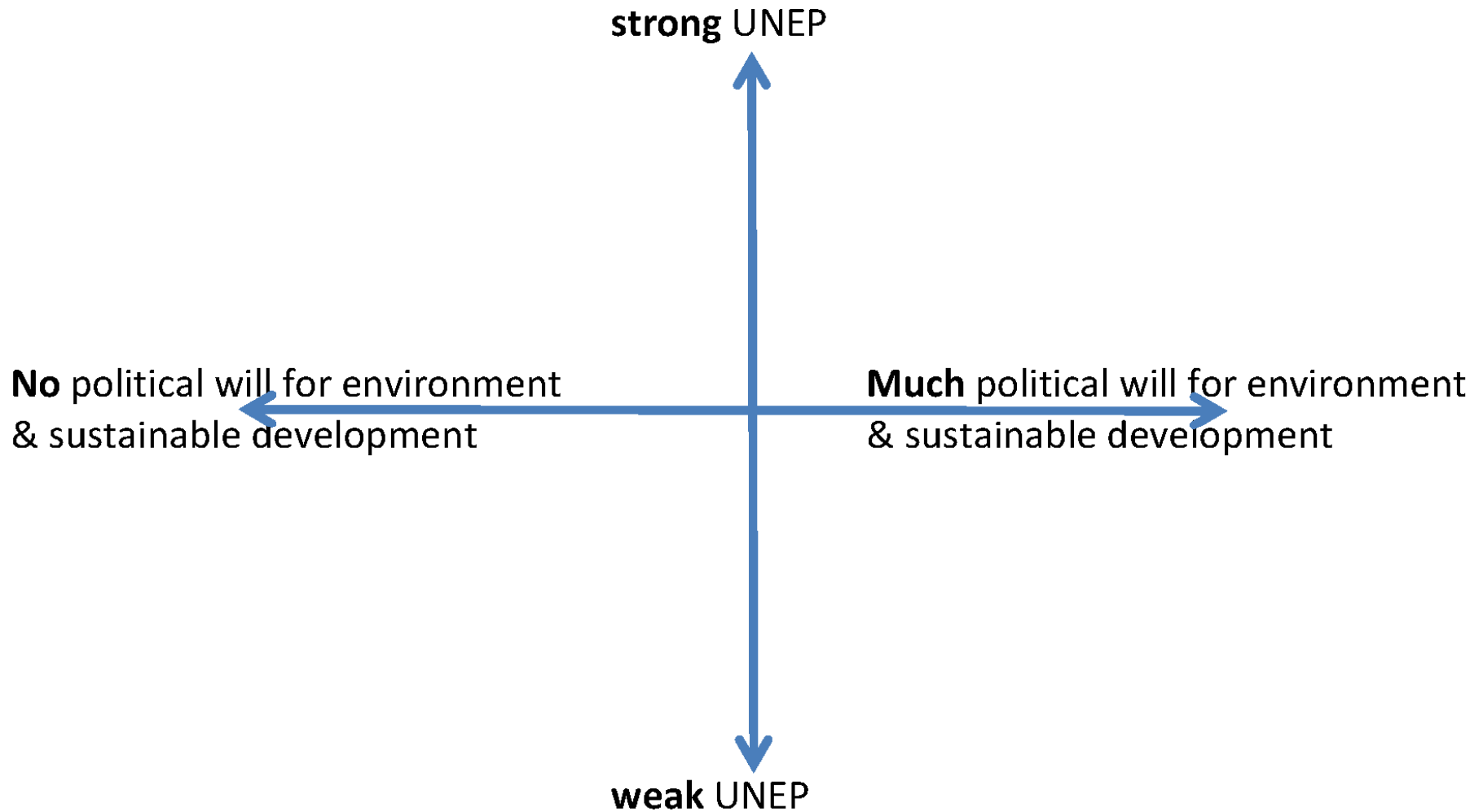
Three interconnected types

1. Nuanced, science-based approach → resonance across geographies & cultures
2. Community of practice
3. Spin-off in higher education

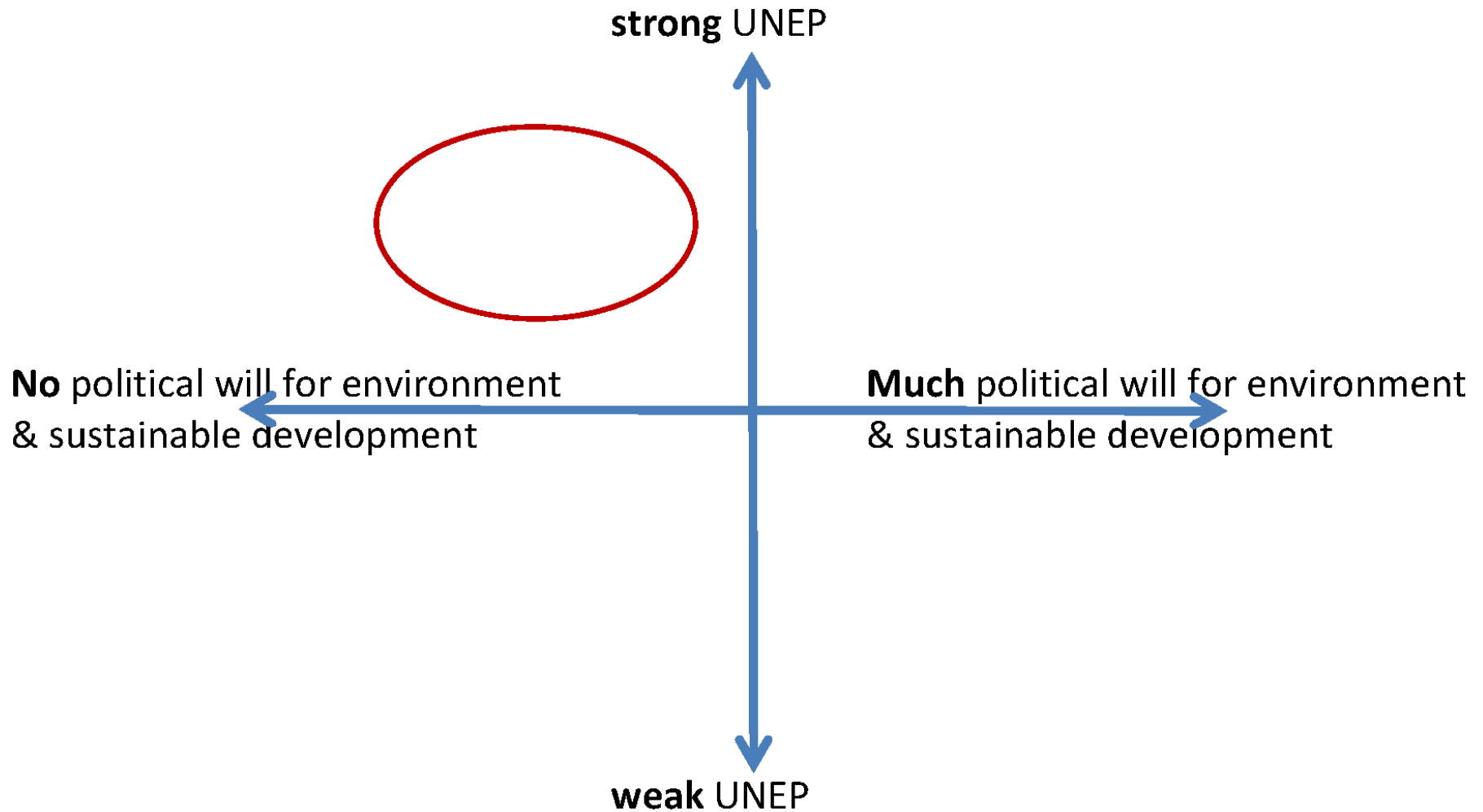
Changes

- Issues mutate
- Focus shifted
 - *from* issue framing / agenda setting
 - *to* options for action
- GEO's memory is disappearing fast
- IPCC-ization of GEO → very different views

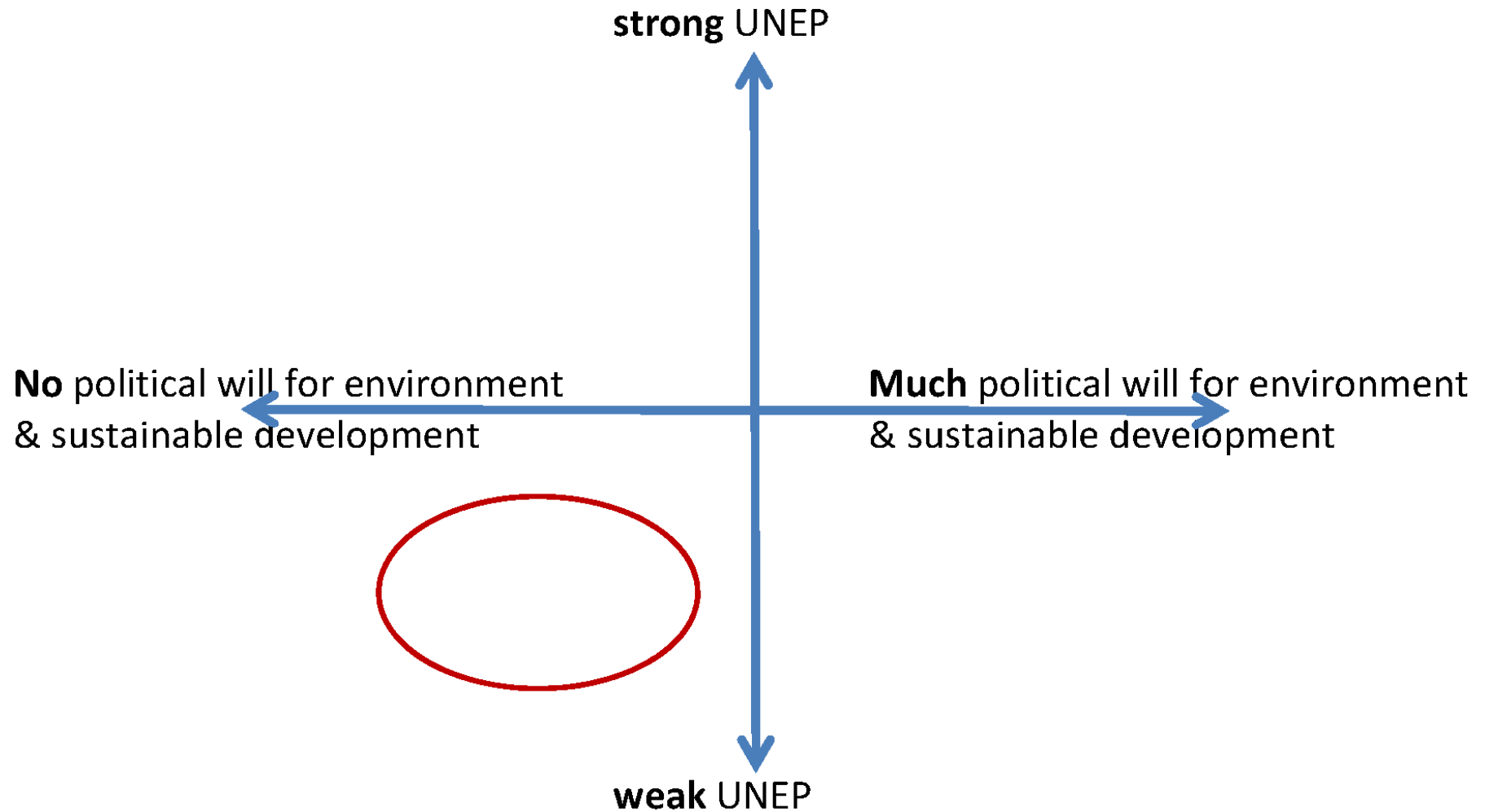
Scenarios for GEO



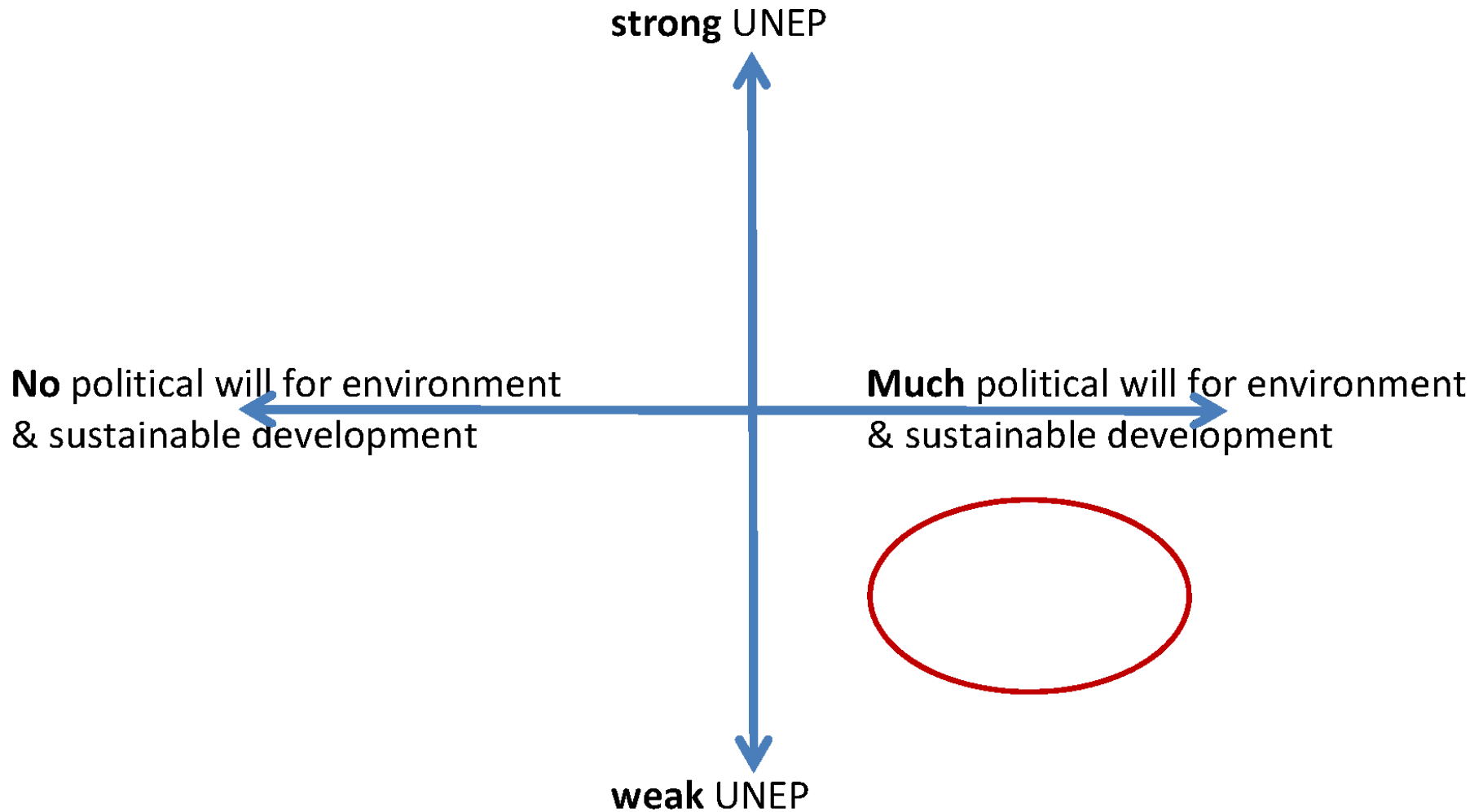
Scenarios for GEO



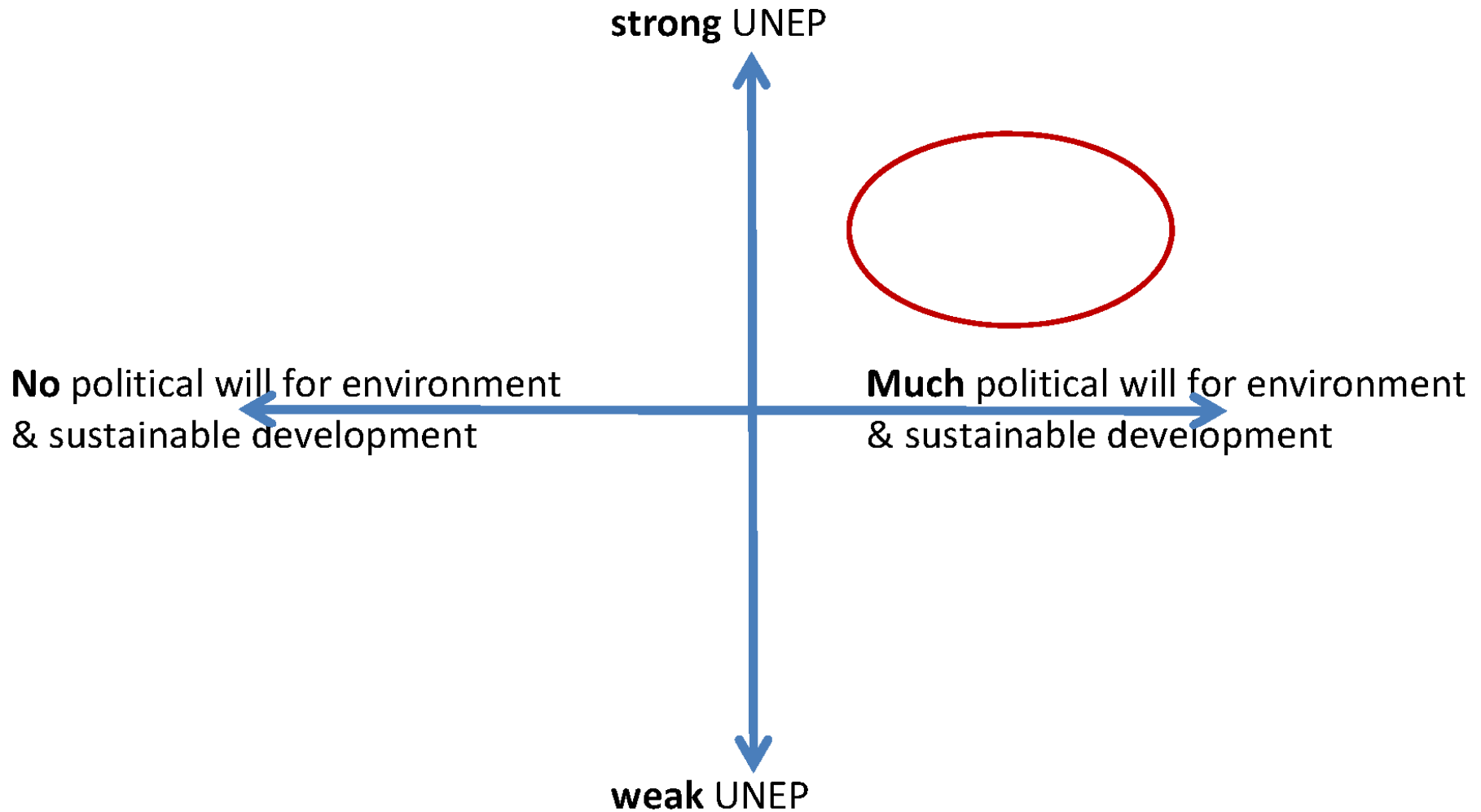
Scenarios for GEO



Scenarios for GEO



Scenarios for GEO



Scenarios for GEO



GEO's potential in 2020s context scenarios is unsure

- Multiplicity everywhere → easier vehicles than GEO

or

- Starting point for redeveloping GEO

Interviews indicate variety of directions, e.g.

- Mobilizing massive money & technology for sustainable development
- 'Chapeau' over thematic and sectoral assessments

Bottom line from book writing & interviews



1. Not sure of GEO's potential in 2020s
 - Even with 50-year anniversary of Stockholm Conference
2. If redesign, that could be drastic
 - + more agile
 - + more productive interaction
 - + some old craftsmanship *e.g.* on coordination
 - + lasting network ↔ in-kind support
3. If stop, GEO methods and past practice remain very useful for newcomers
 - GEO's essential formula, in retrospect
 - *e.g.* data infrastructure

By now, extensive literature exist on how to do integrated environment assessment, but:

- the actual story of GEO is most instructive and encouraging.

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