

NEA

NATIONAL
ECOSYSTEM
ASSESSMENT
INITIATIVE



Supported by:



based on a decision of
the German Bundestag

INTRODUCTION TO THE IPBES FRAMEWORK AND NEA SCOPING PROCESS

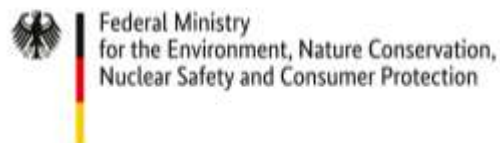
Agenda:

- . Overview of the IPBES framework and scoping process (UNEP-WCMC)
- . Thailand's latest scoping report outline and timeline (Thailand NEA team)
- . Opportunities for stakeholder involvement/validation in the scoping process
- . Specific questions and technical needs, e.g. scenarios approach, MBI, etc
- . Q&A from team, authors

PARTNERSHIP



Supported by:



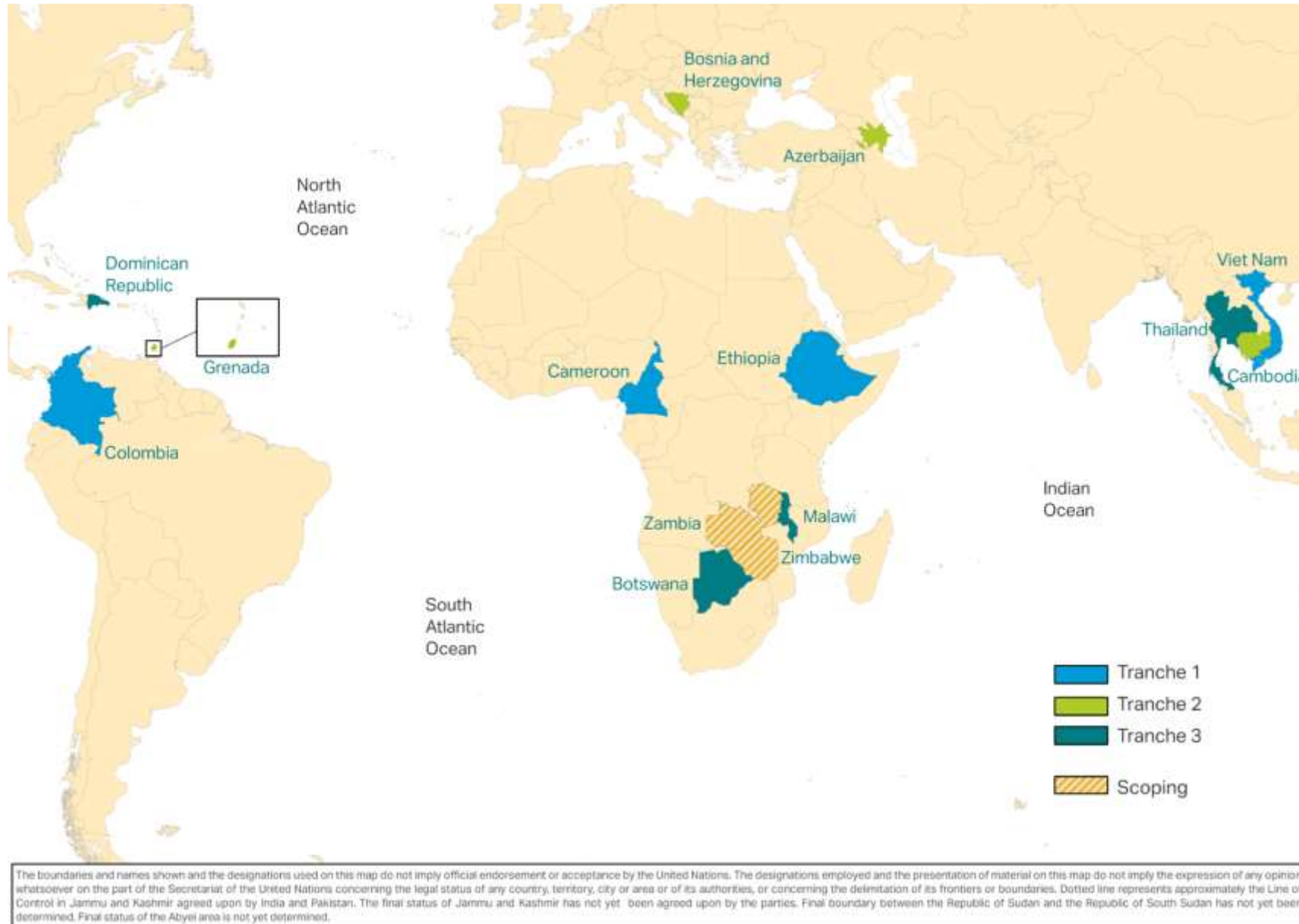
based on a decision of
the German Bundestag



AIMS OF THE NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT INITIATIVE

- Building shared knowledge through knowledge-exchange on biodiversity and ecosystem services for policies and decision-making
- Promoting platforms that strengthen engagement between practitioners, policymakers, experts, knowledge holders and stakeholders
- Developing capacity, sharing lessons learned
- Supporting national engagement with international processes (IPBES, CBD)

Working globally



Thailand joined Tranche 3 of the Initiative, together with Dominican Republic, Malawi and Botswana

WHAT IS A NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT?

- **Expert evaluation of knowledge** on status, drivers, impacts and responses to change in biodiversity & ecosystem services
- **Communicates complex information** to decision-makers
- Aims to **address policy questions**
- **Synthesizes available information** & identifies knowledge gaps

SUPPORTING



Science and Policy
for People and Nature

Capacity Building Work Programme



The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)



•IPBES's Mission:

- To **strengthen knowledge foundations for better policy through science**, for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

•Functions:

- To identify and prioritise key **scientific information** needed for policy makers
- To perform regular and timely **assessments** of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services and their interlinkages
- To support **policy formulation and implementation** by identifying key policy- relevant tools and methodologies, and facilitating their use
- To prioritise key **capacity-building** needs to improve the science-policy interface

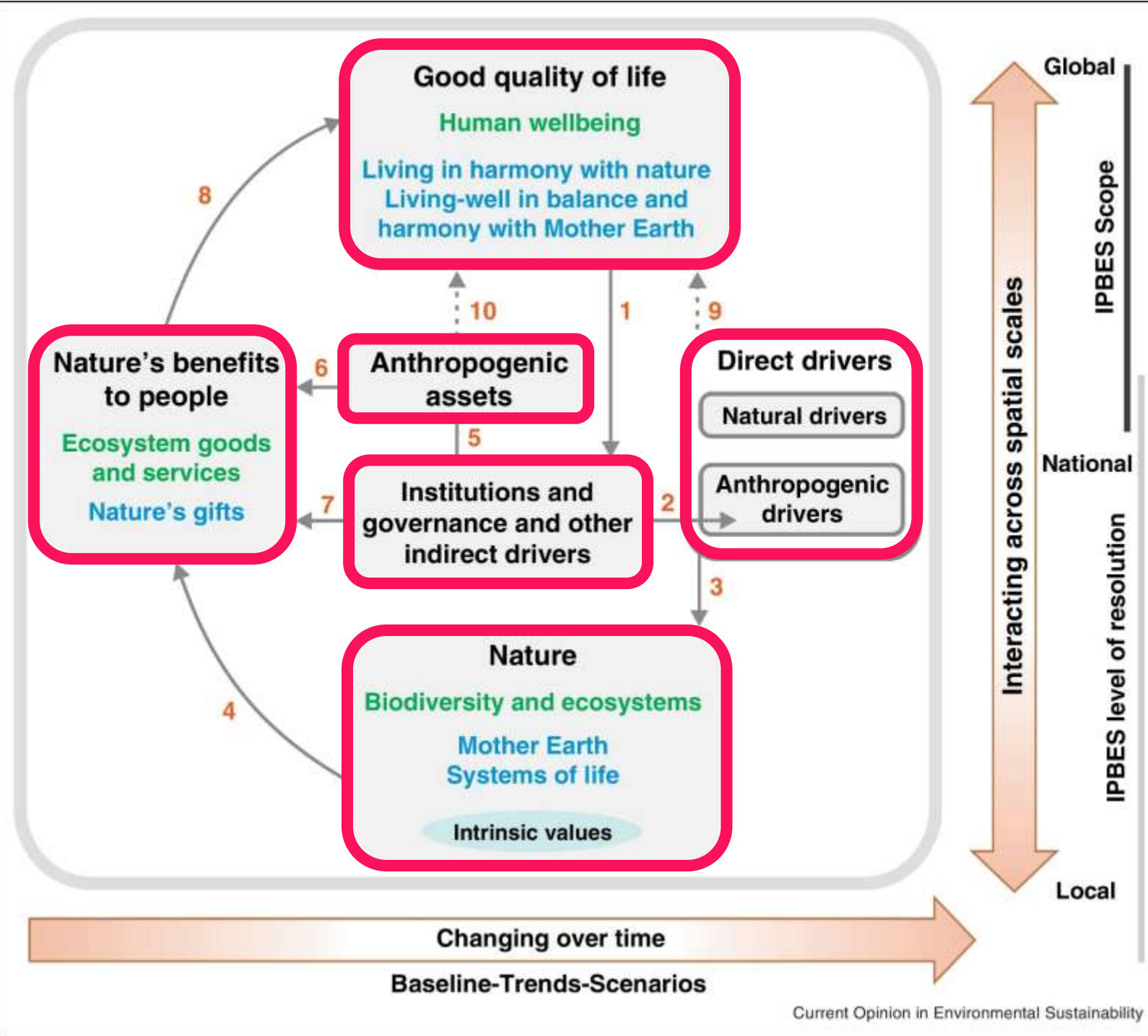
The IPBES assessment process



IPBES

Conceptual Framework

- Nature
- Nature's contributions to people
- Anthropogenic assets
- Institutions & systems
- Direct drivers of loss
- Good quality of life



Why use a conceptual framework?

- Organise thinking when assessing complex interactions between ecosystems and socioeconomic arrangements
- Give appropriate weight to different components, but can not capture everything
- Identify gaps in understanding
- Clarify underlying assumptions

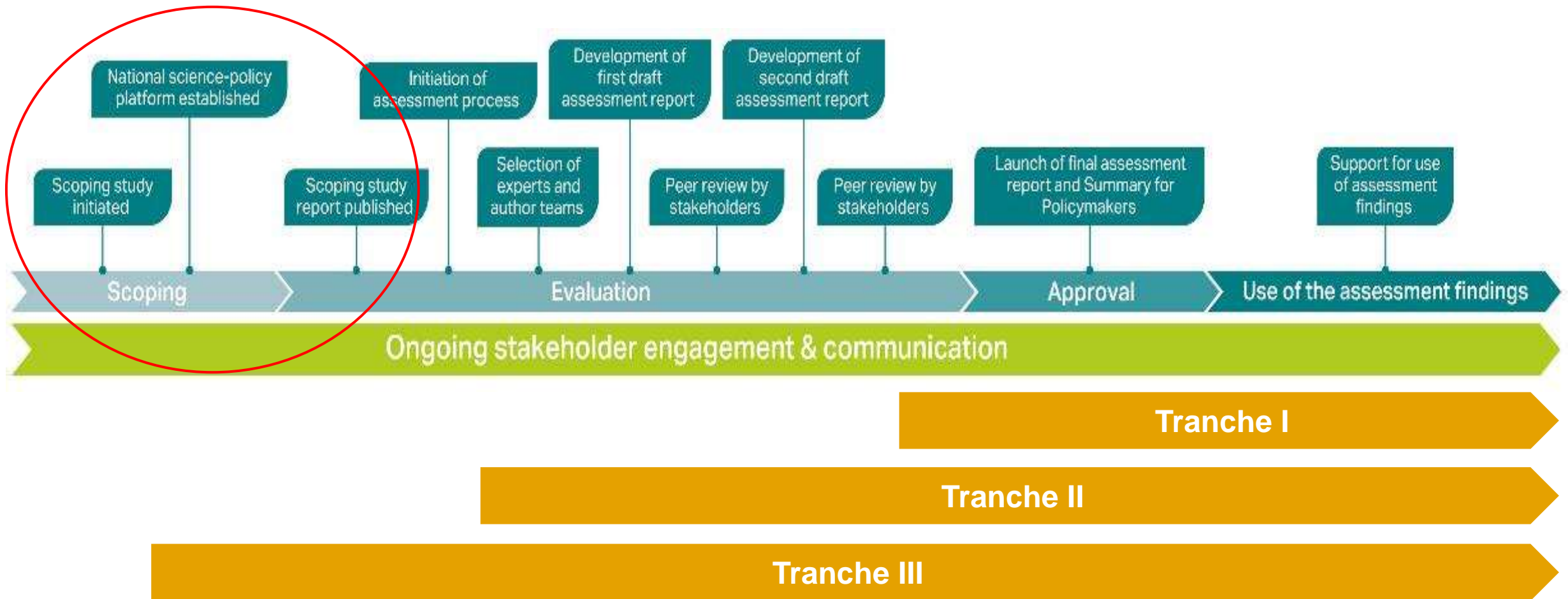
Why use a conceptual framework?

- Importantly: build a common understanding between multiple practitioners of priorities and what is being assessed --> develops acceptance and 'ownership'
- Many different conceptual frameworks have been developed for different assessment processes/approaches

From IPBES to National Ecosystem Assessments

- Tailoring IPBES assessments to national contexts
- Addressing national policy questions on biodiversity & ecosystem services
- Developing a conceptual framework to show how different factors interact

TIMELINE

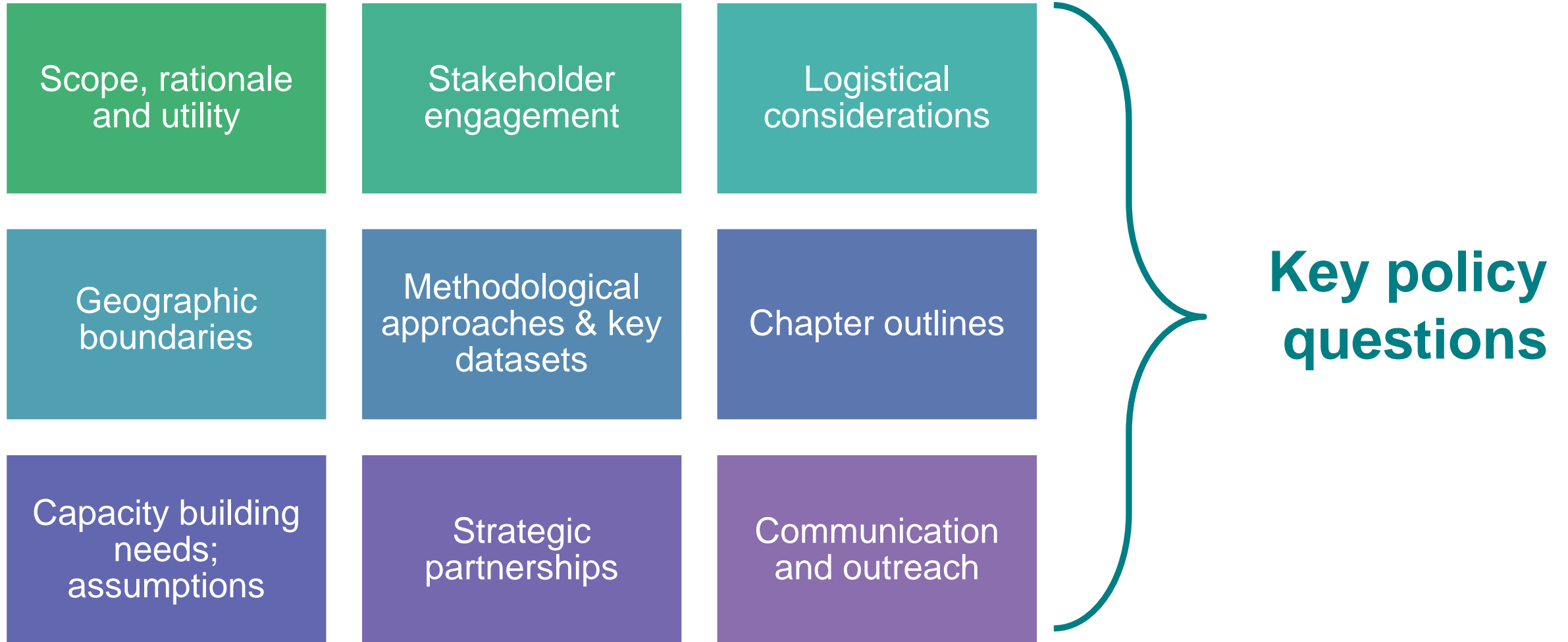


Stage 1: Request & scope



THE SCOPING REPORT

A detailed scoping document will usually address:



KEY POLICY QUESTIONS



- To find **evidence** that will support / justify:
 - Policy-related **decisions**
 - Allocation of public or private **resources** (e.g. time, money, land use rights)
- Reflects **national priorities**: economic, political, social and environmental
- Developed through an iterative process of **stakeholder consultation**
- They should be kept 'alive' and **relevant** as the assessment progresses
- A **policy scan of existing and upcoming policies/initiatives** will ensure the assessment engages the right people and increases use of outputs

EXAMPLES OF KEY POLICY QUESTIONS

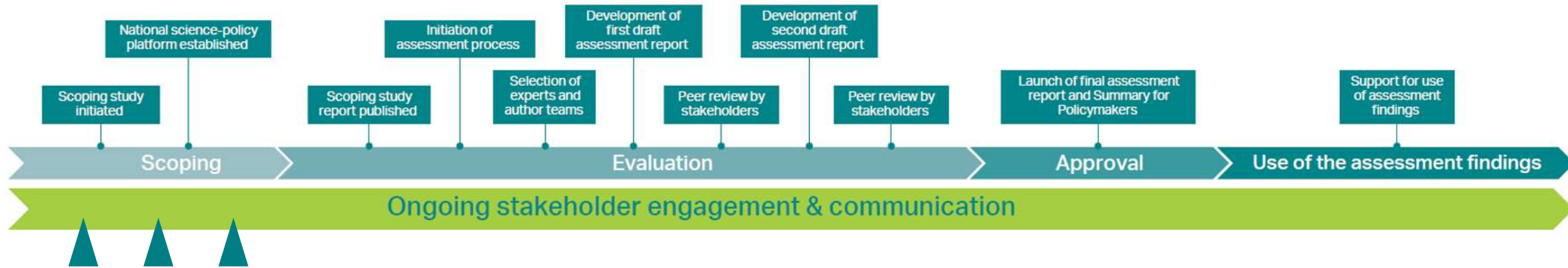
Cameroon: *How can biodiversity and ecosystem services contribute to transformational change in the emerging Cameroon policy and governance options?*

Colombia: *How does the knowledge of the status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services, analysed through the lens of diverse knowledge systems, contribute to decision-making to improve people's quality of life?*

Ethiopia: *What is the contribution of indigenous knowledge on conservation and sustainable use of selected ecosystems (forests; rangeland; wetland and aquatic ecosystems; and agroecosystems and mountains)?*

Vietnam: *What is the state of awareness of key stakeholders (policy makers, protected area managers and media) on forests, wetlands, and marine and coastal ecosystems goods and services and their contribution to human well-being?*

Where is stakeholder input needed?



Engagement, consultation and stakeholder input is particularly important when developing:

- Conceptual framework
- Key policy questions (revisited to ensure continued relevance)
- Rationale for assessment
- Disseminating & using findings

Importance of stakeholder engagement

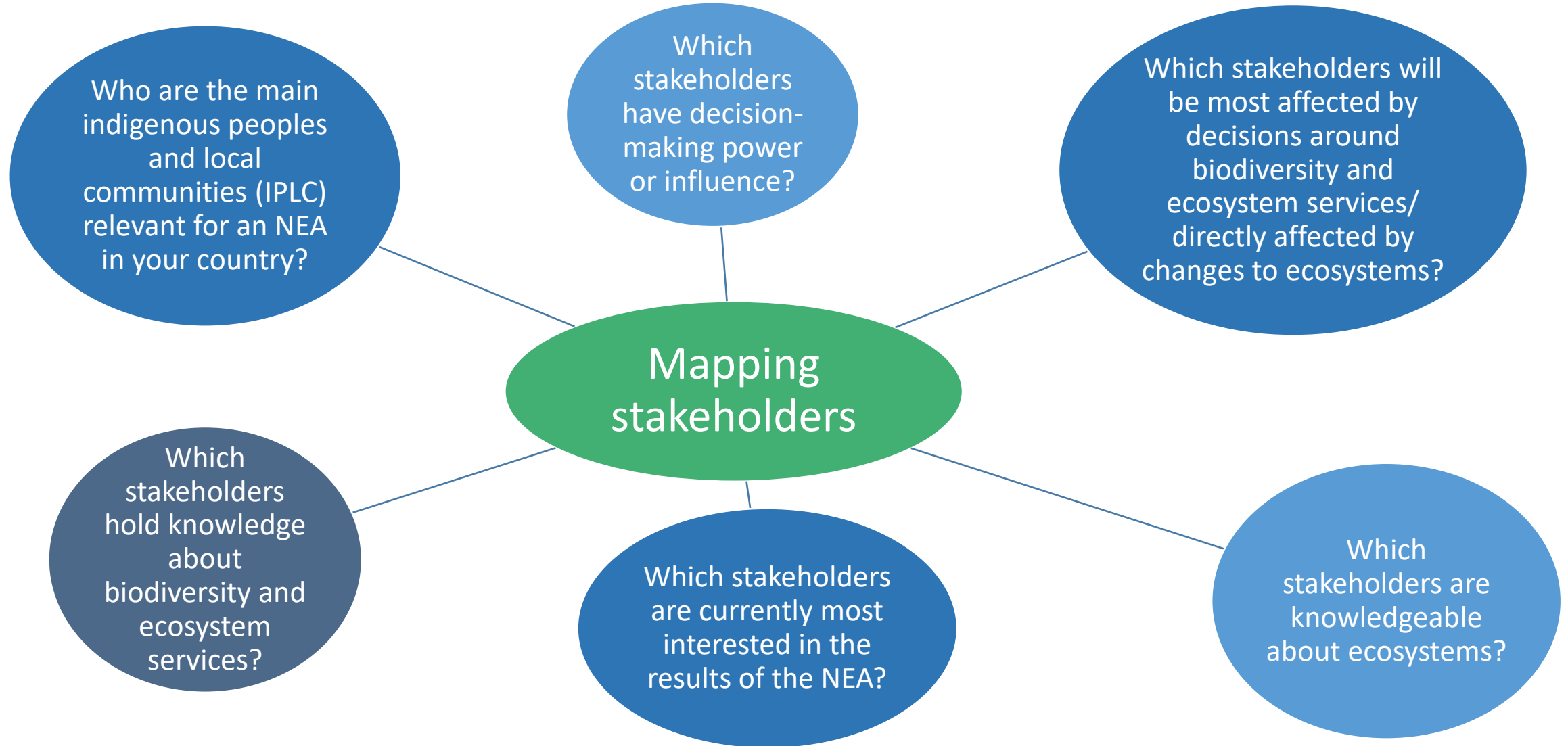
- Increasing **ownership** of the assessment process and its outputs
- Ensuring **relevance** of the assessment process & its findings for decision-making
- **Strengthening & diversifying knowledge** contributed to the assessment
- Identifying underlying **drivers**, hidden **trends**, and key **dependencies** on nature
- Identifying and/or filling **knowledge gaps**



What do we want to know?

- Who are key stakeholders who **affect** and are **affected** by **ecosystem change**?
- What are they **key policy questions** that are a priority for them?
- Which **ecosystems** and ecosystem **services** do they **depend** on?
- What **information** do we have about **status** and **trends** in these ecosystems?
- **Who holds** this **knowledge**? What **type** of knowledge is it? (scientific, indigenous, local?)
- **How best can we engage** with these multiple stakeholders?
- How do we **regularly check “relevance”** during assessment?
- How do we **prioritise key messages** for different stakeholders?

Mapping Stakeholders

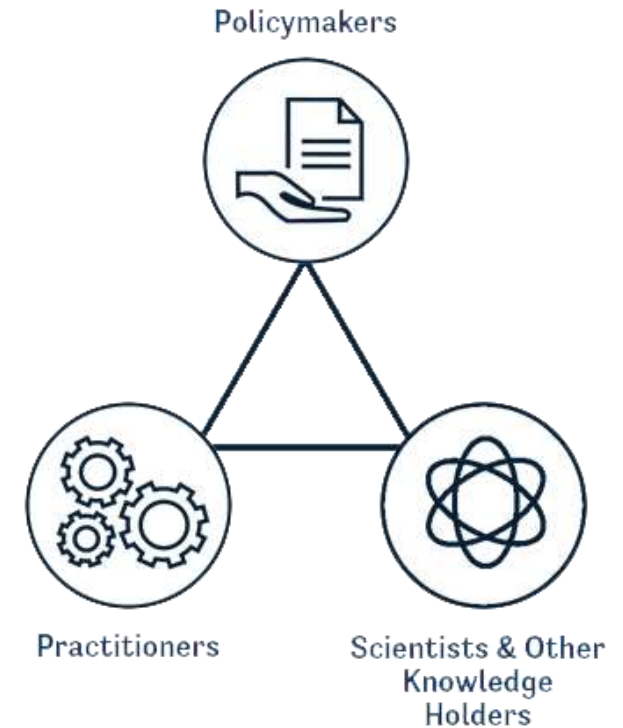


Stakeholder engagement methods

- Workshops
- Community meetings
- Interviews/surveys
- Social media
- Radio
- Face-to-face consultations
- **Dialogues for science/knowledge, policy and practitioner communities**

BES-Net “Trialogues”

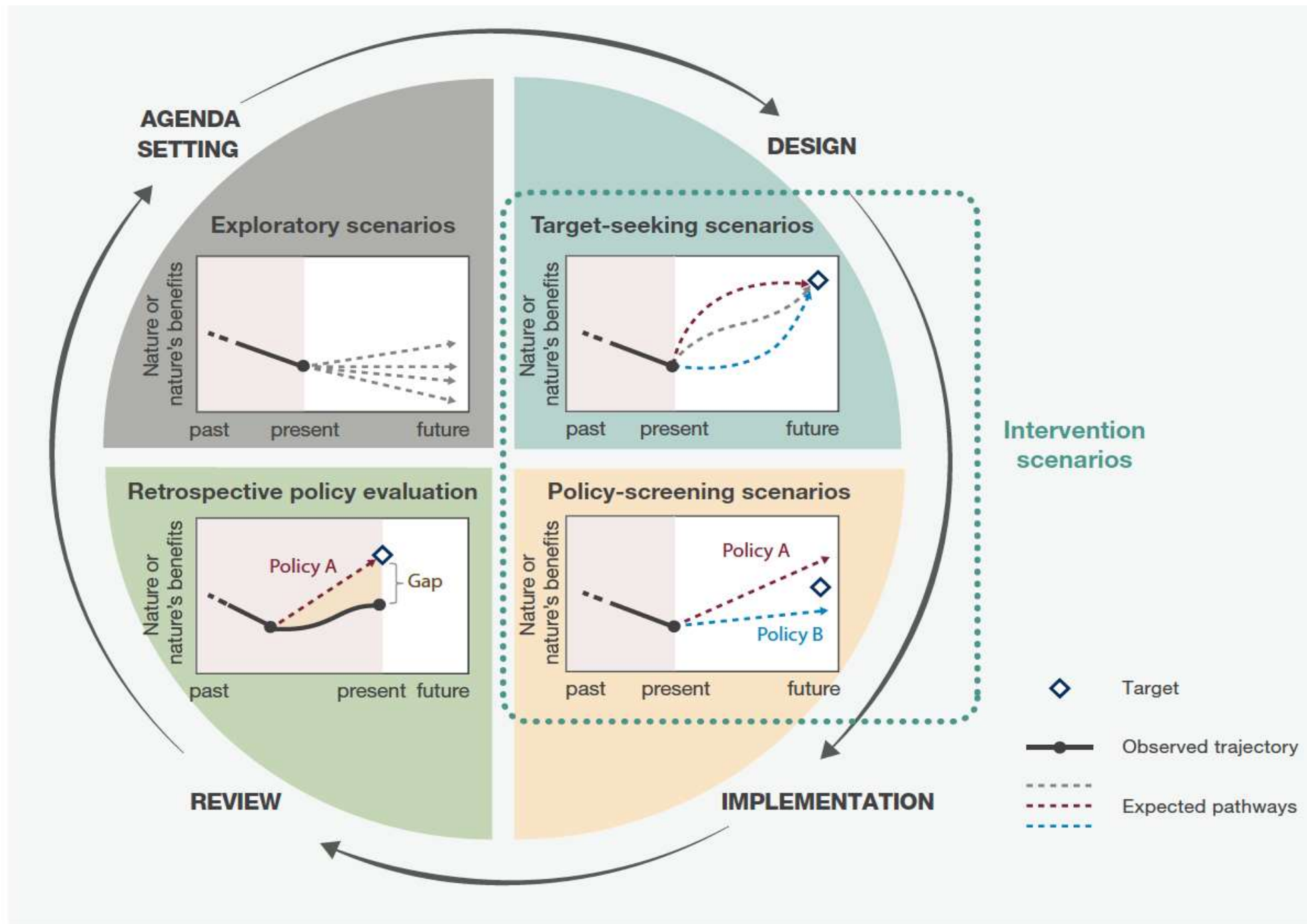
- The Trialogue is a methodology for the **facilitation of multi-stakeholder engagement** applied by BES-Net.
- Brings together the **three communities of science, policy and practice**, including the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and indigenous and local knowledge holders.
- **Creates a space** for knowledge holders and stakeholders with a **diverse set of expertise and experience** to address biodiversity and ecosystem services issues.
- The Trialogue enables **knowledge-sharing, conflict management** and **joint decision-making**.
- It is a **gender-responsive** and **inclusive approach**, fostering a constructive dialogue *between, within* and *among* stakeholder groups.



Scenarios

- Scenarios are descriptions of plausible or possible futures
- What-if stories about the future, can be told in words, numbers, images... They can be both qualitative and quantitative
- Understanding potential impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services and people under different scenarios can provide support to the policy cycle: agenda setting, policy design, policy implementation, and policy review.
- Scenarios can be considered as tools for the NEA at scoping stage:
 - decide whether scenarios will be included within the assessment \
 - if so, whether the scenarios are to be included as a standalone chapter or integrated across all chapters.
 - Start to think about the type of scenarios to be developed / used

Different types of scenarios for policy-making (IPBES 2016)



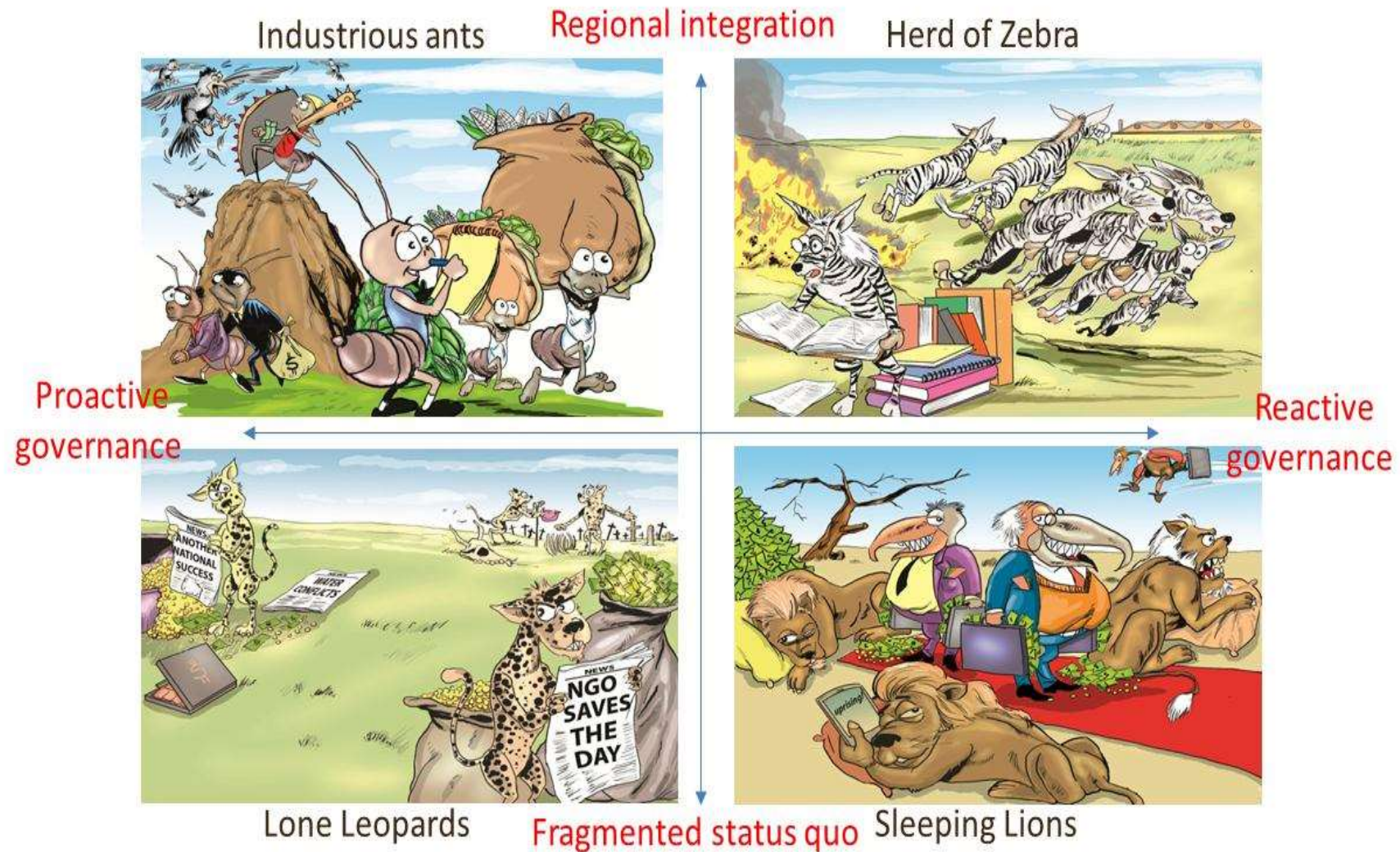
Scenarios

“Exploratory scenarios” - examine a range of plausible futures under different drivers (e.g. sociopolitical, socioeconomic, demographic, land-use change, climate change, etc). Can contribute significantly to high-level problem identification and agenda setting. [Example: Development as usual / higher growth scenario / sustainable development with conservation \(Vietnam NEA\)](#)

“Intervention scenarios” (also known as ‘**policy scenarios**’) - evaluate alternative policy or management options through either “target-seeking” or “policy-screening” analysis. Can contribute significantly to policy design and implementation. [Example: Impacts of different targets for organics rice in Thailand \(TEEB-AF\)](#)

“Retrospective policy evaluation scenarios” - to assess the extent to which the outcomes achieved by an implemented policy match those expected based on modelled projections. Can inform policy review processes. [Example: how much has REDD+ reduced GHG emissions?](#)

East Africa: four socio-economic scenarios



Mekong Region: four socio-economic scenarios



Land of the Golden Mekong. Regional collaboration, common market, strong regulation & enforcement, migration, climate resilience high, land degradation low.

Buffalo, Buffalo. Unregulated markets, unbalanced investment, high private investment, weak collaboration, agricultural intensification, high levels of land degradation.

DoReKi Dragon. ASEAN-facilitated development, common regulated market, strong enforcement, regional collaboration, investments in agriculture unbalanced, smallholder farmers struggle, high urbanization, environmental degradation.

Tigers on a Train. Strong regional collaboration, protectionist/closed market, low public and private sector investment, economic fragility, land degradation is low.

Scenarios

Some questions that can help develop the potential role for scenarios in NEA:

- What is the risk of future loss of nature, or nature's benefits to people?
- What visions do different groups in society hold for the environment where they live?
- What are the biggest threats from different future developments?
- Which drivers cause most problems in different futures?
- Which policies and management options could help mitigate drivers or address environmental problems?
- Which unintended consequences could these policies have?
- Which alternative or complementary measures could be taken?
- What are the requirements for the implementation of policies and complementary measures?

If it's decided that scenarios will be included within the assessment, the next step is to identify which scenario methodologies will be used.

Method	Outcome	How it is done	Time needed	Experts and Expertise needed	Materials needed
Literature review	Synthesis of existing scenarios studies of, e.g. how variations in policy options change biodiversity and ecosystem services	Identify search criteria, systematically search scientific and other literature, screen results, extract and synthesise findings, interpret and write up	Weeks/ Months	Basic understanding of scientific and grey literature on scenarios	Literature, reference management system, standardise system to store and compile relevant results
Modelling	Quantitative projections of future changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services, e.g. based on varying policy options	Identify type of modelling and modelling software, adapt software to assessment goals, identify and assemble data, run analysis, prepare visualisations/ maps, interpret and write up	Months/ Years	Experts with statistical and modelling skills, software skills	Data sets, data base to store. results, software, computing power
Mapping	Spatial visualization of synthesis results or quantitative projections	Identify and assemble data (e.g. from modelling or literature synthesis), prepare visualisations/maps, interpret and write up	Weeks/ Months	Experts with GIS skills, software skills	Data sets, data base to store results, software, computing power for GIS applications
Expert/ Participatory approaches	Scenarios storylines of future changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services, e.g. based on varying policy options	Select method of engagement, stakeholder analysis, plan and implement engagement process, document and analyse results, interpret and write up	Weeks/ Months	Experts with engagement skills, ILK, facilitation skills, content analysis skills	Facilitation materials



Thank you!

www.unep-wcmc.org

Facebook: @unepwcmc

Twitter: @unepwcmc

LinkedIn: UNEP-WCMC

Youtube: UNEP-WCMC Communications