

INCREASING USABILITY OF ADAPTATION RESOURCES

ROLE OF BOUNDARY ORGANIZATIONS IN BUILDING THE “LAST MILE” OF THE ADAPTATION NETWORK

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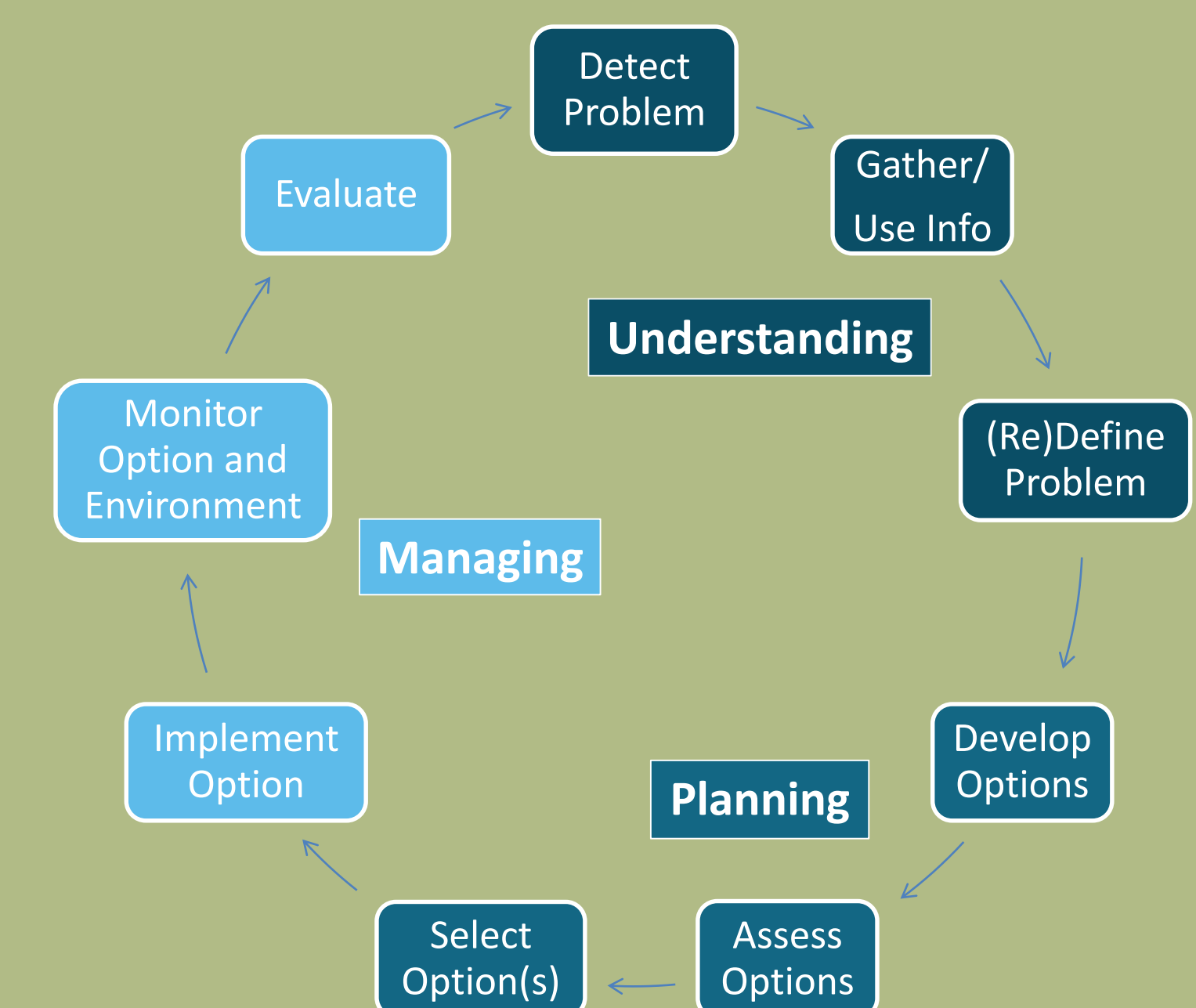
OVERVIEW

- The disconnect between adaptation resource providers and end users limits the effective use of information resources¹.
- While adaptation information providers cannot control the decision context, they need to be sensitive to understanding the specific decision contexts they are targeting².
- Adaptation resources need to be fitted onto the physical, social, and economic landscape of each community in the context of decisions facing the community, a labor and resource intensive process.
- Boundary Organizations can perform the essential bridging of resources to decision makers, building the “last mile” in the adaptation network.



SLR ADAPTATION CHALLENGES

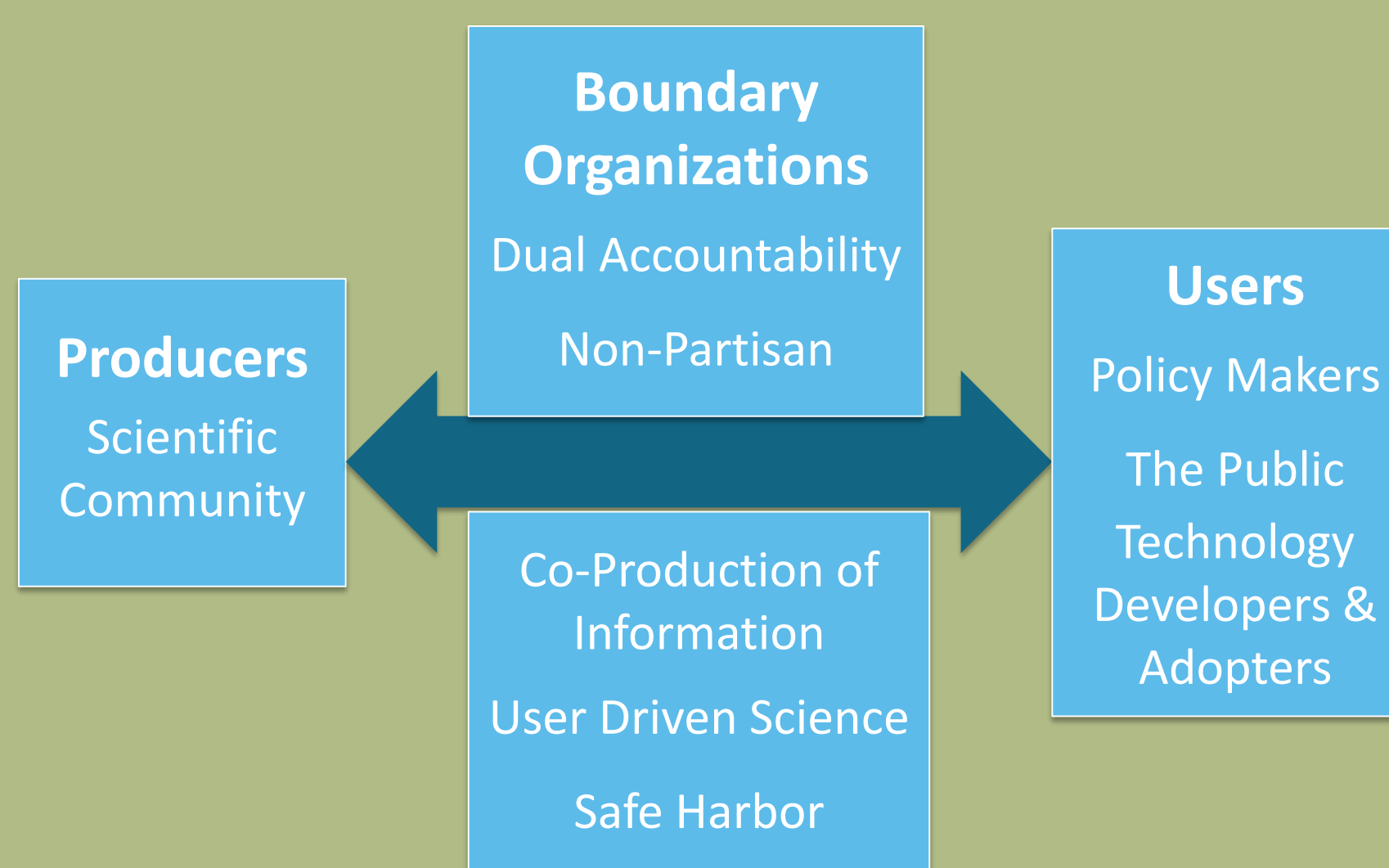
1. End user informational needs are situational, dependent upon social, political, economic context and stage of adaptation (see diagram to right).
2. Conventional adaptation information delivery depending upon end user “finding” the information is ineffective.
3. Local government staff/leadership are limited by too little information (lack of understanding of climate science) at the same time overwhelmed by too much information (too many studies to sort through).³



From Moser, S. C. and J. A. Ekstrom. (2010). A Framework to Diagnose Barriers to Climate Change Adaptation, Proceedings of the National Academy of Science 51 (December), 22026-22031

Last Mile

- As in industry, the “last mile” in the distribution chain (direct customer interface) is essential.
- Wetlands Watch has developed integrated information delivery systems to the end user: local government decision-makers.
- “Last mile” interactions provide better information utility and provide feedback to information providers.



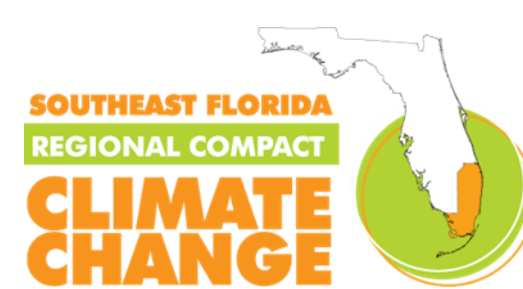
Linking Knowledge with Action for Sustainable Development: The Role of Program Management. Summary of a Workshop (2006) National Academies Press

Boundary Organizations

- Boundary organizations straddle the divide between science and society and facilitate the transfer of useful knowledge.⁴
- Many boundary organizations are active in the sea level rise adaptation space and should be partners in the adaptation network.
- Nonprofit boundary organizations can access funding that government agencies and academia cannot.

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BEST PRACTICES FOR ADAPTATION INFORMATION PROVIDERS

- Meet with decision makers/end users of adaptation information to understand their decision context.
- Develop partnerships with relevant “boundary organizations.”
- Build crossing the “last mile” into project proposals

1. National Research Council. 2009. *Informing Decisions in a Changing Climate*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

2. Dilling, L., and M. C. Lemos, 2011: Creating usable science: Opportunities and constraints for climate knowledge use and their implications for science policy. *Global Environ. Change*, 21, 680–689.

3. Nordgren, et. al., (2016), “Supporting local climate change adaptation: Where we are and where we need to go,” *Environmental Science and Policy* 66 (December), 344-352.

4. Guston, et. al., “Report of the Workshop on Boundary Organizations in Environmental Policy and Science,” 9-10 December 1999, Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.