

Improving Science Policy Links

Breaking Walls, Crossing Boundaries

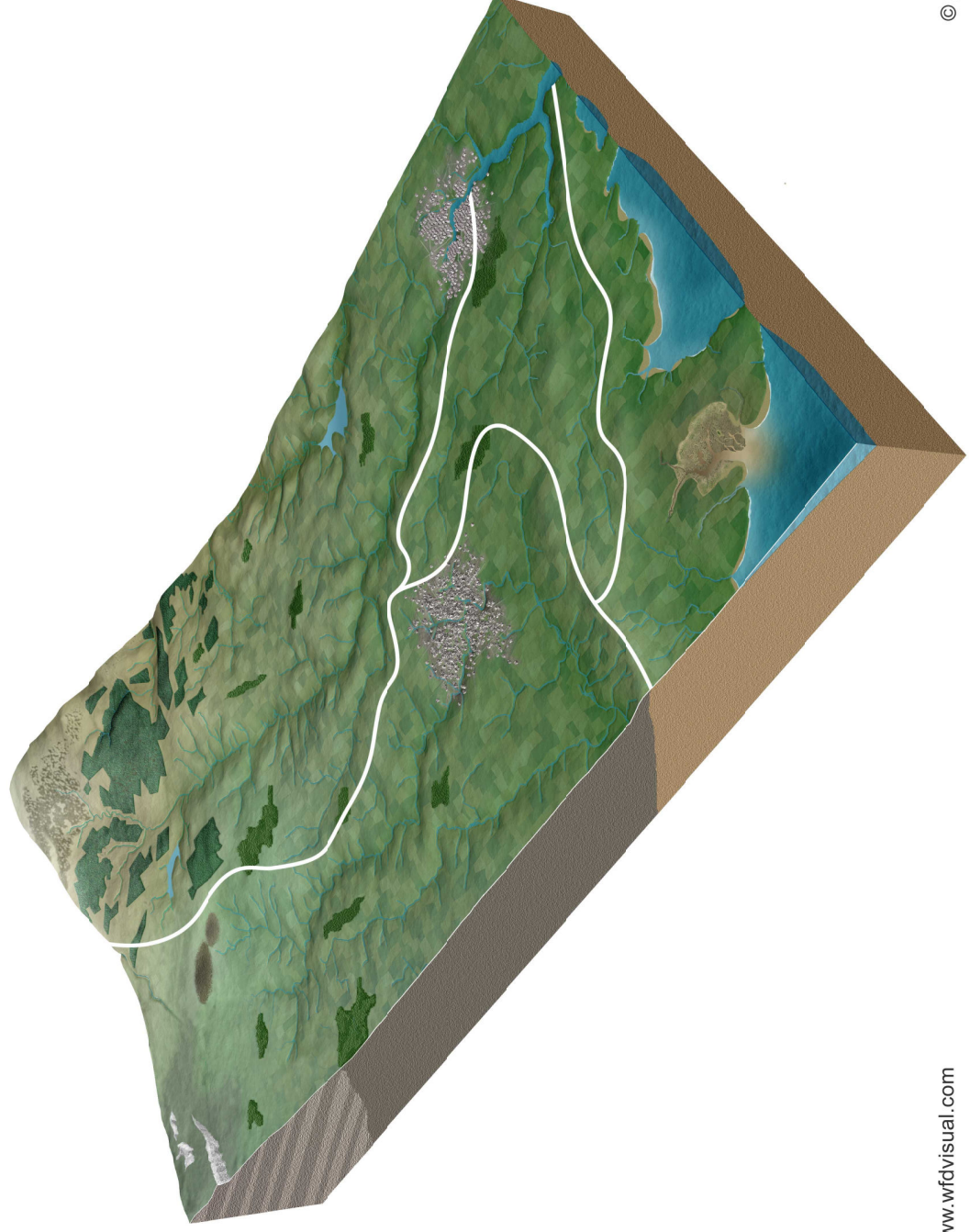
TNO | Knowledge for business



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River basin management



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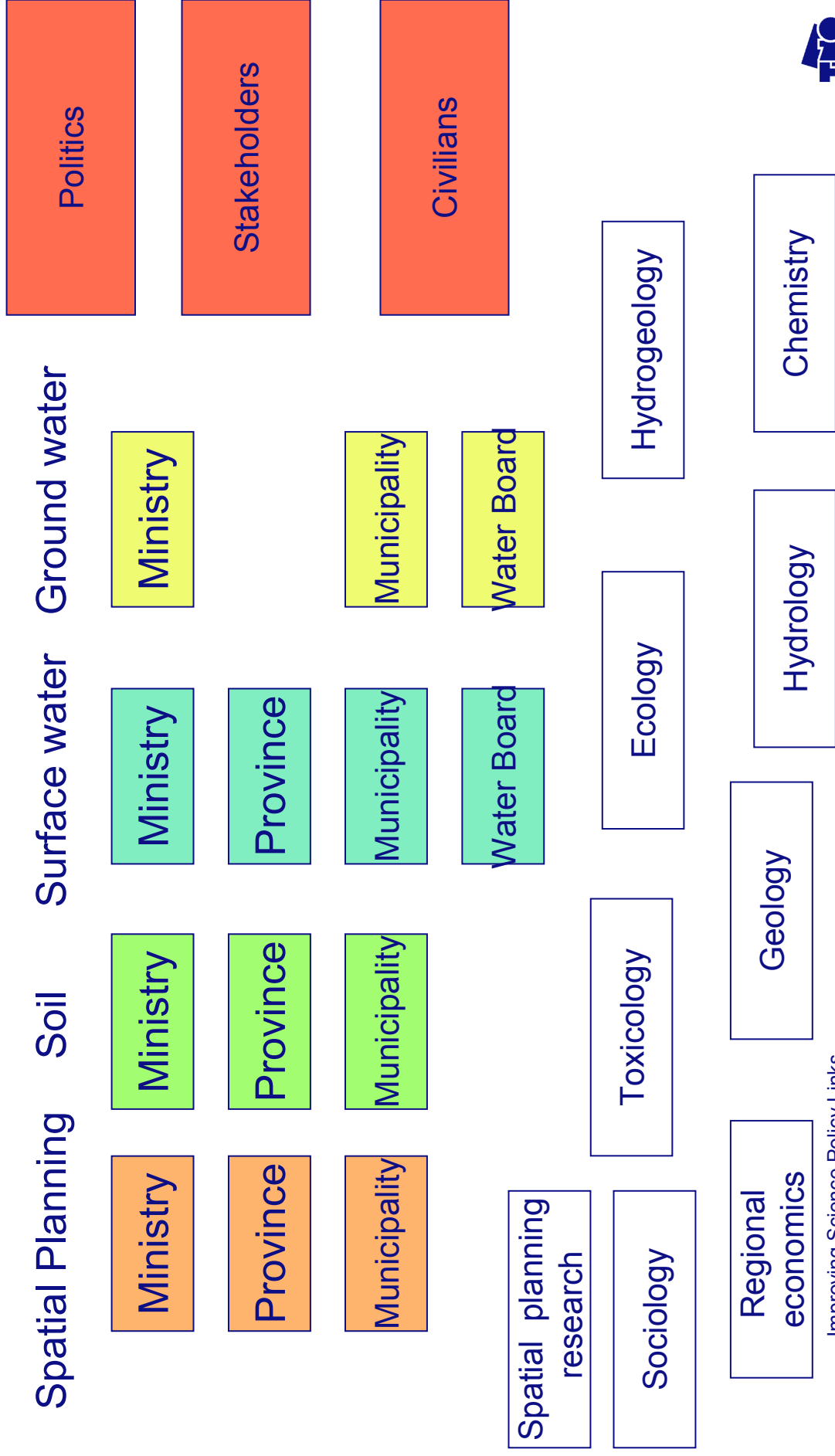


Complexity

- Natural system: surface water- ground water- soil- sediment interactions
- Social-ecological system: interaction between the natural and human system
- Government and governance system: many policies involved
- Many influences, interdependencies, and boundaries



Boundaries in river basin management



Science-Policy is too simple:

- Fragmentation
- Many Boundaries:
 - science-science boundaries
 - policy-policy boundaries
 - science-policy boundaries
- Multifold relationships
- Tailor made solutions
- How to connect?

Boundary Spanning Theory

- Boundary Spanners: mediators, knowledge brokers,.....
- Boundary Objects: joint papers or policy notes, joint models, joint maps, joint
- Boundary Spanning Processes
- Coproduction of knowledge: scientists together with policy makers, stakeholders, etc.



Example: constructing a ground water model

- Scientists together with policy makers and stakeholders
- Gathering and processing ‘general’ data, Identifying modelling concepts, Static and dynamic calibration of the initial model



15 half-day
workshops
in 12 months

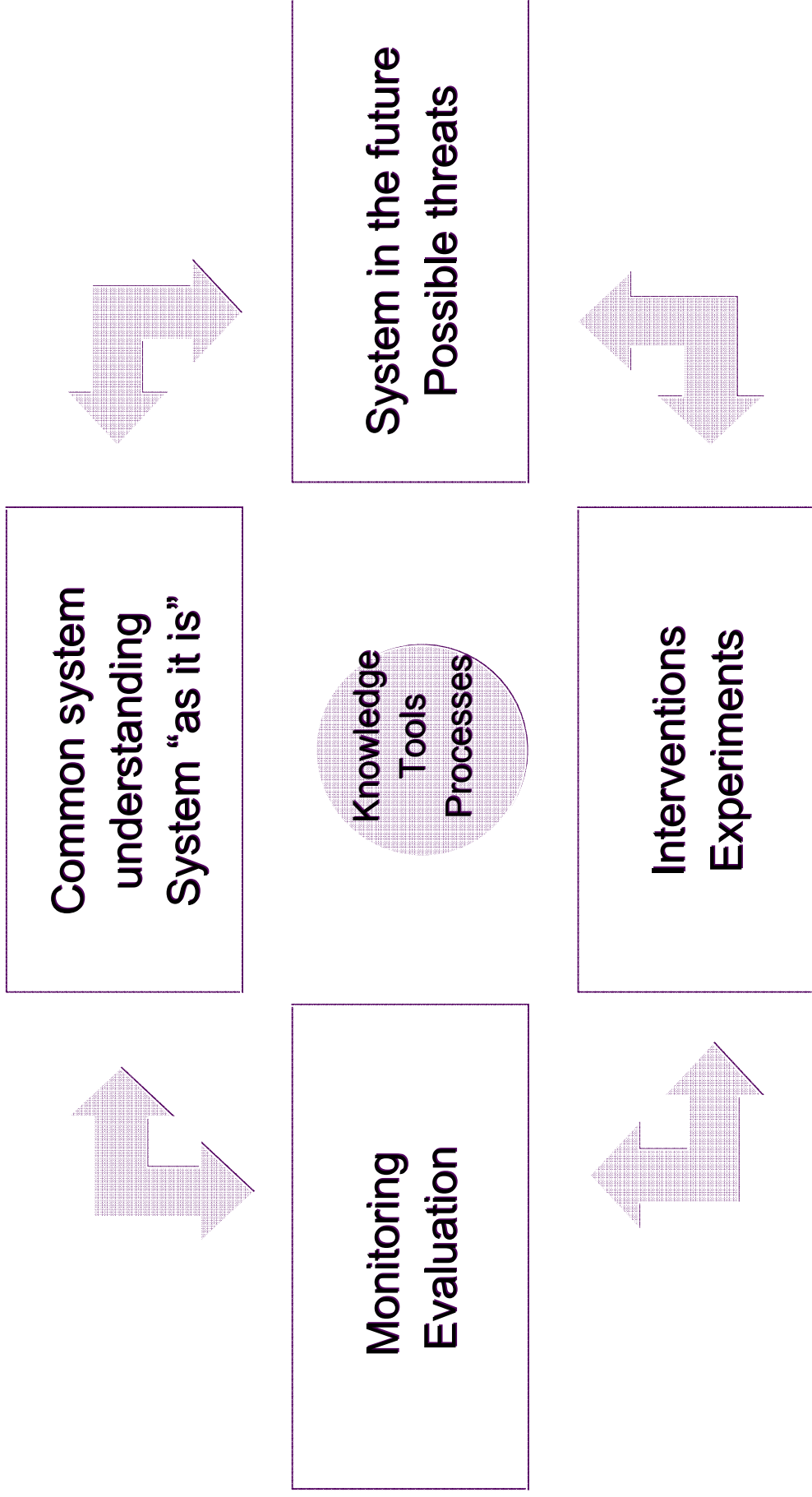


Feedback based
on local knowledge



Looking into anomalies
together in the field

Learning cycle for biophysical/social systems



Observations from practice:

- Finding common goals and language
- Instruments can help: scenario building, joint visioning, joint problem descriptions, policy games, etc.
- Connections on three levels necessary: professional-management-political board
- Different types of knowledge: procedural, scientific, local knowledge
- Different roles of knowledge: in preparation, in monitoring, implementation, etc.
- Timing of the two processes: policy process – research process
- Political influence can hamper the science-policy process
- Knowledge brokers are important

Conclusions

- Science – Policy links in a highly specialised world
- Asks for joint processes of knowledge production
- Commitment, dedication and understanding from both sides
- It is difficult
- But it can be done!





Thank you for your attention!

