

Strengthening the capacities of knowledge brokers



Why co-creation and knowledge brokering can unleash equitable, inclusive and sustainable outcomes

**PCCB,
21 August 2025**

Lucia Scodanibbio

What problems are we dealing with?

Probe

COMPLEX

Problem:

- Understandable only in retrospect
- **Non-linear** cause and effect, unrepeatable
- **Contested** solutions

Decisions and knowledge:

- Contested, multiple stakeholders
- **Multiple knowledge cultures**
- Transdisciplinary, participatory

COMPLICATED

Problem:

- Hard to understand
- **Linear cause and effect but separated over time and space**

Decisions and knowledge:

- Uncontested, many stakeholders
- **Expert** knowledge
- Multidisciplinary science

Analyse

Act

CHAOTIC

Problem:

- Not understandable
- Very unpredictable

Decisions and knowledge:

- Reactive decisions
- Limited role for science

SIMPLE/ OBVIOUS

Problem:

- Easily understood, 'tame'
- **Linear cause and effect, perceivable, predictable, repeatable**

Decisions and knowledge:

- Uncontested, few stakeholders
- **Expert** technical knowledge

Categorise



The world's toughest problems share similarities that make them complex

The system is working for some and is therefore perpetuated by entrenched behaviours and interests
→ an **analysis** of how the system is working and for whom reveals the **power** in the status quo

No single root cause →
multiple root causes,
needing multiple solutions,
not a silver bullet



No single actor owns it or can
make change alone → needs
**collective action & multiple
perspectives**

The nature of the problem is constantly evolving,
dynamic → need **constant learning**, understanding of
problem & **assessment of windows of opportunity**

<https://youtu.be/0OrhGpW-XMM> see video on Systemcraft



Strengthening the capacities of knowledge brokers

What is
knowledge
brokering?



Why context
counts



Co-creation

Knowledge
translation &
communications



Reflection
& learning



Bridging
the knowledge-
to-action
gap



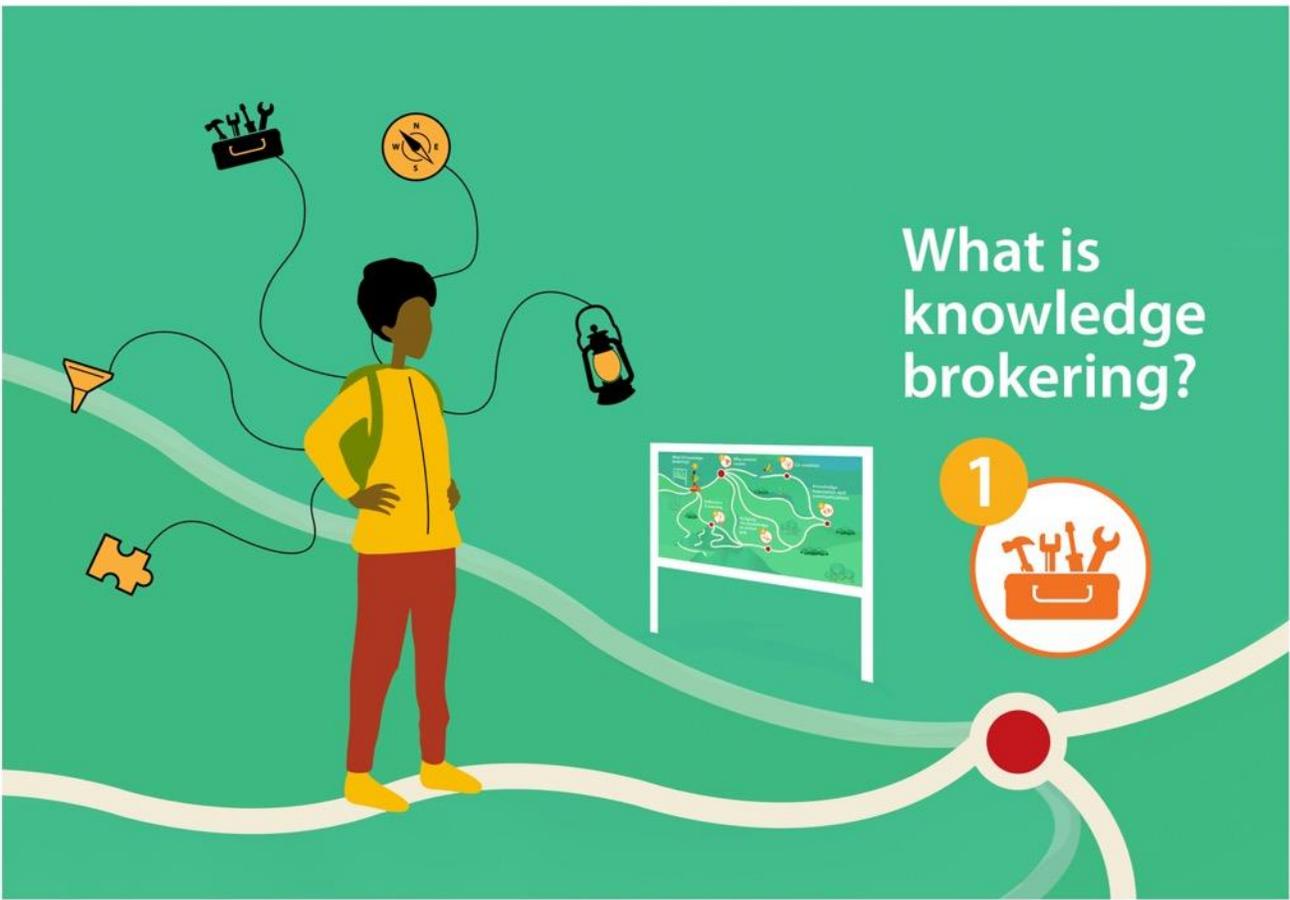
What comes to mind
when you hear about
knowledge brokering?

Let's share

<https://www.menti.com/alwpisc7s5mm>

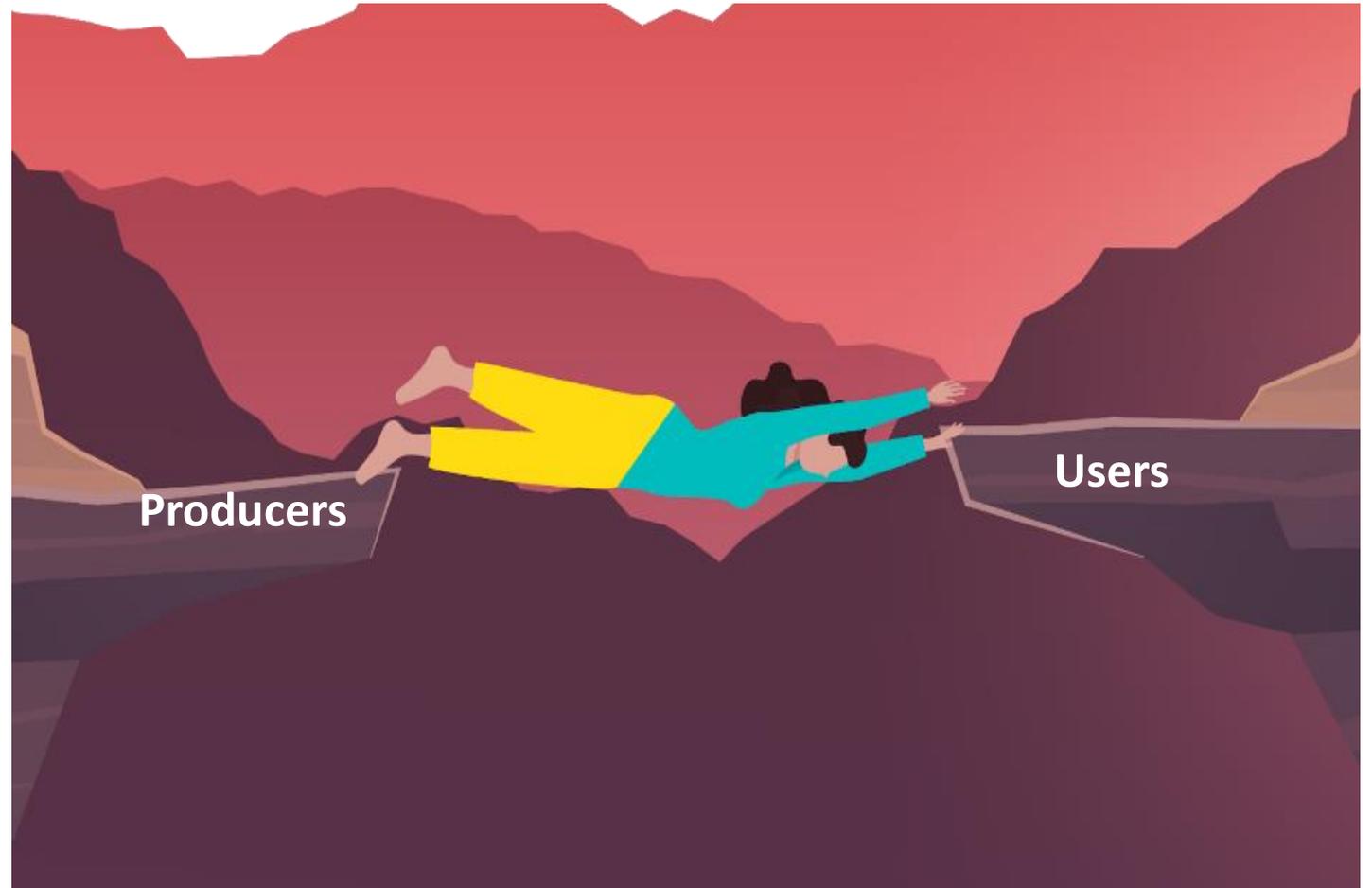
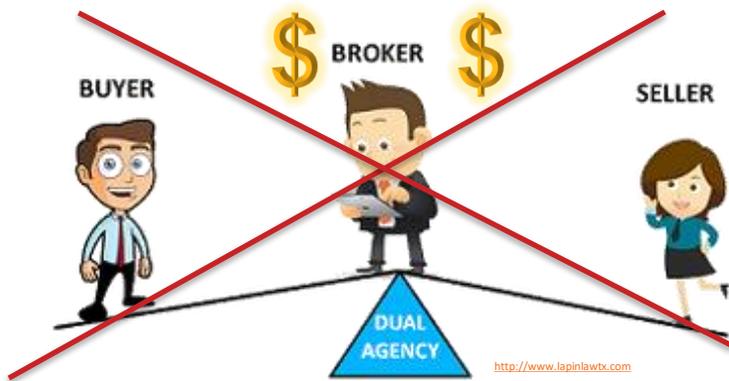
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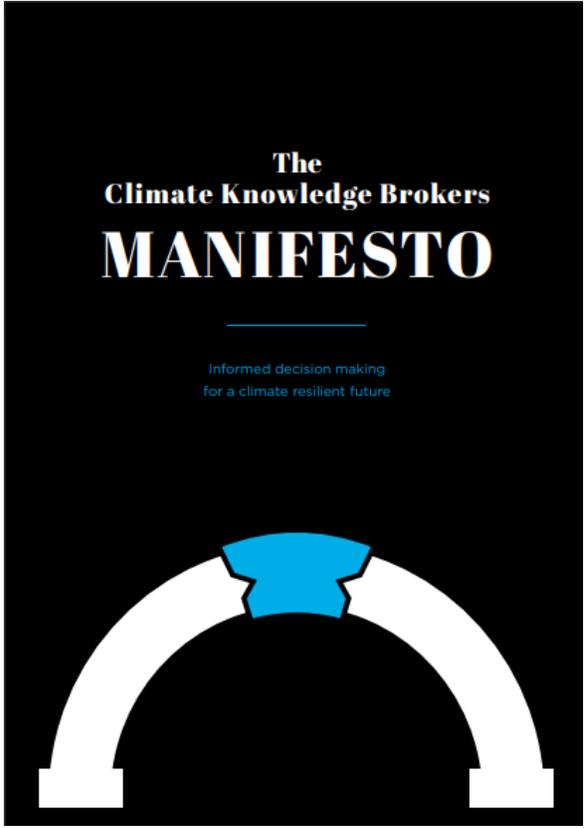


Understanding knowledge brokering

Knowledge brokering in the academic literature



“Knowledge brokers link producers & users of knowledge to strengthen the generation, dissemination & eventual use of that knowledge.”

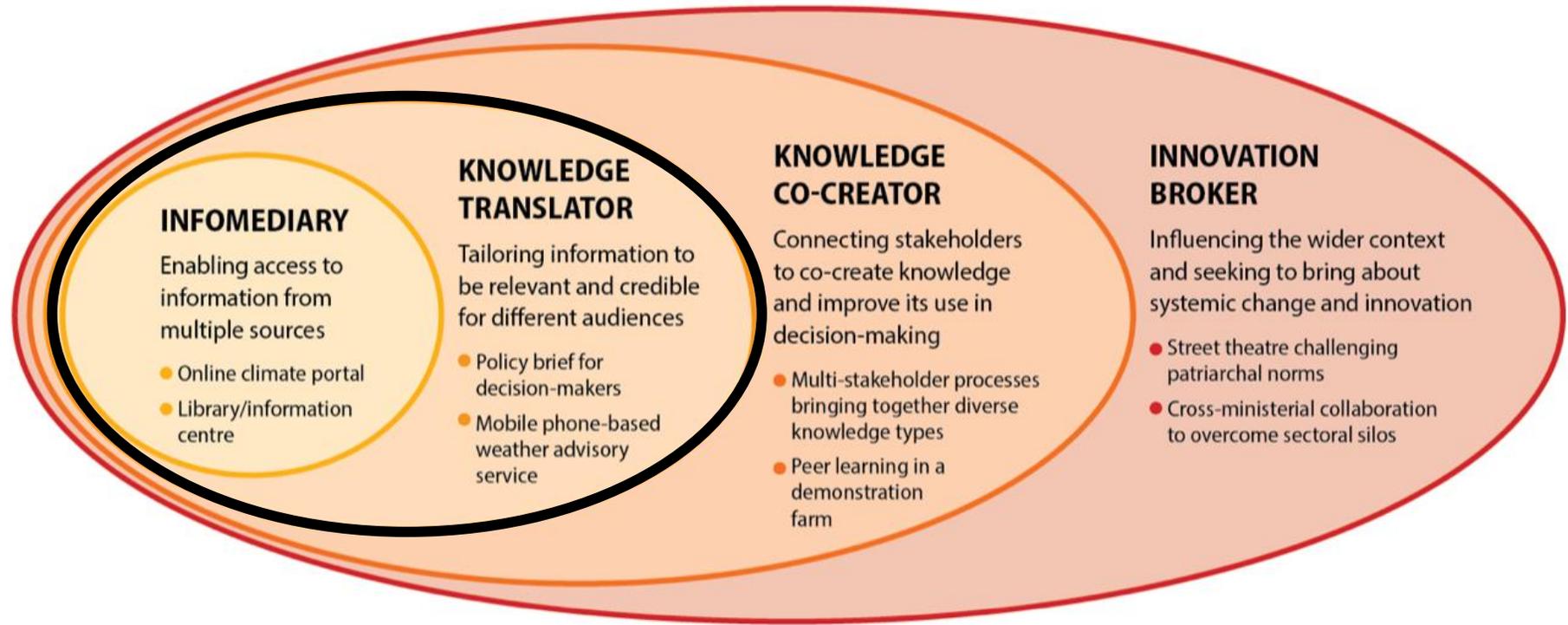


The Climate Knowledge Brokers MANIFESTO

Informed decision making
for a climate resilient future

Climate knowledge brokers are brokering the transfer of knowledge related to the climate from a person or organisation to another via the medium of information.

INFORMATIONAL RELATIONAL SYSTEMS



INFOMEDIARY
Enabling access to information from multiple sources

- Online climate portal
- Library/information centre

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATOR
Tailoring information to be relevant and credible for different audiences

- Policy brief for decision-makers
- Mobile phone-based weather advisory service

KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATOR
Connecting stakeholders to co-create knowledge and improve its use in decision-making

- Multi-stakeholder processes bringing together diverse knowledge types
- Peer learning in a demonstration farm

INNOVATION BROKER
Influencing the wider context and seeking to bring about systemic change and innovation

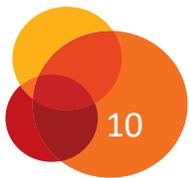
- Street theatre challenging patriarchal norms
- Cross-ministerial collaboration to overcome sectoral silos

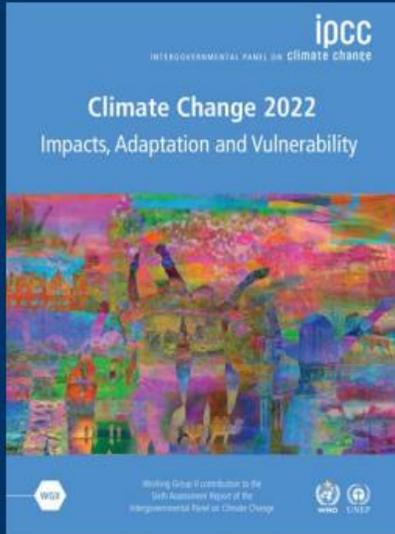
Linear dissemination of knowledge from producer to user



Co-creation of knowledge, social learning and innovation

“...despite its prevalence in fields such as public health, the idea of the ‘knowledge broker’ remains relatively underdeveloped in the climate field. This is true both in terms of limited researcher awareness of the ideas associated with knowledge broker roles, and of the possible types of knowledge broker activities that can be undertaken.” (Lewis et al., 2022)





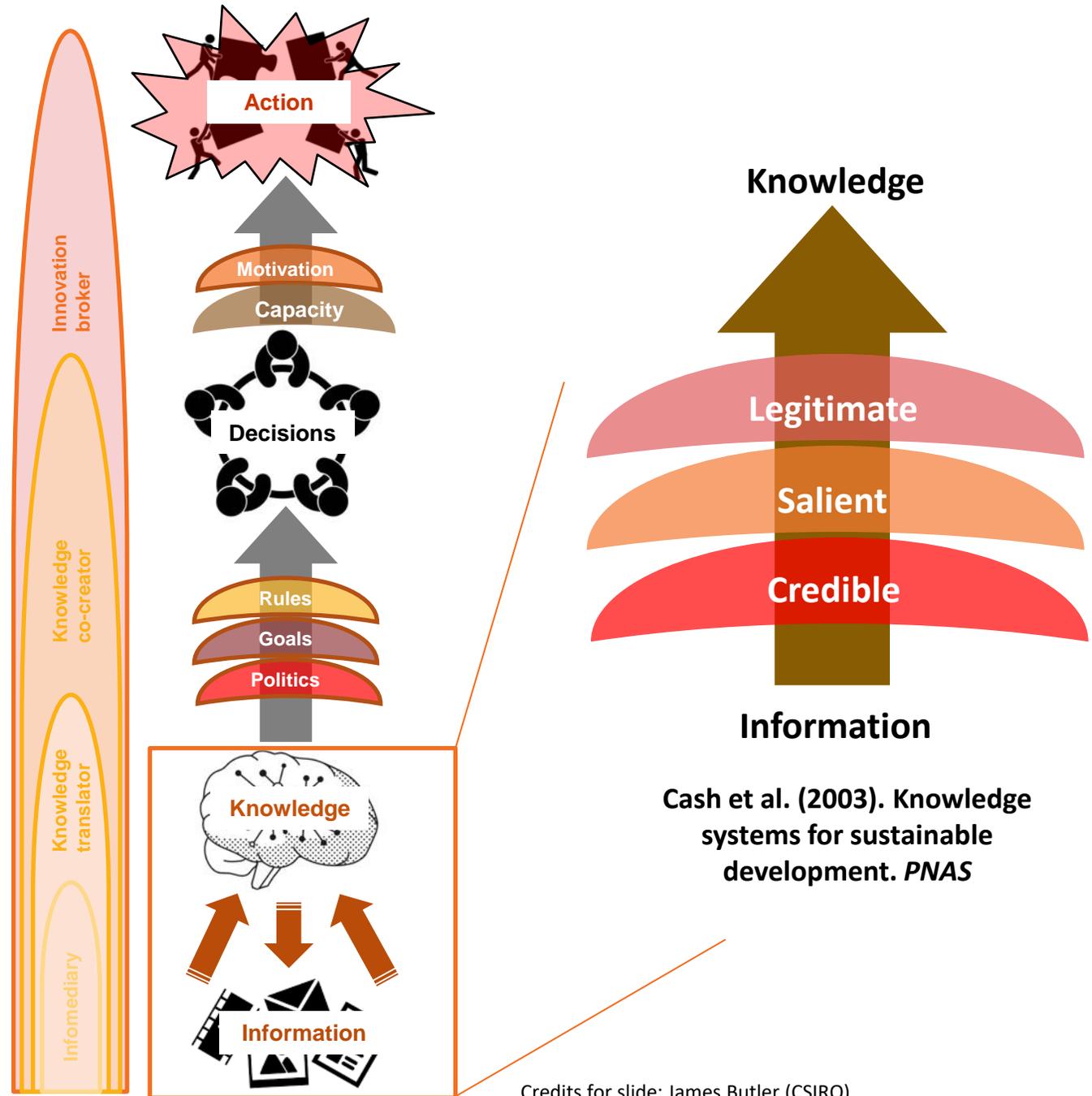
“ There are increasing gaps between **adaptation action** taken and what’s needed. These gaps are largest among lower income populations. They are expected to grow.

ipcc
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change
WHO UNEP

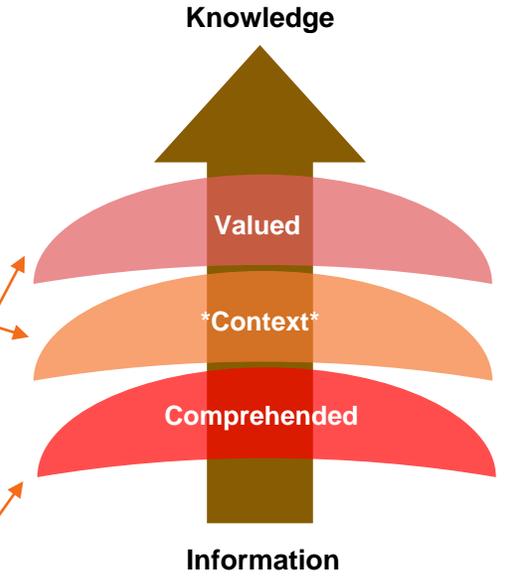
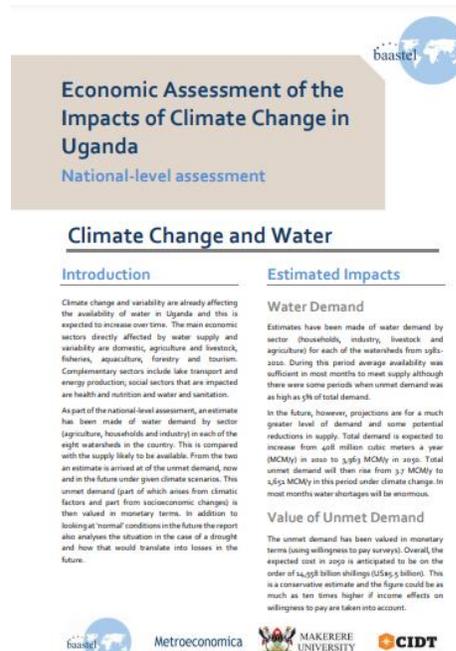


“The spirits say you have all the data.
Just do something.”

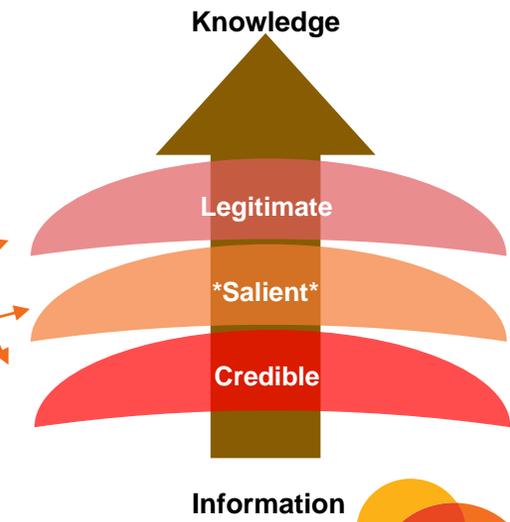
The role of the knowledge broker in the journey to (climate) action



Building a **critical mass of relevant knowledge** that explains the **latest science** and emerging issues in a **tailored and accessible way**



Diemers (1999). On the Social Dimension of Information Quality and Knowledge. RMIT



Cash et al. (2003). Knowledge systems for sustainable development. *PNAS*





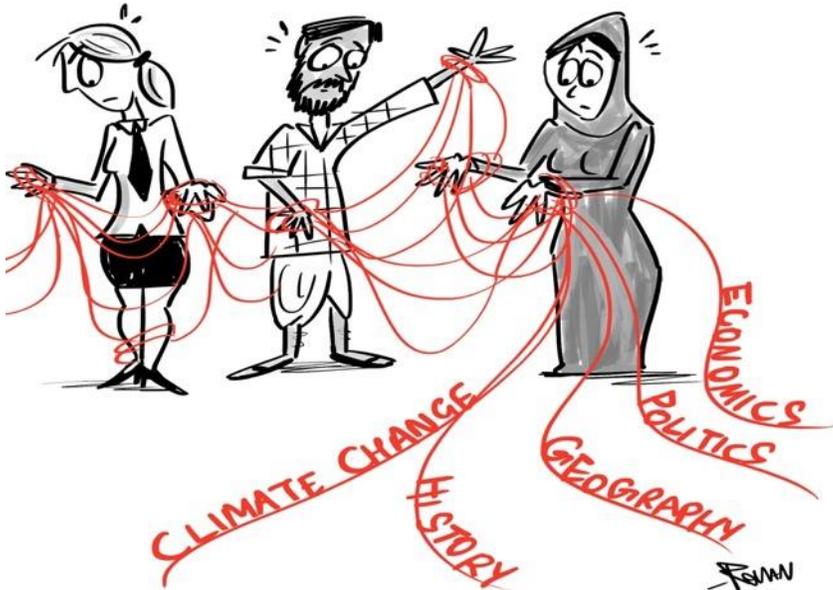
Think carefully about the medium of knowledge transfer - beyond products

Weaving different knowledge types

Climate Resilient Development

The solutions framework:

- Draws on wide-ranging knowledge (scientific, Indigenous, local, practical)



Rohan Chakravarty / CartoonStock.com



"Oh, is that so, smart guy? Remind me where you took *your* degree in African Studies."

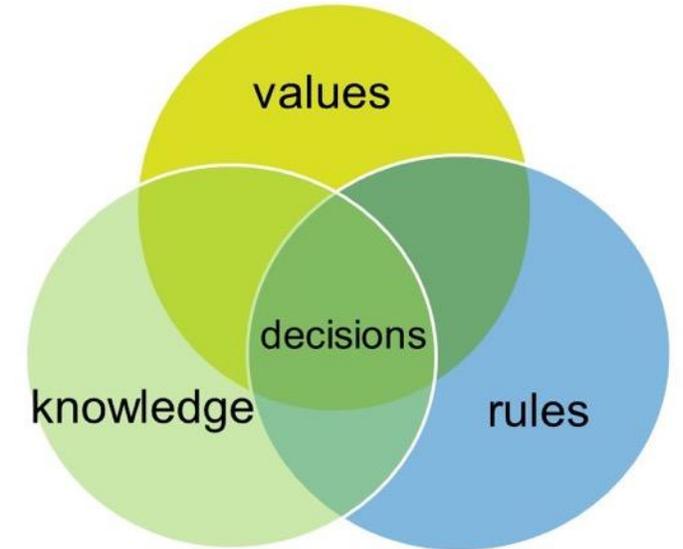
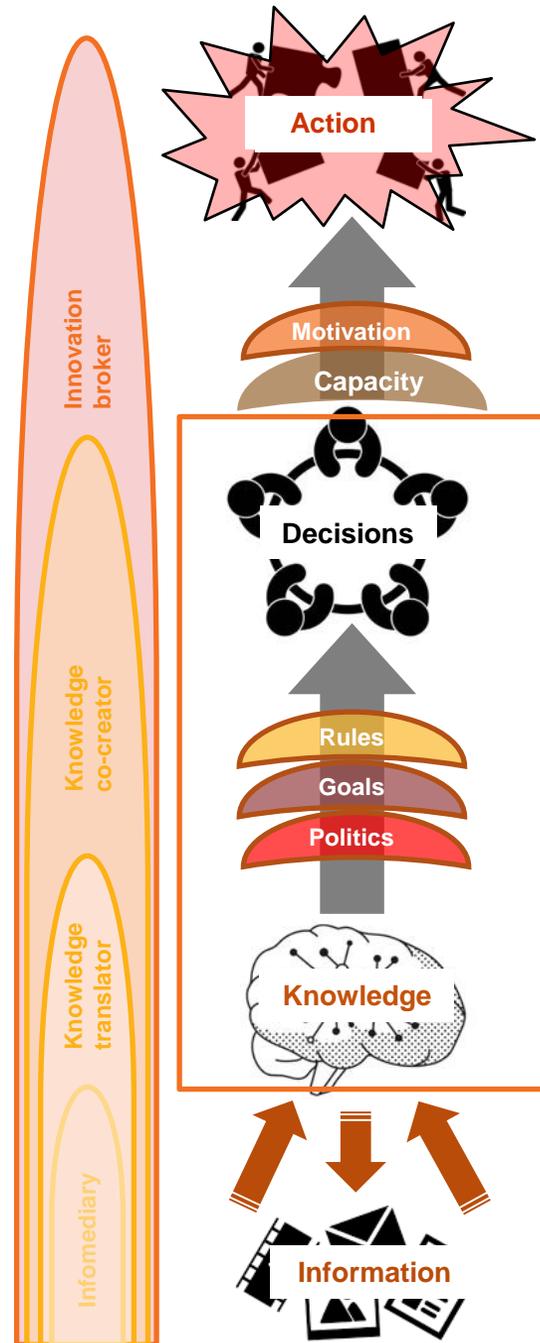
Liam Francis Walsh / CartoonCollections.com



"Oh, I THOUGHT THIS WAS A CONVERSATION-TYPE MEETING, NOT A HEAD-BITEY-OFF MEETING."

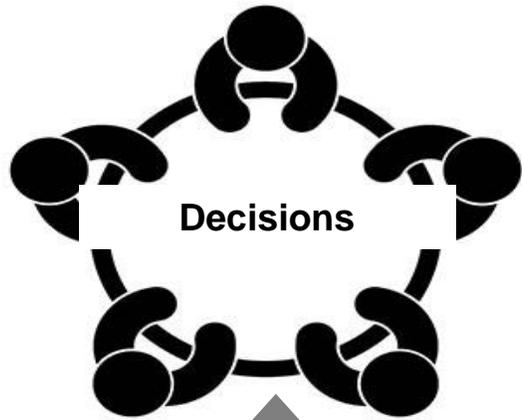
Kendra Allenby / CartoonCollections.com

The role of the knowledge broker in the journey to (climate) action

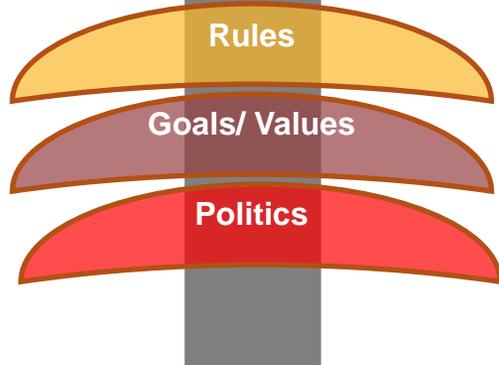


Gorddard et al. 2016. Values, rules and knowledge: adaptation as change in the decision context. Environ. Sci. Policy, 57, pp. 60-69

- Need **knowledge** to choose and implement an option
- Need to want the outcomes (**values**)
- Need to be allowed to implement the option to achieve the outcomes (**rules**)



“Rules in use” – norms, practices, taboos, behaviours
“Rules in form” – regulations, laws, treaties, directives (formal and informal)



Individual & collective motivations guiding priorities & actions.
“Importance, worth, usefulness”

The activities of the government, members of law-making organizations, or people who try to influence the way a country is governed

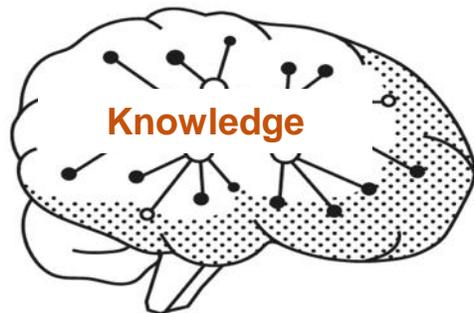
Evidence-based (scientific & technical), experiential & meanings-based knowledge

Are we allowed the outcome? [rules]

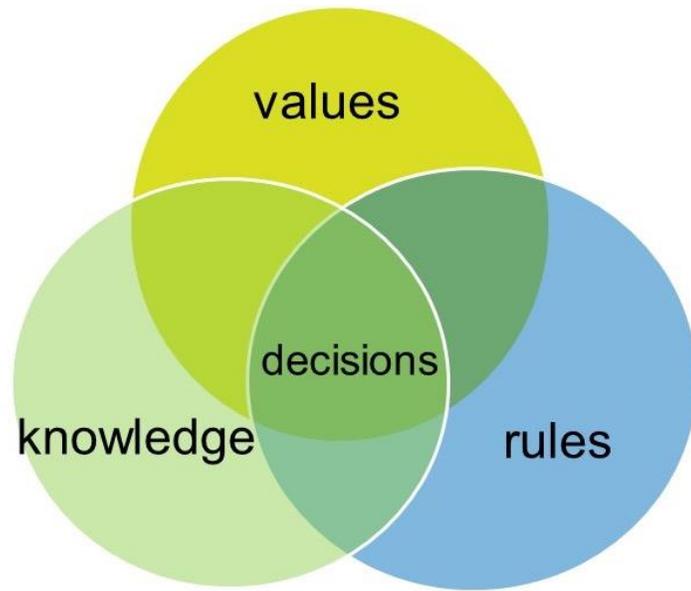
Do we want the outcome? [values]

Do the people with power want the outcome? [politics]

Do we know the outcome? [knowledge]

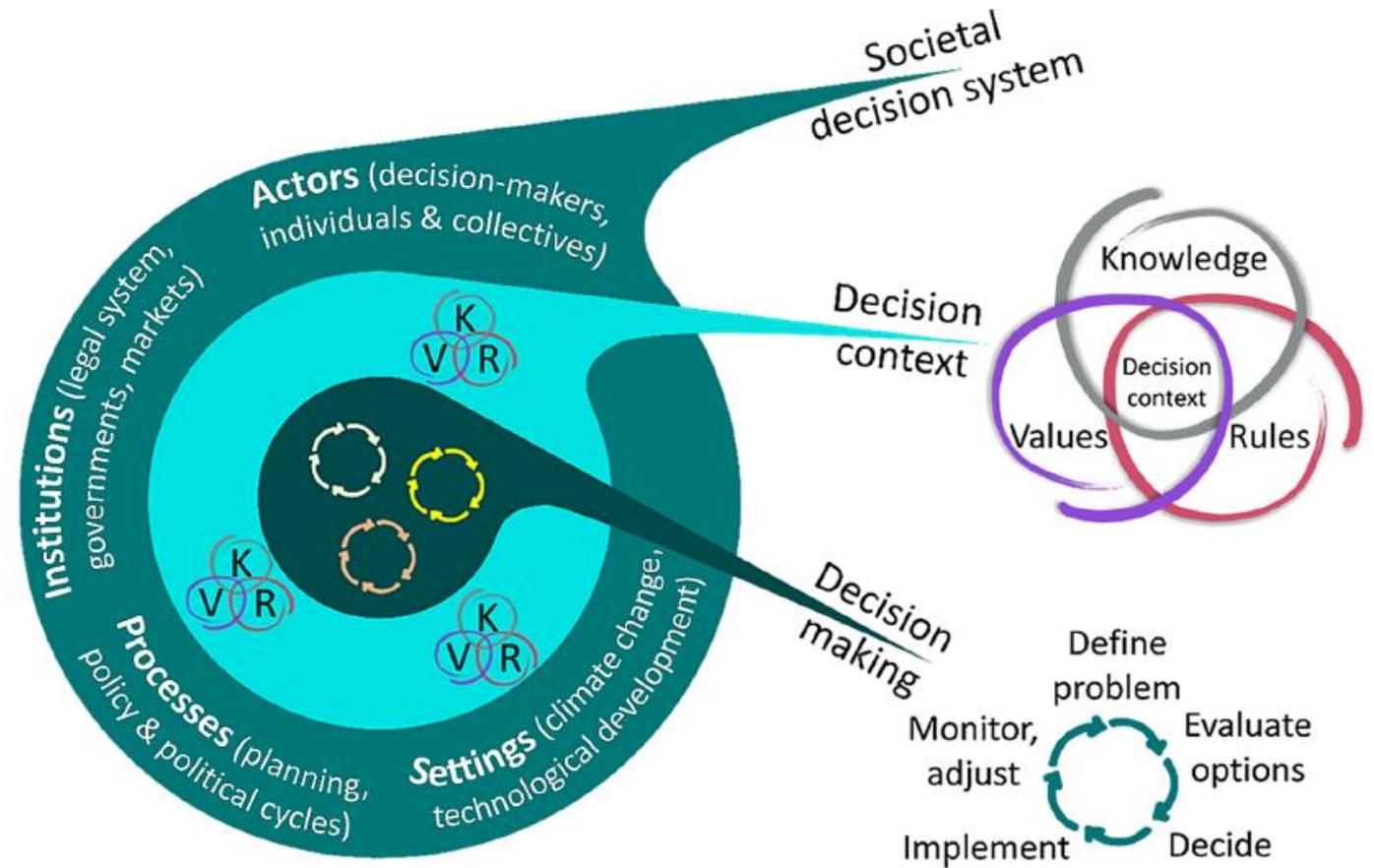


Knowledge and decisions



- Need **knowledge** to choose and implement an option
- Need to want the outcomes (**values**)
- Need to be allowed to implement the option to achieve the outcomes (**rules**)

Gorddard et al. 2016. Values, rules and knowledge: adaptation as change in the decision context. Environ. Sci. Policy, 57, pp. 60-69



Colloff et al. 2021. Adapting transformation and transforming adaptation to climate change using a pathways approach. Environ. Sci. Policy, 124, pp. 163-174.



Invest in **understanding the governance landscape** and **linking** your message to a government **policy** and institution's **vision** and **mission**



COMPENDIUM OF CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES

VOLUME I



Republic of Namibia

Office of the Prime Minister



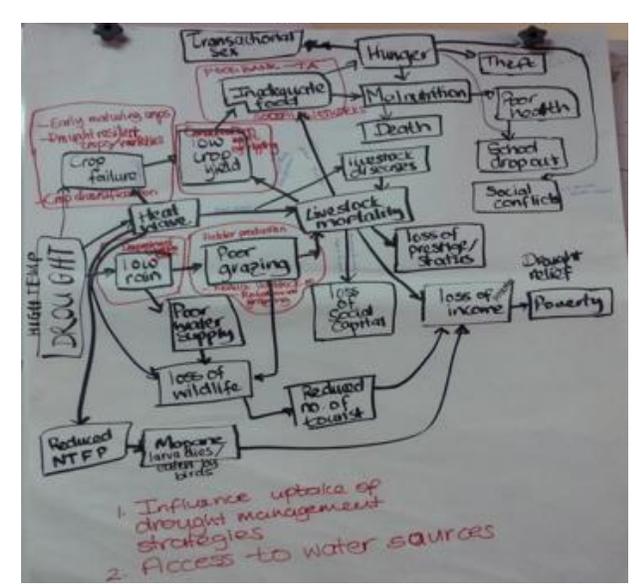
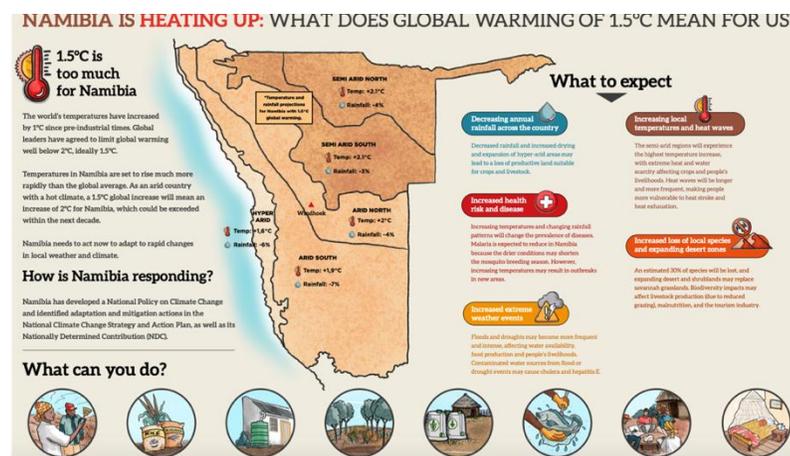
National Strategy for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation into Development Planning in Namibia 2017-2021



MGEPEWSW

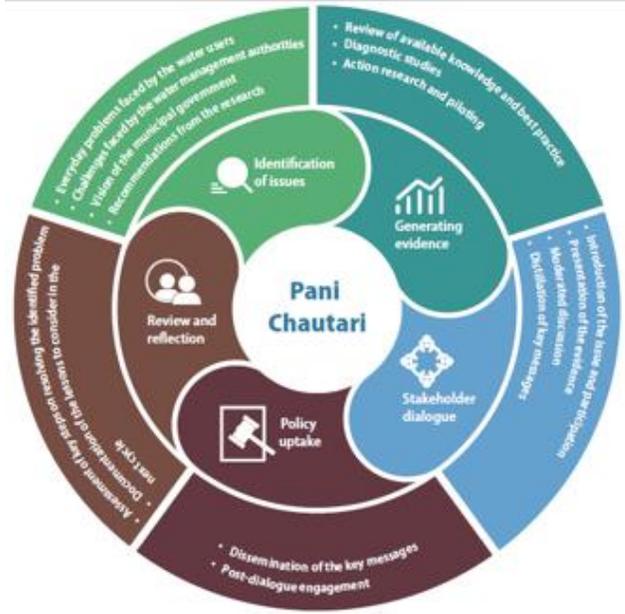
Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare

Chief Minister's Environment Friendly Model Agriculture Village Programme, Gandaki prov., Nepal



Combine credible knowledge with a range of engagement strategies for long-term change, including participatory, practical tools to co-develop responses to joint challenges

Using the vulnerability and risk assessment in Namibia to co-develop responses and interventions

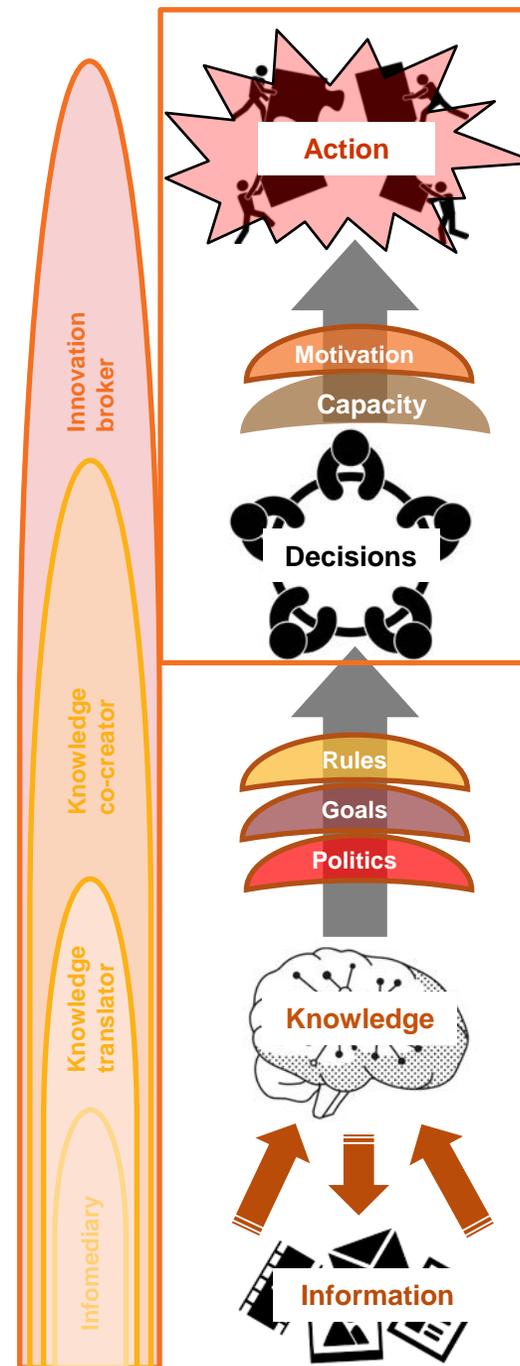


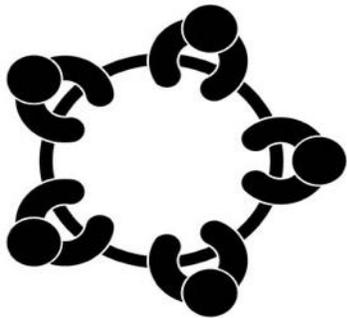
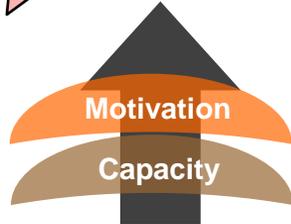
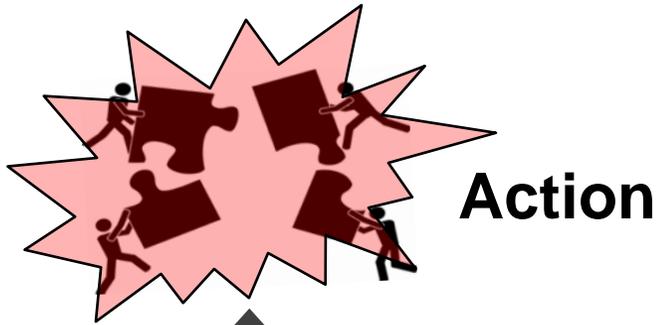
Engagement around the *Pani Chautari* (Water Forum) to address urban water supply issues in Nepal



Long-term relationship and trust building

The role of the knowledge broker in the journey to (climate) action





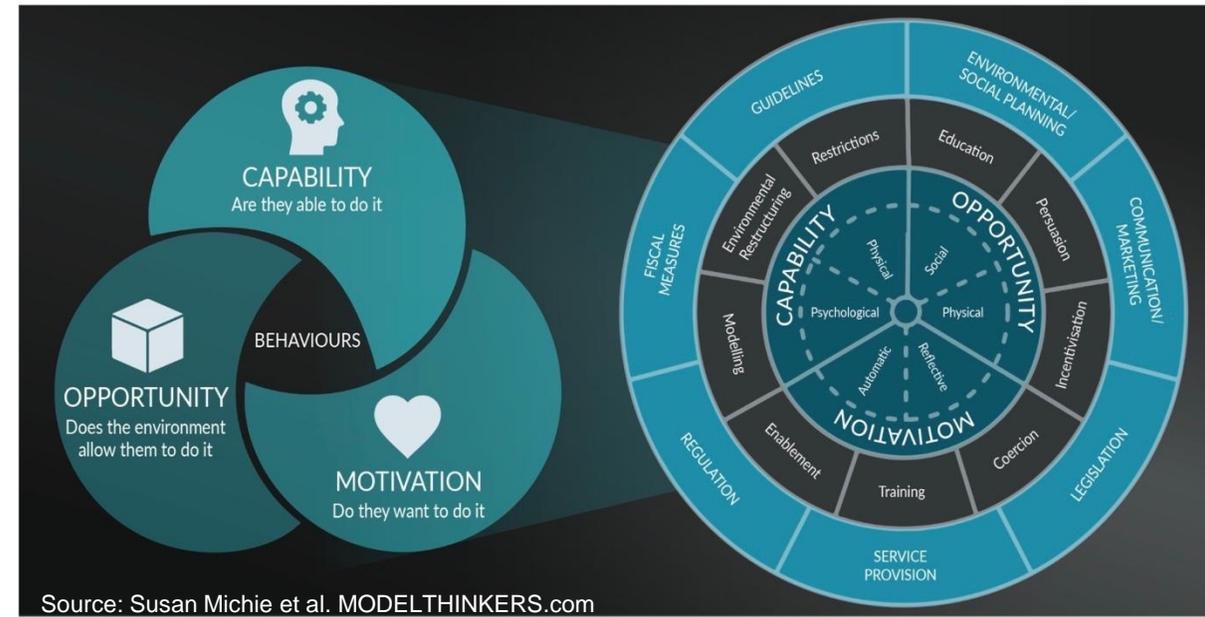
Evidence-based decisions

Political will
(values, interests, paradigms, power...)

Human & financial resources, time, skills

COM-B & Behaviour Change Wheel

Save to My Latticework





Co-organise training and engagement activities jointly with stakeholders

Promote learning from on the ground experiences



African Youth Negotiators Training Program



PMP ©
GIDEON AGYAPONG

EMPOWERMENT LIFE PROGRAM 4

POST-COP29 DEBRIEFING FORUM

4th Feb, 2025 9:00 am Pioneer Guest house

Also available via Facebook

LIVE STREAMING E4L Program Ghana



Dialogue for COP participants to take commitments on follow-up actions post-COP in **Ghana**



Strengthening the climate-gender nexus in **Ethiopia**

Create a platform for different stakeholders to discuss climate issues, strengthen relationships and think about action

JOY NATIONAL NEWS DIALOGUE

Coordinating Climate Action In Ghana: A Policy-To-Action Call

THU. 3RD JULY, 2025 | 6PM

AIMING ON: JOY NEWS, Joy 99.7

PARTNERS: Ghana Venskab, School for Life, CUP, GPR

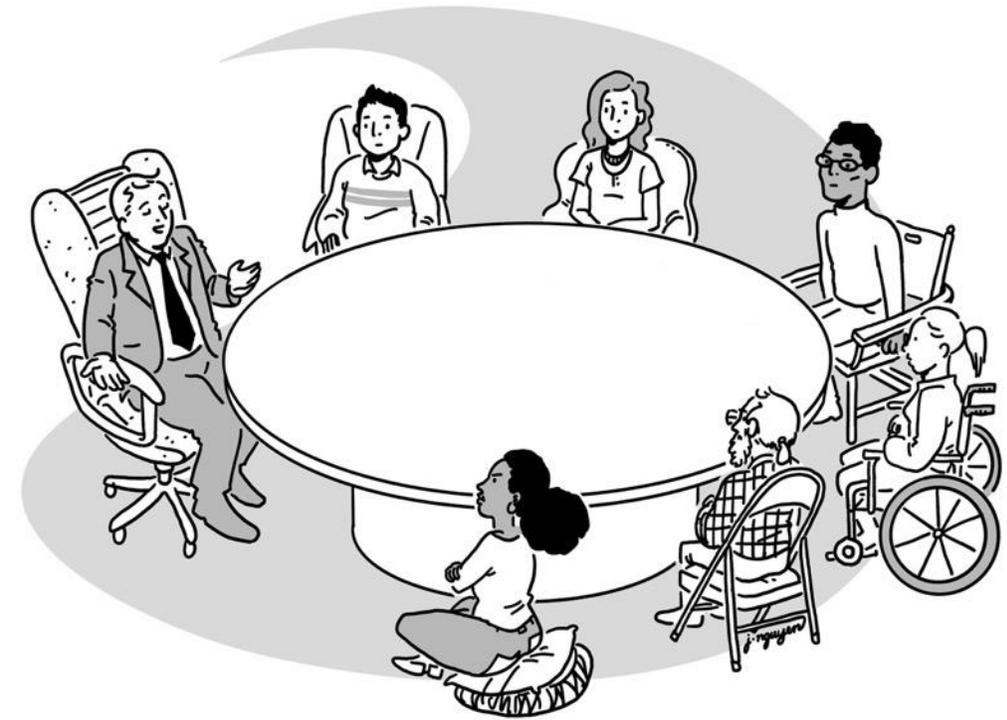
Multi-sectoral dialogue with govt, academia, CSOs, youth, gender networks and the media in **Ghana**



Climate Resilient Development

The solutions framework:

- Is considered across government and all of civil society
- Involves everyone – forming partnerships
- Involves marginalized groups
- Prioritises equity and justice
- Reconciles different interests, values and world views



"Notice how the table is round, so that everyone sitting at it is equal."

[Mika Baumeister / Unsplash; Aulia Erlangga/CIFOR CC BY-NC-ND 2.0]



Connect stakeholders to different sources of knowledge and intermediaries that can enhance access to specific resources

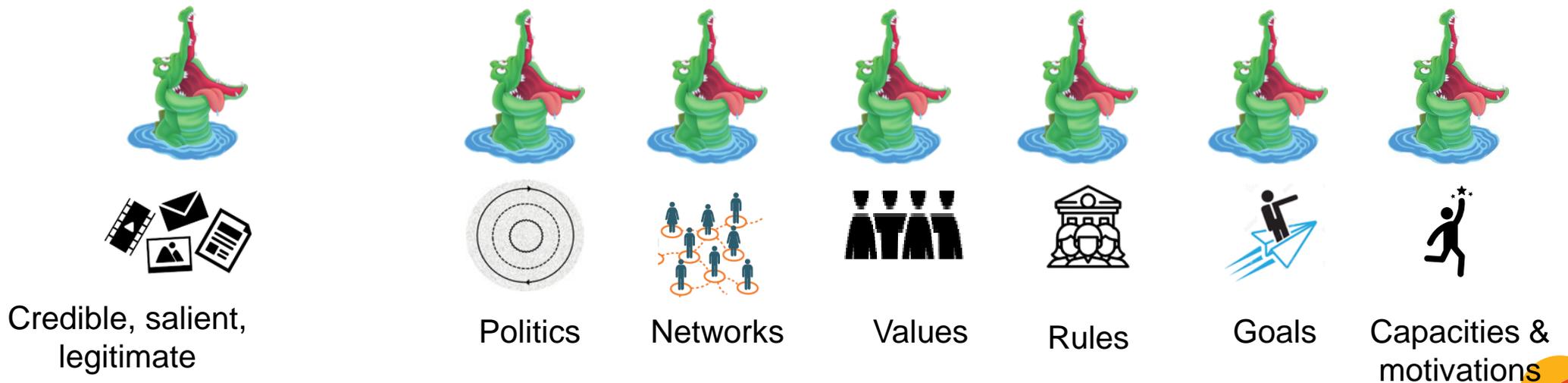
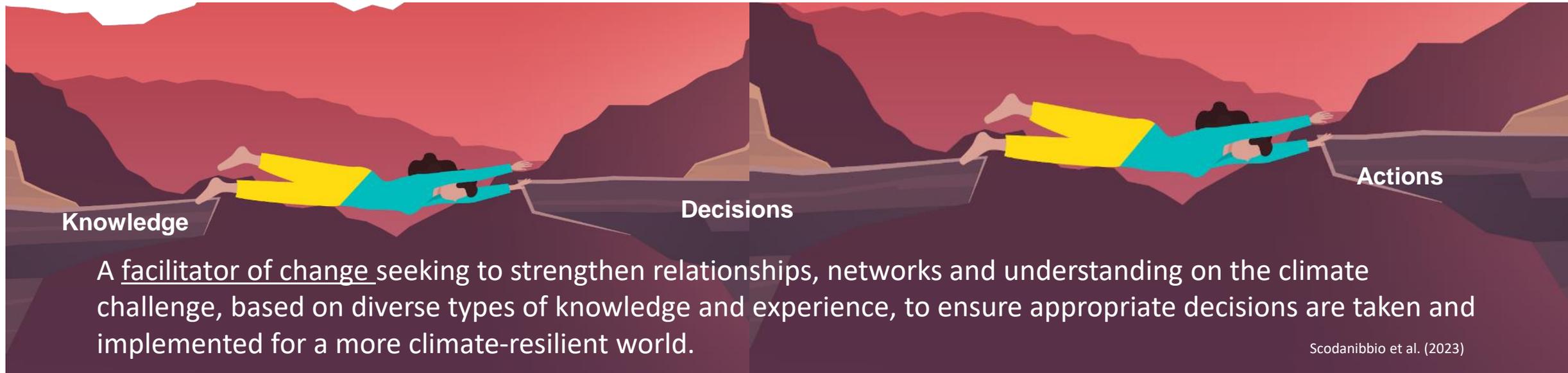
Linking **East African** farmers with training and local service providers to enable better grain storage and prices



Registering and connecting women's groups in Ghana with local banks for access to financing



Who is a knowledge broker?



“Becoming a system activist requires a fundamental change in the way we think and feel about our work and our own role in it.” - Elle Dodd, 2022

Any questions,
reflections,
comments?



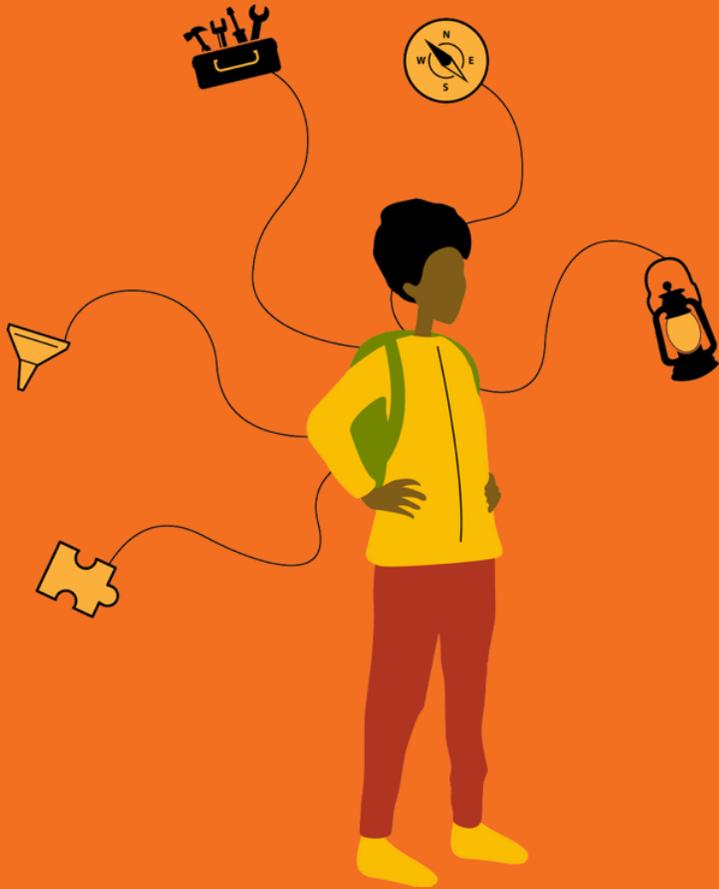
P. BYRNES.

"GO AHEAD, STATE YOUR PROBLEM.
DON'T FEEL INTIMIDATED."

Take a look at the cards on the next slide.

With the following question in mind, choose two or three cards and share your ideas with us:

What are the key issues you need to consider for your climate action work to be most impactful?





Thank you!

www.cdkn.org

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