Challenges of the science-policy interface and potential ways to address them – lessons learned from the SPIRAL project – Juliette Young & all spirallers

- **Research** project:
  - Improve our knowledge and understanding of Science-Policy Interfaces for biodiversity

- **Action & Learning** project:
  - Resource group
  - Contribute to designing or improving real-life science-policy interfaces

NERC CEH, Median, INBO, University of Bucharest, University of Helsinki, CIRAD, NIOZ, UFZ, JHI

www.spiral-project.eu/

Science-policy activities

Interfaces of specific projects or networks

Face to face communications

Scientific advisory bodies and councils

easac — European Academies Science Advisory Council

ICES CIEM

International or regional assessment processes

MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT

Subsidiary bodies

Convention on Biological Diversity

CMS

Strategic initiatives

ipBes — Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Interfaces with research policy

NKGCF

epbrs

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Communication between science and policy
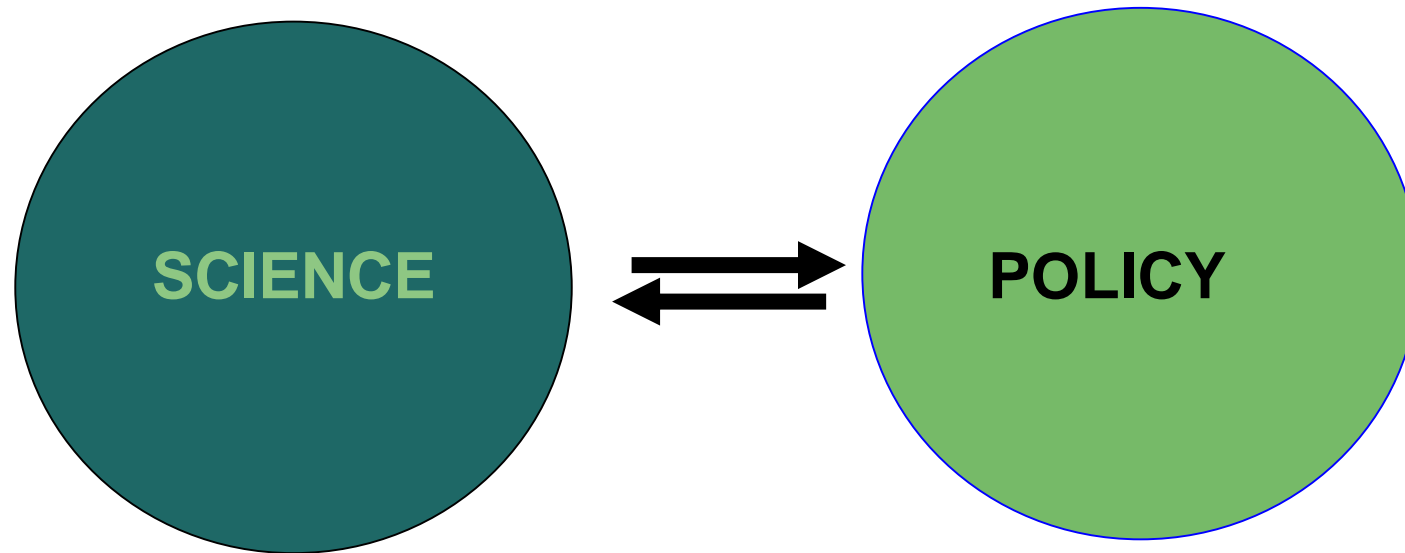
Science-policy interfaces

Ways in which scientists, policy-makers and other actors link up to communicate, exchange ideas and develop knowledge jointly to enrich policy and decision-making processes and/or research

SCIENCE   SPI   POLICY
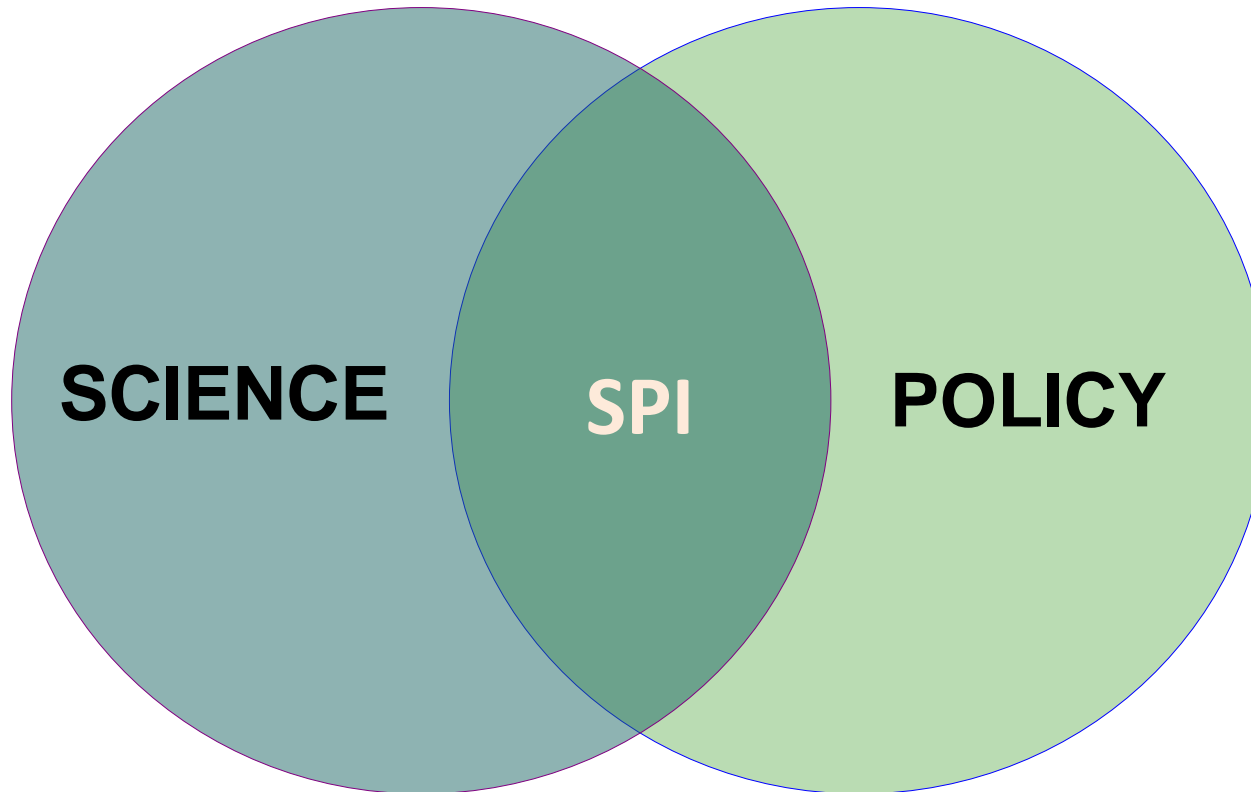
van den Hove S. (2007) 'A Rationale for Science-Policy Interfaces', Futures, 39(7): 807-826.

Challenges of the science-policy interface

- Uncertainty, complexity, ignorance

- Influence of media and other sectors

- Inappropriate communication procedures

- Differences: disciplines and sectors/ research and policy / values and worldviews

Young, J., et al. (2014) Improving the science-policy dialogue to meet the challenges of biodiversity conservation: having conversations rather than talking at one-another. Biodiversity and Conservation, (2014) 23:387–404.
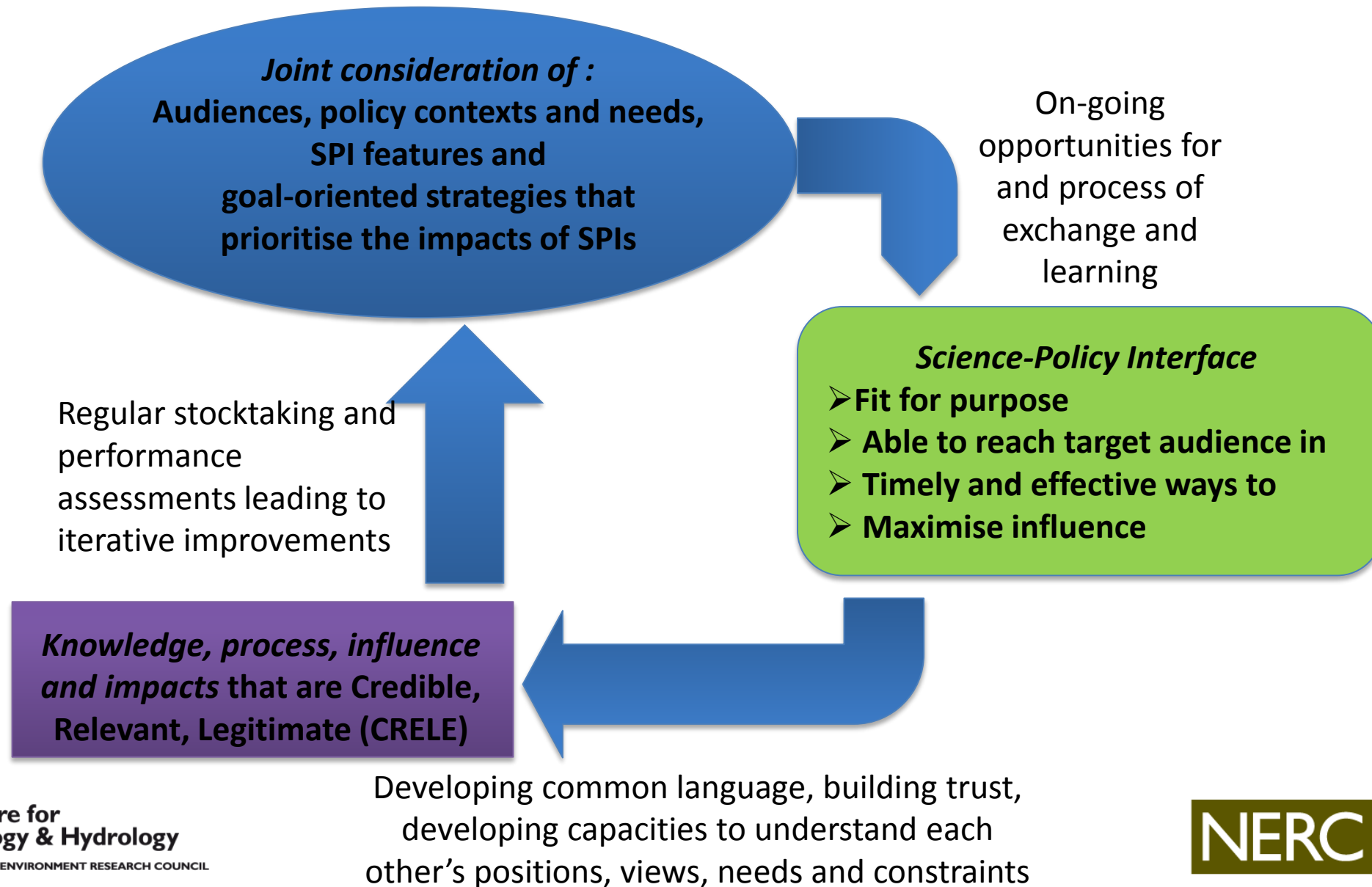
Different worldviews and values

- Stakeholder engagement: last minute "cherry on the cake" for many projects
- Belief that policy relevance is somehow compromising research
- Scientists thinking they are objective and that science is neutral
- Belief that if communicated properly, science knowledge will lead to the development of policy in clear, controllable and unproblematic ways.

SPIRAL Briefs

SCIENCE POLICY INTERFACES: RESEARCH, ACTION

A myth-busting guide to science-policy interfaces (SPIs)

The brief in brief
This is a beginner's guide to what science-policy interfaces (SPIs) are and how they work. It is aimed at people in science and/or policy who are interested in engaging more with the 'other' community and want to prepare for this. It dispels some frequent misunderstandings and looks at how to get more out of SPI work.

What is a science-policy interface (SPI)?
SPIs are the many ways in which scientists, policy makers and others link up to communicate, exchange ideas, and jointly develop knowledge for enriching policy and decision-making processes and/or research. They involve exchange of information and knowledge leading to learning, and ultimately to changed behaviour – doing something differently as a result of the learning – that in turn represents the practical impact of SPIs.

The "ideal" SPI….

Joint consideration of :
Audiences, policy contexts and needs,
SPI features and
goal-oriented strategies that
prioritise the impacts of SPIs

On-going opportunities for and process of exchange and learning

Science-Policy Interface
➢**Fit for purpose**
➢ **Able to reach target audience in**
➢ **Timely and effective ways to**
➢ **Maximise influence**

Regular stocktaking and performance assessments leading to iterative improvements

Knowledge, process, influence and impacts **that are Credible, Relevant, Legitimate (CRELE)**

Developing common language, building trust, developing capacities to understand each other's positions, views, needs and constraints

***Knowledge, process, influence and impacts* that are Credible, Relevant, Legitimate (CRELE)**

Pourquoi le « GIEC de la biodiversité » est mal parti

LE MONDE | 10.11.2014 à 16h31 • Mis à jour le 10.11.2014 à 19h55 |

Par Stéphane Foucart

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IPBES responds on conflicts of interest

Contrary to the impression given by Axel Hochkirch and colleagues (*Nature* 516, 170; 2014), the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is expected to approve a policy on conflicts of interest for authors at this week's third plenary in Bonn, Germany.

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The inevitable trade-offs...

- **Clarity-Complexity trade-off**: simple messages vs. communicating uncertainty
- **Speed-Quality trade-off**: timely outputs vs. in-depth quality assessment
- **Push-Pull trade off**: supply-driven vs. demand-driven research
- **Personal Time trade-off**: interfacing vs. doing other things

We cannot wait for three years that you come up with your mid-term research study and peer reviewed papers - *Mr P, policy maker*

Sarkki, S., Niemelä, J., Tinch, R., van den Hove, S., Watt, A., Young, J. (2013) Balancing credibility, relevance and legitimacy: A critical assessment of trade-offs in science-policy interfaces. *Science and Public Policy* Advance Access published August 28, 2013.

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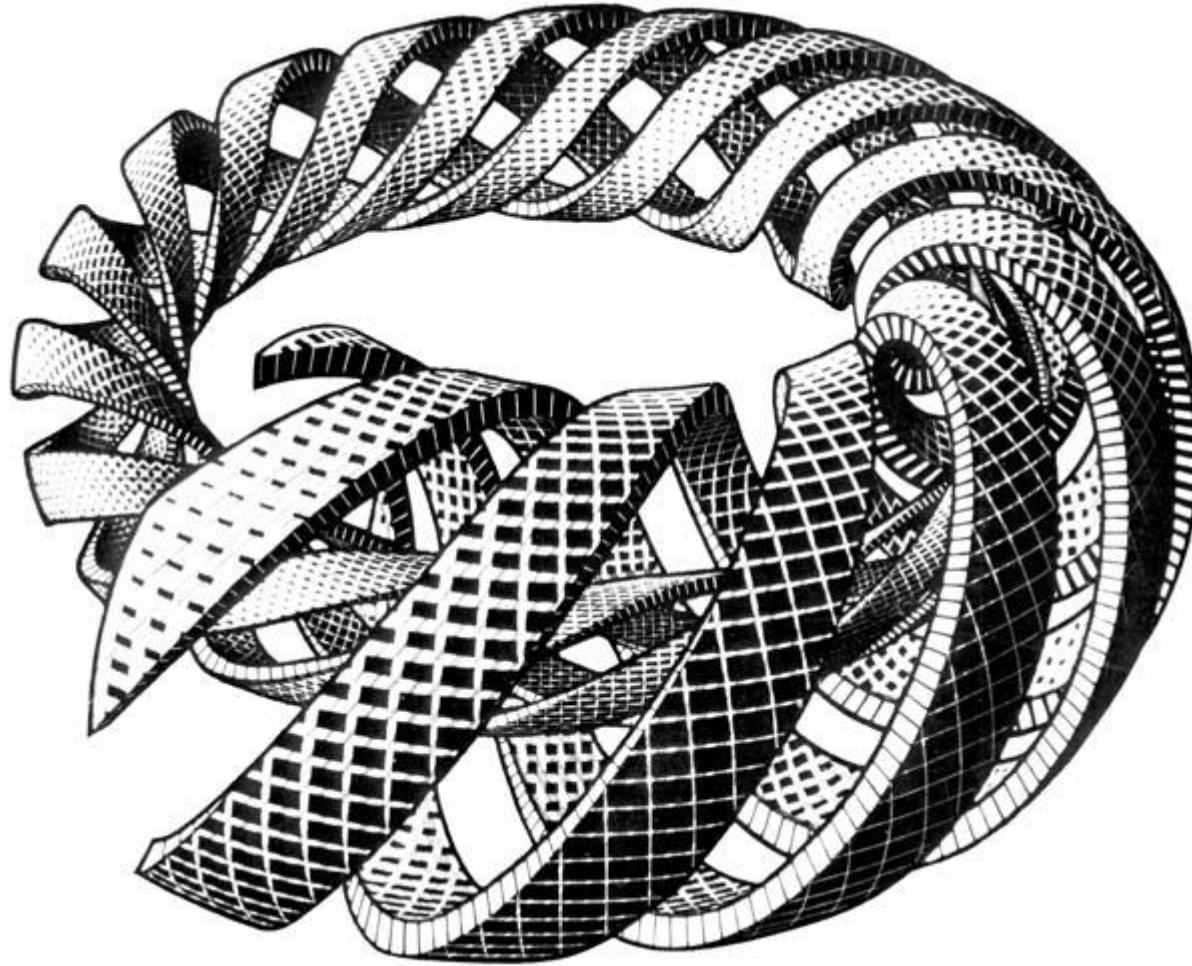NERC SCIENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Based on these trade-offs, what should we do? Communication, SPIs or alliances?

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- Fundamental change in how dialogue occurs (from funding to research, and policy)

- Transparency of research and policy processes

- Regular discussions and meetings

- Build ownership of the research and its results for those producing, funding and using the research

Alliances: Broaden involvement

- Support inter- and trans-disciplinary research

- Involve NGOs/CSOs

- Bring science in the public eye

- Bring projects/communities together to attract more attention and join resources

- Encourage strategic and long-term science-policy dialogue

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SPIRAL handbook
General briefs (e.g. Myth-busting)
Case study reflections
UK National Ecosystem Assessment
IPBES
TEEB
Recommendations
Communication
Designing for success
Goals and roles
Papers

http://www.spiral-project.eu/