

IPGs – a conceptual barrier to research in complex situations?



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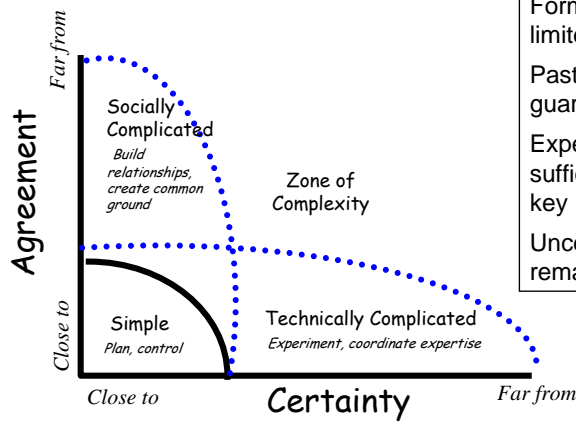
New ways of working were also part of the original concept and mandate of CPs

Research in complex situations

“Complex multi-sector problems need new ways of working: “The really important issues facing society ... cannot be tackled by any organization acting alone”
Huxham and Vangen, 2005



Research on complex challenges



Formulaic solutions have limited applicability
Past success is no guarantee of future success
Expertise can help but is not sufficient; relationships are key
Uncertainty of outcome remains

Source: Patton, 2007



New ways of working



Investing in natural resources management research

Complex challenges ⇒ Multiple organizations ⇒ Action research
Social learning

Implications

Partnership investments required

Time lag in results

Results more difficult to predict a priori
(note implications for planning)

Up-scaling and out-scaling of local research

CPWF experience: All work of this type generates “IPG”



Note the Science Council's recent strong de-emphasis of IPGs

Research for sustainable development is like jazz

Scientists, like jazz musicians, have to know what they are doing and it has to come from the heart. From there on they need to improvise and go with the flow, without long terms of reference or logical frameworks.

David Kaimovitz, 2004



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