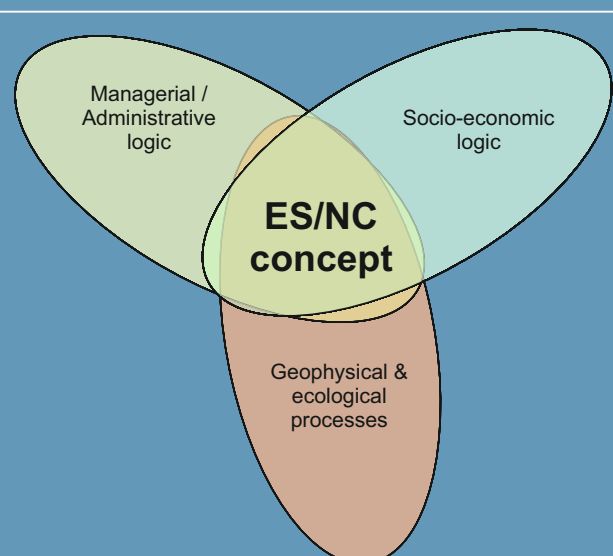


Governance of ecosystem services (ES): how to transform the ES concept into an explicit management tool

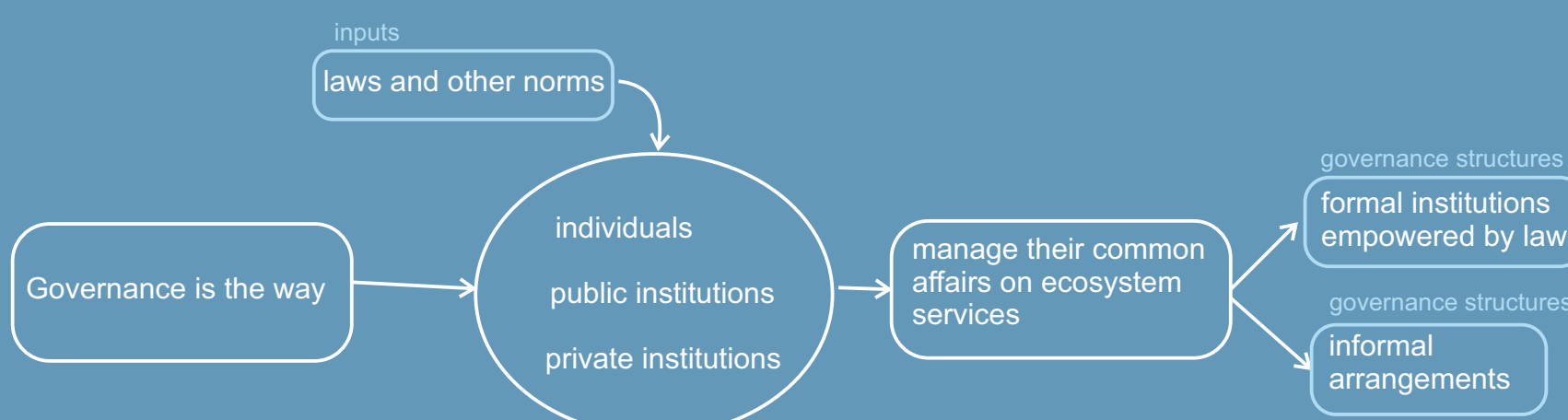


ES concept as an explicit management tool

One of the reasons for the popularity of the ES concept is that it can work as an explicit management tool. ES are about human-nature systems and integrate the three logics: managerial, social and economic, and finally the geophysical and ecological processes.

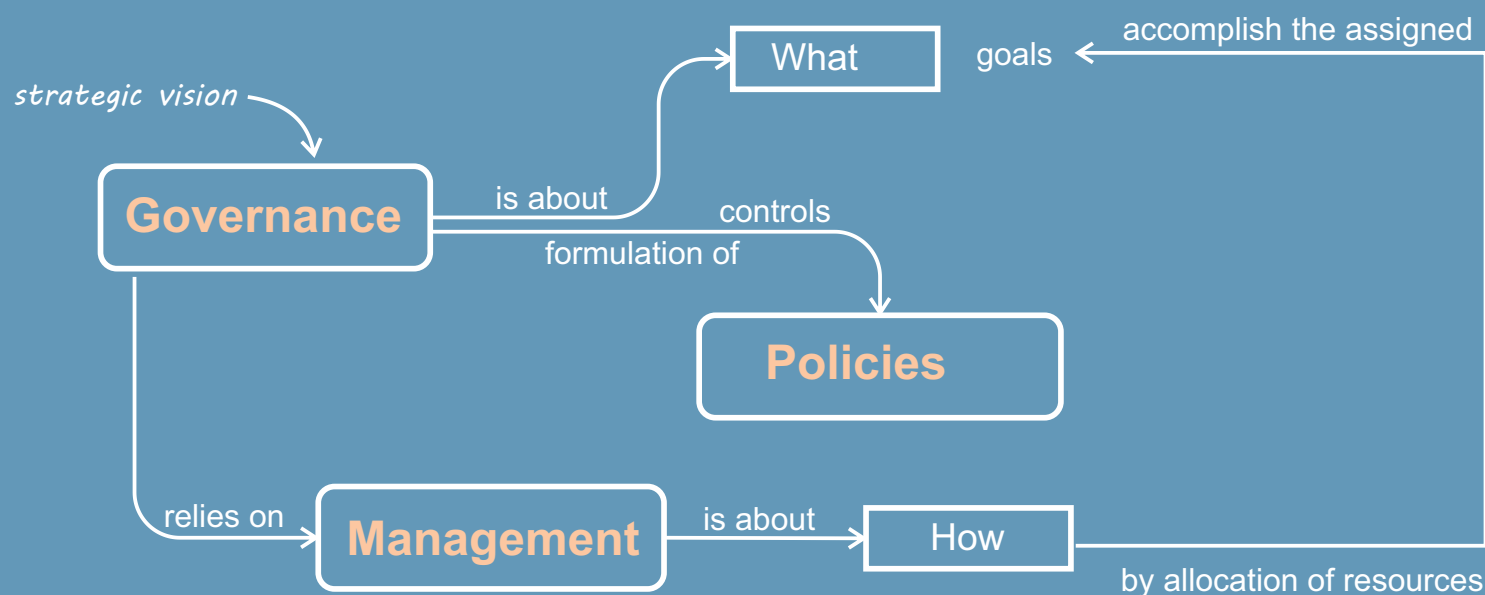
About the concept of governance

Governance is the way stakeholders manage their common affairs related to ES. This includes internal processes and relationships between stakeholders, and the input of laws and other norms. The resulting outcomes can be formal institutions empowered by a legal framework (such as city authorities), or can be informal arrangements (such as communities who visit a landscape).



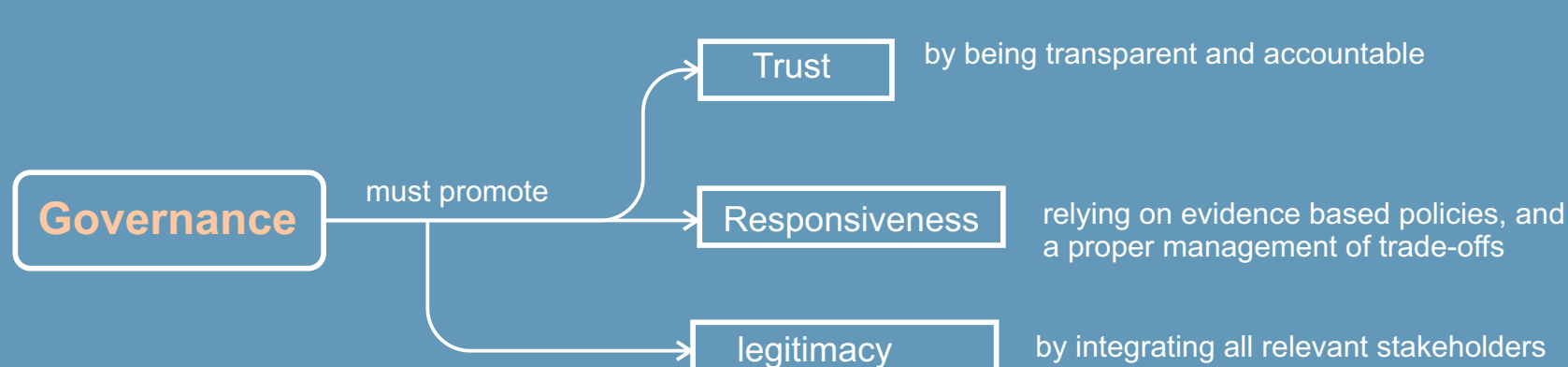
The blurred lines between governance, policies and management

Governance is about strategic decision making. It relies on management, which is about how to accomplish the assigned goals. Management functions at a day by day level and by allocating resources. And policies are a crucial element of governance. Governance controls the limits where policies function.

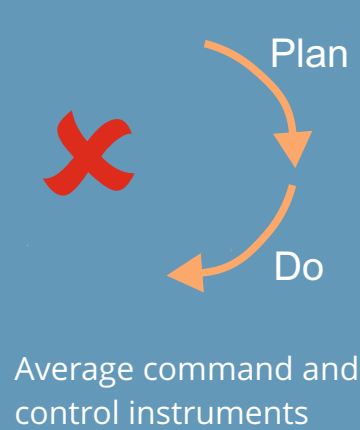


Good governance of Ecosystem Services (ES)

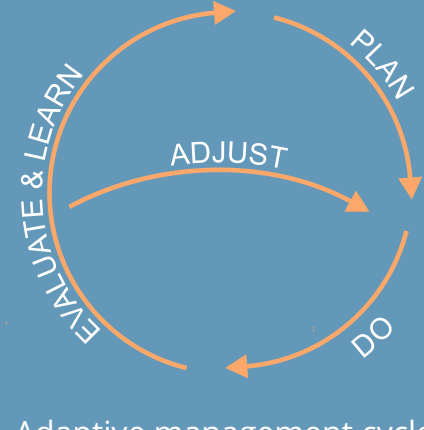
Governance also sets the framework where stakeholders interact. The governance system must promote trust, legitimacy and responsiveness by being accountable, open, transparent, and evidence-based. To promote trust it has to engage all the relevant stakeholders, although not necessarily in the same way. Governance can shape and avoid vulnerability and optimize ES flows. Good governance must be flexible and adapt to a changing environment in order to last.



Adaptive management: far beyond command and control instruments



Command and control instruments directly regulate an industry or activity by legislation that states what is permitted and what is illegal. Usually those regulations do not include the situations and assumptions of their adjustment as an outcome of experience or monitoring. This limits their usefulness.



One of the most relevant aspects that enables the ES concept to be an explicit management tool is its ability to cope with complex and fluctuating environments. So, governance has to go beyond *command and control instruments* (only regulation based), and be adaptive in order to cope with the continuous and unpredictable changes brought by the different consequences of the human-nature interaction. Climatic change is one of those consequences.

The adaptive management wheel: a good way to place methods and instruments on the governance process of ecosystem service management

