

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENCE, POLICY AND MANAGEMENT – SOME EXPERIENCES FROM SOUTH AFRICAN FISHERIES

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WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE & WHY?

Rational, responsible, transparent, accountable, evidence-based decision-making

Crucial for equality, peace and sustainability



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WHAT DO WE NEED TO ACHIEVE THIS?

Desire

Publishing a paper?

Publishing a popular article?

Giving a talk or a poster at a science conference?

Ranting in a newspaper article?

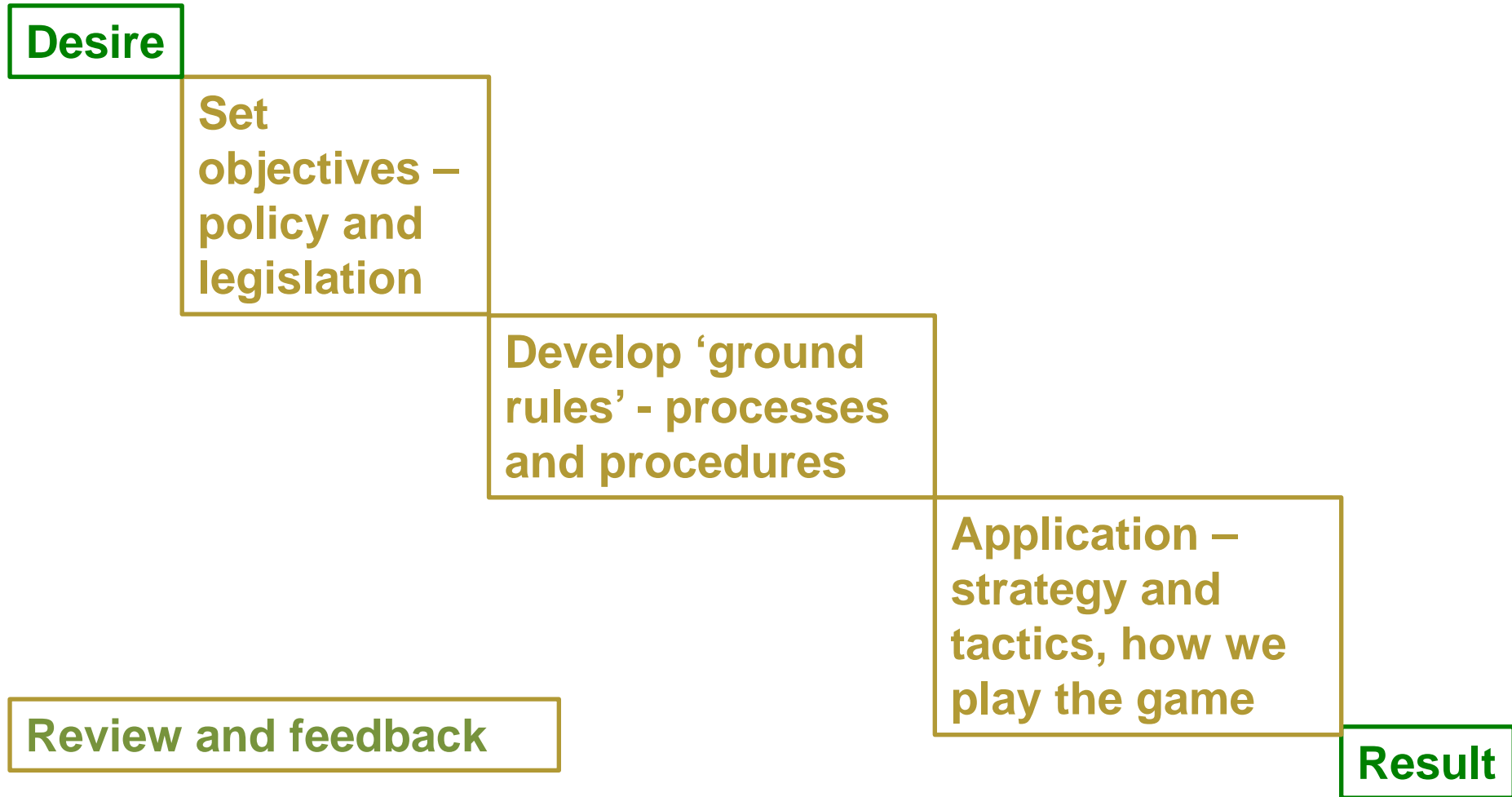
Result



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WHAT DO WE NEED TO ACHIEVE THIS?



SETTING OBJECTIVES - POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Need not be 'perfect' from a scientific perspective to be useful

- Marine Living Resources Act
- Doesn't say much about scientific input, but sets the scene
- Can enable, but can also place constraints

Good awareness of policy & legislation development, and interact through participation processes



PROCESSES & PROCEDURES

All decision-making follows some processes or procedures

In fisheries, these are well-established and work 'well'

- **Scientific Working Groups generate advice – scientific recommendations**
- **Management recommendations made to decision-maker/s**
- **Implementation and day-to-day management**
- **Science provides advice, not decisions**

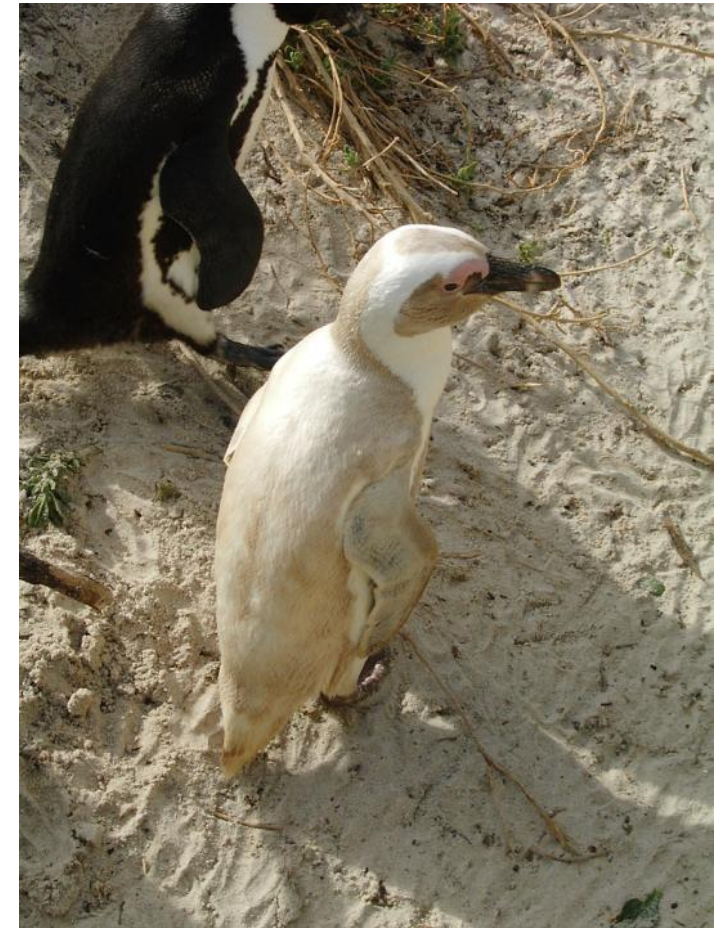


PROCESSES & PROCEDURES 2...

Scientific Working Groups generate advice:

- Resource-based or cross-cutting
- Peer groups
- Include others as required
- 'Safe' atmosphere for rigorous scientific debate
- Transparency
- Work prioritization
- Synthesize best available scientific information into scientific advice

Good participation in fisheries SWGs, but could be improved



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PROCESSES & PROCEDURES 3...

Management advisors make recommendations:

- Scientific advice considered and input provided
- Consideration of other information and inputs if available and applicable

Scientific inputs primarily made through SWG recommendations, but also participation

Decision-makers:

- Rely primarily on recommendations from management advisors
- Consider all information and inputs

Science provided with the management recommendations, but can also be participatory



PROCESSES & PROCEDURES 4...

Implementation of decisions & day-to-day management:

- **Implementation through right allocations, permit conditions, requests from fishers, voluntary measures, etc.**

Scientific inputs and recommendations need to be highly responsive to ad-hoc requests for advice



STRATEGY AND TACTICS – PLAYING THE GAME

Understanding the context and constraints within which the management system operates:

- Policy/ legislative realities
- Political context
- Strategic plans & priorities
- Budgets
- Capacity
- Time
- Data/ information availability



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STRATEGY AND TACTICS – PLAYING THE GAME 2...

Choosing a role

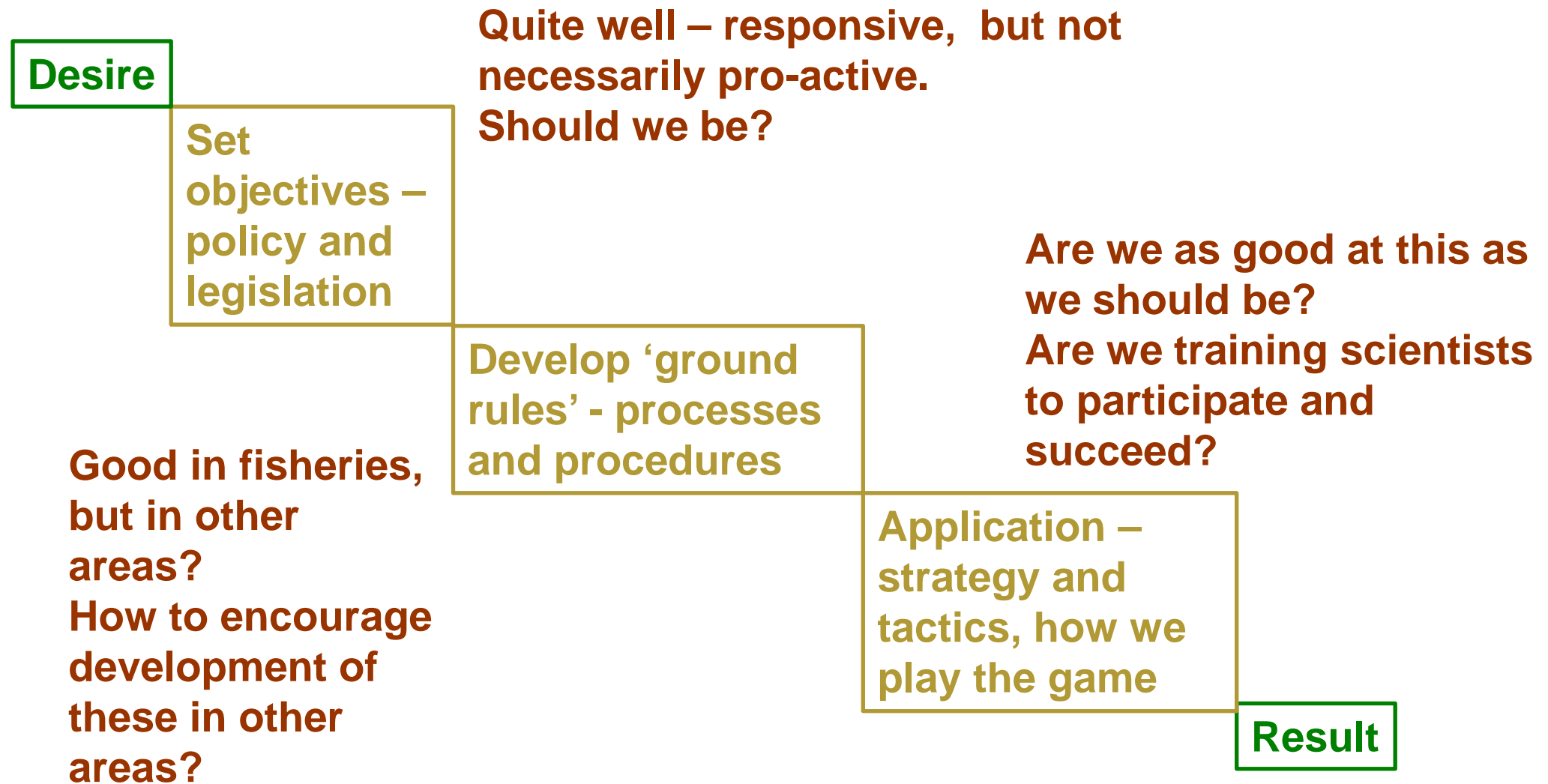
- **Hostile or supportive**
- **Idealistic or realistic (compromise)**
- **Slap-dash or quality science**
- **Solutions-oriented or problem-raising**
- **Stubborn ‘purist’ or recognition of science as only one input**
- **Impatient or determined and goal-oriented**



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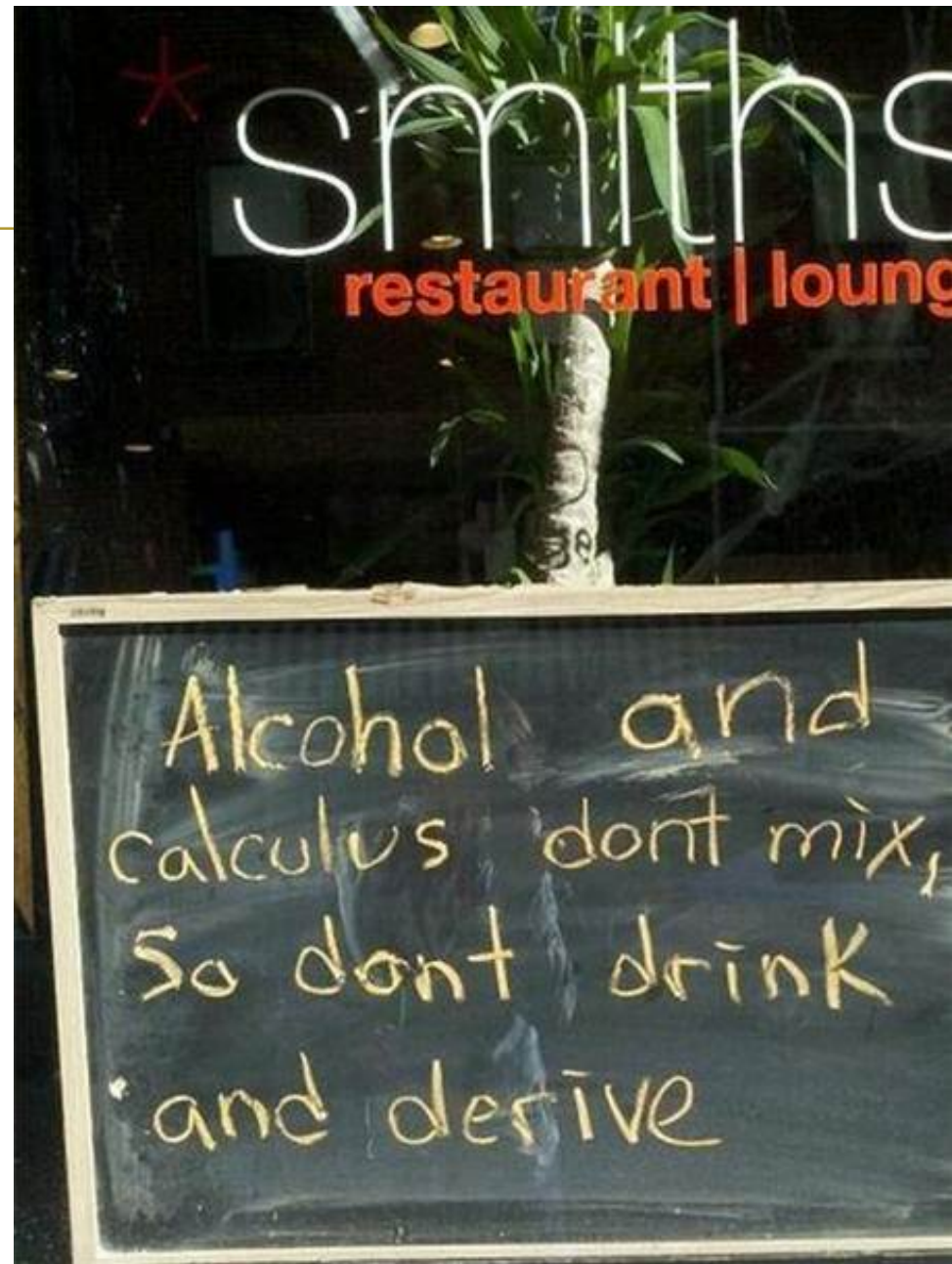
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HOW ARE WE DOING?



THANK YOU!

A last piece of advice...



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