

# Governing vulnerability in a transboundary context: the Trialogue approach

*Workshop on water and adaptation  
to climate change*



Session 3

Reducing uncertainty: forecasting, modelling and vulnerability

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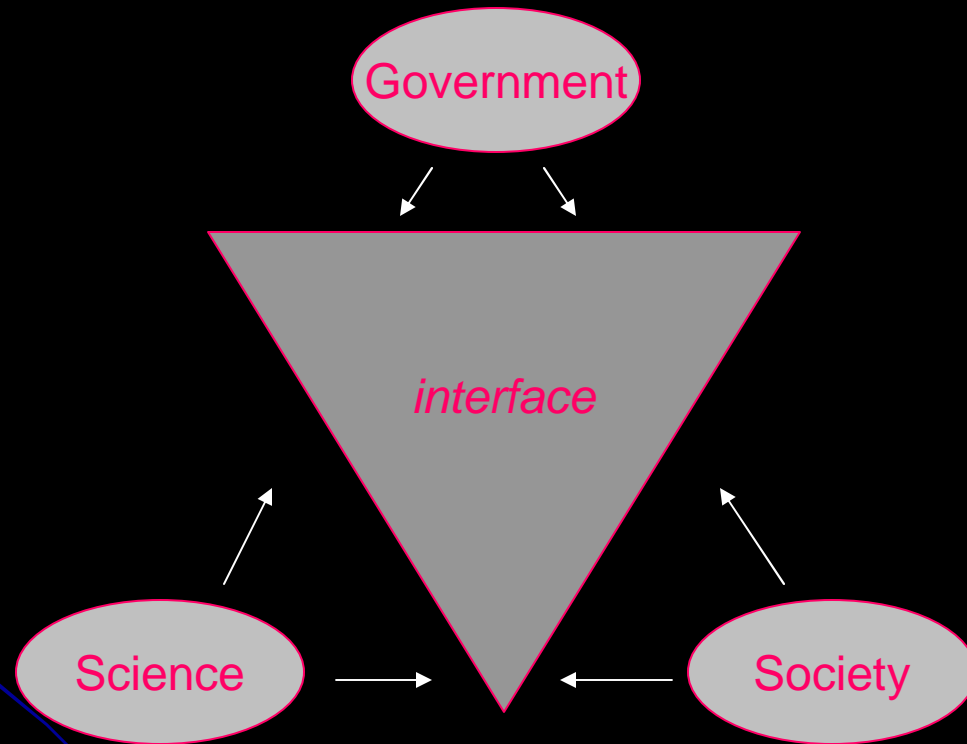
# Introduction

- Adaptation not only involves governments
- **Dialogue model** (Turton *et al.*\*)
  - Requisite for effective transboundary water management and cooperation
  - Good **water governance**\*\* depends on the interface of three processes, namely...

\* Turton, A. R., Hattingh, J., Roux, D., Claassen, M., Maree, G. A. & Strydom, W. F. (Eds) (2007). *Governance as a Dialogue: Government-Society-Science in Transition*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin.

\*\* *Water governance is the process of informed decision-making that enables trade-offs between competing users of a given resource so as to balance protection with beneficial use in such a way as to mitigate conflict, enhance equity, ensure sustainability and hold officials accountable (Turton et al, 2007).*

# Triialogue Model of Governance



The *(lack of)* Policy-Science-Society interactions

# Where do we stand?

- Quality of interface = important
- What are the roles of the three actors?
  - *How is science used to develop policies?*
  - *How can scientists interact with policymakers?*
  - *How can the public be involved in water research and management?*
  - *Where are the gaps between the 3 interfaces and how can these be bridged?*

# Potential Barriers

## Governments

- Short-term vision
- Sensitive to lobbies
- Protectionism
- Inertia

## Society

- Economic individualism
- Mantra of profits
- Lack of consideration

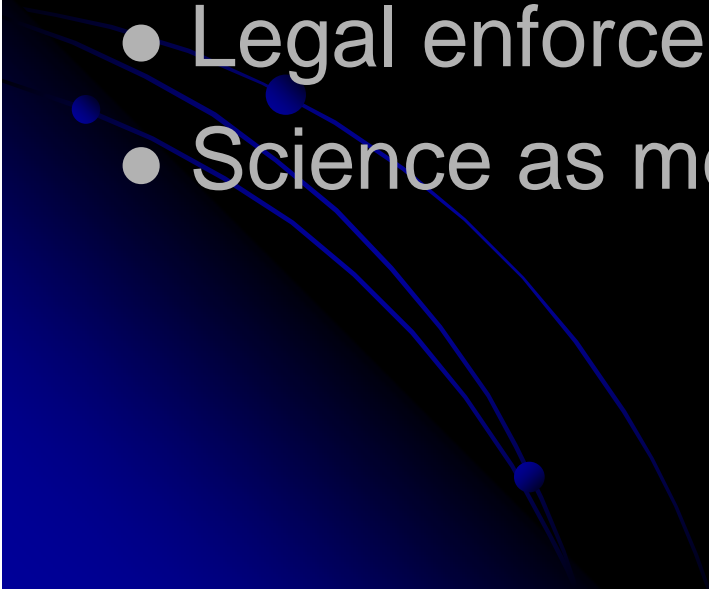
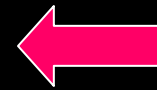
## Science

- Scientific individualism
- No or low diffusion of information
- Science for science

# Where do we want to go?

## Options for cooperation:

- Voluntary cooperation between government, science and society
- Legal enforcement by government
- Science as mediator



# How can we get there?

## Successful triadogue approaches

Canada:

N-Cycle of P.E.I. Aquifers

BC:

Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer



## In conclusion

The Trialogue Model of Governance is a useful conceptual model and analytical tool.

Effective transboundary water management requires all sectors of a an international shared river basin to work together to achieve a shared vision.



Thank you for  
your attention.

Questions?

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