

OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES, & IMPACT

Getting to impact from research

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Water Research Impact & Uptake Workshop

Outline

- Background on local attempts (R4D, ToC)
- Some successes and failures
- Conclusions
- Recommendations



Background

- Farming systems, water governance, gender
- Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF) of the CGIAR



Definitions & Themes

- Outputs: typical research or development project milestones. Peer review articles, papers, maps, data bases, models, degrees, trainings, etc.
- Outcomes: changes in behaviour resulting from that output.
- Impact: sustained change, over time, scaled out and up.

Background CPWF

- Phase I: Research for the curious (mainly other researchers) with some exceptions
- Some excellent foundation work & relationships
- Phase II: Reoriented toward outcomes around a central 'development challenge'

Local Approach to R4D

- CPWF transition from R4R to R4D
- Based upon impact pathways, theory of change, outcome logic models
- LBDC tried to meet needs, fill gaps, engage next and end users of research



CPWF Limpopo Basin

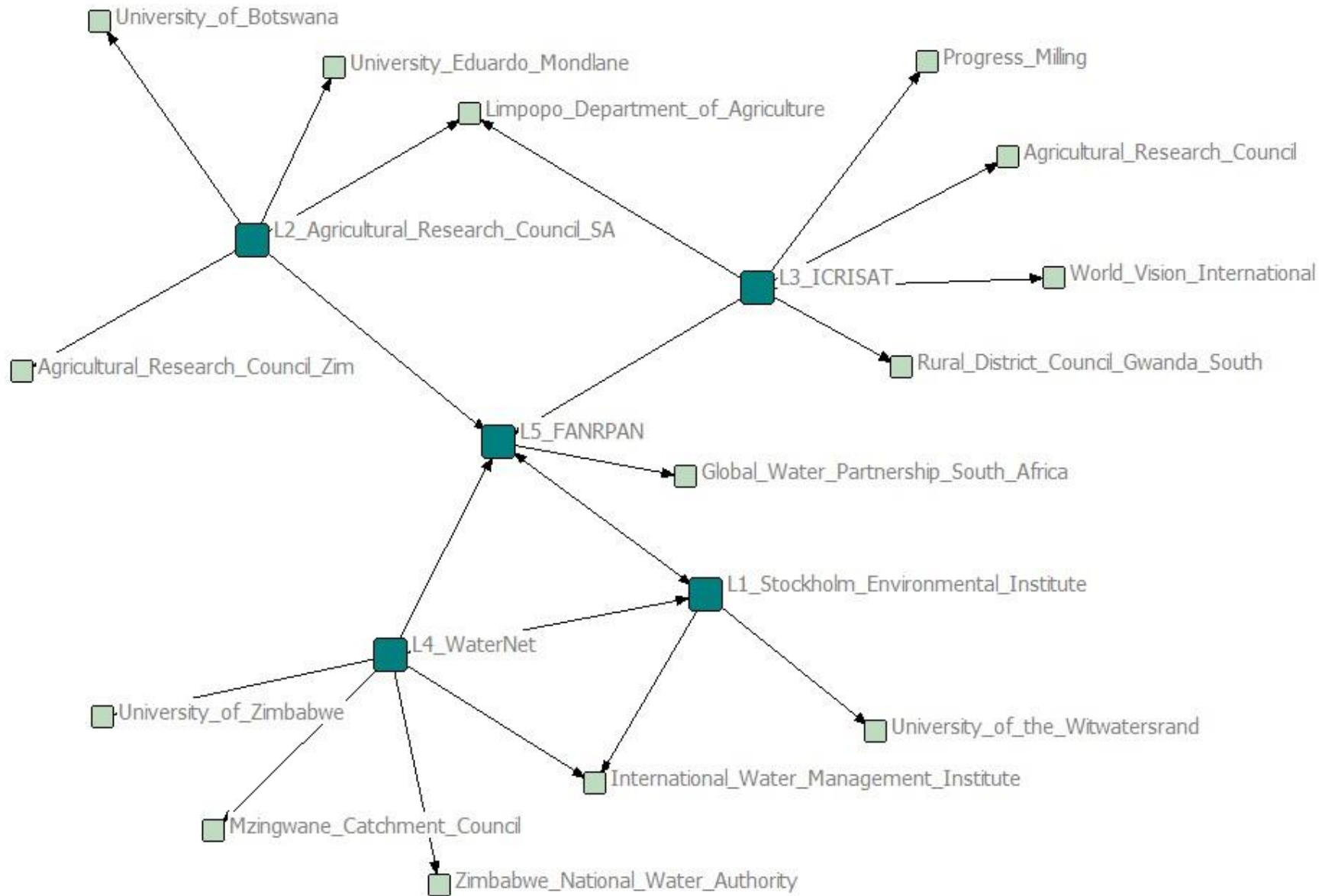


LIMCOM

SADC

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AMCOW



Successes and . . . Not so much

- Buy in to the approach . . . varied
- Highlighted tangible benefits of partnerships
- Broader understanding of complex systems and incentive structures *in situ*, BUT
- Gaps in knowledge, targets & partners
- Institutional cultures vis-à-vis incentive structures
- Reverting to silos and old habits

Evidence of achievement (Phase I & II)

- Outputs have already led to outcomes (changes in behaviour)
- New actors around the table—engaged in new conversations
- Researchers seeking out engagement to increase relevance of their work
- Researchers see value in coordination function



Conclusions

- Meeting existing demand is a better bet than selling your goods at the end (comms talking to comms)—but you must understand that demand
- Be prepared to defend your choice of targets—because your work will not meet every demand (ToC)

Conclusions

- Mandates, legitimacy & convening power are more than buzz words—they are the lay of the land so get to understand them
- Time spent on understanding the milieu and pathways to change is invaluable.



Recommendations

- Start with what's working—do not reinvent the wheel (but there are implications)
- Engage in a process that generates demand (do your homework in terms of mandates and legitimacy)
- No single organization will get you all the way from research to impact (invest in partnerships)

Take Away Messages

- Partnerships are the only way to get from outputs to outcomes and impact
- Do not let knowledge management become knowledge hoarding
- Changing the paradigm takes TIME in a world of high expectations for instant results (elections & donor cycles)
- Mandates, legitimacy & convening power are the locks AND the keys to getting to outcomes & impact.



Thank You