


Transition governance for a Sustainable Low Carbon Society



Dutch Research Institute for Transitions

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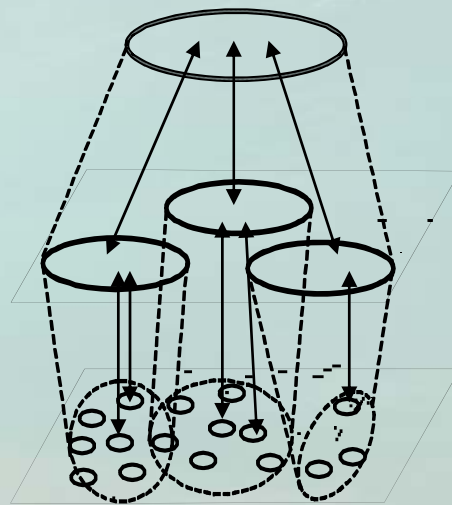
*Dutch Research Institute for Transitions
Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands
LCS-Rnet, Berlin, 21-09-2010*



Persistency
Transitions
Governance
Action research

Transitions

Non-linear systemic change in dominant culture, structures and practices

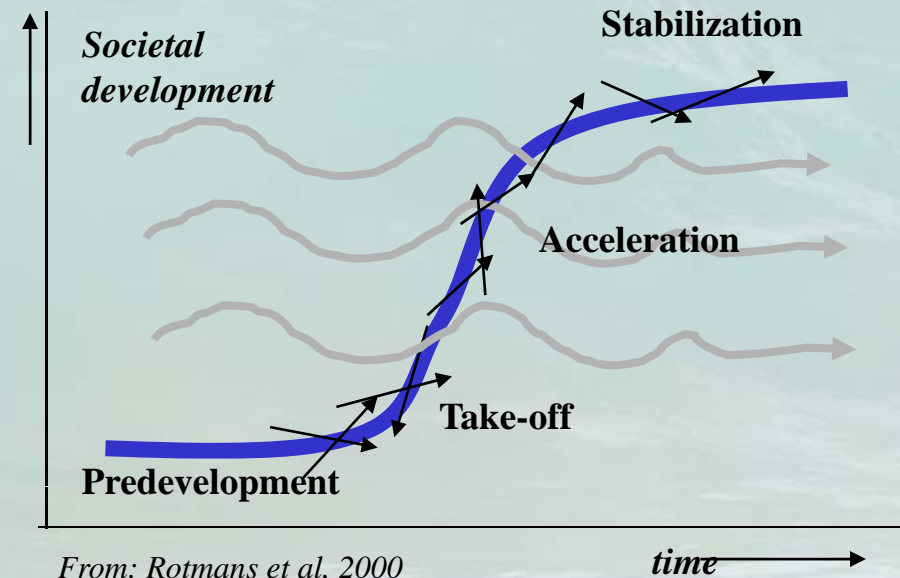


Macro-level: landscape
autonomous trends,
paradigms, slow changes

Meso-level: regime
Dominant structure,
culture and practices

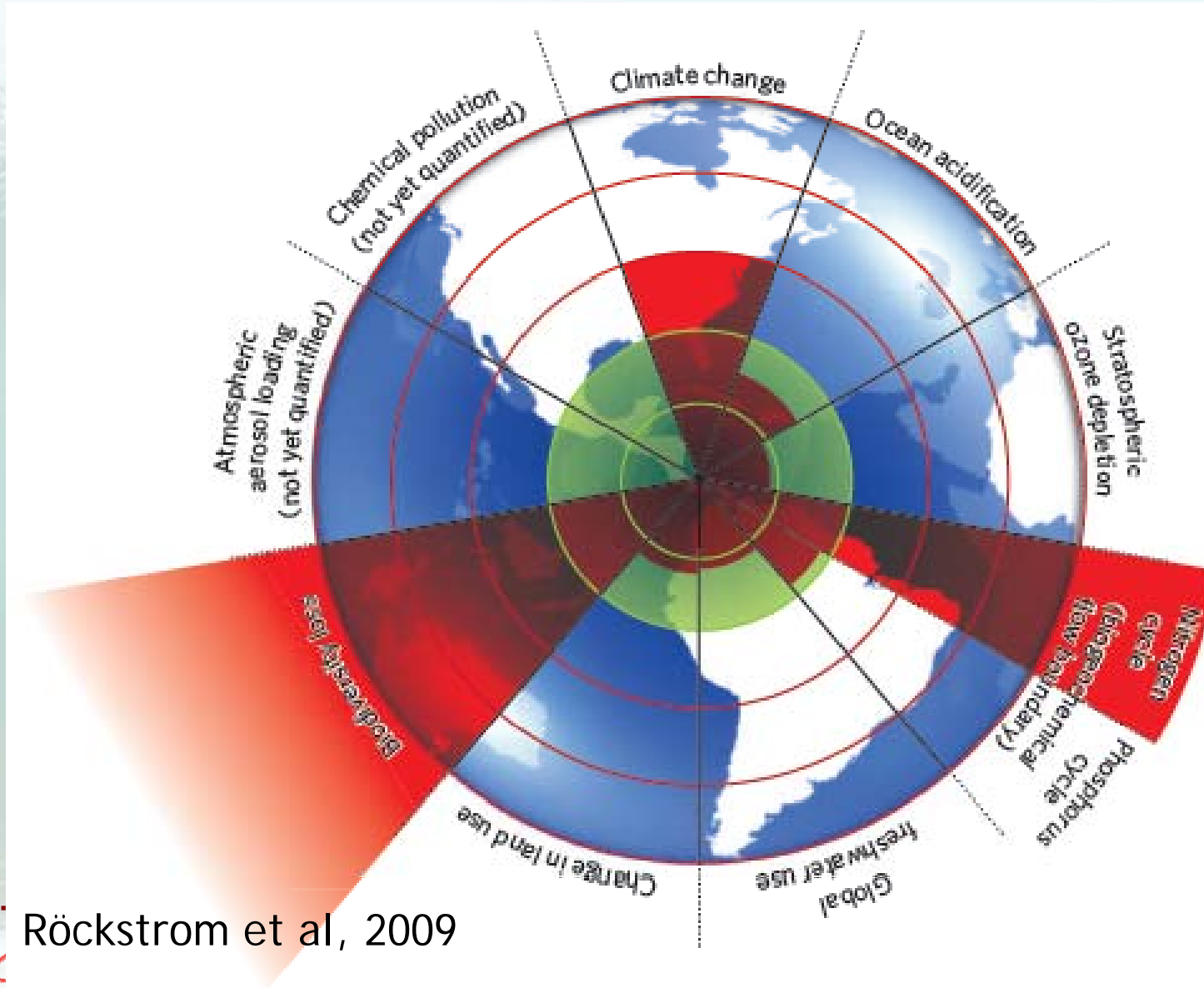
Micro-level: niches
innovative ideas,
projects, technologies,
niche actors

Based on Geels and Kemp, 2001



From: Rotmans et al, 2000

Resilience versus transitions

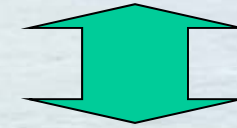
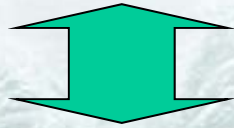


Röckstrom et al, 2009

Transition governance principles

- complex adaptive systems and transition perspective:
 - long-term thinking as the basis for short term policy
 - think in terms of multiple domains (multi-domain), different actors (multi-actor), different levels (multi-level)
 - dealing with uncertainties through backcasting
 - learning as an important aim for policy ('learning-by-doing' and 'doing-by-learning')
 - orient policy towards system innovation
 - working with portfolios of flexible and multiple goals
 - keeping options open (wide playing field)

Transitions Governance Principles



Detection
framework

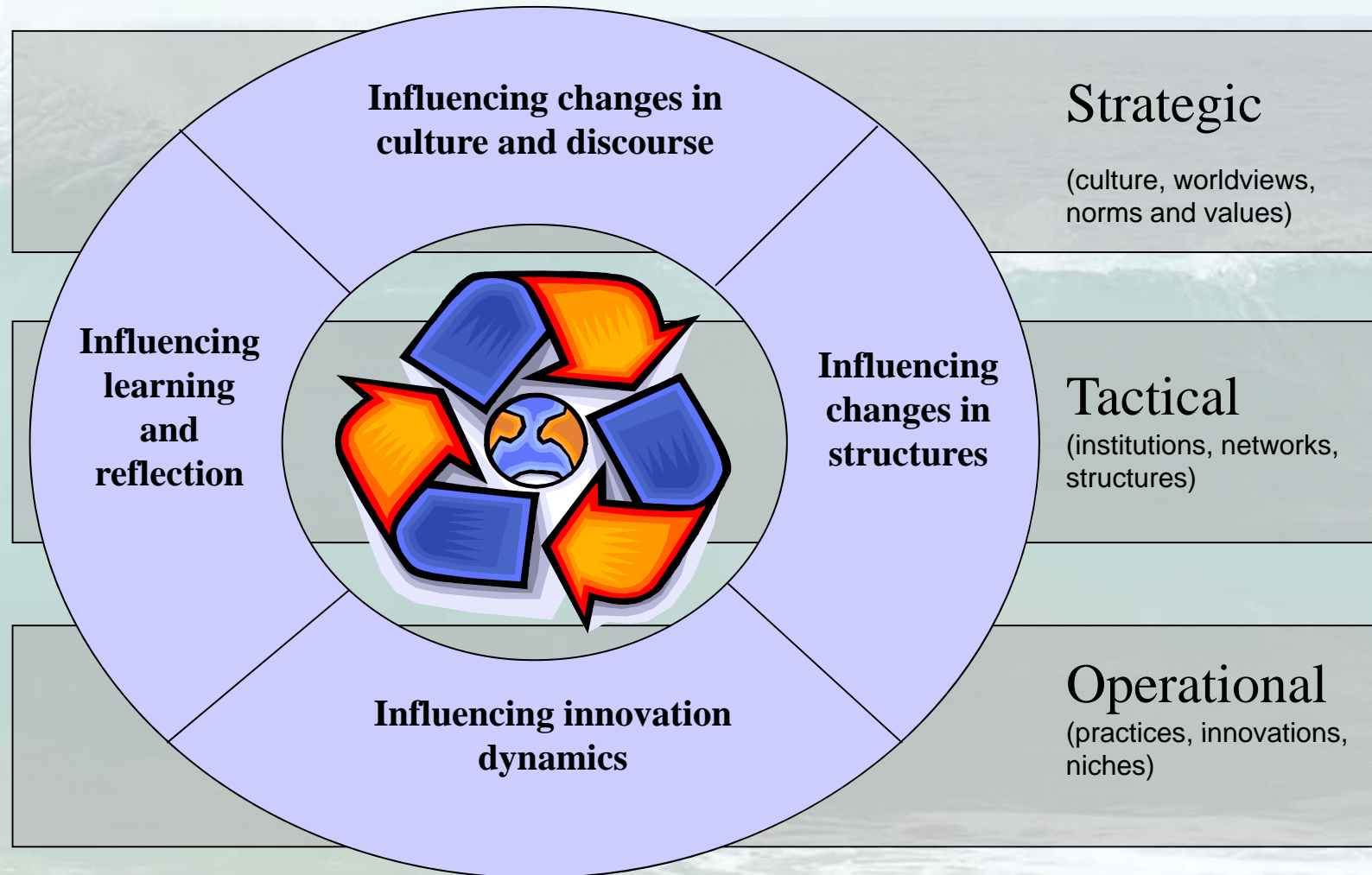


Orientation
framework

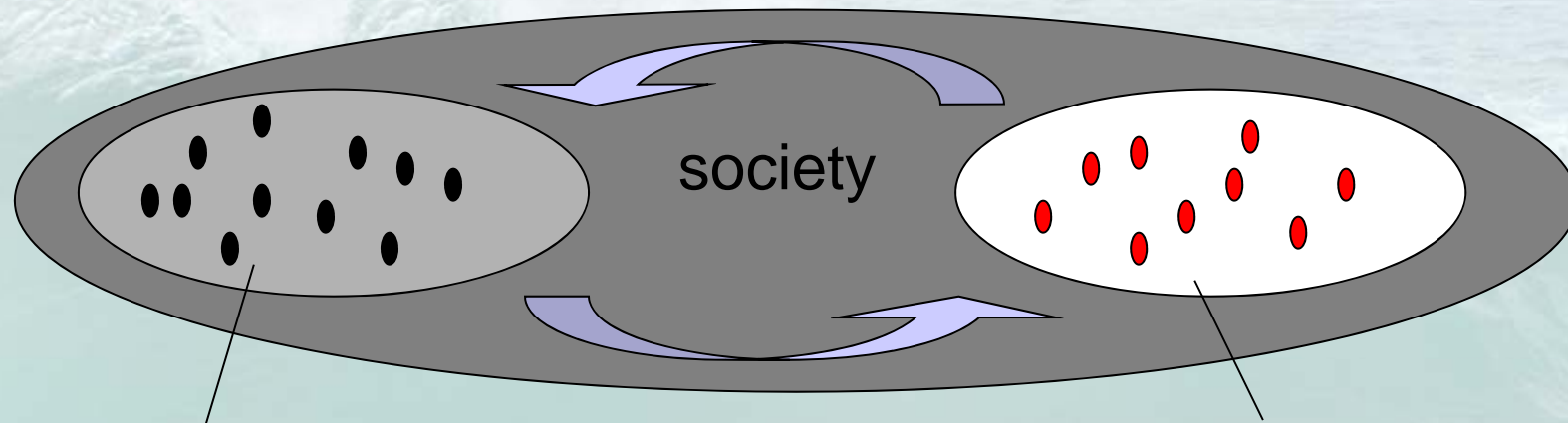
Transition dynamics research

Transition management research

Governance framework



Transition arenas



Regular policy arena

- *Short term*
- *Peloton*
- *Incremental change*
- *Problem- and goal oriented*

Transition arena

- *Long term*
- *Frontrunners*
- *System-innovation*
- *Problem- and goal searching*

Transition to a sustainable LCS

- Global challenge versus local contexts
 - Ambiguity, uncertainty and contested nature of problems and solutions
 - Process of interlinked transitions in different phases, in different domains and at different levels of scale
- Need for coordination, structuration, guidance and upscaling

Urban Transition Management

- Dealing with interlinked sectoral transitions: cities as complex adaptive systems
- Developing city as experimental zone: niches within broader transitions
- Influencing changes in culture, structure and practices
 - envisioning, transition programs, transition experiments, evaluating and reflecting upon policy, engaging frontrunners, linking to national and international scale

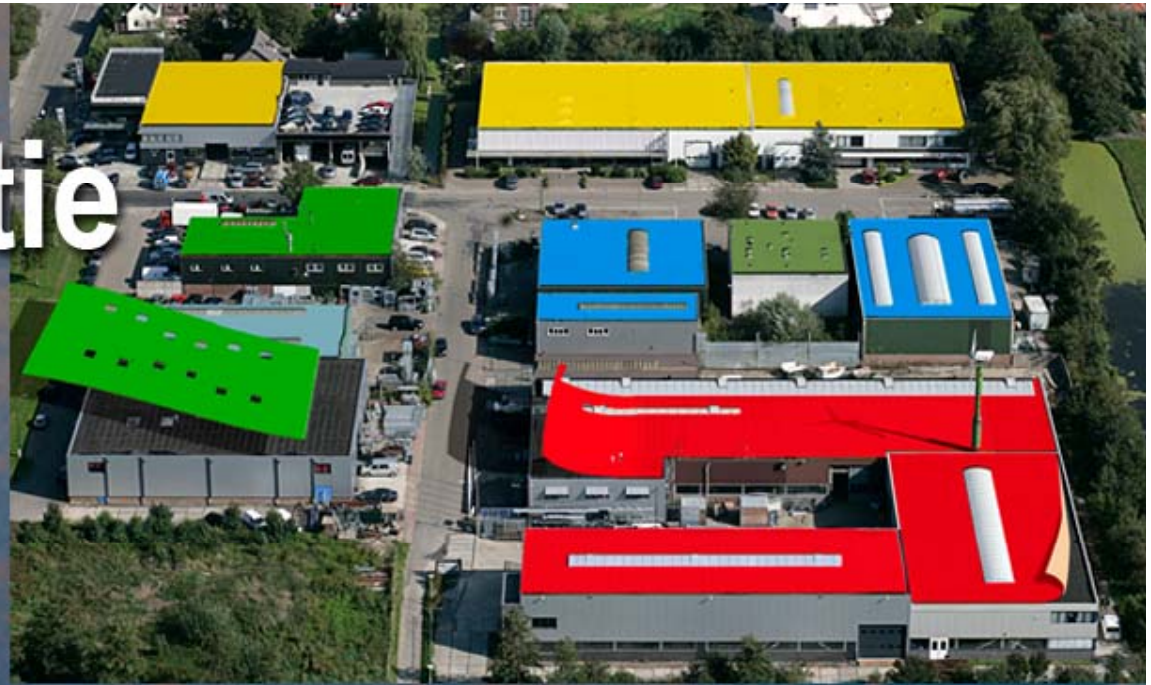


Floating City





Dak Transitie



“Het Dak is de meest geschikte locatie om te reageren en te ontwikkelen rondom klimaatgerelateerde duurzaamheid.”

Lucht

Energie

Water

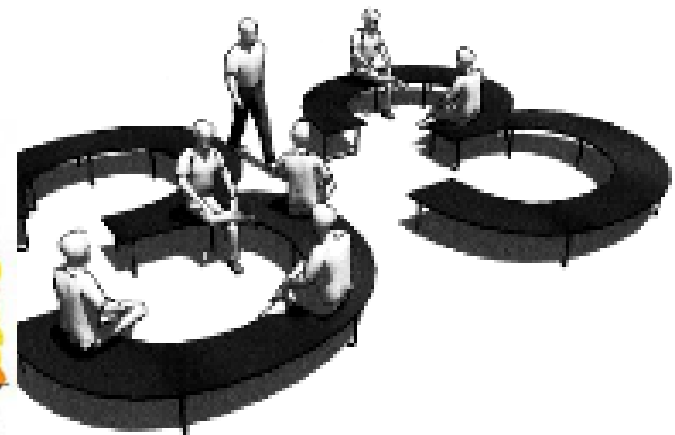
Veiligheid





Community Arenas

- Seeking to identify a sustainable community
 - Ecological, economic, social
- Community empowerment
 - Developing self-organisational capacity
 - Paradigm shift towards self-awareness
 - Articulating community needs
- Policy transition
 - Participation in societal process
 - Toward integrative cooperation
 - Developing process governance capacity



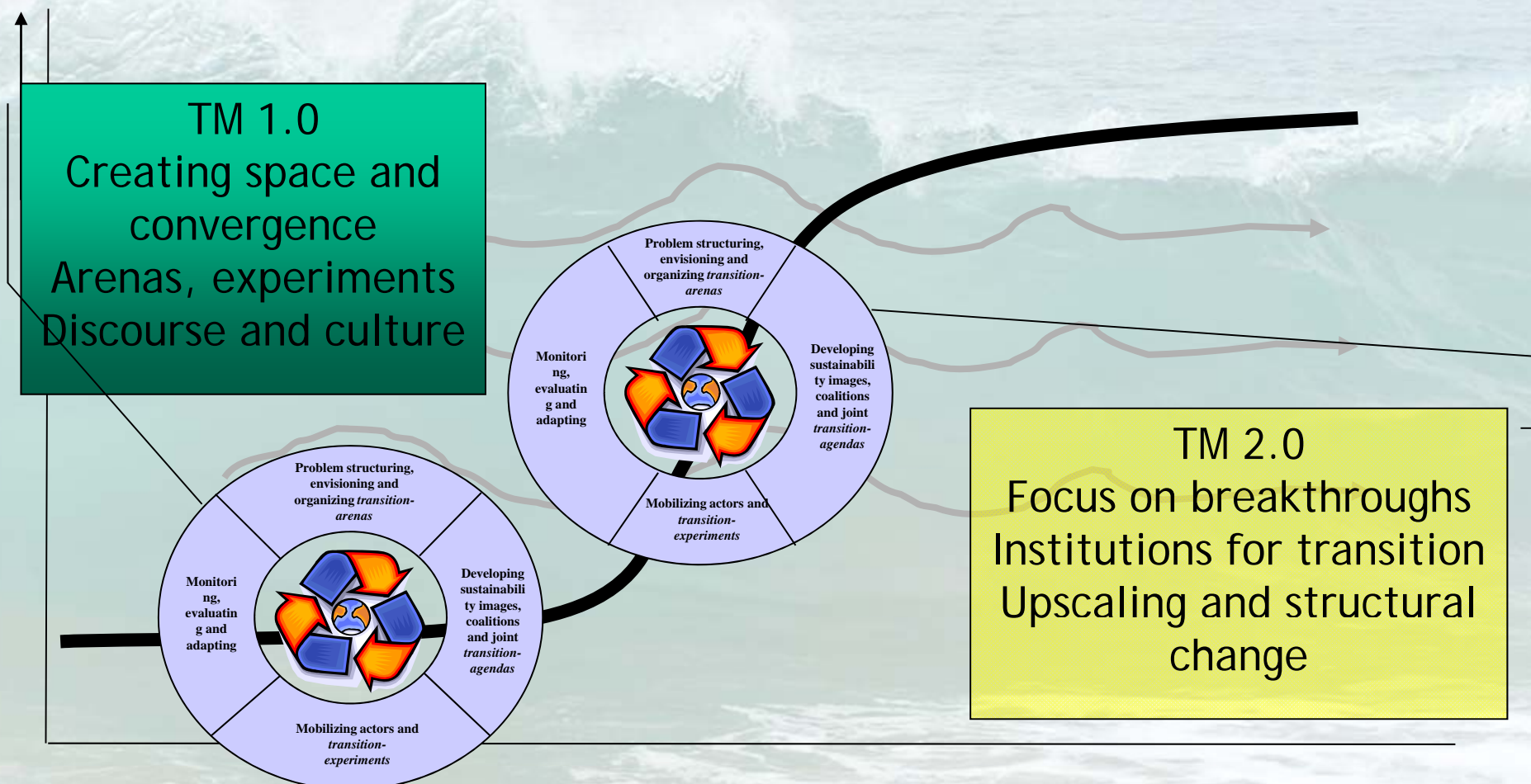
ingeboden door Stichting KICK



Transition science approach

- Framing sustainability challenge as transition
 - Based on disciplinary and expert knowledge
- Selective participatory discussion on persistency and sustainability
- Engaging relevant actors in the process and actively identifying possible changes
- Reflecting upon dynamics and progress
 - Embedded research, sustainability driven but not solution focused

TM: evolving theory and practice



'Managing' the transition to a LCS

- **Framing:** understanding regime shifts in their contexts
- **Discourse:** developing shared perspectives and language related to possible transitions
- **Translating:** organising context specific experimental shadow processes
- **Experimenting:** creating space for deepening, broadening and upscaling

Conclusions

- Transitions are inherently ambiguous and uncertain, but also inevitable
- Policies provide space within which society needs to be reinvented
- Managing transitions implies coordination, guidance, creating space
- Transition approach is about engaging with and empowering shadow networks and processes

more on transitions...

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- www.drift.eur.nl
- www.sustainabilitytransitions.com
- www.energytransition.nl