



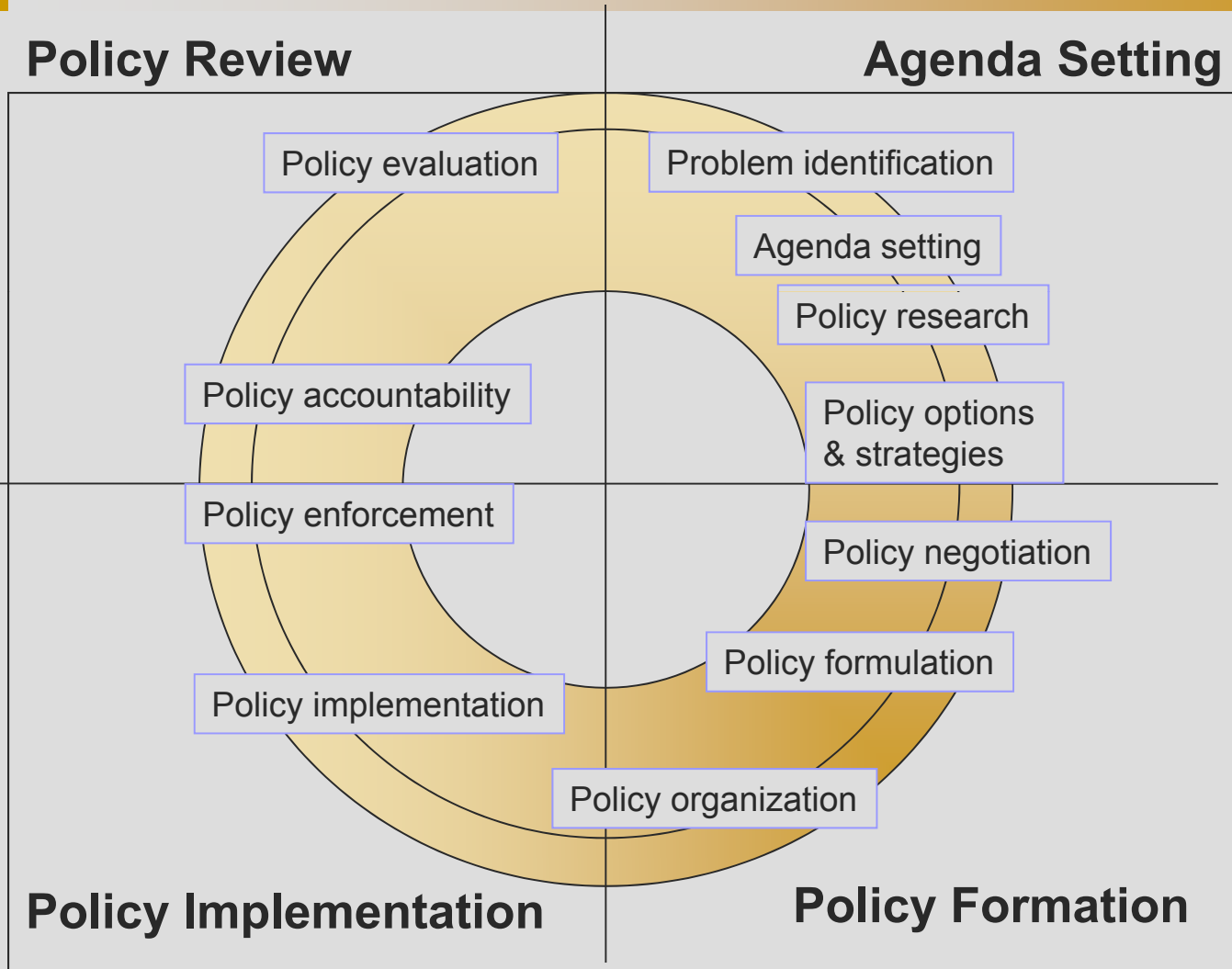
# **External Evaluation: LIRNEasia's Influence on Policy**

# [ Learning from LIRNEasia ]

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- What can be done to make research (more) influential in policy-making (and practice)?
- Under what conditions?

# The Policy 'Cycle'



# What is 'policy influence'?

In an 'issue domain'....

e.g. 'USO policy and regulation in India';

*or*

'Early warning systems in Sri Lanka'

....expect / be alert to changes in....

**Actors** in the domain  
(their goals, interests, beliefs, behaviors, strategies, resources)

**Institutions** that enable and constrain interactions among these actors

**Framing, discourse and agendas** related to the issue

**Existing policies** of relevant actors

# Policy influencing can take many shapes (Lindquist)

## *Expanding Policy Capacities*

- **Improving the knowledge** or data of certain actors
- Supporting recipients to **develop innovative ideas**
- Improving **capabilities to communicate** ideas
- Developing **new talent** for research and analysis

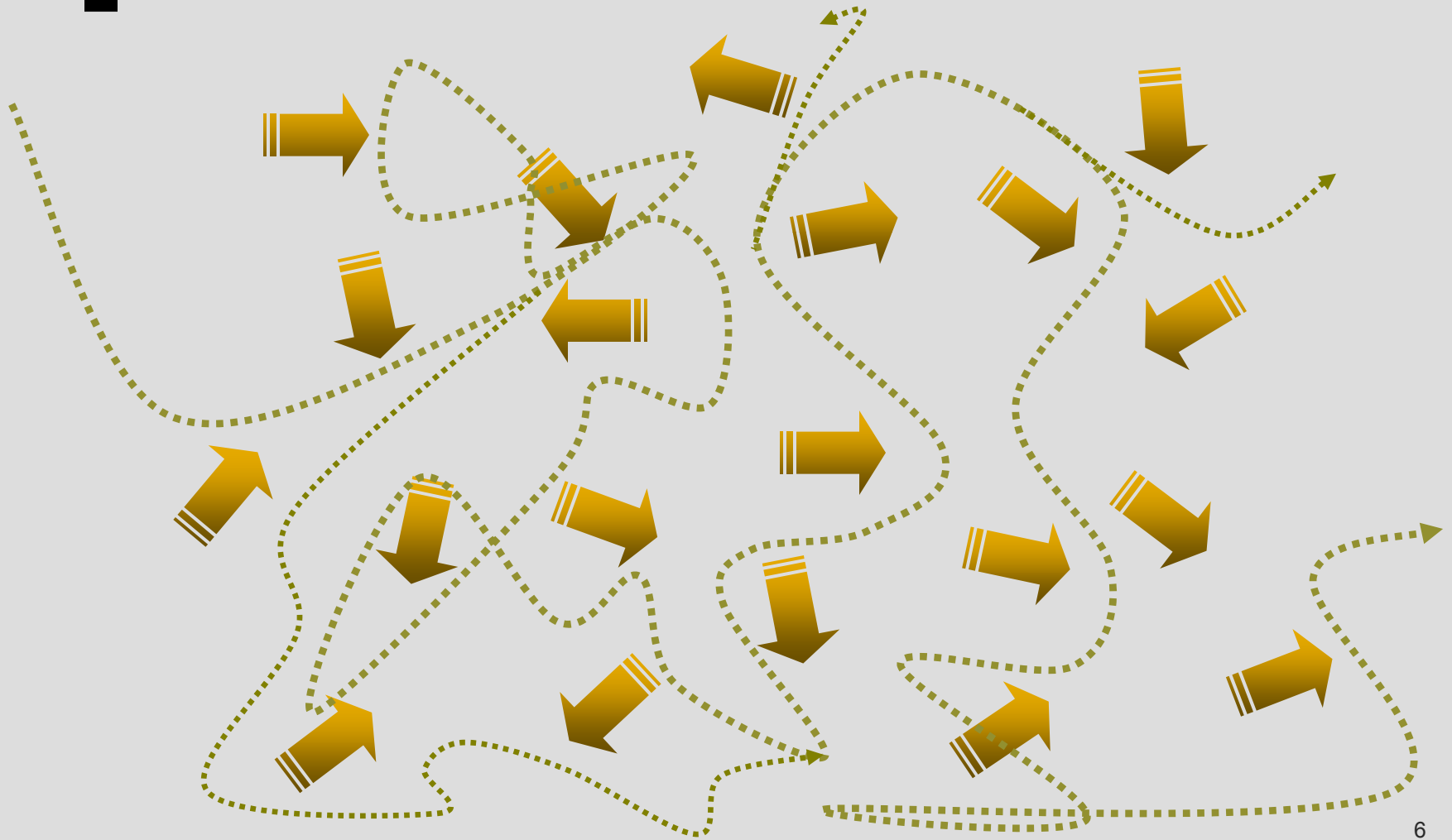
## *Broadening Policy Horizons*

- Providing policy-makers with **opportunities for networking or learning** within their jurisdiction or with colleagues elsewhere
- **Introducing new concepts** to frame debates, putting ideas on the agenda or stimulating public debate
- **Educating researchers and others** who take up new positions with a broader understanding of issues
- Stimulating **quiet dialogue** among decision-makers (and among, or with, researchers).

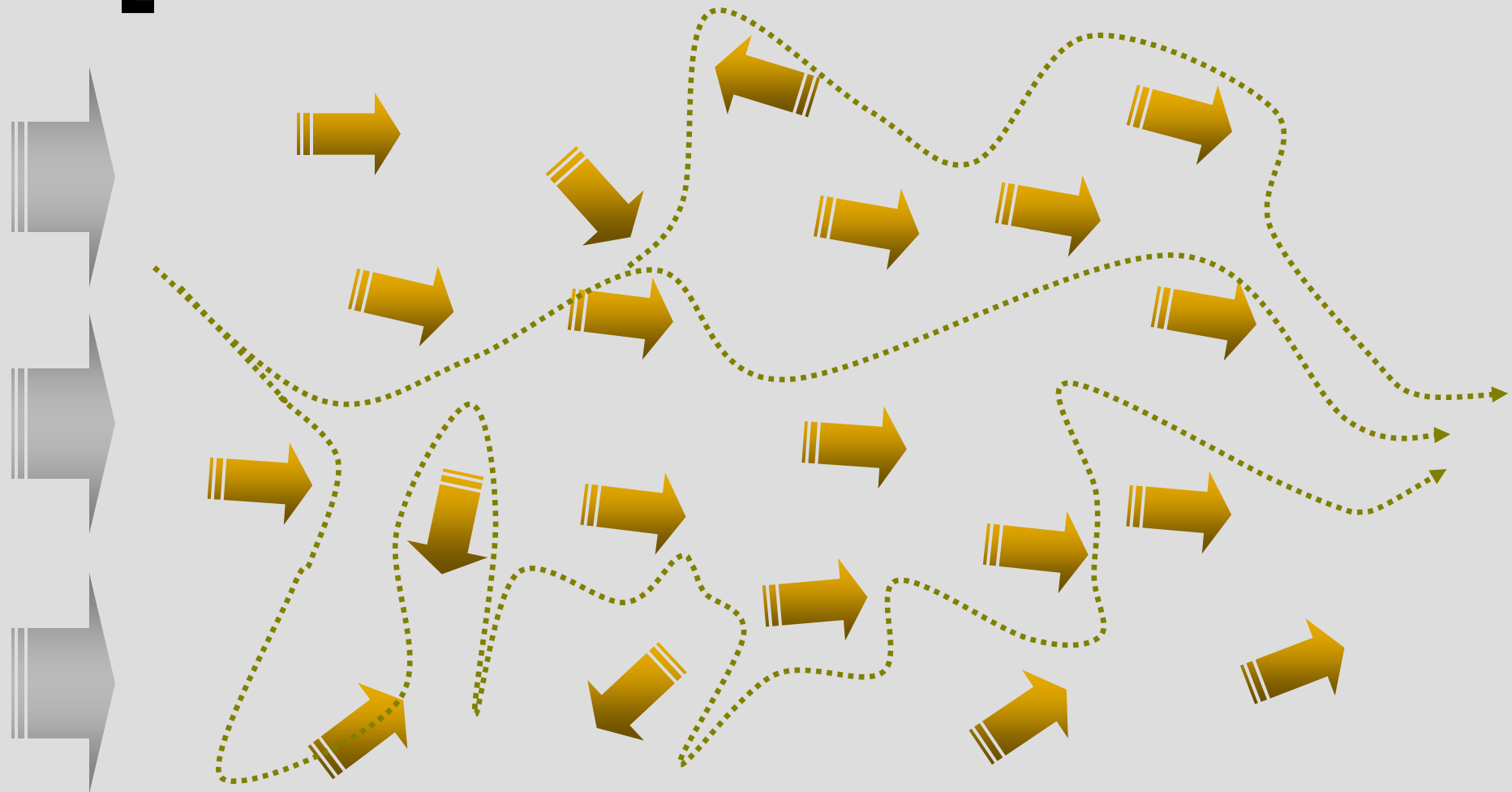
## *Affecting Policy Regimes*

- **Modifying** existing programs or policies
- Leading to the **fundamental re-design** of programs and policies
- Helping **create a new policy regime** in an emerging field.

# Policy influencing follows complex, generally unpredictable paths



**But conditions can be created to improve the chances that research will be 'assimilated' / used > Influence**



# Thus a 'Theory of Change'

TOC is  
used for

Planning and managing a (research)  
intervention

Monitoring and evaluation

TOC  
describes  
the logic of  
the  
intervention

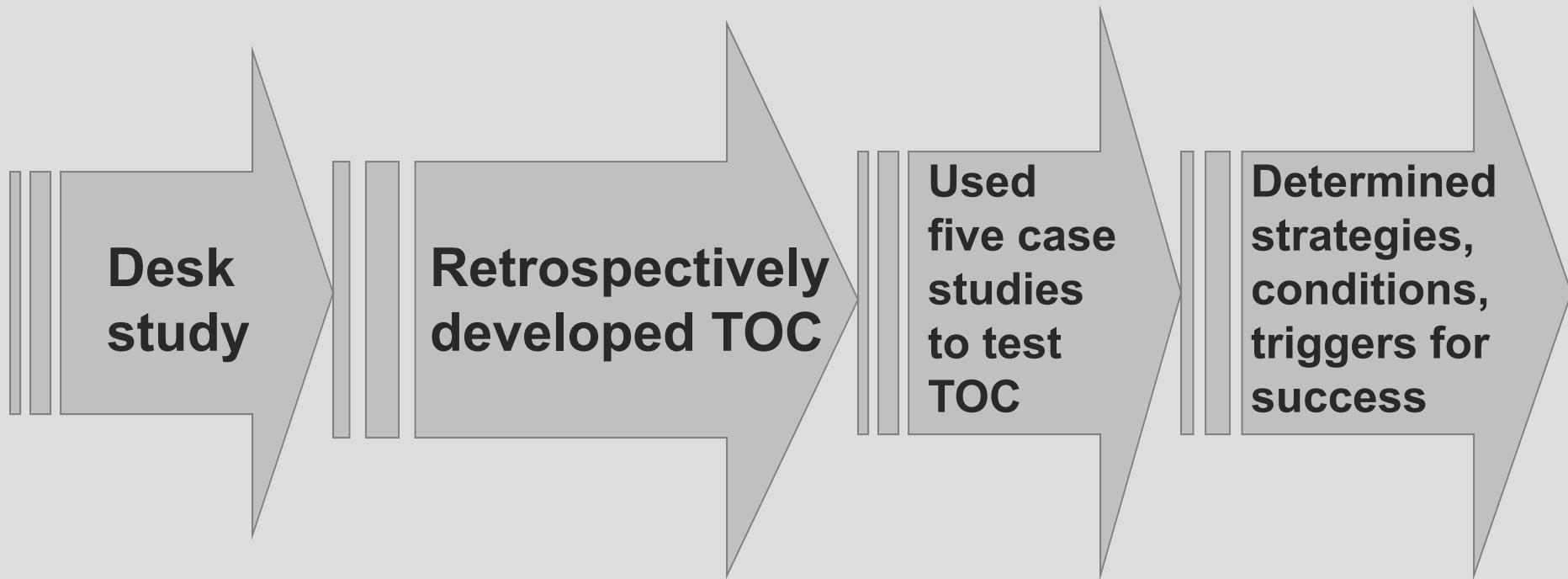
Causal pathways of change

If possible, measurable description  
of desired changes

Underlying assumptions



# The evaluation components



# TOC: The 'preconditions' for success

THE POTENTIAL OF ICTs IS REALIZED TO CONTRIBUTE TO GROWTH AND IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ALL IN THE REGION, PARTICULARLY THE POOR

*Sphere of interest*

**Precondition F:**  
Sector level changes in policy and practice

**Precondition G:**  
Appropriate capacities and motivation in sector for evidence-based policy-making

*Sphere of influence*

**Precondition D:**  
Good reputation of LIRNEasia and its work

**Precondition E:**  
Influential individuals receptive to LA's research

**Precondition A:**  
Credible, legitimate, salient research

**Precondition B:**  
Well positioned and visible organization

**Precondition C:**  
Research reaching target audiences

*Sphere of control*

