SISC
Societa Italiana per le Scienze del Clima
Venice, September 30, 2014

Design, Process, and Performance Criteria Provide Structure to Climate Policy

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TEXT OF CONTRIBUTION: SISC Proceedings pp.166-175

Previous work on the topic:

Beyond Kyoto, plan B: A climate policy master plan based on transparent metrics. *Ecological Economics* 68 (2009) 2930-37

A Turbo Drive for the Global Reduction of Energy-Related CO_2 Emissions. *Sustainability* 3 (2011) 632-48

Preparing the design of robust climate policy architectures. *Int. Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* 11 (2011) 275-95

Revocability and reversibility in societal decision-making. *Ecological Economics 85* (2013) 20-27

Overview

1. Stranded global climate policy
2. Rescue or re-invent?
3. Ten criteria for assessing climate policy
4. Global climate policy design criteria
5. Specificity ⇔ Uniformity
6. Conclusion

Kyoto Protocol: main flaws

1. Emissions reduction TARGETS by country

Mingle Population, Affluence, Technology, Energy, …

- Obscure & contentious numbers; zero sum games

Too little, too late: baseline 1990 ∞ horizon 2012-2020

- Politicians "engage" their followers

2. Global INSTRUMENTS: Emissions Trading & CDM

Simplistic theory of "perfect" market

=> Crash on complex, diverse realities

=> Comitology (lobbies dominate)

Swindle profits, fraud (undermines social cohesion)

OFFSETS: rich countries delay/defect on transition

3. Transfers, REDISTRIBUTION, sustainability

Not structural, e.g graduation, duties & rights

Paternalism; Re-packaging aid (promises)

2. Rescue or re-invent stranded global climate policy

Rescue what?

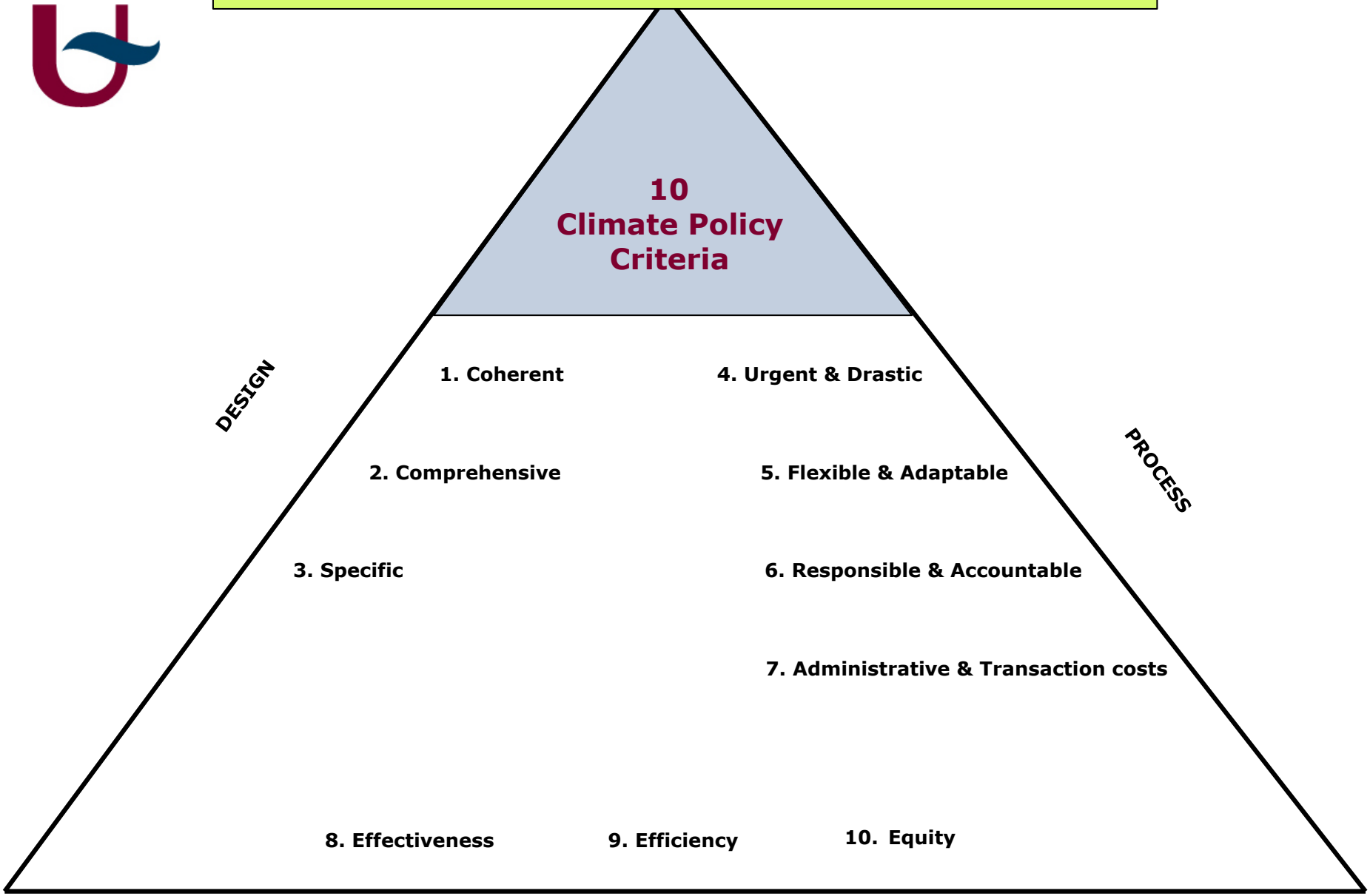
* Annual UNFCCC meetings: what is their real added value?
* Clumsy bottom-up regime complexes (Keohane & Victor)?

Re-invent

* Learn from failures (e.g., emissions trading: EU ETS + CDM)
* Address the four Sustainable Development dimensions
* Prepare global treaty via agreements on components:
  - E.g., problem statement, principles, criteria, …
  - Blueprint the headlines first
  - Design the process, plan the timing, …

This contribution discusses 10 criteria for assessing global climate policy

3. Ten criteria for assessing climate policy



4. Global Climate Policy Design Criteria

1) Coherence

- Across many issues, activities, scientific disciplines, diverse societies, interests, …
- Reconcile top-down & bottom-up & levels in between to 'nested polycentric and multilevel institutions'

2) Comprehensiveness

- Optimum scope of global climate policy = minimum scope (mitigation + adaptation: see DPSI@R)
- Mainstreaming global climate policy in the Sustainable Development agenda blocks progress (by overload)

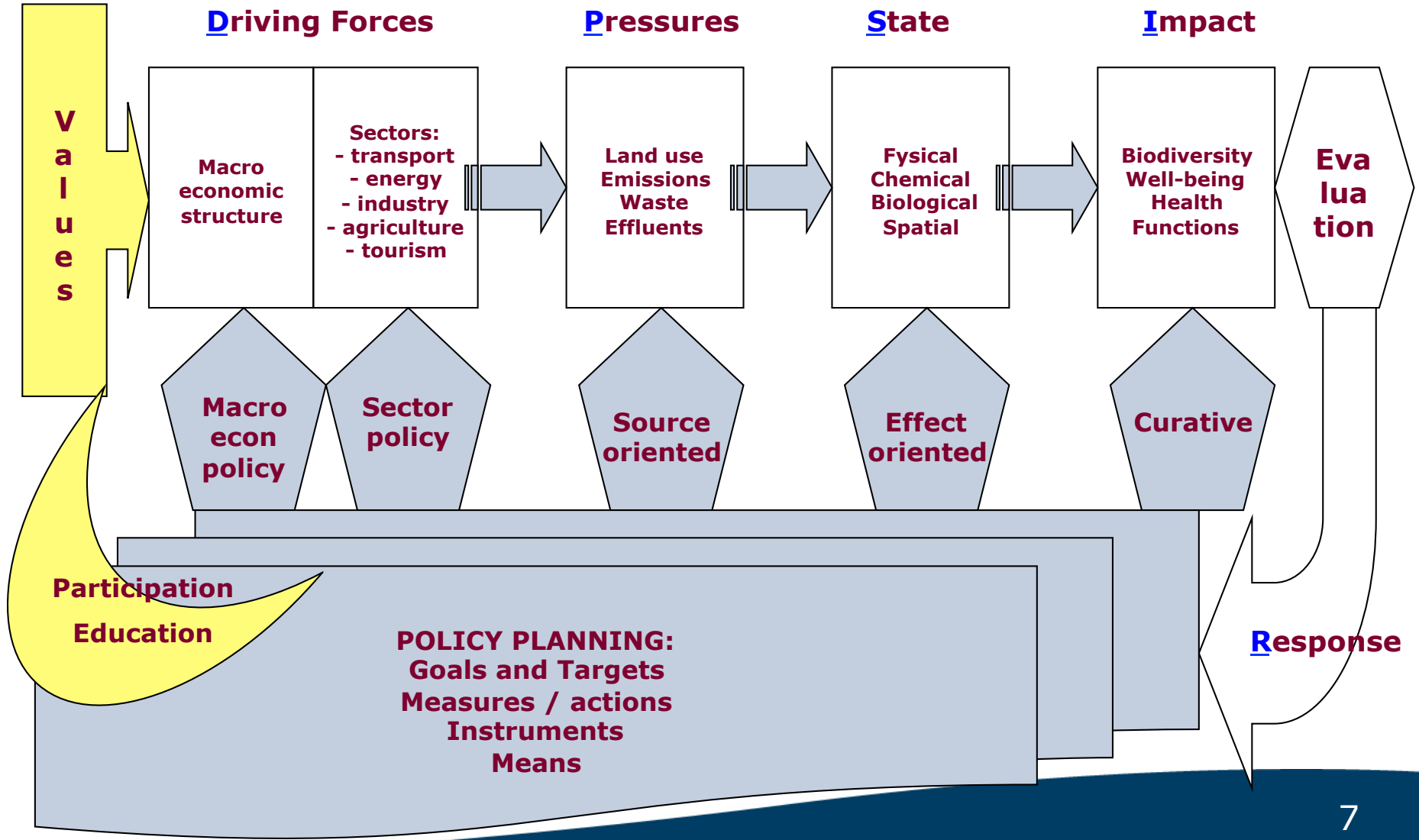
3) Specificity

- Decompose complexity in subsystems, with spatial & temporal identifications
- Address real diversity ⇔ construct mirages of uniformity (global emissions trading, universal carbon tax)

5a. DPSI@R framework for preparing policies

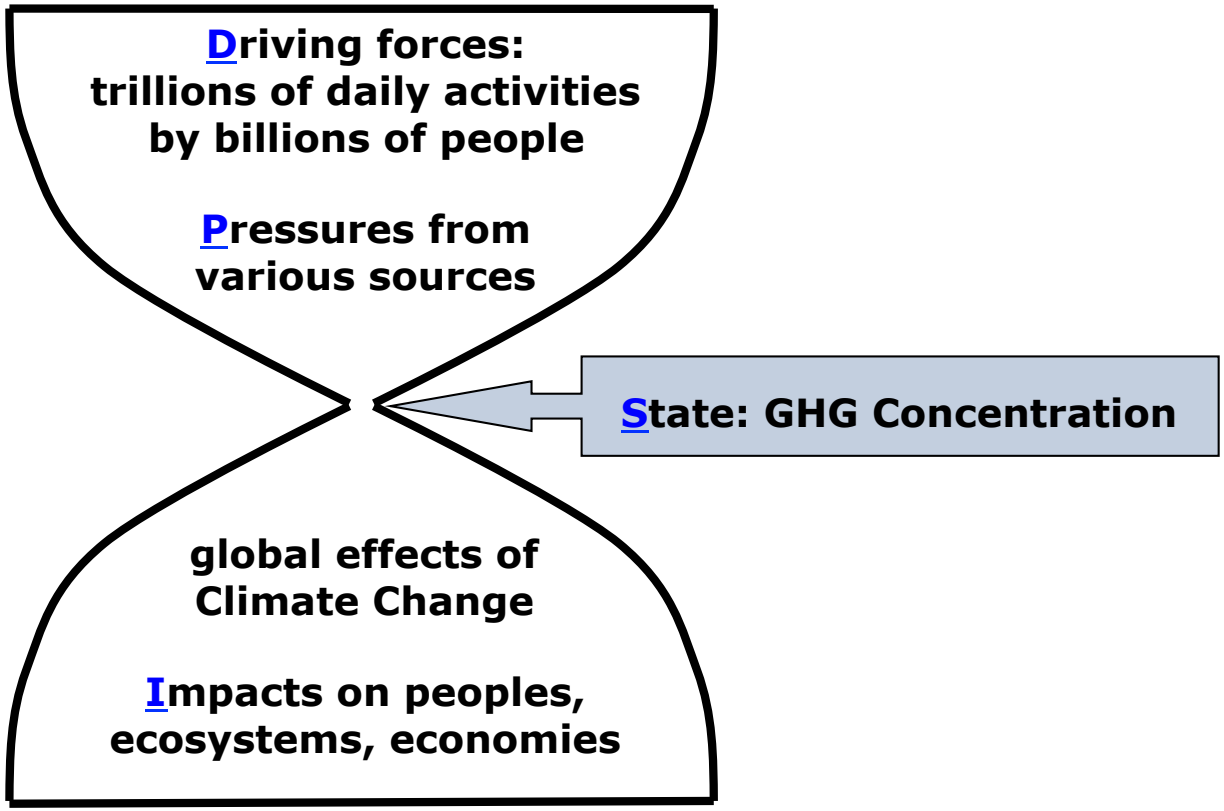
D P S I @R

Mitigation – Abatement **Damage - Adaptation**



5b. Uniformity in global State [GHG concentration] wrongly transferred to Driving forces and Pressures

Climate Change:
DPSI hourglass structure



6. Conclusion

Global climate policy

- Elephant in the room
- n experts = n^2 opinions

Re-invent the evident

* What is the global minimum needed?
* Address the four Sustainable Development dimensions in an applied way, e.g., assess sustainability of technologies
* Be practical
  - Reinforce what works (budget reform; RE support)
  - Delete what doesn't work (global emissions trading)

Construct the global networks for fresh, workable solutions