

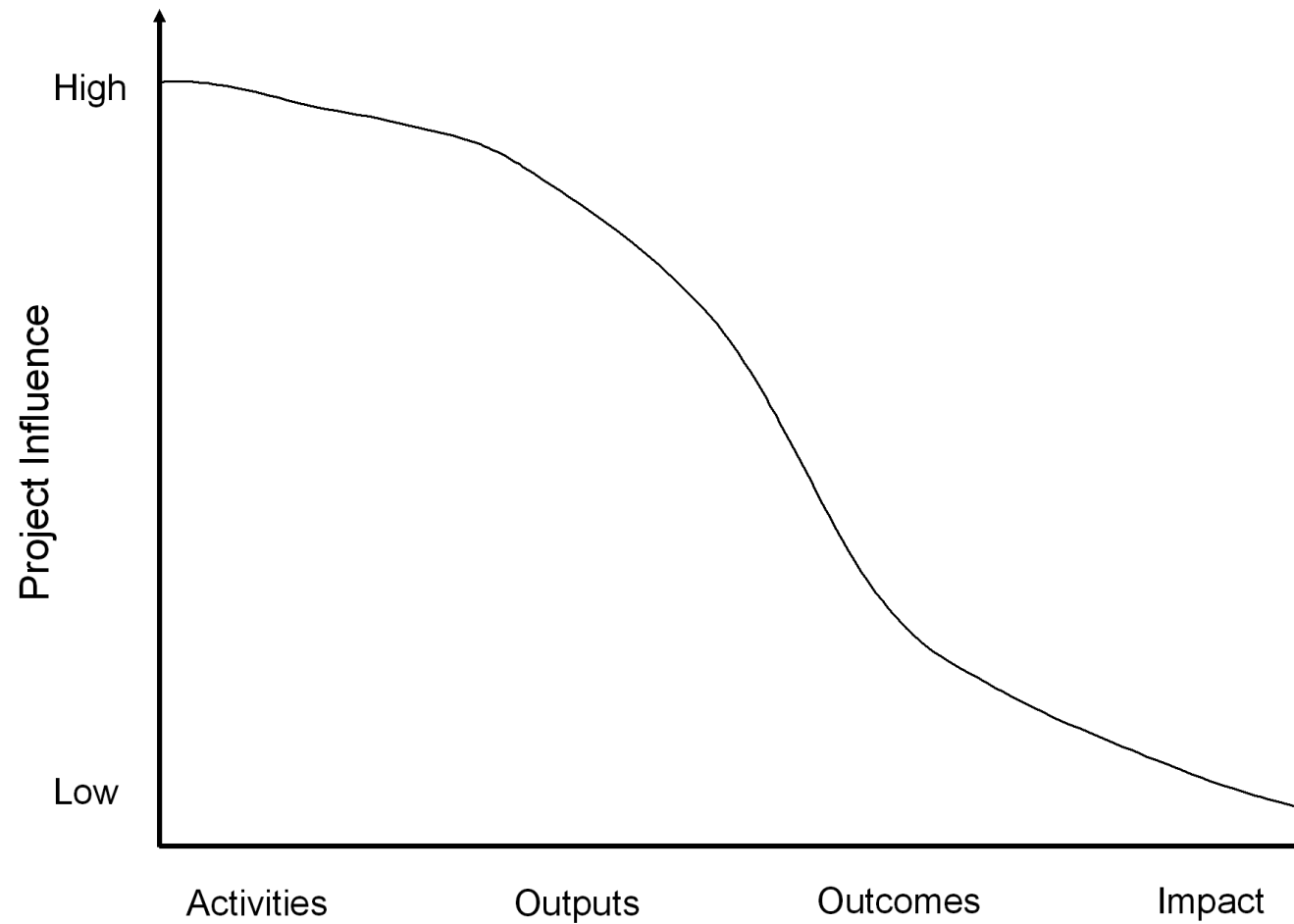
Assessing the Societal Benefit of Transdisciplinary Research in Aquatic Science

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td-conference 2011

EVALUATION OF INTER- AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
Experiences and reflections on best practice
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Project Influence on Outputs, Outcomes and Impact



(Douthwaite: Participatory Impact Pathways Analysis, 2007, p. 143)

Definition: Transdisciplinary Research

“<**Interdisciplinary research**> here denotes the integration–oriented cooperation of scientists from at least two disciplines with the aim to work on common objectives, thereby merging the sundry disciplinary viewpoints into a greater, more complete view.

<**Transdisciplinary research**>, in turn, denotes a special form of interdisciplinary research, involving practitioners from beyond the realm of science. The premise, moreover, is problem-oriented research, i.e., research intended to make a contribution towards the solution (and prevention) of socially relevant issues.“

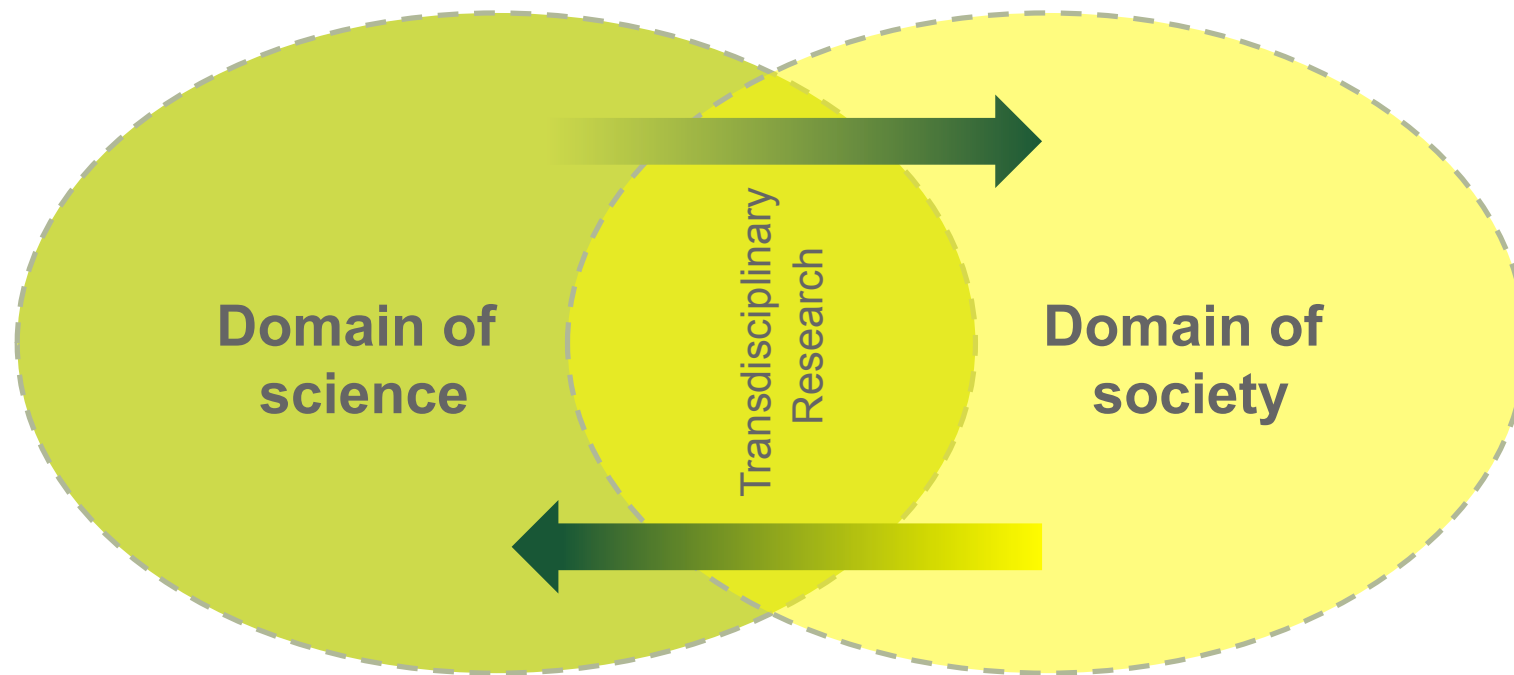
(Defila, Di Giulio: Evaluating Transdisciplinary Research, 1999, p. 6)

According to the SNSF

“Serious pursuit of the goal to contribute to solving the problems means also taking special steps to assure that the research findings and recommended solutions are disseminated to the target audiences and implemented in practice.”

(SNF: “National Research Programmes, 2010, p. 6)

Knowledge Transfer and Uptake



Set of indicators

	Transfer indicators (Output)	Uptake Indicators (Outcome)
General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles in newspapers and popular science magazines • Contributions to television, radio and internet 	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External co- or in-kind funding • Publication of manuals and guides • Further education courses • Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External co- or in-kind funding • Use of manuals and guides • Participation in further education courses and presentations
Decision-makers practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications in stakeholder-oriented journals • Participation in advisory boards and expert commissions (including networks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in research • Appointments to advisory boards and expert commissions

Solar Water Disinfection (SODIS)

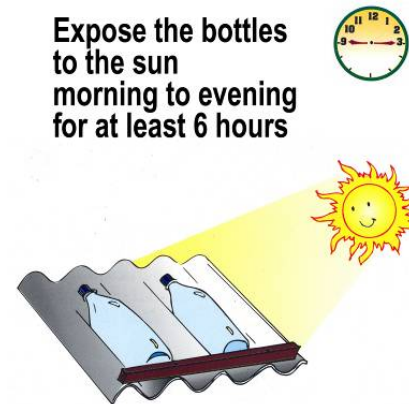
1 Wash the bottle well the first time you use it



2 Fill the bottle with water and close the lid well



3 Expose the bottles to the sun morning to evening for at least 6 hours



4 The water is now ready for consumption



Impressions from the field: Togo



Set of indicators

	Transfer indicators (Output)	Uptake Indicators (Outcome)
General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles in newspapers and popular science magazines • Contributions to television, radio and internet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedbacks via email, telephone and internet
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External co- or in-kind funding • Publication of manuals and guides • Further education courses • Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External co- or in-kind funding • Use of manuals and guides • Participation in further education courses and presentations
Decision-makers practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications in stakeholder-oriented journals • Participation in advisory boards and expert commissions (including networks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in research • Appointments to advisory boards and expert commissions • International and national recognition • Incorporation in regulations, technical guides, strategy documents, etc. • Joint dissemination

Conclusions

- Engagement with key stakeholders
- Stakeholder-oriented products
- Further education courses

Recommendations

- Including desired outcomes in the design of td-projects
- Tracking and comparing outcomes of completed td-projects to decide on the design of future td-projects