
SCIENCE – POLICY - PRACTICE INTERFACE – A CRITICAL CHALLENGE

THE BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER BASIN

3rd Indus Basin Knowledge Forum
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FOCUS OF THE PRESENTATION

- How can we improve the influence of science in policy and practice?
 - **The case of the Brahmaputra Basin**

THE YARLUNG - TSANGPO BRAHMAPUTRA – JAMUNA RIVER BASIN

- Origin Of The River – Angsi Glacier, covers 580,000 km² area across four countries: China (50%), India (34%), Bangladesh (8%) and Bhutan (8%).
- River has opportunities and challenges – Hydropower, navigation, agriculture as well as flood and erosion risk in the floodplain.



POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES

Policy

- **Basin shared by four – unequal in size and power**
- **Domestic/ National interests**
- **No basin-wide treaty**
- **'Securitization' of water (based on perception and not real science)**

Community

- **Limited / restricted access to information**
- **Little effective communication between stakeholders**
- **Proponent and opponent of development**

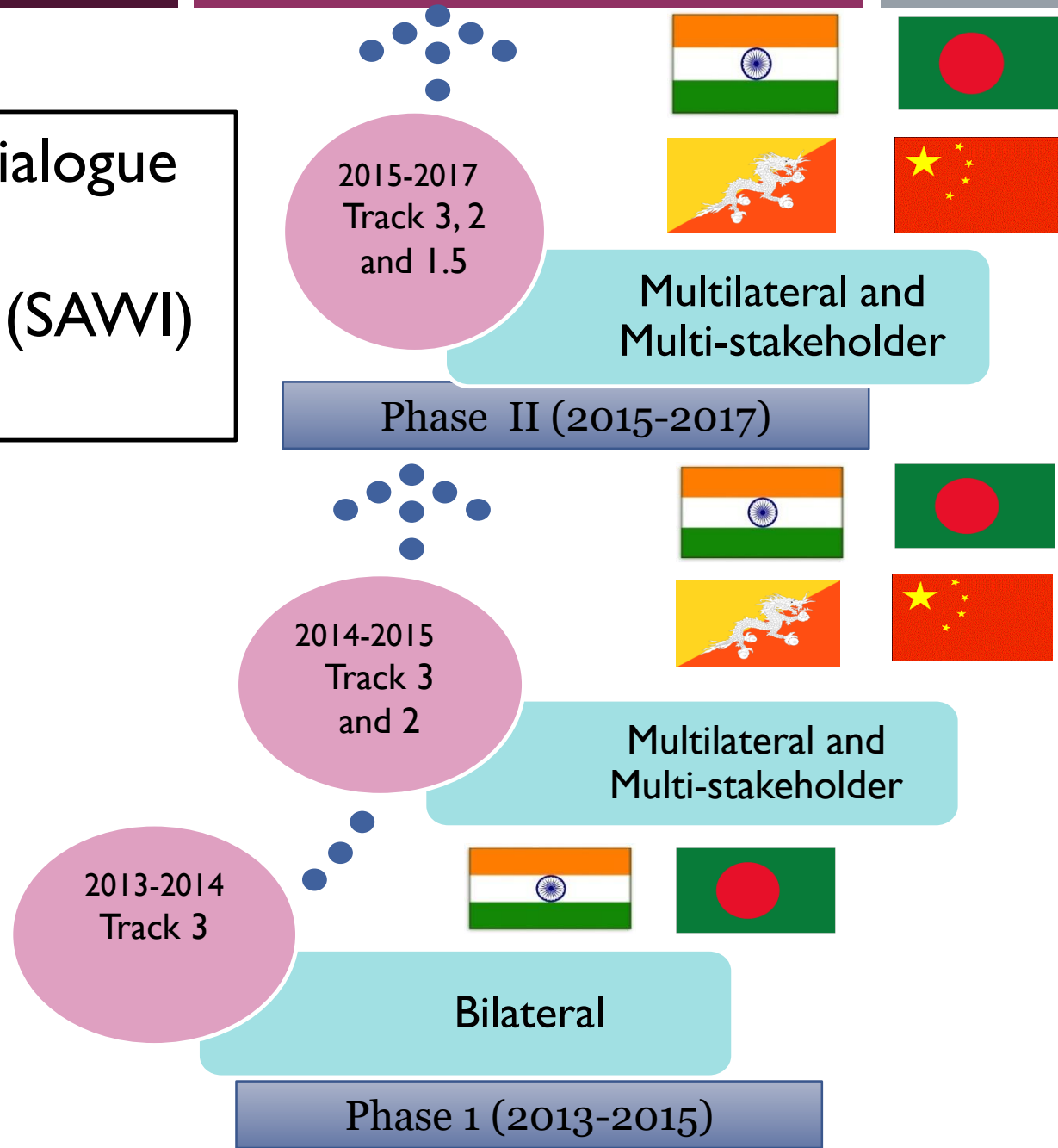
Mistrust, hostility and suspicion - a complex relationship

Lack of information and knowledge (under researched basin)

Science

Brahmaputra River Symposium - 2017

The Brahmaputra Dialogue
– Strategy to induce
cooperation in BRB (SAWI)
..2013





COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA



AT THE BASIN LEVEL

- Water resources vulnerability and security assessment of Yarlung Tsangpo - Brahmaputra – Jamuna transboundary river basin (Collaboration with IITG, IWM, Yunnan University) - National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)
- Understanding the impact of Climate change on Hydropower development in the BRB basin (IITG taking the lead with BD partners)
- Benefit sharing in the Brahmaputra Basin (in proposal phase)

GENDER IN BRB TRANSBOUNDARY WATER GOVERNANCE

- Basin level study conducted to generate narratives on gender roles during disasters in India (Arunachal Pradesh and Assam), Bangladesh and Bhutan
- Women can be identified as one such marginalized group – whose issues can be different during a disaster from their male counterparts
- Their voices and concerns usually do not find a place in transboundary decision making process

The effect of floods and erosion need to be studied through the elements of gender roles and differential capacities to adapt to disasters, occupation, age, ethnicity, and daily association with the river (apart from livelihood)

INSTITUTIONAL AND POWER MAPPING IN BRB

- Define the existing distribution of power and decision-making within governance structures and institutions for the management of the river
- Identification of the key actors, their interactions and locus of control
- Preliminary exercise has been conducted for India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and China in the previous phase

Literature survey

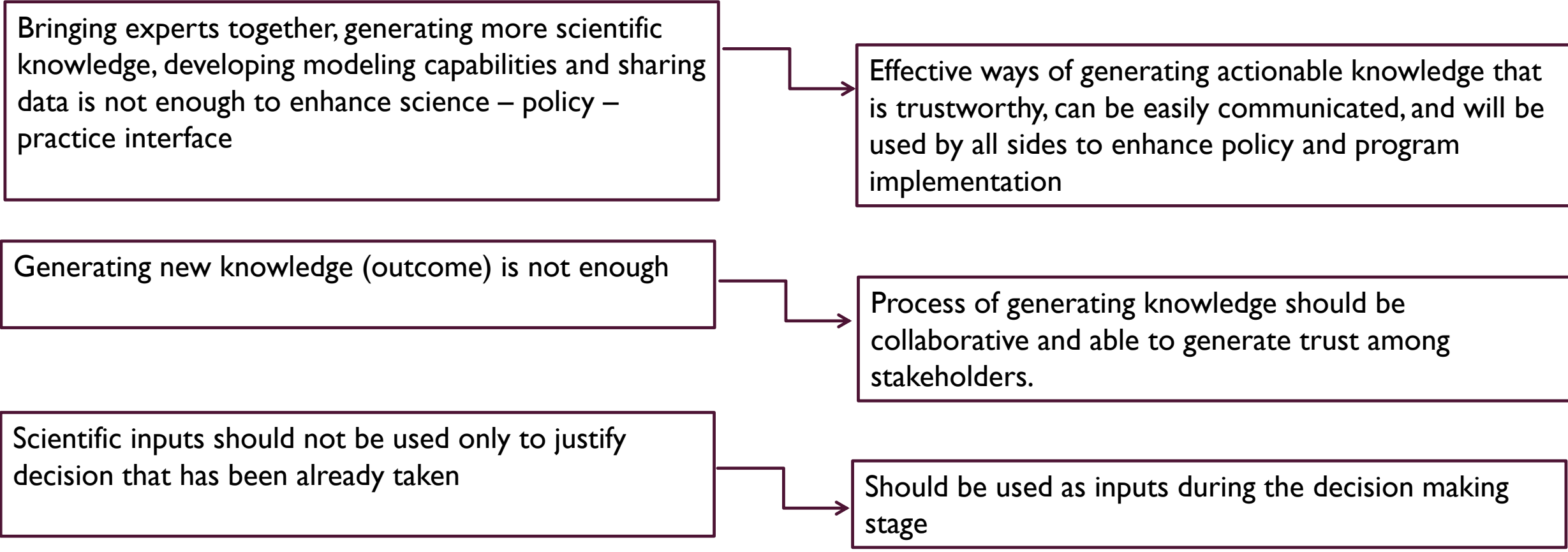


One on one interviews



Power Mapping – Delphi
Method

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE INFLUENCE OF SCIENCE IN POLICY AND PRACTICE?





Brahmaputra in Guwahati, Assam

Thank you



Brahmaputra in Guwahati
Photo credits : Sumit Vij and Swapnali Bora