

# **Bridging the Divide:**

## **The Academe's contribution in resolving pressing social and environmental challenges**

Inspiring examples from a practitioner's field experience

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for the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP), Division of Agriculture and Forestry, and the SEARCA Agriculture and Development Seminar Series (ADSS)

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# Some reflections



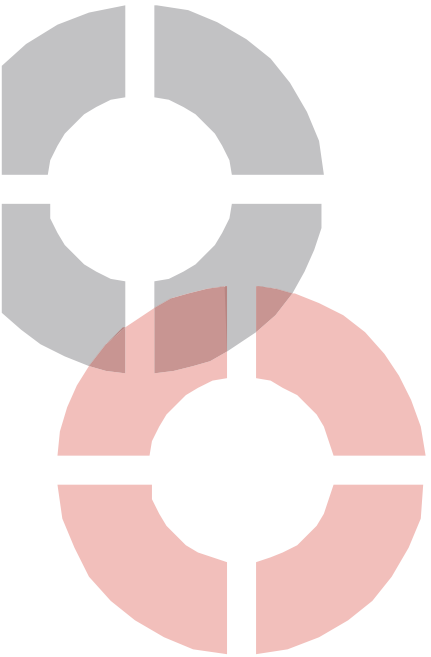
The positioning of science

&

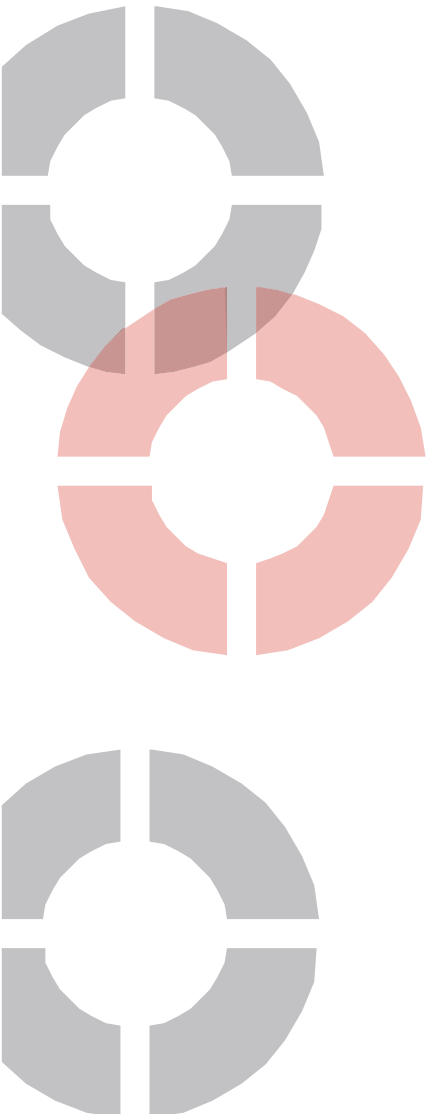
Real time challenges of natural  
resources management

# A Disconnect ? Why?

- Specialization & isolation
- “Publish or perish”
- Skewed funding windows
- From project to project....
- “Clients” of science too passive



# 'Islands of information'



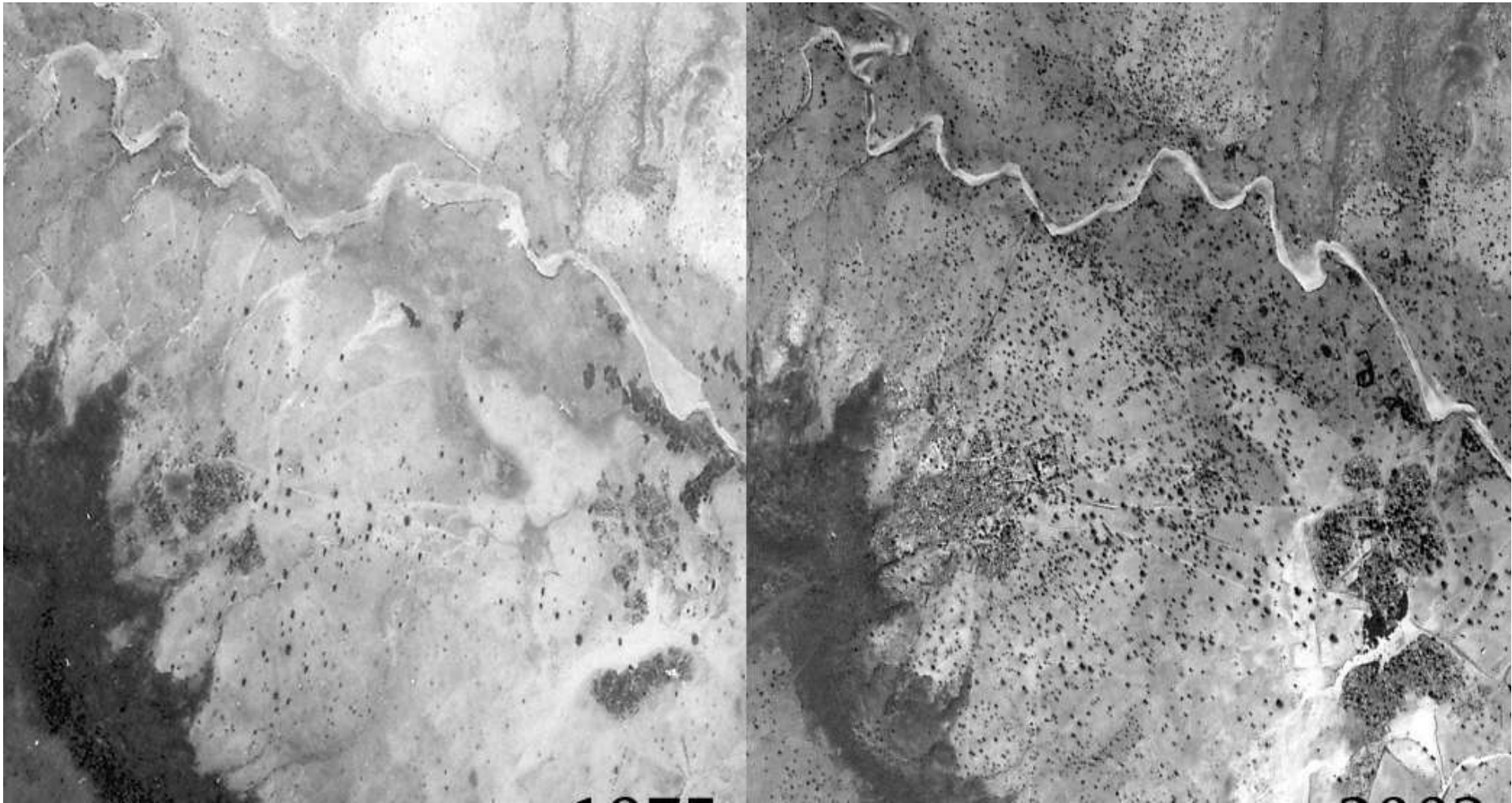
# How to bridge the disconnect?



“Mission Driven Science”  
→ Examples from the ‘field’

- NRM in social-economic context
- Reaching out to the academe’s ‘clients’ and vice versa

# Example: Regreening in Niger : 1975-2003

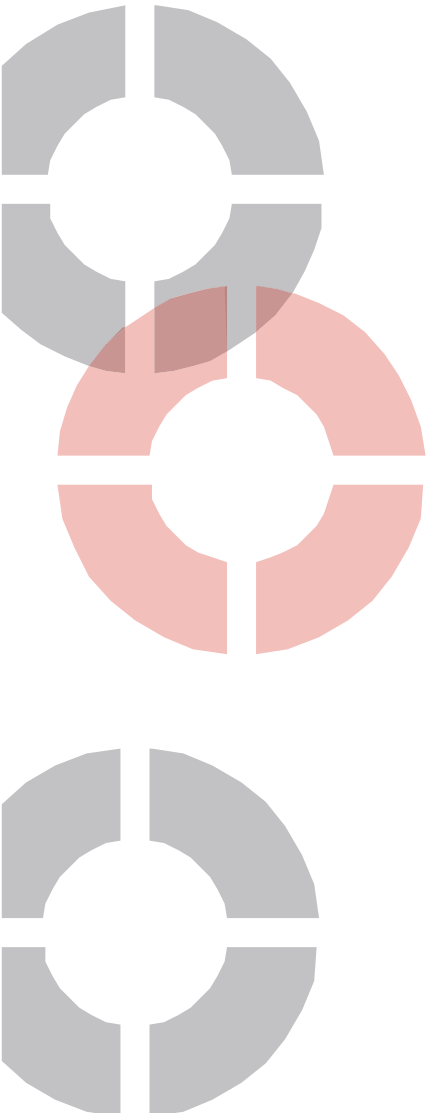


# Regreening Niger

- Regenerating forest landscapes in Sub Sahara Africa
- Building on the ‘underground forest’



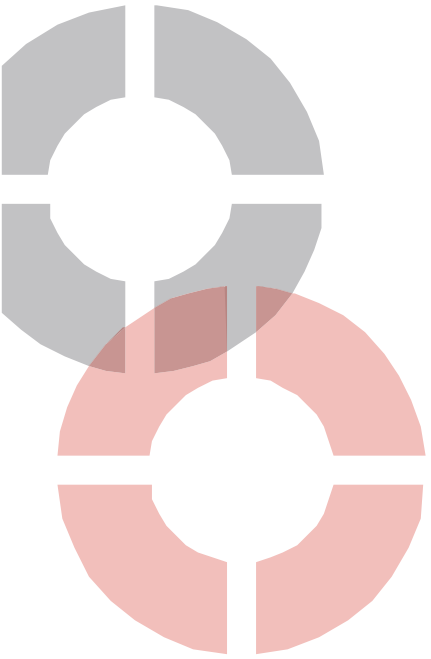
# Regreening Niger



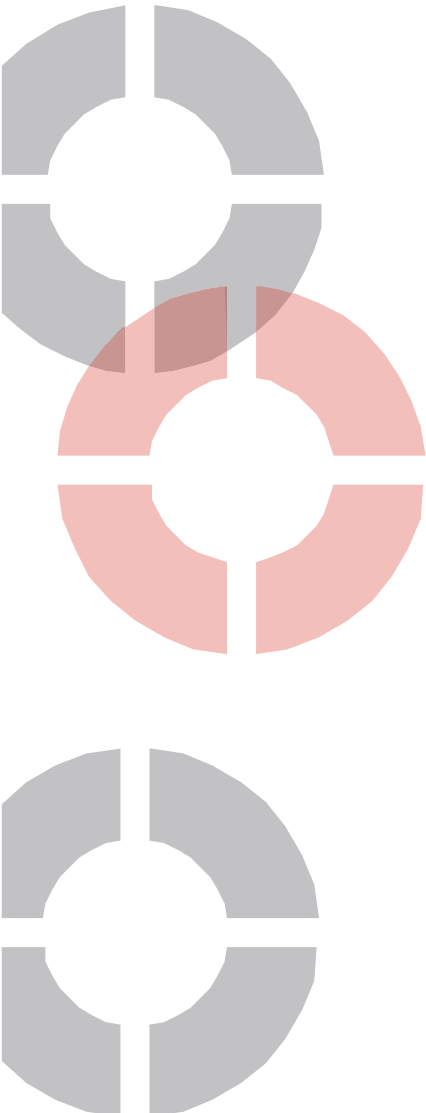


Example:

# Regulating the palm oil plantation sector

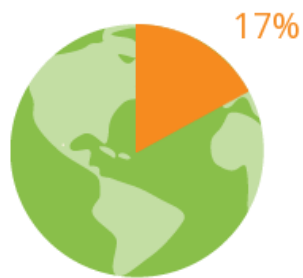


# Regulating the palm oil plantation sector (2)

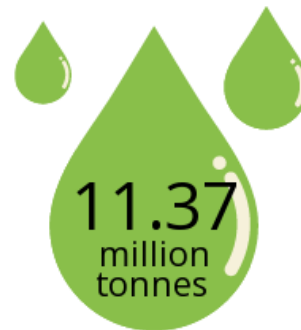
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- Half of global deforestation caused by production of beef, soy, palm oil, maize and timber – contributing 15% of global GHG emissions (World Economic Forum, 2013).
  - Palm oil is key revenue earner and source of economic growth – However:
  - Expansion also brings serious ecological and social effects: land conflicts, labor issues, disharmony within communities, erosion local-regional food security.

# Regulating the palm oil plantation sector

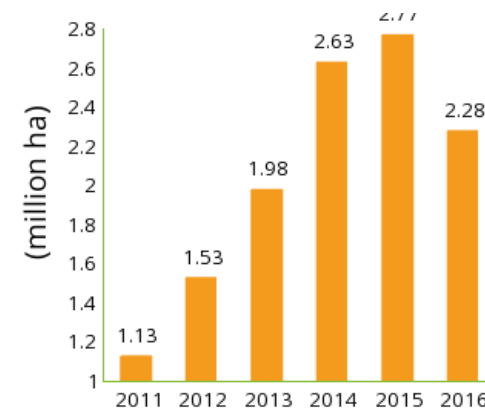
3



Proportion of palm oil globally certified by the RSPO



Volume of Certified Sustainable Palm Oil



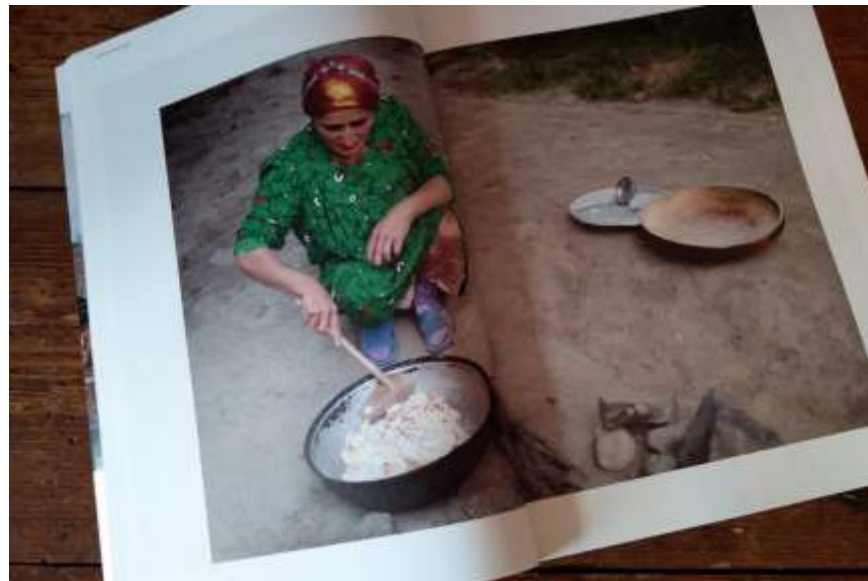
Certified Production Area by the RSPO

# NTFPs: Nurturing healthy & productive landscapes

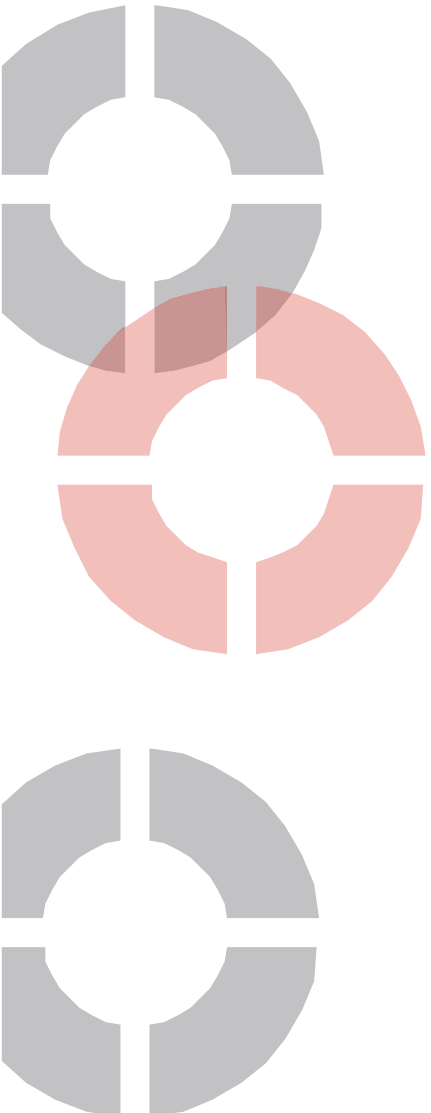
Communities, culture, economy  
& Non-timber forest products  
(NTFPs)



# “With Our Own Hands”



Food  
Culture  
Language  
Ecosystems



# Youth: Torch Bearers of our Future

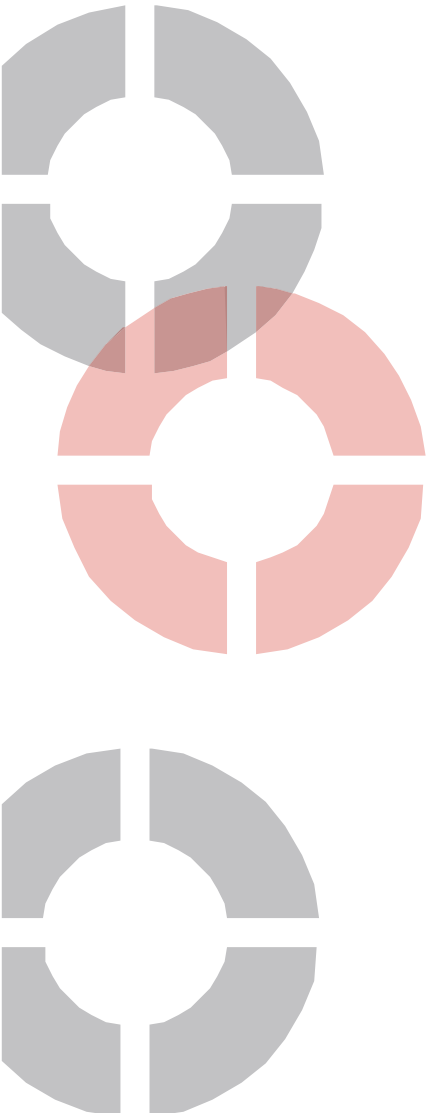
- Joke Waller-Hunter Initiative for Young Environmental Leadership
- Green Next Gen. Fund – India



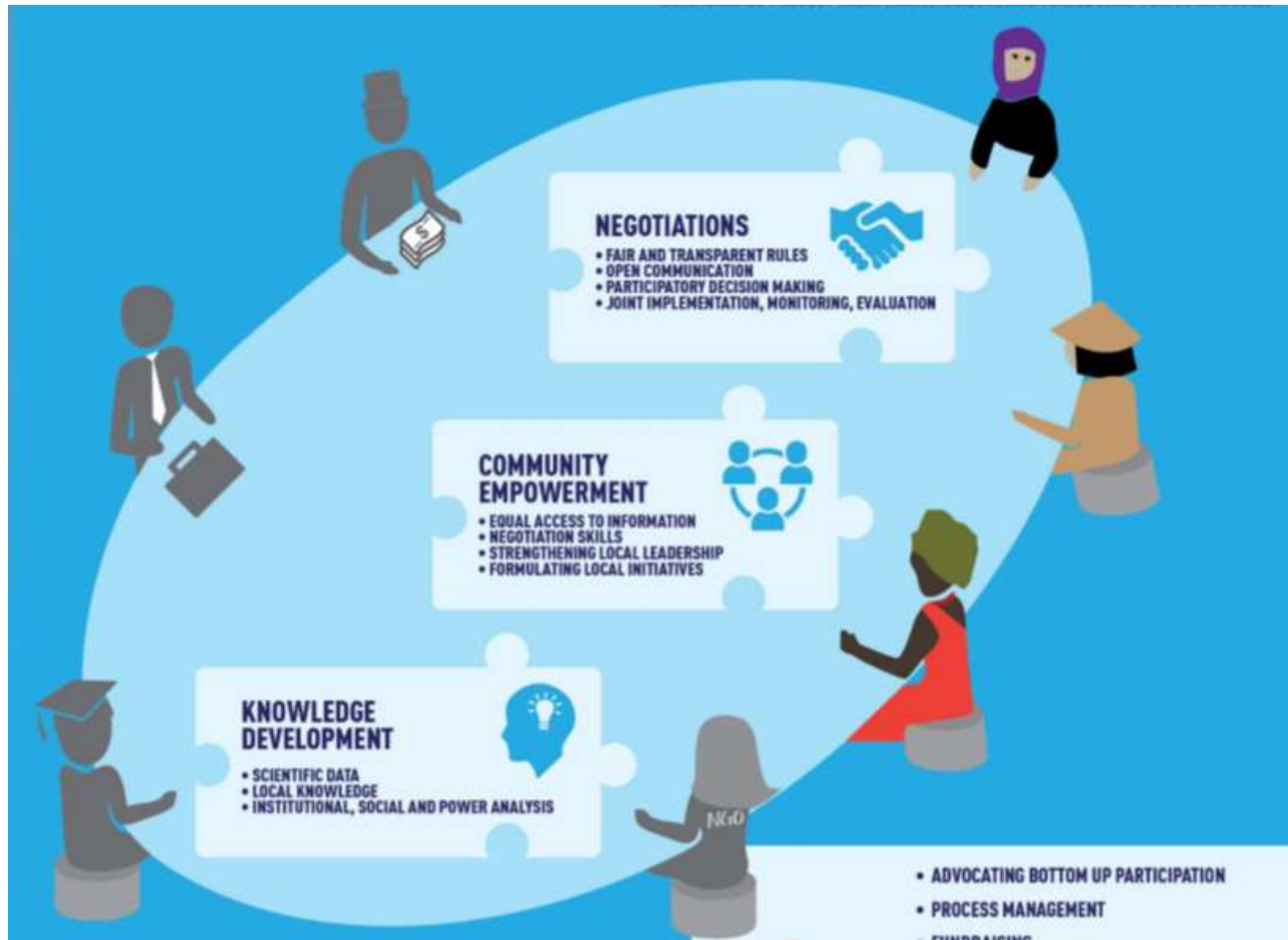
# Bridging the Divide

## **Challenges & Opportunities**

- Inspire and instruct other disciplines and sectors
- Multi-disciplinary approaches
- Assist cross-generational learning
- Young children and adolescents



# Building coalitions





# Bridging the Divide

*'Guide us back to an understanding and appreciation of the natural environment in which we live'*



# Thank you!

