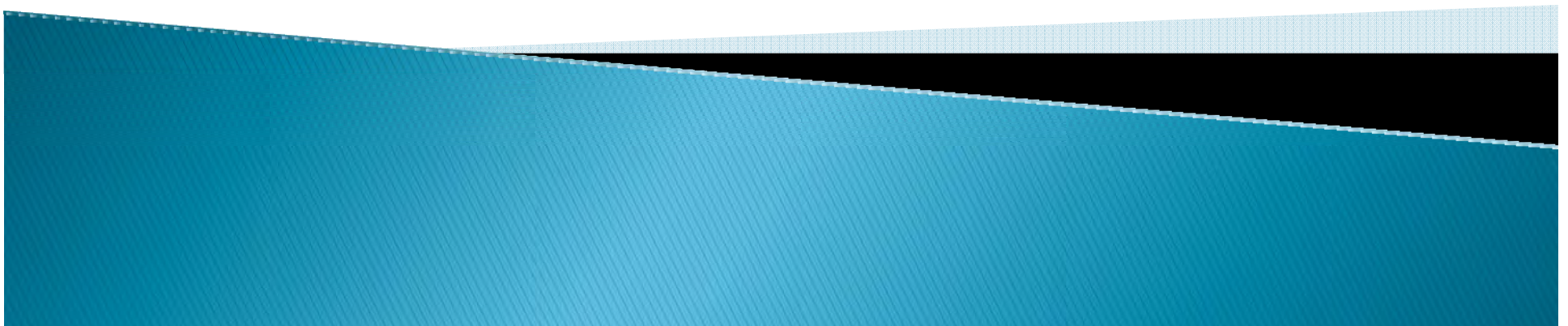


RESEARCH AS A TOOL FOR ADVOCACY

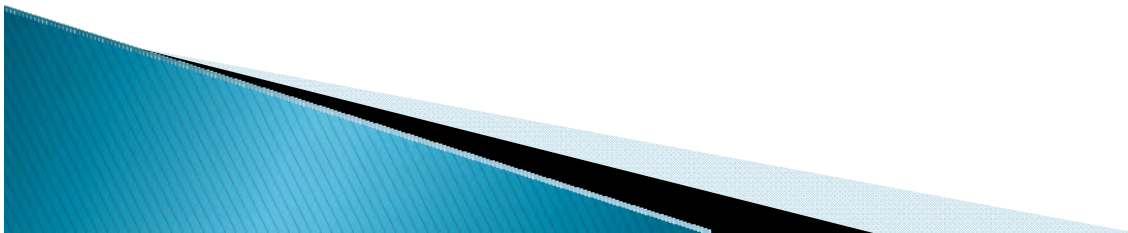
Tony Karbo, Ph.D. AHSI/UPEACE Africa Program

Lusaka, 26th August 2010



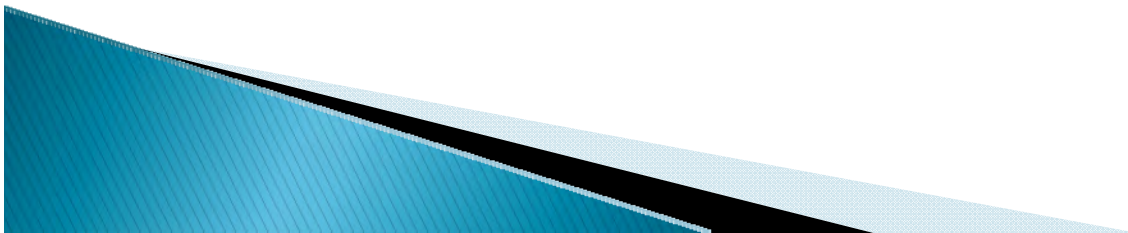
THE CONCEPT OF RESEARCH AS A TOOL FOR ADVOCACY

- ▶ Action or inaction taken by interested entities such as NGOs, Think Tanks, government departments, ministries, etc.;
- ▶ These actions or decisions generally concern specific or a particular issue or a set of issues;
- ▶ Also seen as a system of measures and concerning priorities of funding and agency functioning;



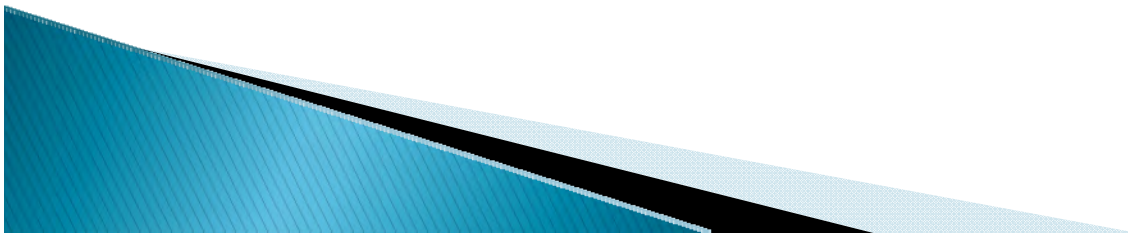
THE CONCEPT OF RESEARCH cont.

- ▶ Research is formulated through processes that require:
- ▶ The participation of various groups;
- ▶ The use of varied tools and tactics by competing groups;
- ▶ Advocacy positions by competing interest groups; and,
- ▶ Mobilizations of allies;



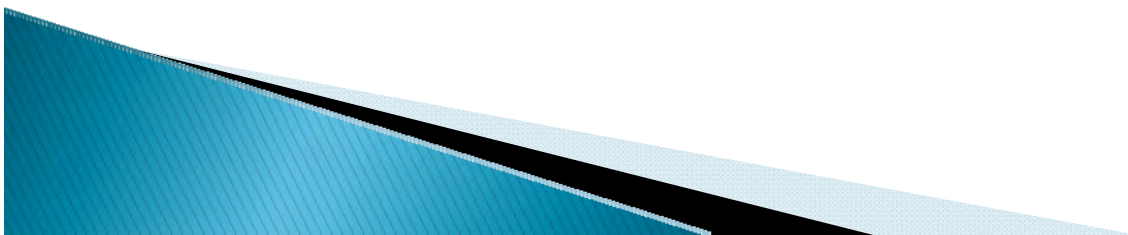
POLICY ADVOCACY DEFINED

- ▶ The deliberate process of influencing policy decision makers through targeted actions;
- ▶ Policy advocacy is the essential link that ensures research results enter the policy domain;

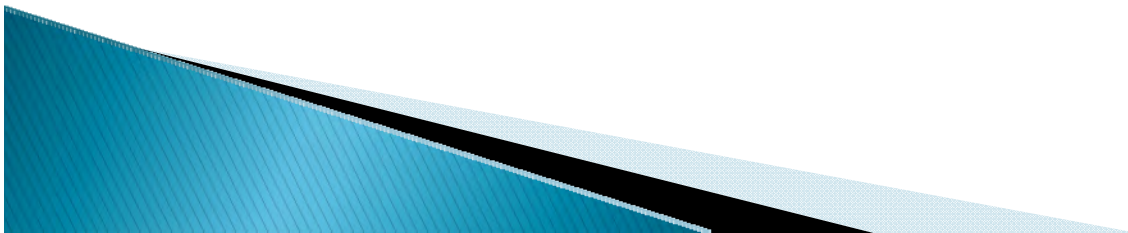


EFFECTIVE POLICY ADVOCACY

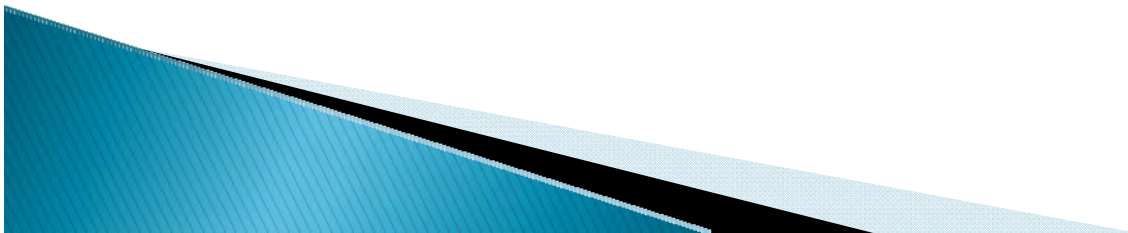
- ▶ Design a pro-active, targeted, policy advocacy strategy to ensure that outputs are accessible to those who shape and make policy decisions;
- ▶ Policy advocacy needs to be conceptualised within projects as an activity beyond dissemination of research findings;



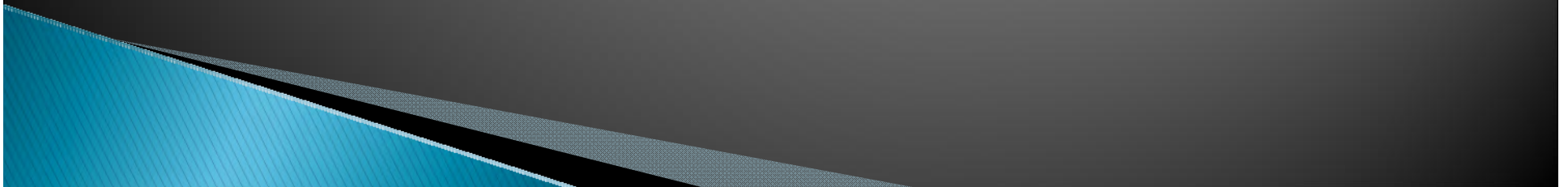
- ▶ Ensure an enabling environment, which includes the following:
- ▶ A belief that change is feasible, both technically and politically;
- ▶ Access to policy makers and policy shapers (people inside or outside government who have a direct impact on policy development);



- ▶ Appropriate mechanisms for effecting change;
- ▶ Availability and knowledge of suitable change mechanisms;
- ▶ Sufficient political will.

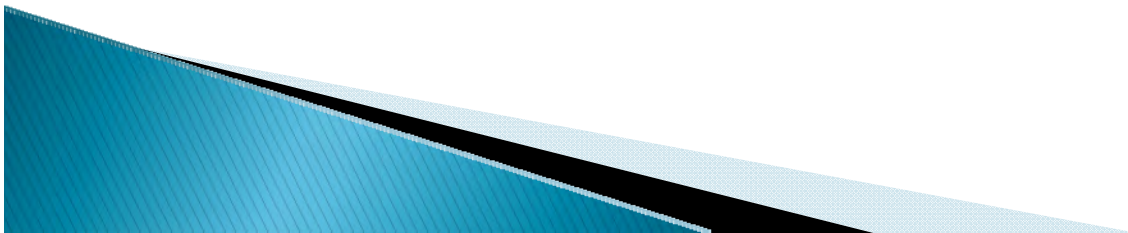


THE RESEARCH ENTERPRISE

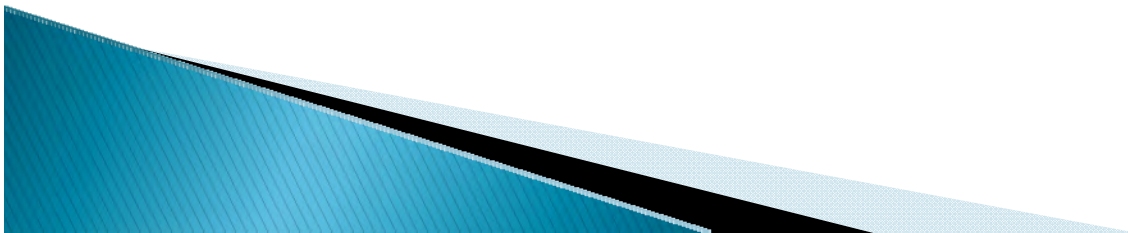


Research and Analysis

- ▶ Research and policy think–tanks such as ISS and WANEP have advocacy programmes as their mainstream activities;
- ▶ The goal is to stimulate informed debate;
- ▶ Generate knowledge; and,
- ▶ Influence policy making through a multi–stakeholder participatory processes.

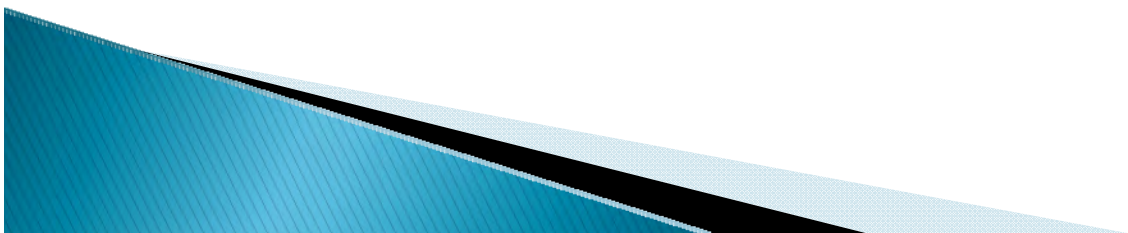


- ▶ These NGOs try to bridge the gap between:
- ▶ Government and communities by sensitising policy planners and projects to local needs and priorities.

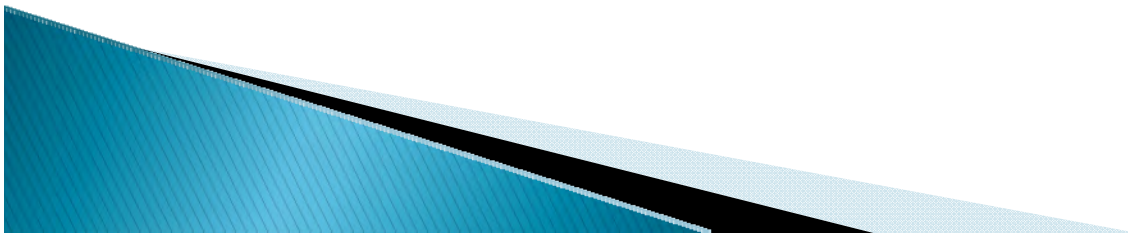


Knowledge Generation and Outreach

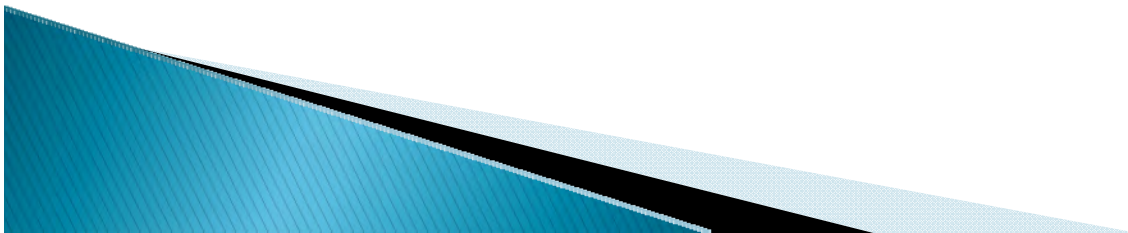
- ▶ The activities in policy-related research are operationalised by various means including:
- ▶ Knowledge generation through research and analysis;
- ▶ Creation of data and information bases;
- ▶ Policy awareness raising through seminars, symposiums, dialogues;



- ▶ Networking;
- ▶ Information dissemination;
- ▶ Mobilisation of support for the civil society;
and,
- ▶ Policy influencing at local, national, regional and international levels by involving policy makers in the dialogue process and by contributing to preparation of national and global policy documents.

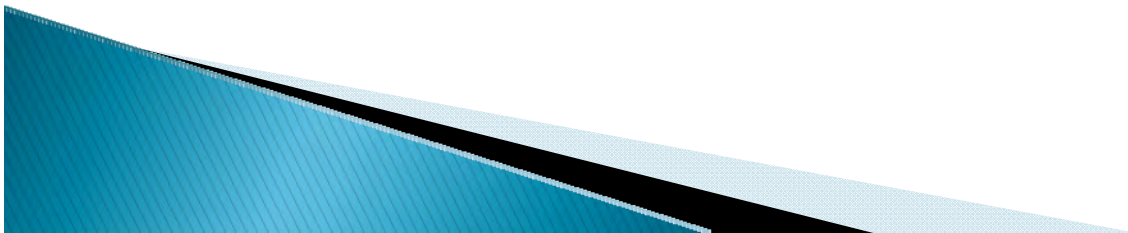


- ▶ ISS and other think tanks interact closely with the policy planners, government agencies, donors and the NGOs so that the results of research can be used at both policy and implementation levels.

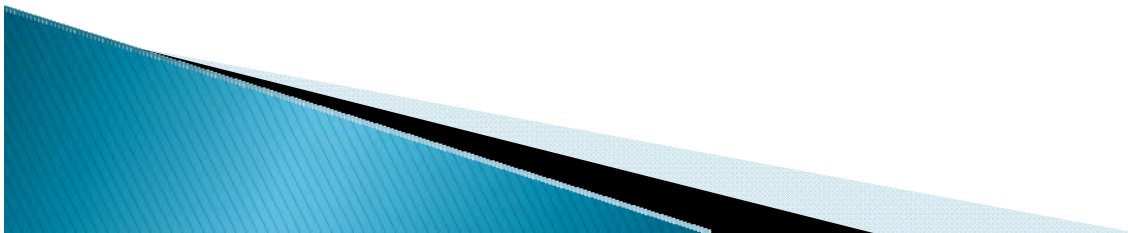


SUCCESSFUL POLICY ADVOCACY RESEARCH

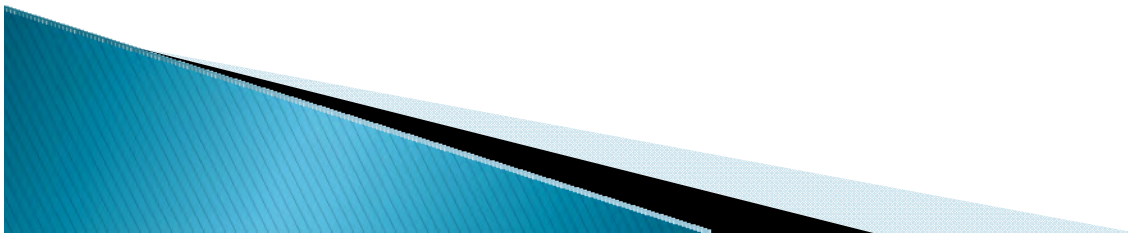
- ▶ Policy advocacy is the essential link that ensures research results enter the policy domain;
- ▶ Policy advocacy should be integrated into project design and management from the outset;



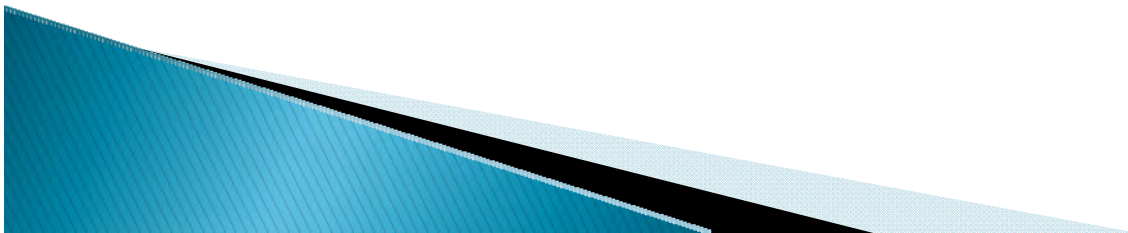
- ▶ For policy advocacy to be successful, research teams need to identify and gain access to appropriate political decision makers at the most opportune moments;
- ▶ Timing of research outputs is crucial to maximise the opportunity for policy reform;



- ▶ Communication of policy messages must be targeted carefully to different stakeholders. One size does not fit all;
- ▶ Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the uptake of research outputs in policy processes is critical to assess progress and learn from experience;

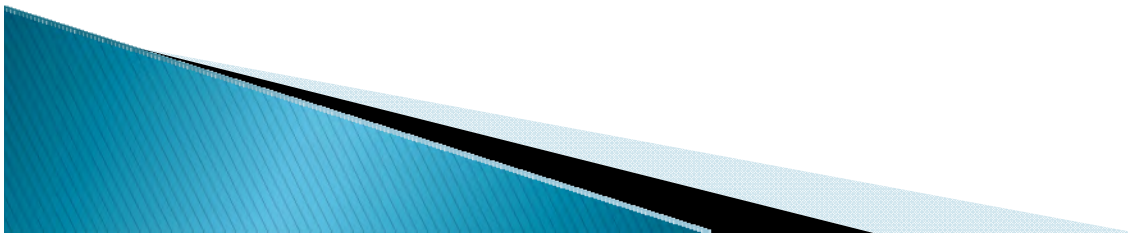


- ▶ Policy advocacy should be a long-term process that continues beyond the conventional lifetime of a project so that research findings can be incorporated within policy processes when appropriate.

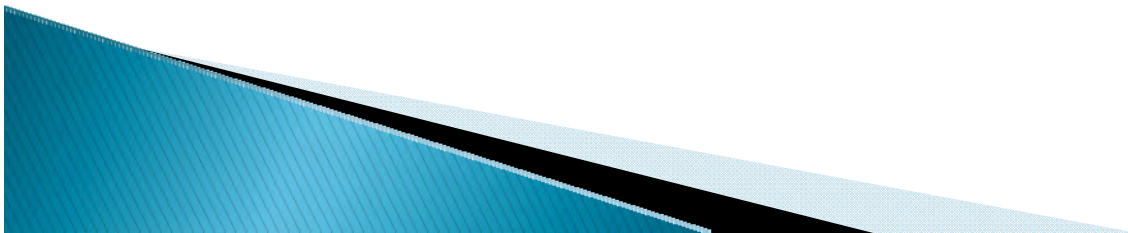


SUMMARY

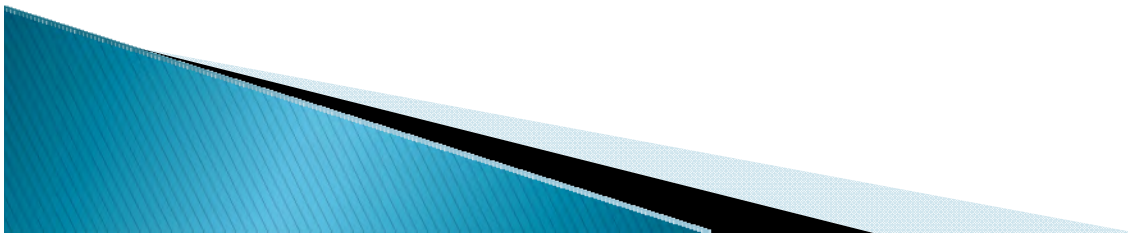
- ▶ Integrate policy advocacy into project design and project processes;
- ▶ Understand the nature of policy making;
- ▶ Formulate research findings in a manner that can best influence policy;



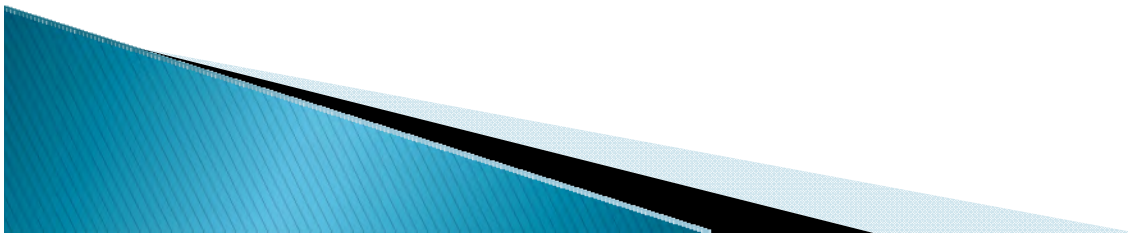
- ▶ Target promotion appropriately; in policy communication, one size does not fit all;
- ▶ Establish professional working relationships between research staff and policy makers before formal interactions (e.g. conferences) to achieve maximum impact;



- ▶ Work alongside policy shapers during the lifetime of a research project;
- ▶ Include natural and political scientists at appropriate stages of project planning and implementation;
- ▶ Include local social and political scientists in the project team;



- ▶ Identify and access the right political decision makers at the most opportune time;
- ▶ Continue policy advocacy after the completion of fieldwork;



- ▶ Train project teams in advocacy processes and techniques so they feel ownership and continue advocating for research outputs well after the project has finished;
- ▶ Monitor and evaluate policy to the same degree or more as the technical areas of research projects.

