

The Role of the University in Building Capacity for Environmental Evaluation

Gail L. Achterman

2007 Environmental Evaluator's Network Forum

Washington, D.C.

June 14, 2007

Capacity Building

What Does it Mean?

- Knowledge
 - Skills
 - Tools

Target Populations and Their Roles

- Academics-Teaching and Research
- Practitioners-Application of Evaluation
Methods
- Decision Makers-Use of Evaluations in
Policy Making

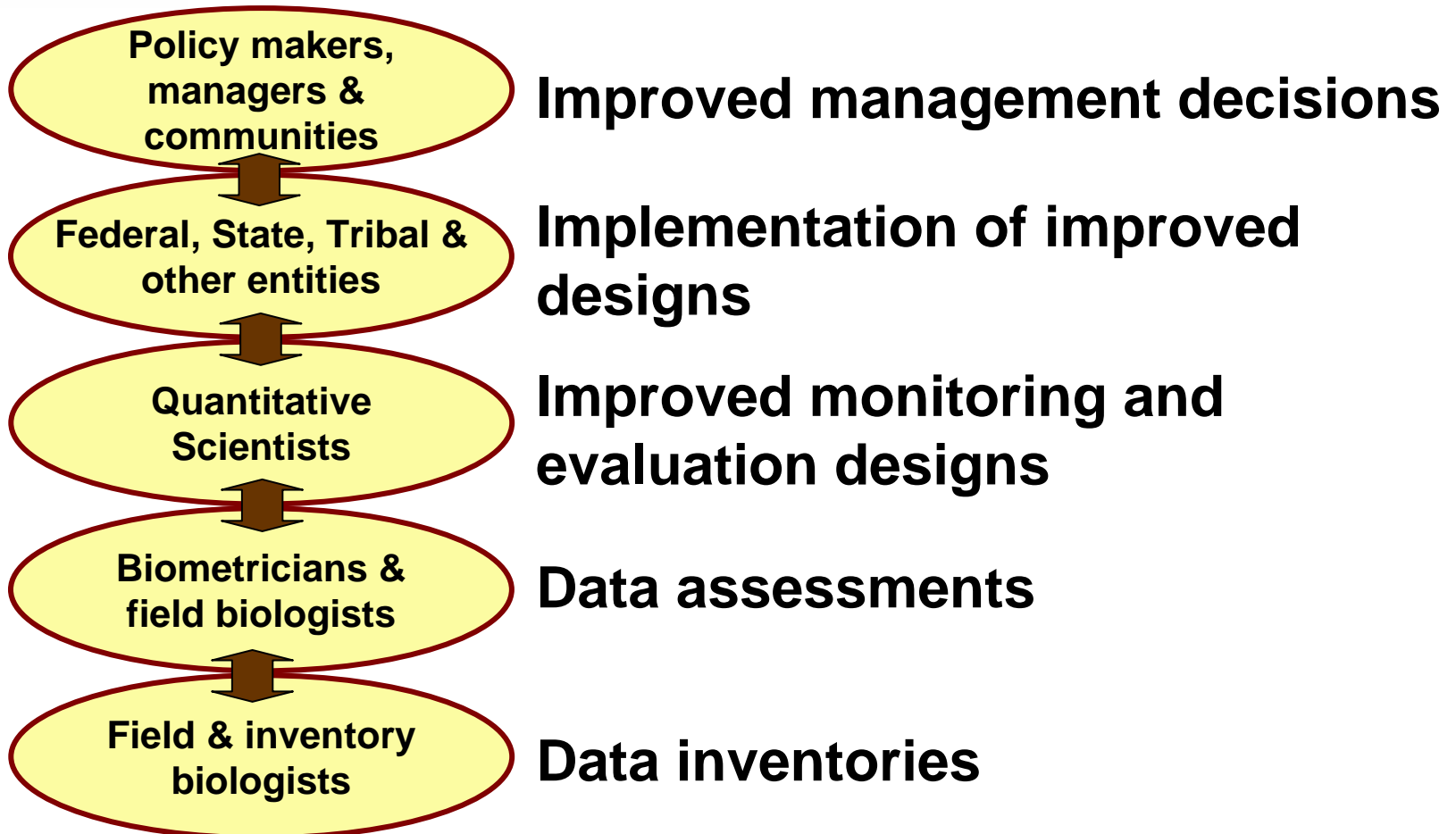
Ultimate Outcome

- High Quality Program Evaluation to Improve Environmental Results and Assure Accountability
- Adoption and Use of Evaluation by Senior Decision Makers

Institute
for
Natural
Resources



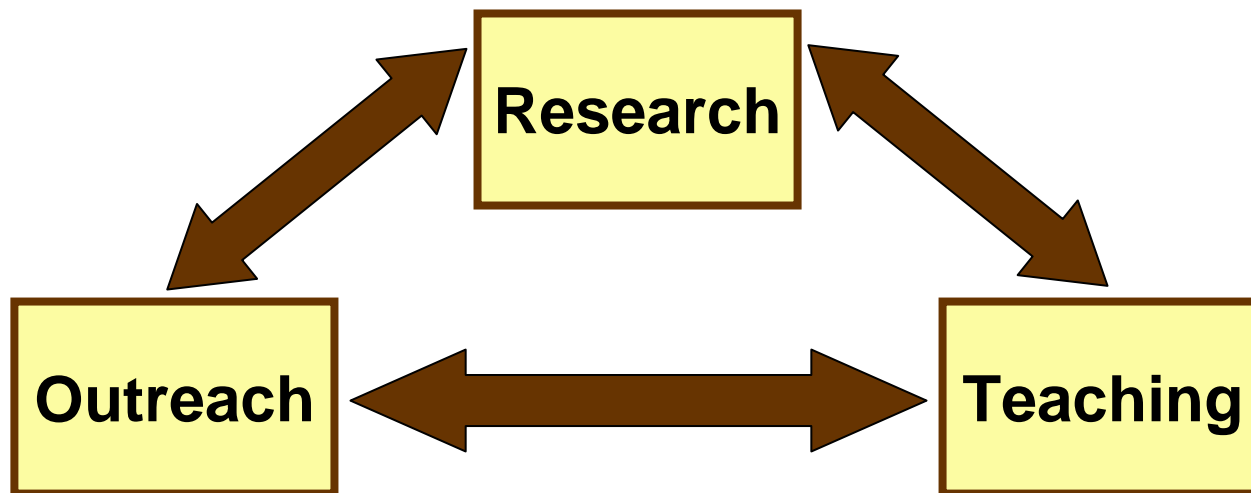
Collaborative Systemwide Monitoring and Evaluation Project (CSMEP)



Challenges

- Confusion of Monitoring and Evaluation
- Interdisciplinary Complexity
- Spatial and Temporal Scale
- Causality

University as Civic Space



University Education Role

- Undergraduate and Graduate Teaching
- Workshops and Short Courses for Practitioners

University Research Role

- Creating Evaluation Models and Tools
- Developing Monitoring and Evaluation Systems
- Developing Interdisciplinary Teams to Analyze Environmental Outcomes
- Creating Environmental Indicators

University Outreach Role

- **Convening** Practitioners, Decision Makers and Academics to Improve Teaching and Set Research Priorities
- Creating and Maintaining Evaluation **Research Libraries** and Web Portals
- **Technical Assistance** to Practitioners and Decision Makers