

# Assessing the diverse impacts of transdisciplinary research on poverty reduction: the case of the NCCR North-South

Claudia Michel

Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)

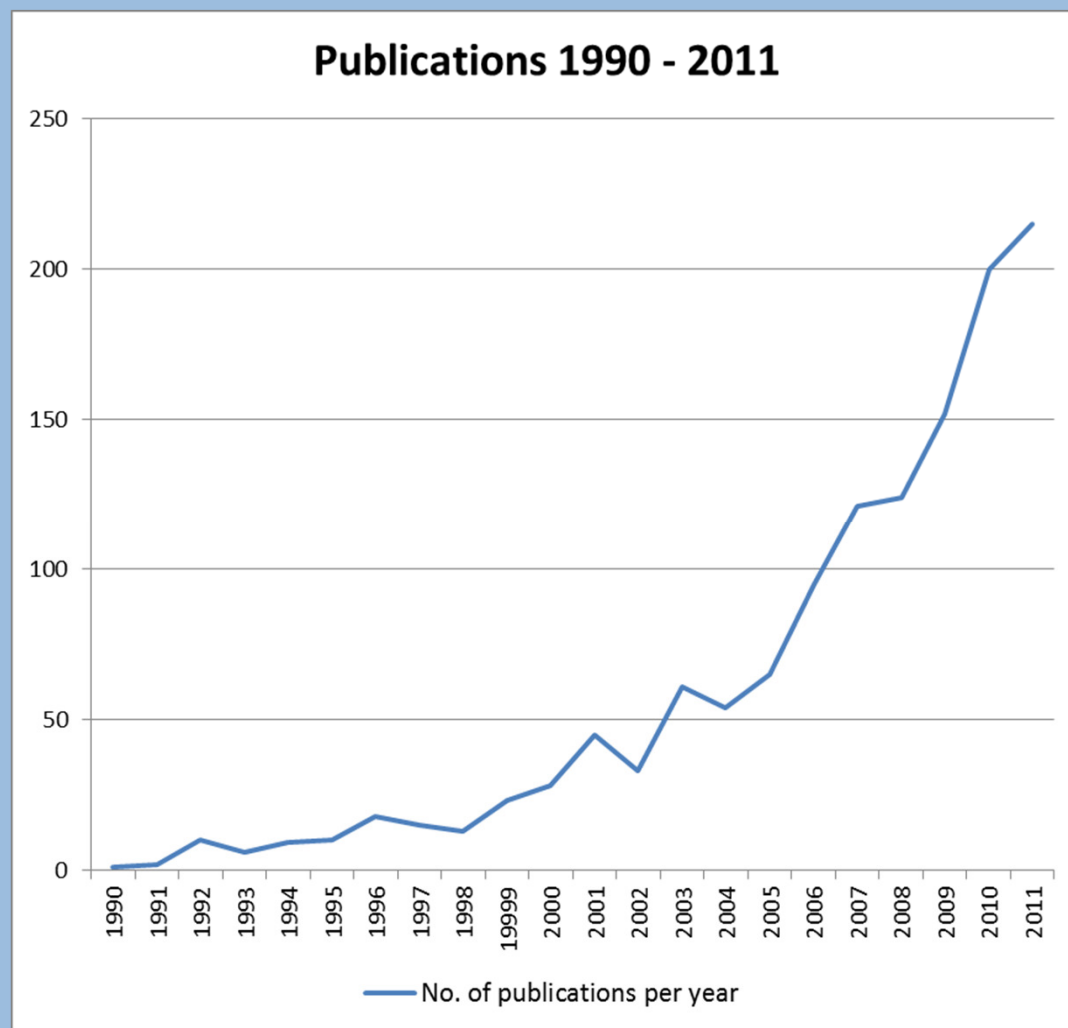
University of Bern, Switzerland

Simon Hearn, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK

Gabriela Wülser, Institute for Environmental Decisions, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Thomas Breyer, Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), Switzerland

# Growing field: innovation and sustainable development



Source: Claudia Michel, 2012

# The impact of science on society: utility, commercialisation, wealth creation

*u<sup>b</sup>*

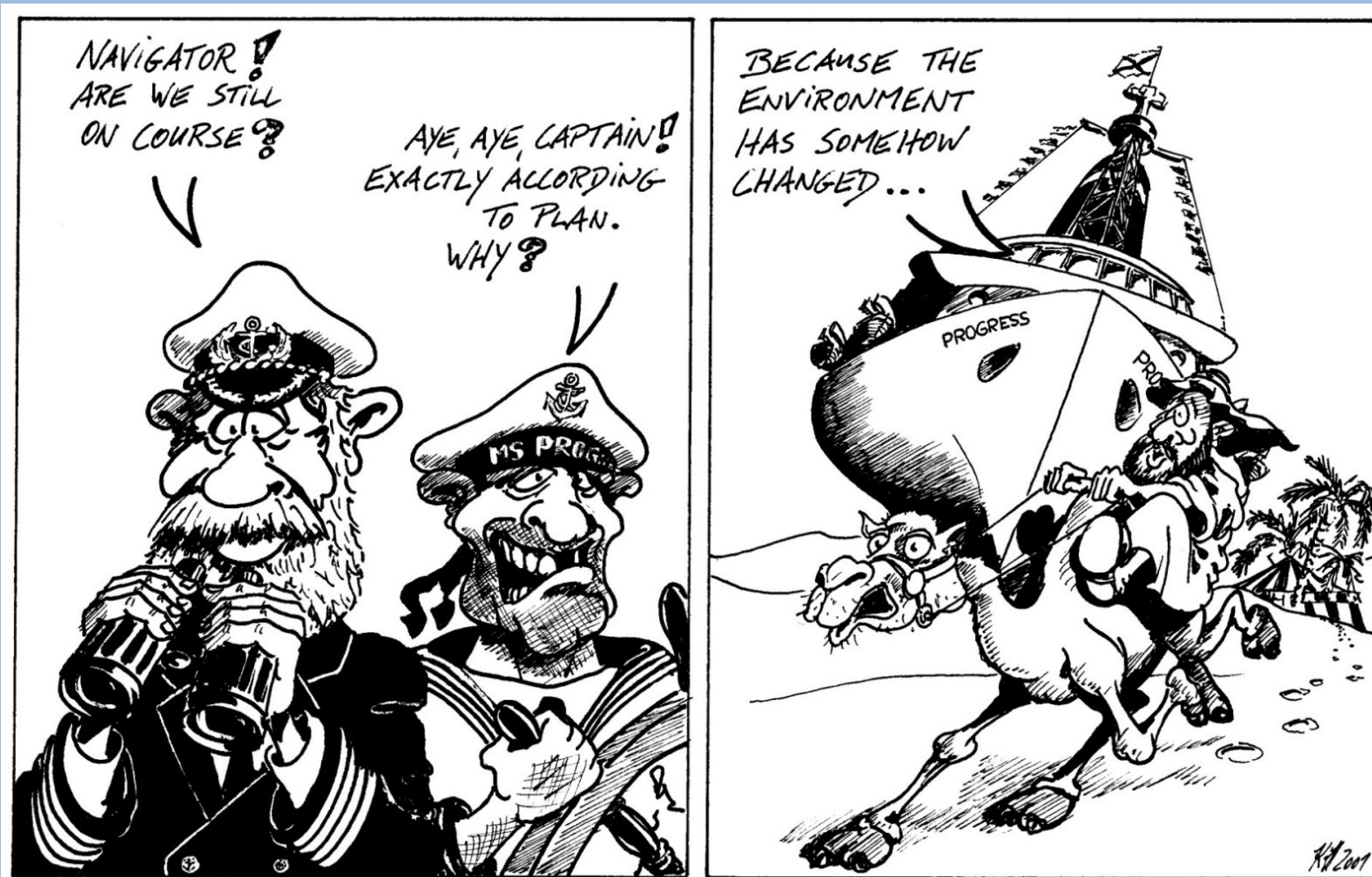
b  
UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

CDE  
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT



*Commission for Technology and Innovation, [www.ctistartup.ch](http://www.ctistartup.ch)*

# The impact of science on society: the economy, society, and environment



Karl Herweg

# Measuring economic, social, and environmental impacts

DO YOU REALLY MEASURE THE  
IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
IN KILOGRAM OF PEER-REVIEWED  
PUBLICATIONS PER FARMER?



Karl Herweg

## Criticism of quantitative indicators

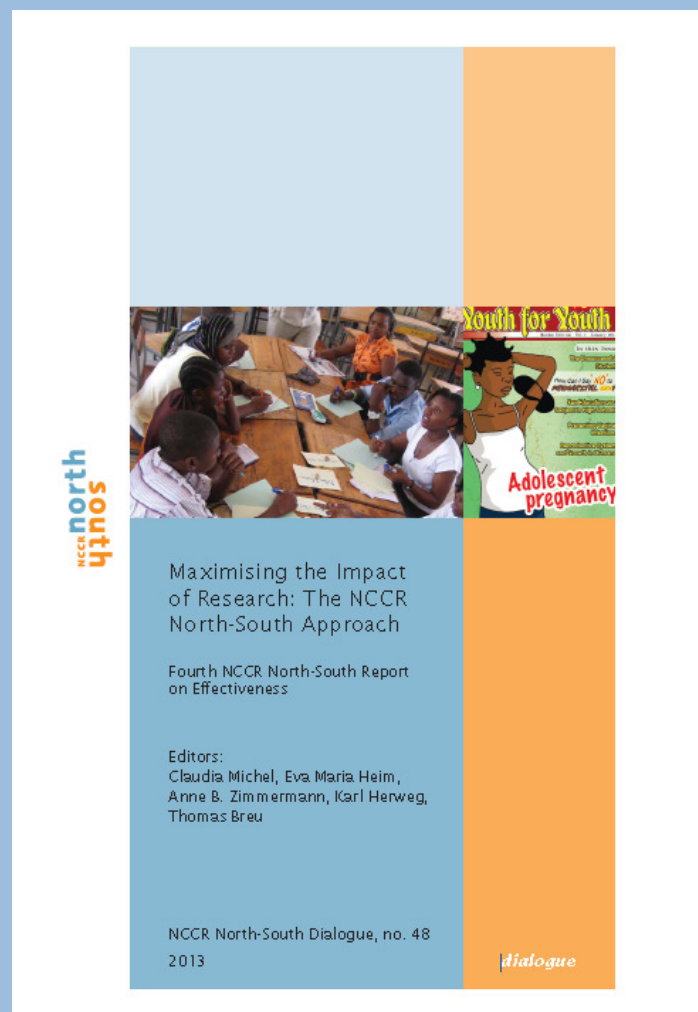
“The search for quantitative impact indicators has delivered an array of novel metrics that represent low-order impact, technometrics that privilege private over public interest, and sociometrics that rely on macro-level data with no credible link to the efforts of particular researchers”

*Donovan 2007, p. 591*

# The NCCR North-South programme

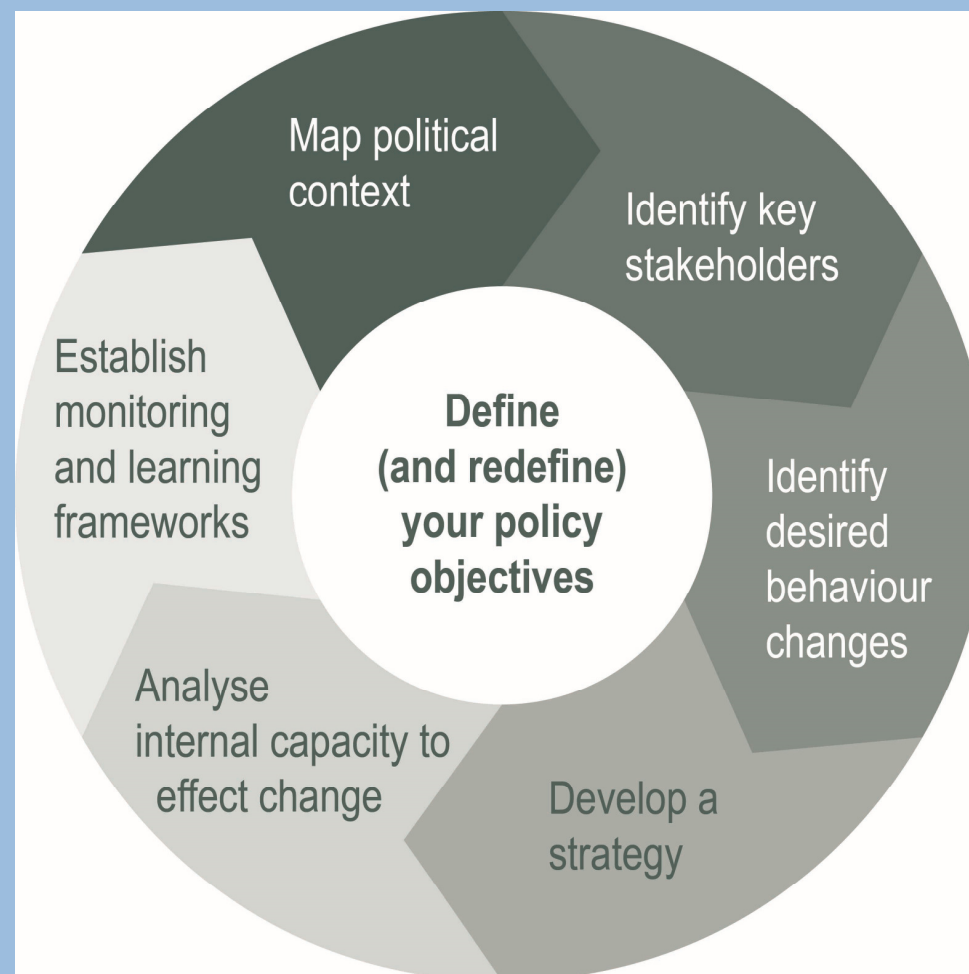


# How do we orient research projects towards maximising impacts?





# ROMA: Rapid Outcome Mapping Approach



Overseas Development  
Institute ODI

# Research projects



Disaster risk management, Bolivia



Teenage pregnancy, Tanzania



Mobile pastoralists, Sahel



Forest governance, Pakistan



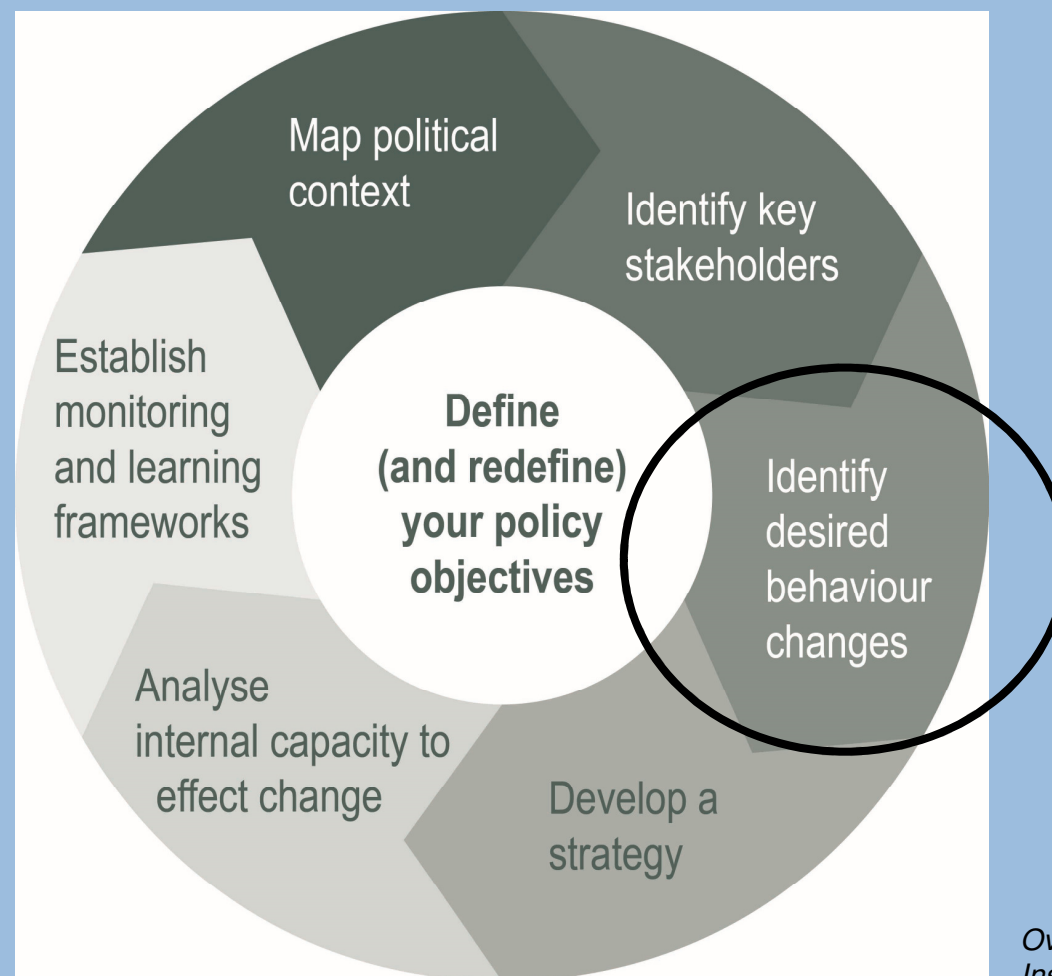
Rural development, Tajikistan



Migration, Nepal

*NCCR North-South Dialogue No. 48*

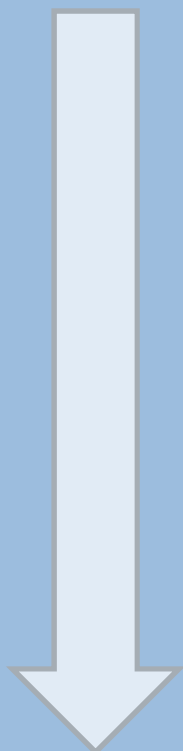
# Identify desired behaviour changes



Overseas Development  
Institute ODI

# Outcome challenge

## Early signs of progress



	Expect to see the stakeholder
1	
2	
	Like to see the stakeholder
3	
4	
	Love to see the stakeholder
5	
6	

## Transformative change

## Lessons from the NCCR North-South

- > Stronger engagement between transdisciplinary researchers and evaluation specialists
- > Planning, supporting, and evaluating impacts on all levels: individual, programme, institution, university, STI policy
- > Complement internal self-assessment with external evaluation
- > Evaluate outcomes and impacts at different times after completion of the programme

