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Creating a Network of Knowledge for biodiversity and ecosystem services
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KEY CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS FOR AN EFFECTIVE NOK

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- The project included an internal evaluation to critically analyse the issues involved in establishing a NoK and facilitate reflection.

- Semi structured interviews was the main data collection method.

- **89** semi structured interviews with **79** participants from the project.

- Interviewees included;
  - Attendees at events to design the NoK
  - Client advisory group
  - Project consortium
  - Experts, requesting policy maker and collaborating institutions in the case studies.

From the opinions and perspectives of the interviewees we have built a picture of the key challenges and identified some suggestions to help overcome them.

FINALLY, THE MIRROR GOT REAL.

YES, BUT YOU'RE CREATING THIS WHOLE NARRATIVE WHERE SNOW WHITE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL YOUR PROBLEMS.
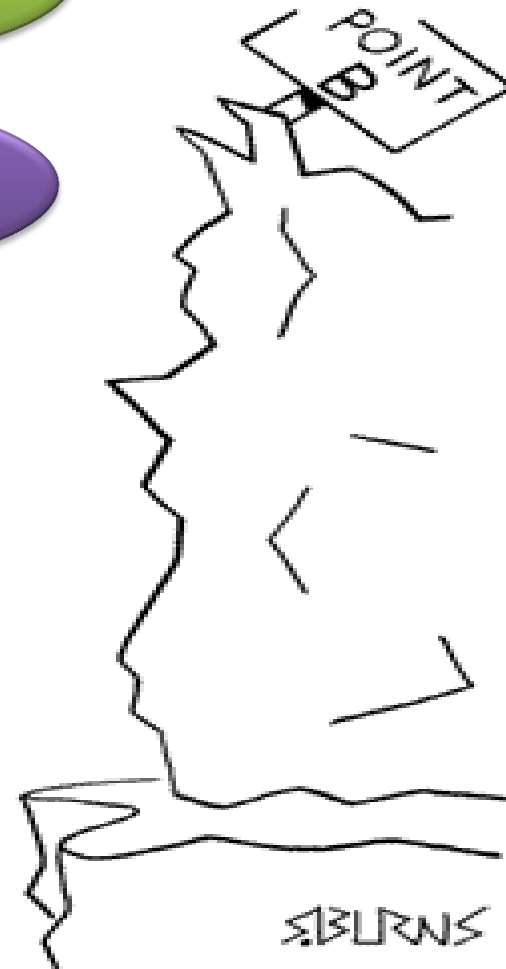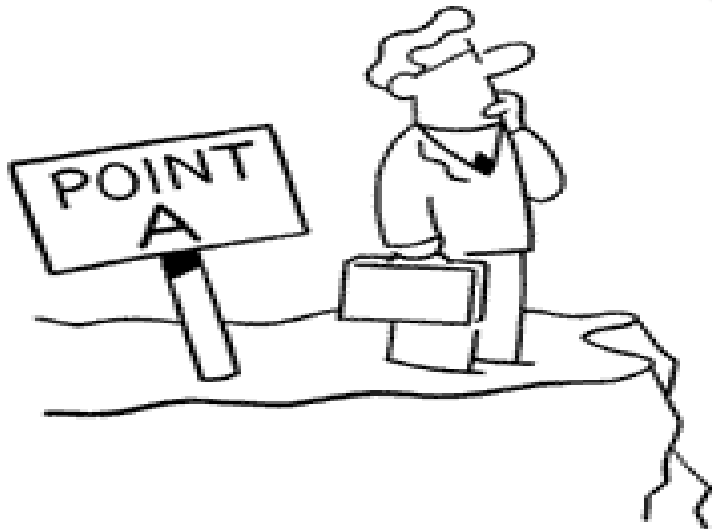
THANK YOU

What are the challenges?

1. Strong focus on Process

2. Including different groups

5. Building capacity

3. Communicating effectively

4. Usable outputs for policy

POINT B

POINT A

S.BURNS

Why is this important?

The NoK process will include many interrelated elements, which must be brought together. This evaluation highlights *some* of the challenges.

People engaging with the NoK may need to go about knowledge transfer differently from how it has been approached in the past.

For example, this may involve analysing problems differently, new interactions and over time, forming new approaches.
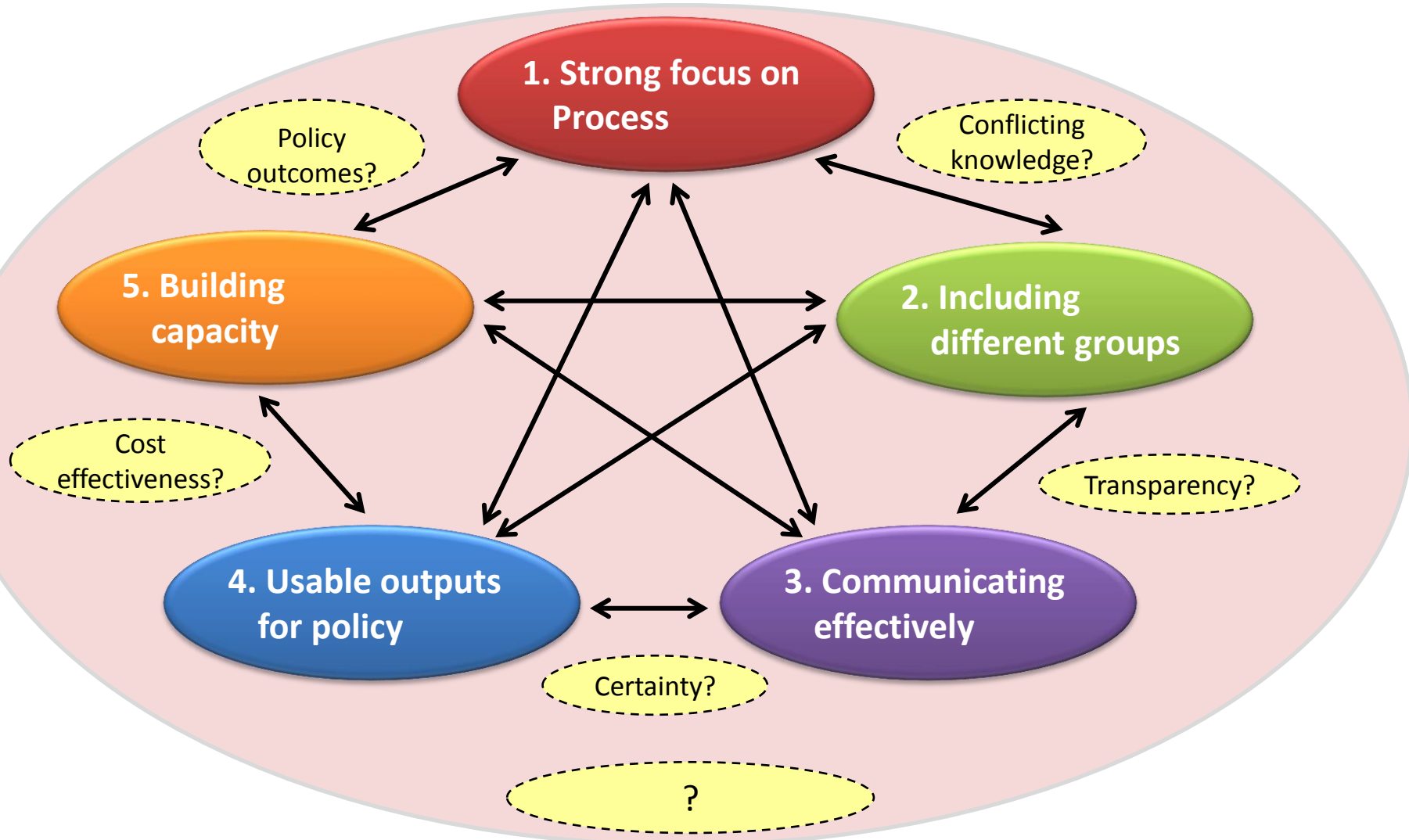
From the start it needs to be clear *what* will be done and *how* to better transfer knowledge.
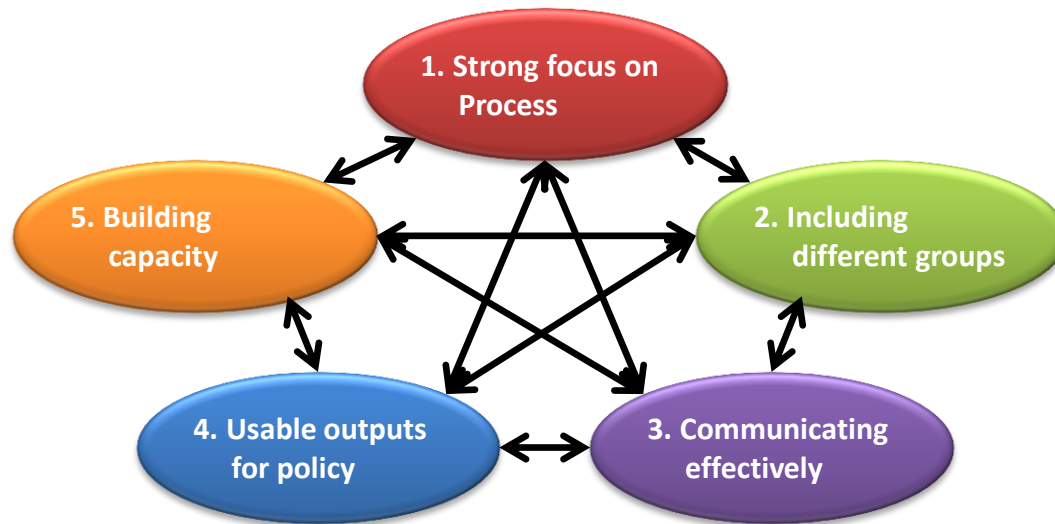
= the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

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What are the suggestions?

1. Include other sectors in the development of the NoK.

2. Develop a vision for the NoK.

3. Create technical groups to help develop the NoK.

4. Ensure NoK coordinating team have a wide range of skills.

5. Plan resources effectively (time, budget and expertise) but also maintain flexibility.

6. Design different levels that help meet different needs of decision makers.

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- 1. Strong focus on Process
- 5. Building capacity
- 2. Including different groups
- 4. Usable outputs for policy
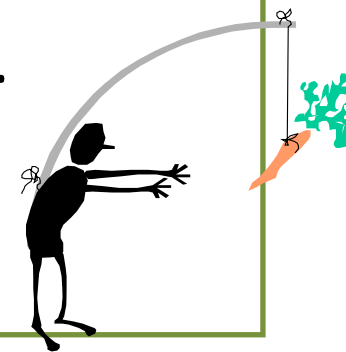- 3. Communicating effectively
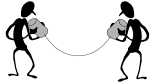
Why is this important?

A wide range of expertise, skills, knowledge sources and knowledge types and perspectives are essential to ensure the overall success of the NoK.
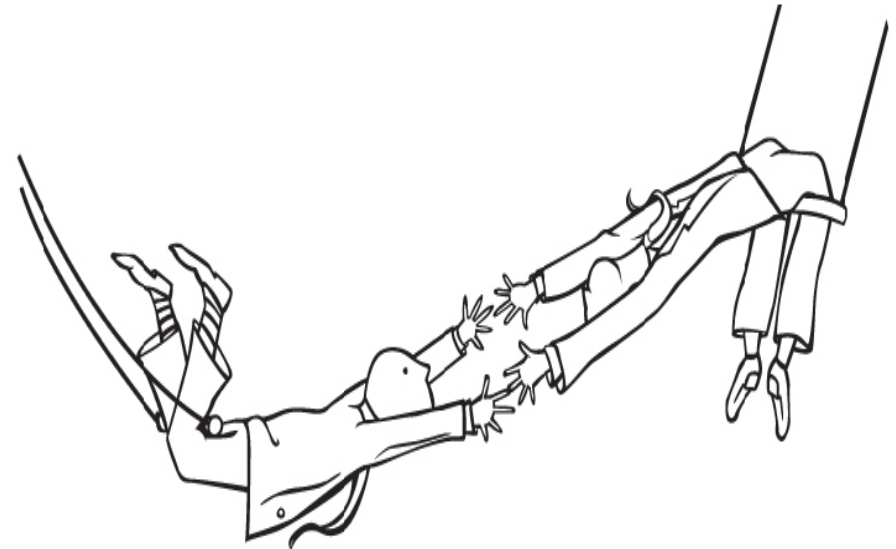
What are the suggestions?

1. **Include knowledge hubs for other groups in knowledge mapping.**

2. **Undertake a stakeholder analysis with contribution and motivations.**

3. **Engage reputable experts to recruit expert group members.**

4. **Ensure representation of cultures and groups in expert groups.**

5. **Develop expert advisory groups.**

6. **Include different types of experts from the start of the process.**

7. **Communicate and develop the benefits of the NoK.**

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1. Strong focus on
   Process

5. Building              2. Including
   capacity                 different groups

4. Usable outputs        3. Communicating
   for policy                effectively
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Why is this important?

Information needs and communication styles will vary. Effective communication can enhance transparency which is key to build trust within and outside the NoK.
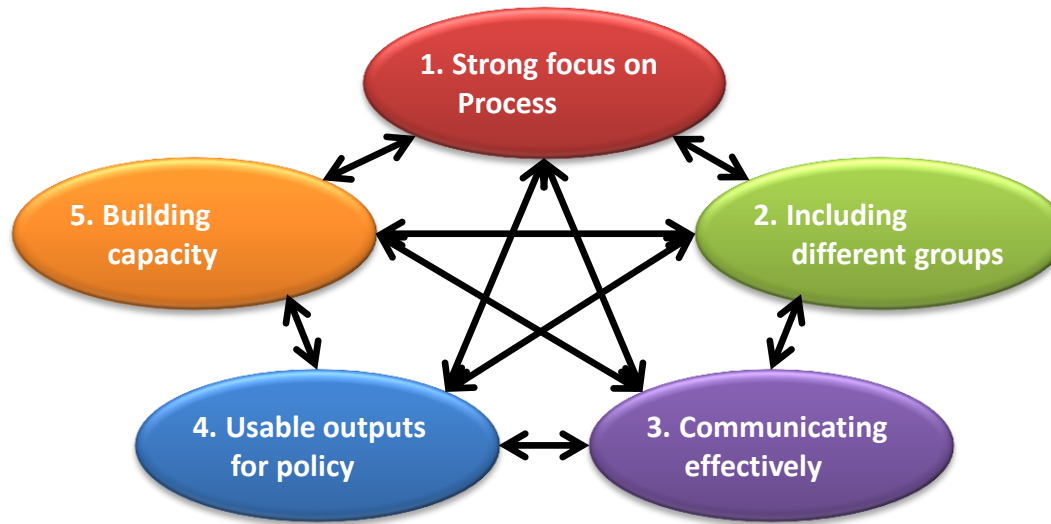

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"Instead of 'It sucks' you could say, 'It doesn't speak to me.'"

What are the suggestions?

1. Develop a marketing and communications strategy to identify target audiences and information needs.

2. Involve a communications specialist and develop an interactive, dynamic website.

3. Include technology to enable virtual group work.

4. Use terminology and definitions clearly and consistently.

5. Increase transparency and potentially reduce conflict by being clear about links between constraints, decisions and outputs.

6. Develop guidelines for different groups.

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- 1. Strong focus on Process
- 2. Including different groups
- 3. Communicating effectively
- 4. Usable outputs for policy
- 5. Building capacity
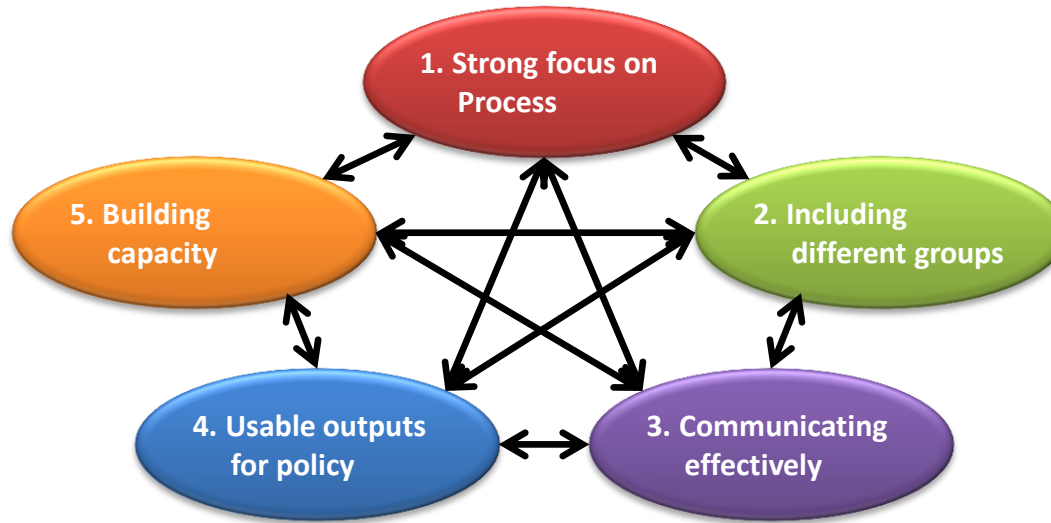
Why is this important?

One main aim of the NoK is to develop usable outputs for the policy community to inform the decision making process. It is essential that this is considered throughout the NoK from start to finish.

Let me know if you want to know why I am here

What are the suggestions?

1. Recognise the value of external science-policy review processes.

2. Include socio-economic expertise in expert groups.

3. Include other knowledge sources , specifically grey literature not in English.

4. Develop understanding on policy context, decision making processes and policy language.

5. Identify target audiences, information needs and communication preferences.

6. Provide guidance on knowledge transfer practices.

7. Consider how to align outputs more with policy timeframes.

8. Plan to meet the needs of the requester within the time and budget available.

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- 1. Strong focus on Process
- 5. Building capacity
- 2. Including different groups
- 4. Usable outputs for policy
- 3. Communicating effectively

Why is this important?

Capacity-building is a continuous process of improvement involving a joined up approach at the individual, institutional and wider systems level. This is required to improve understanding and trust, to build bridges between groups and reduce gaps in knowledge to respond to changes and improve the NoK in meeting its' objectives.

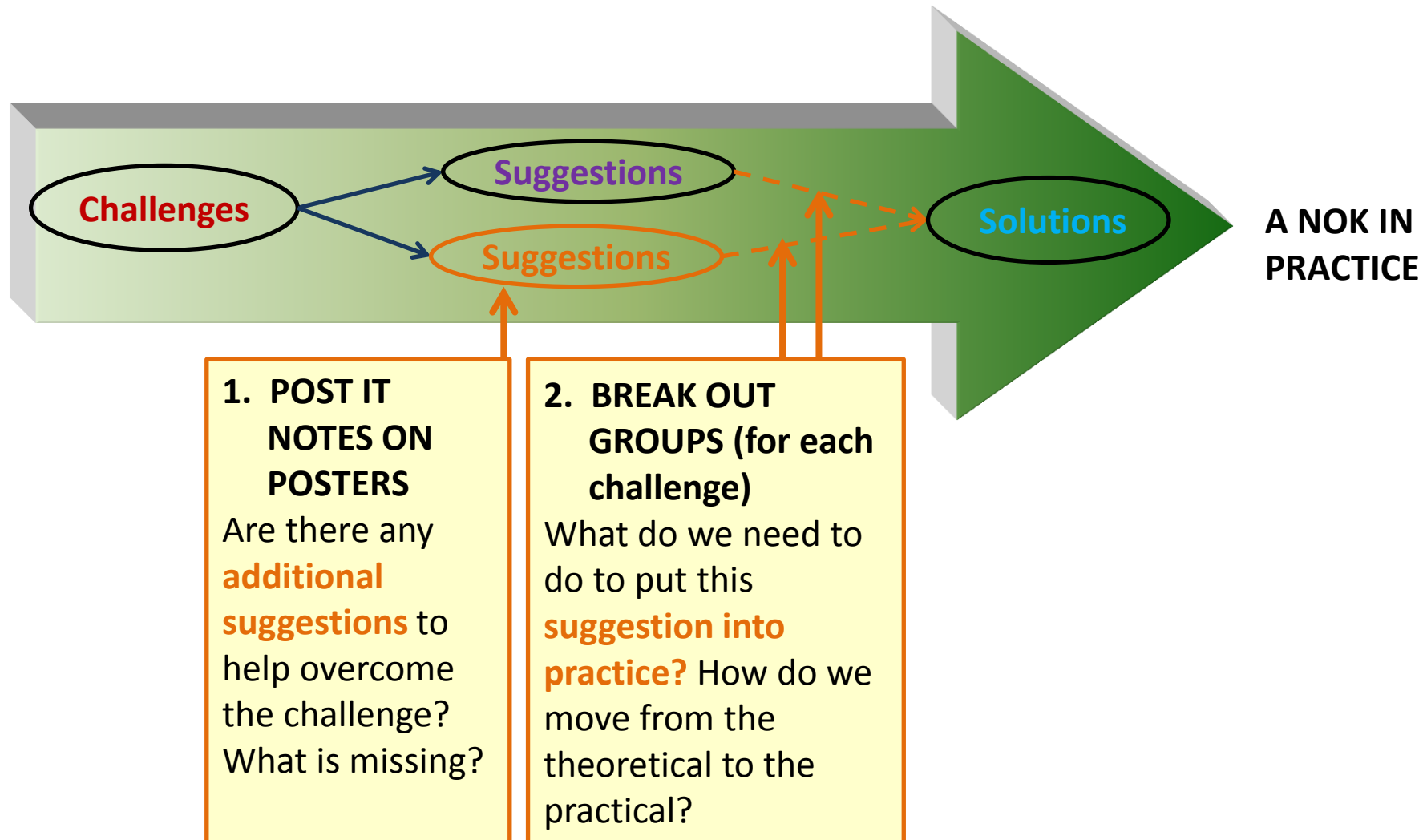© MARK ANDERSON   WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM

SNOW GLOBE SALES

"What we need is something new! Something fresh! Something to really shake things up!"

What are the suggestions?

1. Provide a range of skills and expertise in coordinating team.

2. Provide expertise on the use of other research tools.

3. Develop the capacity to include different knowledge sources and knowledge types.

4. Include knowledge and expertise from outside Europe and other sectors.

5. Strengthen links with existing networks and initiatives across levels.

6. Integrate a critical evaluation process to facilitate reflection and learning .

7. Ensure networking and capacity building are core to the NoK.

We need your help:
Moving from challenges to solutions

Challenges → **Suggestions** → **Solutions** → **A NOK IN PRACTICE**

1. POST IT NOTES ON POSTERS
Are there any **additional suggestions** to help overcome the challenge? What is missing?

2. BREAK OUT GROUPS (for each challenge)
What do we need to do to put this **suggestion into practice?** How do we move from the theoretical to the practical?

1. **Why? How important is this suggestion?**
   a) Essential (E)
   b) Important (I)
   c) Desirable (D)

   Then, focusing on the *Essential* suggestions first, discuss the following;

2. **How to do this? What do we need to do to do this in practice?**

3. **Who needs to be involved? (E.g Groups, sub groups, specific areas of expertise, institutions, levels of governance)**

ANY QUESTIONS?
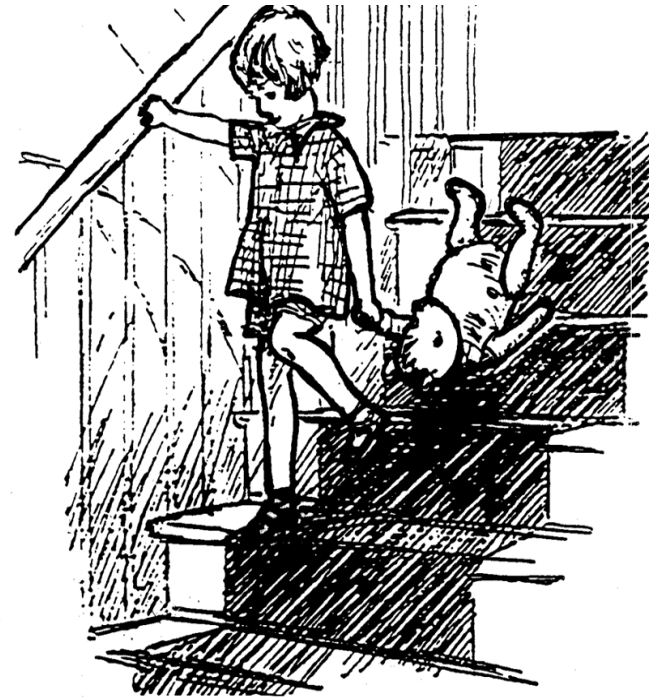
Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin. It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs, but sometimes he feels that there really is another way, if only he could stop bumping a moment and think of it.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION…

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Ask your question via Twitter **#BDKconf2**

or directly through the live chat window

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Towards a future Network of Knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Europe

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