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Policy mixing for sustainable resource use

Conceptual reflections from participatory policy mix design and scientific assessment

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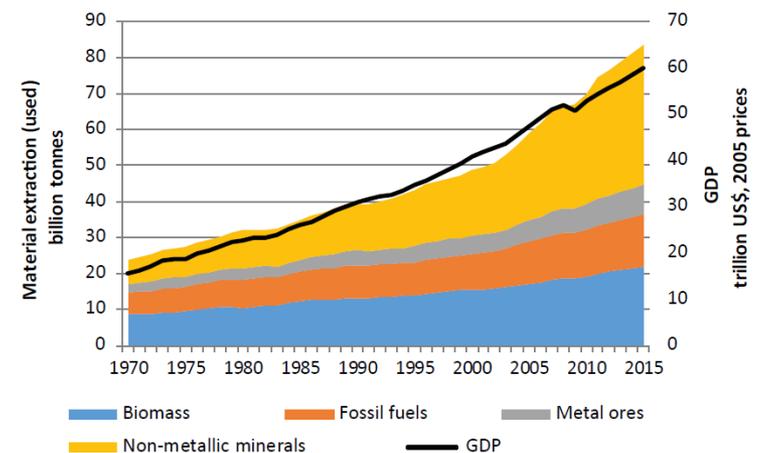
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Policy mixing in resource policy – promise or misfit?

Resource use trends – global and national – indicate the need to tackle complex economic and behaviour patterns

- ▶ Could the concept of policy mixing provide a solution?
- ▶ How to design and how to assess policy mixes?
- ▶ What are lessons learnt in a research project context?

Figure 13: Global material extraction in billion tons, and global GDP in trillion US dollars 2005 prices, 1970-2015



Source: Material extraction data from UNEP (2016a), GDP data from UNSD (2015).

Source: UNEP 2017, p. 58

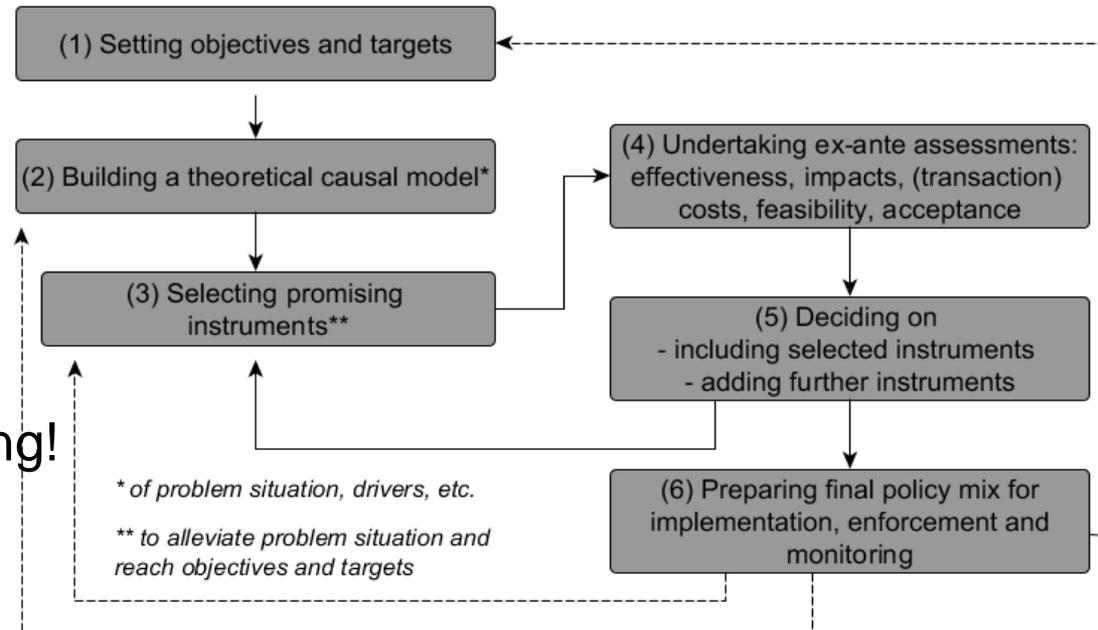
The concept of policy mixing as a solution?

What is policy mixing?

- ▶ Policy making 2.0/...?
- ▶ Old wine in new skins?
- ▶ ≠ Policy layering
- ▶ A Challenge to policy making!

Why a challenge?

- ▶ Long-term perspective
- ▶ Need for coalition building beyond legislative periods
- ▶ Forward-looking assessments meeting political realities

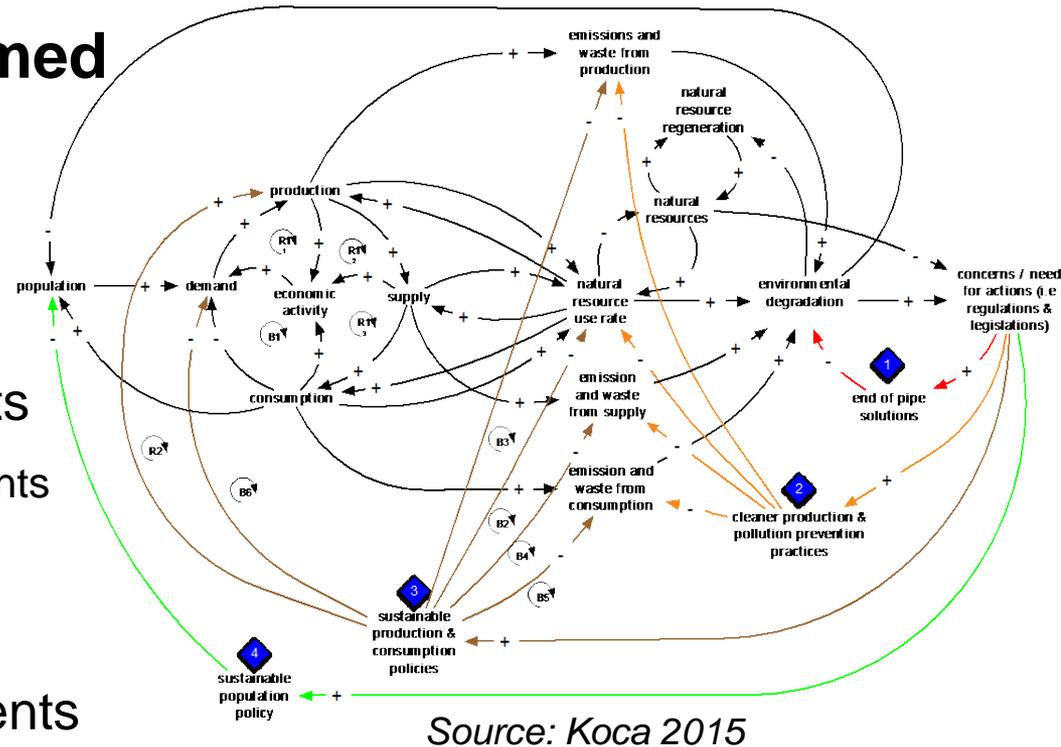


Source: Ekvall et al. 2016; adapted from Givoni et al. 2013

The concept of policy mixing as a solution?

How the study was performed

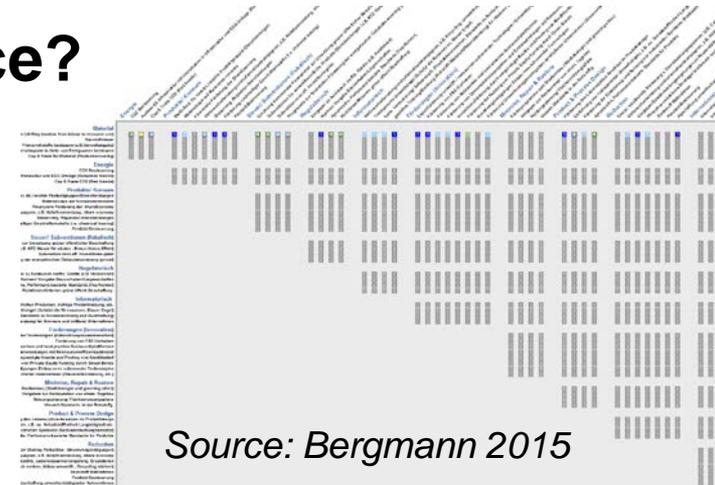
1. Relating to objectives/targets
2. Theoretical causal model
 - Causal-Loop-Diagrams
3. Selecting promising instruments
 - Inventorised & combined instruments
 - Discussing with officials
 - *Recovering from decisions*
4. Undertaking ex-ante assessments
 - Translating policy strategies into simulation models
 - Assessing environmental and socio-economic impacts of policy strategies



Challenges for policy mix design and assessment

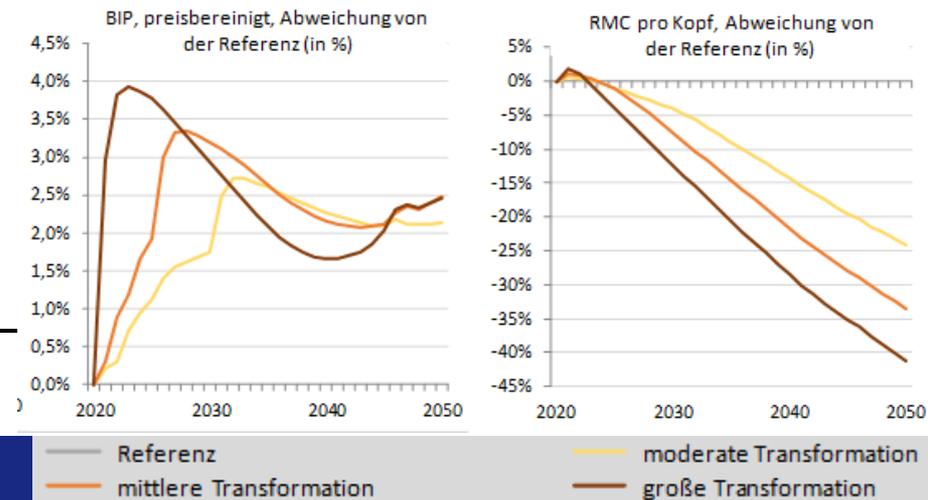
Scientific inquiry vs. policy relevance?

- ▶ Detailed conceptualisation mismatching steering group interest
- ▶ Orientation towards national programme and feasibility \neq ambition?



Scientific assessment of cumulative effects?

- ▶ Assuming and parametrising cumulative effects
- ▶ Time dynamic policy mix effects – roadmapping



Conclusions – Policy mixing far away from practice?

Very promising, but with design and assessment issues

- ▶ Design strongly depends on who is asked to draft (a) mix(es)
 - Ambition vs. feasibility / detail vs. speed
- ▶ Assessment needs clarity on heuristic (science, policy makers, ...)
- ▶ Foster models' and modellers' capacities to assess cumulative effects

As well as with practical implementation issues

- ▶ Political realities neither aligned with long term policy mix implementation, nor with sticking to any initially developed mix
- ▶ Policy makers' skills not aligned with long term policy mix implementation

=> Research on organisational theory and political economy needed