

FROM SCIENCE TO ACTION



**Side Event during the 2017 conferences of the Parties to
the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**

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WHY A ROAD MAP?

2015 Decisions BC-12/22, RC-7/12 and SC-7/30 “From science to action” noted:

- The importance of further strengthening the science-policy interface for the effectiveness of the conventions
- The need for greater access to scientific understanding in developing countries
- The need for scientific underpinning for decision-making in the sound management of chemicals and wastes

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ROAD MAP

- To engage Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions at the regional and national levels

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY - HIGHLIGHTS

- Respondents indicated extensive use of scientific and technical information to inform national and international decisions or policy making processes
- The BRS website could be improved:
 - For example by becoming a true database for various resources including other documents on the web, experts in other countries, or information and data from Parties
- Challenges identified included:
 - The cost of obtaining information
 - The many data gaps, and the lack of capacity to generate data
 - The lack of information in the national language
 - The need for improved networking and exchange
 - The lack of national capacity to review and assess information, and effective knowledge translation



CHALLENGES TO SCIENCE-BASED ACTION

- Access to information
- Variation in the socio-economic situations among Parties
- Mainstream the sound management of chemicals
- Evaluation of the evidence
- Dealing with uncertainty
- Participation of academia and civil society

ACTORS AND STAKEHOLDERS OF THE ROAD MAP

- Parties to the BRS conventions
- Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres
- Subsidiary bodies and experts of the conventions
- Partnerships of the conventions
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Industry/private sector
- Civil society
- Academia
- GEF and other donors

PROPOSED STEPS

- Establish overall road map management and reporting procedures
- Build national and regional capacity for science-based decision-making:
 - How to use scientific information
 - How to involve stakeholders
- Build networks and partnerships
- Address challenges faced by developing countries and countries with economies
- Enhance collaboration between the Secretariat and other entities for information exchange and outreach on scientific aspects of the BRS conventions



THE ROLE OF SCIENCE TO INFORM DECISION-MAKING

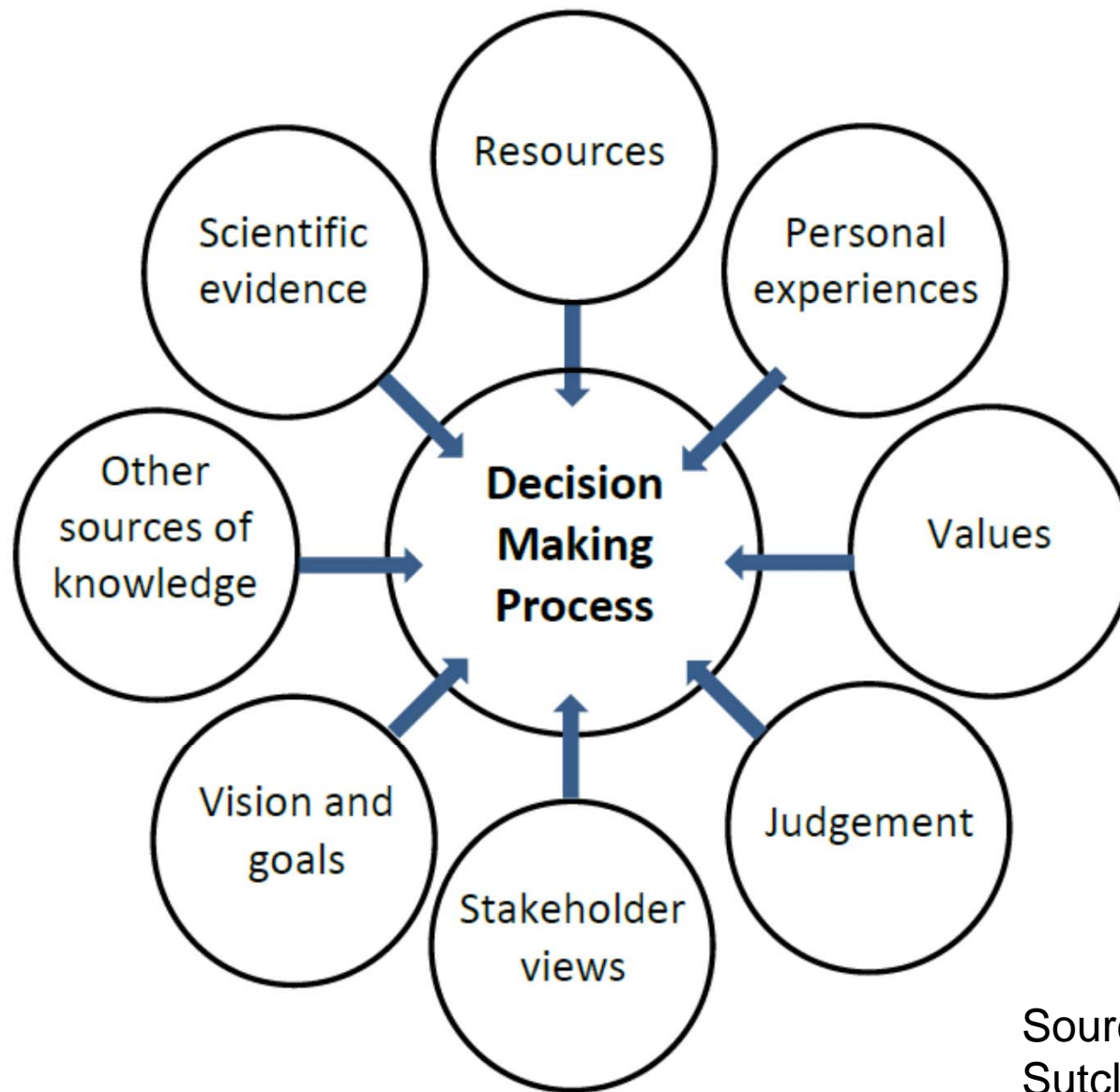
- Evidence-informed decision-making
- Possible principles to consider
 - Early issue identification
 - Inclusiveness
 - Use of reliable scientific evidence
 - Addressing uncertainty and risk
 - Transparency and openness
 - Periodic review

THE POLICY CYCLE



Adapted from Health Canada, 2000

COMPLEXITY IN POLICY DECISIONS



Source: Brownson, 2009;
Sutcliffe & Court, 2005

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Recalling that 2015 Decisions BC-12/22, RC-7/12 and SC-7/30
“From science to action” noted:

- The importance of further strengthening the science-policy interface for the effectiveness of the conventions
- The need for greater access to scientific understanding in developing countries
- The need for scientific underpinning for decision-making in the sound management of chemicals and wastes
- What new activities should the BRS consider?
- How can the road map help address
 - Gaps in access to scientific information and knowledge
 - Lack of capacity to provide scientific inputs in convention processes
 - The need for scientific and technical advice
 - Improved exchange of information among parties and stakeholders
 - Promotion of the understanding of the scientific and technical aspects of the three conventions

