



Too BIG To
IGNORE

Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research



A Transdisciplinary Perspective for Small-scale Fisheries Research

Alicia Said, Post-doctoral Fellow
Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada
alicia.said@mun.ca

Small-scale Fisheries Workshop
25-26th June 2018, Brest, France



Major concerns in global fisheries

Small-scale fisheries are highly affected by these concerns

Ecosystem health
Social justice
Livelihoods
Food security

Small-scale fisheries can make major contribution to address these concerns

- ✧ Complex, social problems cannot be addressed using technical fixes
- ✧ The complexity makes fisheries governance a 'wicked problem'
- ✧ Transdisciplinary approaches provide a framework for complexity.

Jentoft & Chuenpagdee (2009); Chuenpagdee & Jentoft (2018)



Small-Scale Fisheries: Research concerns

Research on small-scale fisheries is low when compared to large-scale fisheries

Lack of research leads to erroneous policy-making, prolonging the problem.

Erroneous policies trigger policy misfits, adding further problems to fishing communities





RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

**BUILDING
THE FUTURE
we WANT**



Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

MARE

21

Chuenpagdee · Jentoft Eds

MARE Publication Series 21

Ratana Chuenpagdee
Svein Jentoft *Editors*



Transdisciplinarity for
Small-Scale Fisheries Governance

Transdisciplinarity for Small-Scale Fisheries Governance

Analysis and Practice

CENTER FOR MARITIME



Springer

A Roadmap to SSF Sustainability

In our attempt to reach sustainability we are faced by **challenges to understanding** the context, and in **crossroads to agree** on the adequate solution to resolve the problem.

A Transdisciplinary Perspective



Why a Transdisciplinary Approach

Sustainability concerns and Issues are interconnected including access to resources, violation of human rights, food insecurity, overfishing



Capturing the roots of the problem necessitates an integrated approach that goes across, between and beyond different disciplines and knowledges.



Broadening the perspective: all possible links and interconnections are mapped out in a way that gives a holistic understanding of the situation.

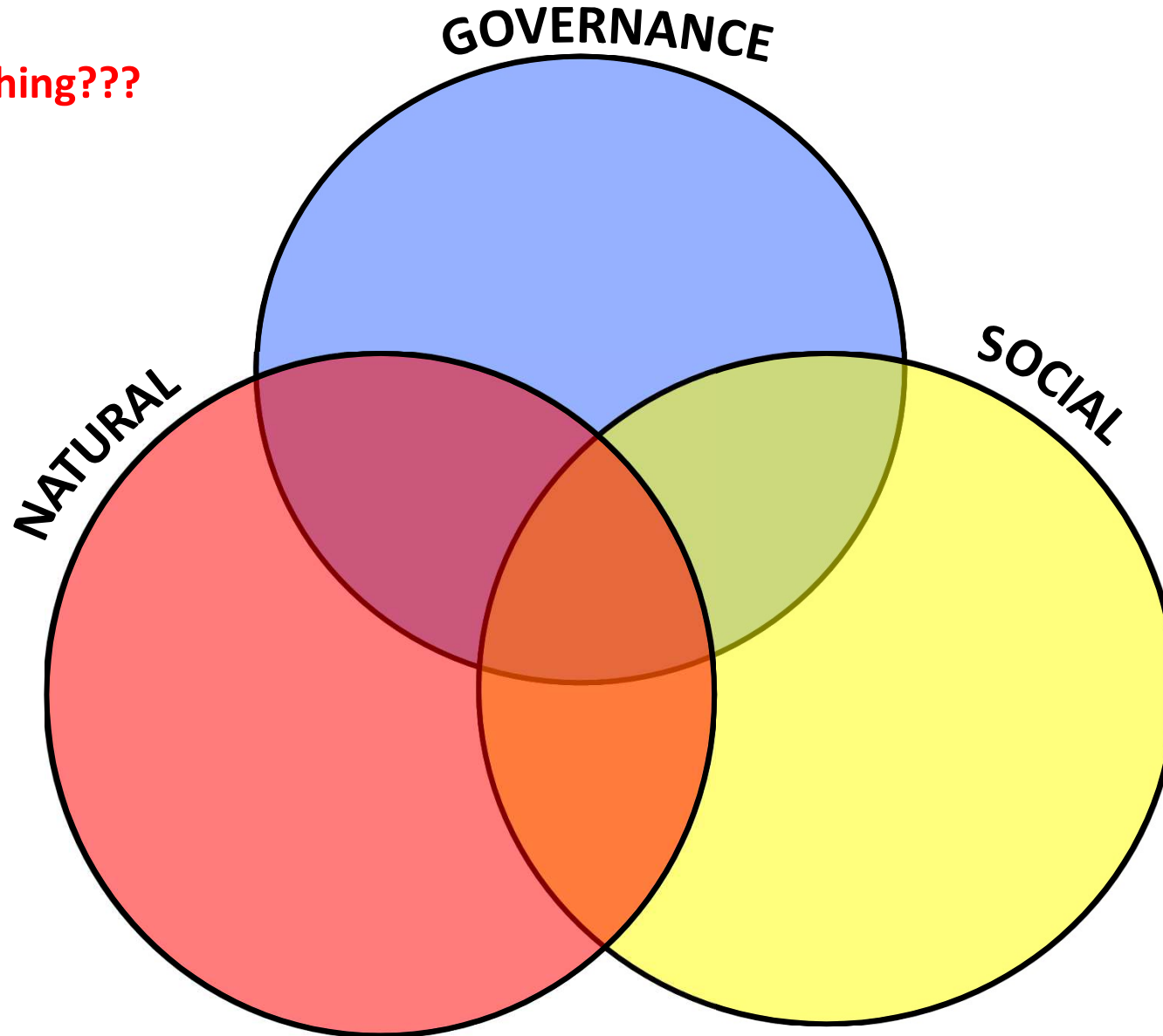


Transdisciplinarity as an approach to inform empirical research and context-specific governance for small-scale fisheries sustainability.

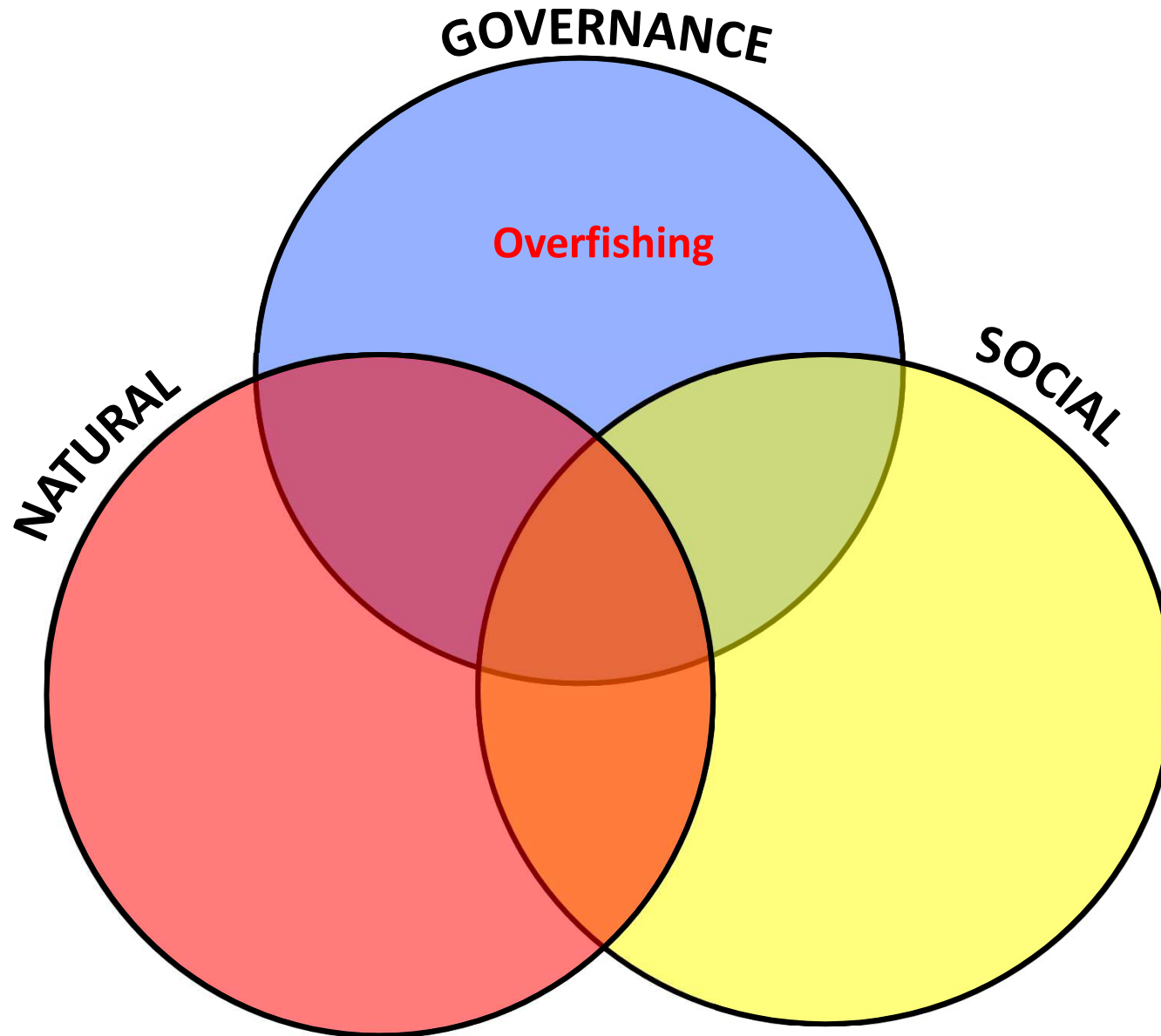
Let's look at 'overfishing' as an example....

Identifying fisheries problems through a transdisciplinary lens

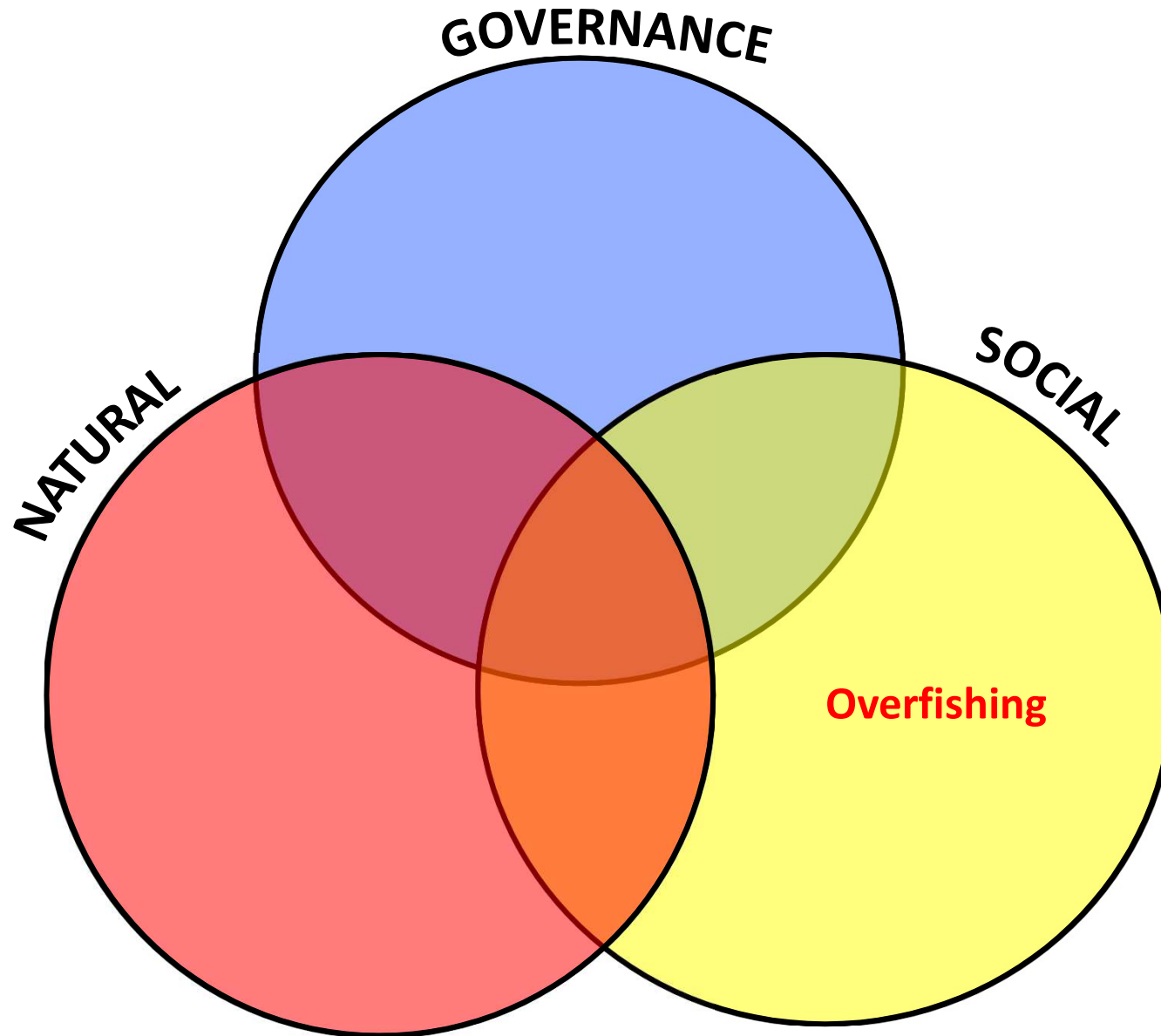
Overfishing???



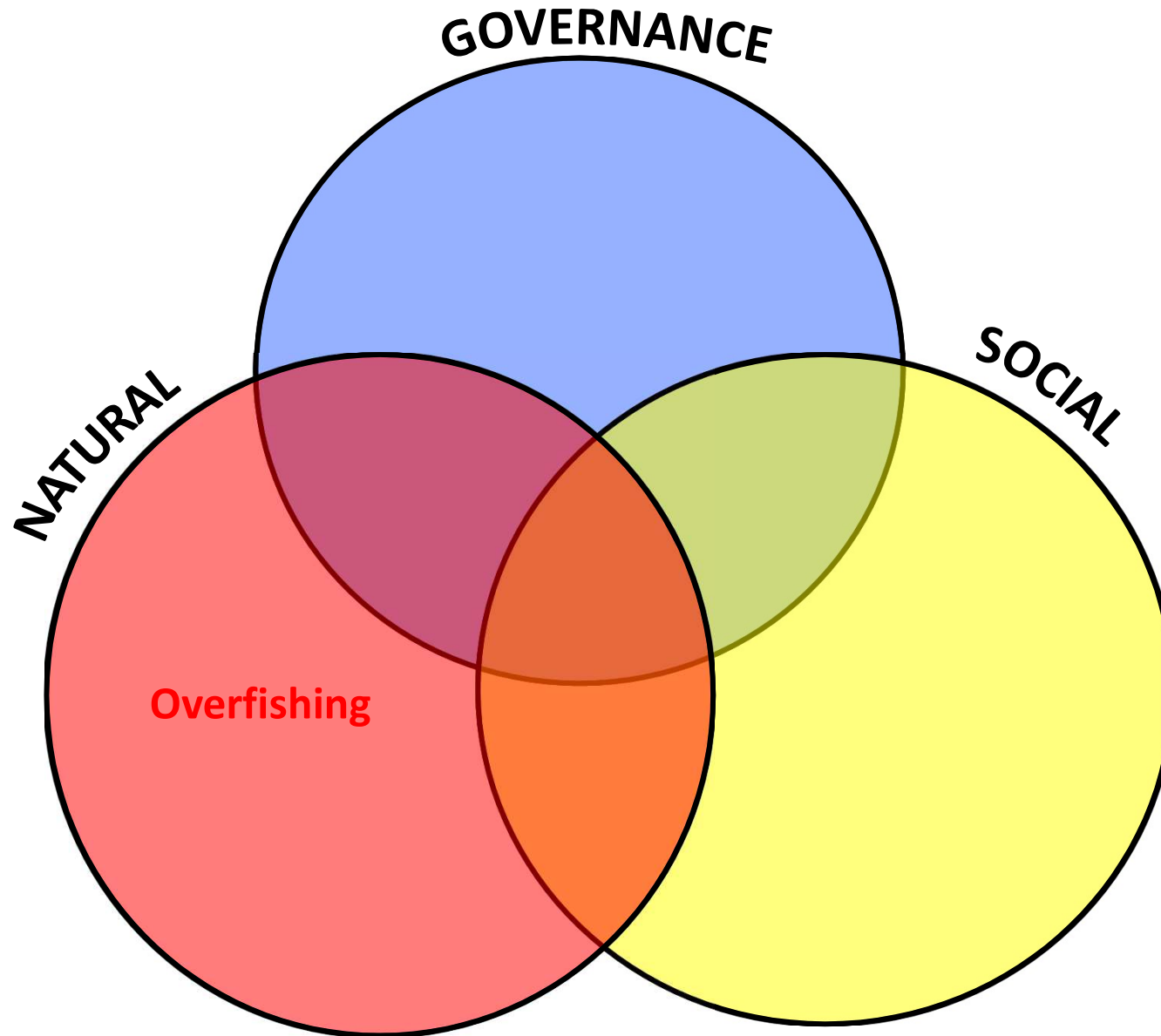
Identifying fisheries problems through a transdisciplinary lens



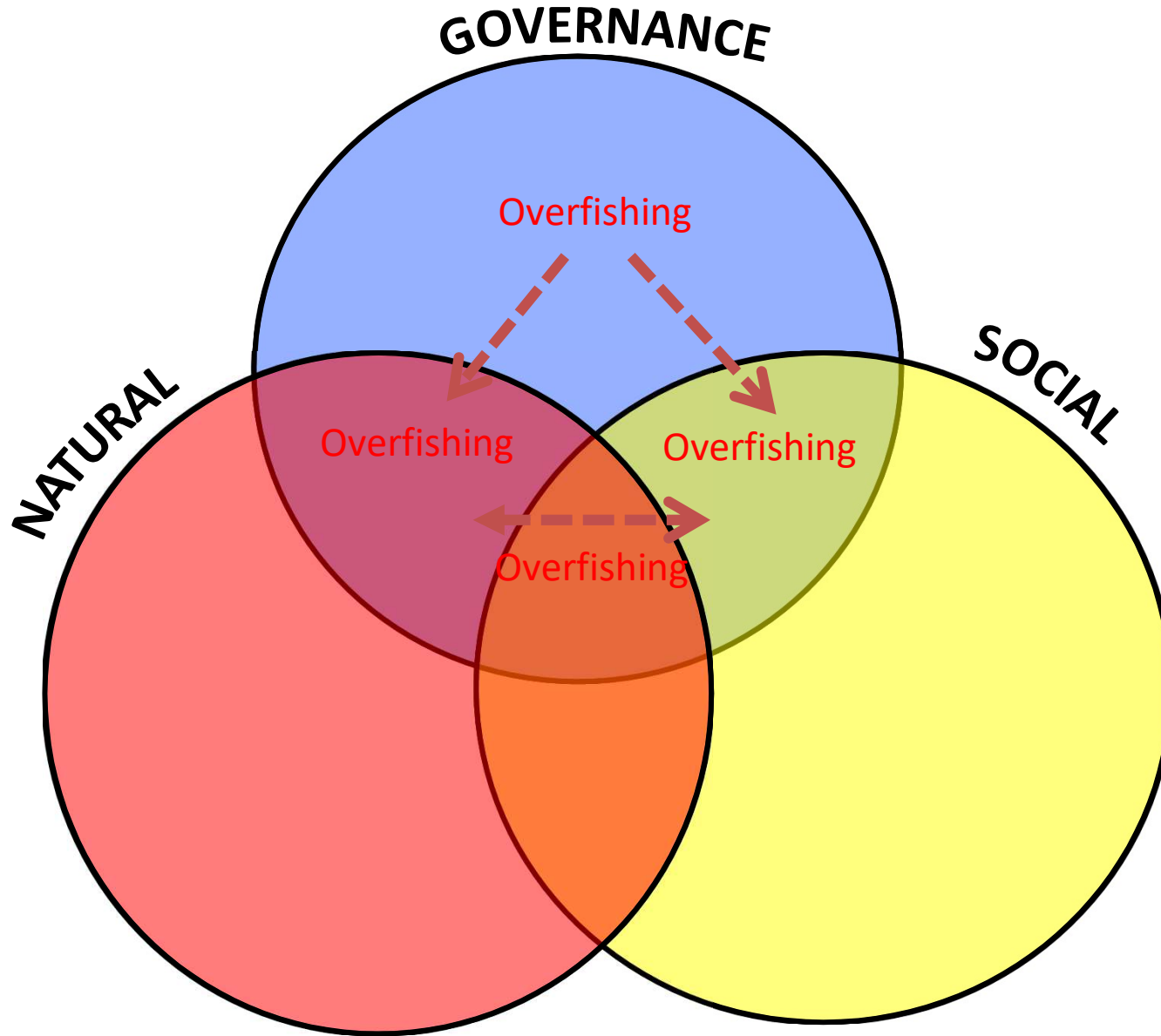
Identifying fisheries problems through a transdisciplinary lens



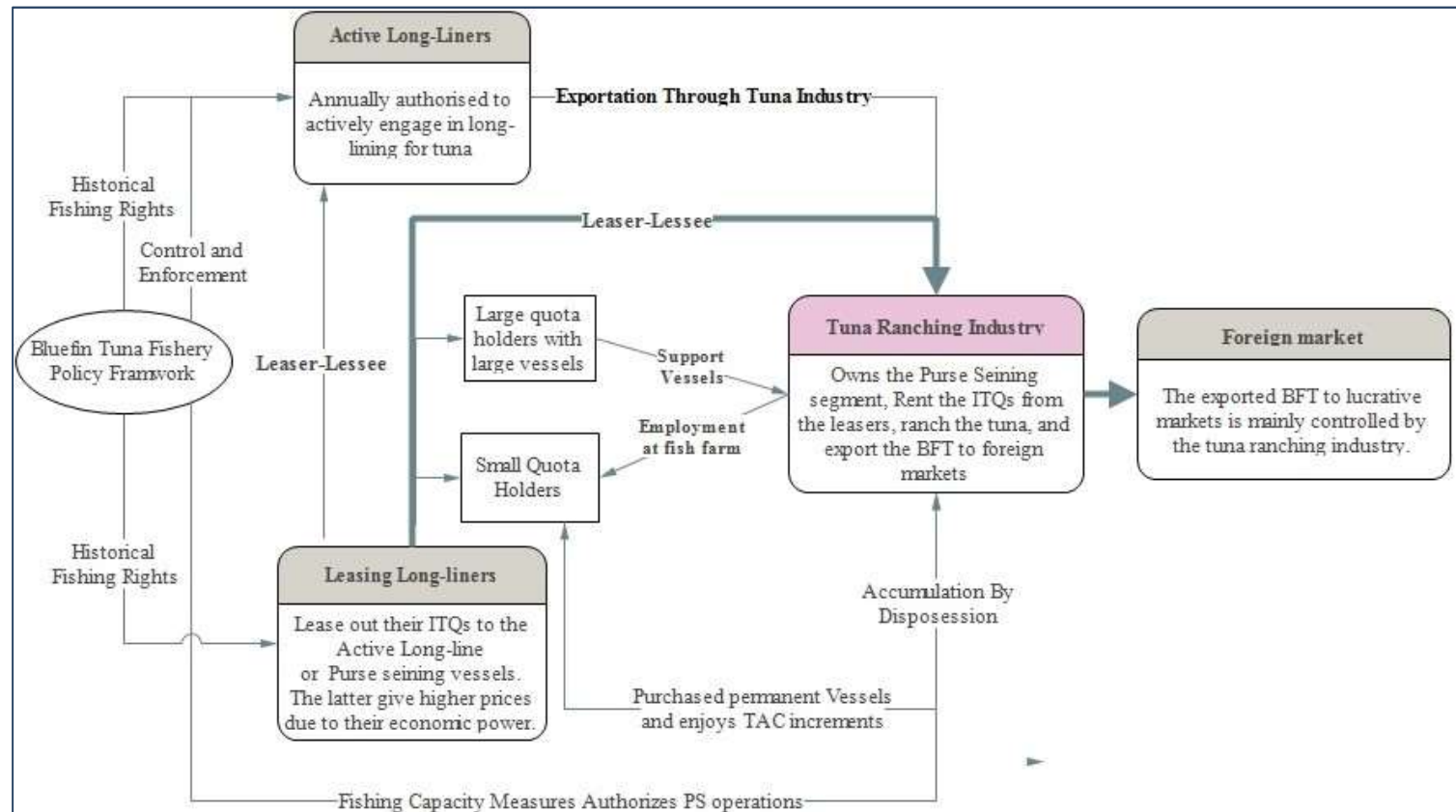
Identifying fisheries problems through a transdisciplinary lens



Identifying fisheries problems through transdisciplinary lens



Implications of 'quotas' as a solution....



Said et al. 2016

Small-ITQ holders forced to lease

SSF are dependent on Tuna ranching corporations

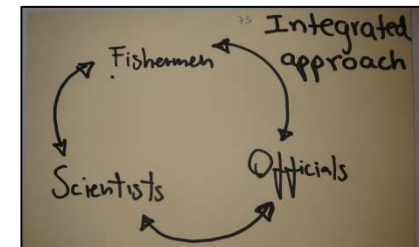
Accumulation by dispossession & reduced income

TAC Increments benefitting Tuna ranching

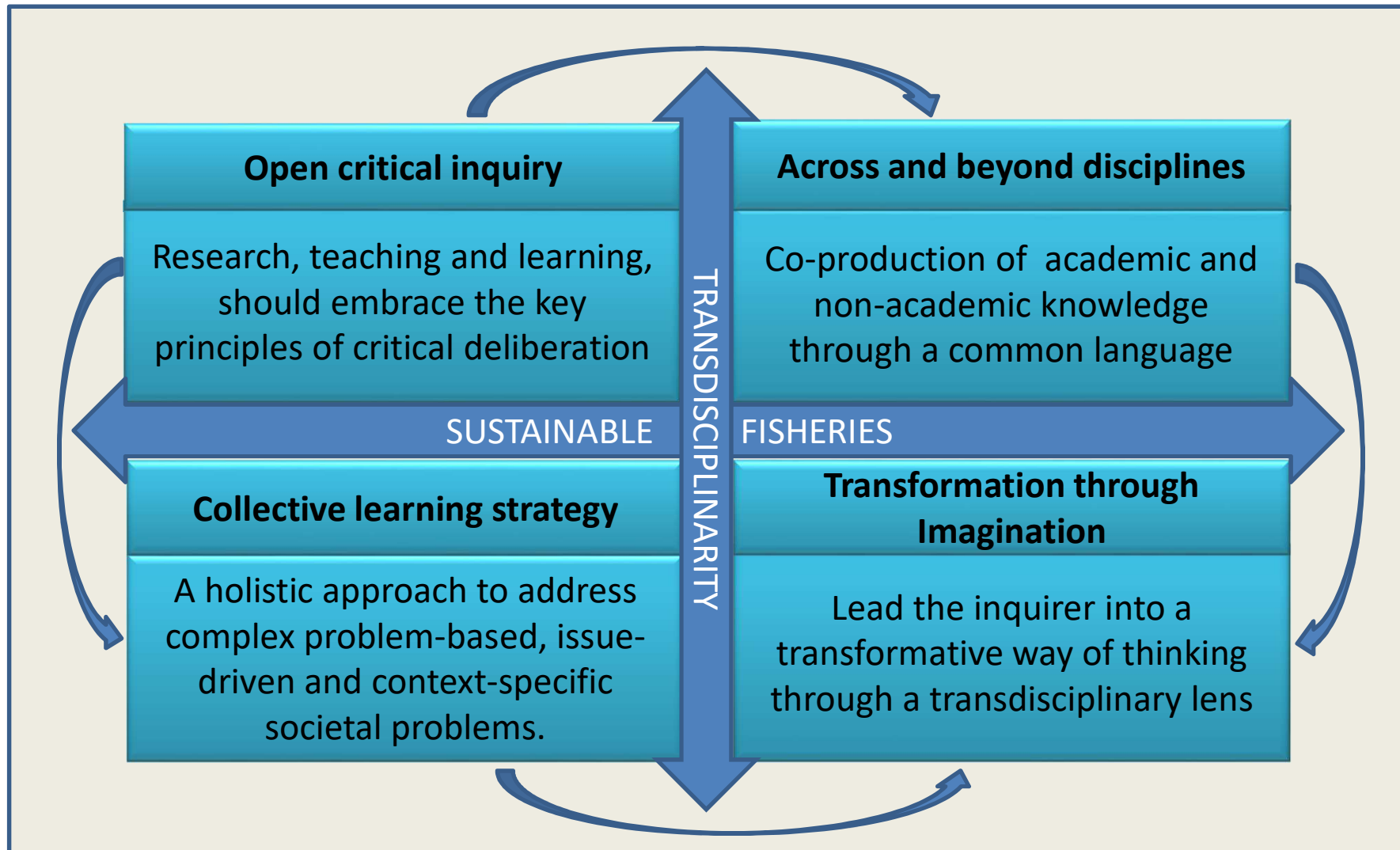
An Integrated approach through a Transdisciplinarity lens

To entice the involvement of actors from outside academia into the research process in order to

- integrate the best available knowledge
- reconcile values and preferences
- create ownership for problems and solution options.



Facilitating knowledge integration



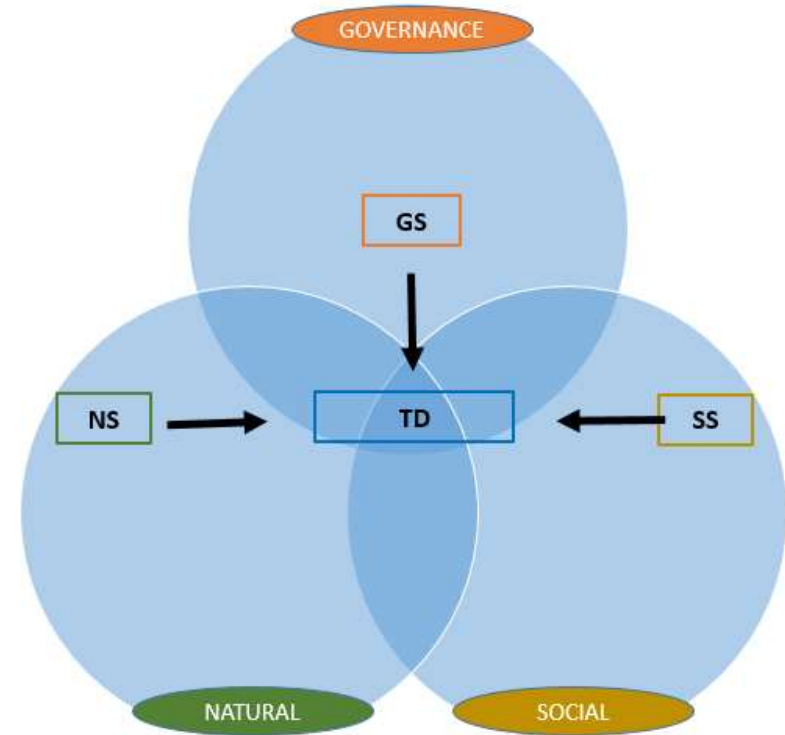
Mapping out Problems and Solutions

The initiation of the transdisciplinary approach can vary but the entry point is usually an event or crisis identified by researchers, local stakeholders, policy-makers, and/or society.



Questions that can be asked:

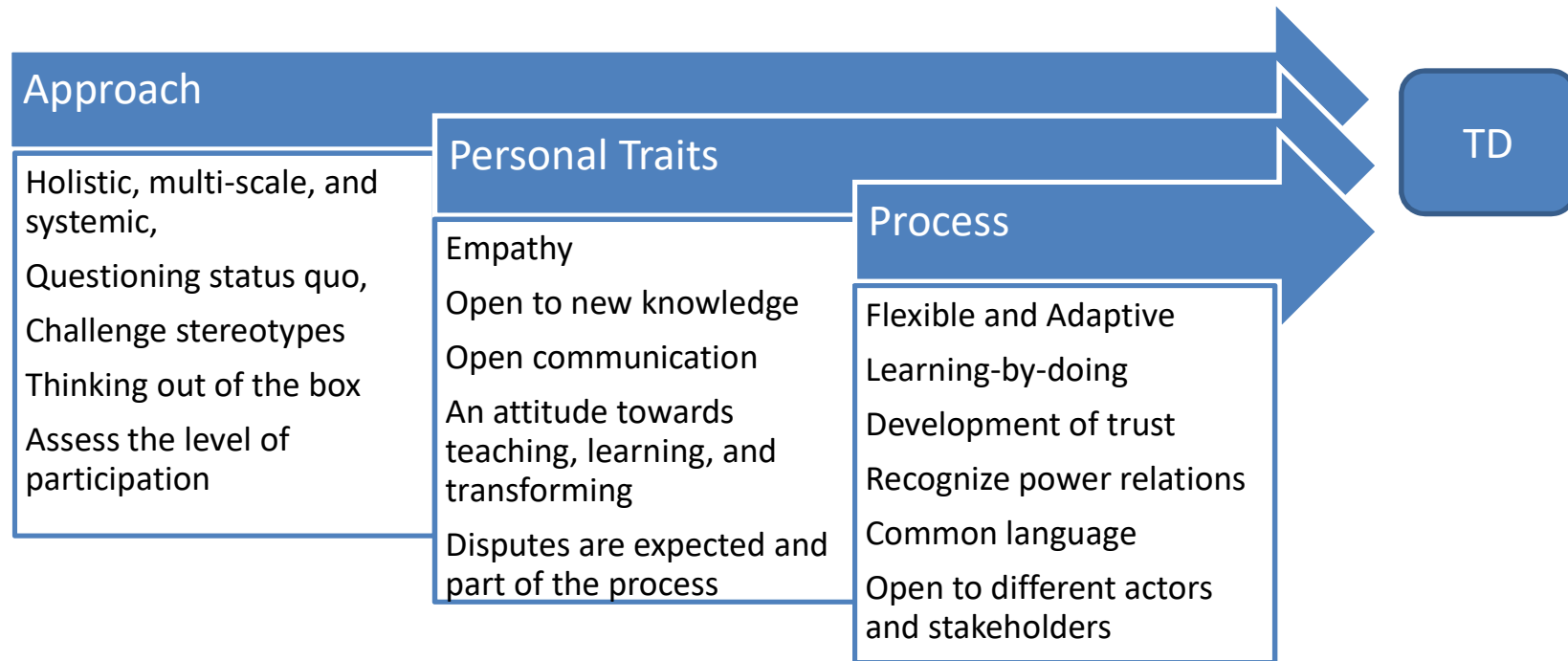
1. 'what happened to the fish stock (NS)
2. 'how are fishing communities dealing with declining catches'(SS)
3. 'what management techniques can resolve overfishing' (GS)



Said et al. 2018

Questions start from a single domain and through knowledge sharing and deliberation, the team makes the links and make the question a transdisciplinary one (TD).

Transdisciplinary research: Key Principles



Common Challenges

Trust and Legitimacy Issues in Co-design of Solutions

Lack of Integration Across Knowledge Types

Funding challenges for transdisciplinary research

Transdisciplinarity in Fisheries A Training Course



Transdisciplinarity in Fisheries Training Program

Day 1

- What makes natural resource governance a wicked problem?
- Theories, concepts and perspectives in natural resource governance
- What makes natural resource sustainability a governability problem?
- The role of a transdisciplinary perspective in addressing wicked problems

Day 2

- Interactive governance for natural resources: theories and practices
- Introduction to the governability assessment framework
- The importance of 'step zero'
- A case study approach

Day 3

- Case study analysis (practical exercise)

Day 4

- Case study presentation and discussion
- Lessons learned and general reflection

TD in Fisheries: A Training Course

This course aims to examine and integrate the different theoretic perspectives often used to approach fisheries sustainability:

- 1) natural science,
- 2) social science, and
- 3) governance



During this course, it is expected that participants will acquire knowledge and practice skills used for ongoing problem solving through collaborative, adaptive, and context-dependent transdisciplinary process.

TD in Fisheries Course: A multiple-audience pedagogy



Fishers and community-level training



Practitioner training and 'training-of-the-trainers'



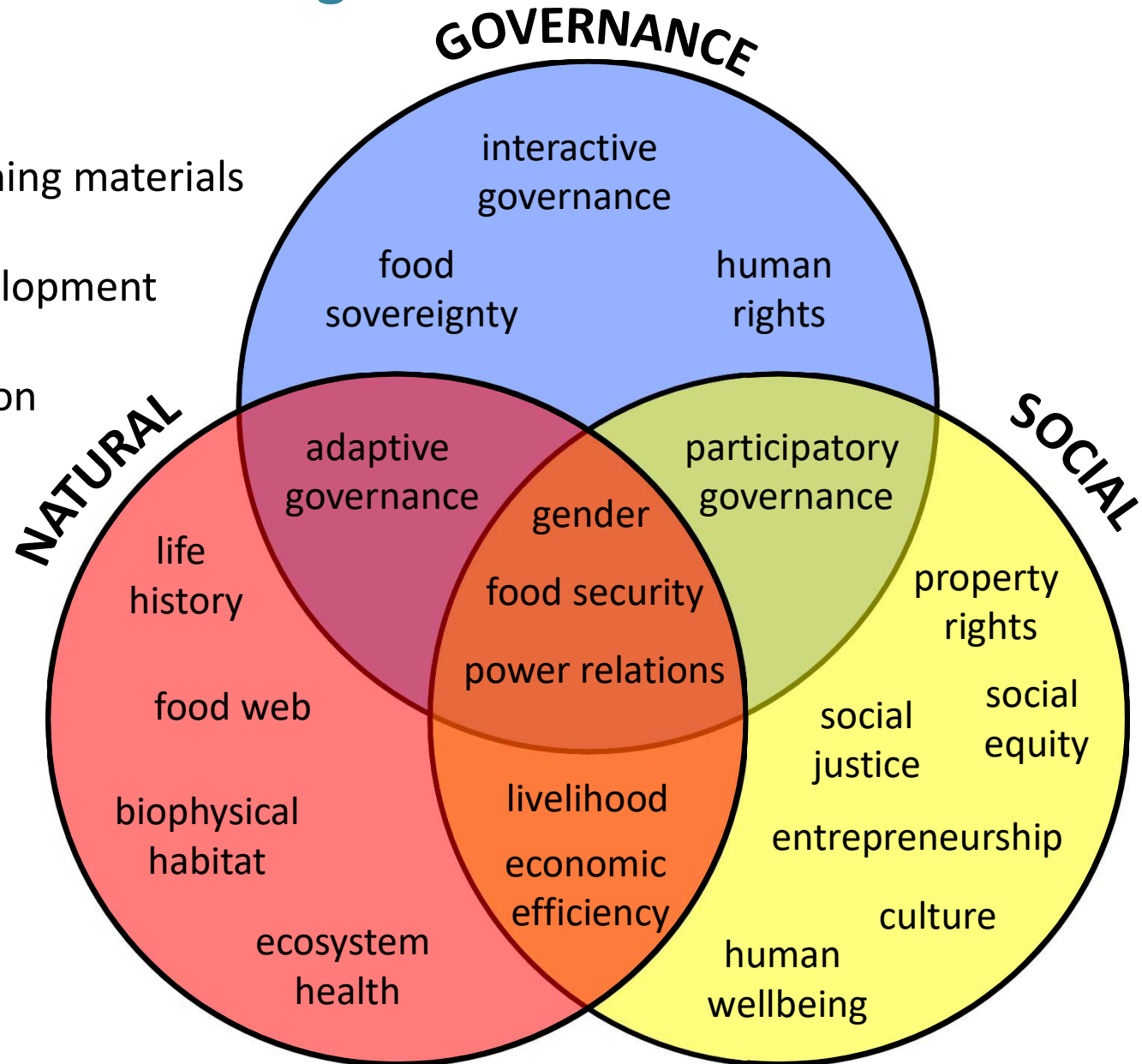
Formal training and 'online learning' platform

TD in Fisheries: A Training Course

TD textbook and training materials

On-site capacity development

Online, open education



TD in Action: Ongoing training courses



Transdisciplinary for Policy and Practices for Natural Resource Sustainability' at Banpu Resort, Trat province, Thailand. The workshop was attended by about 30 participants from diverse backgrounds (Universities, governmental agencies, Fishers. The objective was to explain how transdisciplinary research can systematically identify problems and create possible solutions for natural resource sustainability. <http://toobigtoignore.net/tbti-course-on-transdisciplinary-research-held-in-thailand-august-2017/>

TD in Action: Thailand 2017



At the end of the workshop, participants provided many positive feedbacks saying how the knowledge and frameworks learned from the workshop are valuable for their work and have enlighten their vision about the natural resource governance and sustainability.

TD in Action: Mexico 2016



During this two-day field trip, the group met with fishermen and fisherwomen to learn about their experiences and find out what they consider as important problems or important research areas.



TD in Action: Vietnam 2016



To allow the participants to better process the concept of a “wicked problem”, they were grouped according to the natural resource they mainly work in. Four thematic groups emerged: **forest, water, fish, and land.**

Each group was asked to identify the main issues, concerns, threats, and problems within each resource and to identify which of these are “wicked” problems and which have technical solutions.



WSFC

3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress
Chiang Mai, Thailand | October 22-26, 2018

Transdisciplinarity

Transformation

The Future of Small-Scale Fisheries



Don't miss!

Science symposium
Policy forum
Community roundtables
Storytelling & talk circles
Cultural exhibition
Field excursion

SAVE THE DATE!

**October 22-26, 2018
Chiang Mai, Thailand**