ECOFOR
ECOSYSTEMES FORESTIERS

SCIENCE POLICY INTERACTION IN THE FRENCH FORESTRY

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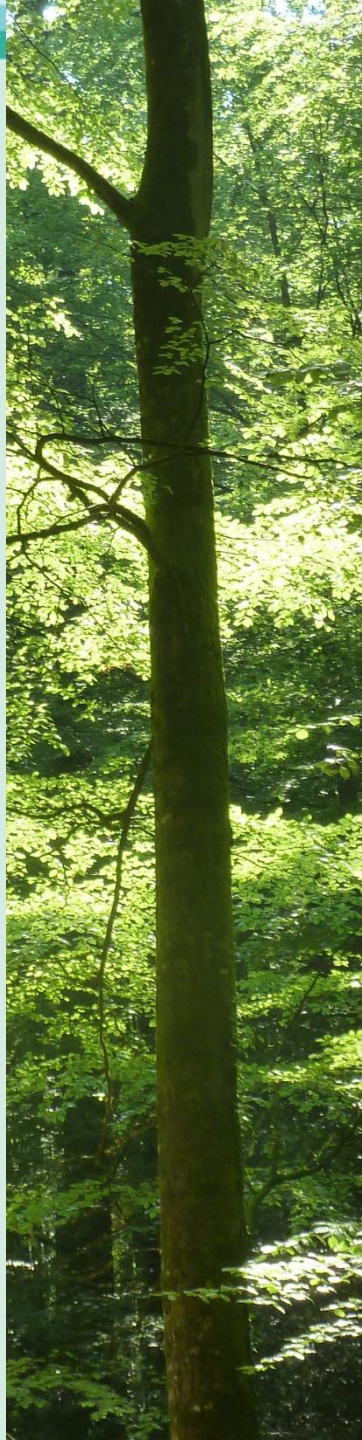
**SNS-EFINORD network meeting and international workshop,
Biri, Norway, May 15-16, 2018**



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1. Forest-relevant policy documents

Scale→ ↓Themes	World	Europe/EU	France	French regions
Biodiversity	UN CBD	EU biodiversity strategy (incl. Natura 2000)	French biodiversity strategy (2013-23) +creation of protected areas (2010-19…)	→ yes
Climate & energy	UNFCCC Paris agreement	EU climate and energy framework	Climate plan : +adaptation plan (2018-28) +low carbon strategy (2018 until 2050) Biomass mobilisation (2018-19-24-29…)	→ yes
Bioeconomy		EU strategy	Bioeconomy strategy (2017 and beyond)	
Forestry	Forest principles	Forest Europe / EU forest strategy	Forest and wood programme (2016-26) +Wood-based sector contract (2014-LT) +Research & innovation plan (2016-25)	→ yes
Research		Framework programmes	Research strategy (2015-2020)	

2. SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACES

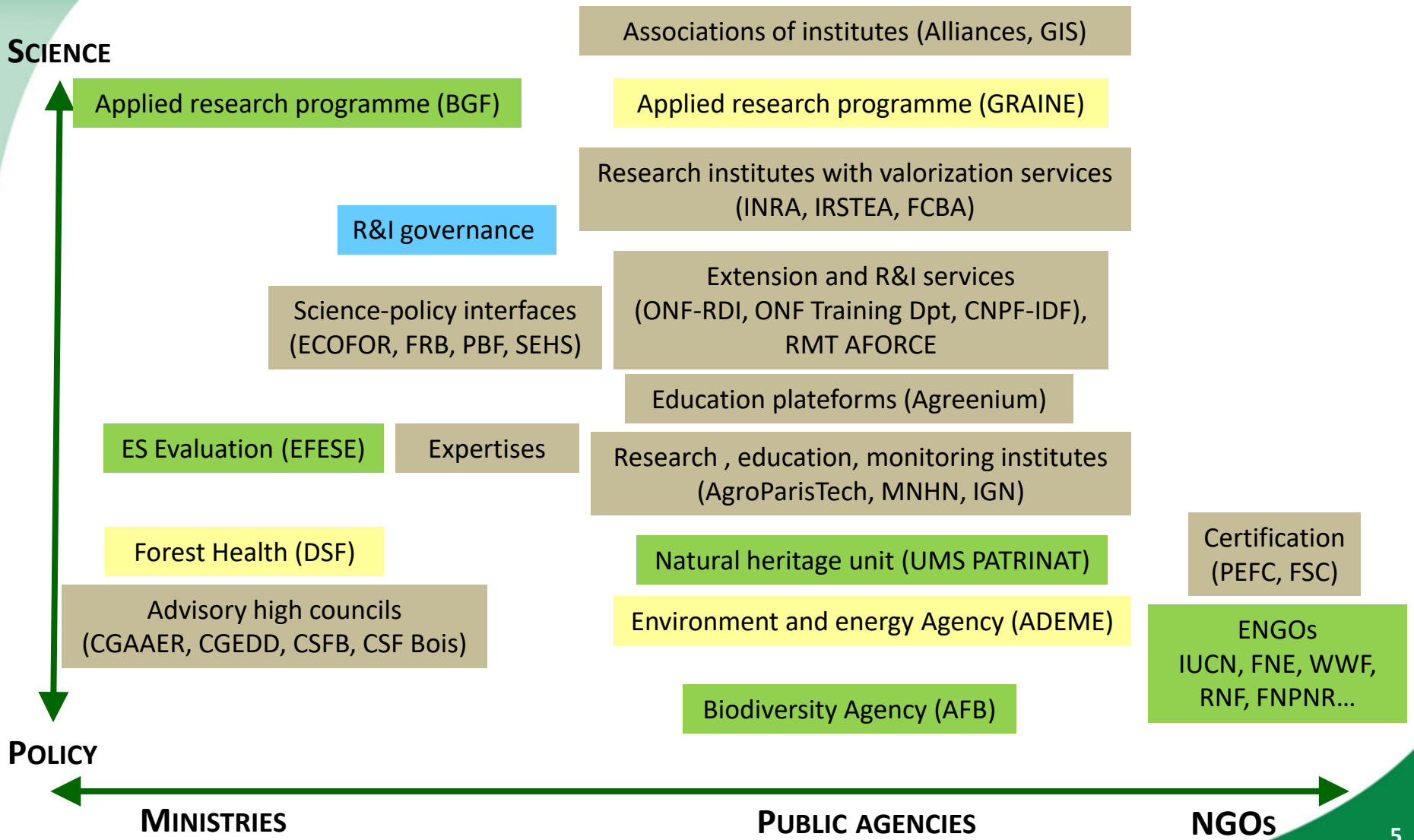
On a status point of view, science-policy interfaces are:

- ministerial services
- public agencies
- non governemental organisations (NGOs)
- or intermediate organisations

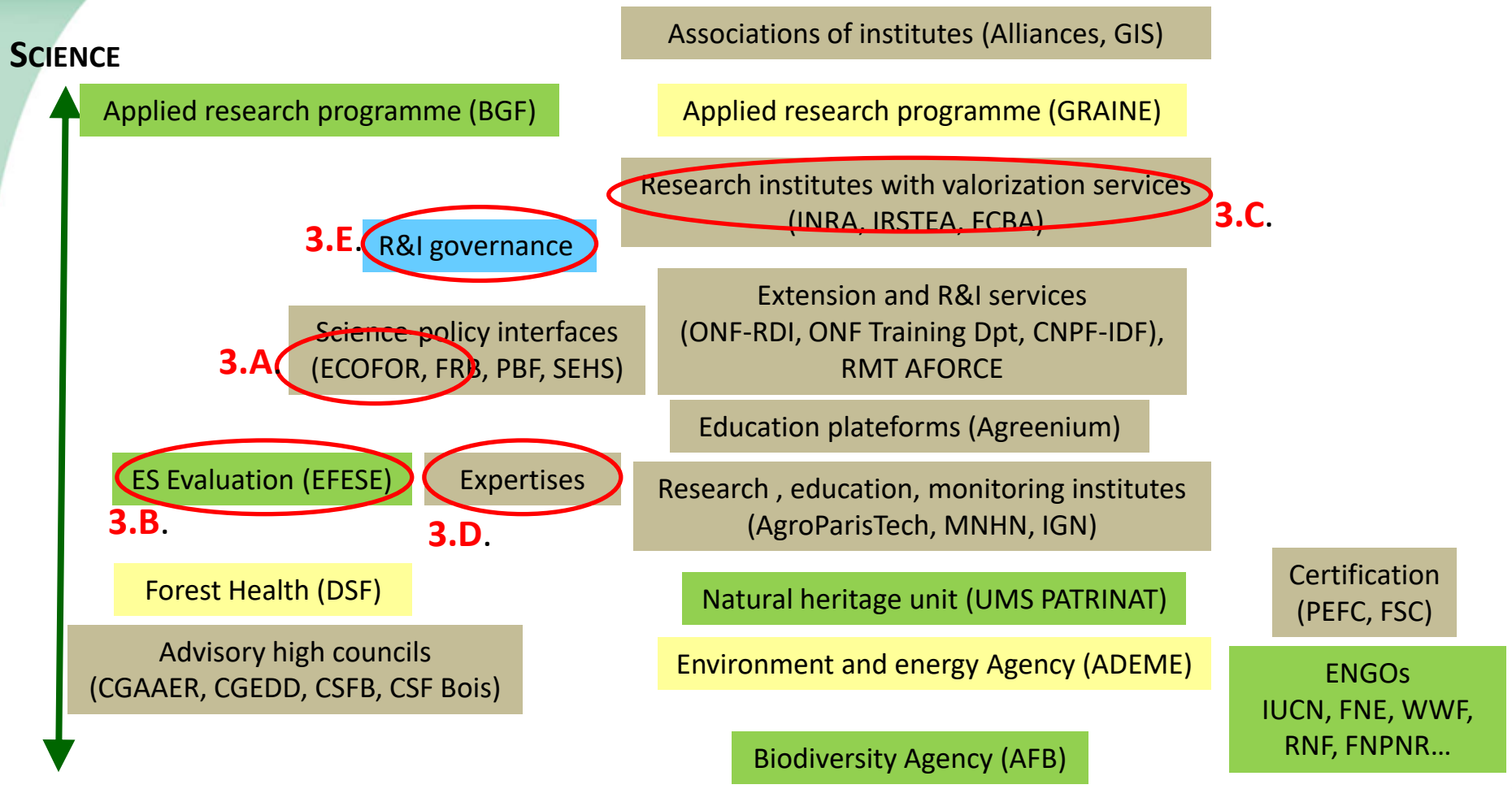
They can be close to :

- science when they aim to ask good questions to research
- policy when they aim to provide messages to policy processes
- a science-policy balance when they include enough policy makers in the first case and scientists in the second.

2. SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACES



3. Examples of Science-policy interfaces



3.A. ECOFOR

- A French public body
- Research coordination and science policy interface between its members: research, monitoring, education, policy, and management organisations
- Tropical & temperate forest ecosystems.

3.A. ECOFOR

- Context :
  - Acid rains and drought
  - Launching of MCPFE process (Forest Europe) in Strasbourg (1990)
  - Need for research networks at national and European levels
- Objectives : knowledge progresses, integration and valorization to meet the challenges in the overlapping fields of biodiversity, resilience and bioeconomy.
- Actors : members and stakeholders
- Funding : members (0,8 M€/y) and other resources (0.5 M€/y)
- Impacts :
  - Many events organised by ECOFOR or jointly with its members
  - Ecofor is involved in most forest-related processes both on science and policy sides
- Interface type : BRIDGE

3.B. Ecosystems and ecosystem services (EFESE)

- Context :
  - Millenium ecosystem assessment (2005) and CBD
  - Mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services (MAES)
  - EFESE is the French contribution to the EU MAES
  - Forest ecosystem is one ecosystem among 6
- Objectives : better know and publicize the state of forest ecosystems and their multiple values so that they are better taken into account in public and private decisions.
- Actors : scientists and stakeholders
- Funding : Ministry of environment (0.2 M€/4 years for forests)
- Impacts :
  - Interim report
  - Ongoing final reports
  - Agreed and graded key messages.

3.B. Ecosystems and ecosystem services (EFESE)

- Some key features
  - a state-transitions model as support for the exercise
  - variation in service levels by forest state
- And some debate subjects
  - The sylvo-cynegetic balance
  - State and evolution of forest biodiversity
  - The felling rate in the forest and the possibility to increase it
  - Integrating substitution effects into the global climate regulation
  - The existence or not of a service of regulation of the quality of the water by the forests via a “land-use" effect.
- Interface type : FACILITATOR

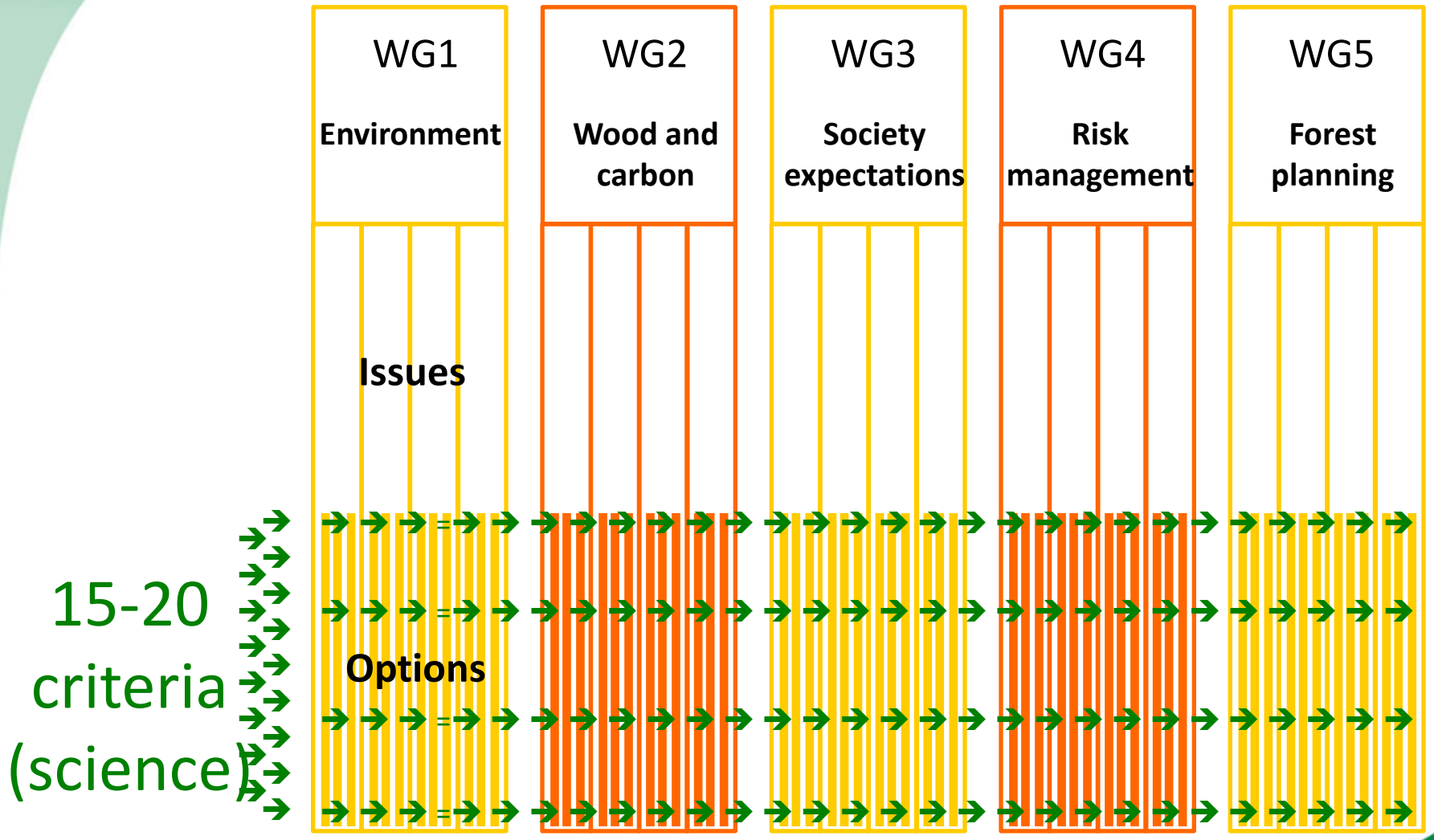
3.C. Levers for climate mitigation

- Context :
  - Low carbon strategy
  - Debates on mitigation levers : in-situ carbon sequestration, material substitution, energy substitution
- Objectives : carbon balance benchmarking of different options up to 2050
- Actors : scientists and stakeholders
- Funding : Ministry of agriculture
- Impacts :
  - Few differences in carbon balance of the different options (decrease, maintain of increase the felling rate)
  - Remaining discussions, limit of models and of the scope
- Interface type : FACILITATOR

3.D. Landes de Gascogne's future

- Context
  - the largest planted forest in Europe (maritime pine)
  - two windstorms (1999, 2009) divided by 2 the growing stock
  - Crisis period
- Objectives : Design the forest future (1 year panel study)
- Actors : 120 scientists and stakeholders
- Funding : Ministries of environment and agriculture
- Impacts :
  - Diversification (all options are useful to solve such problems)
  - Less confusing suggestions
  - Some features forgotten with time
- Interface type : CREATION

3.D. LANDES DE GASCOGNE'S FUTURE



3.D. Landes de Gascogne's future

Some additional comments

- Recommendations vs options
- Large and diversified working groups (15-30 people, scientists and stakeholders)
- Two scientists for each criterion
- Each criterion relevant from a given research discipline
- Identification and evaluation of options are dissociated
- A report is available for each working group and each criterion
- Synthesis report in addition
- The method can be implemented without any windstorm !

3.E. Research and innovation plan to 2025

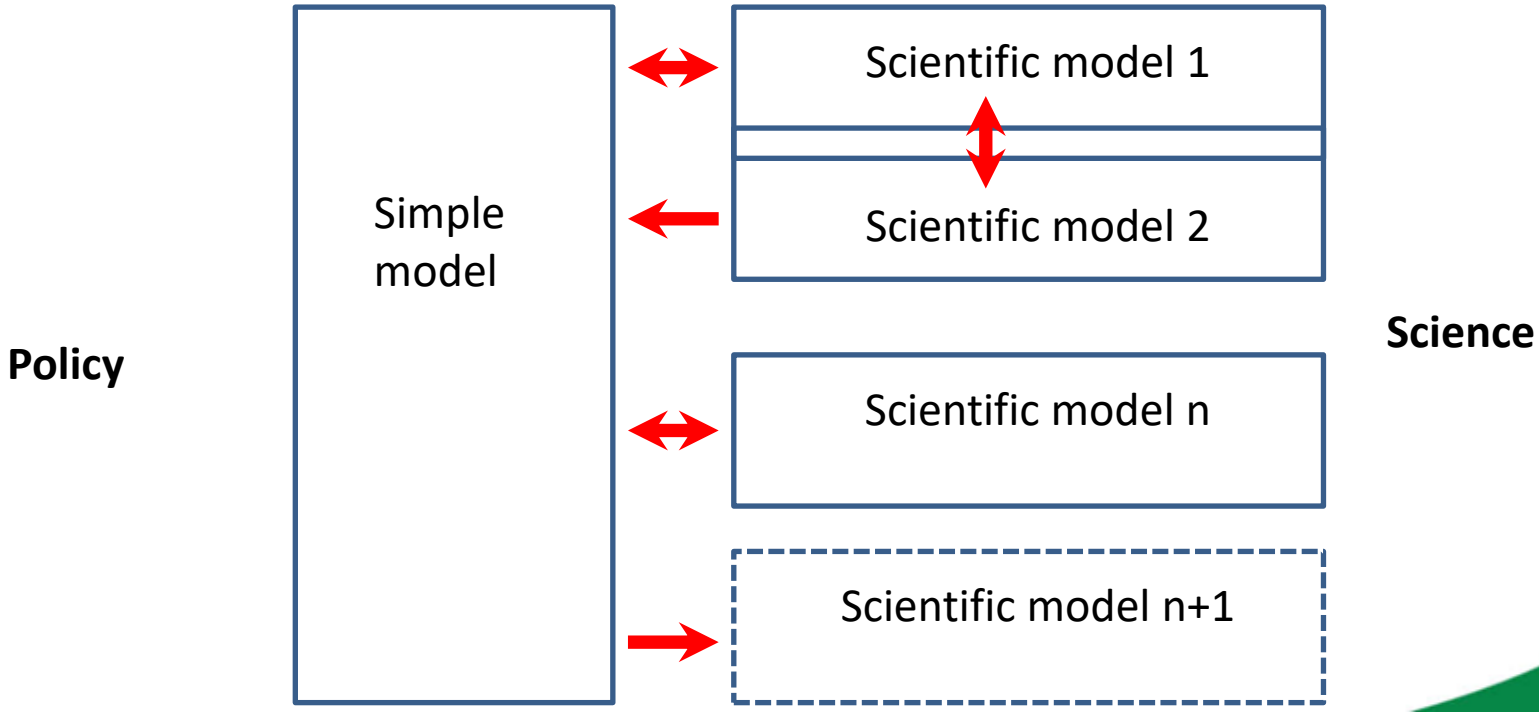
- Context :
  - National forest and wood programme
  - Research and innovation plan for agriculture (excluding forestry)
  - Focus on research and innovation in the forest-based sector
- Objectives : implement and monitor an action plan after identification of major R&I topics for the future
- Actors : scientists, ministries and agencies with the support of three scientific or professional plateforms (Ecofor, Research network on wood, Strategic Council of the forest-based sector)
- Funding : not for the moment
- Impacts : the process is just beginning. Innovation is targeted.
- Interface type : FACILITATOR

4. Challenges and development needs

- Interfaces should be bidirectional
  - the view is still often science ➔interface ➔ policy
  - there is also a need for policy ➔ interface ➔ science
  - a policy question is first connected to scientific questions and existing scientific results help to build an answer
  - usually, knowledge gaps appear that suggest new research studies
  - Expertises use scientific knowledge to give answers to political questions and identify new research questions.
- There are many interfaces but the needs are huge and the means probably not enough in terms of
  - people
  - money
  - methods
  - recognition

4. Challenges and development needs

- A major hiatus between science and policy :
  - Policy issues are wider than scientific issues and often wider than any combination of worked scientific issues : experts needed
  - Scientific models are too complex to be useful for policy makers
  - A simple model could be a good interface in particular cases



4. Challenges and development needs

- The need for such exchanges is high in terms of
  - Links between science and policy (and practice in the same way)
  - Formulation of questions
  - Methods to provide answers
  - Assessment of answers but also of science and policy
  - Communication
  - And globally guidelines, recommendations and advocacy

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

WHAT IS ECOFOR ?

- A French public body
- Research coordination and science policy interface between its members: research, monitoring, education, policy, and management organisations
- Tropical & temperate forest ecosystems.