

A sunset over a dark sea with a small boat on the horizon. The sky is a gradient of yellow and orange, and the sea is dark. A small boat is visible on the horizon line.

From visions to action

The model of Transition management

René Kemp

ICIS, MERIT & DRIFT


Presentation at FORESCENE workshop

Vienna, 23-24 Oct 2006



The Dutch model of **Transition management**

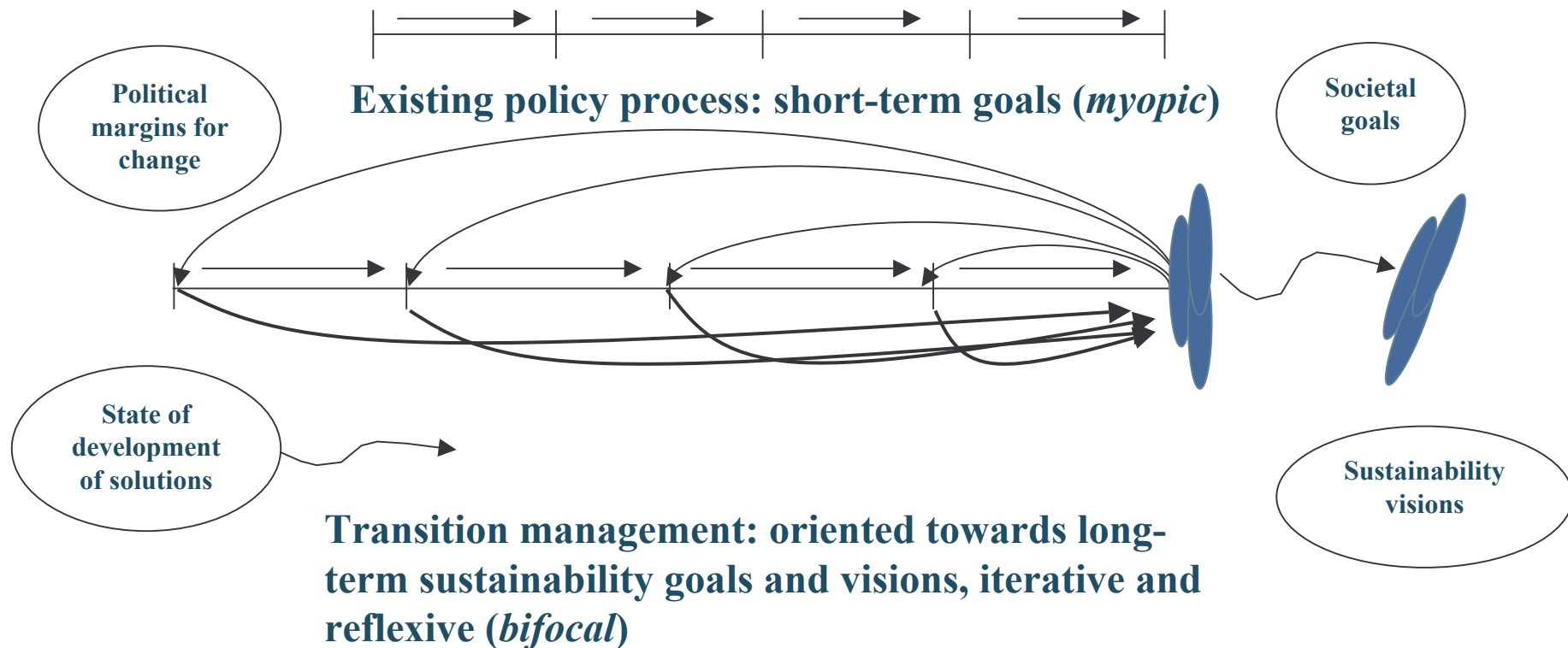
- is a deliberate effort to work towards a transition in a stepwise, adaptive manner, utilising dynamics and visions
- ... in which different visions and routes are explored: system innovation and optimisation

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow in the sky. The water is dark and calm, with a few small, dark structures visible on the horizon line. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

The Dutch model of transition
management as a model of *directed
evolution* (Perspektivischer Inkrementalismus)
with top-down and bottom-up elements

Visions of sustainability are explored
simultaneously through adaptive policies

Transition Management: *bifocal* instead of *myopic*



No definitive choice is made as to sociotechnical systems

- Different **visions** and routes are investigated
- Decisions are made in an interactive and iterative way
- Support is **temporary and adaptive**
- Each option has to proof its worth
- Policy change is just as important as technical change

Top-down elements

- 26 transition paths
- 5 platforms for energy transition
- Government support for experiments (35 million euro)
- Policy renewal

Bottom-up elements

- Business alliances
- Experiments
- Identification of barriers / opportunities informing private action and policy

2050

Biomass 20-40% of primary energy supply

'Vision'

2020

10-15% in power prod. 15-20% in traffic

'Strategic goals'

A. Gasification

B. Pyrolysis

C. Biofuels

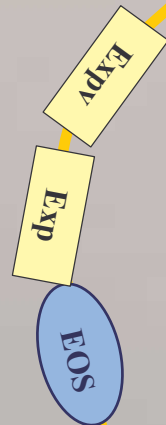
'Transition Paths'

2003

2 à 3 %

Exp : experiments

EOS : R&D



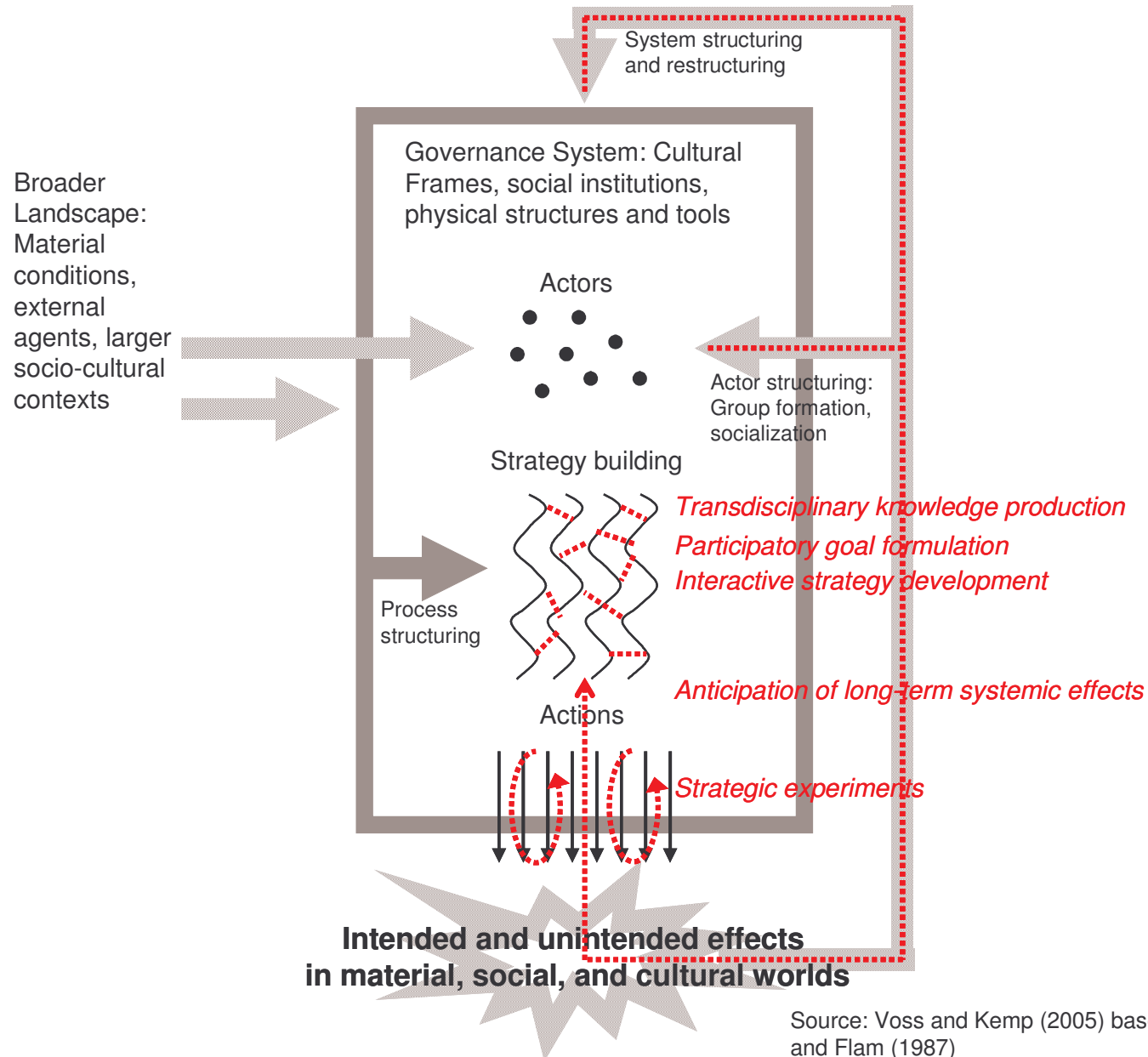
What's new about transition management?

1. **The orientation to transition goals** (*less short-termism*)
2. **The orientation to learning and innovation** (*helps to overcome the preference for quick results, and policy reliance on technical fixes*)
3. **Alignment of different policy domains** (*helps to deal with fragmented policies*)
4. **Programmes for system innovation** based on visions of sustainability
5. **Less domination by vested interests:** opening up of policy process

Reflexivity

- First-order reflexivity
- Second-order reflexivity: accepting that actions have unintended effects with policy and governance responding to problems

Reflexive strategies injecting feedback in actor-rule system dynamics



Source: Voss and Kemp (2005) based on Burns and Flam (1987)