



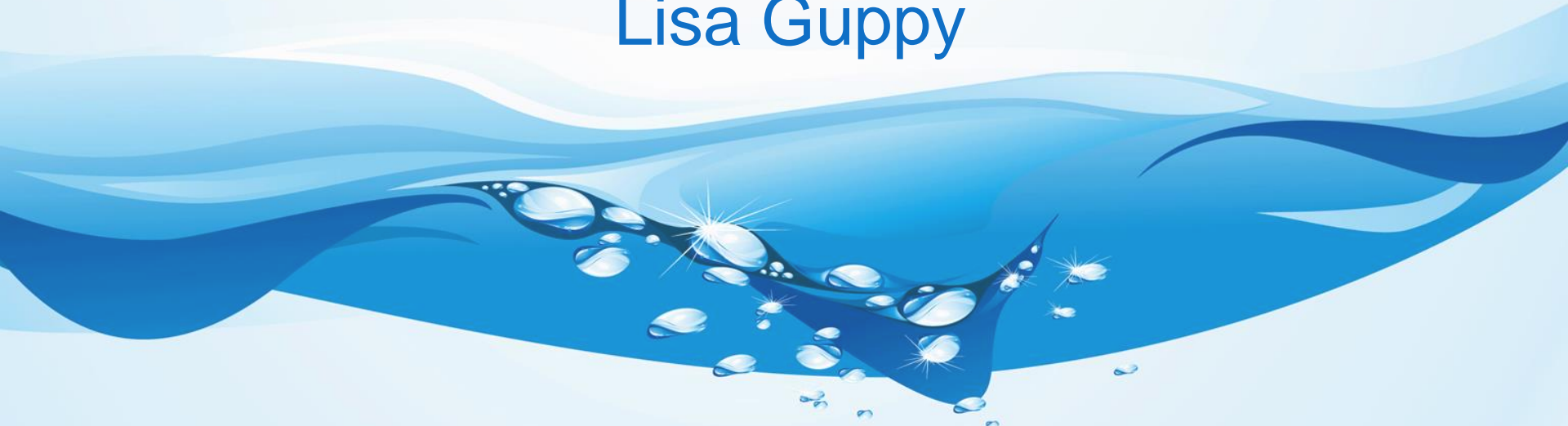
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Evidence-Based Policy and Planning for SDGs

Lisa Guppy



Evidence-based strategies for the achievement of water-related SDGs at the national level

- What is evidence?
- What is evidence-based policy making?
- Strategies to apply EBP: The SDG PSS and how it can help



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What is Evidence?

'Information on which a judgement can be based'

Knowledge Evidence

Rigorously built
and reliable

Fit for purpose

Information

Data



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What is evidence to policy makers?

Published research

Outputs from
economic and

Outcomes from

modelling

Previous
evaluation

It is popular because policy which is based on systematic evidence is seen to produce better outcomes – policy that ‘tackles causes, not symptoms’.

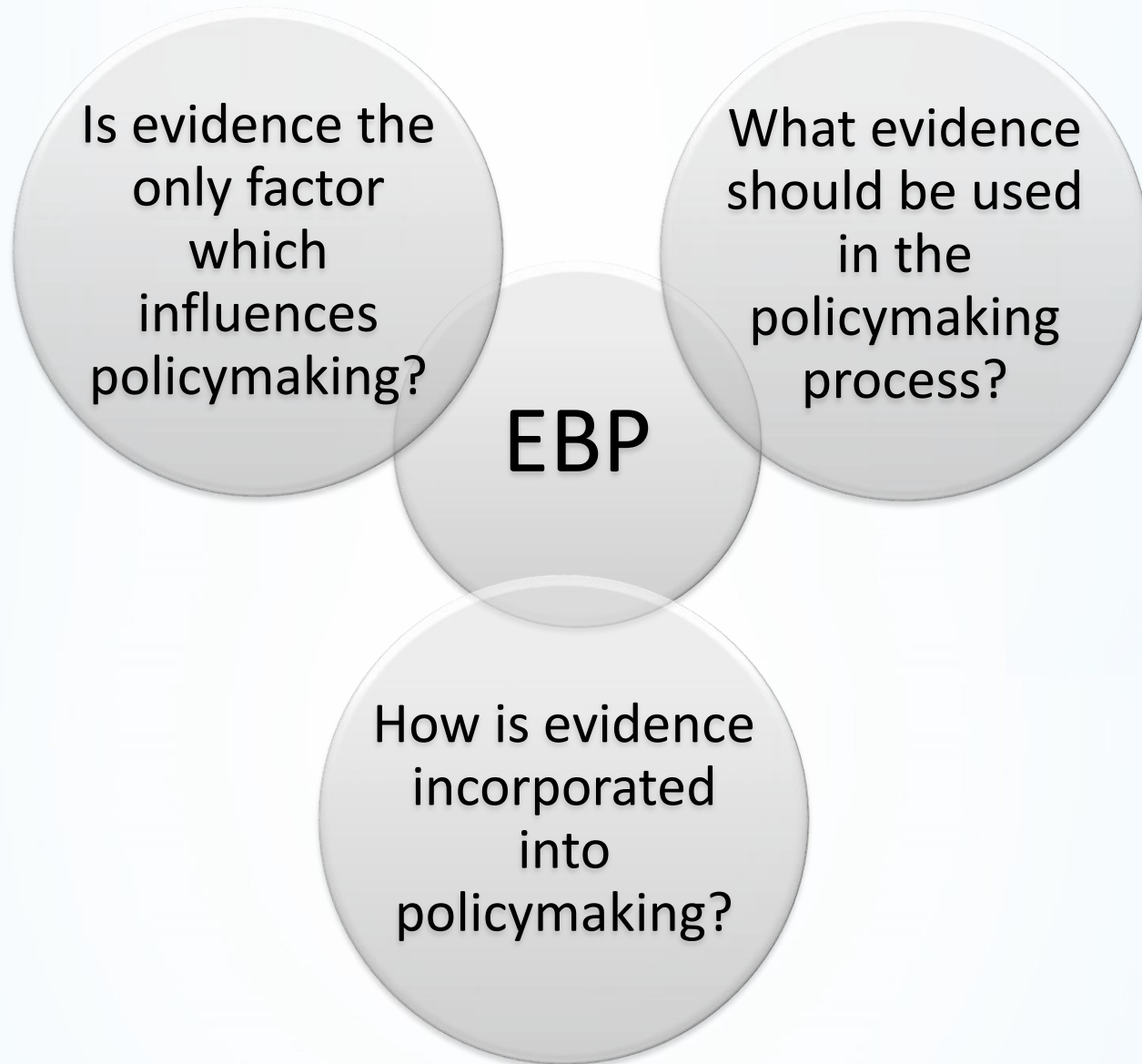
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OPTIONS

the internet

Stakeholder consultations

Evidence-based Policy Making





SDG Policy Support System - 2017

Part of the Water in the World We Want Project

[Calibrate >](#)

[Introduction >](#)

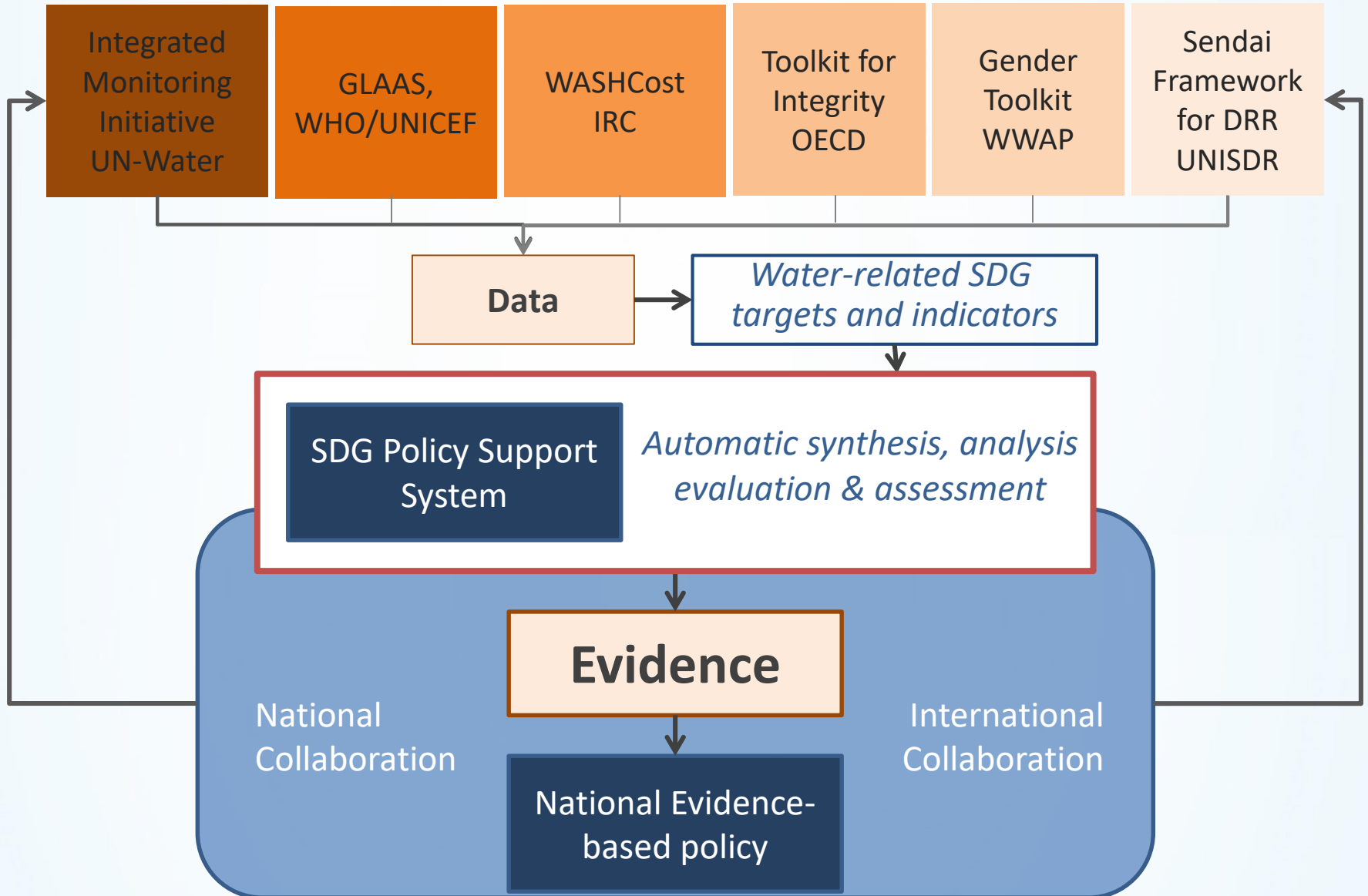
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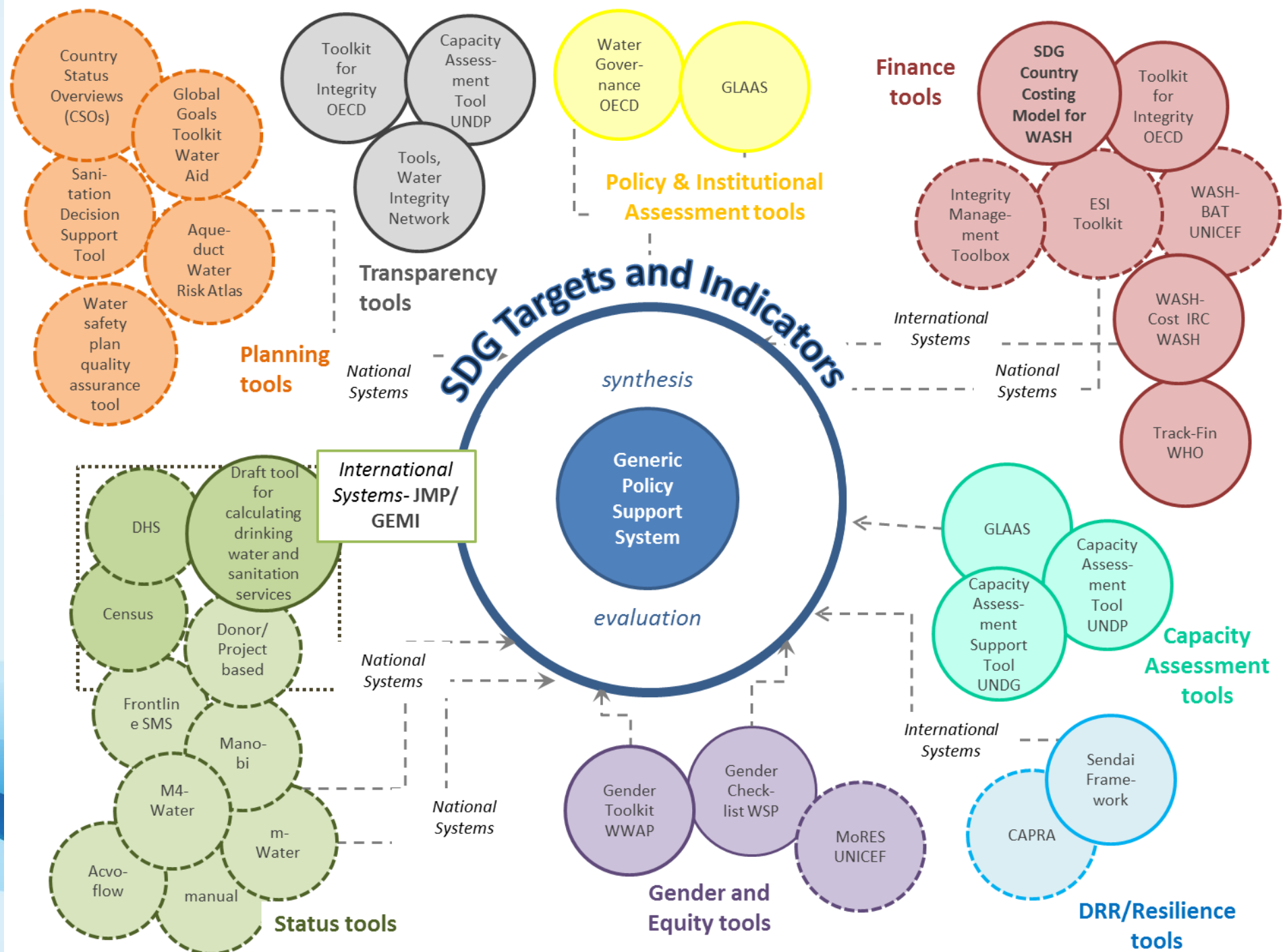
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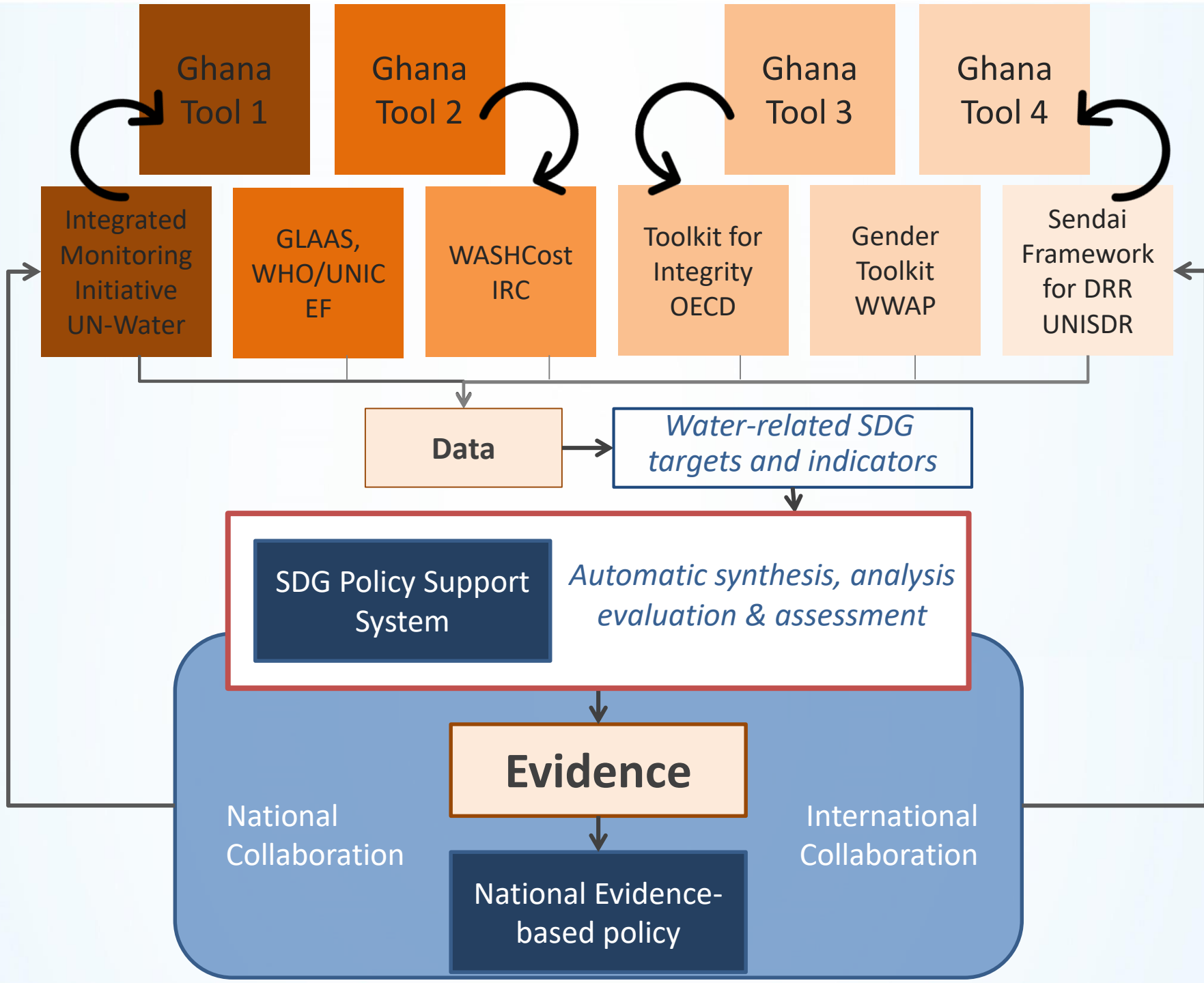
The Policy Support System (PSS) was developed as a part of the Water in the World We Want project, which is managed in partnership by the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), the Korean Environment Corporation (K eco), the Ministry of Environment in Republic of Korea, and United Nations Office for Sustainable Development.

[Administrator >](#)

The SDG Policy Support System



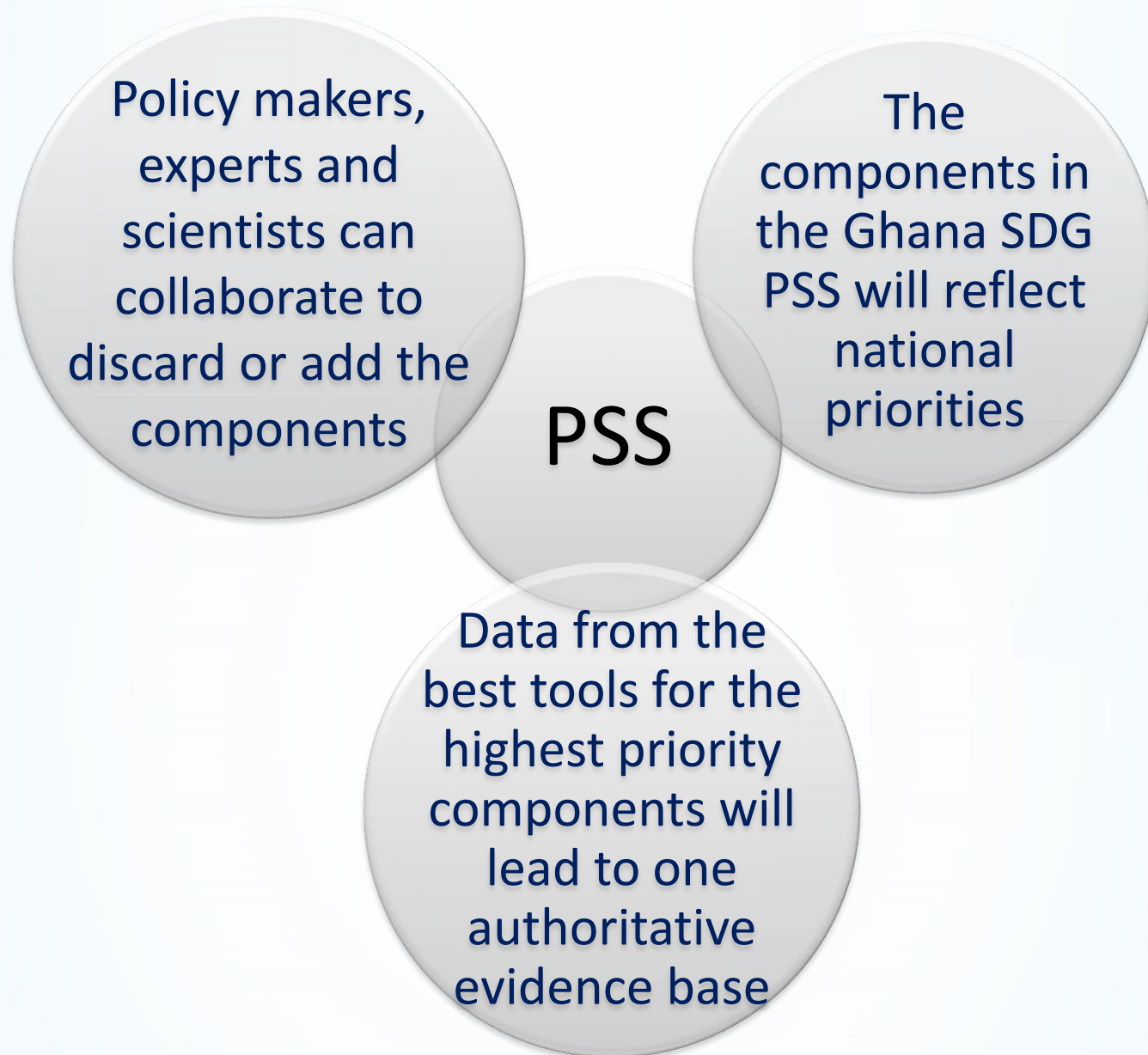




What evidence is used in policy?



What evidence is policy-critical?



Evidence-based Policy Making



What are the challenges in using the SDG PSS?

- Most international tools pre-date the SDGs
- Many international tools are WASH focused
- The PSS aims to be holistic and integrated, but...
- Uncertainty and margins of error



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Questions?



i. What evidence is used in the policy making process?

Policy should be informed by a wide breadth of evidence, not just 'hard' research

Only reliable and rigorously built evidence should be used

- Complex water policy may need many pieces of fit-for-policy evidence from different agencies, disciplines or sectors
- Which pieces of evidence should be used when there is contentious or conflicting data?



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ii. How is evidence incorporated into policy making?

Overall, EBPM may mean the *integration* – at an individual or institutional level – of *experience, judgement and expertise* with the *best available evidence from systematic research*

- Who makes the final decision of which piece of evidence is used? Policy makers? Senior politicians? Or scientists?
- What happens if government policy makers and decision makers choose different evidence to represent the same issue? Or different evidence at different times? Or choose evidence that is not rigorous?



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iii. Evidence is never the only factor which influences policy making

Policy making is neither objective nor neutral; it is an inherently political process.

Practical constraints can limit the influence of evidence – for example, evidence may show the need for significant changes, but a Government lead agency may not have the budget to enact those changes.

- In practice, don't these points influence how evidence is chosen and used? Should they do so?



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iii. Evidence is never the only factor which influences policy making

- Policy making is neither objective nor neutral; it is an inherently political process.
 - Practical constraints can limit the influence of evidence – for example, evidence may show the need for significant changes, but a Government lead agency may not have the budget to enact those changes.
- If all SDG PSS Stakeholders are using the same, agreed evidence base, it could become clearer when evidence has been used and when other priorities have been more prominent in policy-making.
 - The SDG PSS could also show more clearly where evidence gaps are.

