

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

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# *The Dutch model of* **Transition management**

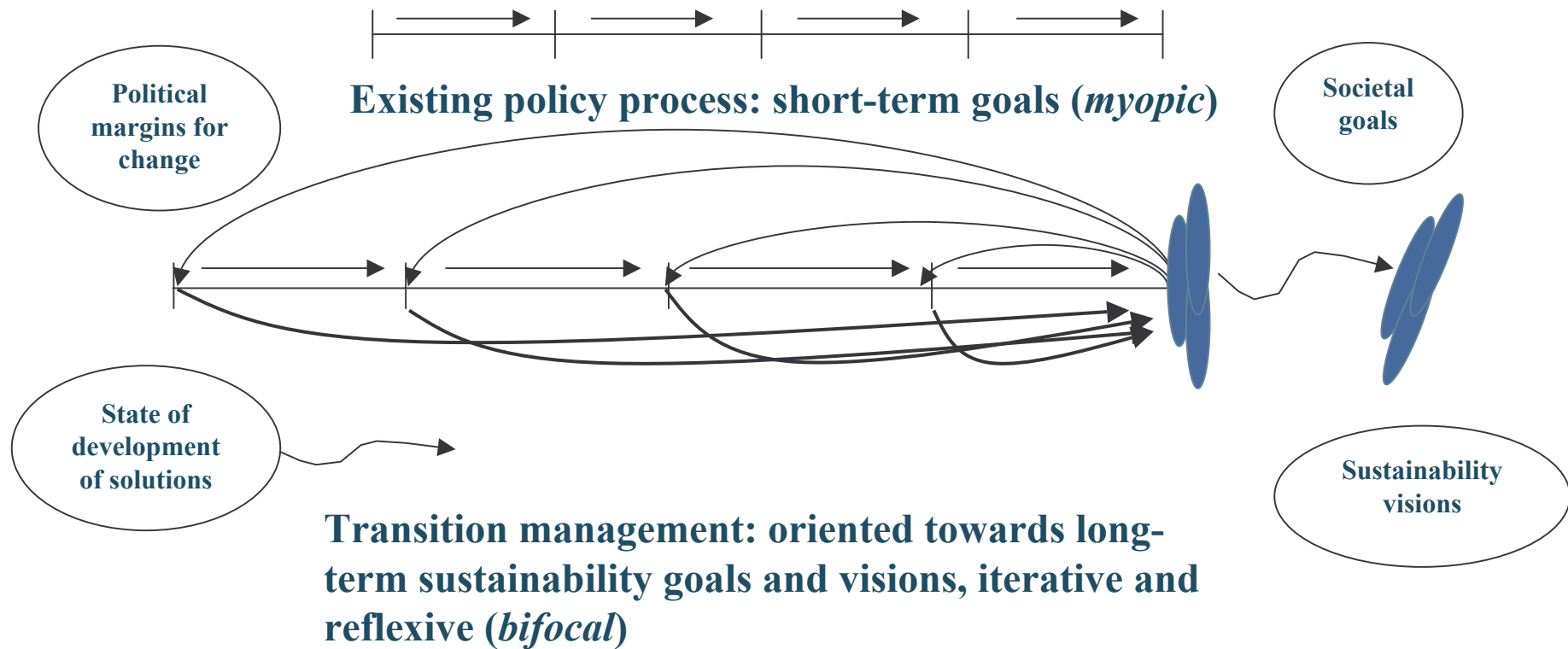
- .... is a deliberate effort to work towards a transition in a stepwise, adaptive manner, utilising dynamics and visions
- ... in which different visions and routes are explored: system innovation and optimisation

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, reflecting the light from the sky. In the distance, a few small, dark structures are visible on the horizon line.

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**

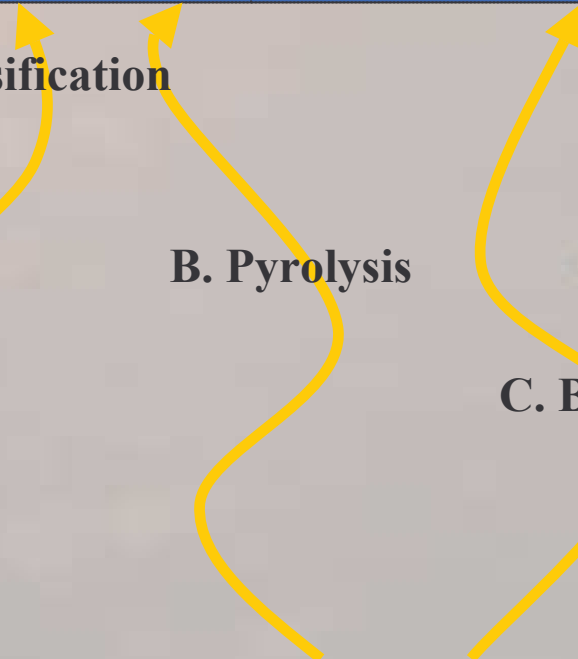
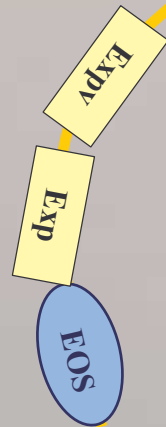
**‘Transition Paths’**

2003

**2 à 3 %**

**Exp** : experiments

**EOS** : R&D



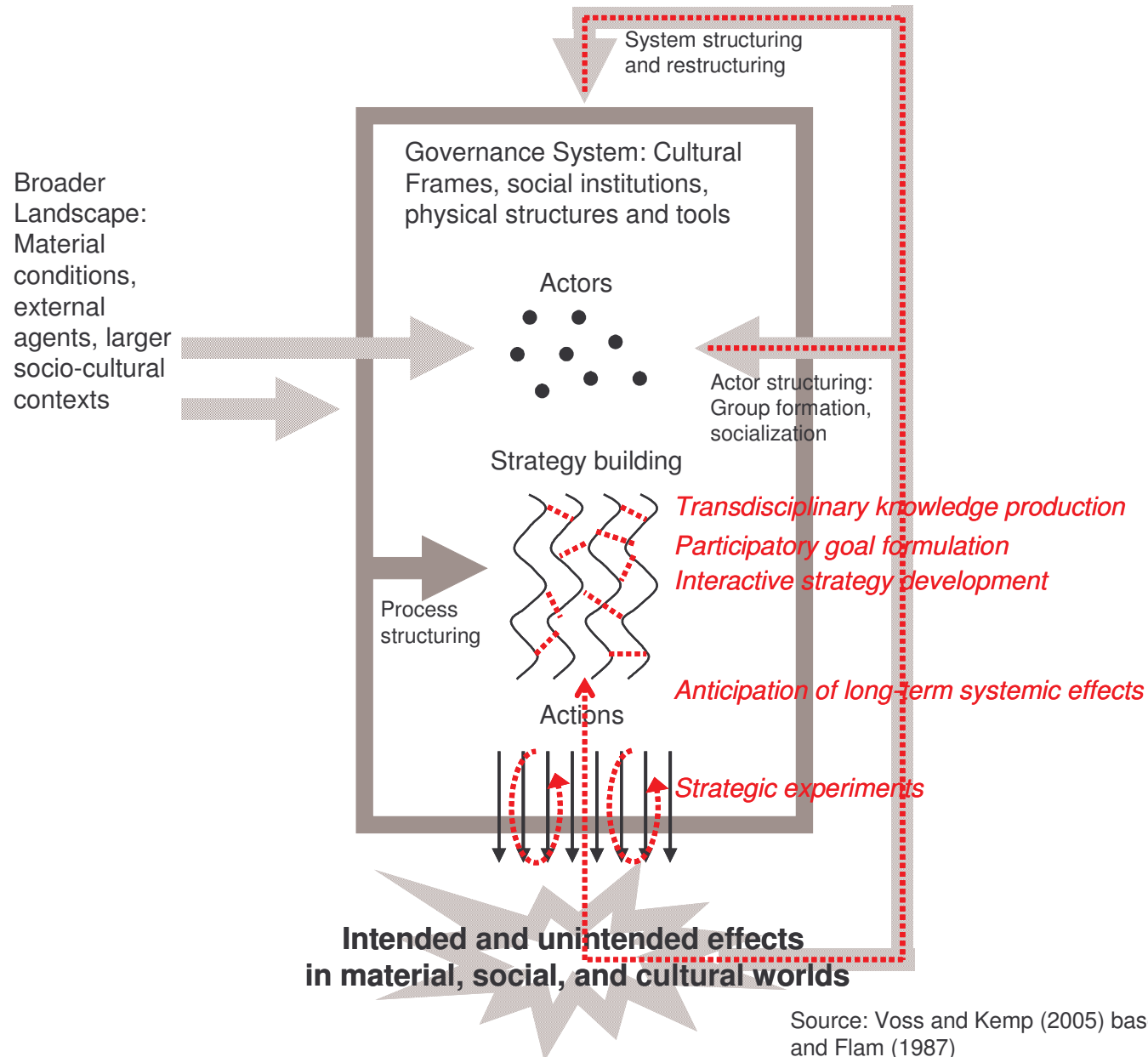
# What's new about transition management?

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)