



Lightning Talk Series

Boundary Spanning Symposium 2018

Negotiating local vs. global needs in ILTER's socio-ecological research agenda

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June 11, 2018



Global research infrastructures



Programme on
Ecosystem Change and Society



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme

futureearth
research for global sustainability



International Long-Term Ecological Research Network



GBIF

Global Biodiversity
Information Facility

ALTER-Net



ILTER to address Grand Challenges

Eutrophication

Climate change

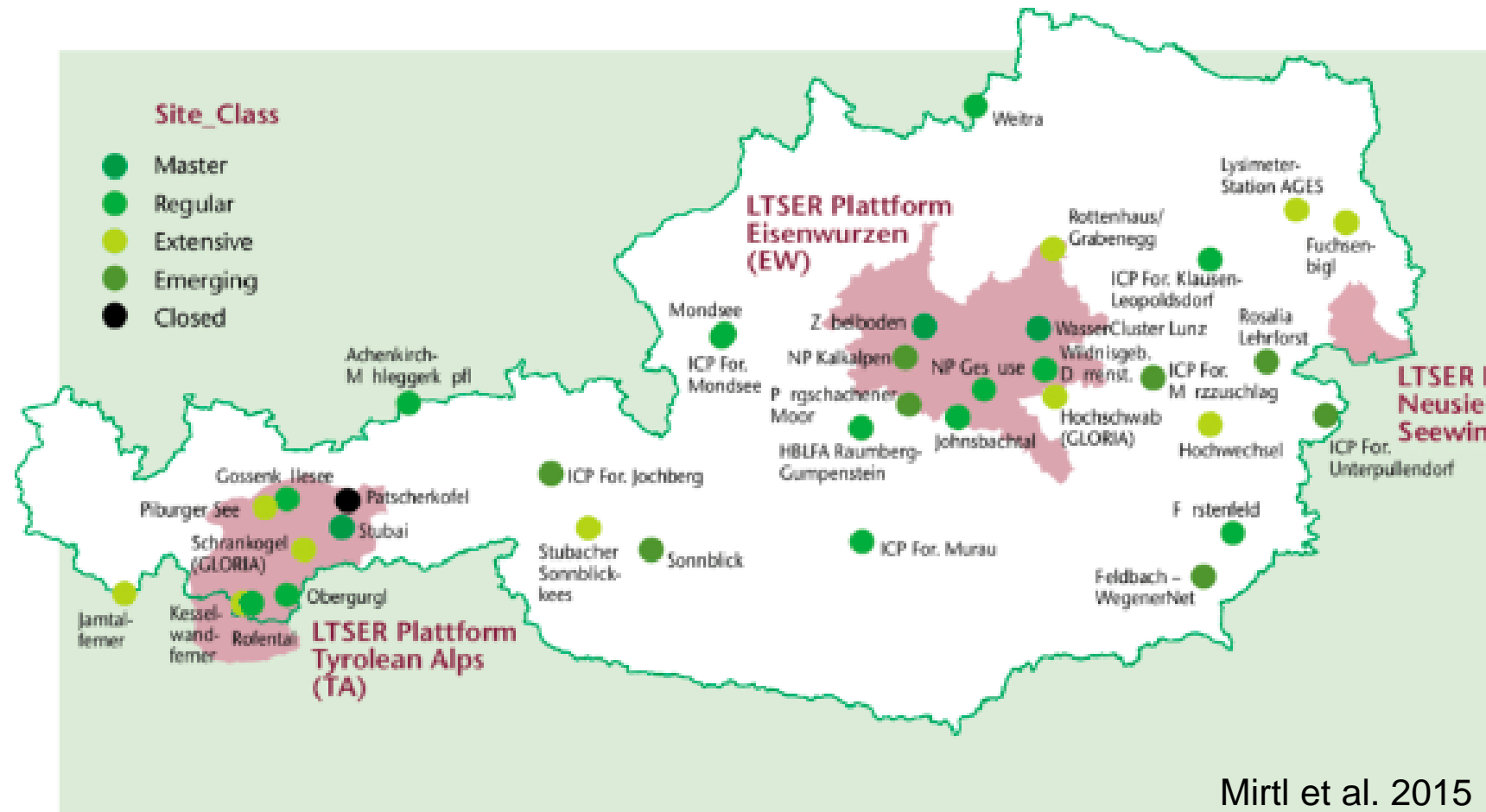


International Long-Term Ecological Research Network

Biodiversity

**Ecological
tipping points**

Resilience



**Long-term • place-based • transdisciplinary
socio-ecological research for decision-making**

ILTER has adopted the socio-ecological systems framework for transdisciplinary, problem-solving science.

But is it working?

We wanted to find out.

Is socio-ecological research making good on its promises?

- Is there added value to this approach?
- Are social questions being integrated into ecological science?
- Is it stakeholder-driven science?
- Is there evidence of impacts?
- What are the challenges?

We asked ...



Danube Delta
Small Island of Braila
Romania



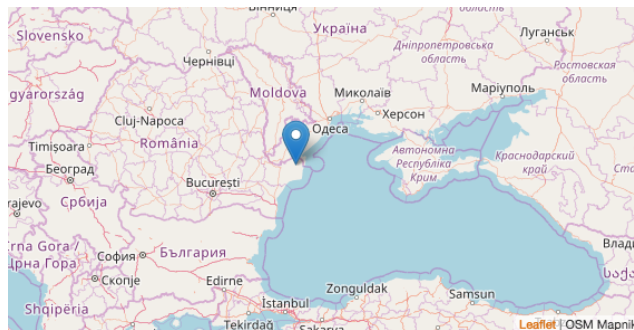
Cairngorms National Park
Scotland, UK



Doñana National Park
Spain



Baltimore Ecosystem Study
Maryland, United States



66 in-depth interviews with stakeholders
In-depth questionnaires from six veteran platform managers

Is there added value to this approach?

- **Hubs for research & monitoring**
- **Global knowledge exchange**
- **Common goals & methods**
- **Advocacy**

Is it stakeholder-driven?

Platforms are driven by researchers
and succeed through cooperation



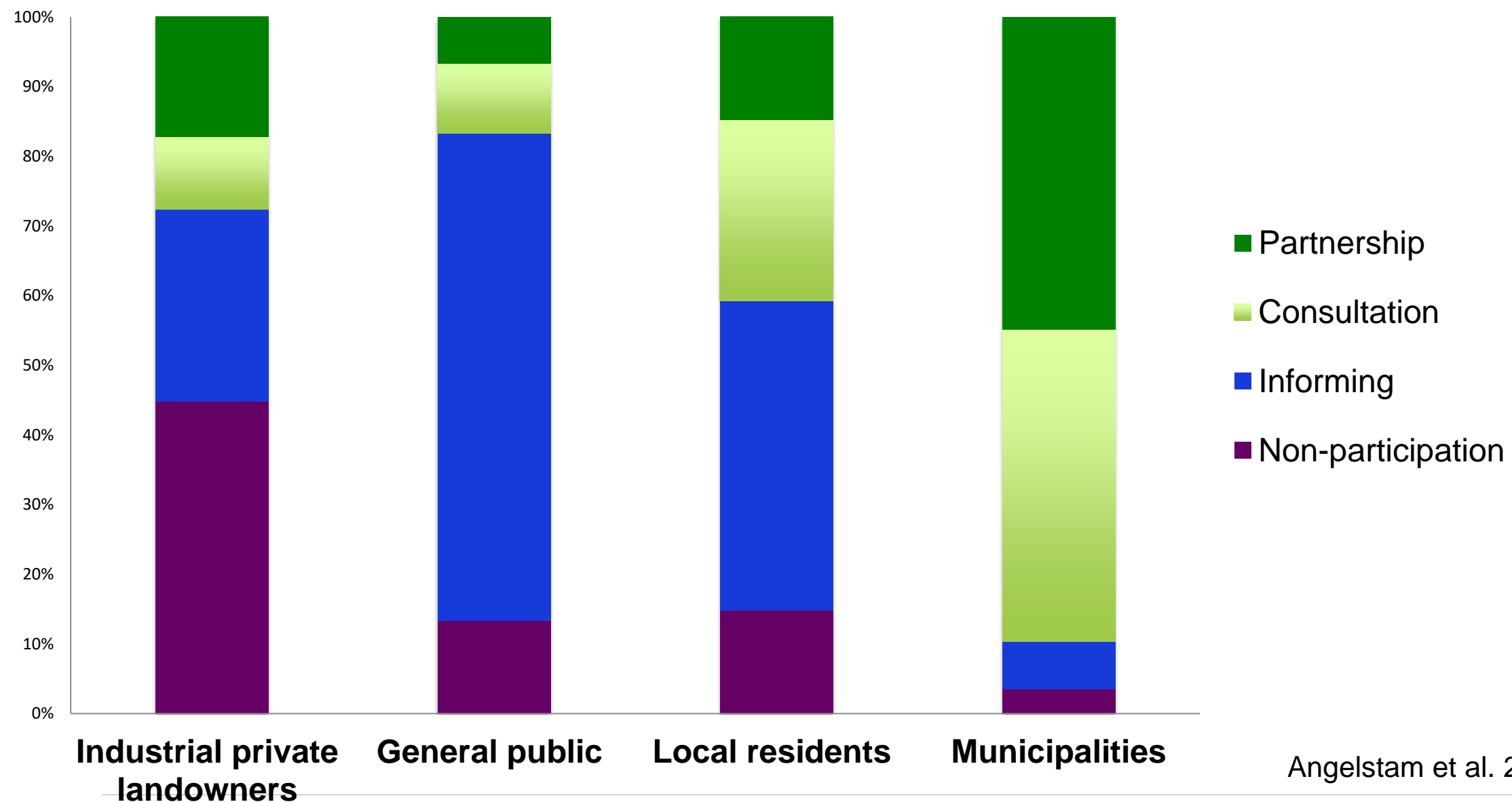
Sustainability champion



**Multi-institution
management**

Is it stakeholder-driven?

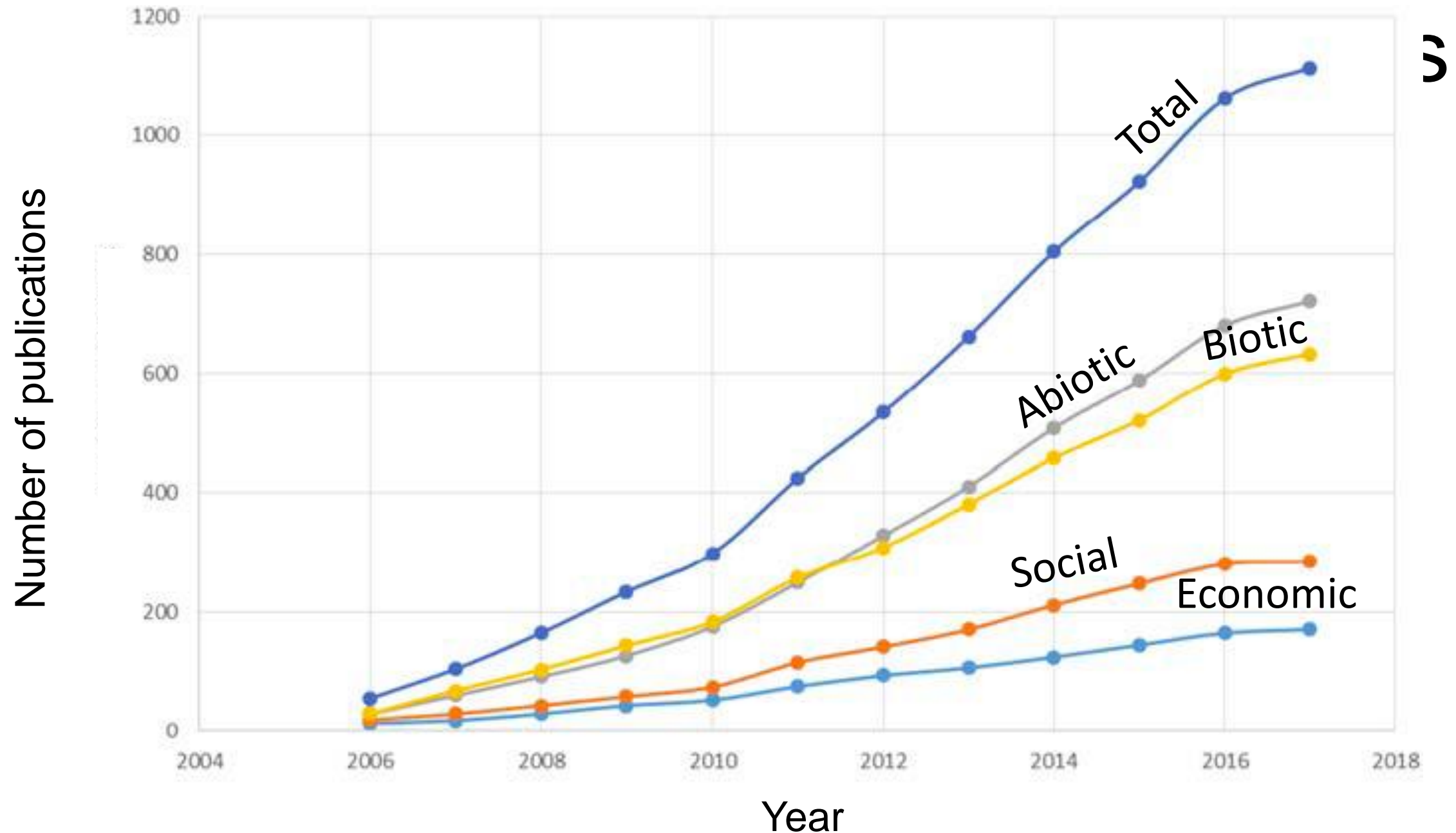
Stakeholder integration processes differ significantly by platform



Angelstam et al. 2018, submitted

Are social questions being integrated?

Integration of social research with



Is there evidence of impacts?

Examples from the field

- Establishment of tree canopy goals
- Management plans
- Creation / expansion of protected areas
- Documented increases in human well-being

What are the challenges?



Black swans



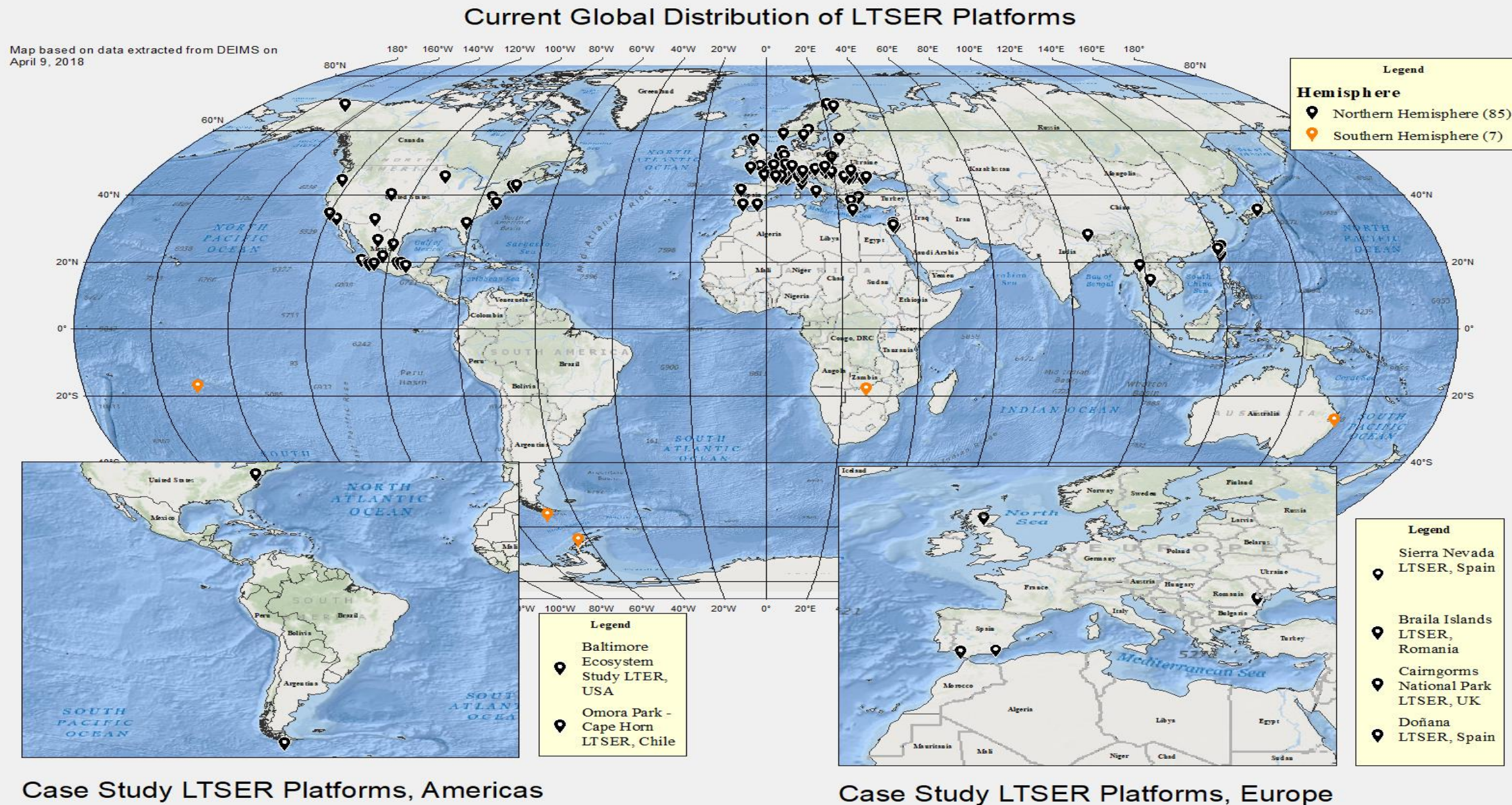
Mismatch in research priorities



Funding for long-term monitoring

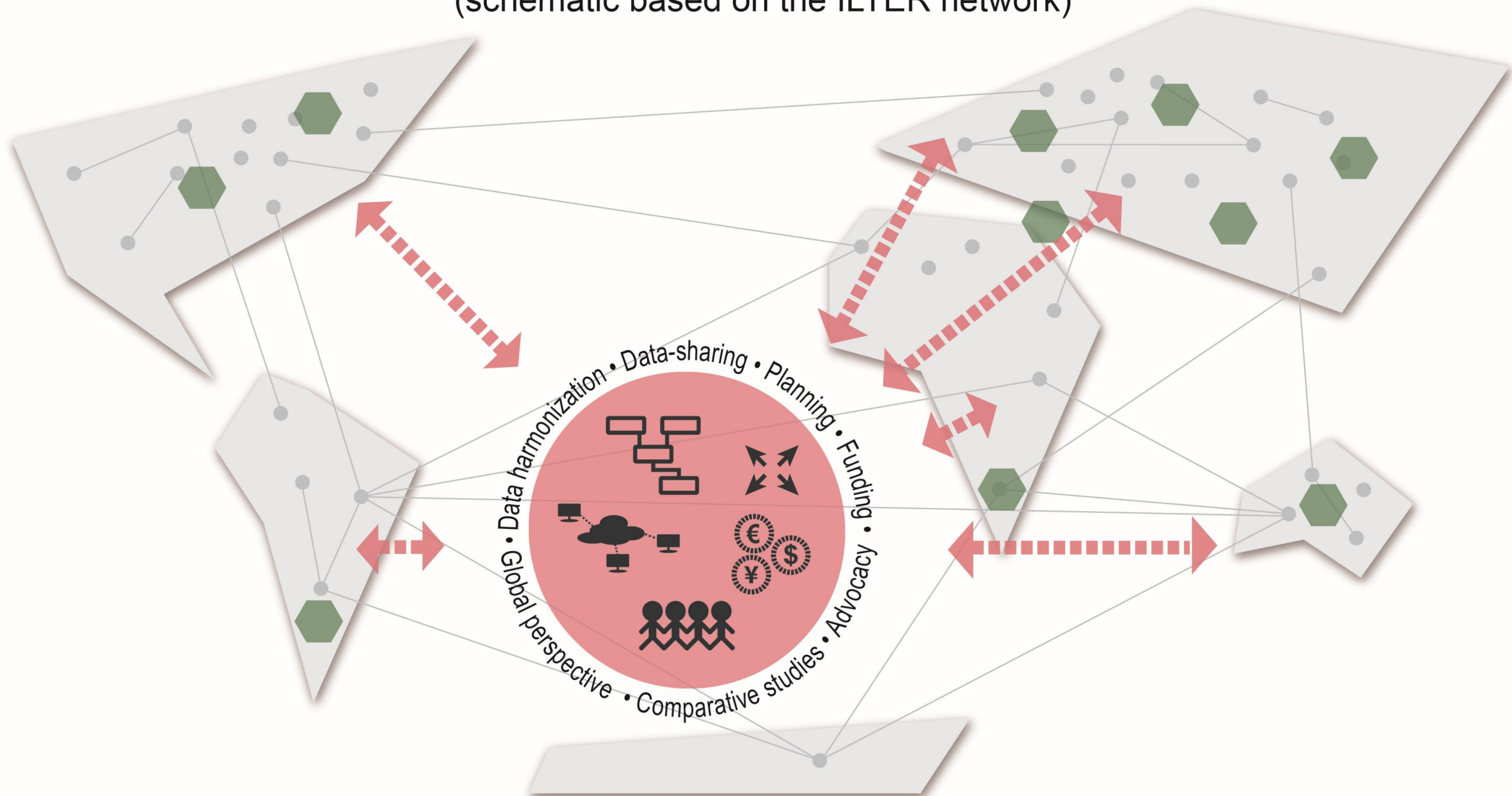
What are the challenges?

Representation is skewed to the North



Global Infrastructure for Socio-Ecological Research

(schematic based on the ILTER network)

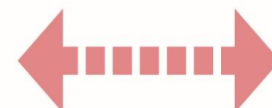


● Local site/platform

■ National-level research infrastructure

● Global RI central body

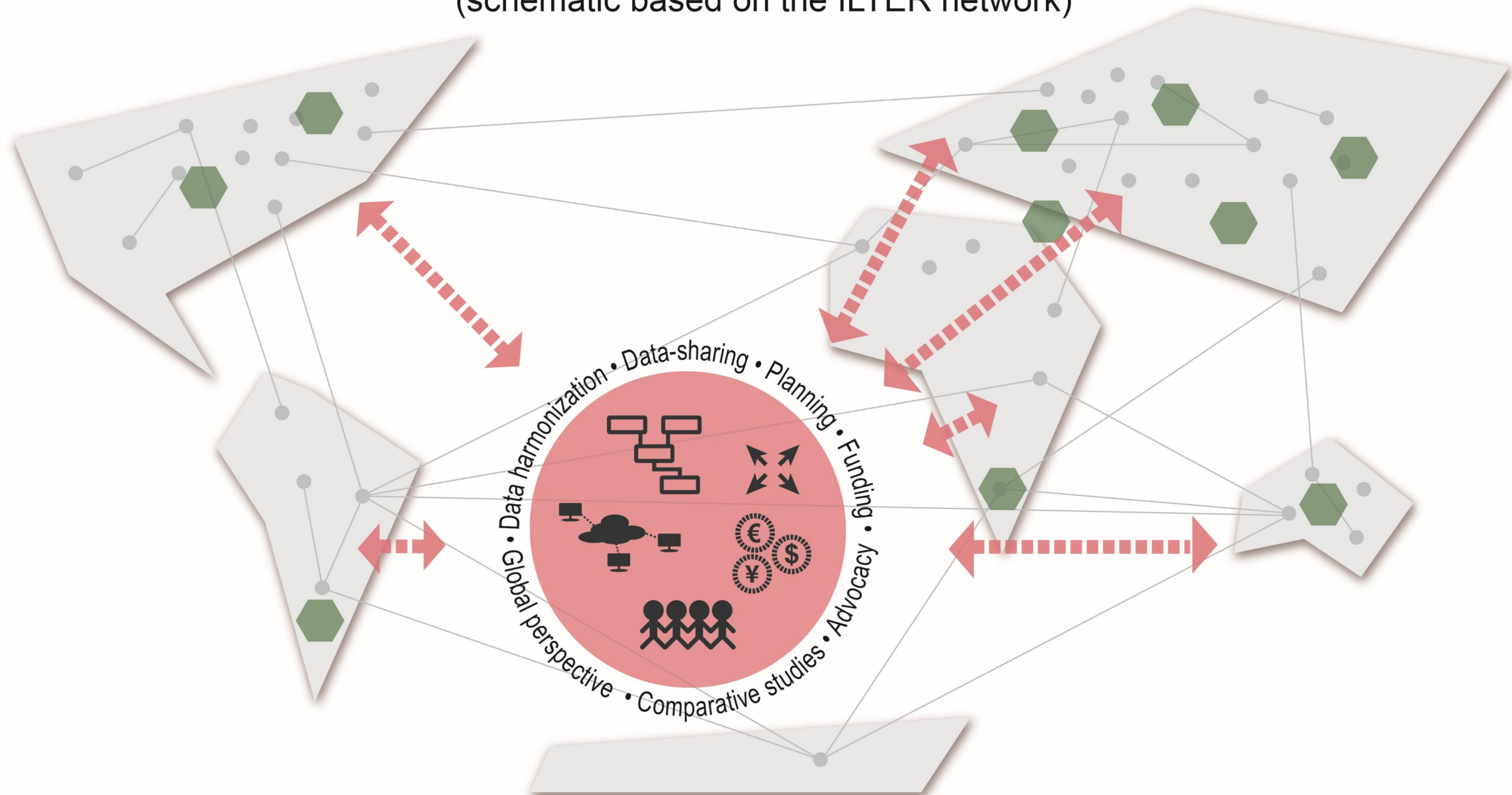
— Member interactions



Flow of data & knowledge

Global Infrastructure for Socio-Ecological Research

(schematic based on the ILTER network)



● Local site/platform

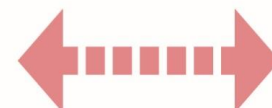


National-level research infrastructure



Global RI central body

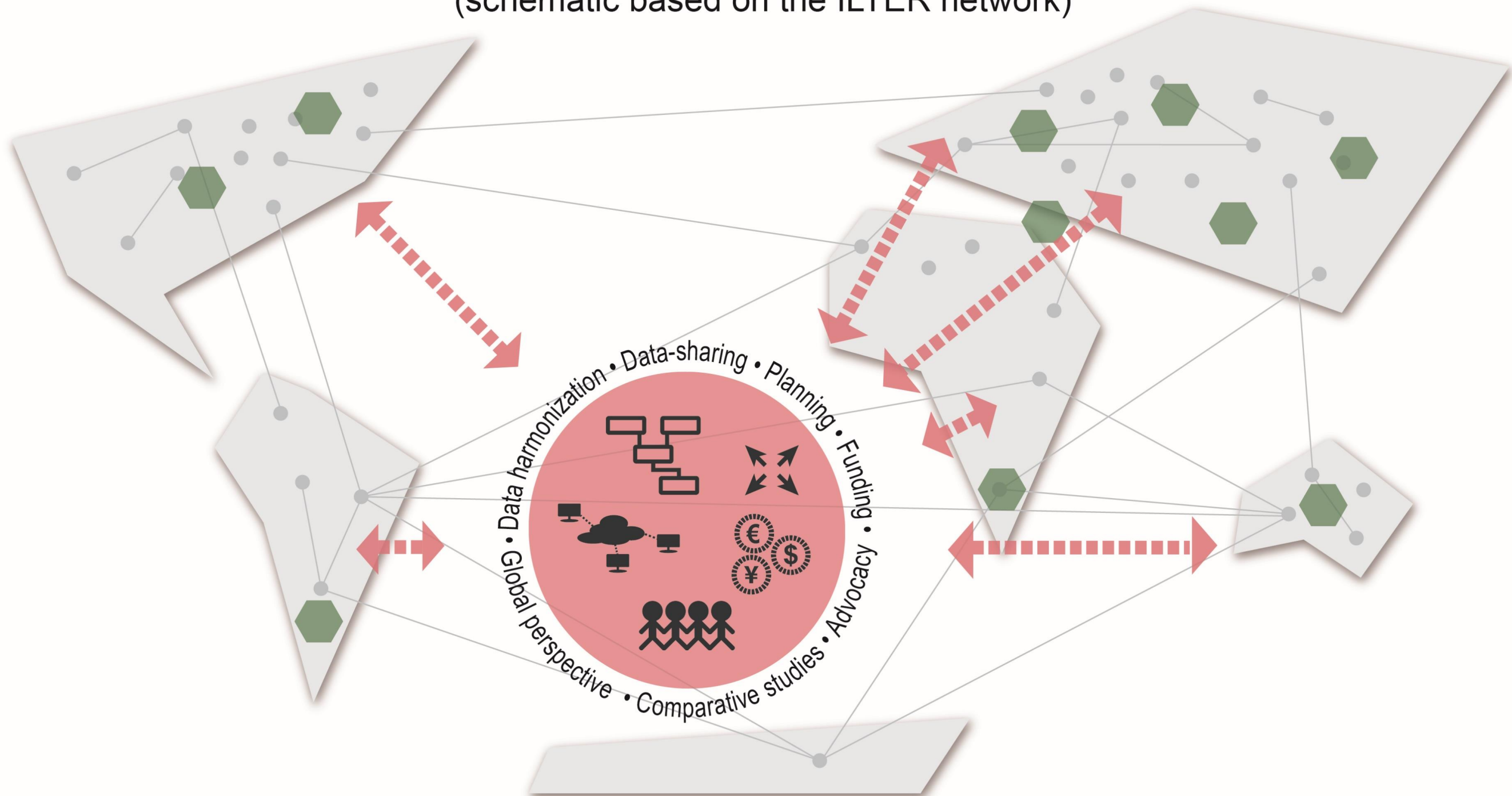
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Flow of data & knowledge

Global Infrastructure for Socio-Ecological Research

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● Local site/platform

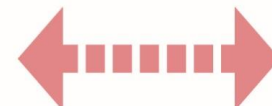


National-level research infrastructure



Global RI central body

— Member interactions



Flow of data & knowledge

**LOCAL needs of individual platforms
vs.
GLOBAL network desire for coordination**

**will produce tensions
which may be harnessed
to promote a dynamic network**

Recommendations

- Identify / cultivate sustainability champions
- Prioritize key platform issues – you can't do everything!
- ILTER should think about the value it offers each individual platform, not just the whole network

Thank you!

Co-authors: Mihai Adamescu, Francisco Bonet-Garcia, Ricardo Díaz-Delgado, Jan Dick, Morgan Grove, Daniel Orenstein, and Ricardo Rozzi.
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