



A PROactive approach for COMmunities
to enABle Societal Transformation



Raptor research: is social-science important?

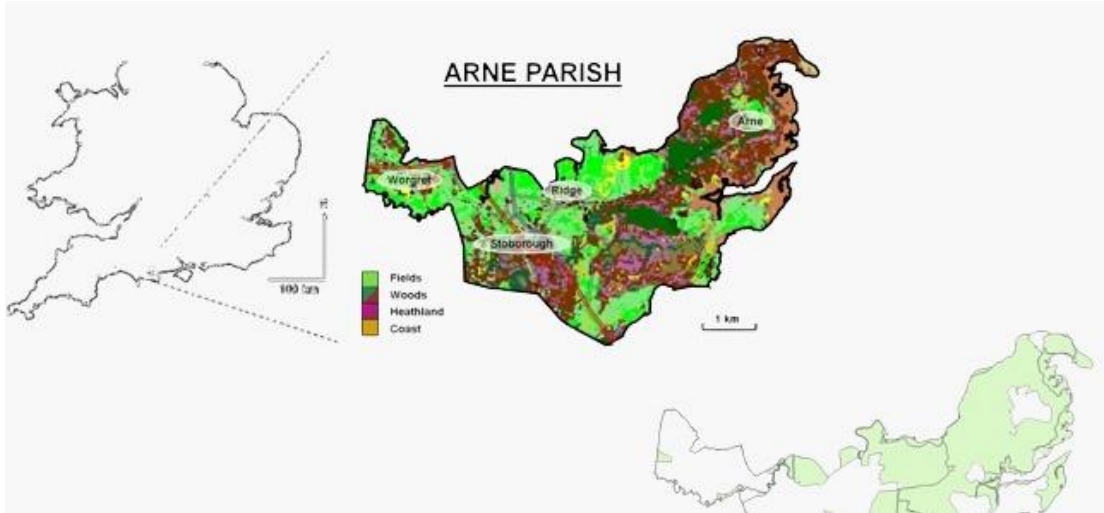
Robert Kenward, European Sustainable Use Group, reke@ceh.ac.uk

Julie Ewald, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust

Ben Kenward, Universities of Uppsala & Oxford Brookes

Andras Kovacs for Saker Task Force of CMS Raptors MoU

a PROactive approach for COmmunities to enABle Societal Transformation



- 9 Case Studies (**Conservation Issues!**)
- 20 Partners in 14 Countries (**ESUG lead**)
- Covering 9 coastal Ecosystems in Europe
- Interdisciplinary: integration of social scientists and environmental experts before scale-out across different societies.



- Objectives
 - Gather and Synthesize Knowledge
 - Improve Community Co-participation
 - Integrate Local Knowledge in Policy
 - Promote Adaptive Management
 - Reverse Biodiversity Loss
 - Massive scale-out



ESUG = European Sustainable Use Group - was spun out of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

- ❖ IUCN was founded in 1948, has
- ❖ >1300 member organisations (90 states), >20,000 expert volunteers,
- ❖ an observer seat at the United Nations, and
- ❖ initiated environment conventions, eg Convention on Biological Diversity
 - NB CBD's Ecosystem Approach includes people too!

Conservation issues with Raptors

- ❖ People change their ecosystems (e.g. food, habitats, **CLIMATE**)
- ❖ People build things that kill them (e.g. power supplies)
- ❖ People still harvest them (legally) for falconry
- ❖ People still kill them illegally

In all cases:

- Is it a threat to conservation status?
- Is it ecologically soluble?
- Is it socio-economically soluble?
- Is this a Socio-Environmental System (*sensu* Elinor Ostrom) in which a simple 'solution' might be counterproductive?

ISSUE: People harvest raptors for falconry

- ❖ Raptor populations crashes in the 1960s
- ❖ Falconry blamed and made illegal in e.g. Scandinavia, Australia
- ✓ Falconers helped show that organochlorines were the real problem
- ✓ Falconers became responsible for:
 - Raptor Research Foundation (D. Hunter), Peregrine Fund (T. Cade, J. Weaver), Hawk (& Owl) Trust (P. Glasier);
 - Domestic breeding & soft release (hacking) techniques: Berry (1972), Meng (1975), Cade (1986, 2000), Temple (1987), Saar (1988), Jones (1994);
 - Ran projects for Peregrines (6 of 7 major projects), Mauritius Kestrels, California Condors, *Gyps* vultures;
 - **BUT falconers have to spend much time/effort in defence, so more work with other environment stakeholders?**

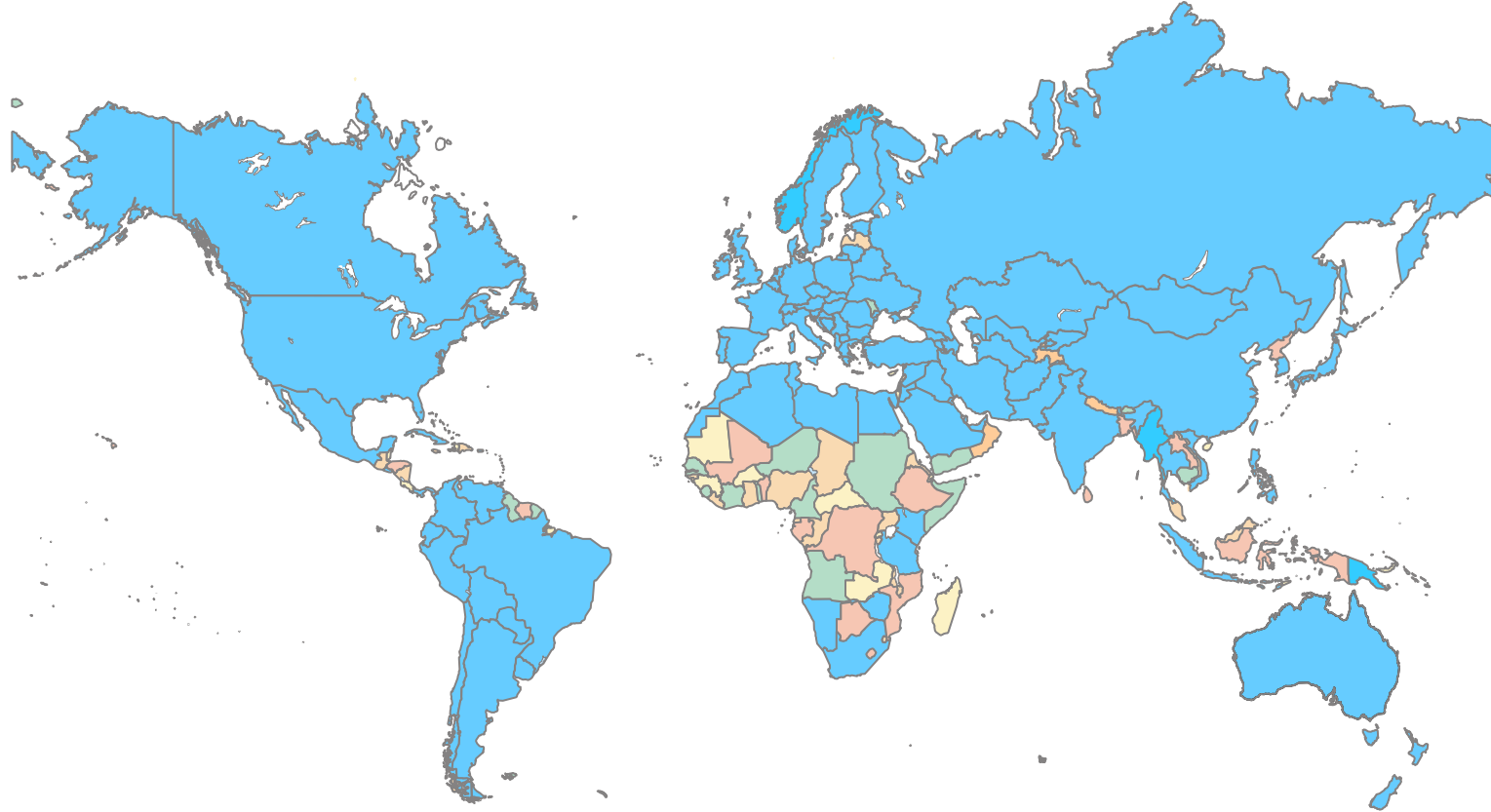
Stakeholder Work with Social Scientists

- ❖ Do-it-yourself (with advice)
 - For Communications: done by IAF initially in 1970s
 - Risky now due to “language issues” (jargon, techniques)
- ❖ Invited assessment (in USA, Peyton et al. 1995)
 - Days spent on passion each year (USA):
Hunters (18), Anglers (16), Watchers (6), **Falconers (36)**
 - % in USA with tertiary education:
Hunters (48%), Anglers (53%), Watchers (57%), **Falconers (83%)**
 - Participation

	Falconers	Public
Attend public meetings:	40%	19%
Prioritise environment:	80%	42%
Sort for recycling:	66%	24%
- ❖ **Co-creation, ideally stakeholders with ecology & social sciences**

**2-3x
as
often**

The International Association for Falconry & Conservation of Birds of Prey works with IUCN and ESUG on Global with Local networks



Countries in which clubs are IAF members

ISSUE: Saker population decline to Endangered status. Again, falconry found: People build things that kill raptors



On powerlines in
Mongolia

and not just
endangered
Saker Falcons

Photos: Andrew Dixon



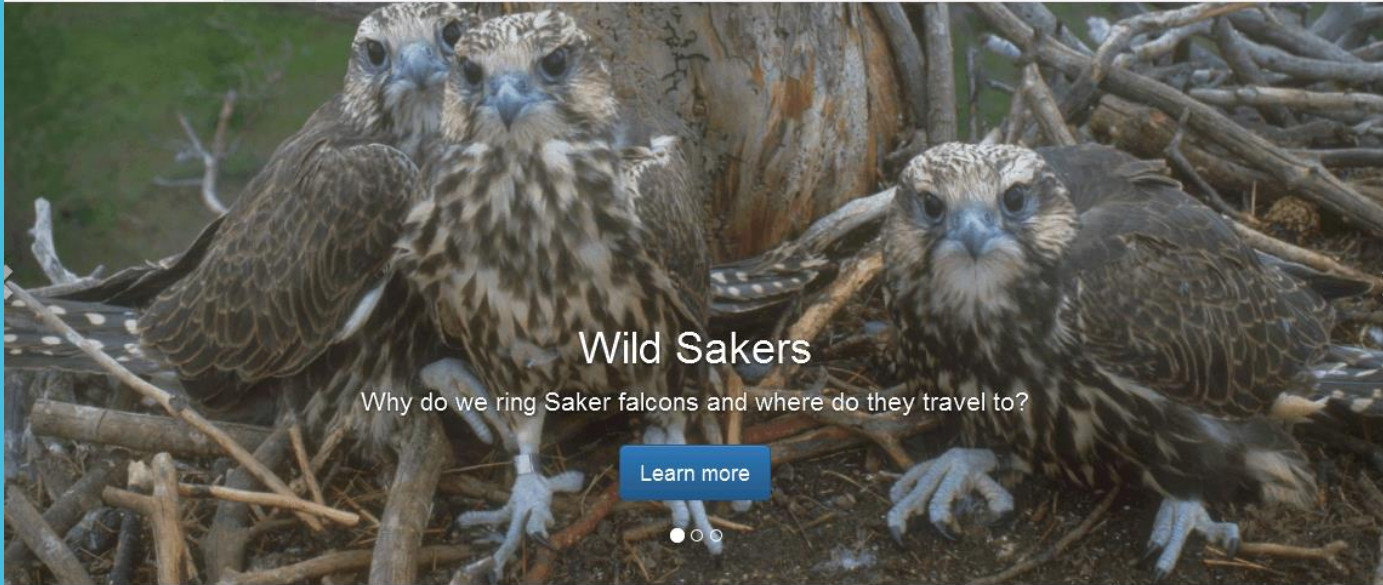
UNEP - Convention on Conserving Migratory Species Saker Global Action Plan & projects with falconers:

SakerNet multilingual outreach with best practice: please don't trap adults!

Survey for falconers & trappers on Your Sakers

Photo: Andrew Dixon

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Wild Sakers

Why do we ring Saker falcons and where do they travel to?

[Learn more](#)

● ○ ○

Get update alerts

We will send you news of when we update the site with new information about Sakers, falconry and conservation. Your registration will be separated from the survey, so that survey information is anonymous.

[Register here](#)

Do the survey

Please help us by completing the survey. Information that you give in the survey is important for management to maintain Saker numbers in the wild, and thus will help both trappers and falconers to sustain their activities.

[Do the survey](#)

See the survey results

Results of the survey will be presented as simple diagrams. The first diagrams from a previous survey done two years ago will be replaced as your information is added.

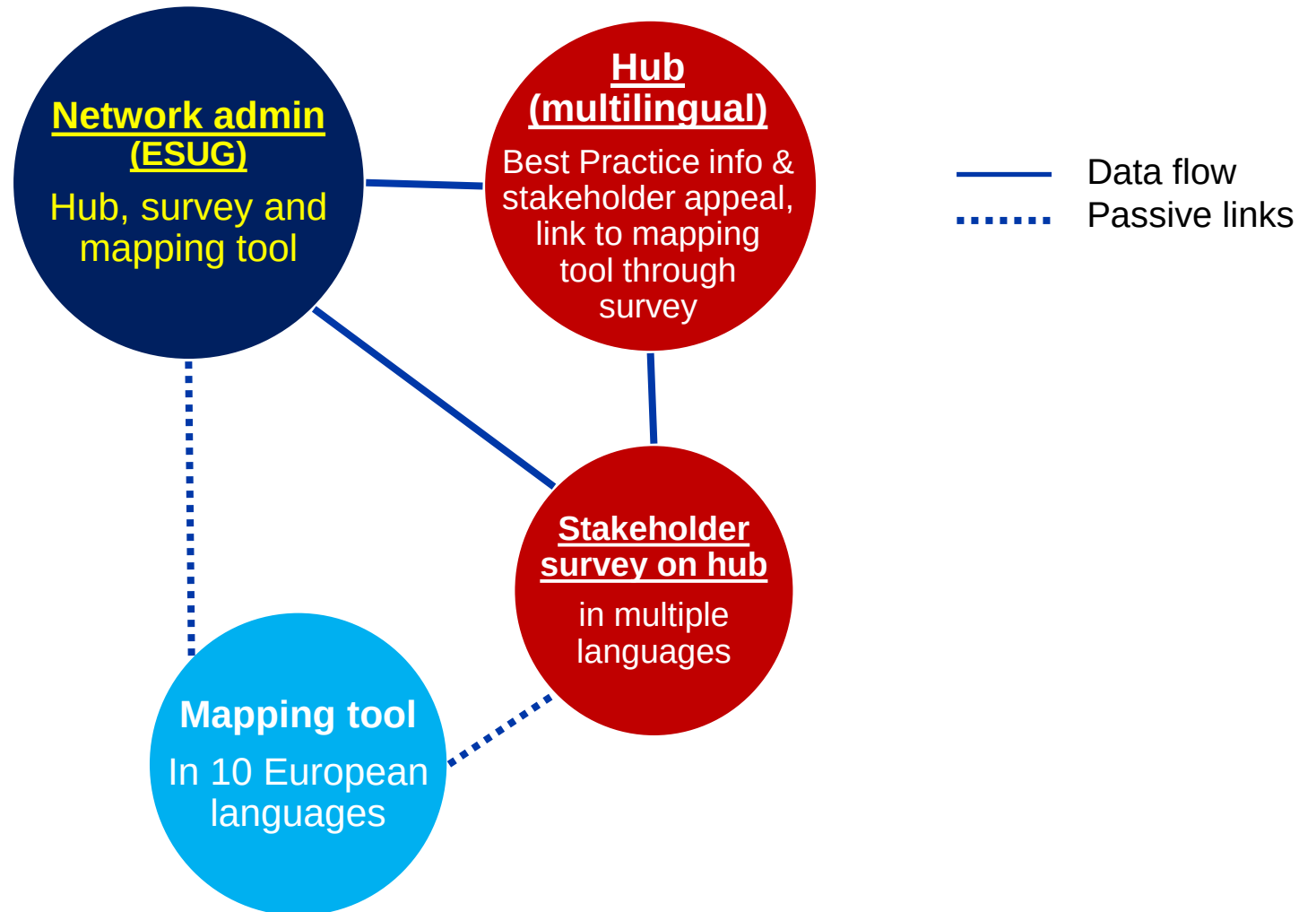
[Survey results](#)

100 satellite tags: more about survival & migration.

1000 nest boxes (breeding >1000 sakers/year).



2011: ESUG had launched site in 24 European languages on Best Practice for Conservation through Sustainable Use

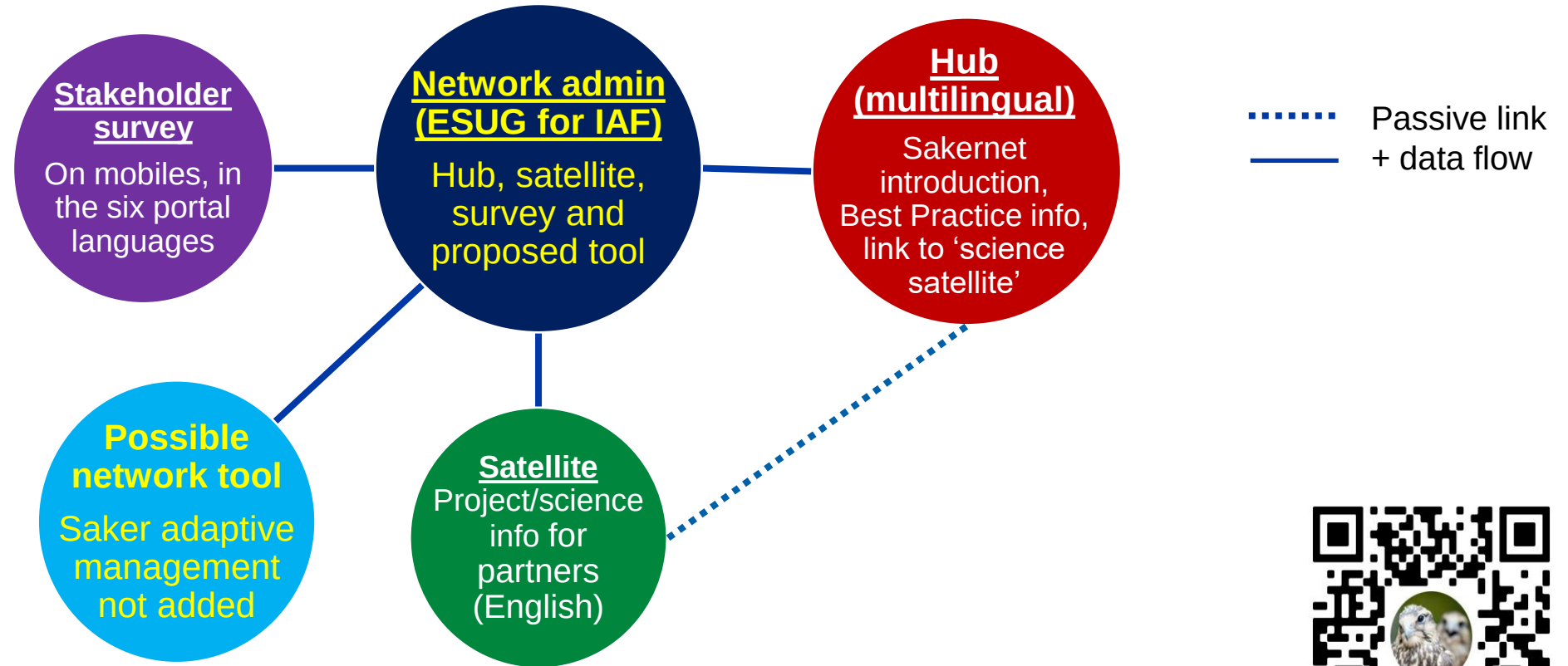


<https://www.naturalliance.eu>

2014: ESUG built Sakernet portals for CMS, IAF, BirdLife

Best Practice
on Saker Falcon
Conservation in
6 Central Asian
languages.

Included link of
multilingual hub
to first satellite
in System for
Community
Liaison (SYCL).



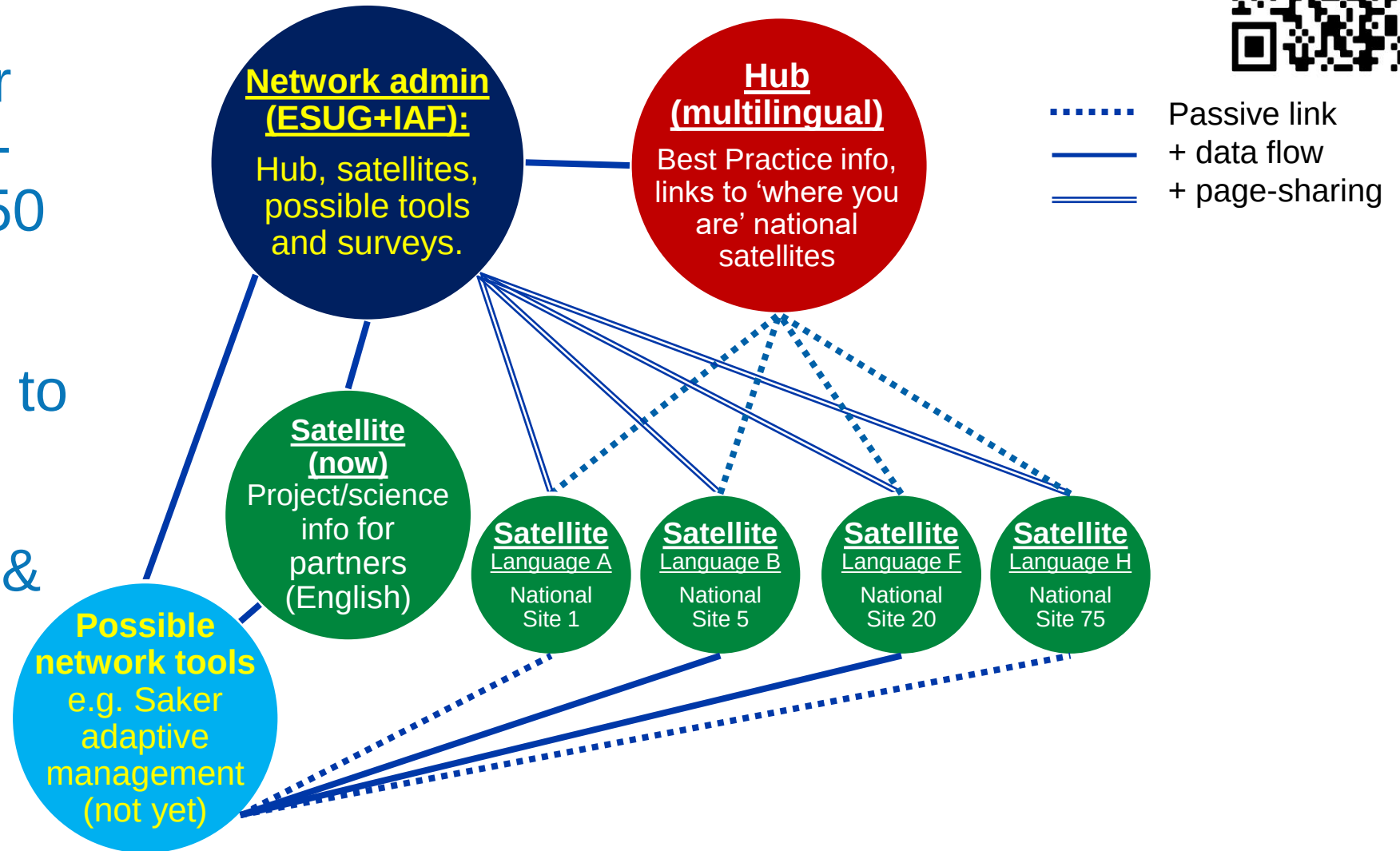
2019: Naturalliance.org (& Sakernet upgrade)



Naturalliance.org
(45 languages) for
IUCN with culture-
specific links to >50
SYCL satellites.

Sakernet upgrade to
10 languages.

Standard formats &
page-sharing for
same-language
satellites aids
content renewal.



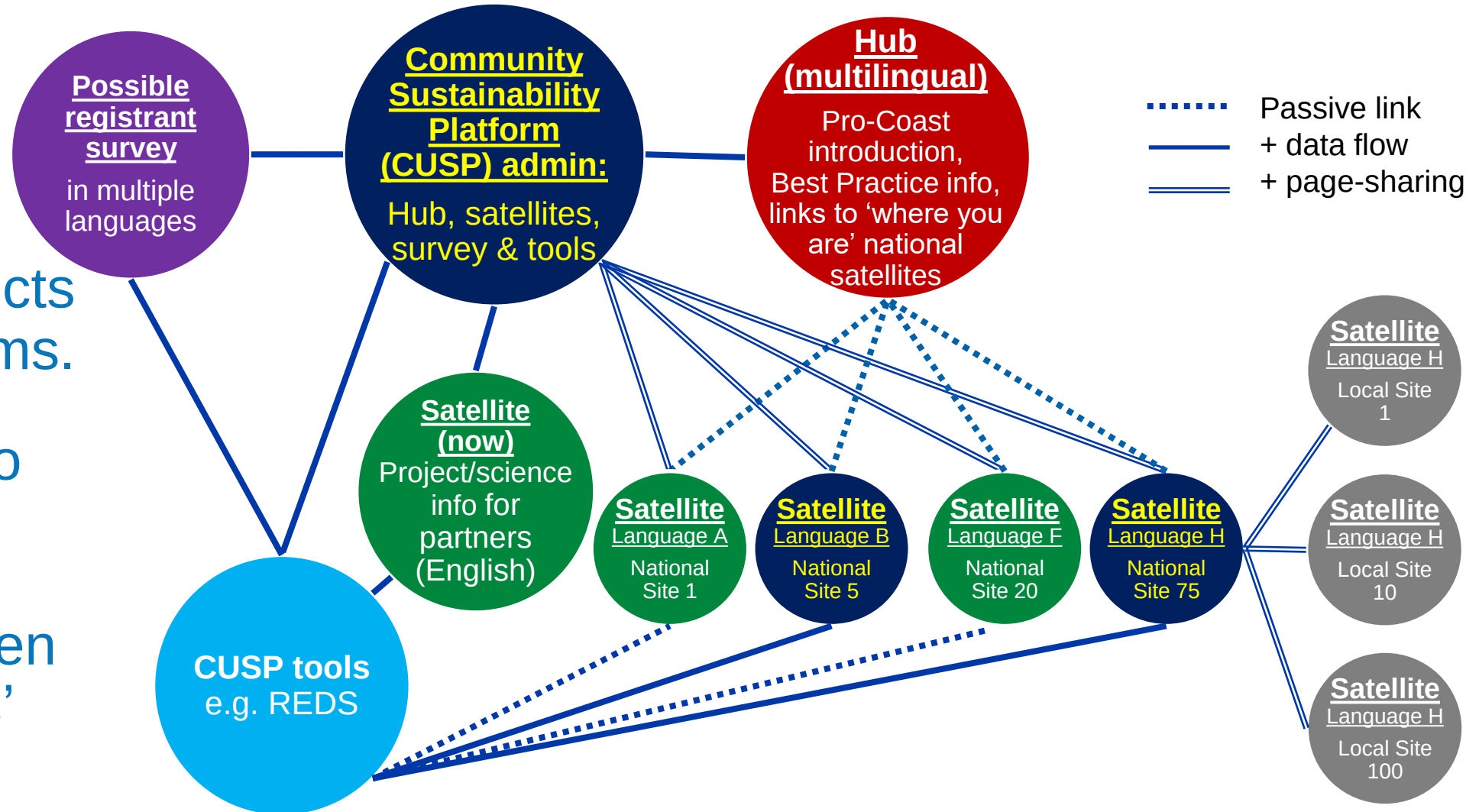
2024: Pro-Coast has commitments:



- ❖ “Draw on the network of Country Coordinators (CoCos) that has been maintained by European Sustainable Use Group”
- ❖ Coaching circles for each Case Study ... [with] identified change agents
 - Major focus on Change Agents in Pro-Coast
- ❖ “Massive scale-out” on “the project network of multilingual websites and social networking presence.”
 - 12 languages, 12,000 visitors
 - “Infographics, Videos, Events” (not just best practice examples!)
- ❖ To build a “communities sustainability platform [**CUSP**] ... modelled in the framework of existing ESUG initiatives SYCL (System for Community Liaison) and Naturalliance...”
 - “Providing ‘must-have’ tools for biodiversity conservation”
- ❖ **ESUG responsible for maintaining the CUSP until 2033**

PRO coast

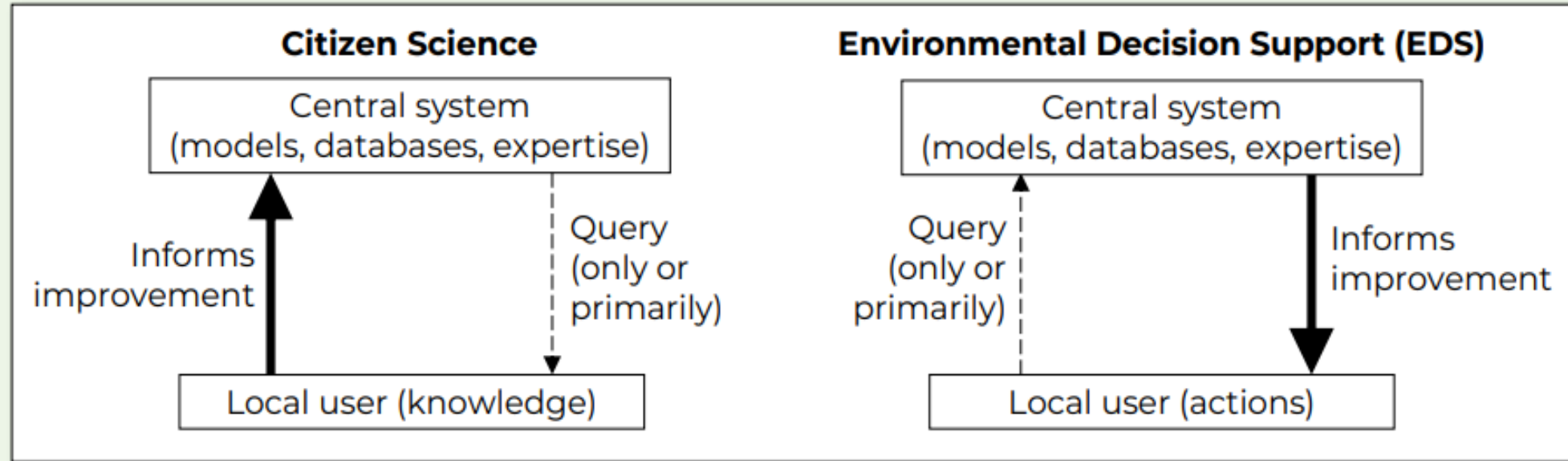
Improvement to networking capabilities, continues, driven by cooperators' requirements.



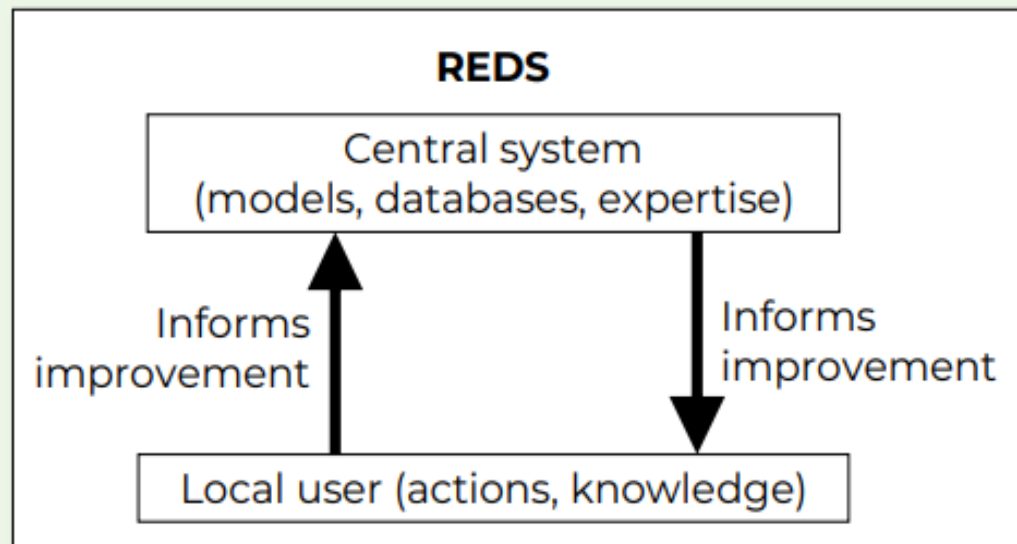
Social Science as well as Technology (=Socio-technology)

- ❖ Co-creation essential
 - If stakeholders initiate it “**just happens**”
 - NB only 20% of world population can work in English
- ❖ Scale-out commitments make more structured socio-tech essential
 - Groups are needed in cultural regions and countries
 - Software must support groups in different languages
- ❖ Endurance commitments need group membership to be attractive
 - Dynamic change agents
 - Fun-to-use software
- ❖ Providing other ‘must-have’ tools for biodiversity conservation
 - Reciprocal Environmental Decision Support (REDS)
 - Saker Adaptive Management System?

Consider two traditional forms of one-way data flow:



REDS is Citizen Science and EDS combined:

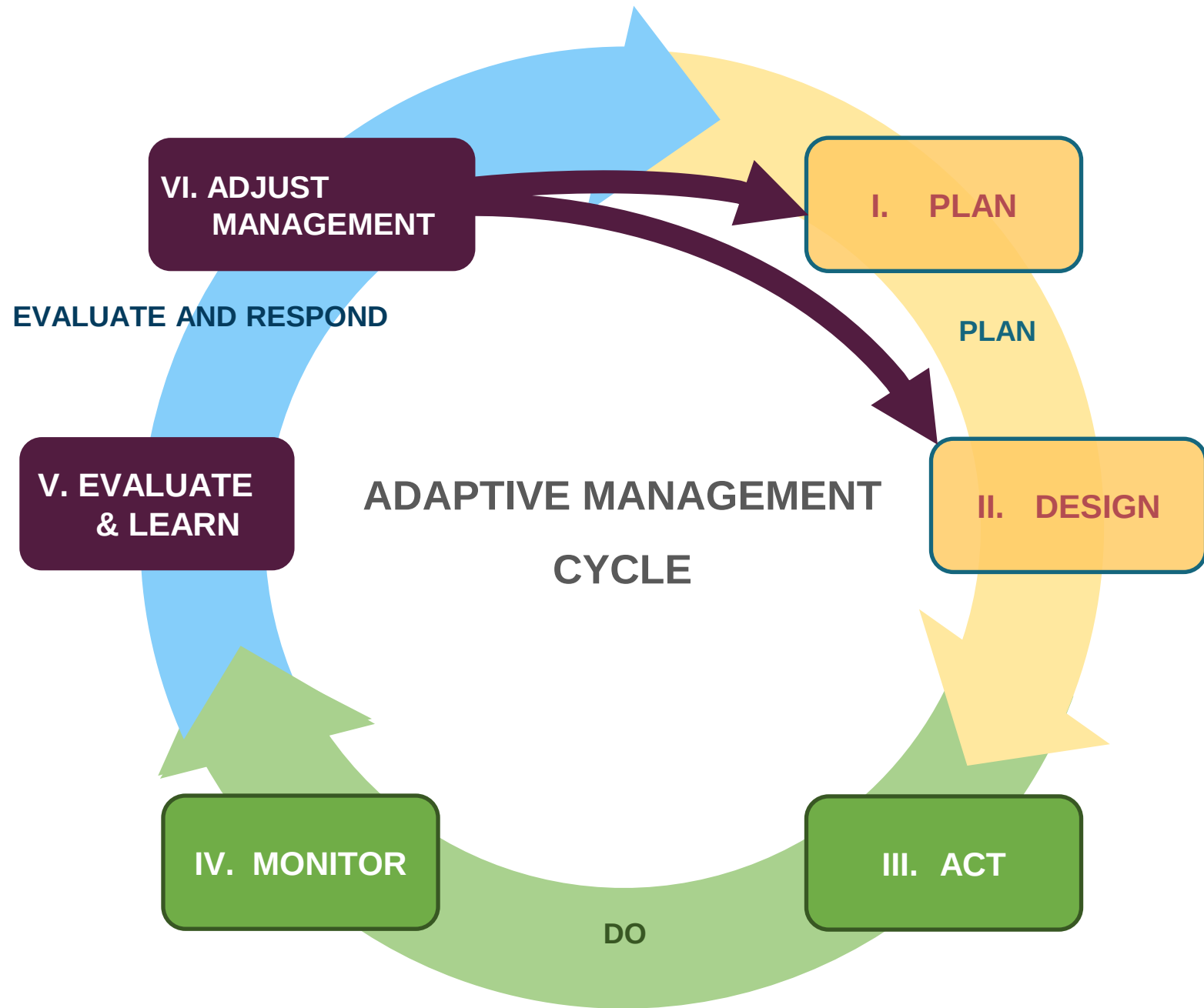


Because of the virtuous feedback circle created by closing the loop, a REDS can bootstrap itself towards ever-better models, support, data, and user engagement.

We know of no existing REDS-like systems for untrained users.

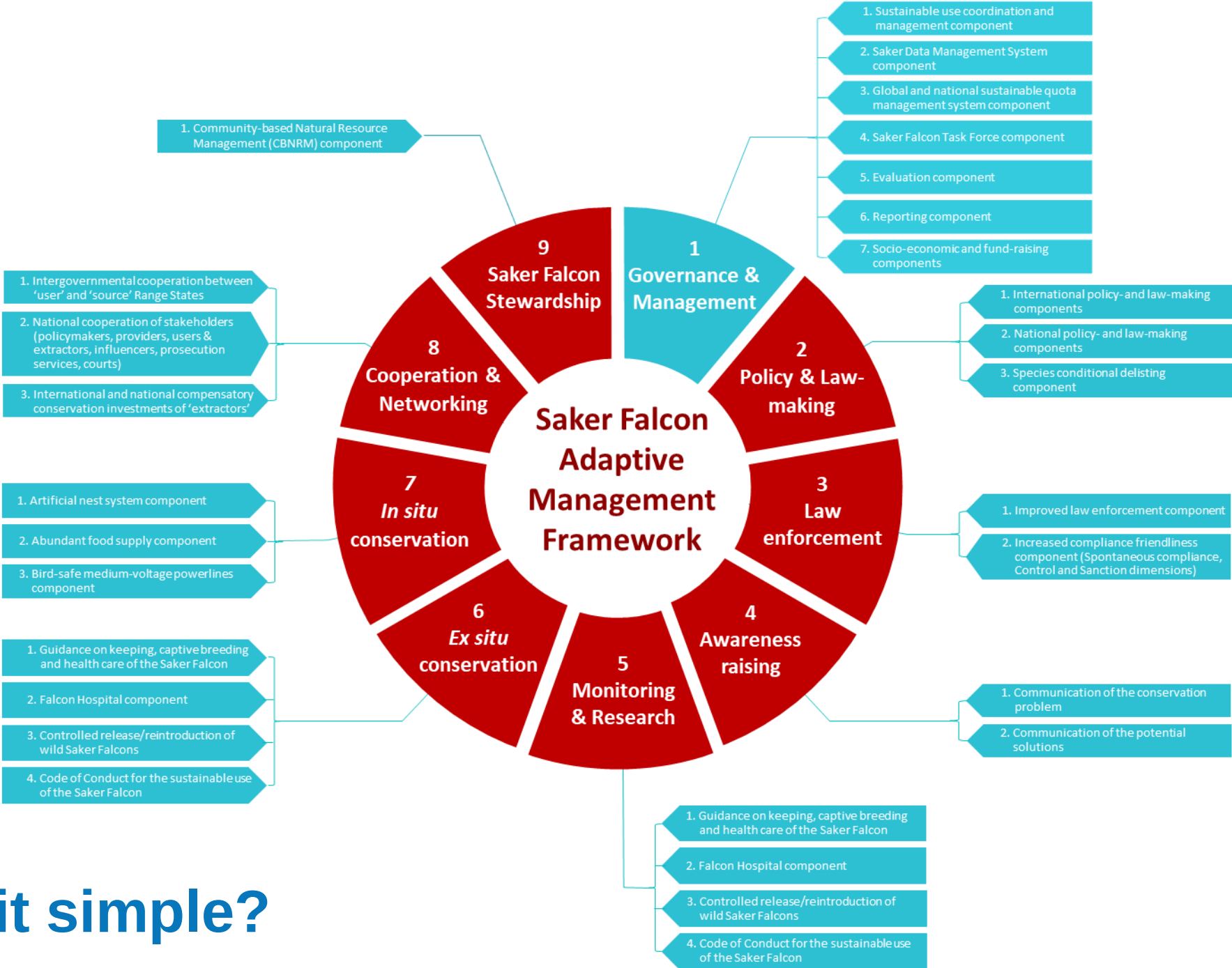
The Saker Adaptive Management Framework

**Possible
network tools
e.g. Saker
adaptive
management
(not yet)**



A very complex undertaking

Can
networked
software make it simple?



Conclusions

1. Environmental issues are not just about Ecology because
2. people live in Ecosystems too (CBD Ecosystem Approach).
3. Socio-Environmental Systems become complex, so that
4. the simple solution is often wrong.
5. Software tools can make the complex simple but,
6. to attract people to Solution Tools, make them attractive.
7. There is a global aspect to the Environment and People thing.



Robert Kenward and Julie Ewald
reke@ceh.ac.uk & jewald@gwct.org.uk

Thank you

