

Using Comparative Analysis as a Tool for Evidence-Based Policy

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Summer Institute, Winnipeg
June 30, 2010



National Collaborating Centre
for Environmental Health

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BC Centre for Disease Control
An Agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Objective

- To provide a framework for using comparative analysis to evaluate policies (old, existing, or new) that involve setting priorities.

Outline

- Introduction
- Comparative analysis & background
- Conceptual framework for identifying and comparing policy options
- Scenarios/Discussion
- Decision making
- Wrap-up

Tap Water

Bottled Water

Surface
Water
Source

Ground
Water
Source

Collection
point

Waste
water

Treatment
plant

End user

Storage

Tap

Distribution
network

Collection
point

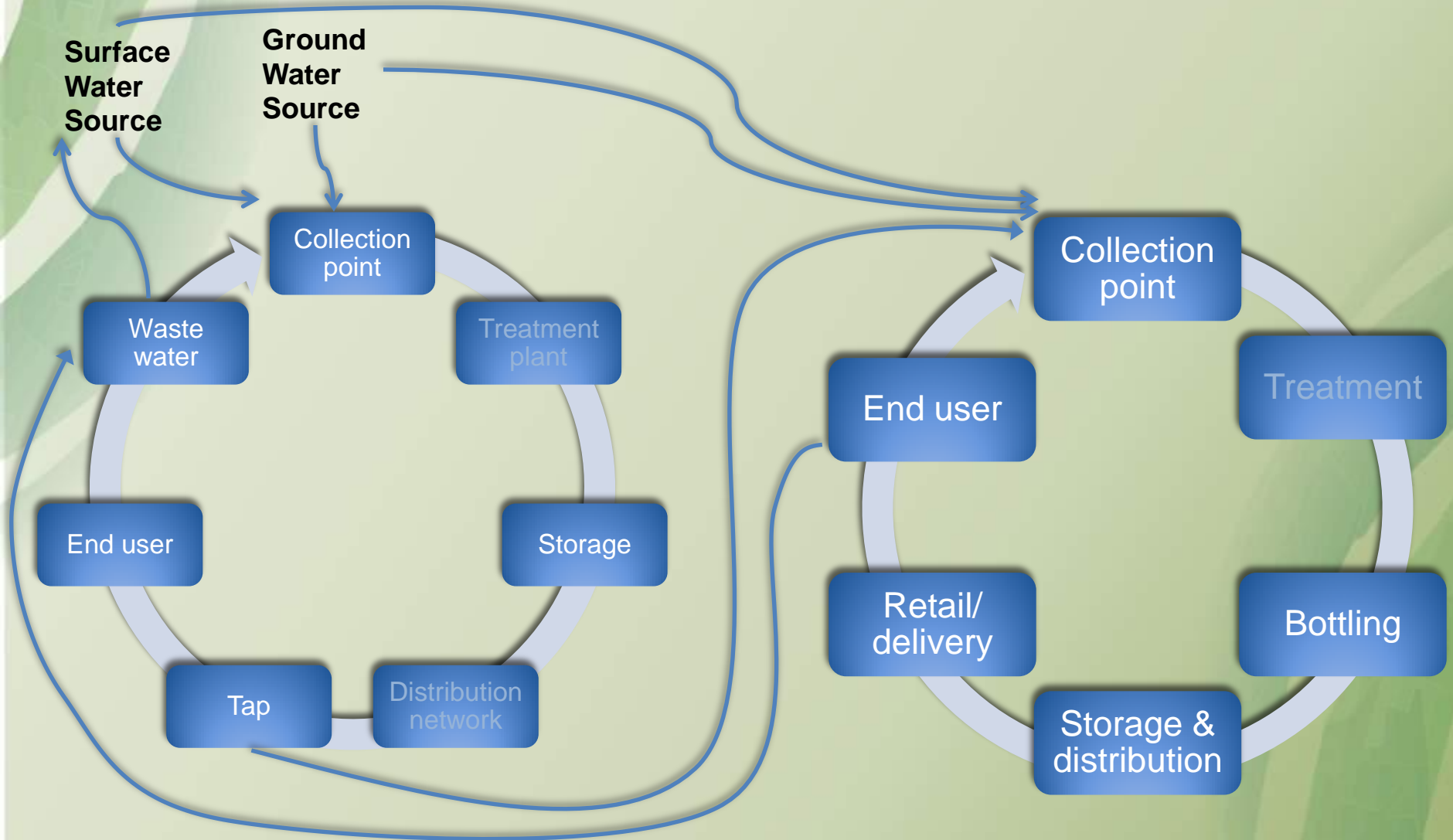
End user

Treatment

Retail/
delivery

Bottling

Storage &
distribution

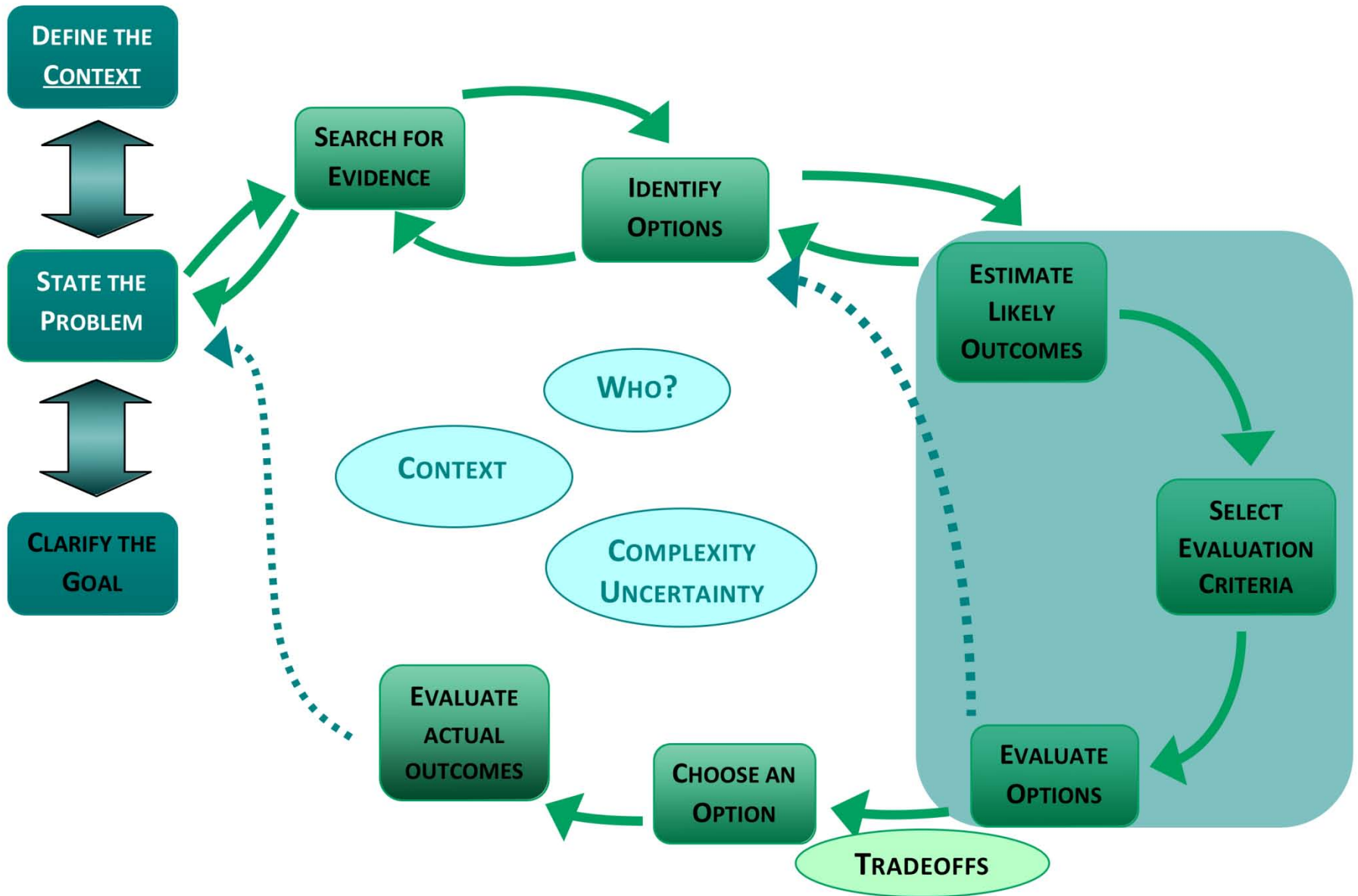


Does bottled water have a place in the distribution of potable water to the public?

Lead in School DW

- Lead levels in a school have been determined to be consistently above maximum acceptable limits whereas the water entering the school has relatively low levels of lead. The parent committee has raised concerns regarding lead exposure and child development to the school board. Some parents are sending their children to school with bottled water or re-usable bottles filled from home and telling them not to drink the water at school.
- What do you recommend to the school for the delivery of potable water to the school?

IDENTIFYING AND COMPARING POLICY OPTIONS



The System in Context

- Where can we intervene in the system?
 - sources of drinking water
 - treatment/monitoring
 - distribution/storage
 - end user/tap
 - waste

Evaluating Policy Options

Assessment Criteria <i>List criteria for evaluation. Broad categories of impacts could be combined, added, deleted, expanded, etc., depending on the problem and context.</i>	Options/Potential Solutions				
	Status quo (baseline)	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	etc....
e.g.					
Health impacts					
Environmental impacts					
Public acceptability					
Economic cost					
Equity/Fairness					
Ethical					
Practicality					
Technical feasibility					
Legality					
Efficiency					
Quality of life					
Cultural impacts					
etc....					

Outcomes/Impacts:

Rate each option based on the chosen assessment criteria.

Rating scales can be:

- quantitative – e.g. numerical values

- qualitative – e.g. descriptive comments

- semi-quantitative – e.g. rank order, direction of change, Likert scale

For each rating, consider degree of certainty.

Could also weight assessment criteria based on relative significance.

Dealing with Ongoing Boil Water Advisory

- Members of a small town of 500 people use river water (runoff from a nearby mountain) as their source of drinking water. The river water has never been treated and had been used for 50 years without incident until two years ago when an outbreak of giardiasis occurred and a third of the community became ill.

The System in Context

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Decision-Making

Does bottled water have a place in the distribution of potable water to the public?

Thank you!

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Funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada

