



# Improving the Science/Policy Interface

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# Acknowledgements



- Findings from: Mitchell, Clark, Cash, and Dickson, eds. Global Environmental Assessments: Information and Influence. MIT Press, 2006.
- Bill Clark: intellectual force of project.

# When Does Science Influence Policy?



- Policy influence requires...
  - Saliency
  - Credibility
  - Legitimacy

# Policy Influence Requires Saliience



- Saliience: information relevant to an actor's decision choices
- Judge based on:
  - Timing: not too early or late for decisions being made
  - Right scale & scope: not too narrow or too broad
  - Viability of options considered

# Policy Influence Requires Credibility



- Must be “worth believing”
- Judged based on:
  - Who: expertise & trustworthiness
  - How: methods & funding
- Even “truth” may be rejected if proposed by those who, or in ways that, the audience doesn’t trust

# Policy Influence Requires Legitimacy



- Process must treat concerns and values of those affected (stakeholders) fairly and with respect
- Judged based on:
  - Who: were those with “my” views included?
  - How: were my concerns and values inputs to process and given fair hearing?

# Policy Influence Involves a Process



- Integrating scientists, stakeholders, and policymakers in addressing climate change
  - Gets questions right (salience)
  - Gains access to better data (credibility)
  - Respects stakeholders' concerns (legitimacy)
- Adopt long-term "co-production" perspective
- Science cannot arbitrate when values differ

# Concluding Comments



- What effects DO we have as scholars and teachers?
- How can we learn over time to increase our contributions as scholars, teachers, and citizens to creating a sustainable world?