

Blending perspectives on sustainability

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Kofi Annan:

“Global thinking in relation to sustainability is necessary. We have to stretch cause-effect & cost-benefit beyond national boundaries because the problems we face and solutions they require are also not boundary-dependent...”



Source: Kenyan newspaper Sunday Nation: June 14, 2009



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Objectives:

“How to *blend* different ideas and perspectives on sustainable bioenergy production in the African context?”

Trigger innovative ways of thinking about sustainability



Bioenergy developments in Africa

- Promising prospects for bioenergy production in Africa
- Land, water and labour
- Competitive production

- Wave of private investors
- High uncertainty (Jatropha)
- Sustainability debate
- Financial crisis



Source: Google Earth

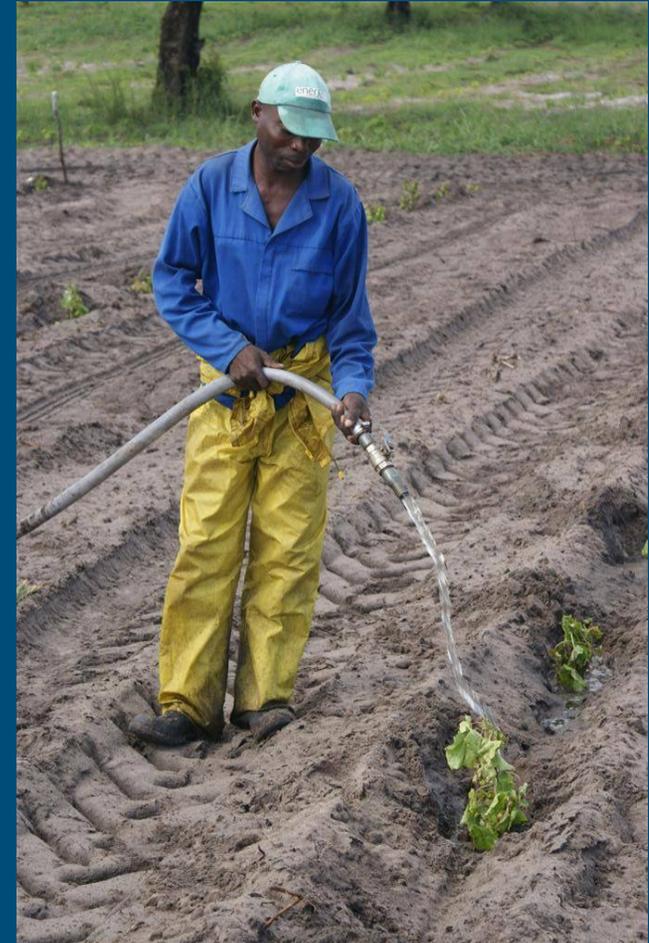
Sustainability schemes

Framework/ criteria	EU ¹⁷	Roundtable Sustainable Biofuels ¹⁸			Dutch Criteria ¹⁹	RTFO ²⁰
Legalities						
<i>Legal frameworks</i>	X	X			X	X
<i>Water rights</i>		X				
<i>Land rights</i>	X	X				X
Social						
<i>Stakeholder participation</i>		X				X
<i>Human and labour rights, and social well-being</i>	X	X	X		X	X
<i>Food security and other biomass-applications</i>	X	X				X
Economic				X		
<i>Micro economy</i>						X
Environmental						
<i>GHG-emission</i>	X	X			X	
<i>Biodiversity</i>	X	X			X	X
<i>Soil</i>	<i>Soil carbon stocks</i>	X			X	X
	<i>Soil quality</i>		X		X	X
<i>Water</i>	X	X			X	X
<i>Air</i>		X			X	X

Source: Schut, 2009

Interpretation of sustainability

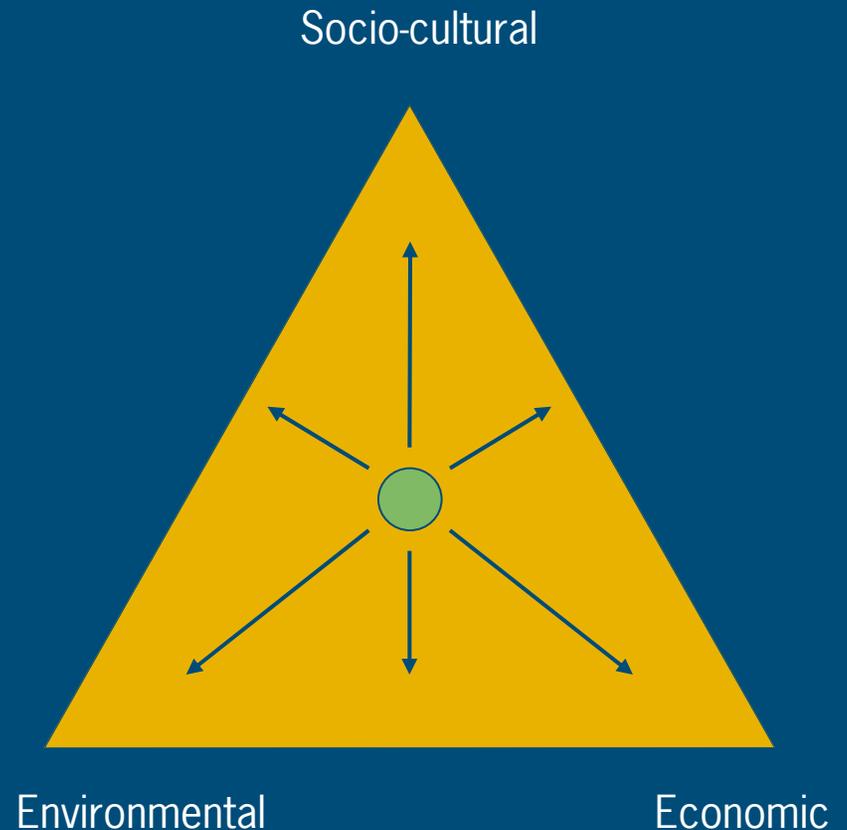
- Dutch criteria
 - Spending of tax money through subsidies
 - Climate change agenda/ reduction of GHG
- Mozambique
 - Stimulate economic activity
 - Rural development
 - Reduce dependency on fossil fuel imports
- Private investors
 - Stable investment climate
 - Incentives and competitive production
 - Access to premium markets



Why comply with sustainability criteria?

- Responsibility
- 'Must do'
- Marketing
- Market access
- Politics and legal frameworks
- Increase efficiency
- Philosophy

- Voluntary/ mandatory
- Government or private led



Mozambique responds

- The consequences for African countries:
 - Ethical: EU imposes criteria on Africa
 - “Unnecessarily restrictive” and “Illegal and discriminating” development countries access to world market
- Mozambican governments not against sustainable development
- Own sustainability principles that fit the Mozambican reality
- Subgroup: Sustainability Criteria and Development Models
- Approved Biofuel Policy March, 2009

Source: BusinessGreen, 2008

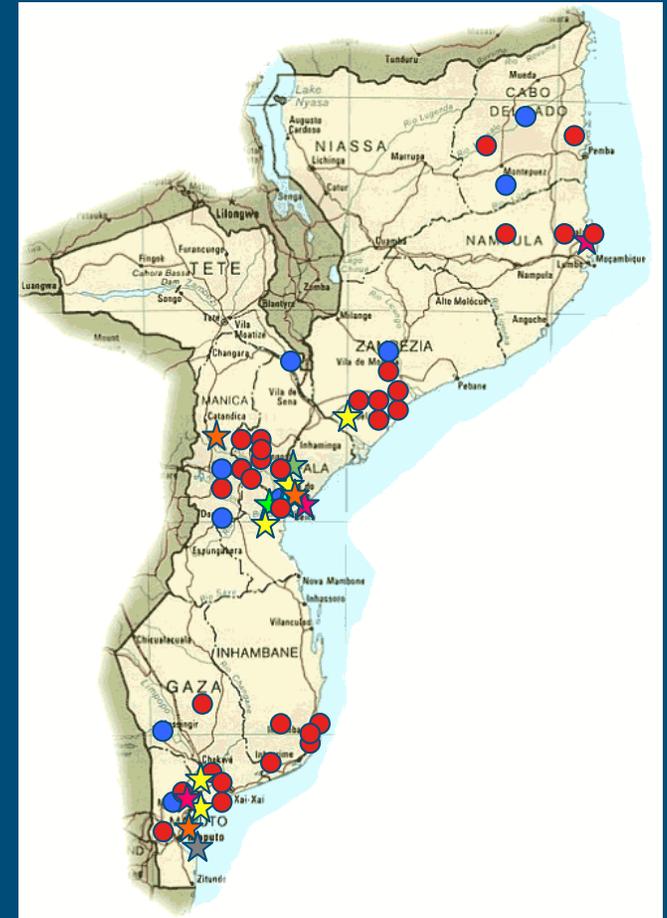
Comply with sustainability criteria

■ Dynamics

- Potential versus reality
- Heterogeneity of biofuel projects
- Uncertainty versus new research
- Access to knowledge and research
- Economic sustainability & competitiveness

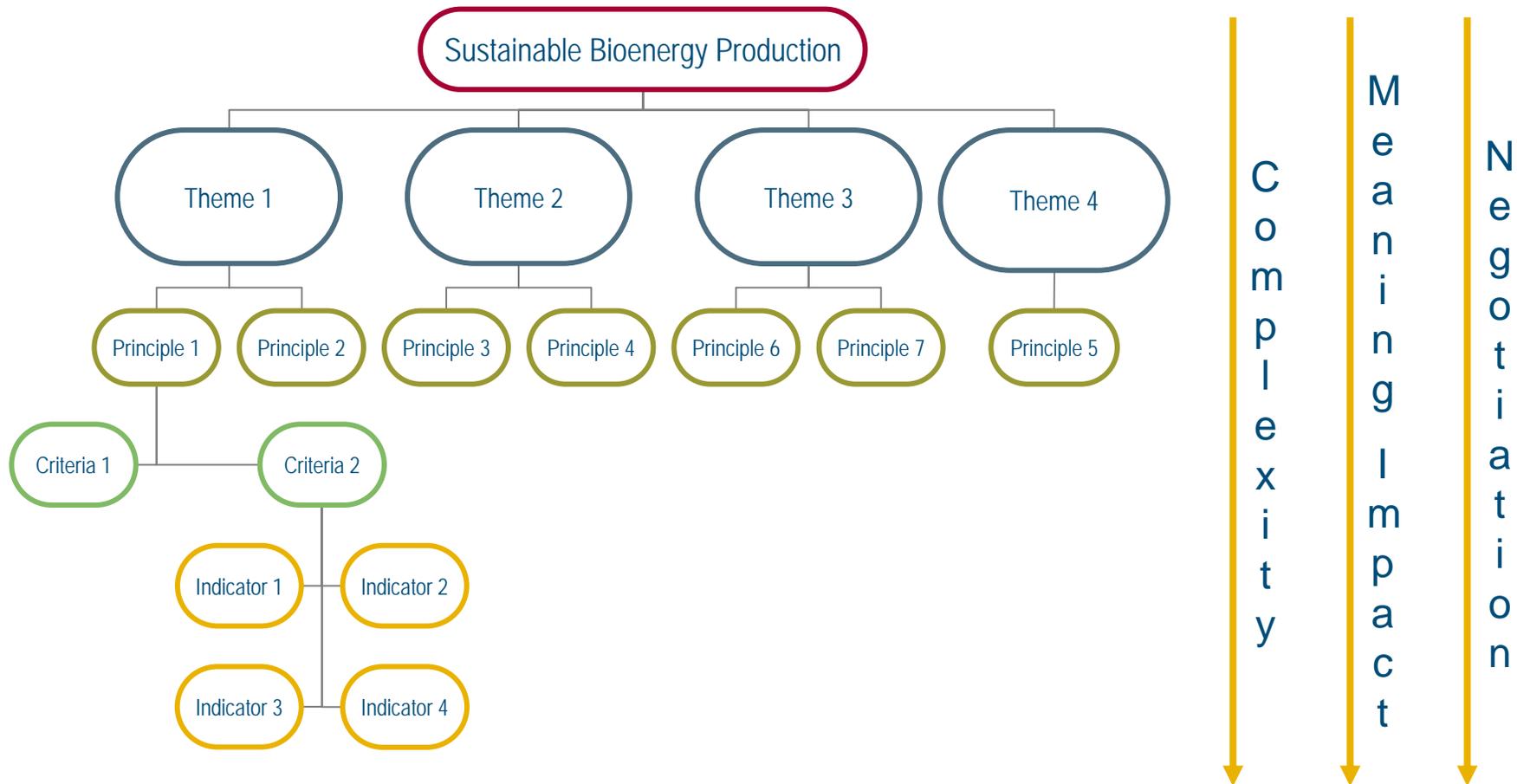
■ Opportunities

- Integration of multi-stakeholder objectives



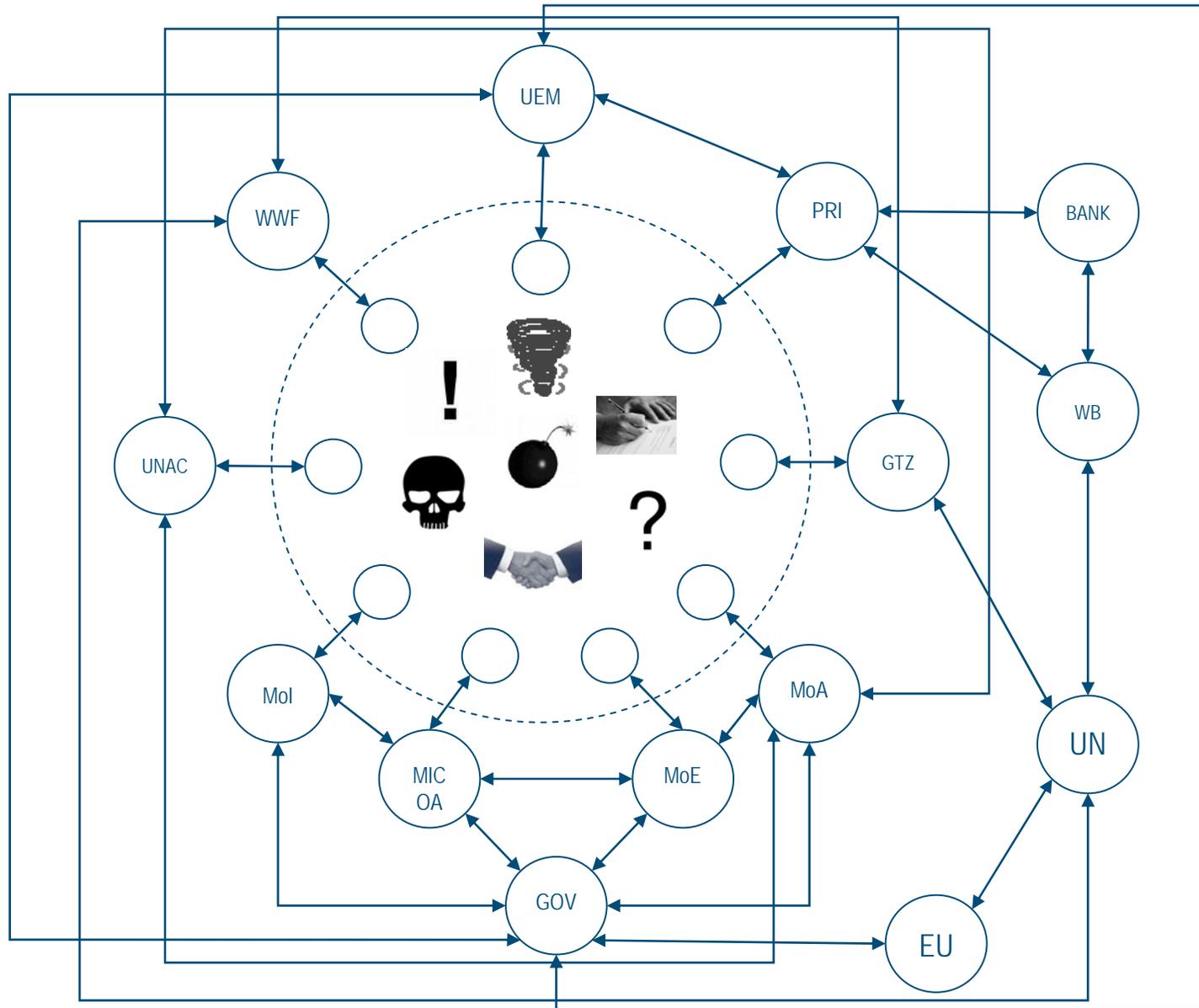
Source: Schut, 2009

Developing sustainability criteria

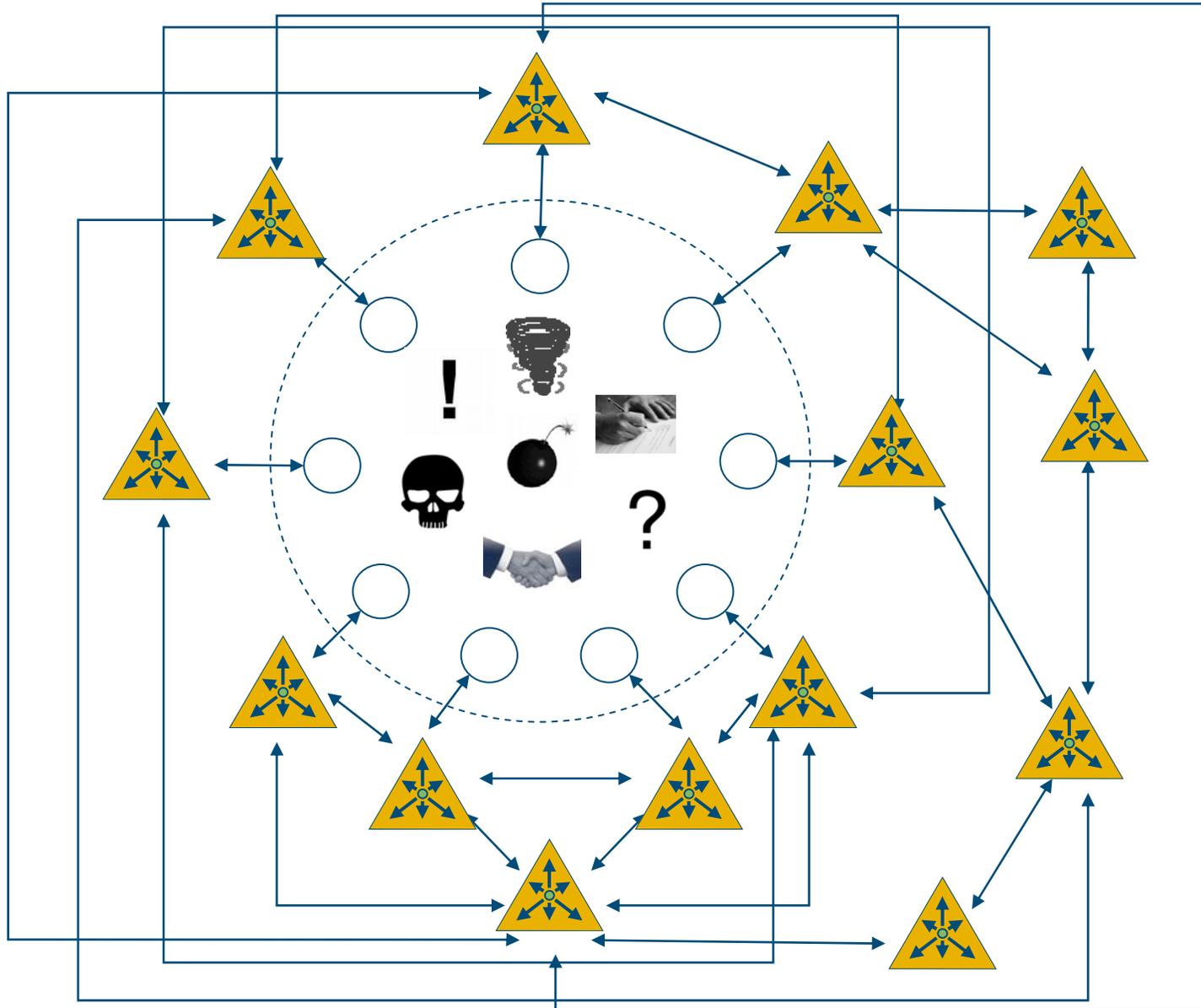


Sustainability = negotiation = trade offs

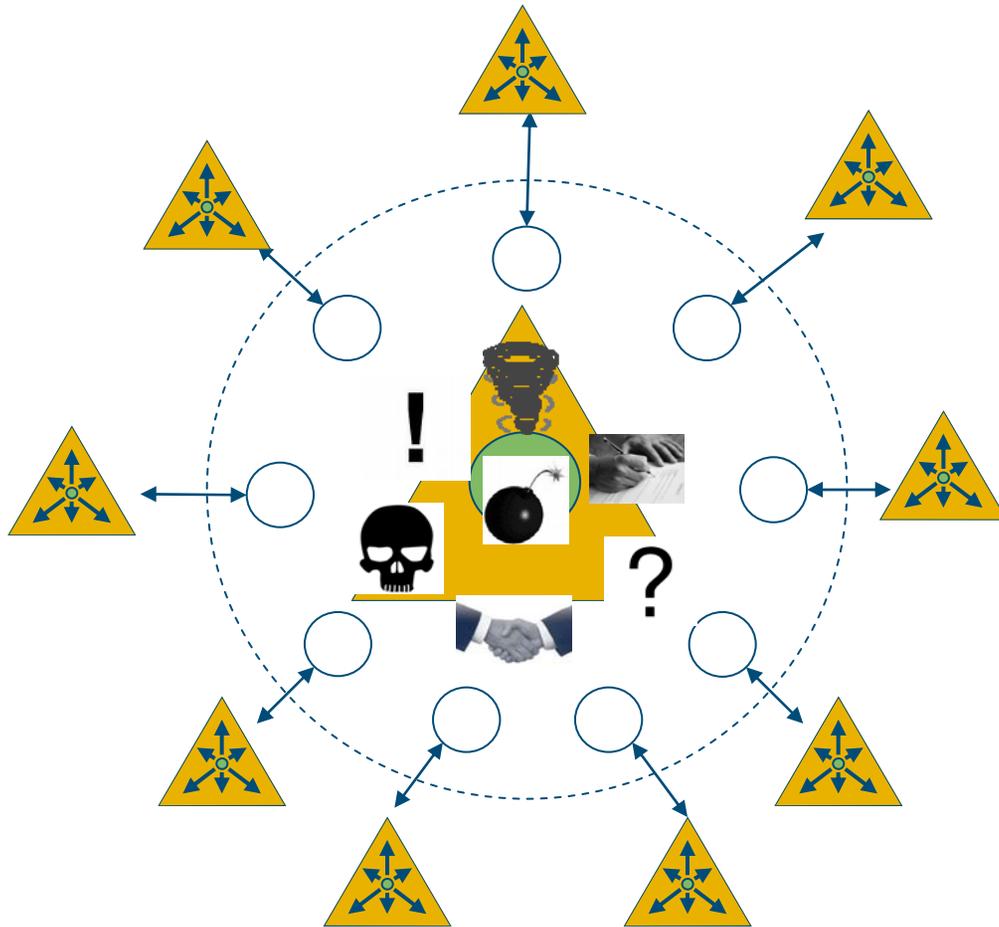
Complexity of negotiation sustainability



Negotiating Sustainability Criteria

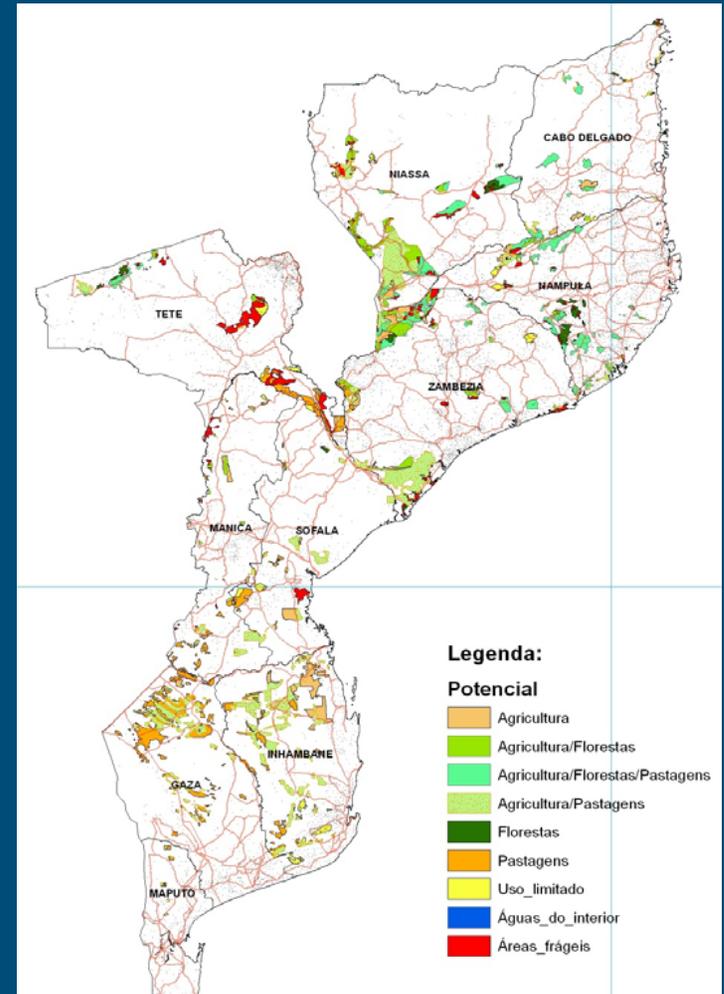


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Lessons from Mozambique

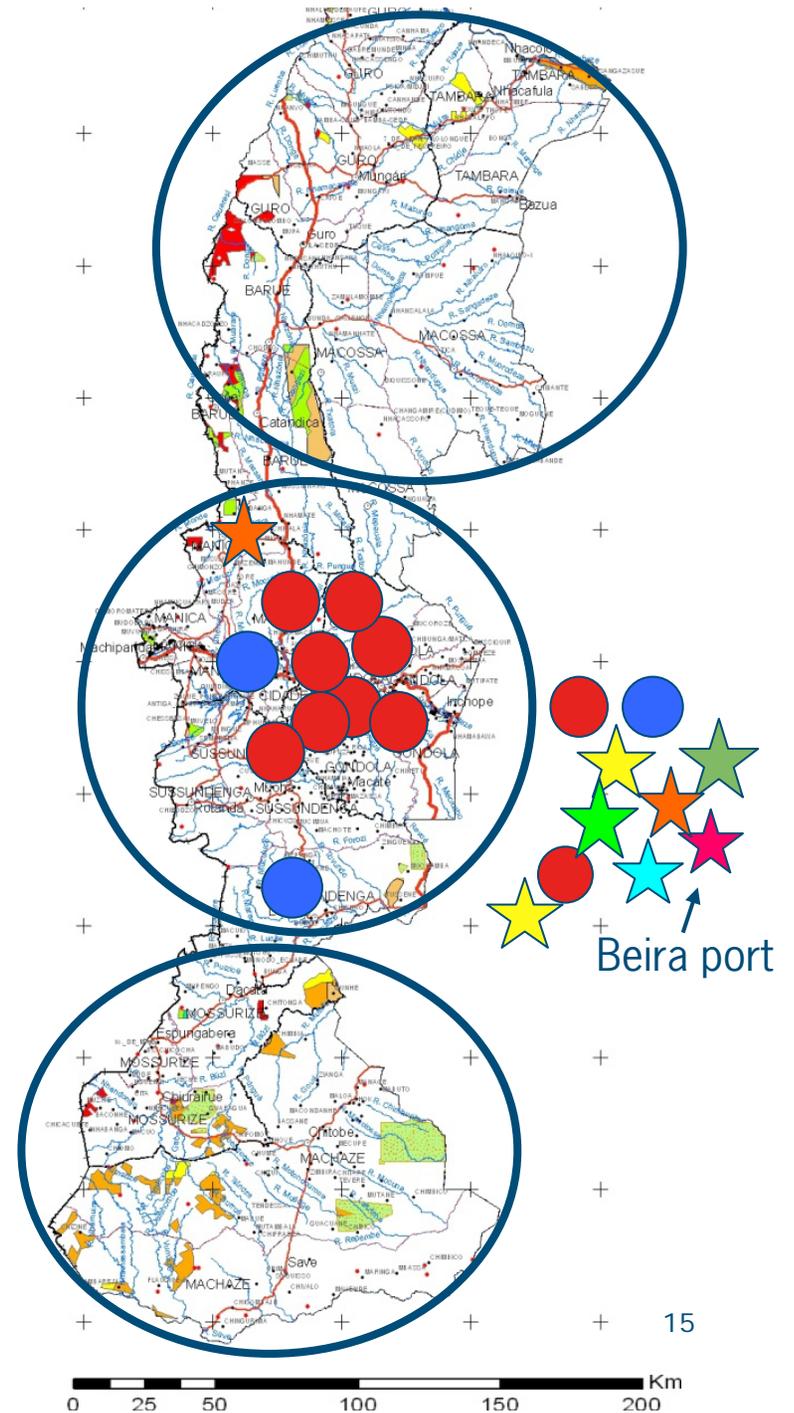
- Short versus long-term perspectives
- Competing Claims on Resources
- Agro-ecological zoning
- Remote areas and competitiveness
- Resettlement and compensation
- Little attention for small-scale
- Evolving Jatropha research
- Direct and/or indirect side effects



Zoning in Manica province



A locality in Mozambique identified as **available and suitable** based on the interrogation of 1km² satellite databases, evidently **extensively utilized and inhabited** when viewed at the better resolution provided by Google Earth (Watson, 2008; presented at COMPETE Workshop 25-27 November 2008 in Mali).



Successful 'blends'

- Take 'African reality' as point of departure
- Representation of stakeholders
- Transparency about objectives
- Communication strategy for public and media
- Process facilitation
- Agreement on knowledge/ research base
- Negotiated outcome (level of detail) and implementation
- Monitoring, evaluation and adaptation



Recommendations (1)

- Diversified (policy) strategies that respect the huge diversity of bioenergy-initiatives, opportunities and their dynamics in Africa
- Sustainability is a process with different phases and states. It is about optimizing systems (FSC-example)
- Developing a mandatory sustainability system is creating an incentive to cheat
- Create space in policy to integrate new insights and research findings



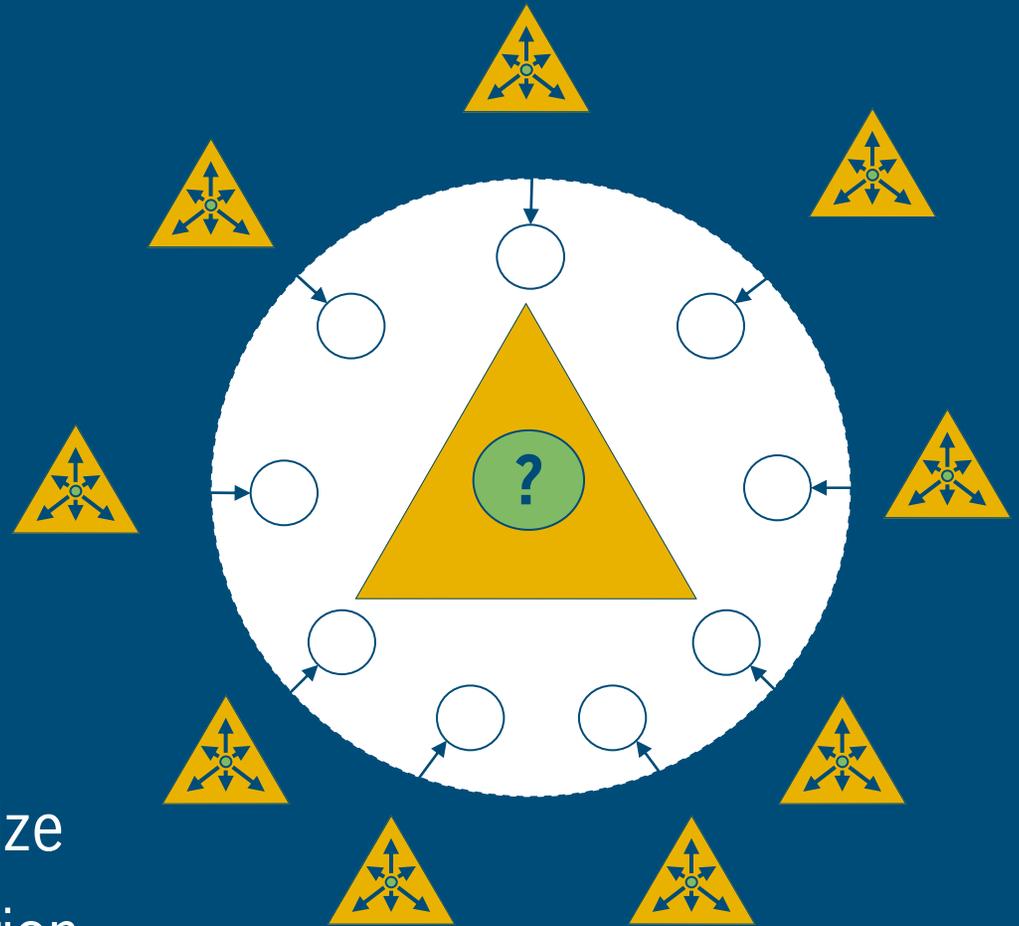
Recommendations (2)

- Explore 'win-win situations', but be realistic in terms of trade offs
- Policies should focus on the integration of smallholder farmers
- Learning projects and PPP to stimulate learning curve of sustainable bioenergy production – sustainability = learning
- Sustainability debate as interactive platform towards constructive cooperation between stakeholders



Sustainability is:

- Negotiation
- Trade-offs and politics
- Long and short time
- Flexibility
- Interaction
- Platform for cooperation
- Learning & conflict
- Diversify rather than generalize
- A process towards optimization



Thanks for your attention

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