

Communications Research Team

Progress Report

June 26-27, 2012
All Hand Meeting

BioEarth



Biosphere-relevant earth system model

CLARK
UNIVERSITY 
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UNIVERSITY 

Over-arching Team Objectives

- Develop frequent, regular, two-way interactive communication between model developers and decision-making stakeholders via workshops, meetings and a virtual internet forum.
- Analyze the perceptions of stakeholders and scientists concerning their respective roles in the development and application of the BioEarth model.

It's important to analyze baseline expectations and experiences of PIs to design effective stakeholder engagement strategies and prepare for challenges.

Summary of Milestones

Last Year's Milestones (Spring 2011-Spring 2012):

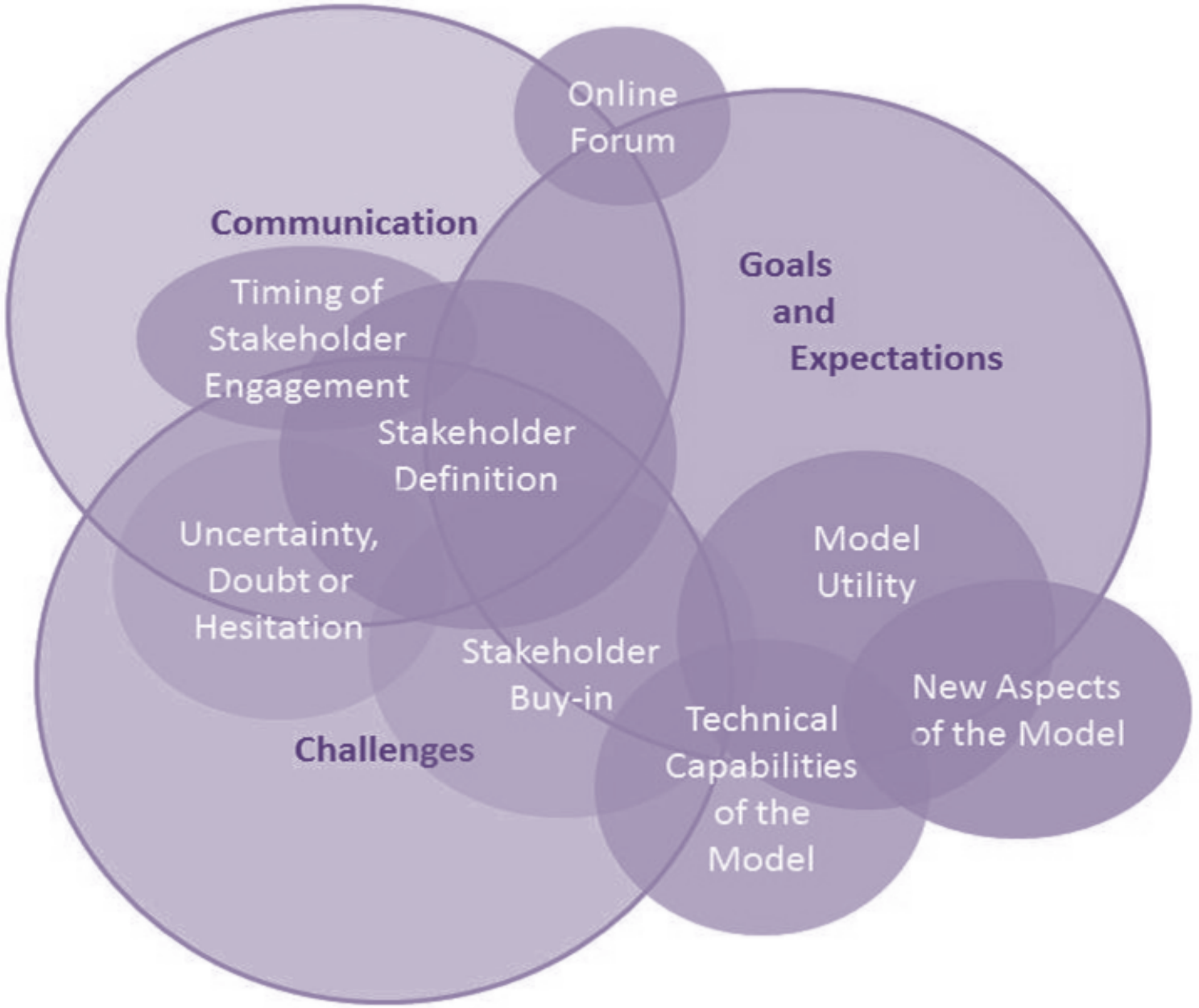
1. Collect and analyze baseline information about BioEarth scientists' perceptions of stakeholder engagement using questionnaires and interviews
2. Thesis and manuscript draft

Milestones Set at the December Meeting:

1. 2 stakeholder workshops per year (First round of workshops in fall or winter of 2012)
2. Communications research focusing on stakeholder workshops and scientists' perceptions. Comparative study of communication in other environmental modeling projects is a sub-milestone

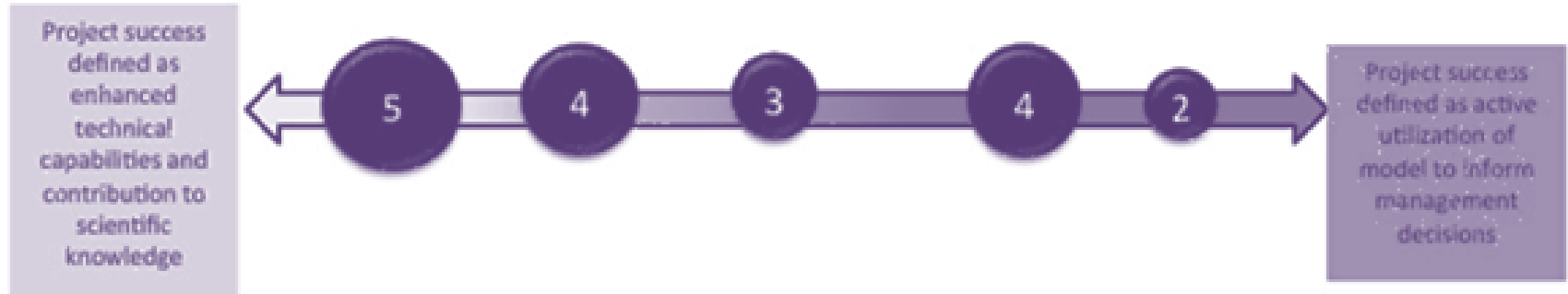
Key Themes from the

Interviews

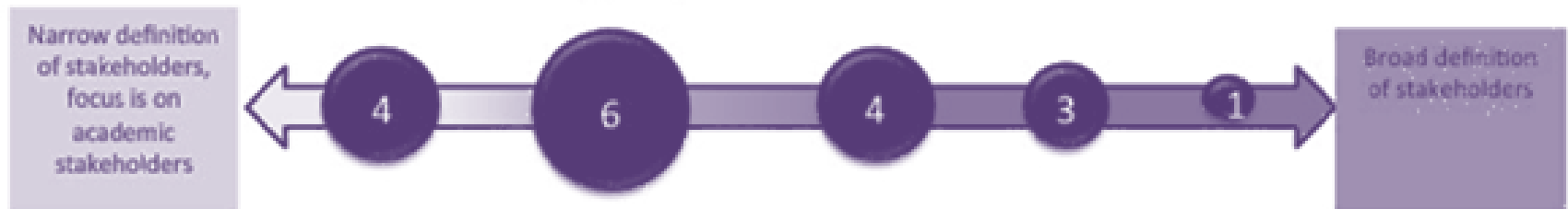


Spectra of Researcher Perceptions

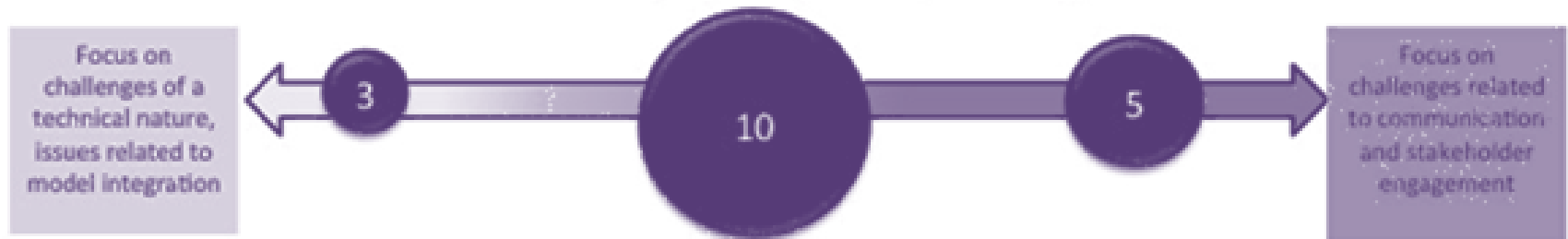
What defines a successful outcome for the research project?



Which groups constitute stakeholders?



What are the project's primary challenges?





New Directions (since December 2011)

Looking into connections between our research on BioEarth scientists' perceptions and the following areas of study:

- **Sustainability science**
- **Transdisciplinary research**
- **Changing role of extension programs**

Important Findings

- Variation in PIs' visions of primary project objectives: knowledge development vs. decision support tool
- Attitudes about the major challenges for the project correspond to perceptions of who stakeholders are and visions of successful project outcomes
- Opportunities and challenges in BioEarth are typical of transdisciplinary research and sustainability science
- Careful attention to stakeholder engagement is needed to address issues of model uncertainty and balance the goals of a simplicity/ understandable model and a detailed model that represents complexity

THANK YOU!

Handout

Survey to assist in preparation for the first Stakeholder Advisory Workshop(s) happening Dec/Jan

Questions?

Contact me anytime, lizb.allen@gmail.com