

Policy Relevant Questions

Development Energy in Africa

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Establishing a Common Understanding

- Policy makers = host of actors
- Policy instruments are not self-implementing tools
- Policy formulation depend on policy cultures and socio-economic contexts
- Perceptions matter
- Information can enhance policies
- Policies reflect internal and external realities
- Policy making is a process

Contextual Analysis

- Weak economy
- Poor energy infrastructures
- Poor attention to energy research analysis
- Conflicting development priorities
- Balance of payment deficit
- Paucity of resources
- Poor planning procedures

Nature of Energy Policies

- External pressure
- Centralised
- Reactive
- Fragmented
- Ad Hoc
- Urban Bias
- Gender Bias

Pro-Poor Energy Policies

- How can energy policies contribute to sustainable livelihoods?
- How can energy planning take into account local realities?
- What types of policy instruments can help in alleviating poverty?

Question1: Energy Policies and SL

1. Knowledge – Local realities can shape perceptions
2. Linkages - Exploiting crucial linkages

Question 2: Planning

- **Capacity**
- **Relevant Data**
- **Functional Competence**
- **Involvement of Stakeholders**
- **Vision**

Question:3 Policy Instruments

- Regulatory instruments
- Market-based instruments
- Information-based instruments
- that mandate specific behaviour
- that act as incentives for particular activities
- Supportive mechanism which seek to induce change by providing info.

Table A1.1 Policy research approaches

Policy research approach	Characteristics
Rational (public) choice	Promotes development of sectoral policy statements and recommends policy contents and processes
Instruments/ content-focused	Analyses and recommends only content of policy – its instruments and mechanisms
Pragmatic pluralist (process/actor/ networks focused)	Recognises political dimensions, assumes social groupings influence policy, and proposes solutions emphasising participation
Inter-sectoral	Examines influence on the focal sector of policy in other sectors
Political economy – structuralist	Emphasises existence of strong political-economic forces determining policy
Anthropology of policy and power	Examines policy discourses, narratives and power of actors
Historical	Traces forces and events causing policy change over time

Policy Outcome of Findings

- Data – Common understanding of problems
- Ideas – Consensus
- Arguments- justification

Possible Ways to Influence Policies

NGOs as “carriers of information

- Types of influences
 - **Advocacy**
 - **Policy Analysis – preparing policy toolkits**
 - **Dialogue**
 - **Networking – building constituencies**
 - **Lobbying –taking advantages of opportunities**
 - **Establish close ties with p. makers by getting them to participate in the analyses of the issues**

Degree of Influence

Addressing issues relating to

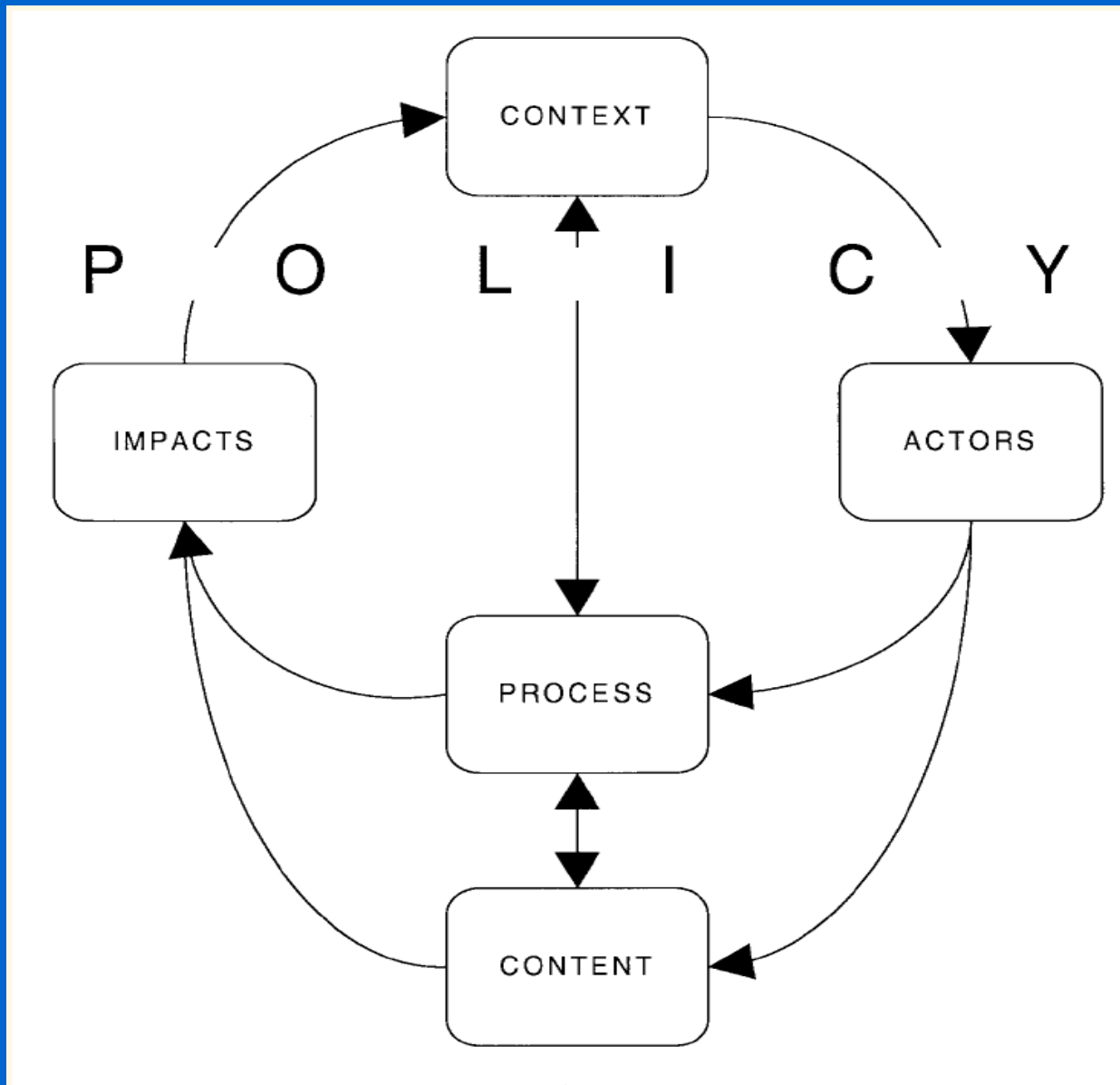
- - Scope
- Timing
- Resources

Selection of Priority Areas

- Methodology
- Timeline
- Objectives and questions need to be formulation
- Priority – high versus low

Developing a framework

- Framework – is the tracks on which the trains rides
- Policy change is influenced by 3 mains factors and the dynamics/interactions
- -Stakeholders
- Policy characteristics (content and processes)
- impacts



Ability to Affect Implementation

- Dependent on 4 factors
 - A good grasp of policy processes
 - A good grasp of policy content
 - A good grasp of policy impacts (social, economic and environmental)
 - A good grasp of policy cultures

Final Thoughts!

- Policy Makers = human with strengths and weakness, biases etc
- Policy makers do a fair amount of muddling along
- Policy are concerned about political expediency but they also want to be engaged
- There are power connotations to policy but also some room to manoeuvre