

Where is IRG  
heading?

# Why worry?

- Declining number of researchers in the field
  - due to fewer university programs and
  - key members moving towards retirement
- Industry becoming more insular due to the use of knowledge to maximise profits
- Reduction in impartial government funded research with the privatisation of national laboratories
- Litigation potential from the discussion of ideas due to confidentiality constraints.

# To address these concerns . . .

- We need to define where we want to go/be and then
- Work out how to get there.

# Road Map

Survey



Members



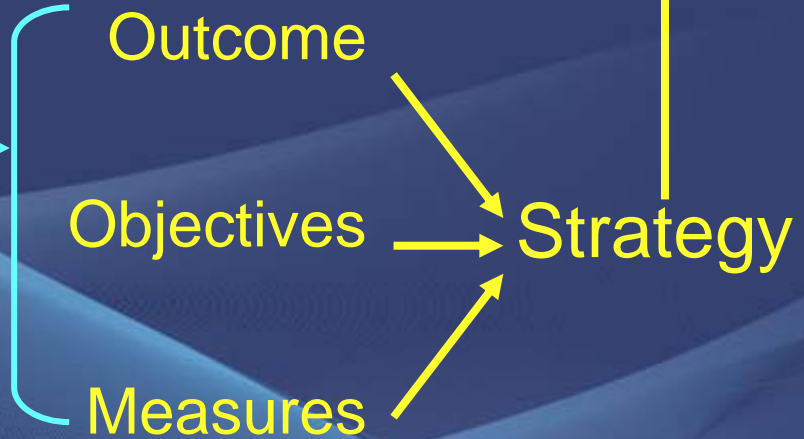
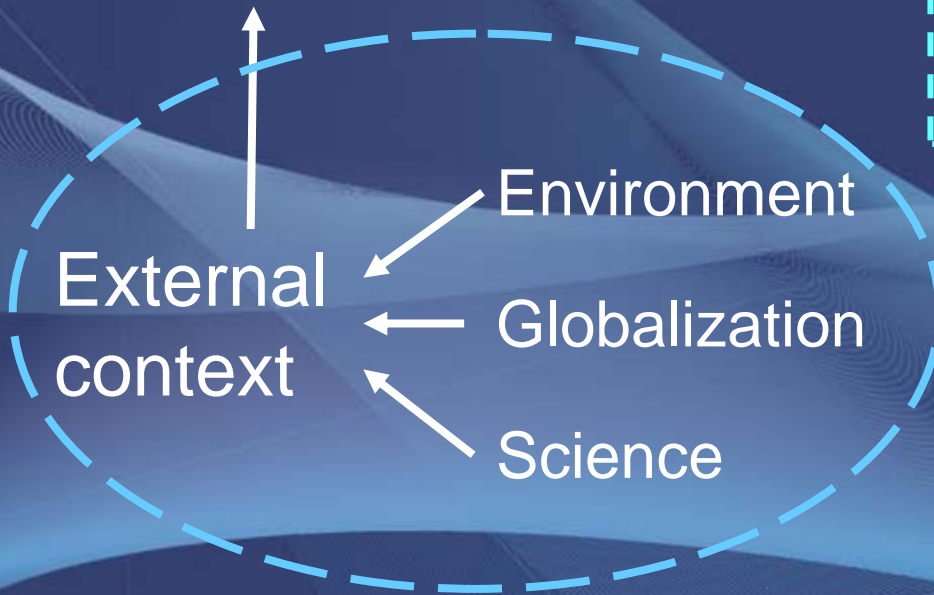
Gather information



Formulate



Plan



# Road Map

Survey



Members



Gather  
information



Formulate




Plan

134 responses from 330 members (41%)

# Processing the numbers

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
IRG is functioning well for members			X	
IRG should continue as is		X		

% responses = 100 X

  
Number of responses to the question

Stand out results (>90%)

Overall value of IRG . . .

- Access to contacts & emerging science

Importance of activities

- Up to date research
- Access to papers/c'pendium/n'letter
- Interact with scientists

# Stand out results (>90%)

## Effectiveness of structures & processes

- Secretariat (98%)
- SPC & working parties
- Executive council
- Functioning well
- Value for money
- **Product quality**
  - Secretariat, Annual conference, Compendium, Meeting CD

# Stand out results (>90%)

IRG should drive research that achieves

- Improvements in preserving wood
- Recognition of wood protection in the sustainability debate
- Better informed wood protection industry
- Better use of the right timbers
- Better informed consumers
- Cost effective wood products

# Summary 1

- Science focused organization
- Satisfied with . . .
  - The way we work
  - The outputs we produce

BUT

To be sustainable . . . .

# Summary 2

- IRG should have a higher prominence in the sustainability debate
- IRG's future depends on its contribution to resource sustainability
- 68% believe IRG should make policy on wood protection.
- Continue as is (80%)
- Should influence research direction (79%)

# Summarizing the summary

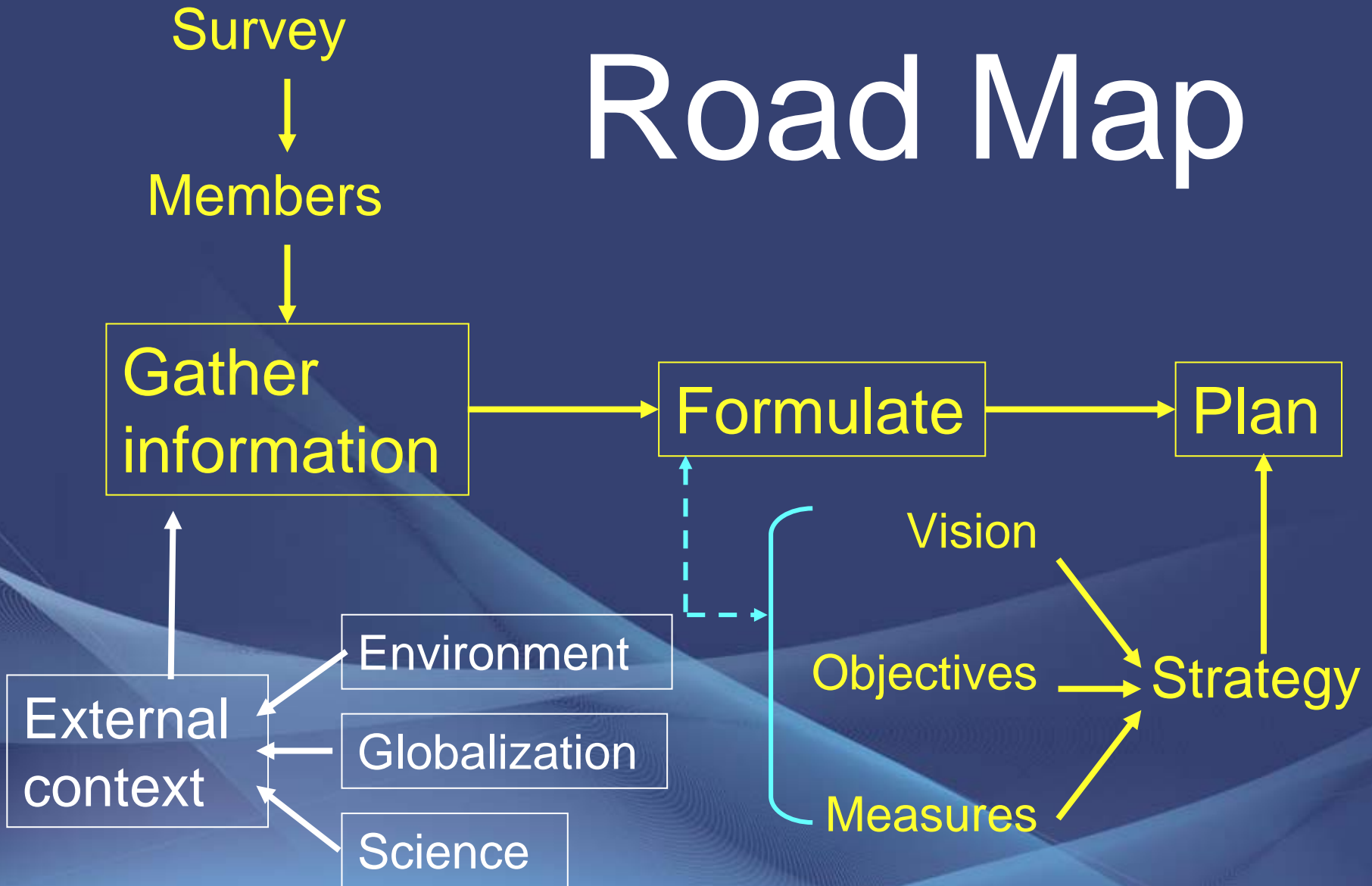
- IRG has a high value to the members-  
access to emerging science & contacts
- IRG services and outputs are  
acknowledged and appreciated by  
members
- There is a concern about the future.

IRG has an opportunity to use its  
collective (considerable) power to impact  
**outside** the organization

# Your turn!

- What can the wood protection community offer?
- What can the wood protection community influence?

# Road Map



# Rules

We know the problems - we need solutions – don't limit your responses

- Make opportunities > threats
- Look outwards

# Environment – threats & opportunities

Issue	Relevance to wood protection/ IRG
Water	
Food	
Fuel	
Deforestation	
Global warming debate	
Sustainability	
Carbon sequestration	
Climate change	
Pollution	

# Globalization – threats & opportunities

Issue	Factors	Relevance to wood protection/ IRG
Money markets	(Money for science)	
International Standards	Trade barriers	
	Quarantine	
	Chemicals	
	Knowledge	
International business	Corporates	
	Safety	
	Producer responsibility	
Government	Policy environment	
Image		

# Science – threats & opportunities

Issue	Factor	Relevance to wood protection/ IRG
Sexy Science (where there is money)	Genetic engineering	
	Global warming	
	Fuels	
	Pharmaceuticals	
Universities	Transient scientists	
	Forest products schools	
Costs	Selling out	
	Entrepreneurs	
The Joy/fun of science!		

# Next step

- Collate your responses
- Prioritise
- Develop a draft plan
- Approval by EC/members
- Develop a plan for IRG

To help prioritise the strategies we need to know:

- where we want to be . . .
- where we want to get to . . .

# To do this I will make the following assumptions

- We have an effective functioning organization.
- We produce the following outputs to a high standard:
  - Bringing wood protection interests together. .... We do this now
  - Promoting wood protection science to others. .... This is new

If this is the case, what do we expect to achieve?

The optimal use of wood through the application of international science on wood protection.

Where this fits in the world  
- our positioning in the greater  
scheme – *the super-goal*

The maximum use of forest products

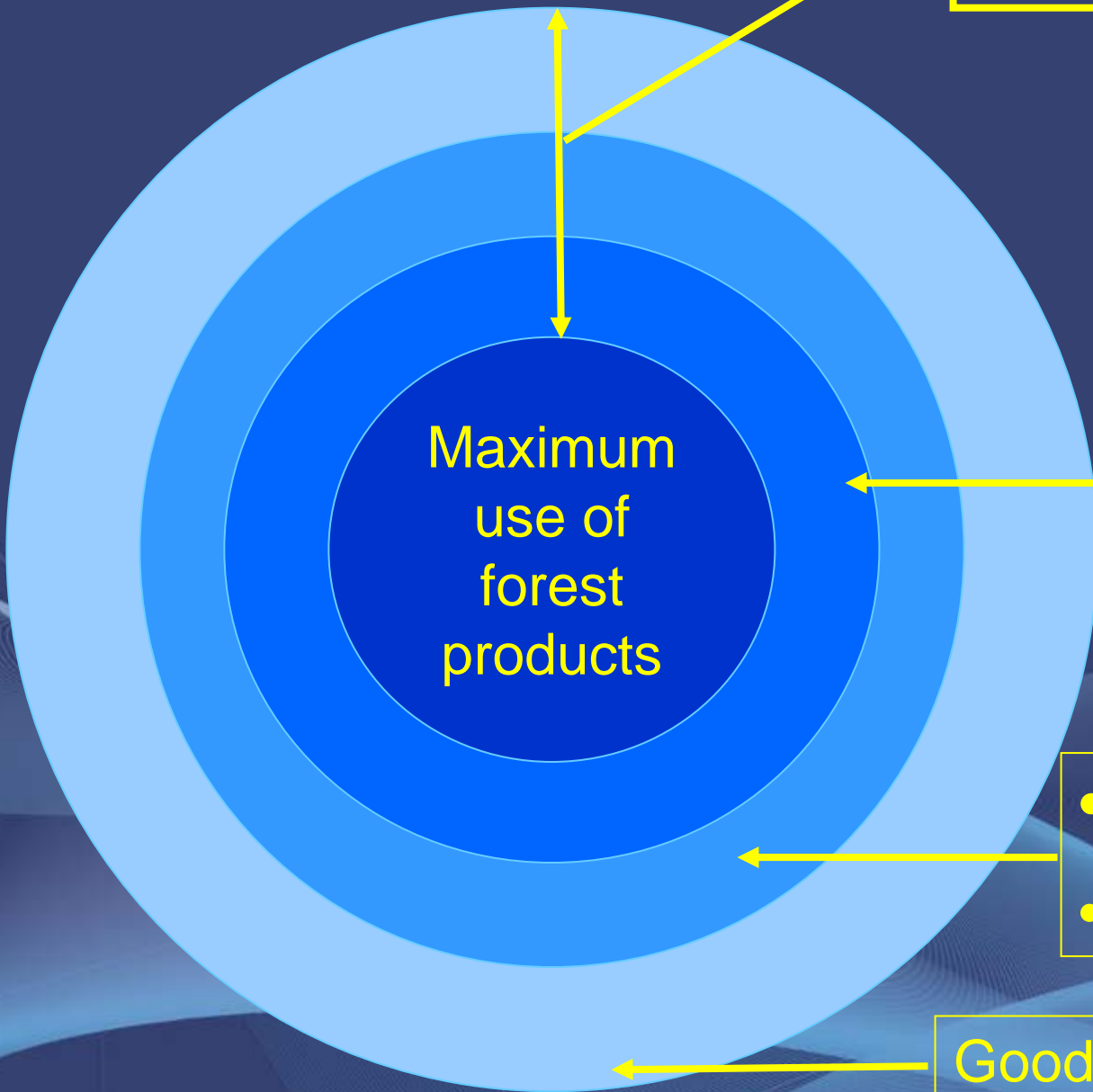
Under IRG's influence

Maximum  
use of  
forest  
products

Optimal use of  
wood through the  
application of  
international  
science on wood  
protection

- Bringing together
- Promoting

Good organization



# Your task (10 mins)

Confirm or modify the outcome statement:

(IRG expects to achieve the)

*Optimal use of wood through the application of international science on wood protection*

(If you make a change, please explain your thinking)

# Thanks for you involvement

If you have more to add, please email me  
by 24 JULY.

