

HOW DATA RICH AND INFORMATION POOR IS MONITORING? ANALYZING THE DUTCH NATIONAL MONITORING

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How big is
that tower?

The surface area
is 70 m², it is made
of 80.000 red bricks
sized 5 * 5 * 10 cm
and bla bla bla

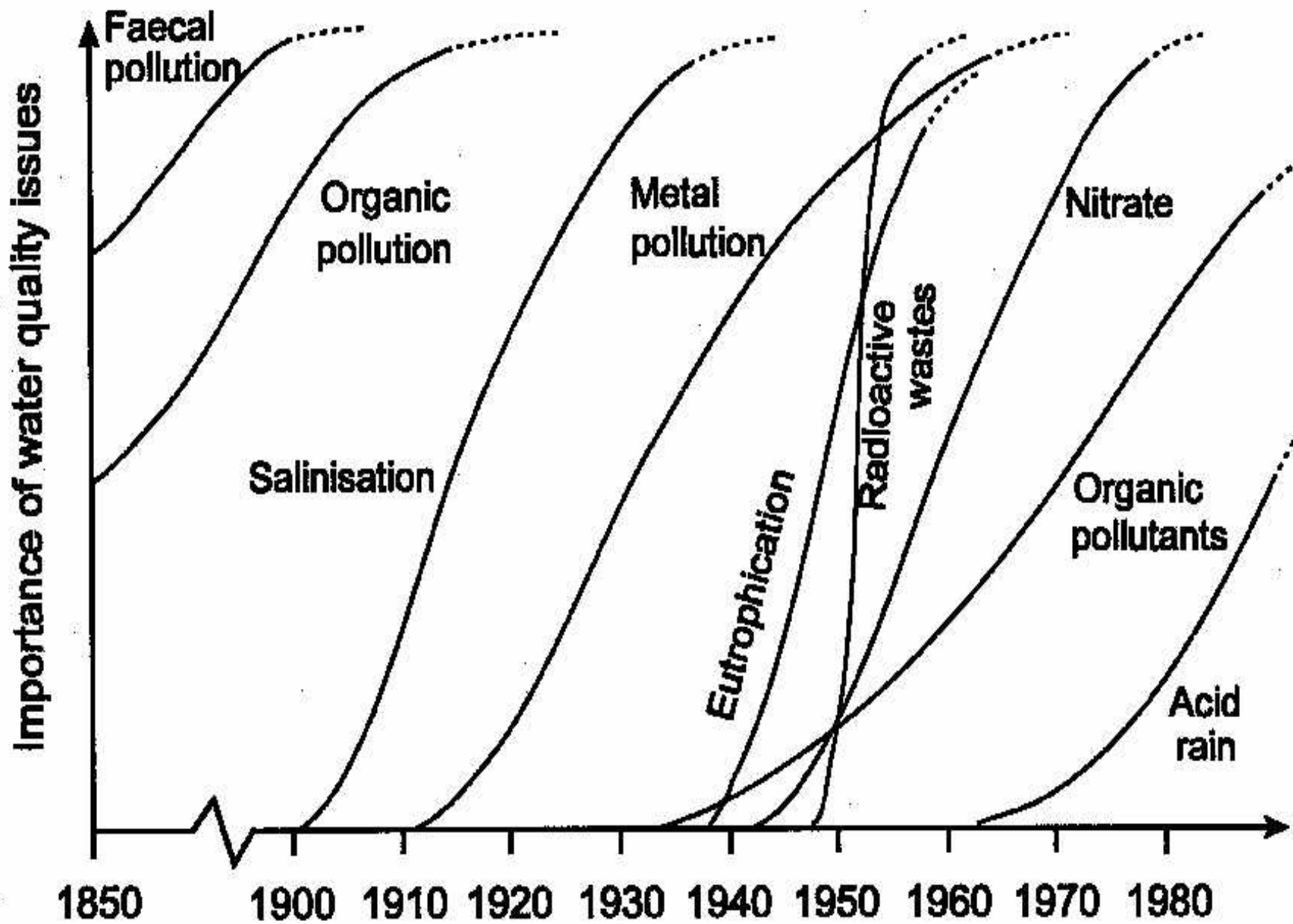
What kind of information do you really want?

Data-rich ↔ Information-poor



- Data-rich: more data are collected than necessary
 - Necessary:
 - Policy
 - Legislation
- Information-poor:
 - Information:
 - data – information – knowledge
 - externalised knowledge
 - Compliance ↔ ⇒ User satisfaction





(Meybeck and Helmer 1989)

UNECE International Water Assessment Centre

Monitoring locations in the Netherlands

National water quality monitoring network

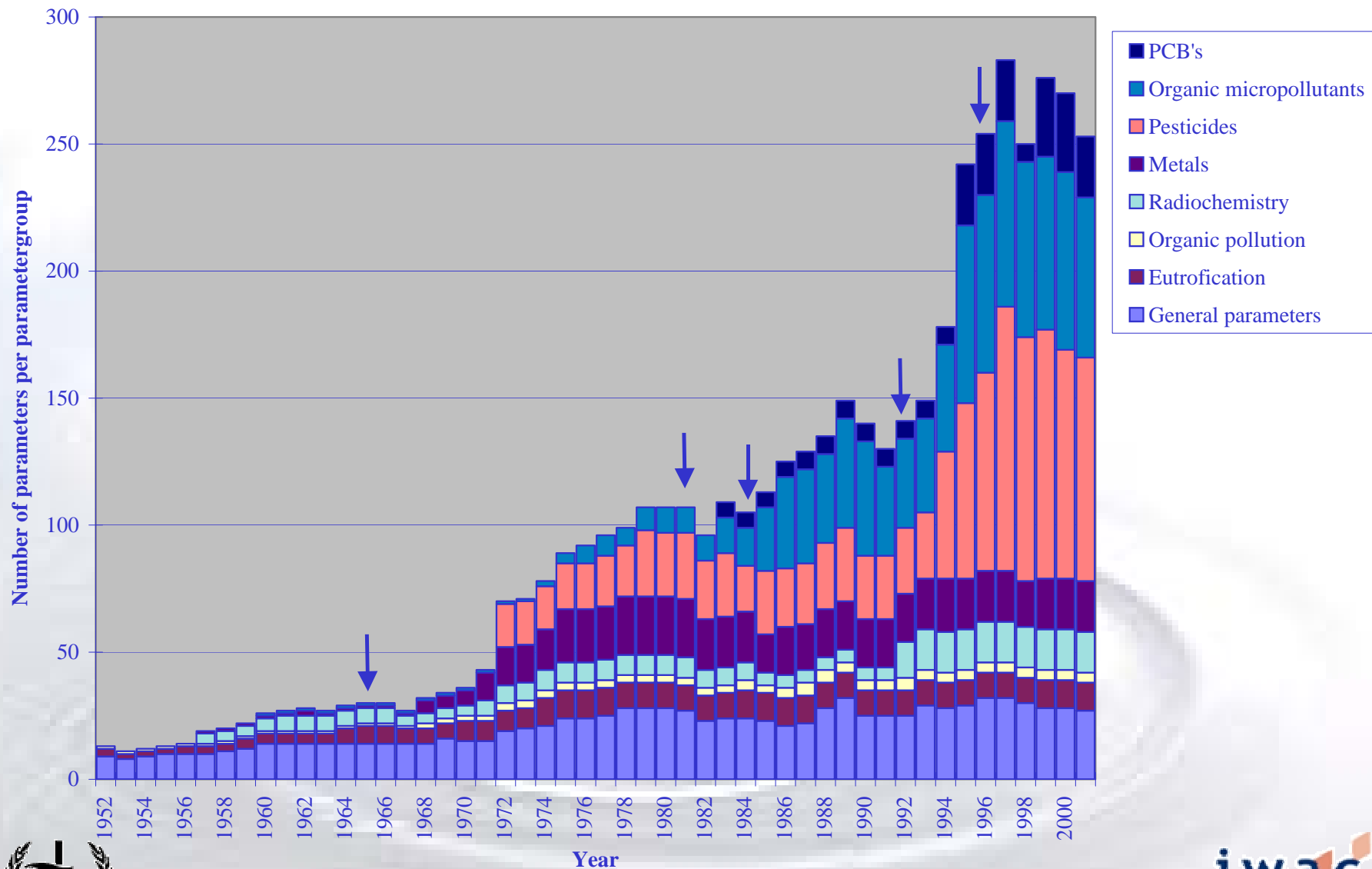


UNEP

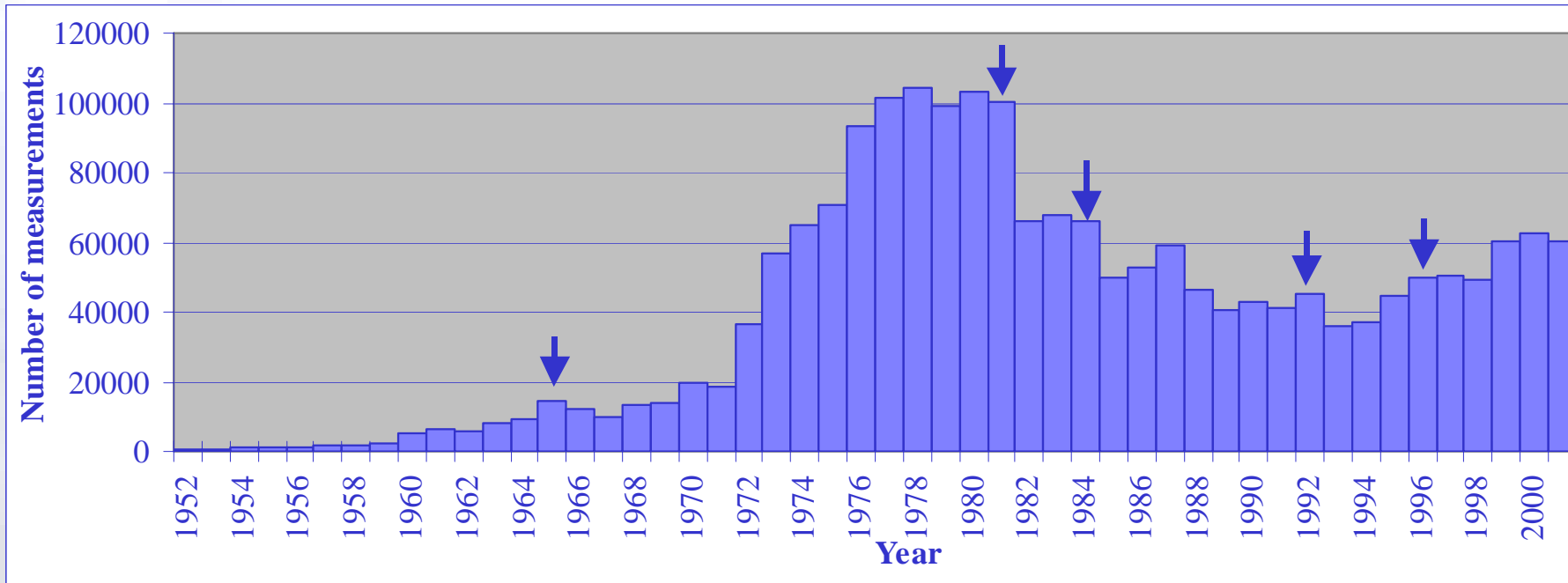
1996



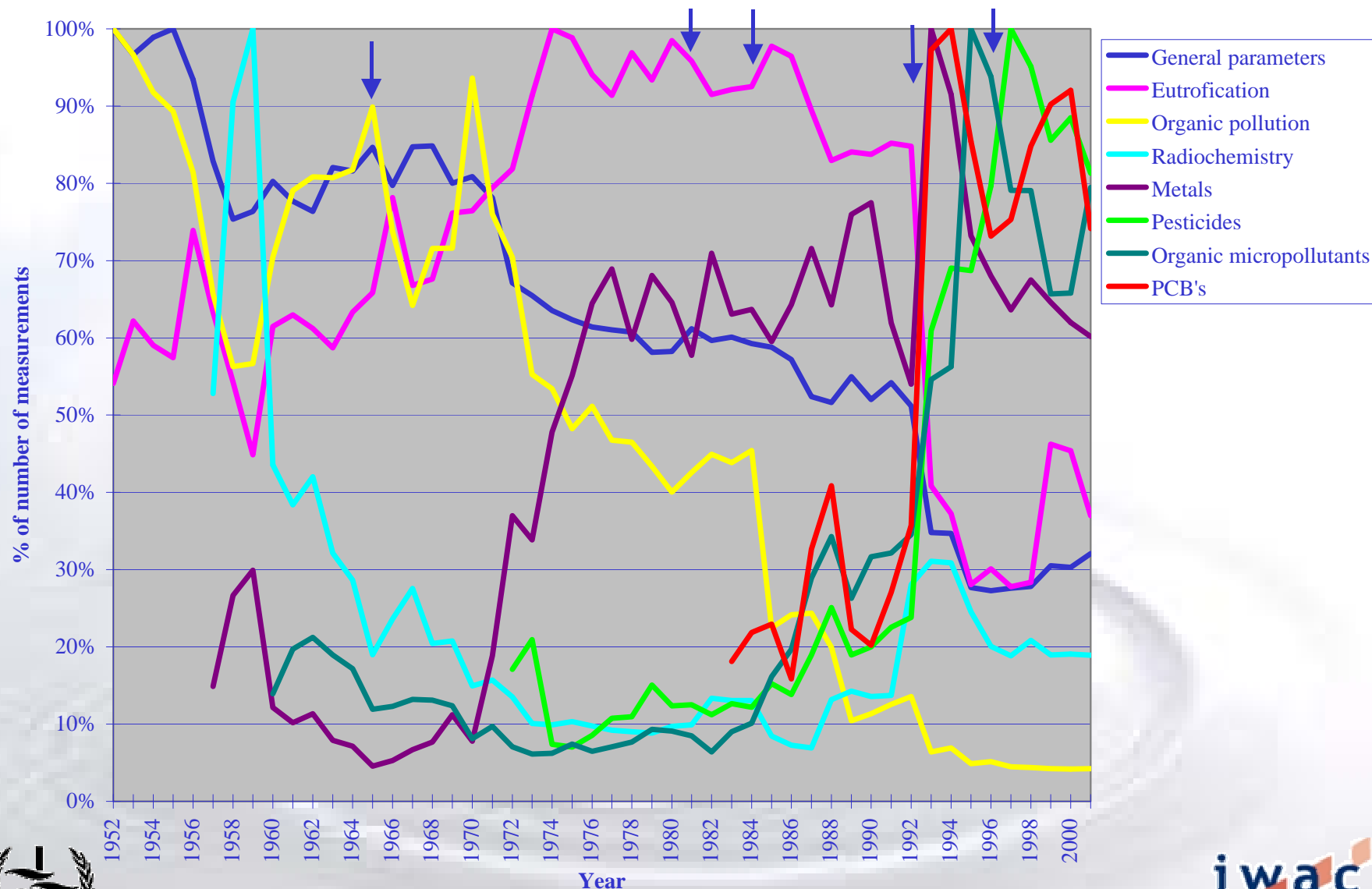
Number of parameters



Number of measurements



Relative monitoring effort



Legal requirements

- National legislation
- International agreements (Rhine, Meuse, Scheldt)
- European Union legislation
- All parameters in the network can be (directly or indirectly) attributed to this legislation



Limiting legislation

- Rigid
- Example: Zinc
 - Main diffuse source: roof-gutter
 - Little change expected



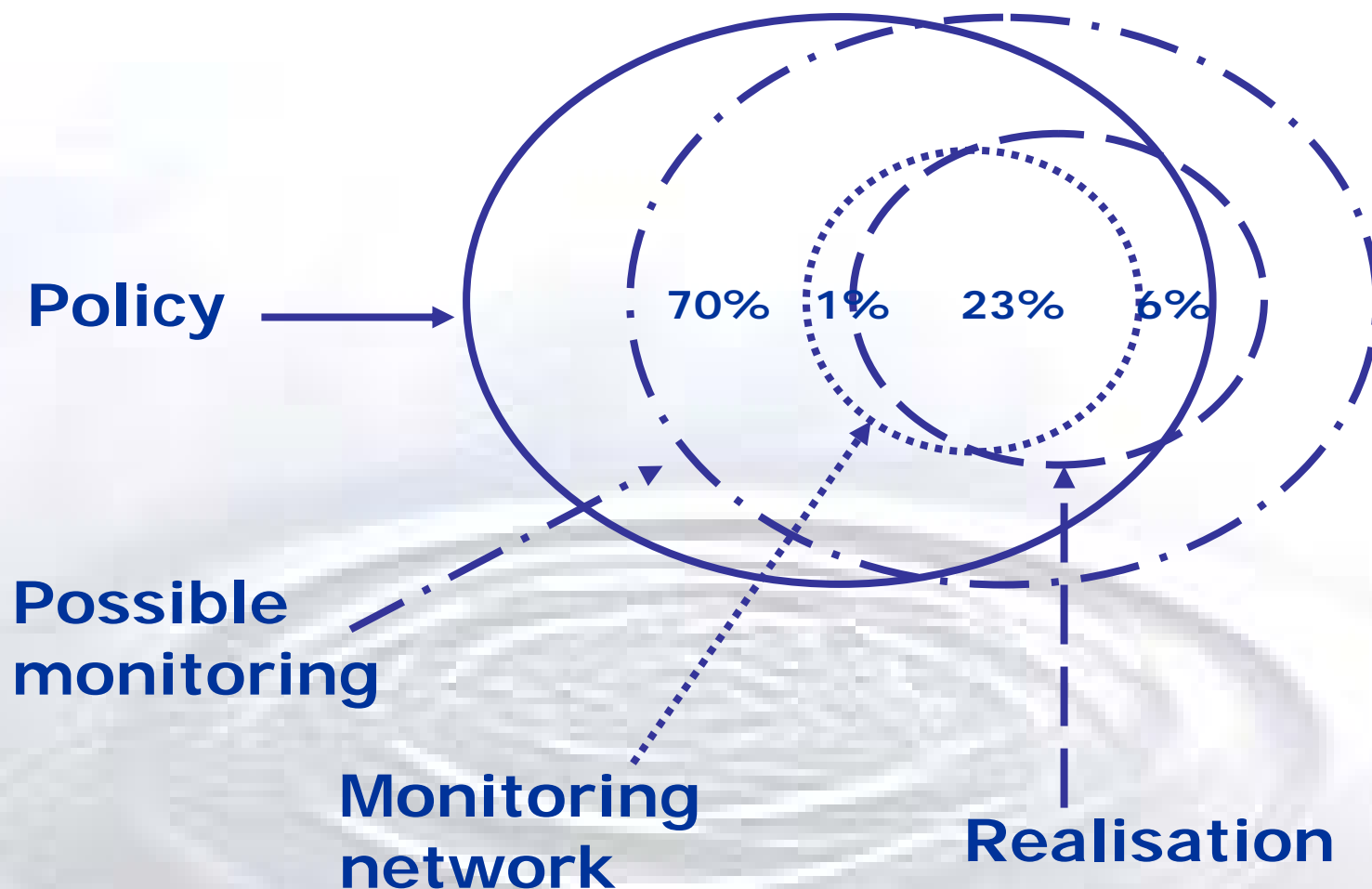
Relation between policy and monitoring



- Dutch Waddensea
- National policy and management reports
- Policy statements:
 - unclear statements like 'pursue' and 'in principle' ⇒ no monitoring possible
 - vague statements like 'sufficient' and 'possibly' ⇒ monitoring possible
 - clear statements like 'no more than' and 'constant' ⇒ monitoring possible



Relation between policy and monitoring



Dutch national monitoring



Organisation and implementation

- 2000: Strategic document:
 - Well received
 - Little implemented
- 2003: Study to revive strategy
 - Why lack of implementation?
 - Way forward



Dutch national monitoring

- Findings:
 - The demand side values monitoring information as unimportant; it should be there answering their policy- and management questions
 - The demand side does not see their role as steering or determining the type of information produced
- Conclusions:
 - Focus on interface demand ↔ supply
 - Demand side should be party in the process
 - *"but can this be required from them?"*



Conclusions

- Data-rich?
 - Not from legal perspective
- Information-poor? Maybe
 - Monitoring provides useful information
 - Monitoring does not fulfil the expectations
- Make legal requirements more flexible
- Better link needed between supply and demand!

