Linking Water Governance in Lake Erie to External Economic, Social and Political Drivers

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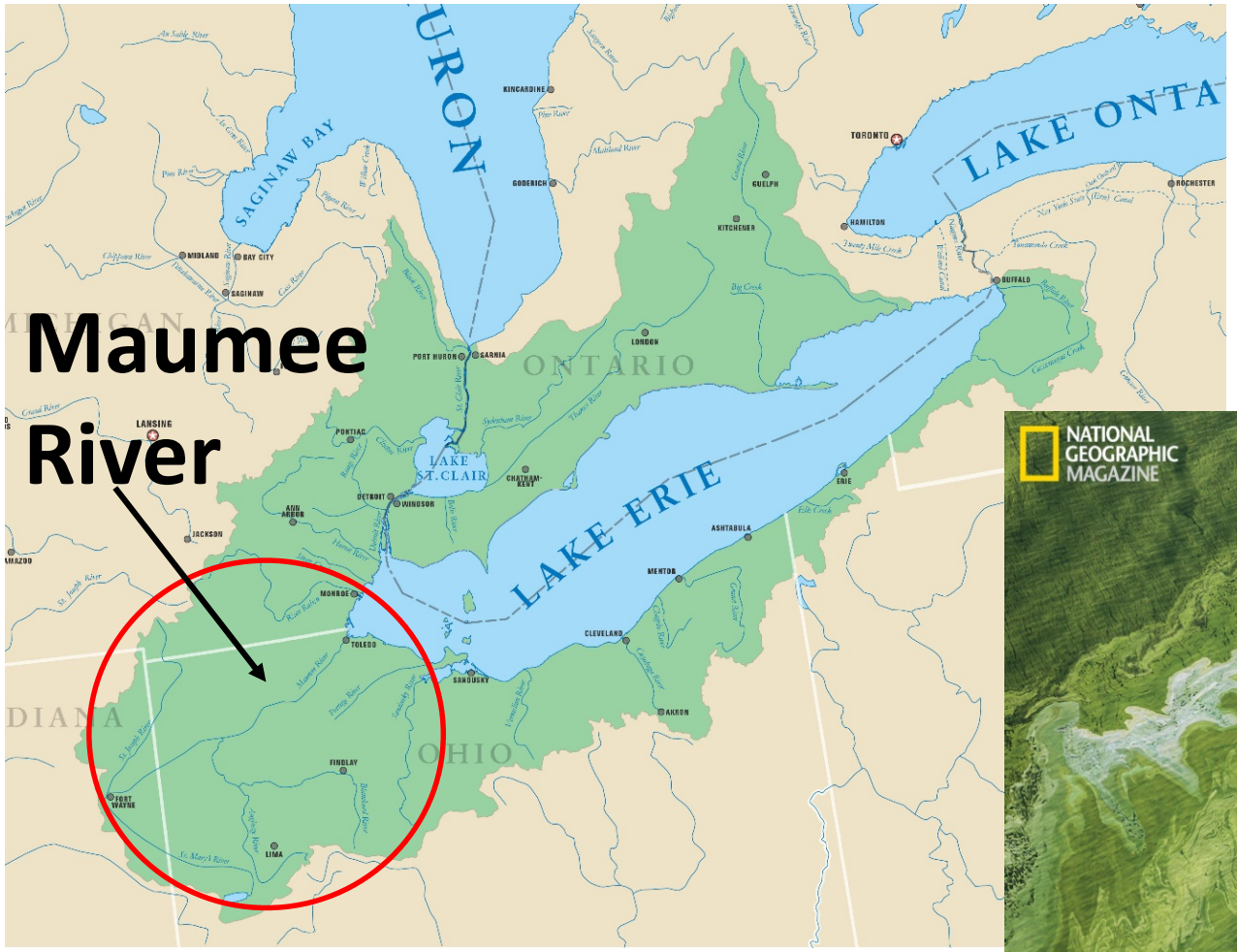
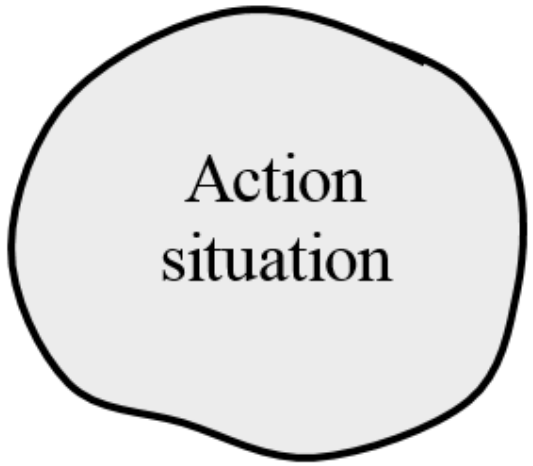
Nutrients in Lake Erie



Boat traversing Lake Erie algae bloom, 2011. © Peter Essick/National Geographic

Define Action Situation

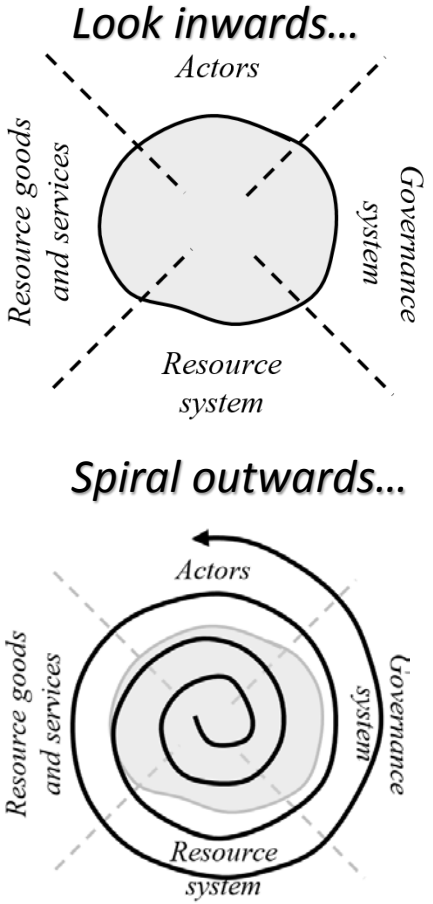
[1]



- Bi-national Lake Erie basin
- Polycentric governance in a transboundary setting
- Increasing P and dissolved reactive P (DRP) since early 2000s
- Harmful algae blooms (HABs) since 2008
- Target of 40% P reduction by 2025
- Domestic Action Plans

Ask Diagnostic Questions

[2]

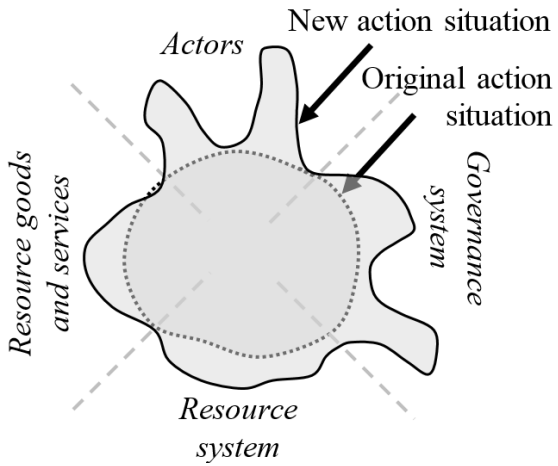


- What are the sources and drivers of P and DRP increases?
- Who benefits and who is harmed by these increases? Why and how?
- Does a basin orientation include all relevant actors?

- Which actors in adjacent action situations have a stake?
- How much power do they have to influence governance?

Reflect on the Boundaries

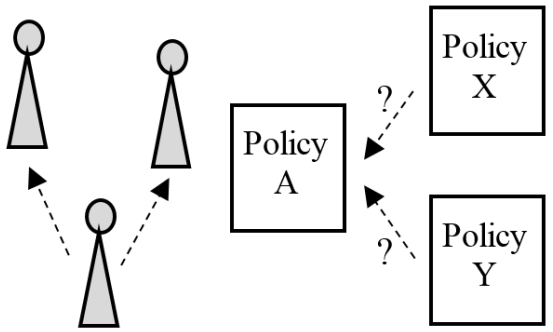
[3]



- BWT and GLWQA reinforce a water-centric problem frame
- Scientific research and policy initiatives are working inside the box
- Important non-water decision makers are entirely outside the current frame

Explore Opportunities

[4]



- Strengthen linkages between nutrient science and policy
- Leverage relationships developed through WQB
- Contributions to TAP 2020
- Take the ‘energy business case’ for water quality to energy policy makers

Conclusions

- Water governance often undermined by inappropriate boundary judgements
- Structured diagnostic approaches can reveal and clarify boundary problems
- In our GWP project, we're trying to understand if achieving P reductions for Lake Erie requires expanding boundaries to include key external actors and drivers