



# **At the Crossroads of Ownership and Accountability: How Agency and Institutions Interact in Development Partnerships**

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**...In the Pacific, engaging in and making partnerships work at national and regional levels is not a choice, or academic exercise, it is our reality. Partnership and inclusivity is a key tenet of our pacific policymaking... If we are to have genuine and durable partnerships we need to anchor accountability at national and regional levels to improve ownership...**



# Today's Presentation

1. Why the Research Matters
2. Research Approach and Proposition
3. Case Studies
4. Sum Up Implications

Kiribati

With thanks to Mike Bowers The Guardian





# 1. Why this research matters



“ ... it is for the United Nations to set the standards...but **the setting of standards must not assume that there are universal solutions to problems in all parts of the world...**

....As with other colonial powers...(British) policy has been based on **their concepts, their values and their patterns of behaviour**. They have not always shown due regard for **the feelings, customs and ways of life of the people....**

There has been **superiority** and...**arrogance....too much direction and too little opportunity for participation....**

While many countries are **reshaping the global rules and institutions** in ways that **might not always support our interests or reflect our values**, we as Pacific countries **remain resolute to assert such**. Under the Blue Pacific identity **we are asserting our common values and concerns and building our collective voice** amid the geopolitical din on the existential threat of climate change that looms for all the Pacific family...

Remarks by the PM Tuilaepa Silelei Malielegaoi

Outgoing Chair, PIFS September 2018 Nauru

## 2. Research Approach

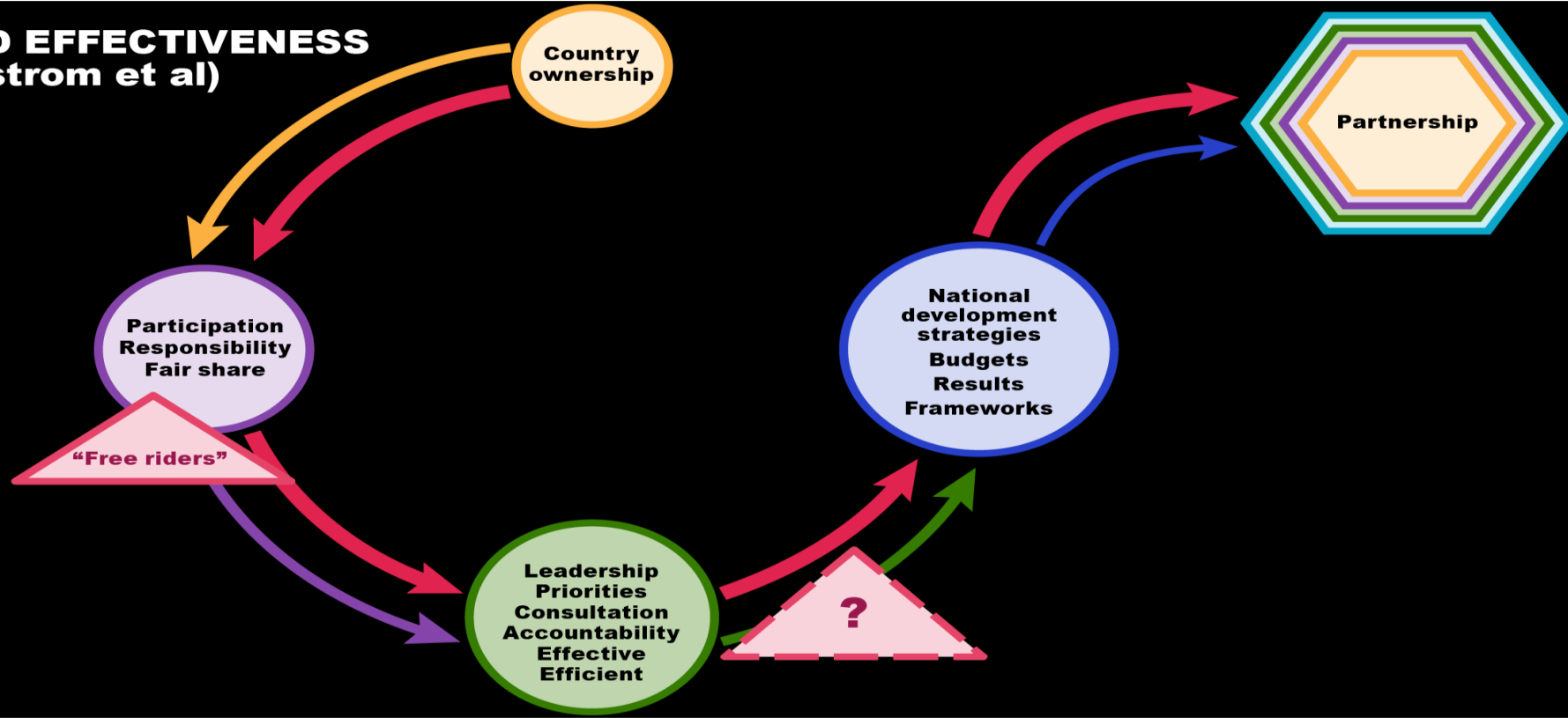
# Country Ownership is...

**Partner countries exercise effective leadership over their development policies and strategies and coordinate development actions.**

OECD: Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness 2005 and Accra Agenda for Action 2008

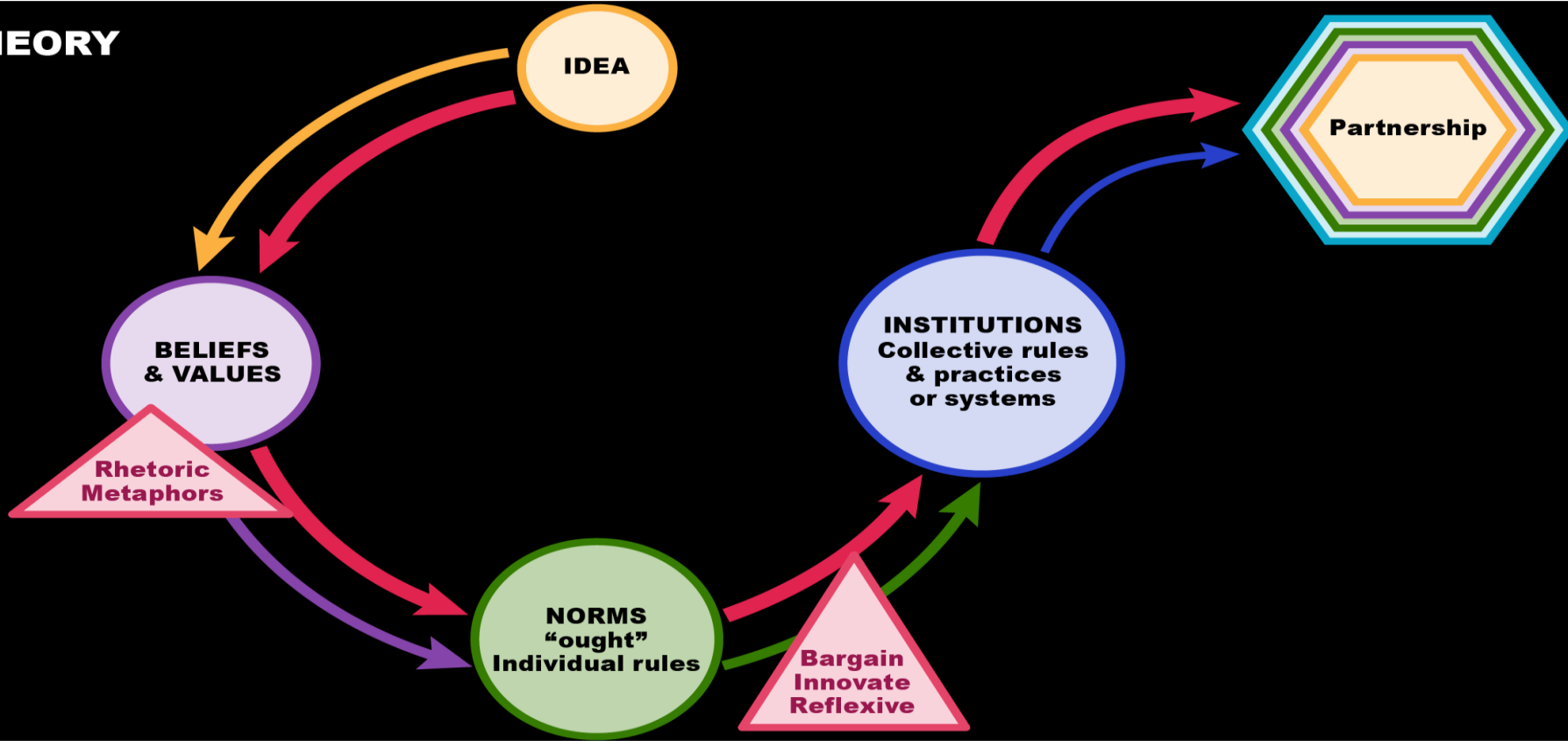
# Aid Effectiveness (Ostrom et al)

## AID EFFECTIVENESS (Ostrom et al)



## 2. Research Proposition: Ideas Power & Policy Translation

### THEORY





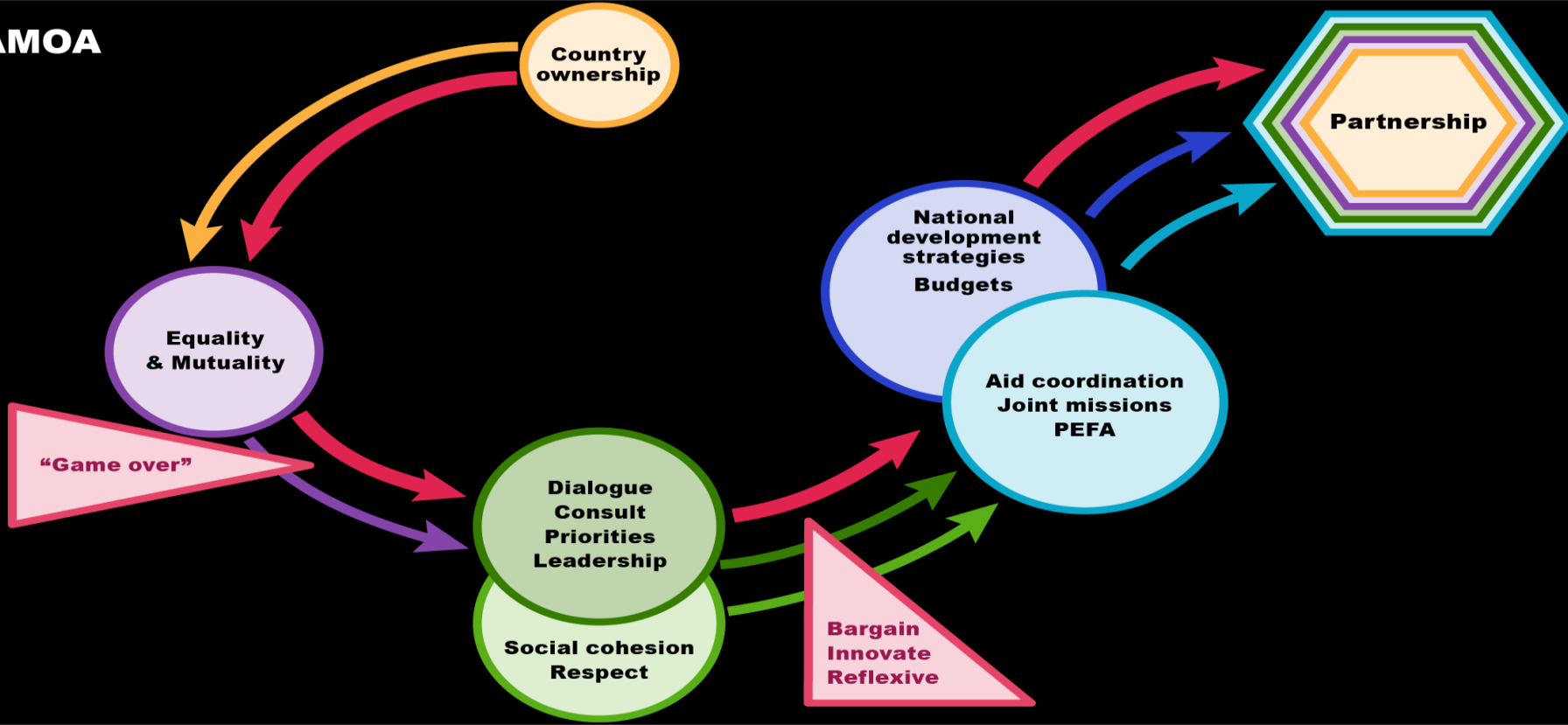
## 3. Case Studies - Findings

- **Country context & local agency** significant
- **Mismatch in problem framing**
- **Local norms not readily set aside**
- **Local actors' policy intent: 'what' vs 'how'**
- **Different policy pathways-partnerships**



# Case Study: Samoa

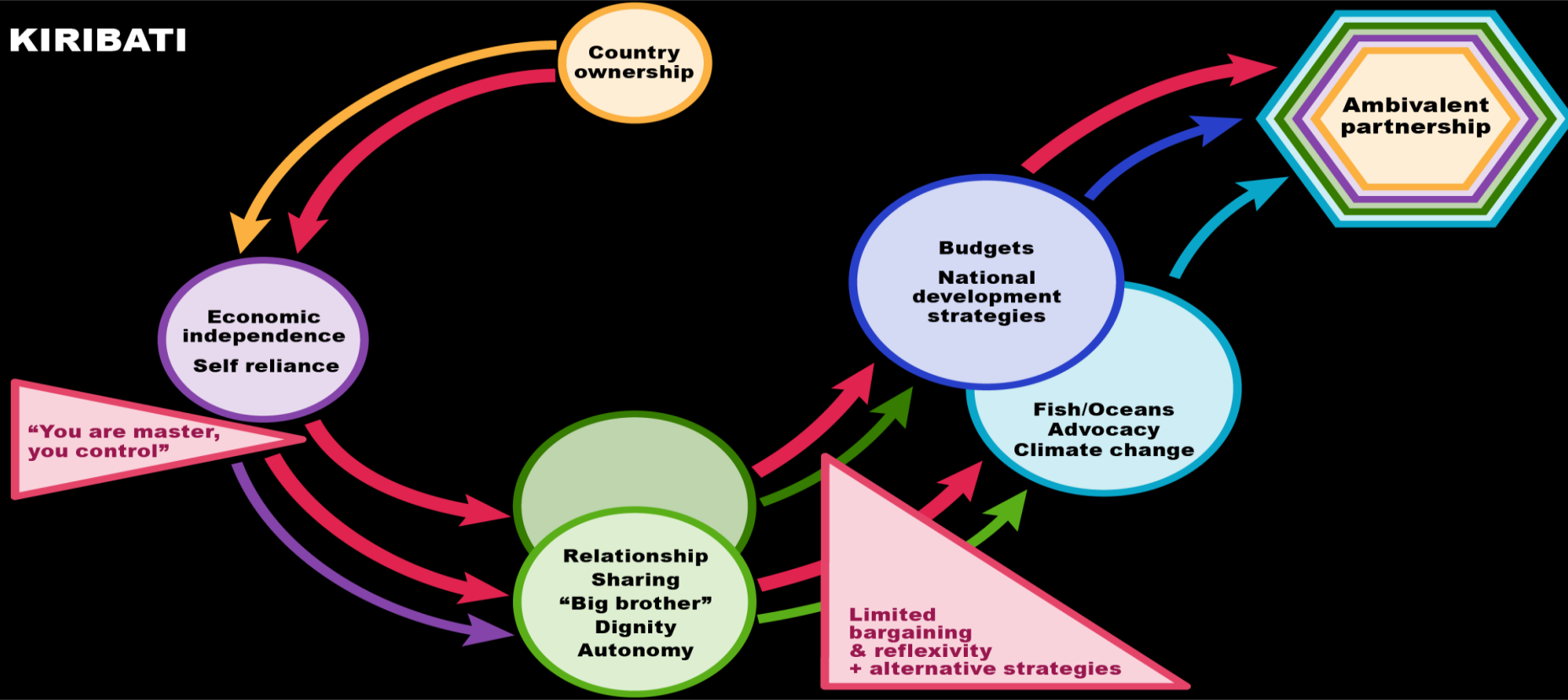
**SAMOA**





# Kiribati

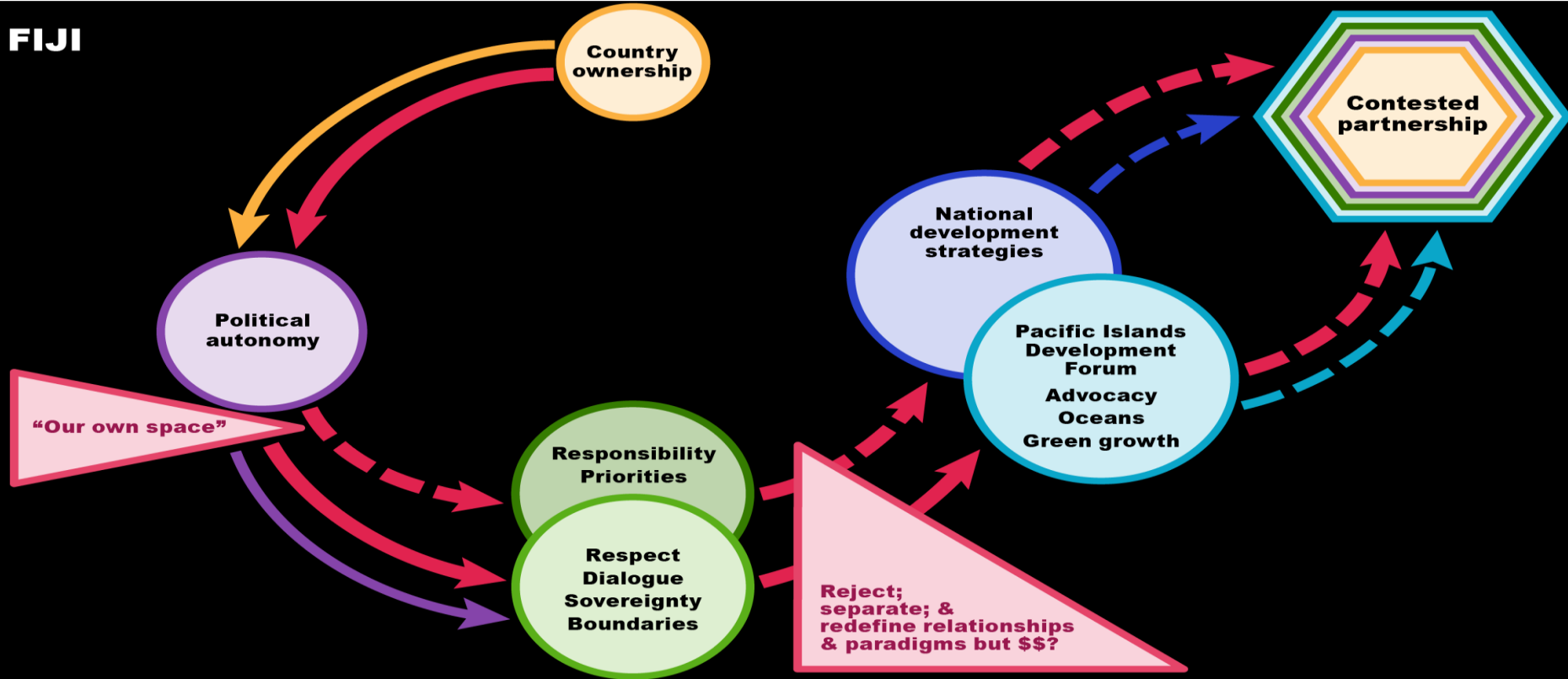
## KIRIBATI





# Fiji

**FIJI**





## 4. Implications?

Policymakers must acknowledge **values and beliefs**:

- 1) Problem is **Framed**
- 2) Policy **Designed**
- 3) During **Implementation**
- 4) Policy **Transition**

.....our traditional Forum partners left the neighbourhood...and are coming back to claim a jurisdiction under their watch and to consider a re-energised Pacific strategy. Such an approach must be **genuine and durable and premised on understanding, friendship, mutual benefit and a collective ambition to achieve sustainable results...**

Pacific perspectives on the New Strategic Landscape  
Address by Hon Prime Minister of Samoa, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi,  
PIFS Chair, Lowy Institute, Sydney Australia 30 August 2018



# Thank you

## Comments & Questions Welcome

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Kiribati

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# Ownership Partnership and Development...

**Effective partnerships** among donors and recipients are based on the **recognition of national leadership and ownership of development plans** and, within that framework, sound policies and good governance at all levels are necessary to ensure ODA effectiveness

Monterrey Consensus, para40 Mexico 18-22 March 2002

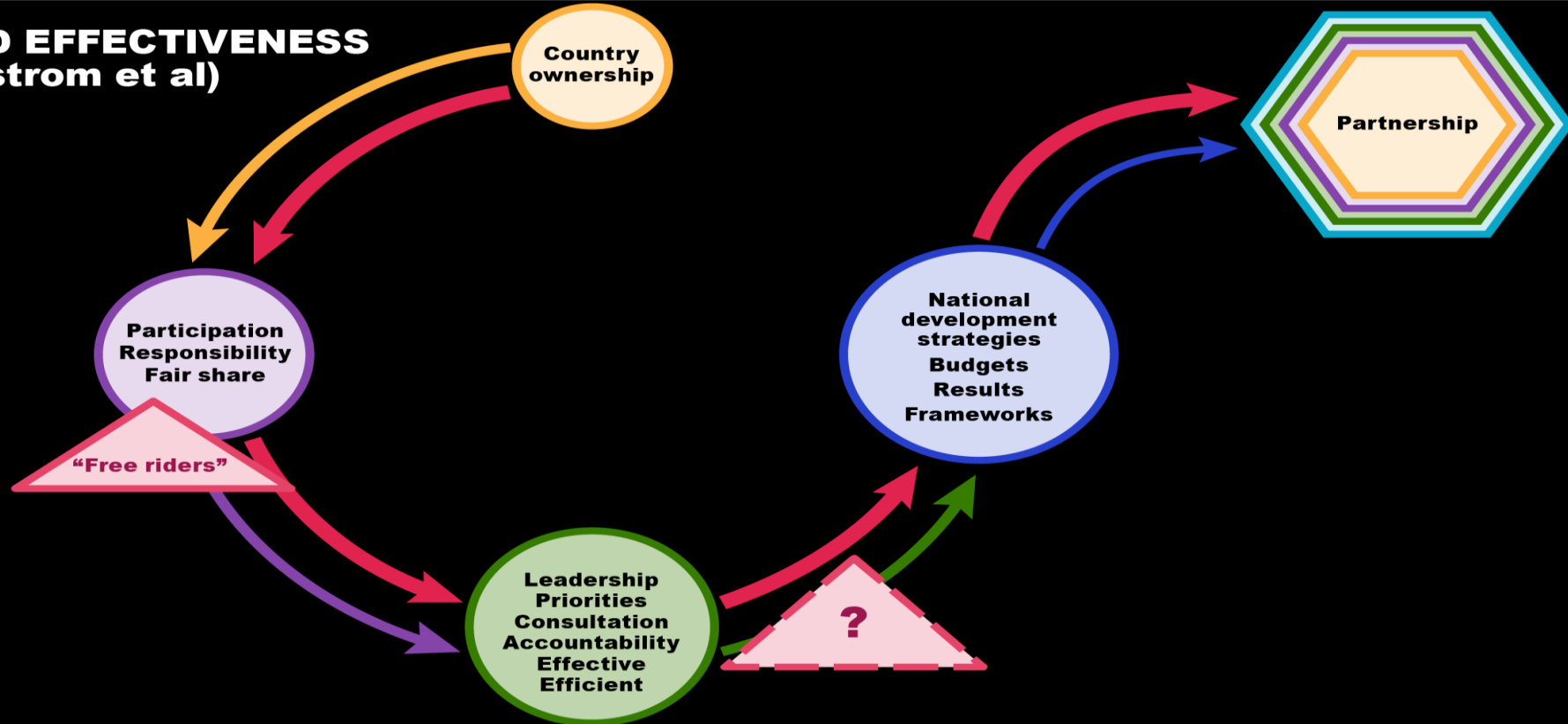
# The Blue Pacific

“...The [Blue Pacific narrative](#) helps us to understand, in and on our own terms, based on **our unique customary values and principles, the strategic value of our region**. It guides our political conversations towards ensuring **we have a strong and collective voice**, a regional position and action, on issues **vital to our development as a region** and as the Blue Pacific continent...”



# Aid Effectiveness

## AID EFFECTIVENESS (Ostrom et al)



# Country Ownership: whose idea?

**“...unless participants share clear and efficiency-enhancing rules and norms, some may shirk (free-ride) on the efforts of others or try to deflect joint returns primarily to themselves...”**



Gibson CC, Andersson K., Ostrom E., and Shivakumar, S., 2005, The Samaritans Dilemma: The Political Economy of Development Aid, p15

# Case Studies

	<b>Ownership in Global/Regional Aid Effectiveness Reforms (Ostrom et al)</b>	<b>Samoa</b>	<b>Kiribati</b>	<b>Fiji</b>	<b>PIFS Regional broker</b>
<b>Beliefs &amp; Values</b>	<b>Efficiency and Effectiveness Fair Contributions Accountability</b>	<b>Equality &amp; Mutuality</b>	<b>Self-reliance Survival</b>	<b>Political Autonomy</b>	<b>Accountability</b>
<b>Accept Legitimacy of Compact</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes?</b>	<b>Paris but not Compact</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Capacity/ Confidence to integrate norms</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Triggers</b>	<b>Collective action problem: ?aid sustainability through Country Ownership  To share benefits must participate by: 1. Identifying need</b>	<b>Financial crisis  Past policy choices: PSR/NPM/PFM Relations w Donors Stable political &amp; Social Institutions</b>	<b>Donors 'own' aid – not Kiribati  National identity: Autonomous SIS/LOS Fish /Oceans Climate Change Health</b>	<b>Fiji Coup: Relations w Forum (inc ANZ)  Assert National Legitimacy: Regional &amp; Global Advocacy</b>	<b>Historical role in Aid Effectiveness  Funding  National/ Regional Climate</b>

# Samoa

“...the most important thing, is that **when you have that issue** (aid reliance) and **when you are in discussions with partners**, at the end of the day, **you want ownership** because **if you start allowing people to impose their views on you**, you practically say well, **game over...**”

Confidential Interview – IQ-G Samoa 06052015

# Samoa

**“..What we are really looking for here is a mutuality, ... we are saying because you have no idea of the culture, of the environment, be a partner...we don't want you to impose nor do we want to antagonize, we just want a partnership where we can discuss things... and develop an understanding and a way forward...”**



# Kiribati

....to me the **economic independence** is something that we are looking for, **self-reliant** is another way of putting it...there are true economic independence: when **Kiribati can make a decision about it's future with the resource it has without having to be pushed around by some other country saying no, no, that's not the right way** ...the concept of ownership, when you own something, you are the master of that, you control it.... (economic) independence, ownership, right...they are interrelated in my view

Confidential interview KirParIUU22112-15

# Kiribati

.... **It's the reality....whoever supply the funds, they dictate how they are to be dispersed...** I have to say though, since the Compact, there has been more alignment in the assistance.... You see the road project? **That was what we wanted**, we want to upgrade the South Tarawa road, **and Australia listened...”**

# Kiribati

**“...because aid is always available, this is the problem,...with your own fund, you make sure you use it properly, but if it’s (aid) grant, you just spend it and don’t care as much as your own fund...”**

# Kiribati

.....we're tired of being labelled very poor country and, Small Island State, ...(we)... tell the world that we are a large ocean state... and once we realise the potential to prove to everyone that we are, we can do that. Right now we can't cos we need to build up our capacities...

# Kiribati

.....I think for so long ...we've been listening to, donors do the work for us and deliver things for us, because in Kiribati we have a culture of ....what the *imatang* says is correct and it's the right way,...and then, I guess, with everyone getting education ...and coming back ....., sort of really, wake you up and say, no, it's us that need to change... that the Kiribati, we can't rely on everyone else to (do it) because they are not always right, you know...

# Fiji

“... when I talk about Pacific islands these are just Pacific leaders...**they would like to discuss issues without interference in terms of how, #1, their priorities are determined and how their priorities are carried forward and this is where the ownership element comes in,...** (it is) something that is **totally home-grown, totally owned by the leaders, something that is very close to their heart in terms of development objectives...**”

## Policy transfer ...

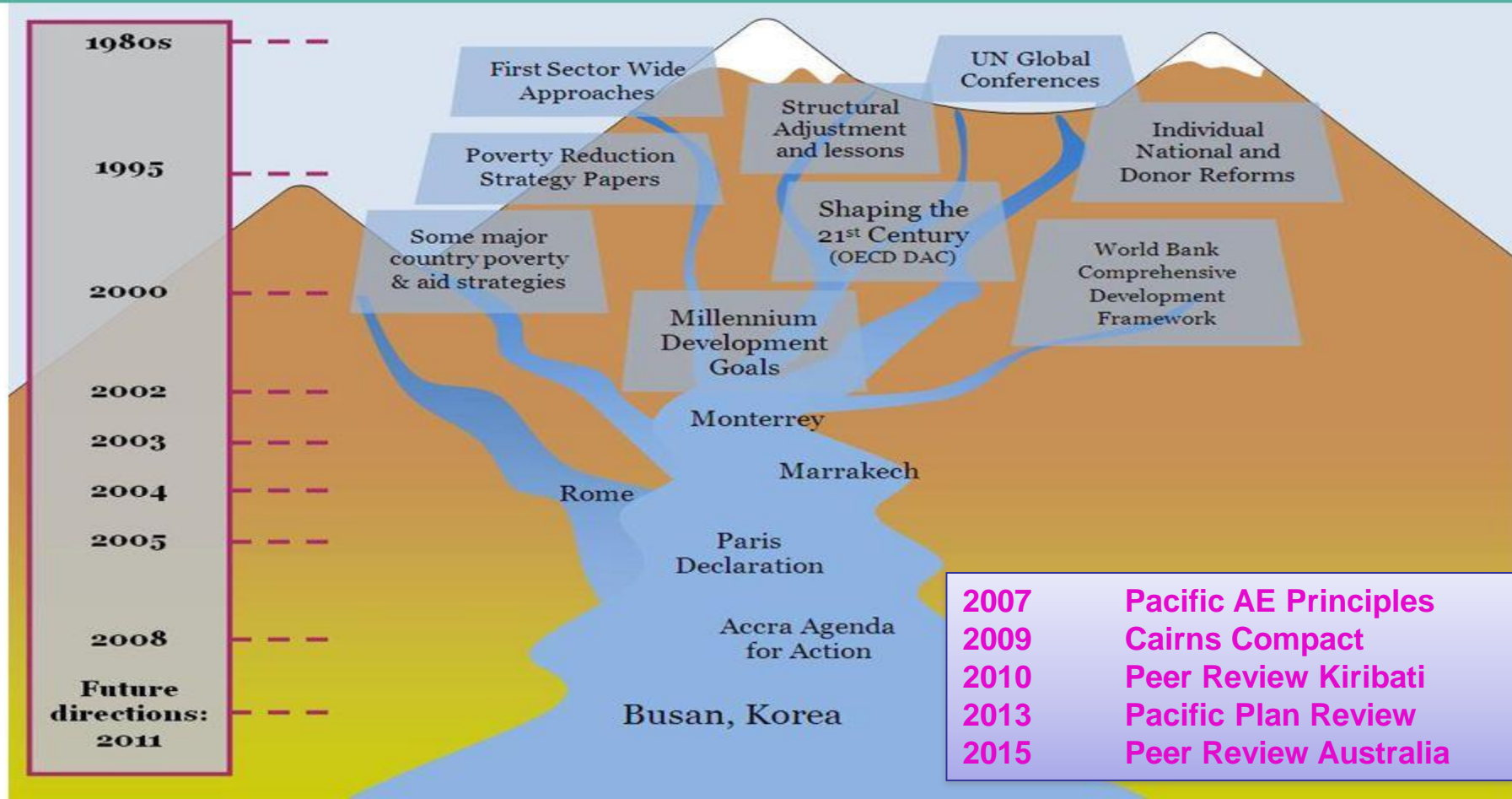
“...knowledge about **policies, administrative arrangements, institutions and ideas** in one political setting (past or present) is used in the development of policies, administrative arrangement, institutions and ideas in **another political setting**....” (Dolowitz and Marsh 2000)

# Fiji

“ ...when **you set a priority** in your own household, you **determine what you have and how you will progress it forward**... and that (is what) has been happening since the Lae rebellion, since the creation of the South Pacific Forum, its all the same thing. The message has been consistent, ...**the countries of the Pacific need to have their own space to share their own priorities**....”

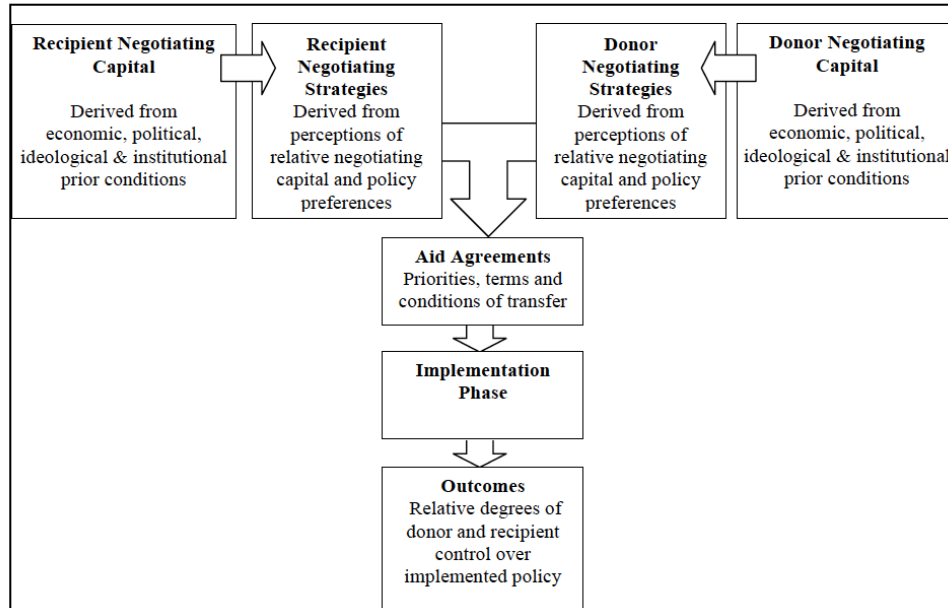


# The aid reform campaign



# Whitfield's negotiation model

Figure 1 Simplified Model of an Aid Negotiation



# Van der Veen: Purposes of aid

