

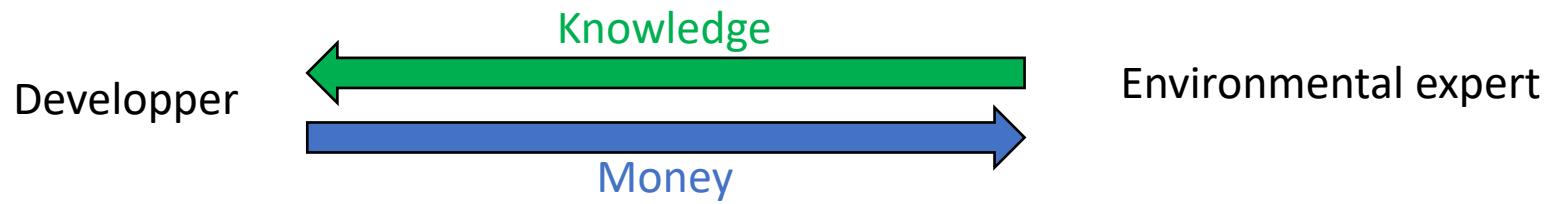
Power and distortions of decision support

Yves MEINARD

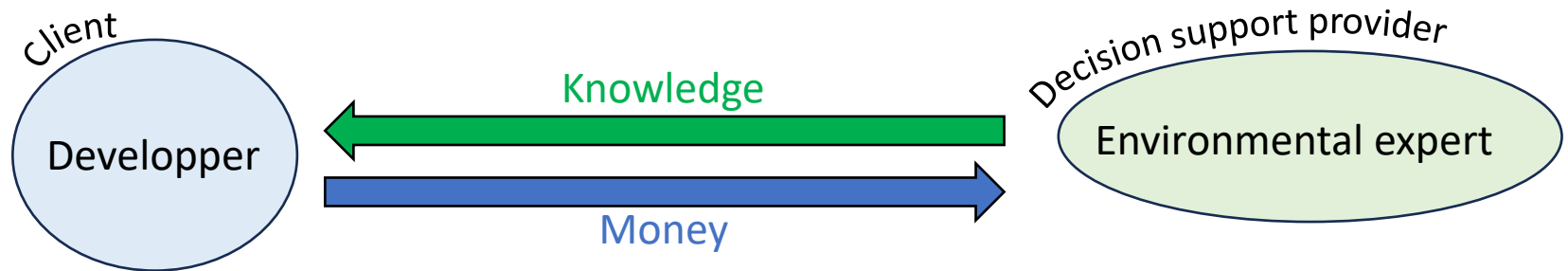
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Workshop on Meaningful, useful and legitimate information in decision making
Université Paris Dauphine December 4-5, 2023

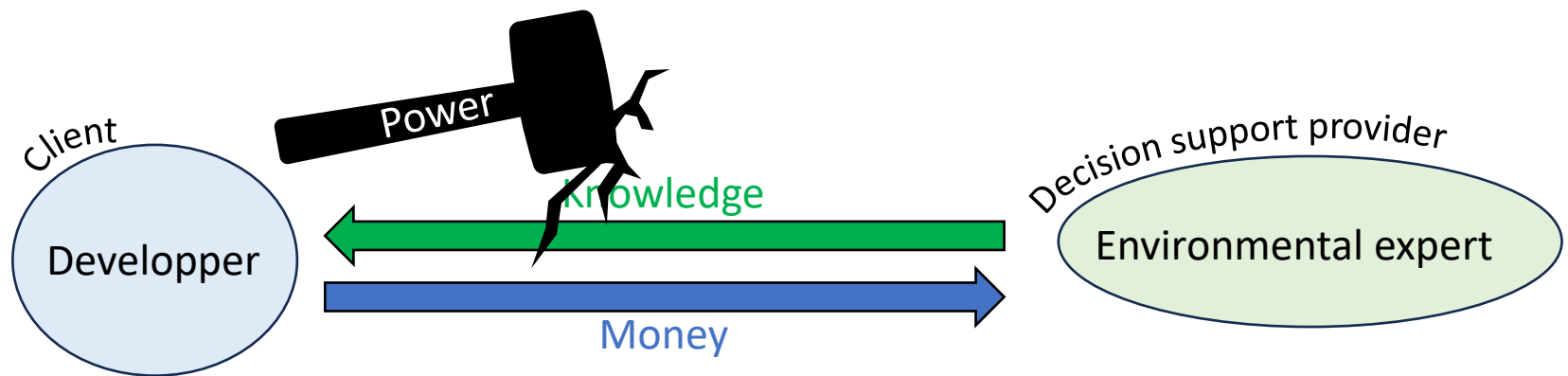
- Example 1: environmental impact assessment



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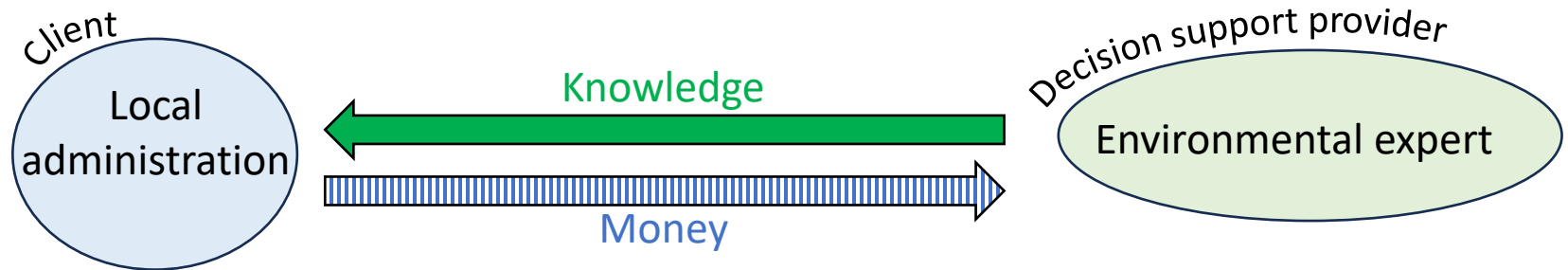


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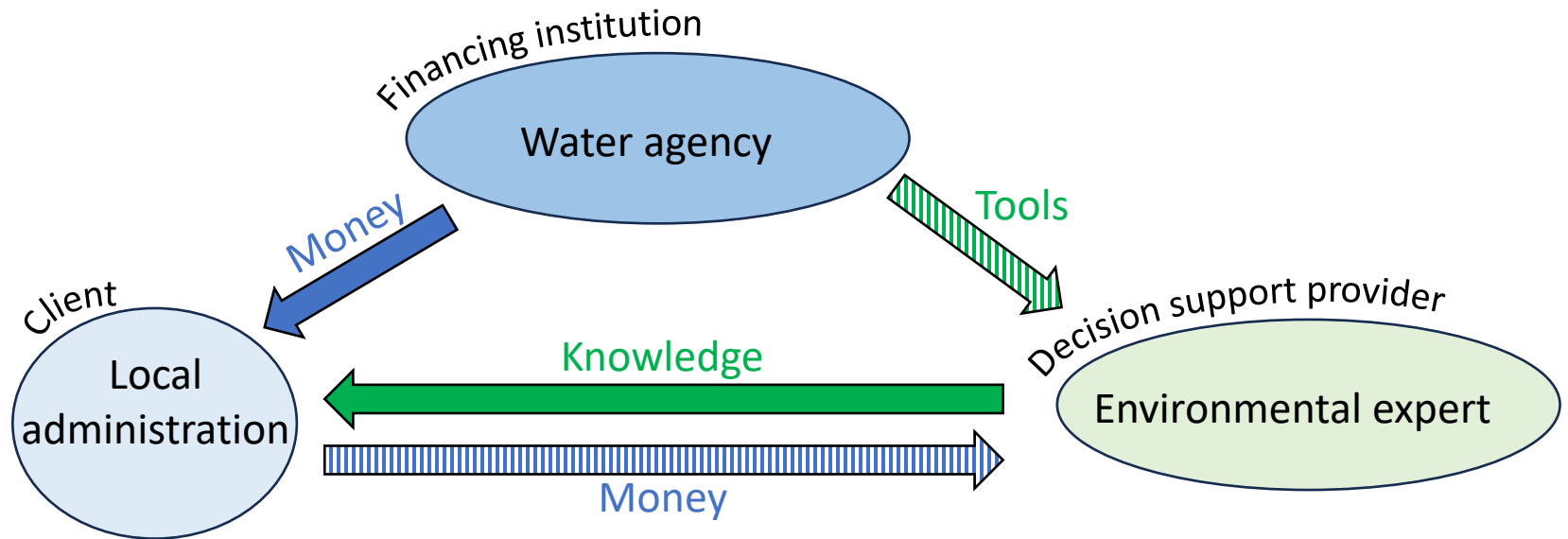


- Type 1: Power crushes knowledge

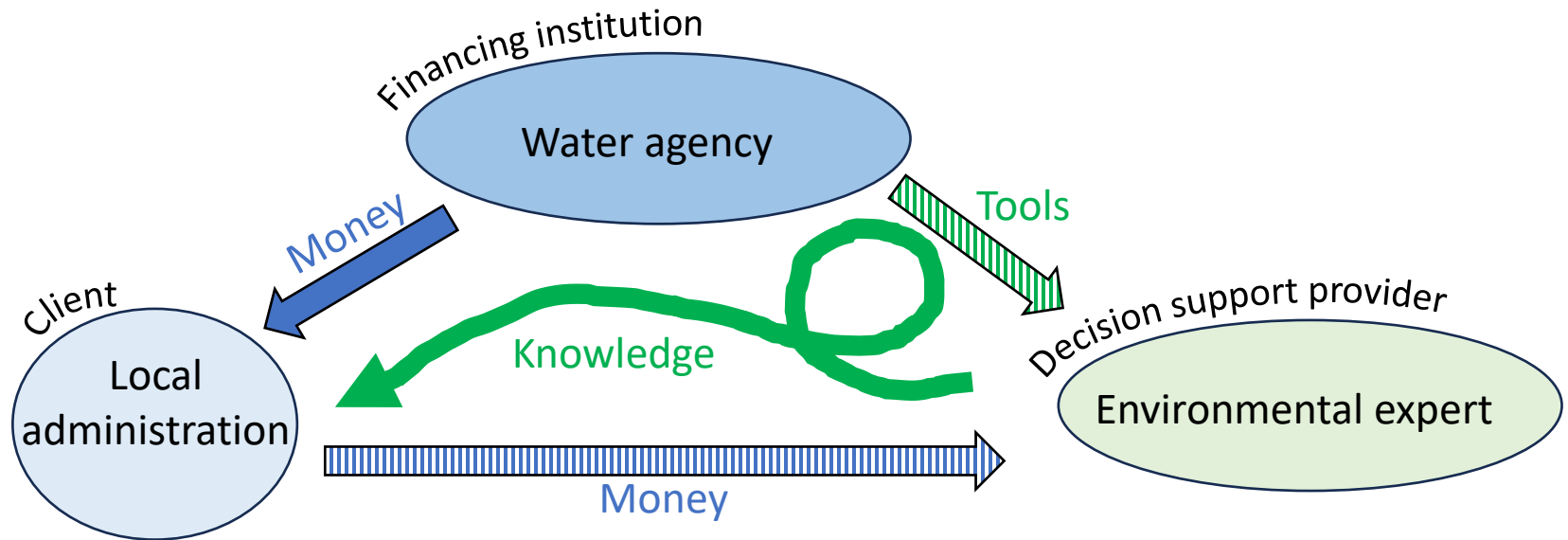
- Example 1: environmental impact assessment
- Example 2: wetlands strategic management plans



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➤ Type 2: Power distorts knowledge

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- Example 3: Guinean forests (Fairhead & Leach 1996 *Misreading the African Landscape*)

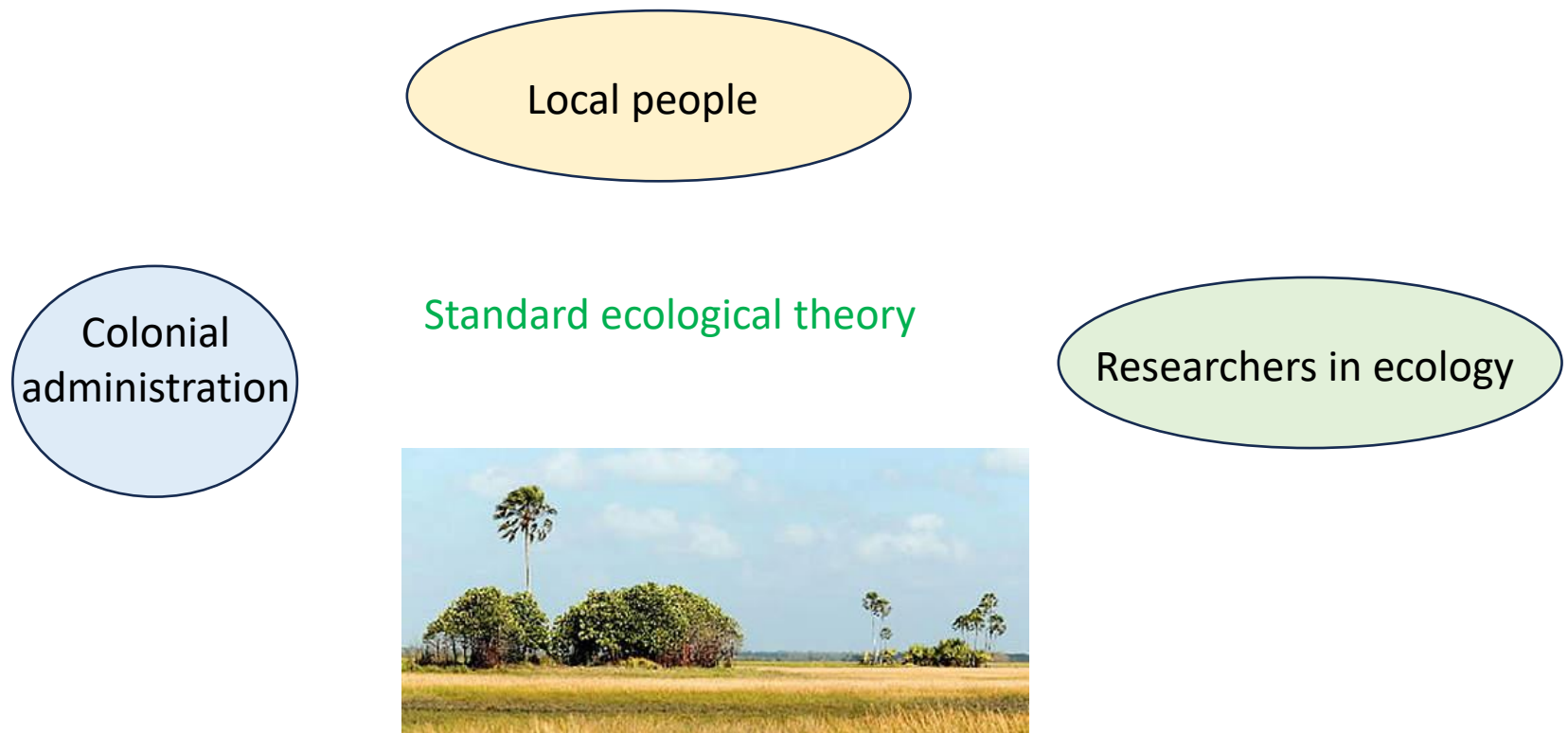
Local people

Colonial
administration

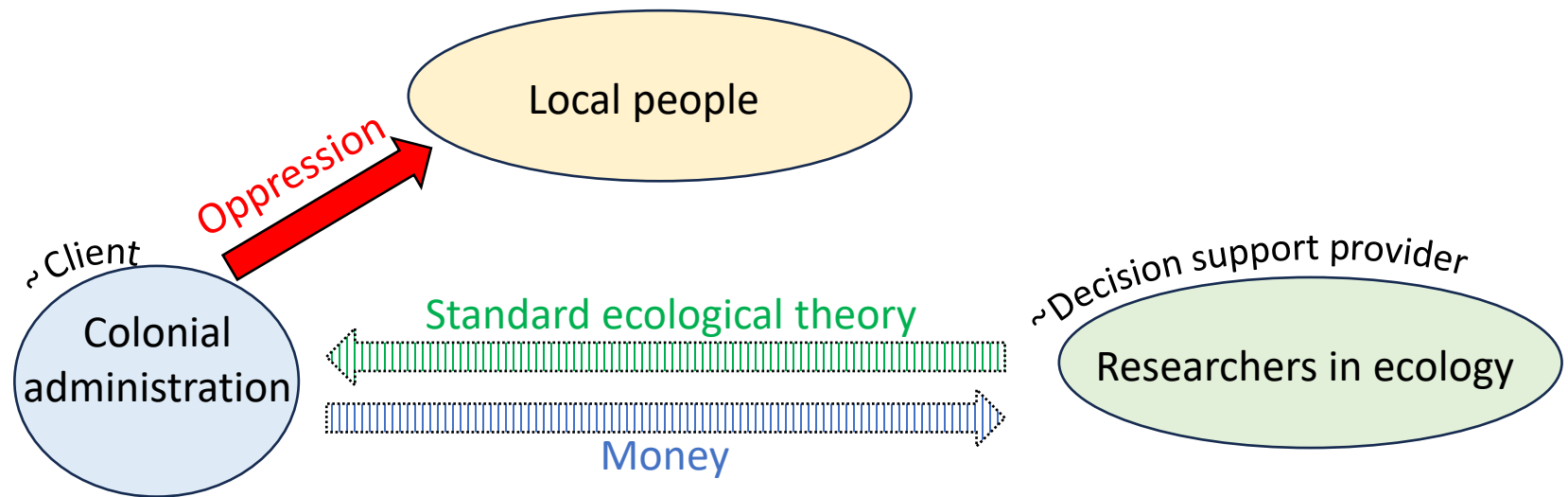
Researchers in ecology



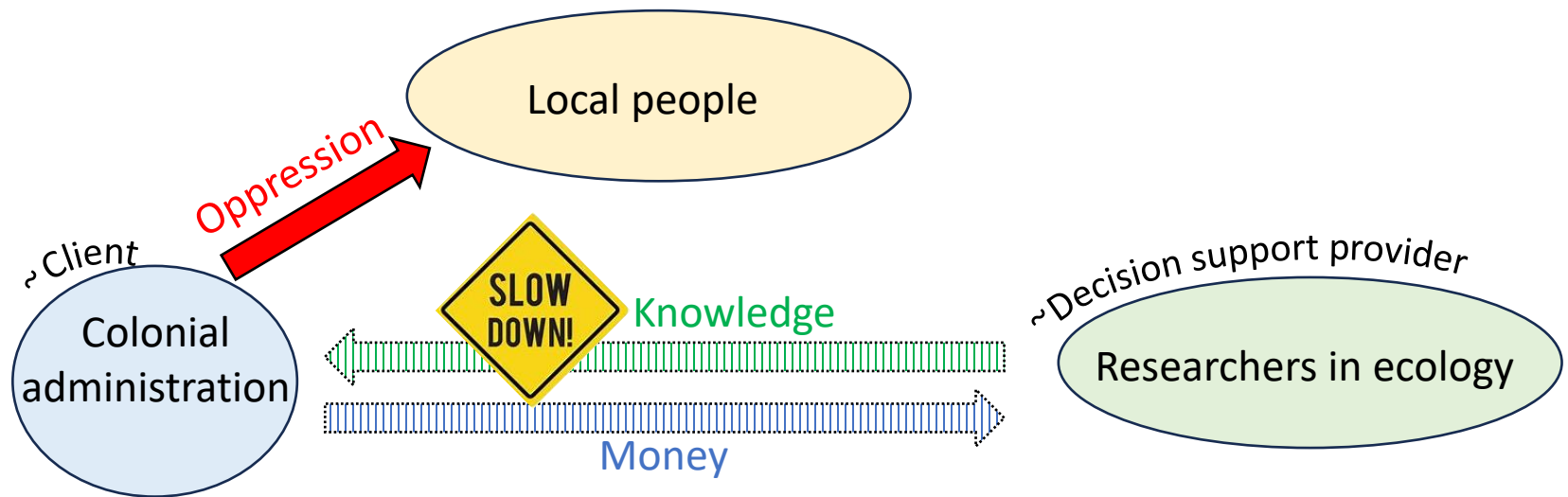
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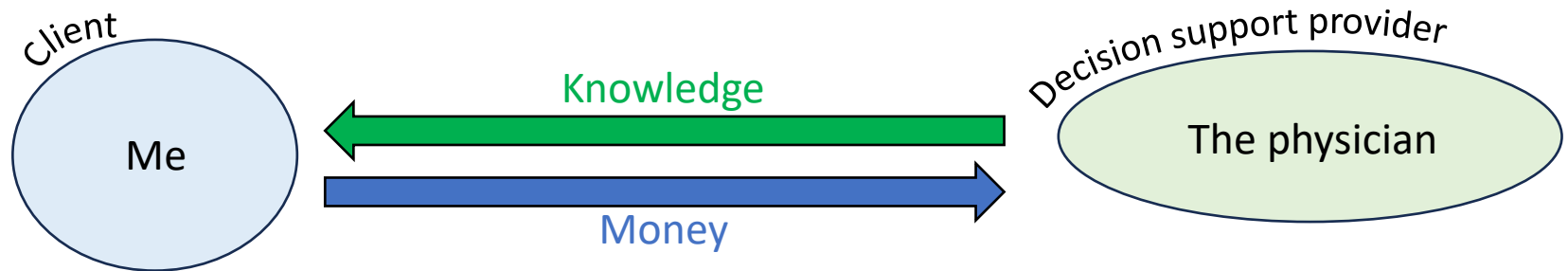


- Example 1: environmental impact assessment
- Example 2: wetlands strategic management plans
- Example 3: Guinean forests



- Type 3: A collusion between powerful actors and knowledge holders hinders the progress of knowledge

- Example 1: environmental impact assessment
- Example 2: wetlands strategic management plans
- Example 3: Guinean forests
- Example 4: Yves' fracture



➤ Type 4: Knowledge gives power

- Outcome = a (tentative) typology of effects of power
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 - ✓ Canonical decision support interaction neither sufficient nor necessary

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- Ideas:
 - ✓ Canonical decision support interaction neither sufficient nor necessary
 - ✓ Important to think about effects of power and analyse them
 - ✓ The four types are very different
 - ✓ True knowledge might be unreachable, but some are truer than others
 - ✓ Talking about effects of power involves being normative

Thank you for your attention