



SCIENCE FAIR

*Mainstreaming of science in the
sound management of chemicals and wastes*

“The role of subsidiary bodies under the
BRS Conventions in mainstreaming
science for the sound management of
chemicals and wastes: the example under
the Stockholm Convention”

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Geneva, 9th May 2015



Subsidiary body of the SC

- ◆ POPRC (Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee)
 - 31 members
 - Government-designated experts in chemical assessment or management
 - Appointed by the COP
 - Equitable geographical distribution
 - Balance gender and different types of expertise

Mandate of POPRC

- ◆ Review chemicals proposed for listing in the SC
 - Annex D: screening phase
 - Persistence, bio-accumulation, potential for long-range environmental transport, adverse effects
 - Annex E: risk profile
 - Production, uses and releases, hazard assessment, environmental fate, monitoring data, exposure, national and international risk evaluation, status of the chemical under international conventions
 - Annex F: risk management evaluation
 - Socio-economic considerations

Mandate of POPRC

- ◆ Review chemicals proposed for listing in the SC

- Annex D: screening phase

- Annex E: risk profile

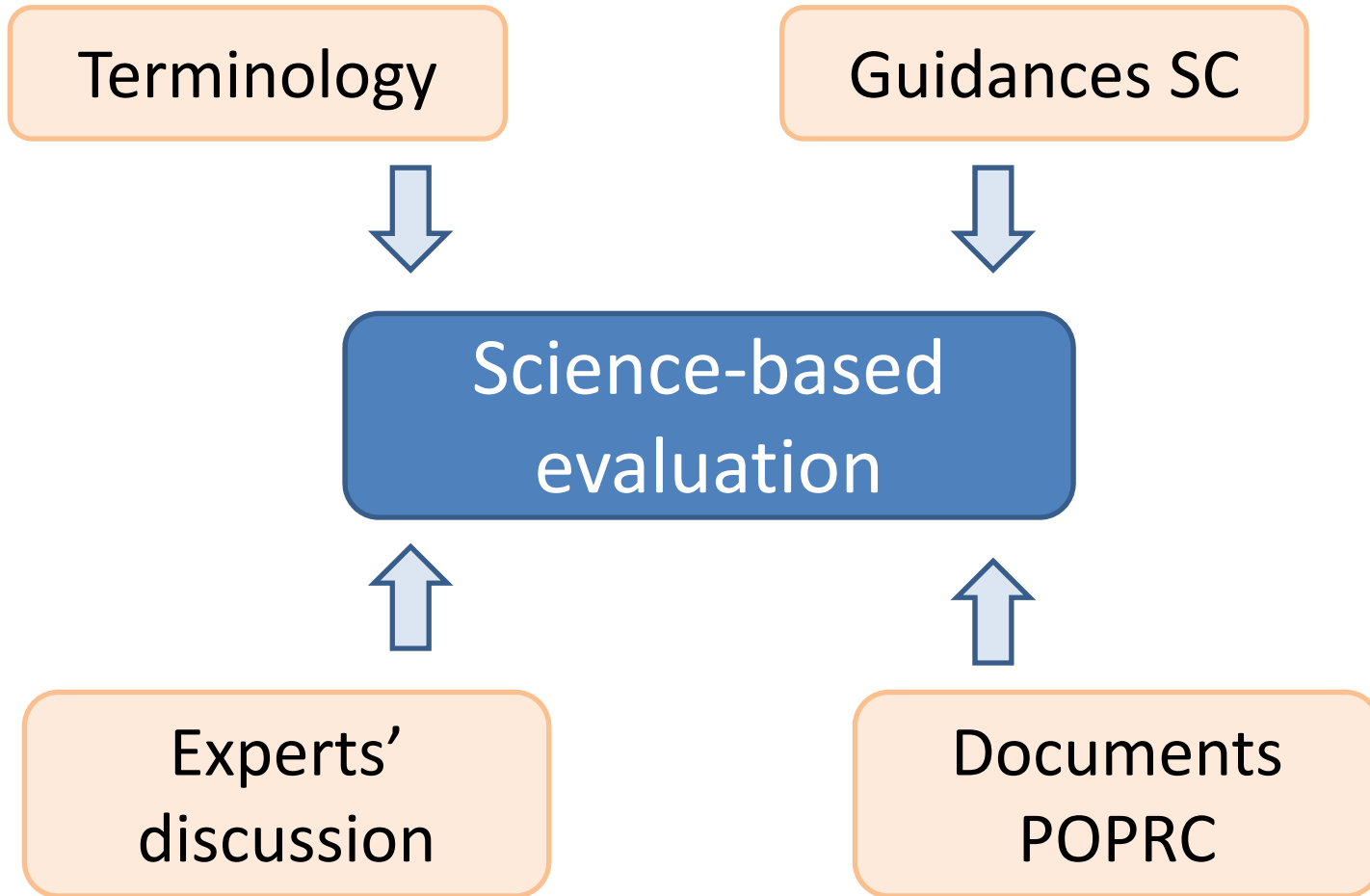


- Annex F: risk management evaluation



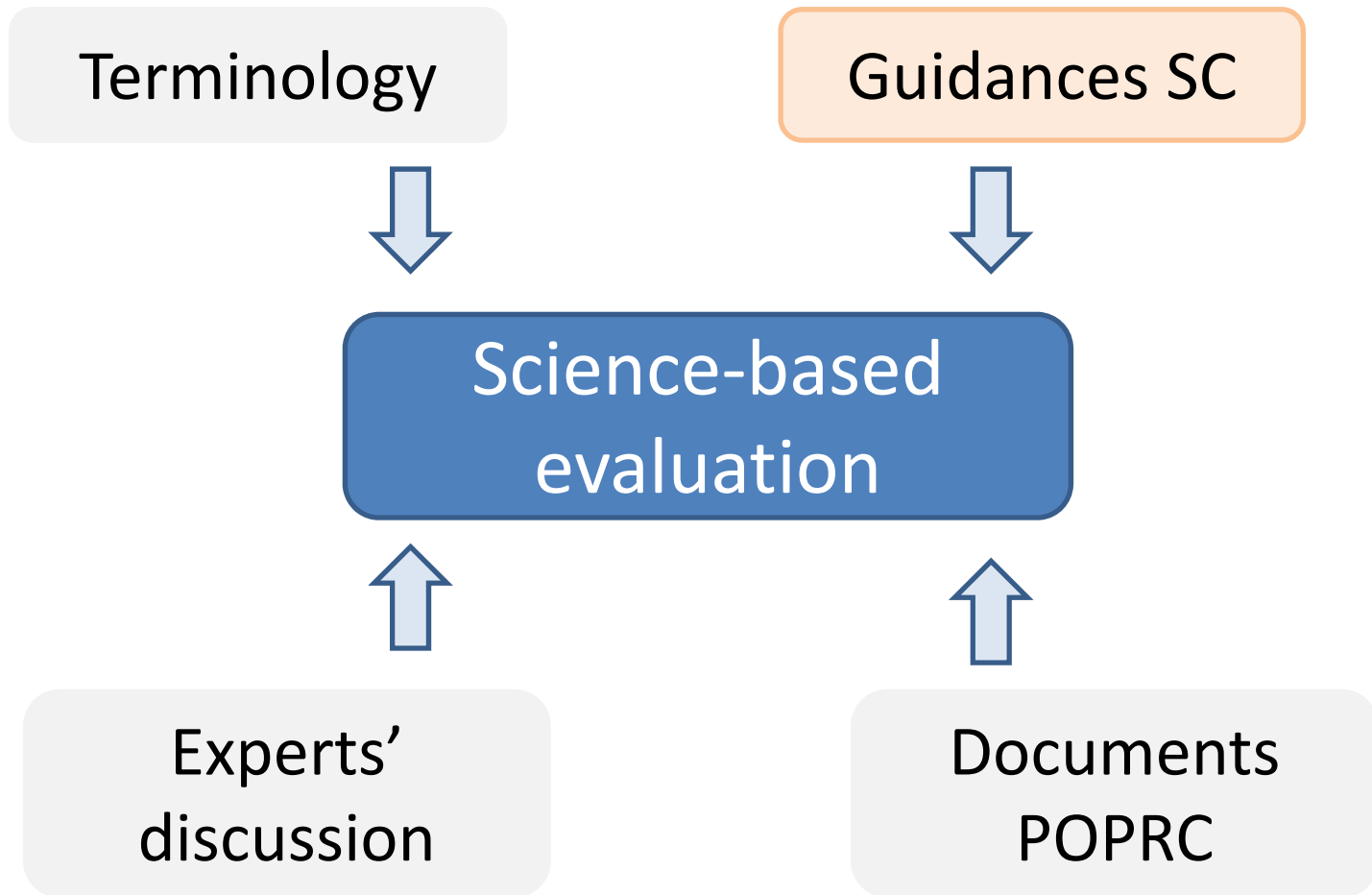
But... Science is
relative/dynamic...
How is it applied?





Terminology

- ◆ Definitions of bioconcentration, bioaccumulation and biomagnification (UNEP/POPS/POPRC .1/10, Annex III)
- ◆ Difference between risk profile and risk assessment (POPRC-9/7, Annex, paragraph 20)

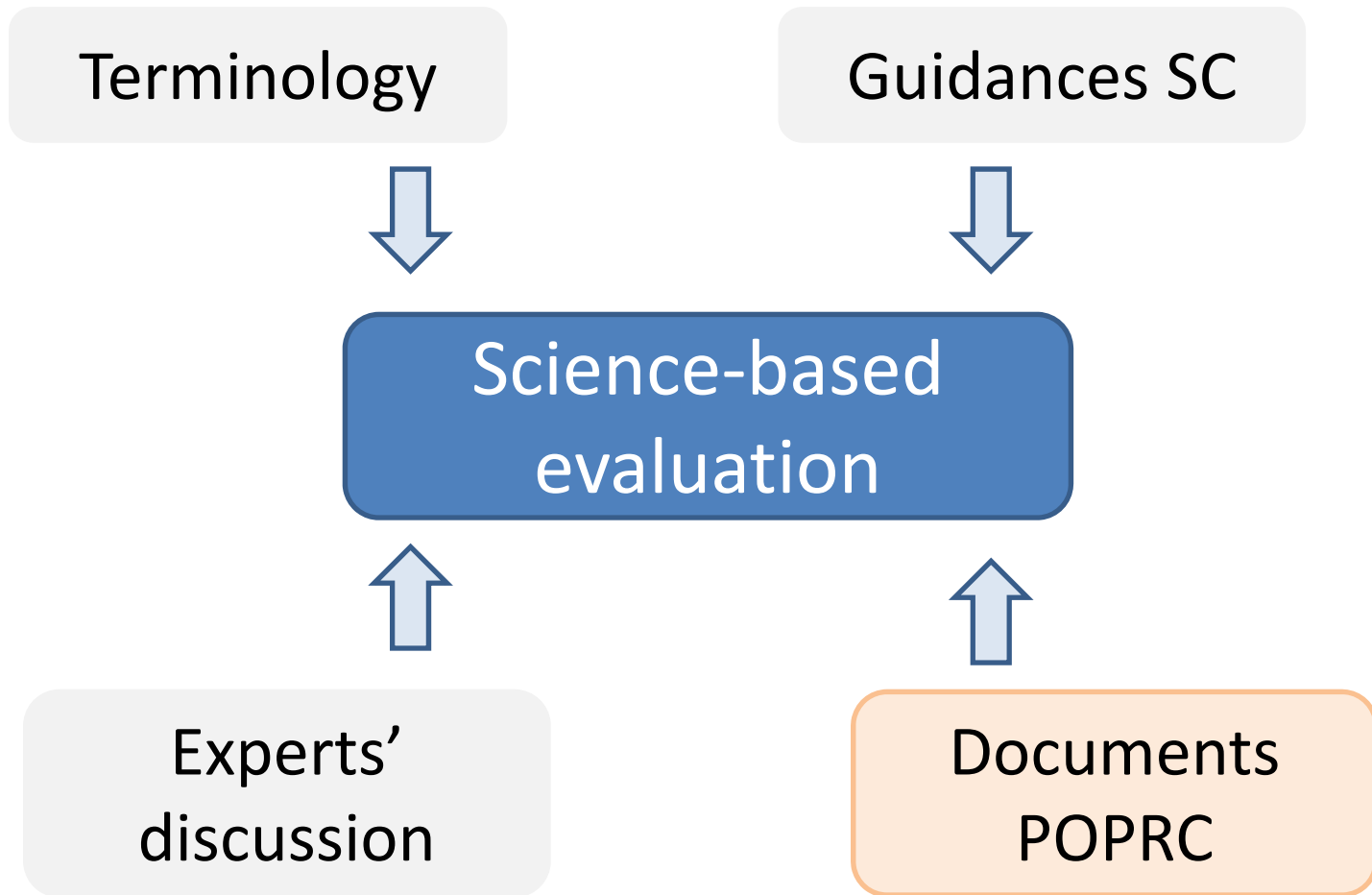


Guidances established in the SC

- ◆ Cut-off values and points to be considered during the screening phase (Annex D)

- (b) Persistence:

- (i) Evidence that the half-life of the chemical in water is greater than two months, or that its half-life in soil is greater than six months, or that its half-life in sediment is greater than six months; or
 - (ii) Evidence that the chemical is otherwise sufficiently persistent to justify its consideration within the scope of this Convention;

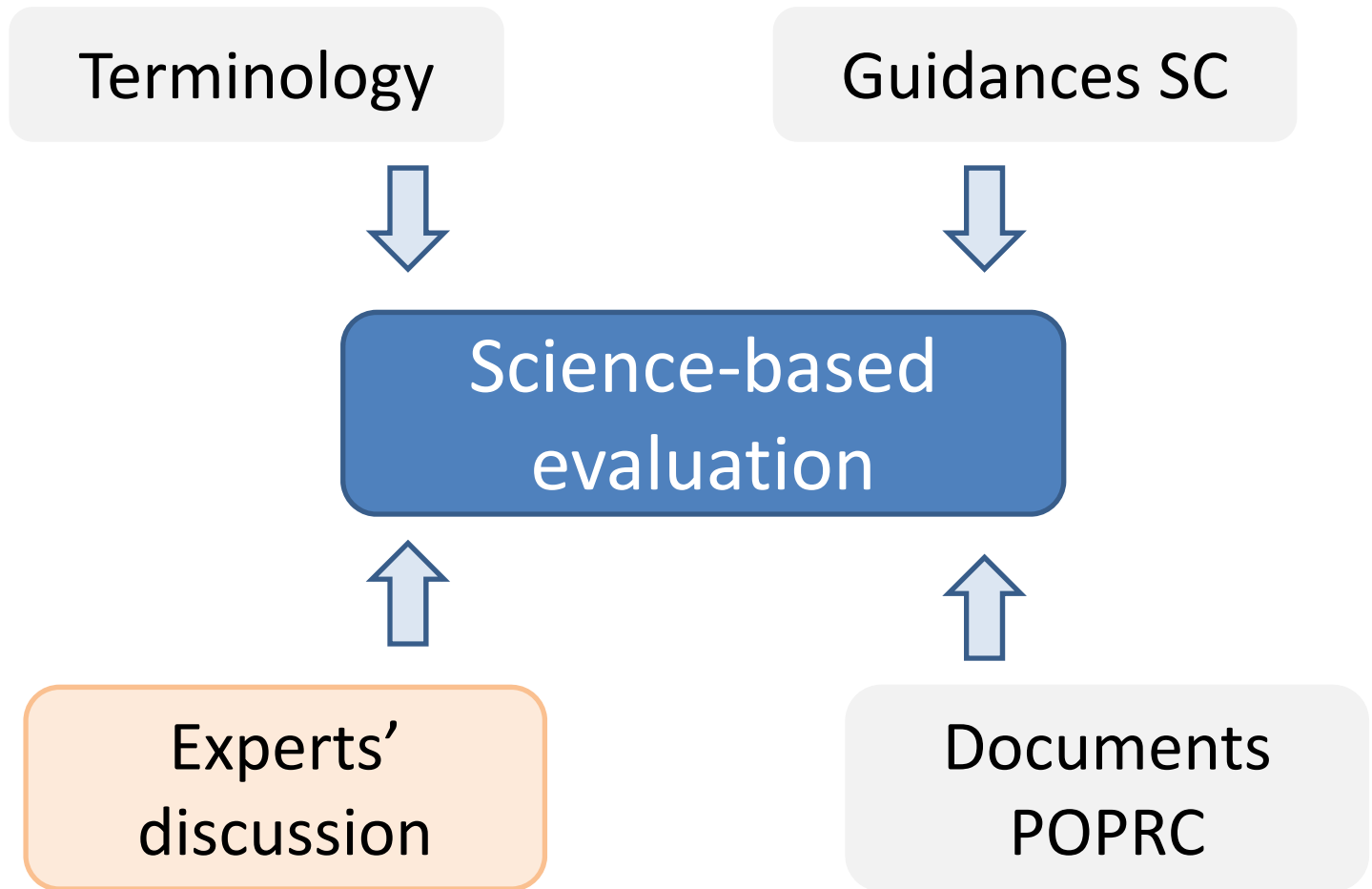


Documents developed by the POPRC

- ◆ Preliminary guidance paper on bioaccumulation evaluation (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.3/20/Annex VI)
 - How to apply the bioaccumulation criteria when the criterion in subparagraph 1 (c) (i) is not fulfilled
- ◆ Guidance for drafters of risk profiles on consideration of toxicological interactions when evaluating chemicals proposed for listing (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/16/Annex V)

Documents developed by the POPRC

- ◆ Examples of practices used and decisions made in the evaluation of chemicals by the Committee in accordance with Annex E to the SC (POPRC-9/13)
 - Local data x data from remote areas
 - Exposure levels x effects data
 - Data for a candidate chemical x data for a listed POP
 - Use of environmental modelling for chemicals withdrawn from the global market
 - Evaluation of time trends (releases or concentration) in remote areas



Scientific discussion among experts (members and observers)



◆ When?

- During the POPRC annual meetings (Annex D, E, F)
 - new information needs to be documented
- Intersessional period (Annex E and F)



◆ Very important

- ◆ Different areas of expertise
- ◆ Understanding of the SC and the framework adopted for evaluating candidate chemicals
- ◆ Knowledge of the terminology adopted by POPRC

Scientific discussion among experts (members and observers)

- ◆ Intersessional period (Annex E and F)
- ◆ During the POPRC annual meetings (Annex D, E, F)


If doubts persist...

Invited expert

Article 1 of SC



“Mindfull of the precautionary approach as set forth in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the objective of this Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants”

Article 8 of SC, §7



7. If, on the basis of the risk profile conducted in accordance with Annex E, the Committee decides:

(a) That the chemical is likely as a result of its long-range environmental transport to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects such that global action is warranted, the proposal shall proceed. **Lack of full scientific certainty shall not prevent the proposal from proceeding. (...)**



Possible contributions of POPRC to national and regional levels

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graph TD; A[POPRC] --> B[Scientific-based review of proposed chemicals]; B --> C[Risk profile and Risk Management Evaluation publicly available];
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POPRC

Scientific-based review of proposed chemicals

Risk profile and Risk Management Evaluation publicly available

Thank you!

