

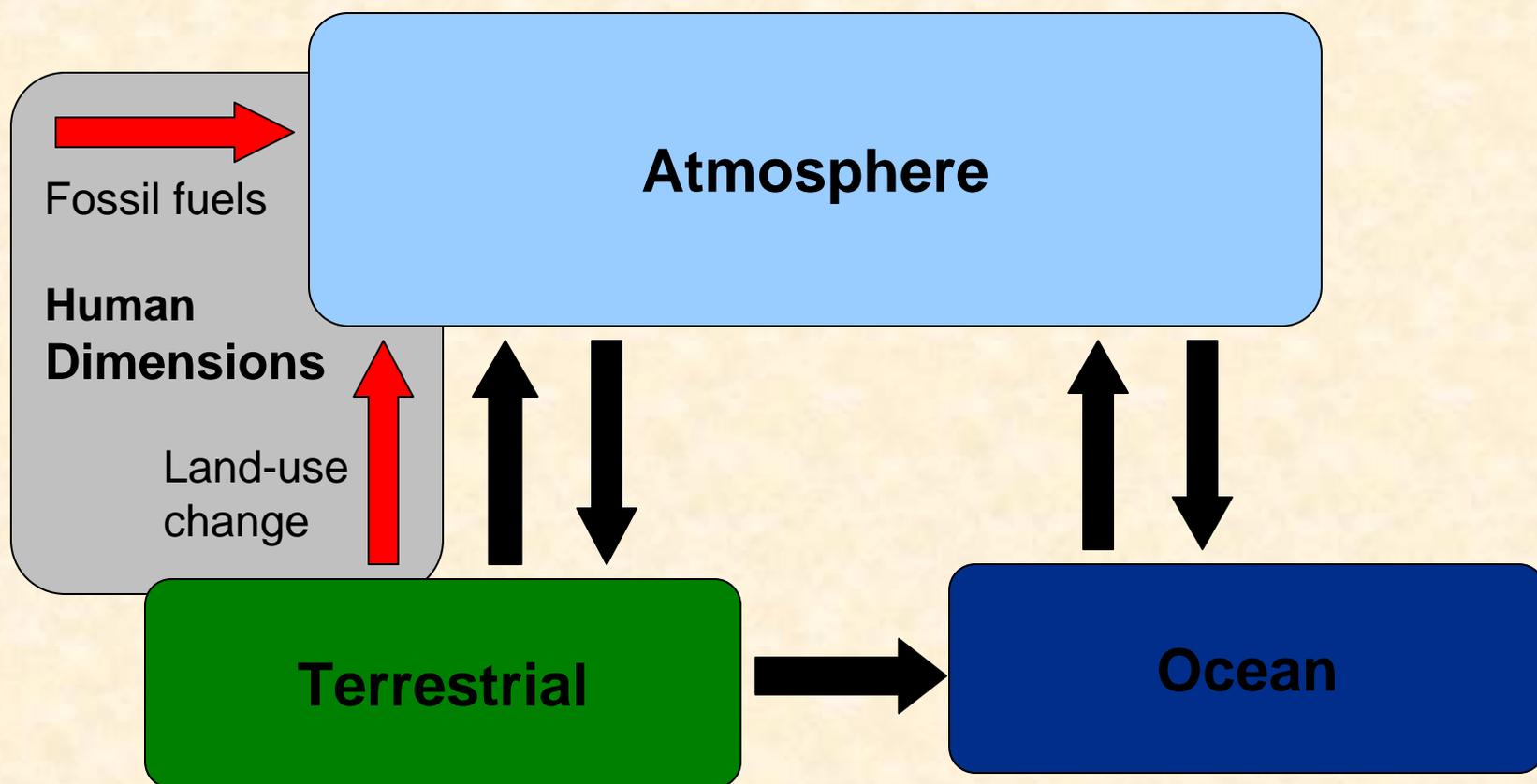
SOCCR

Issues of proposed Scope and Approach

- **the title: Why State of the Carbon Cycle?**
- **the geographic focus: Why North America?**
- **“policy relevant, but not policy prescriptive”**
- **the presentation of ‘basic’ scientific information vs. information on implementation oriented themes of emissions reduction, sequestration and other carbon management issues**
- **uncertainty: what is it, how to present it**
- **the scope of a state of the carbon cycle report, or What about climate change?**



the title of the report: Why State of the Carbon Cycle?



the geographic focus: Why North America?

- **Programmatic – North American Carbon Program**
- **Scientific contribution**
- **Policy contribution**
- **Scientific rationale**
- **Practicality and process**



“policy relevant, but not policy prescriptive”

- “if...then” or “would” rather than “should”
- **Phrasing of question can be crucial**
 - What is the best policy to reduce energy emissions? 😞 😞
 - Should we reduce energy emissions? 😞
 - Would reducing energy emissions lower projected atmospheric CO₂ concentrations? 😊



'basic' scientific information vs. implementation oriented themes

- **Current outline: North American carbon cycle/budget + human dimensions**
 - Current best quantification of North American carbon budget is a necessary element
- **Alternative: more implementation oriented cross-cutting themes on emissions reduction, sequestration, and other carbon management issues**



Uncertainty:

What is it and what to do with it?

- ***A focus on what is known, but explicit characterization of uncertainty and acknowledgment of what is not known***
- **“no number without a \pm ”**
- **Uncertainty comes in many forms**
 - **Knowns and unknowns**
 - **Measurement and sampling error**
 - **Data quality**
 - **Natural variability in time and space**
 - **Human systems can and will change in the future --- scenarios**



the scope of a SOCCR: What about climate change?

- **The carbon cycle and climate change are linked**
- **Challenge is to acknowledge and explain that linkage, but**
- **Keep the scope of SOCCR to carbon cycle**
 - **Easier with science elements**
 - **Harder with human dimensions, especially impacts**



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