

# Build4People Project

## Work Package #6: Sustainable Urban Transformation Research Approach

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### RATIONALE & BACKGROUND

Cambodia has been witnessing highly-dynamic urbanization in the recent past.

However, its current urban development path is considered multidimensionally unsustainable because it goes along with carbon intense growth - particularly in the building sector, economic fragmentation and social segregation, environmental degradation, strains on infrastructure, lack of affordable housing, insufficient public service delivery, etc. All this is leading to a less livable urban environment.

Within our project we want to analyse and to explore innovative pathways towards a sustainable urban transformation. We define this as long-term purposive and vision-led systemic change.

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Transitions Theory seeks to (a) understand & anticipate transitions, and (b) explore ways to advance transitions (Loorbach et al., 2017).

We will apply two core conceptual frameworks for analysis:

- Multi-level perspective on transition (niche, regime, landscape) (Geels, 2005)
- Multi-phase concept of transition (predevelopment, take-off, acceleration, stabilization) (Chang & Lu, 2017) and adapt them to the Cambodian Context, considering aspects of informality, external dependency, inclusivity and the politics of „just transitions“ (Swilling 2016, Hansen et al 2018, Sengers & Raven 2014, Wiczorek 2018, Noboa & Upham 2018).

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How can people-centred governance-approaches be identified that could (potentially) initiate and support a sustainable urban transformation of Cambodia and increase the urban quality of life?
- What are the incumbent routines / practices, powers, interests, discourses, and regulations that create path dependencies in Cambodia building sector?
- Which drivers and barriers for a sustainable transition can be determined and is there potential for (social) learning?
- How can the identified approaches then be applied to strengthen or initiate transformative change towards urban sustainability in Cambodia?

### OBJECTIVES

The Work Package „Sustainable Urban Transformation“ has a two-tier approach of scientific analysis and of actively supporting change in Cambodia:

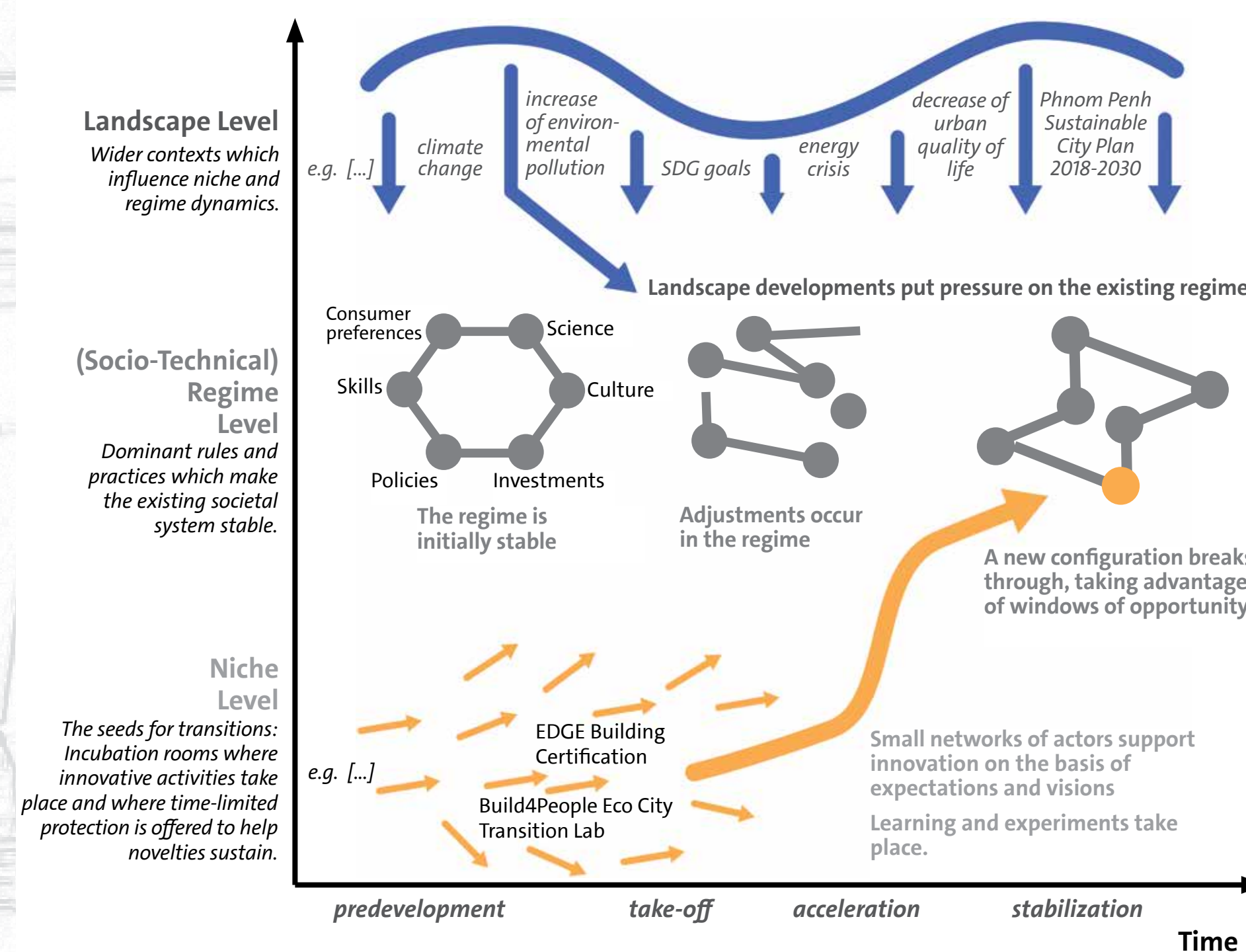
#### Analytical Level

- Assessment of the current urban governance system and transition dynamics
- Conceptualization of a governance approach that initiates and supports transformative change towards urban sustainability and improvement of urban quality of life

#### Normative / Prescriptive Level

- Implementation of explorative governance experiments
- Support transformative change towards urban sustainability and towards the realization of the SDGs, particularly SDG11

### MULTI-LEVEL AND MULTI-PHASE PERSPECTIVES

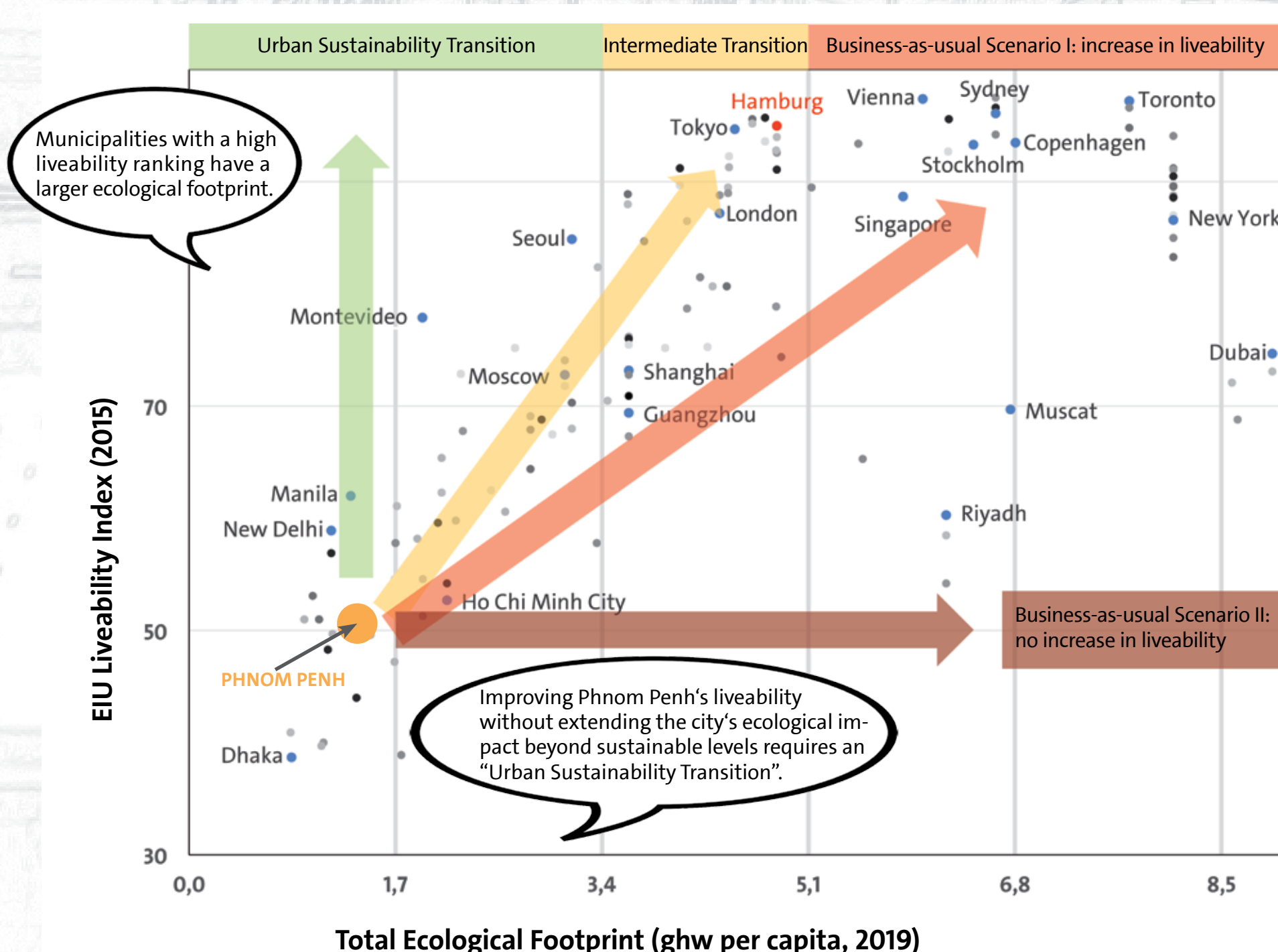


SOURCE: ADAPTED FROM THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, 2017.

### MILESTONES OF THE DEFINITION PHASE

- Implementation of extensive qualitative analysis
- Co-implementation of the quantitative Build4People household survey investigating urban quality of life
- Conceptualization of pathways towards a sustainable urban transformation with a focus on the transition of the building sector
- Baseline Report: Analysis of the current governance system and transition dynamics
- Baseline Report: Measuring urban quality of life from a transition perspective
- Coordinating the Green School Demonstration project in the field of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
- Preparation of a solid theory-based proposal in regard to RD-phase

### POTENTIAL PATHWAYS OF TRANSITION



SOURCE: OWN GRAPH, BASED ON EIU 2015 & WORLD FOOTPRINT NETWORK 2019.

### OUTLOOK

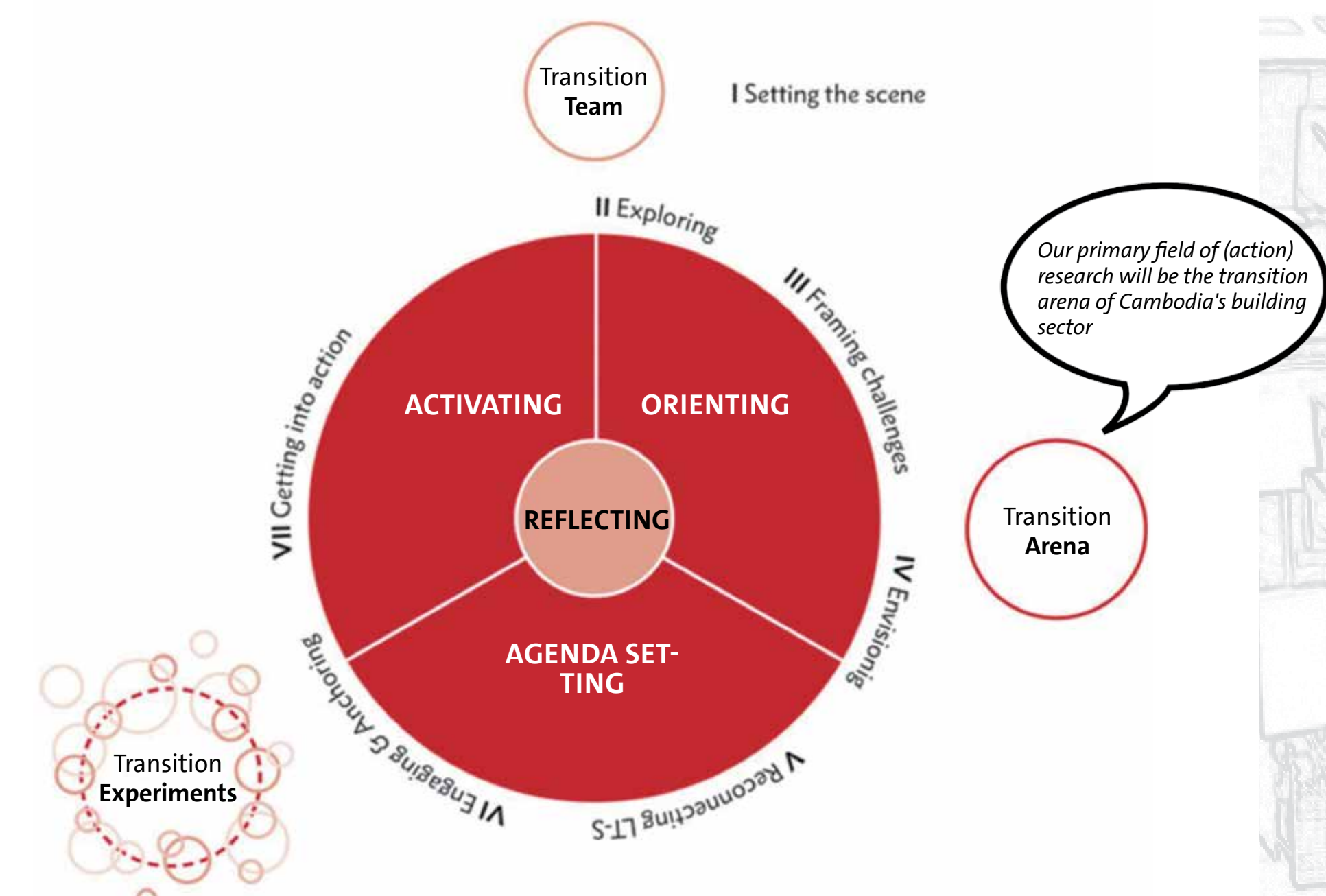
Based on our previous analysis we will further conceptualize and explore urban governance patterns.

Our aim is to influence speed and direction of transition towards sustainability with a focus on the building sector.

Thereby, we will draw on approaches of:

- Transition Management (Loorbach et al., 2017) with instruments such as:
  - visioning, backcasting, transition labs (i.e. Build4People Eco City Transition Lab), and
- Strategic Niche Management (Raven et al., 2010, Schot & Geels 2008) with its focus on key niche processes such as:
  - learning, network building & expectation dynamics, as well as the development of niche-regime relations.

### URBAN TRANSITION MANAGEMENT PROCESS



SOURCE: ROORDA ET AL., 2017.

Original title of the graph: The transition management process structure including the four types of interventions in transition management

### CONTACT: WP #6 "SUSTAINABLE URBAN TRANSFORMATION"

HAMBURG UNIVERSITY • Department of Human Geography • Bundesstraße 55 • 20146 Hamburg • Germany

WP LEADER: Dr. Michael Waibel (michael@build4people.org)

WP RESEARCH ASSOCIATE: Ravi Jayaweera M.A. (ravi.jayaweera@uni-hamburg.de)

LOCAL RESEARCH PARTNER: Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)

ASSOCIATED RESEARCH PARTNER: Cambodian Development Resource Institute (CDRI)



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Further reading

WP#6 LEADER



BUILD4PEOPLE PROJECT LEADER

