

## Convergent thinking tools lecturette

### Aims:

- **To introduce the concepts of matrices and causal flow diagrams to surface key information**
  - **To illustrate with examples the value of each of these thinking tools in highlighting potential areas for action**
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### Introduction (10 minutes)

QUESTION- Who here needs more money to do their job properly? So are you saying that if you had more money you would be able to be more effective?

ON BOARD- More money → more impact in conservation

Is this the full picture? Does one lead to the other automatically? (example- what happens if corruption involved?)

We often make links when none exist or perhaps more commonly when other stages are involved- our tendency is to hurdle them!

In this short lecturette we are going to look at two tools for achieving effective convergent thinking- making links- where we begin to identify at what points in the problem machine we could and should act for optimum impact. We will focus on the use of causal flow diagrams and matrices.

### PPT (15 minutes)

Include OHP example for designing Matrix for Pink Rail. REMEMBER TO GIVE OUT STUDENT COPY OF PPT SO NO ANSWERS INCLUDED.

NOTE- For Somalia example go to flipchart to get students to work out where best to act to halt this unstable system (btn foreign aid and warlord profiteering). On flipchart draw up diagram with aid workers, attacks on aid workers and presence of military involved (as on p334 of Thinkers Toolkit). Note that in the end military fatalities increased causing an unstable situation again- military withdrew...warlords became bolder and took more of the money...etc!!

### Conclusion (5 minutes)

So matrices and causal flow diagrams are two tools for achieving convergent thinking highlighting points in the process where actions could be taken- could also allow for further divergence as you look at each link in more detail. Now time for you to apply one or both of these tools to the scenario you are working on...