

# The UKERC phase 3 Research Programme

**Jim Watson, Research Director**

**Valuing Natural Capital in Low Carbon Pathways  
brokerage workshop, July 2014**



# The UK Energy Research Centre

The UK Centre for ...

- Policy-relevant
- Independent
- Excellent
- Interdisciplinary
- Energy systems

... research and engagement



**UKERC**

# UKERC Phase 3: key features

**Shift to a ‘hub and challenge’ model**

**UKERC phase 3 ‘hub’ (£14m) includes:**

- Core headquarters (HQ) functions, including activities on behalf of UK energy research community as a whole
- Core whole systems research programme, structured into six problem-focused themes
- Flexible research fund (~£4m): open calls for proposals, overseen by independent Research Committee

**Additional ‘Research Challenges’ are being commissioned separately**

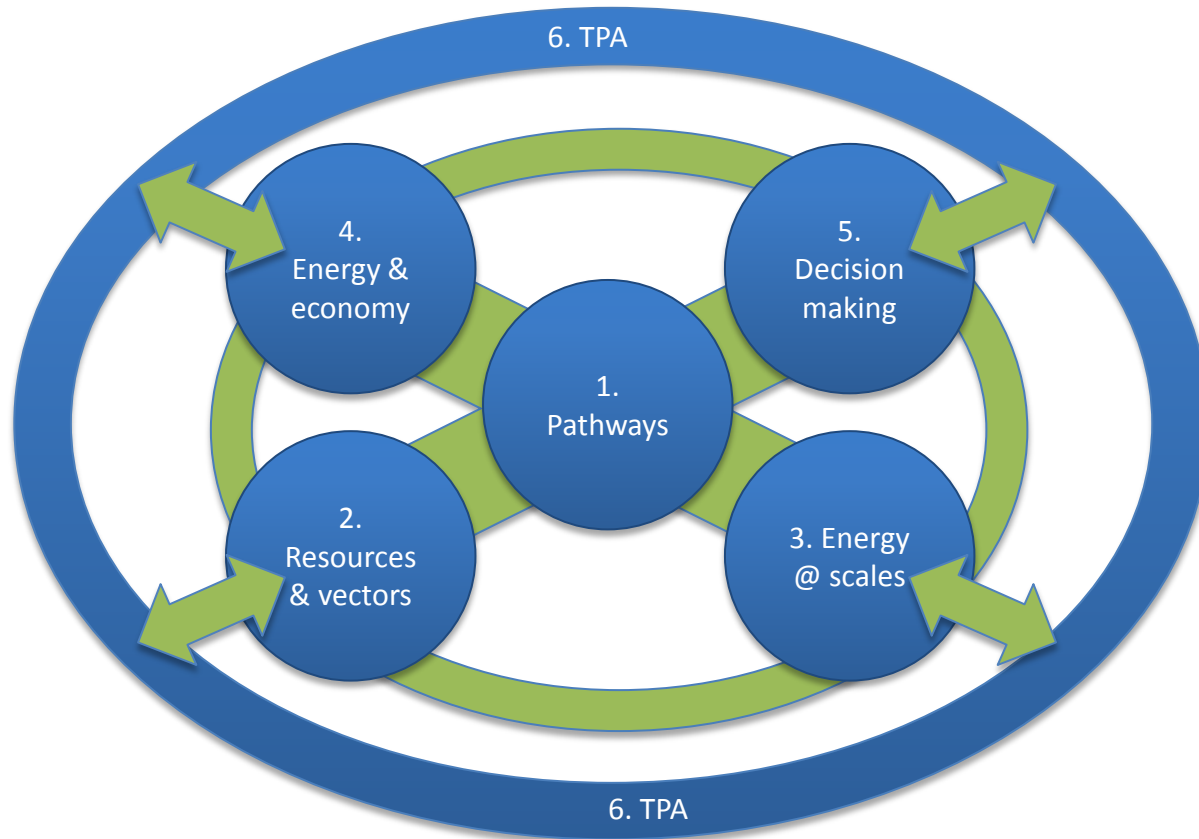
# Building on the last 10 years ...

Phase 1: What does a decarbonised the UK energy system in 2050 look like? [UKERC 2050]

Phase 2: Making it happen: how can decarbonisation by 2050 be achieved? [Uncertainties / Global projects]

Phase 3: The UK energy transition in an uncertain world: challenges and trade-offs [Pathways]

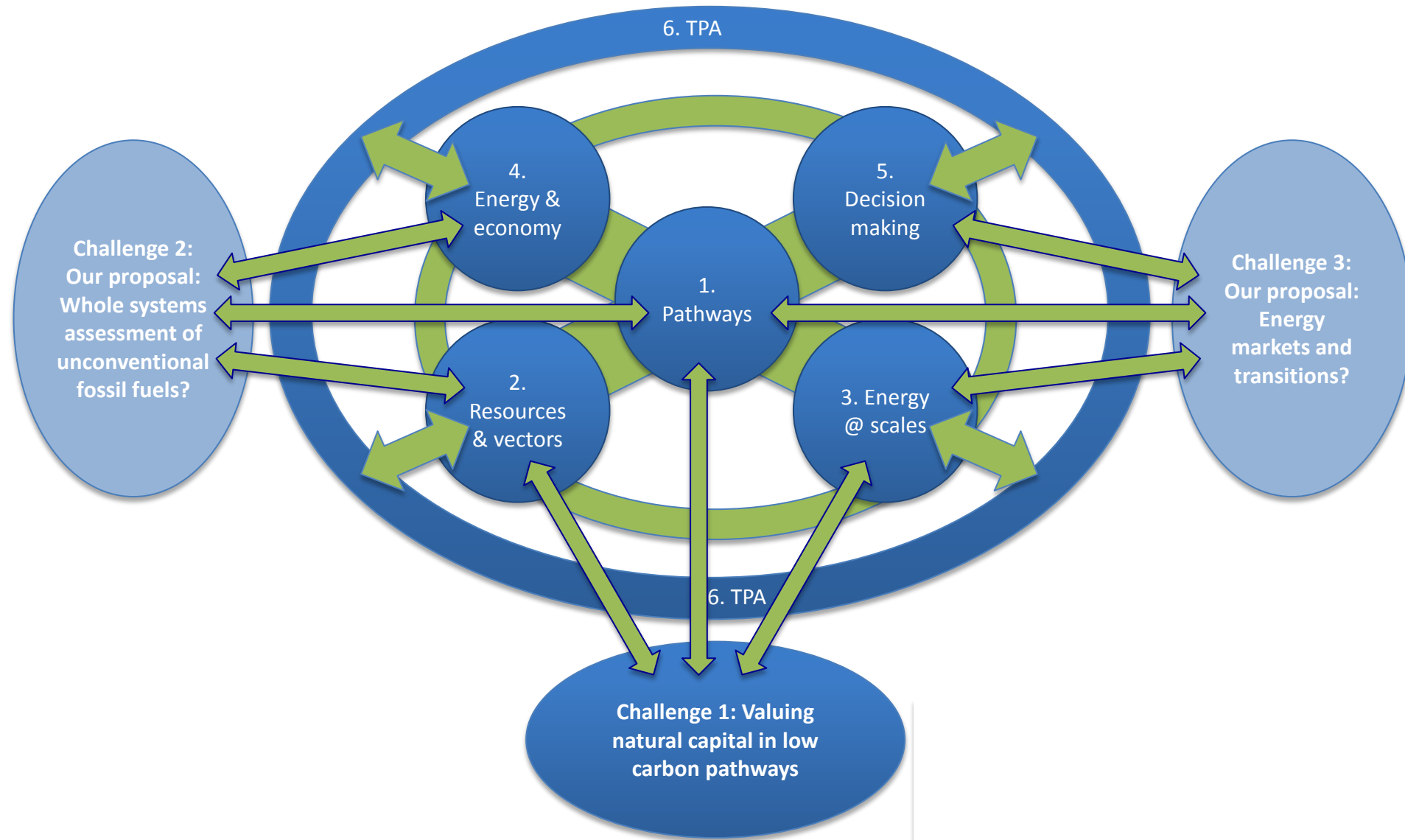
# UKERC Phase 3 research programme



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- Themes led by five partner institutions (Imperial, UCL, Strathclyde, Leeds and Oxford)
- 15–20 core research projects, many including other partners; some co-funding
- Additional projects & activities will be supported via flexible research fund:
  - Extending the UKERC research programme to other research domains, disciplines, groups and centres
  - Priority topics identified through extensive consultation process; independent Research Committee
  - Series of targeted calls for proposals, from late 2014

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# Research challenges

- 1. Valuing natural capital in low carbon pathways**
  - Capacity built in to core research programme
  - Will bring together UKERC & Valuing Nature Network
  - Workshop & call today; planned start: March 2015
- 2. Whole systems assessment of unconventional fossil fuels (under consideration by Research Councils):**
  - Pressing need for independent UK research capacity
  - Would include engineering & resource assessments, environmental impacts, social license to operate
- 3. Energy markets, governance and transitions (proposed by UKERC)**



**Thanks**

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# Theme 1: UK energy pathways

Some key features and challenges:

- Exploring UK implications of global energy pathways with different climate impacts
- Developing narratives and qualitative analysis alongside quantitative modelling of global / UK energy pathways
- Drawing on / integrating research from across UKERC phase 3 research programme (and beyond)
- Exploring the 'whole system', including social, environmental and political dimensions of change