

Nano WG April 2020

NanoFASE models and exposure assessment: overview, lessons learned and future developments



- Overall Aims and Objectives, project structure
- Environmental Exposure Assessment
 - Tiered approach to assessment – conceptual
- Fate/Exposure models in NanoFASE
 - SimpleBox4Nano; LOTOS-EUROS; NanoFASE WSO model
- NanoFASE WSO model: achievements
- Exposure Assessment Framework: achievements
- The future: regulatory uptake (EUSES), risk governance/Safe by Design

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Aims and Objectives

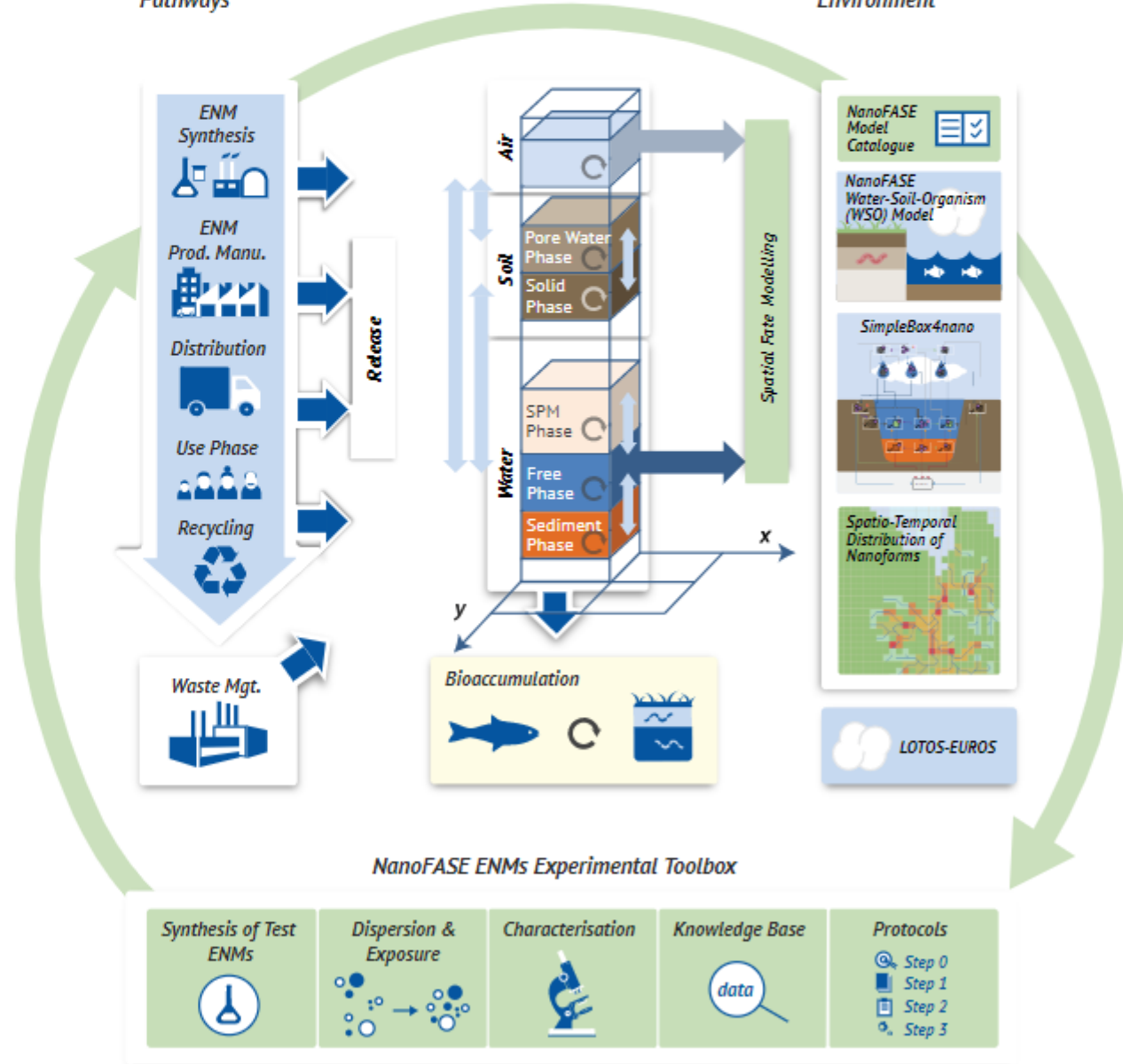
www.nanofase.eu



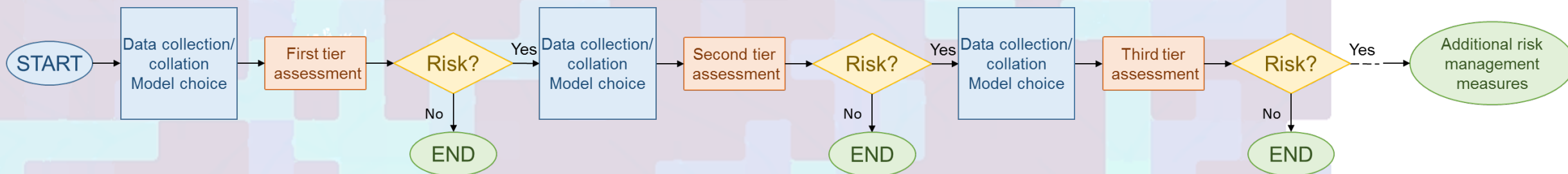
ENM Enabled
Product Value
Chains and Release
Pathways

Environmental Reactors
and ENM Fate &
Transformations

Dynamic Fate and
Exposure Modelling for
ENM Forms Entering the
Environment



Tiered exposure assessment



Increasing complexity

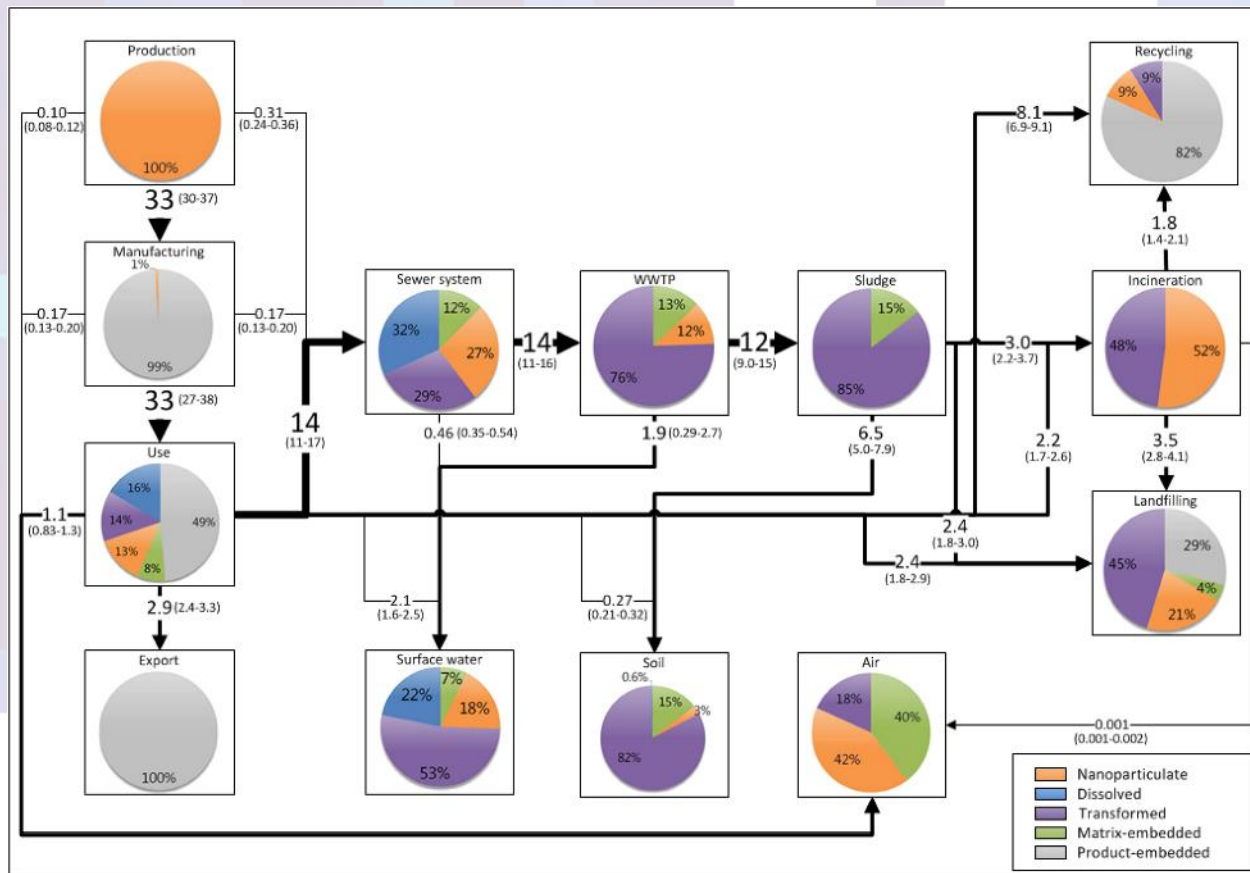
Increasing realism

Decreasing conservatism

Increasing data demands and
"expertise" required to run



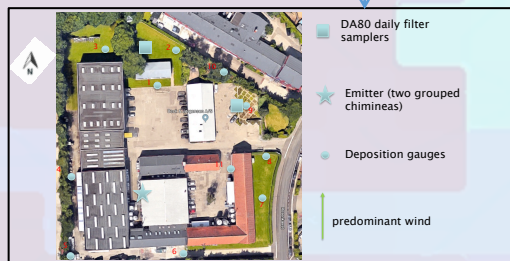
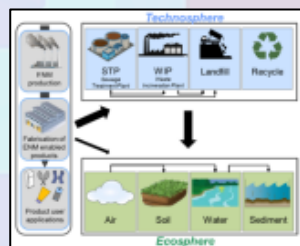
Emissions modelling



Flows of nano-Ag and **distributions among the forms** released during its life cycle. All flows are described in tons/year in the European Union with the means of the probability distributions.

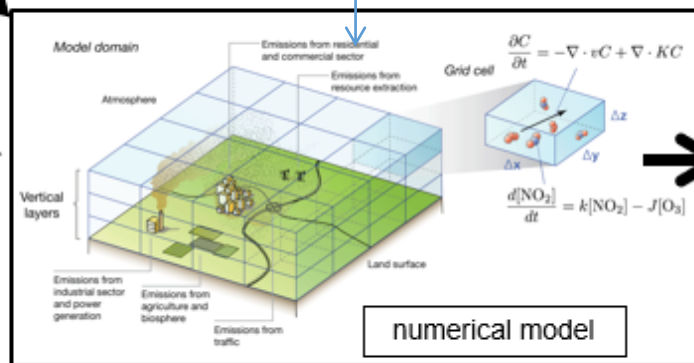
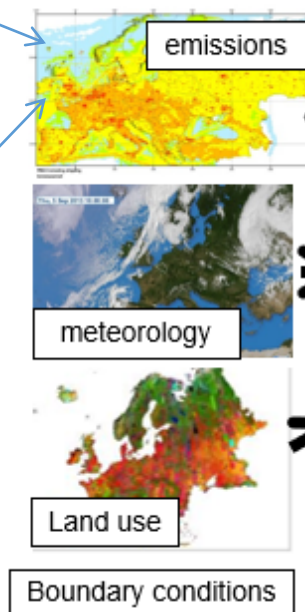
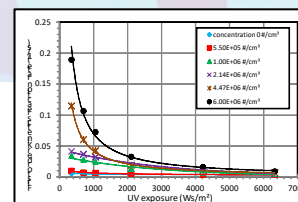
Adams, V et al 2018 Environmental Pollution, 243, pp 17-27

Emission inventory

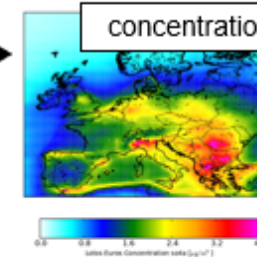
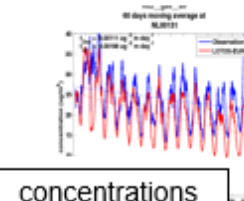


Measured ENM emissions used as input data

Chemical reactions added to model



LOTOS EUROS



SimpleBox4Nano

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- A screening level exposure model
- Nano-capable version of SimpleBox
- SimpleBox is the basis of EUSES, the environmental exposure modelling tool used in REACH

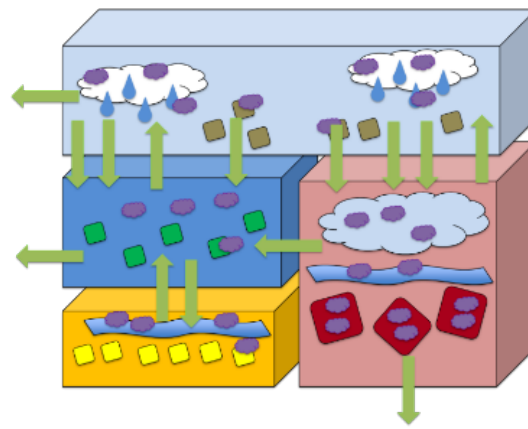
SimpleBox4nano

[SimpleBox4nano](#) is a regulatory-relevant multimedia fate model that is specifically fit for use with nanomaterials. The tool predicts background concentrations of nanomaterials in air, water, sediment and soil. For this reason, it is the perfect second-tier (screening) tool as part of the NanoFASE Exposure Assessment Framework, which also includes third-tier (higher realism) assessment tools.

The EU's [REACH \(Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals\)](#) regulations require that environmental exposure assessment of chemicals be predicted by modelling. This is done by following the approach and methodology set out in the [European Union System for the Evaluation of Substances \(EUSES\)](#). EUSES is a decision-support tool for predicting environmental exposure in the assessment of chemicals. Part of

http://nanofase.eu/show/simplebox4nano_1299

a series of well-mixed boxes of air, water, sediment and soil on regional, continental and global scales. SimpleBox is a multimedia model, in the sense that it derives mass flow rates taking into account both physical and chemical substance properties and characteristics of the environment modelled. It takes user-specified release rates of the chemical into the environment as input, and produces exposure concentrations in the different compartments of the environment as output. This type of model is known as a 'Mackay model', after its inventor, Donald Mackay.



NanoFASE

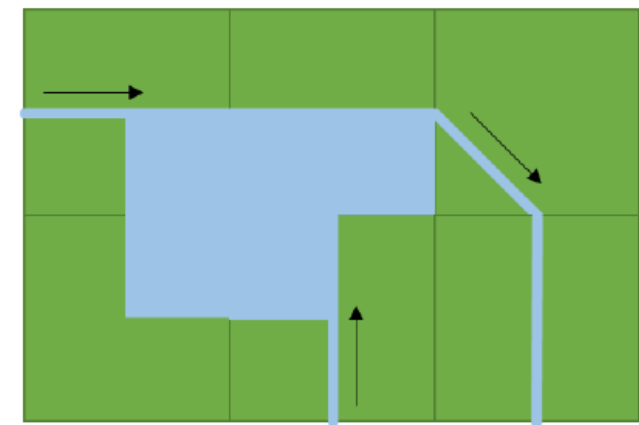
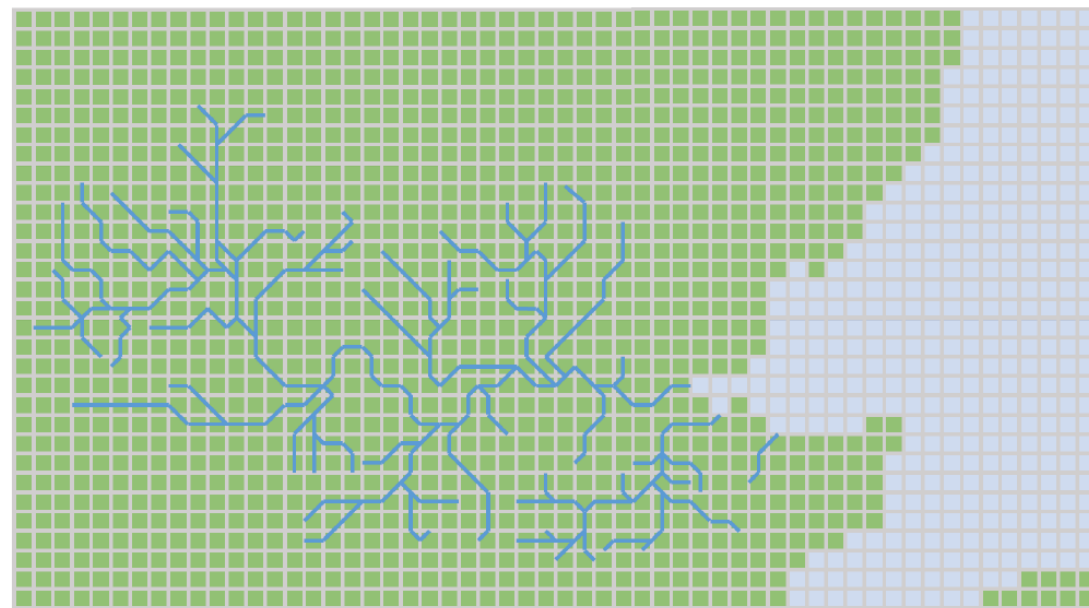
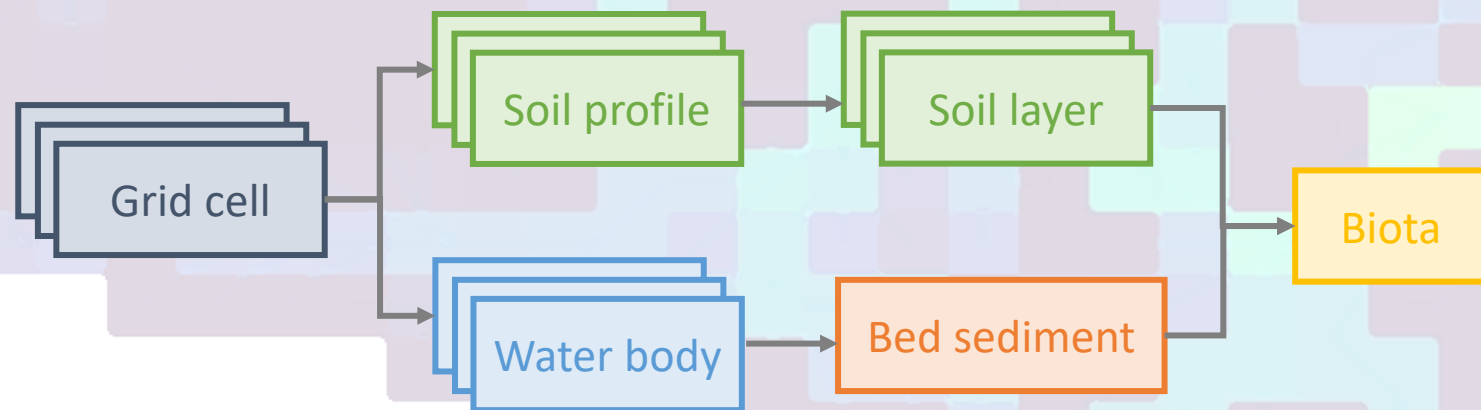


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NANOFASE MODEL

The NanoFASE water–soil–organism model

Spatiotemporal model of nanomaterial fate, speciation and bio-uptake in the environment



Soil profile

Transformations: e.g. **attachment** to soil matrix

Bioturbation rate is function of earthworm density:

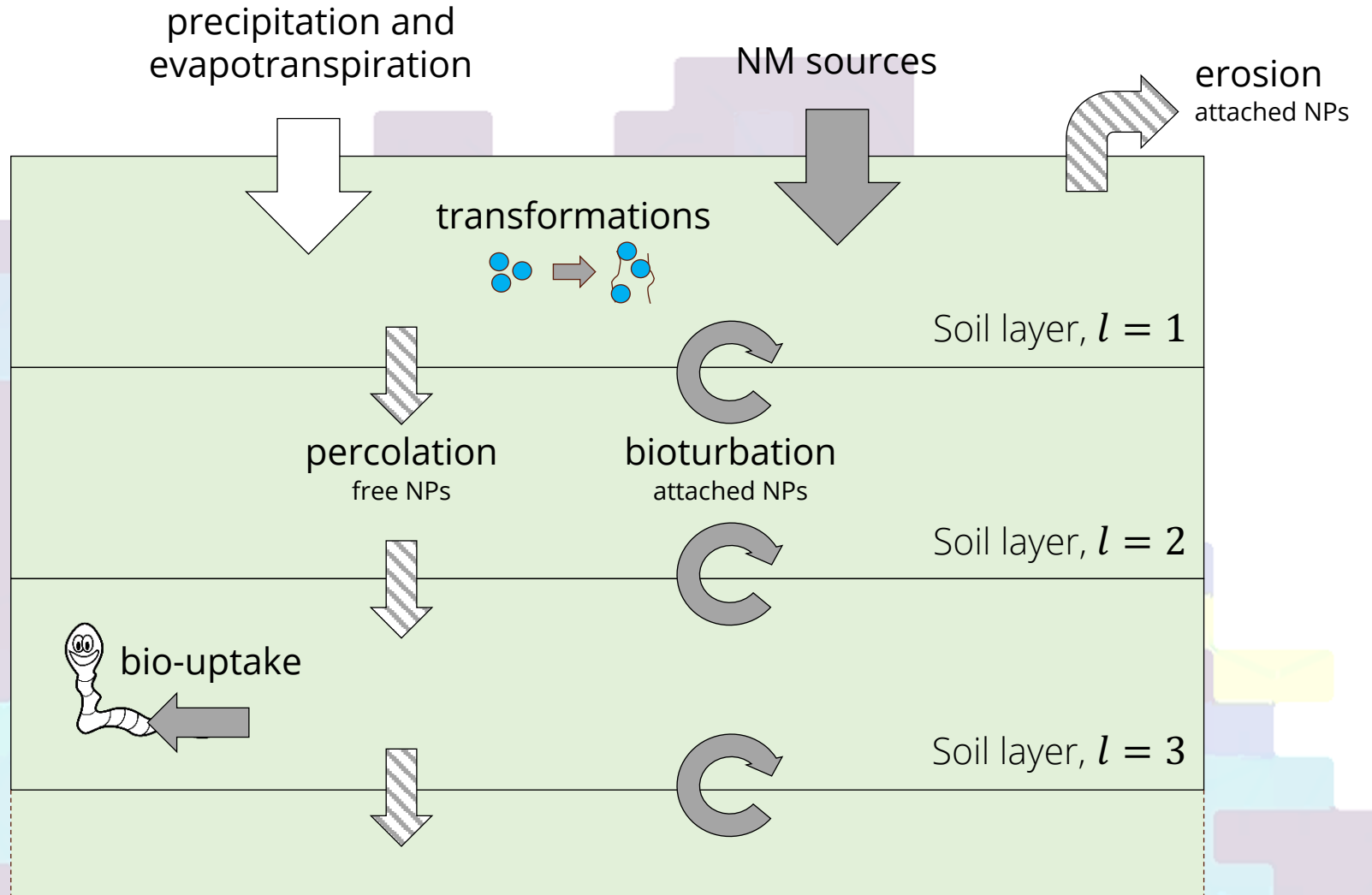
Empirical bioturbation parameter

$$k_{\text{bioturb},l:l+1} = \frac{\beta w_l}{d}$$

Bioturbation rate

Layer depth

Worm density



NANOFASE MODEL

Rivers and estuaries

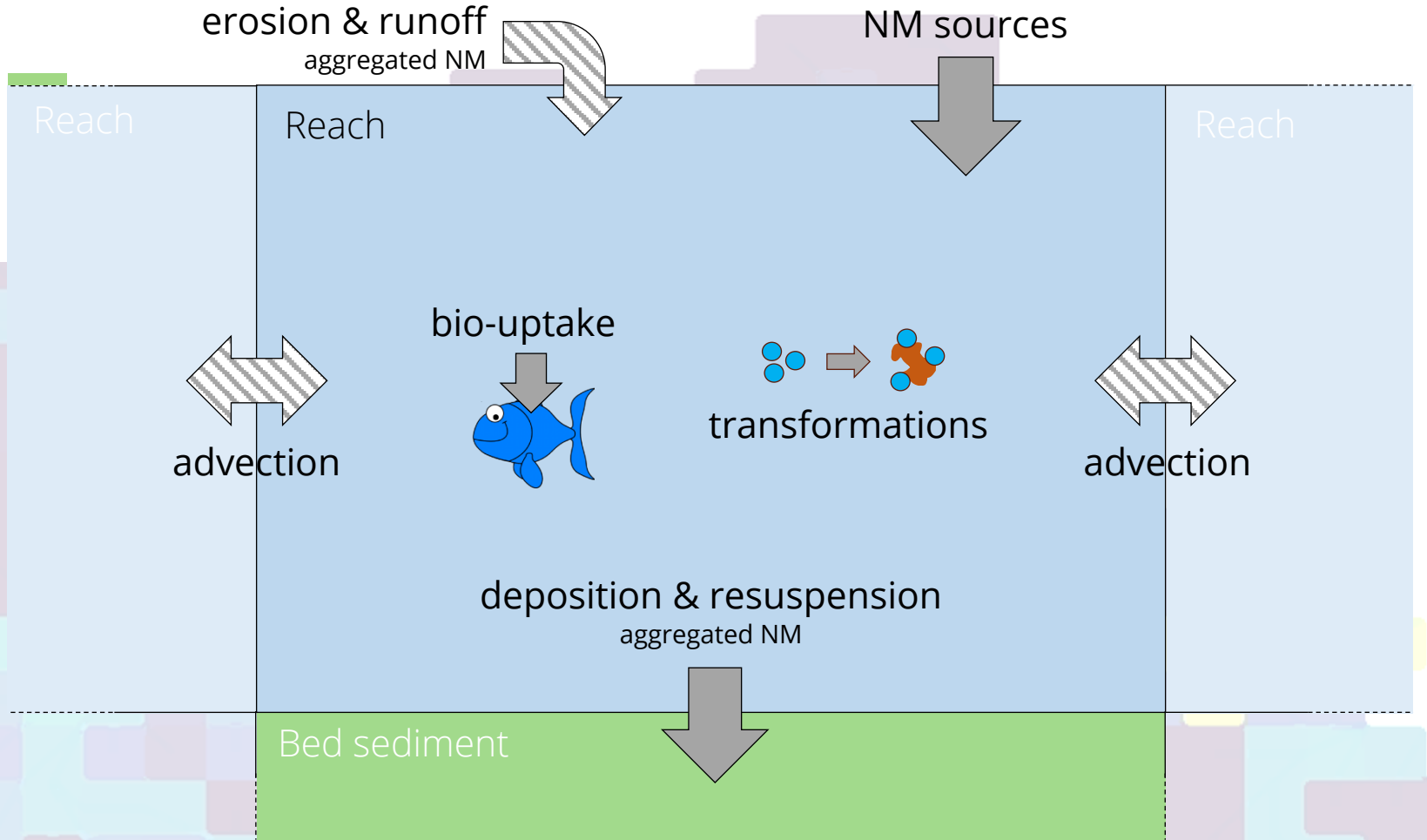
Transformations: e.g. **heteroaggregation** to SPM

$$k_{\text{hetero}} = \alpha_{\text{hetero}} k_{\text{coll}} C_{\text{spm}}$$

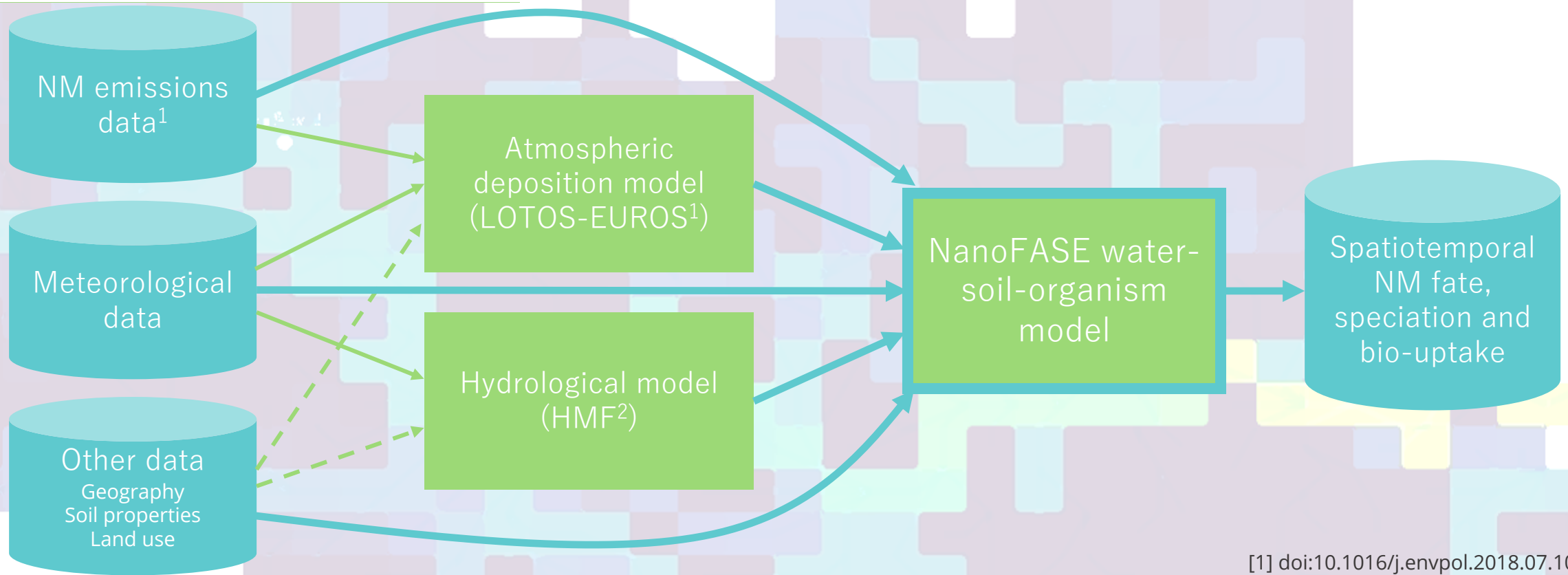
Attachment efficiency Collision frequency

Heteroaggregation rate SPM particle concentration

$\alpha_{\text{hetero}} = 0.01$ freshwater
 0.1 estuarine



How it all fits together



[1] doi:10.1016/j.envpol.2018.07.108
[2] doi:10.5194/gmd-10-4145-2017
[3] doi:10.3390/hydrology1010063



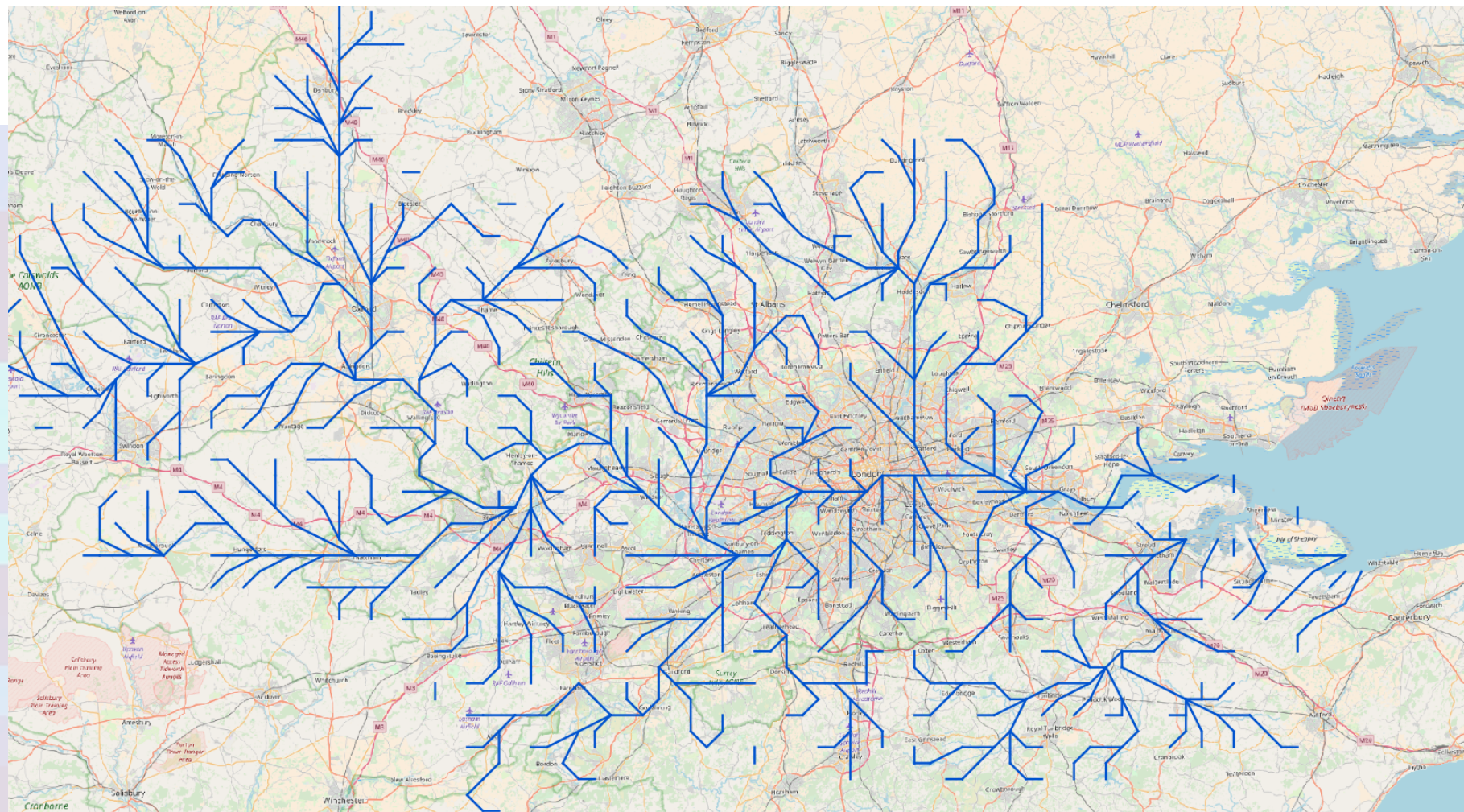
RESULTS

Application to the Thames catchment

? Resolution: 5x5 km

? Years: 2000-2020

⚙ Materials: TiO_2



RESULTS

Where do NMs end up?

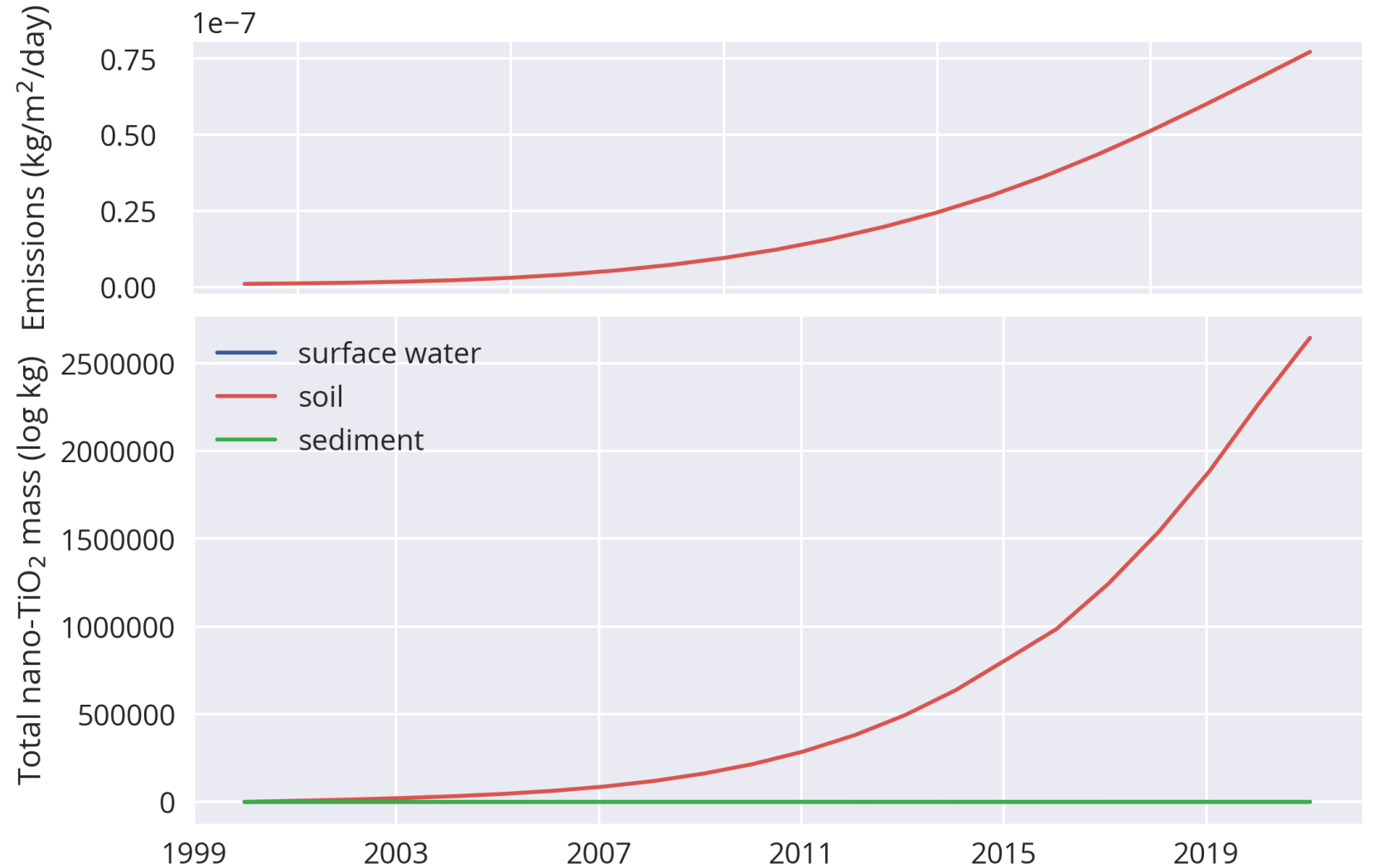
Total mass of nano-TiO₂ in the entire catchment, split by environmental compartment.



Soil acts as a sink



Main driver to long-term dynamics is exponentially increasing emissions



RESULTS


Where do NMs end up?

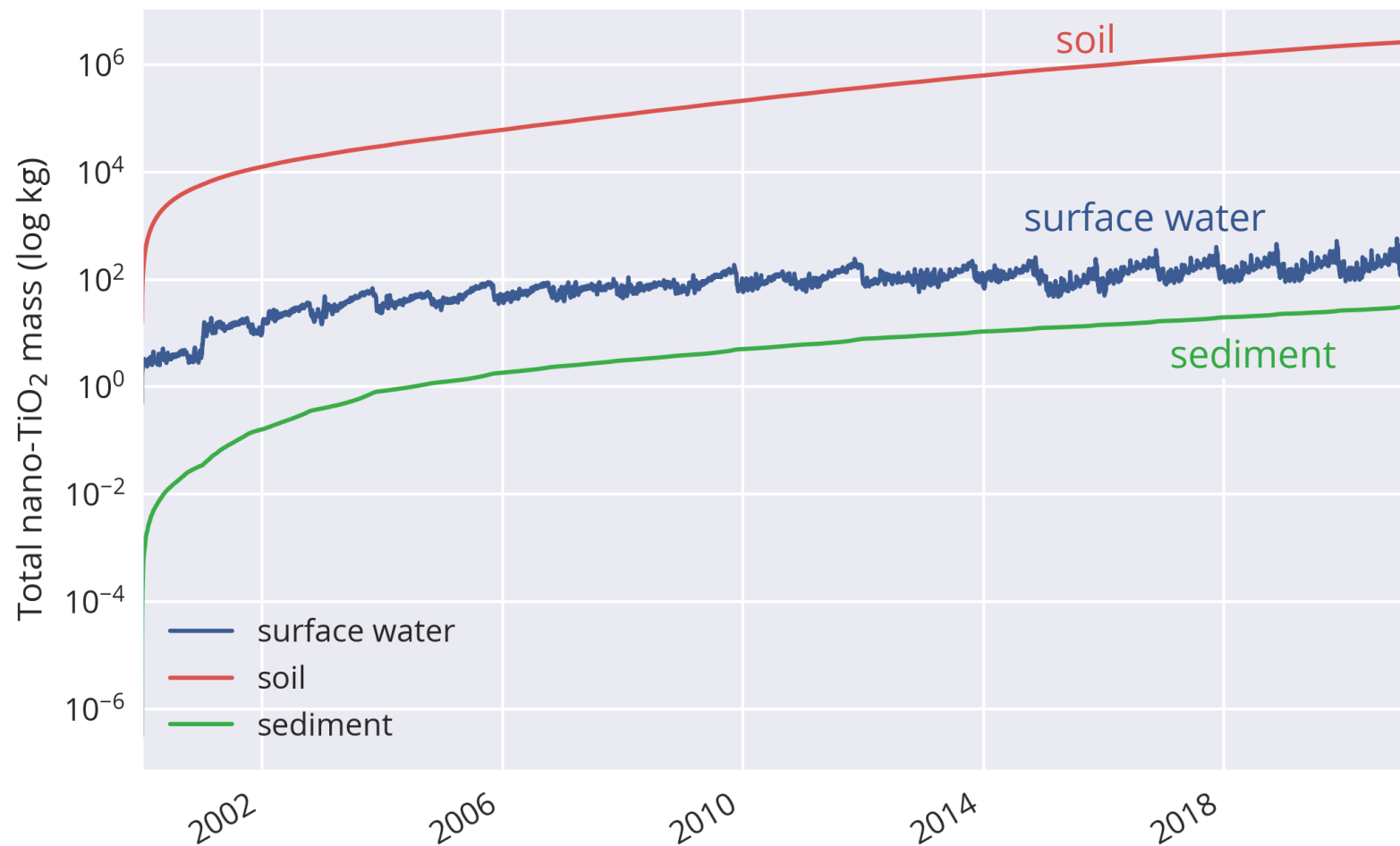
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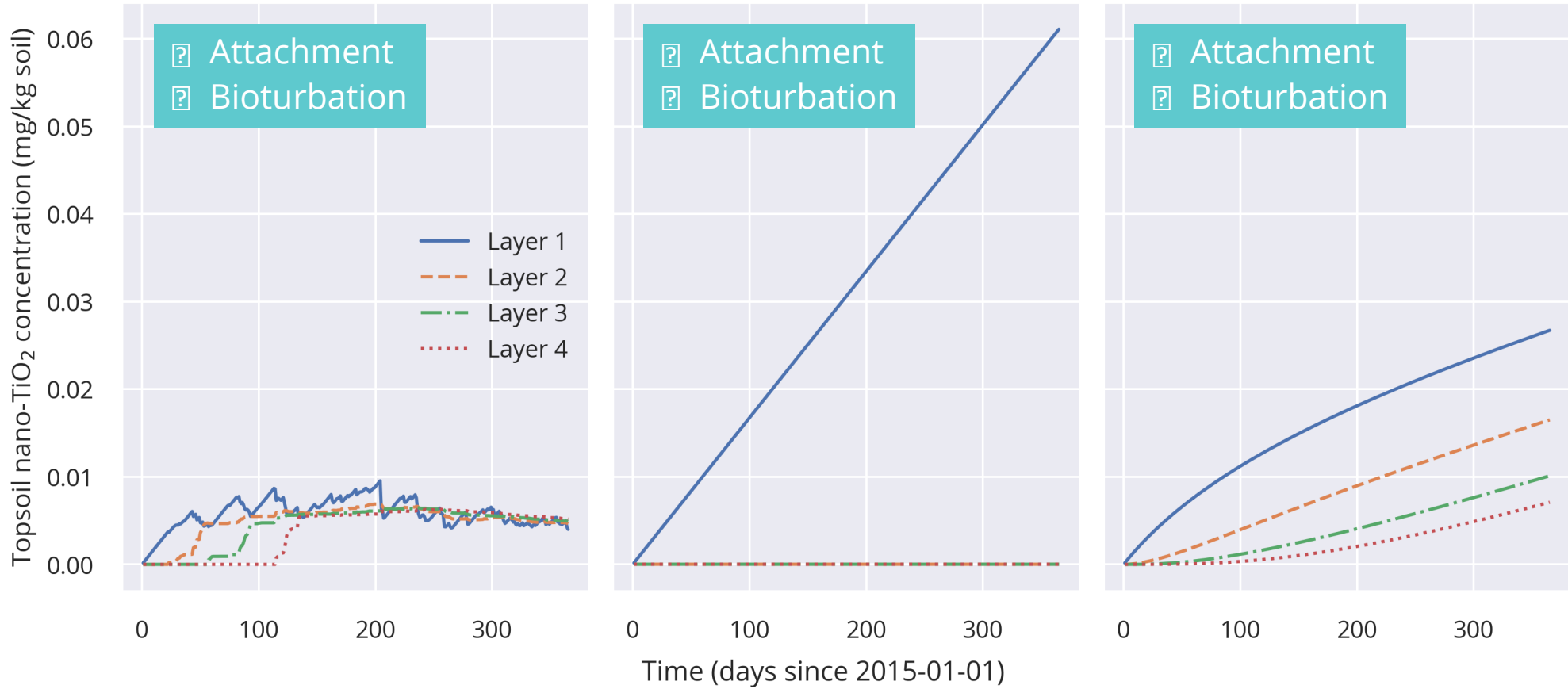


Main driver to long-term dynamics  exponentially increasing emissions



RESULTS



Attachment and bioturbation in soils



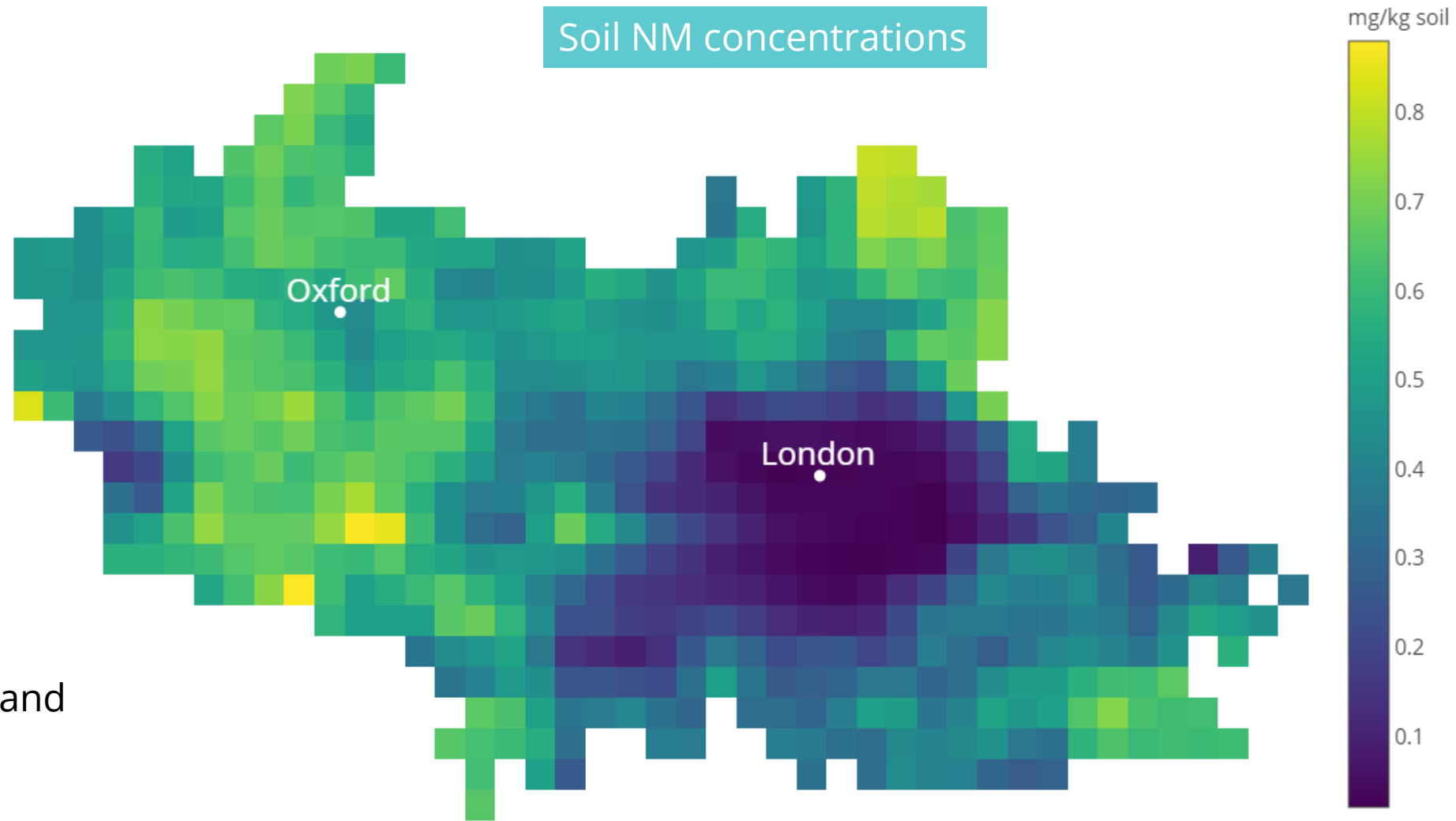
RESULTS

Where are the hotspots?

Nano-TiO₂ predicted environmental concentrations (PEC) in soil at the end of 2020.

 Main determinant of spatial distribution  land use

Soil NM concentrations



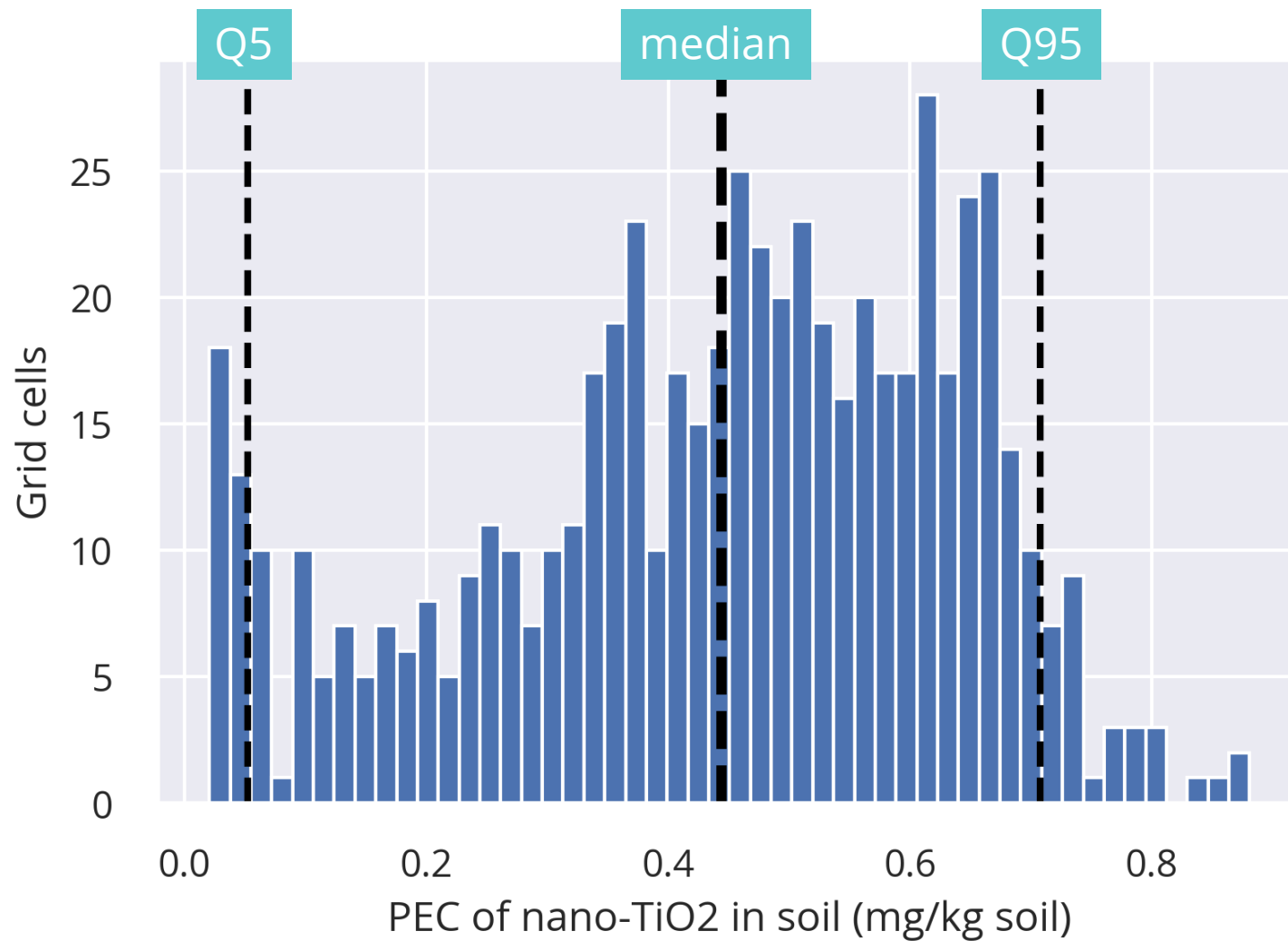
RESULTS

What is the spatial distribution?

Nano-TiO₂ predicted environmental concentrations (PEC) in soil at the end of 2020.




Q5	0.05 mg/kg soil
Median	0.44 mg/kg soil
Q95	0.71 mg/kg soil




RESULTS

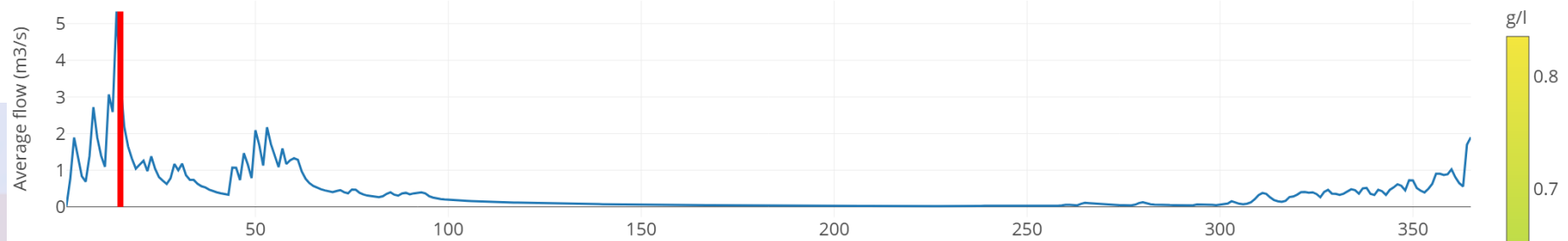
What are the dynamics?

Influence of dynamic variables, e.g. hydrological flows, over time.

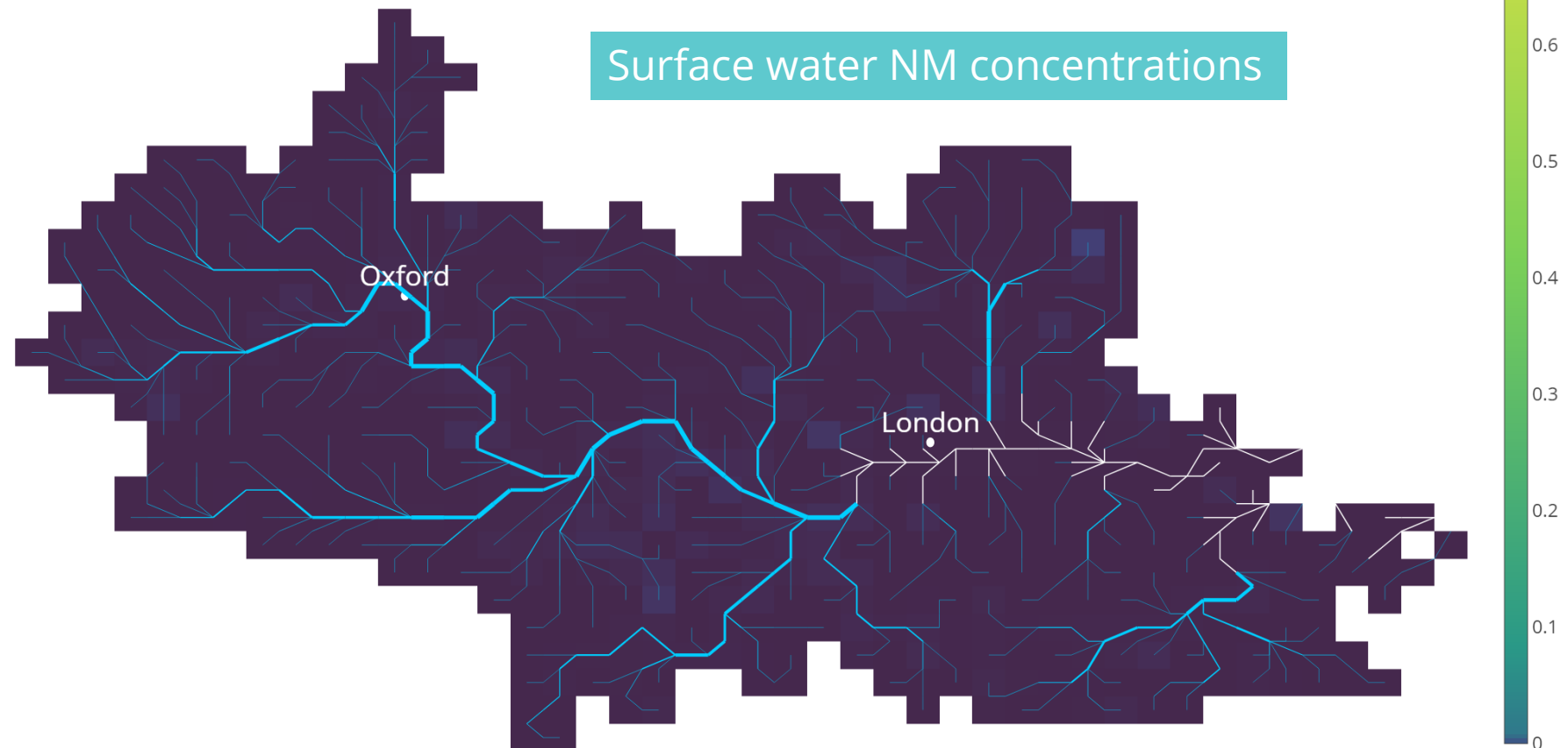
 Low flows high concentrations

 Estuary is big low concentration

Date: 2015-01-15




Surface water NM concentrations




RESULTS

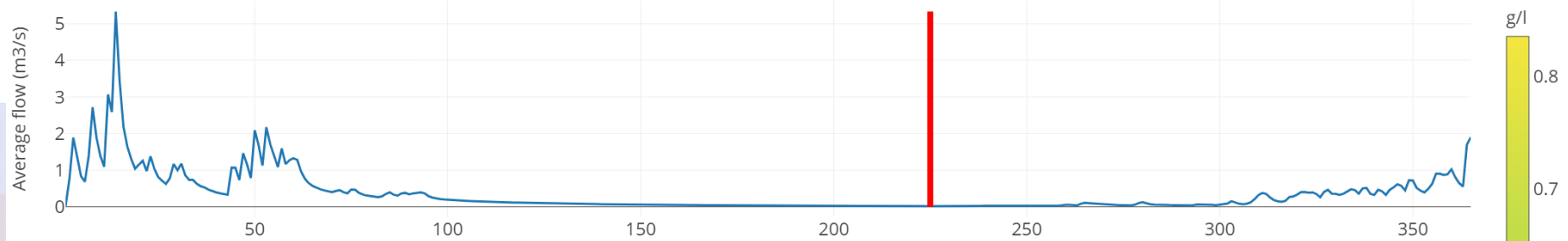
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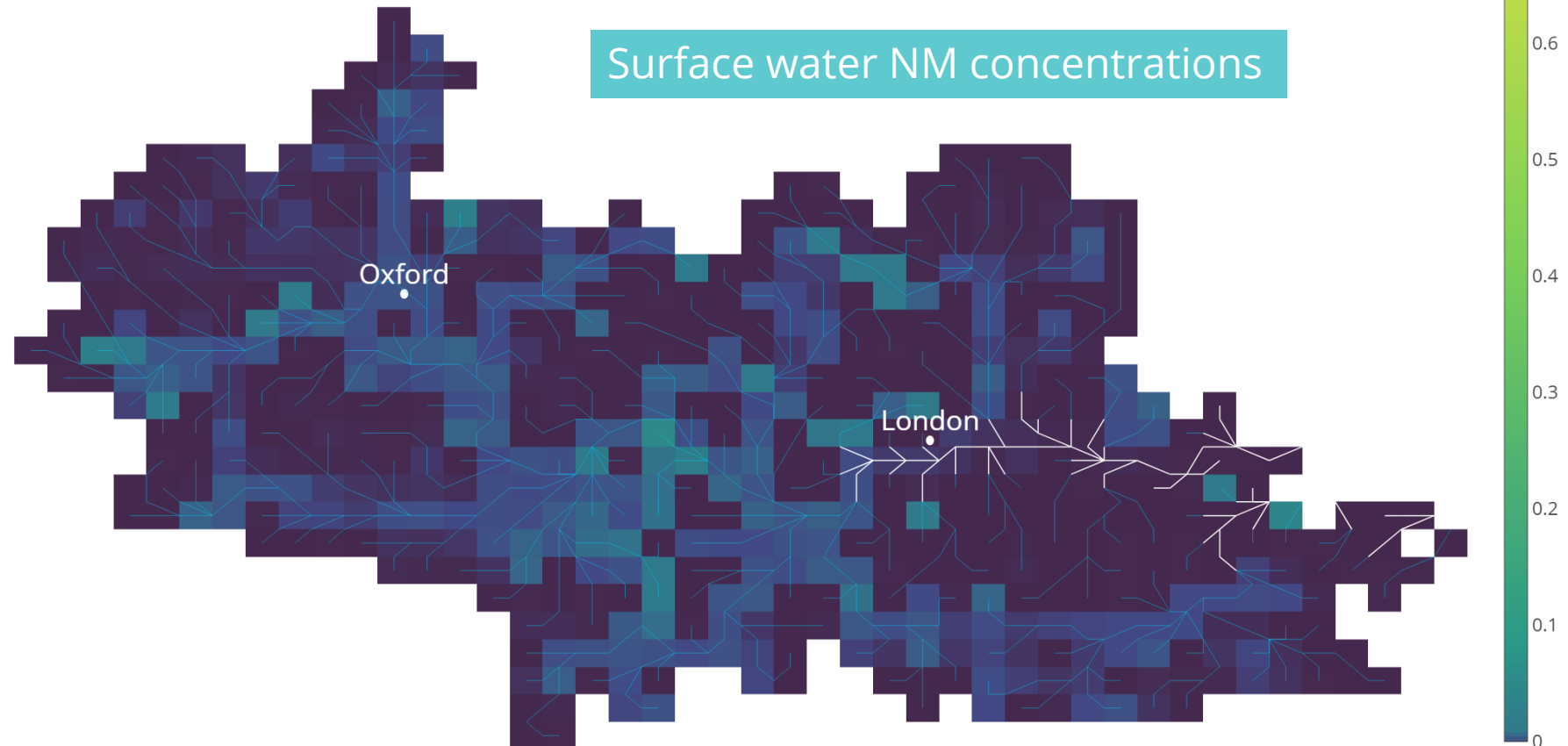
 Low flows high concentrations

 Estuary is big low concentration

Date: 2015-08-13




Surface water NM concentrations

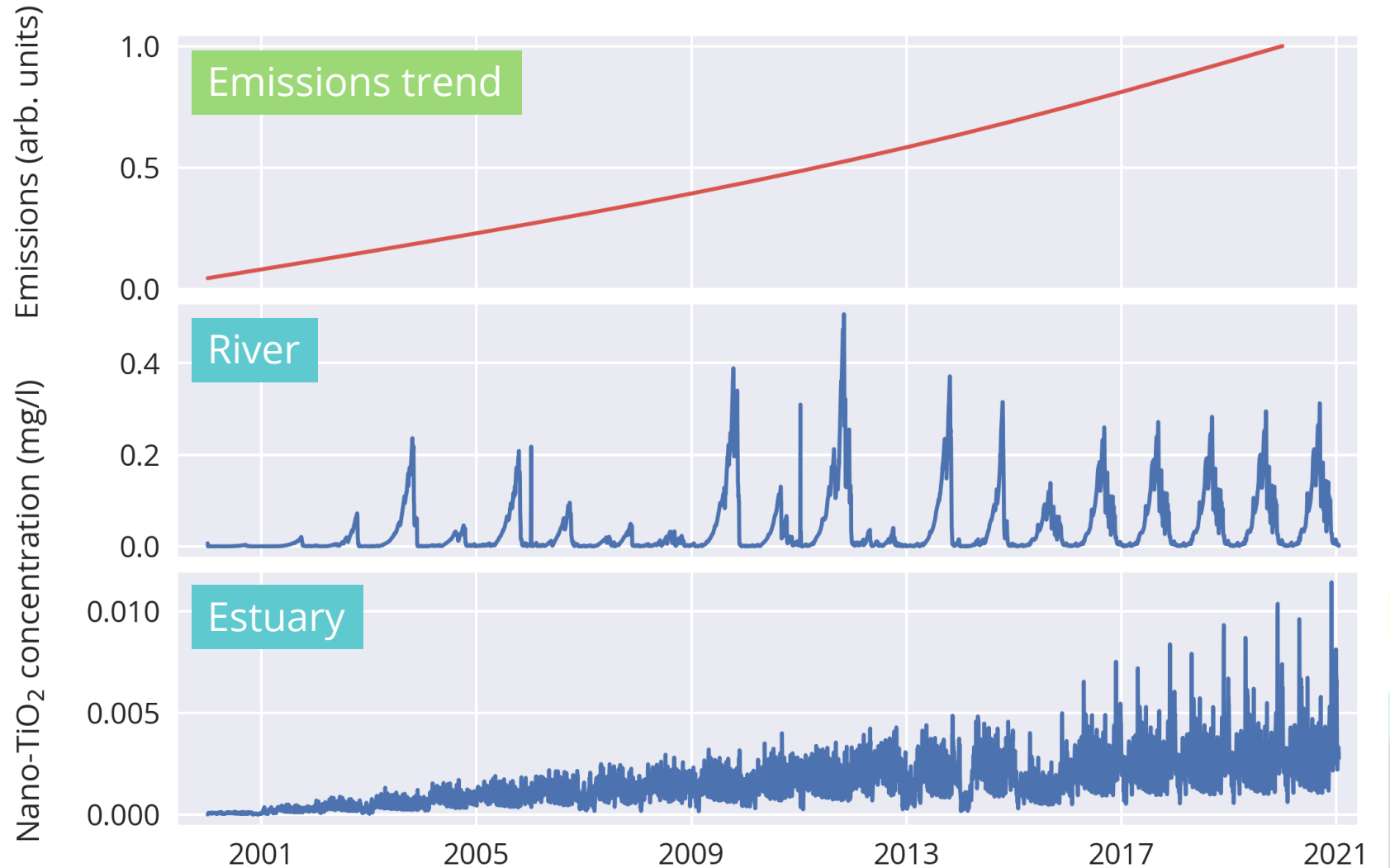


RESULTS

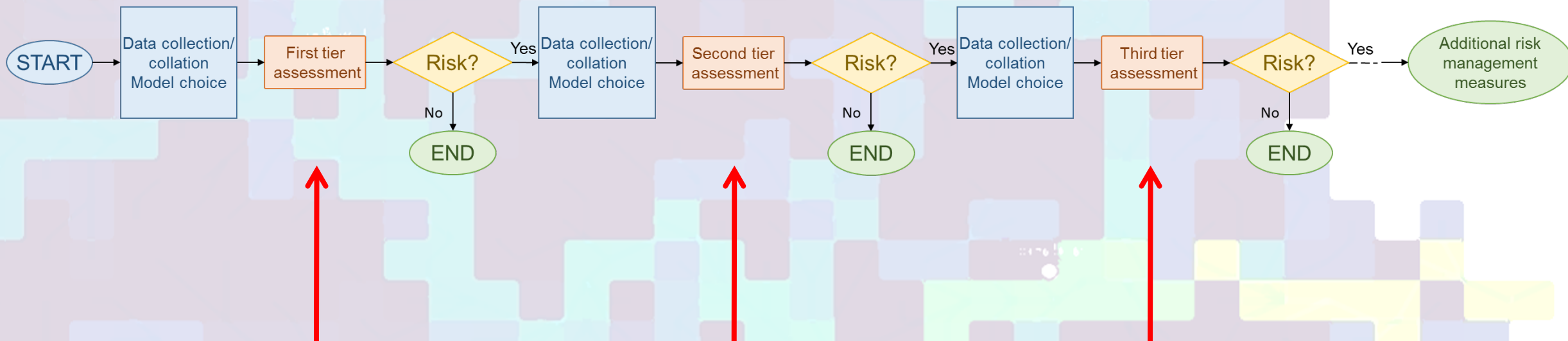
What are the dynamics?

Influence of dynamic variables, e.g. hydrological flows, over time.

 Riverine temporal trend strongly influenced by hydrology



Tiered exposure assessment



Simple calculation

SimpleBox4nano

NanoFASE WSO model

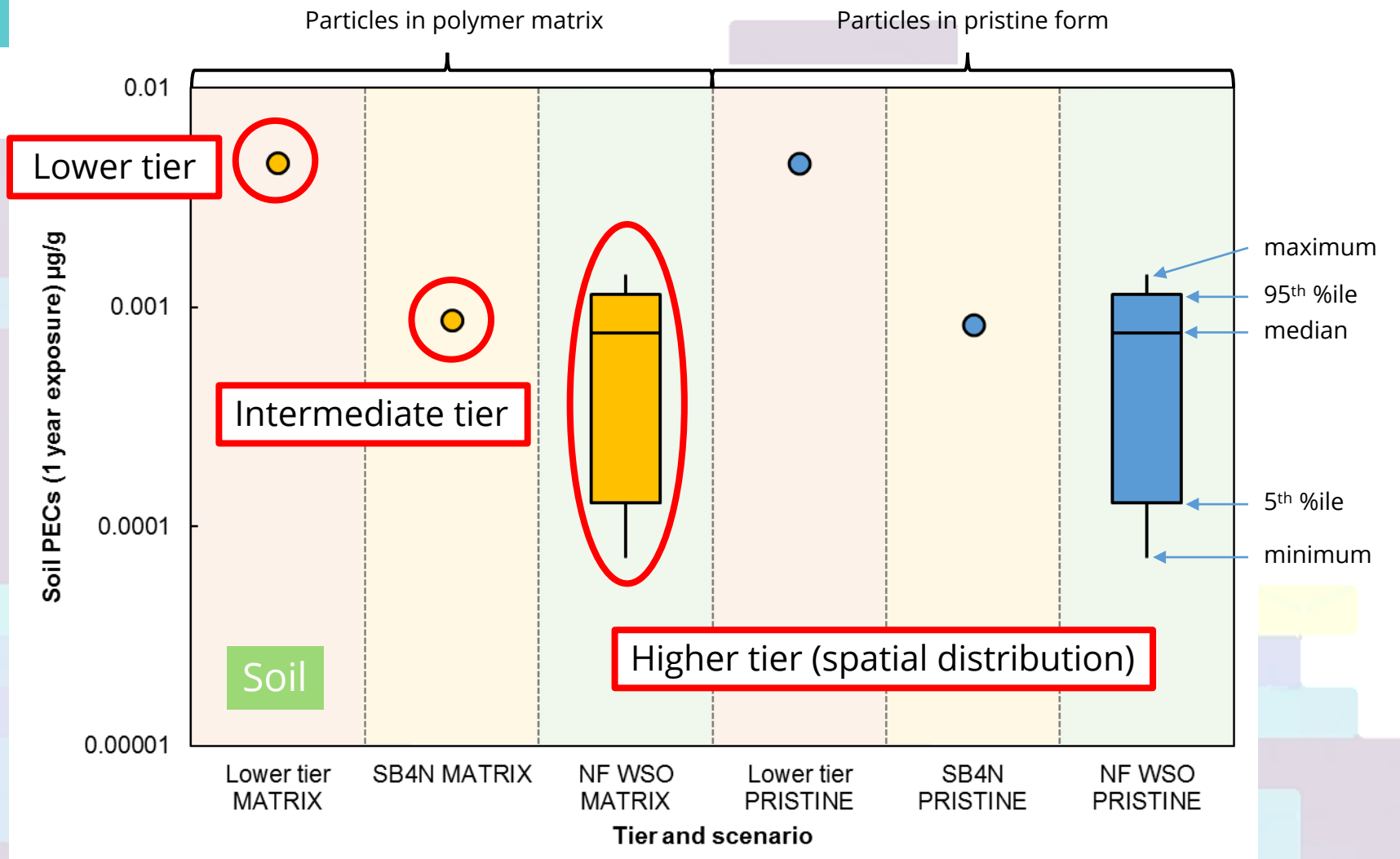
REGULATORY RELEVANCE

Tiered exposure assessment

Case study: TiO₂ applied as road coating in Thames catchment

High tiers = lower PEC


nanofase.eu/exposure_assessment_framework



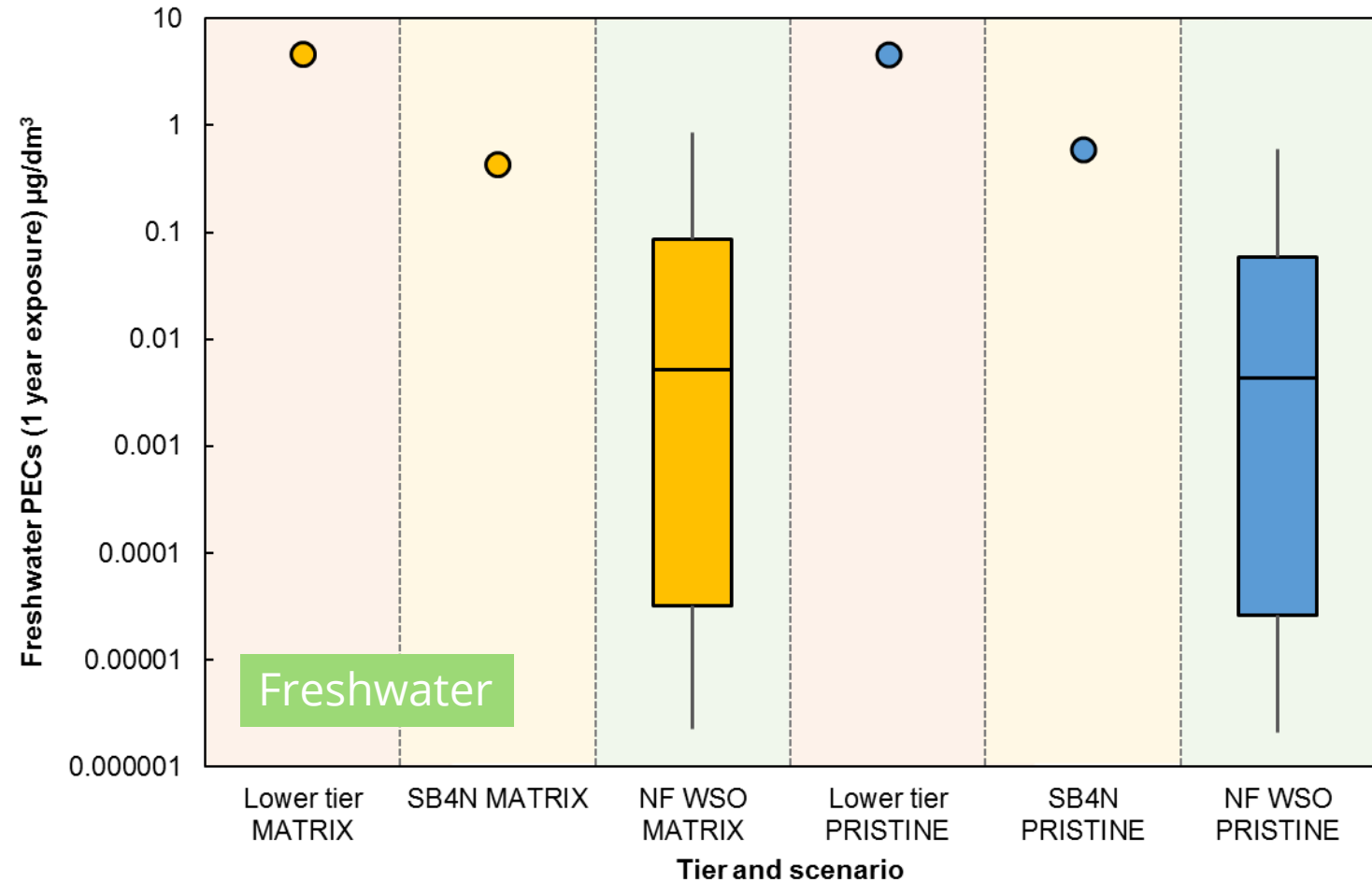
REGULATORY RELEVANCE

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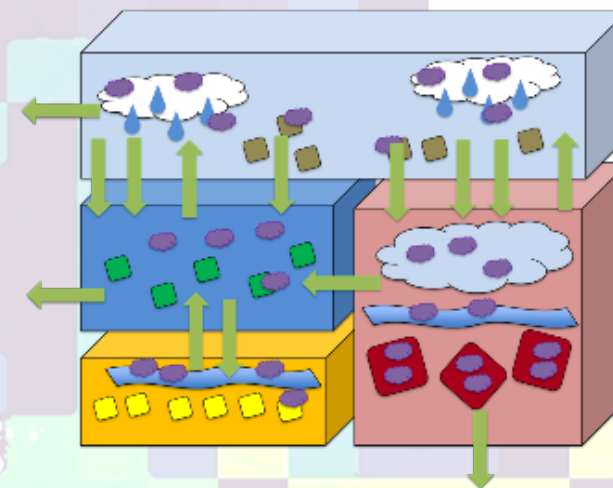
High tiers  lower PEC

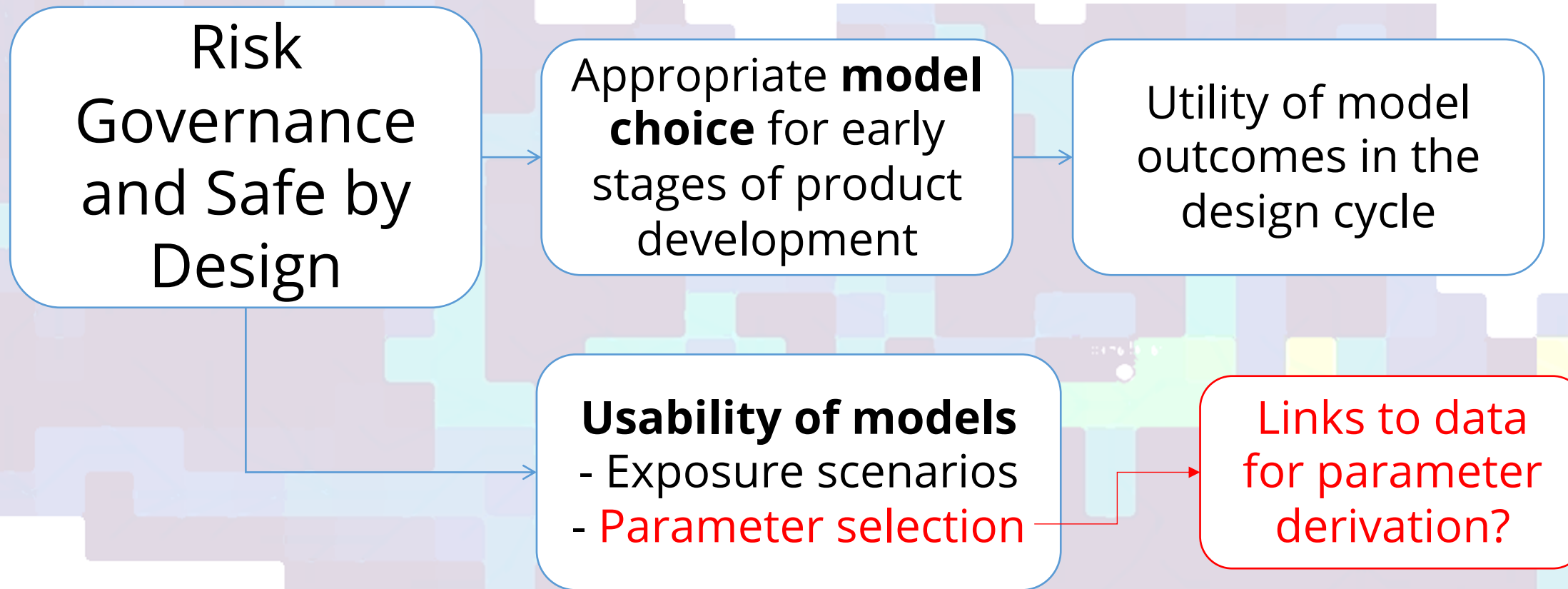
nanofase.eu/exposure_assessment_framework

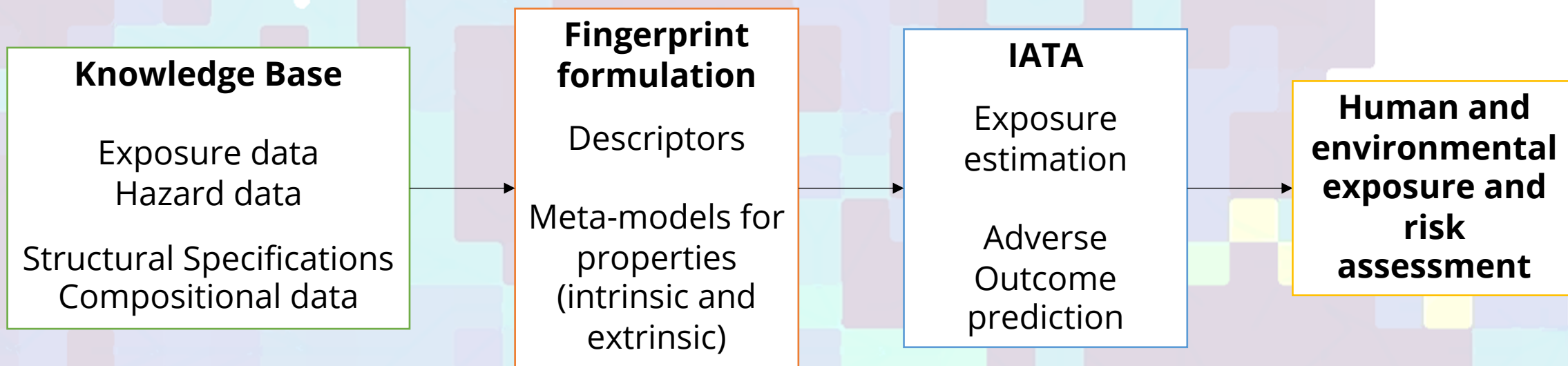


Regulatory perspective

- NanoFASE WSO model useful to **compare, evaluate** and **scope changes** to screening level tools e.g. SimpleBox4Nano
- Potential occasional use for high level tools in risk assessment where substance fails at lower tiers
- Uptake of tools by regulators...
 - ECHA aware of SimpleBox4Nano
 - Can be a slow process (regulatory conservatism)
 - Industry stakeholder input/pressure important
 - Model parameter needs should be linked to testing requirements if at all possible
 - *Linkages to databases....?*







Nano WG



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NanoFASE
Fate and Exposure models for you - www.nanofase.eu



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- An overview of the NanoFASE model with some commentary on its reception, lessons learned, value of the NIKC to your modeling, and what would be required to be a priority at the next EUSUS