

“What does it mean to be an ILTER member?”

Manuel Maass

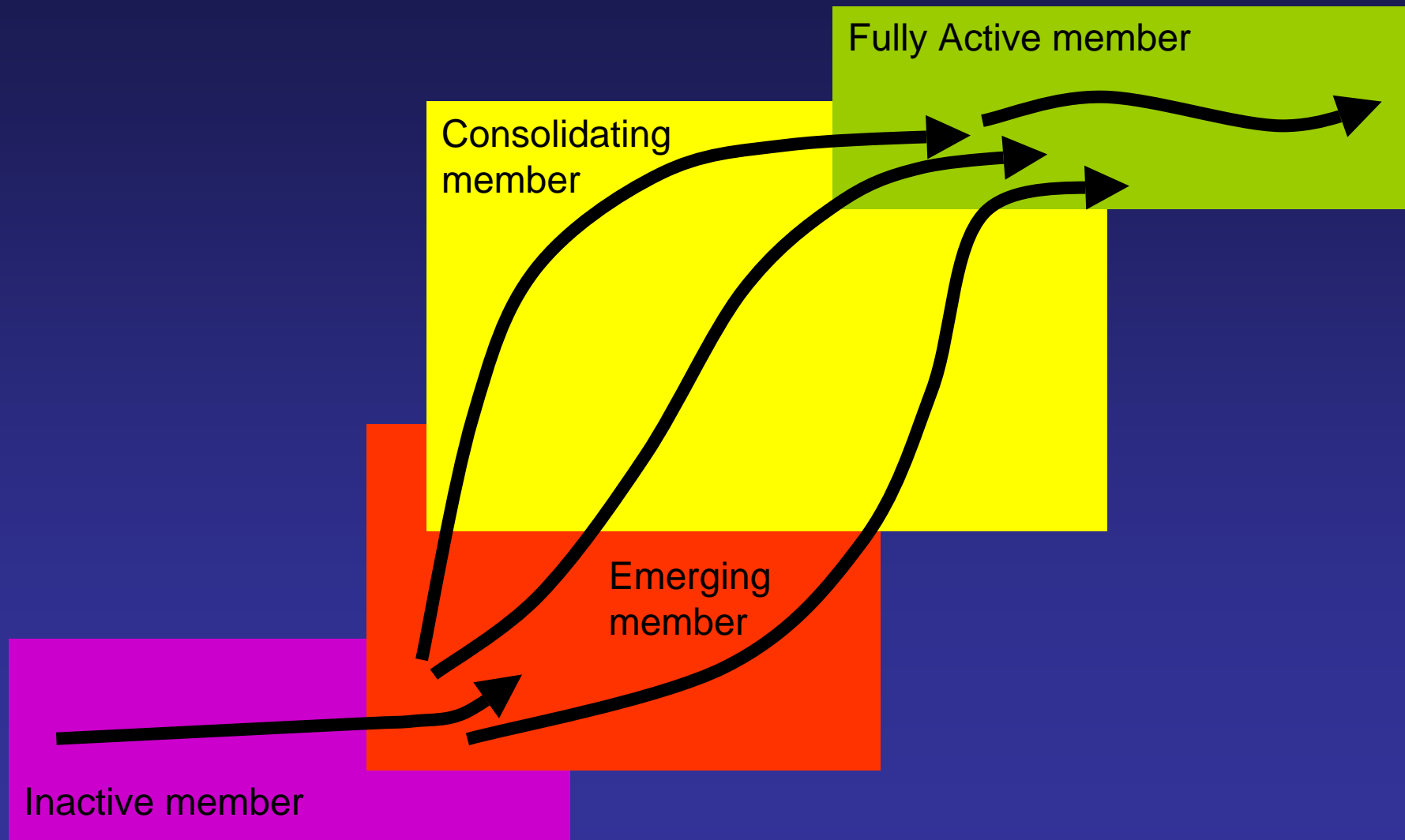
- A "Letters of Intent" or "Memorandum of Understanding",
- Requirement and obligations to be on a committee;
- Membership dues;
- Fundraising obligations;
- When would an existing member should be asked to leave?;
- etc.

We all need to sign a "Letters of Intent" or "Memorandum of Understanding" clearly setting out the "dual obligations of the individual LTER networks to ILTER and of ILTER towards national networks".

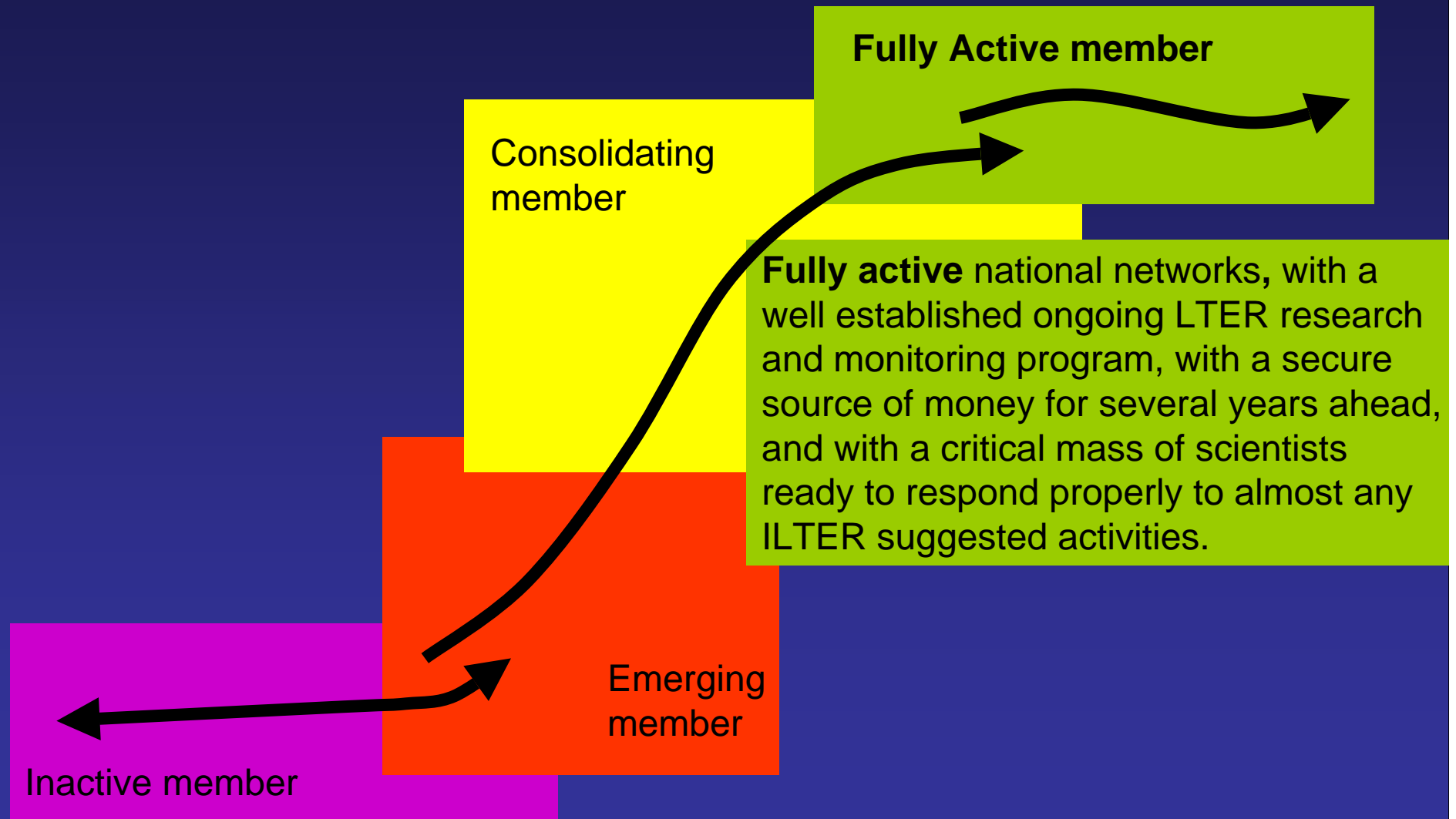
However, we should have in mind that not all country networks have the same economic, human and organizational capabilities. Therefore, we can't expect the same level of response or speed of consolidation in all country networks.

We should recognize different levels of development among countries, and request same commitment but different level of obligations according to their stage of development.

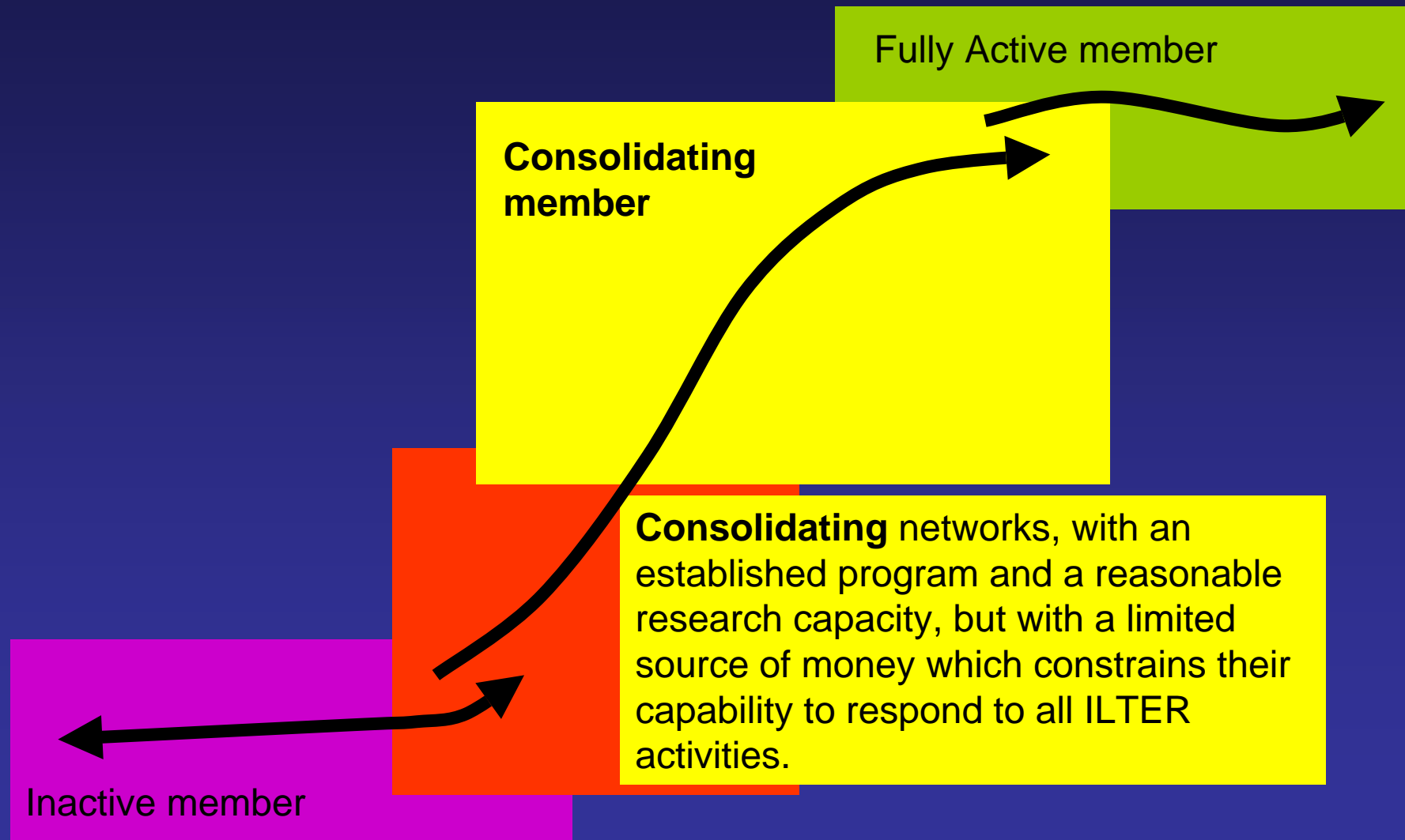
Stage / Type of Development Among ILTER Country Members



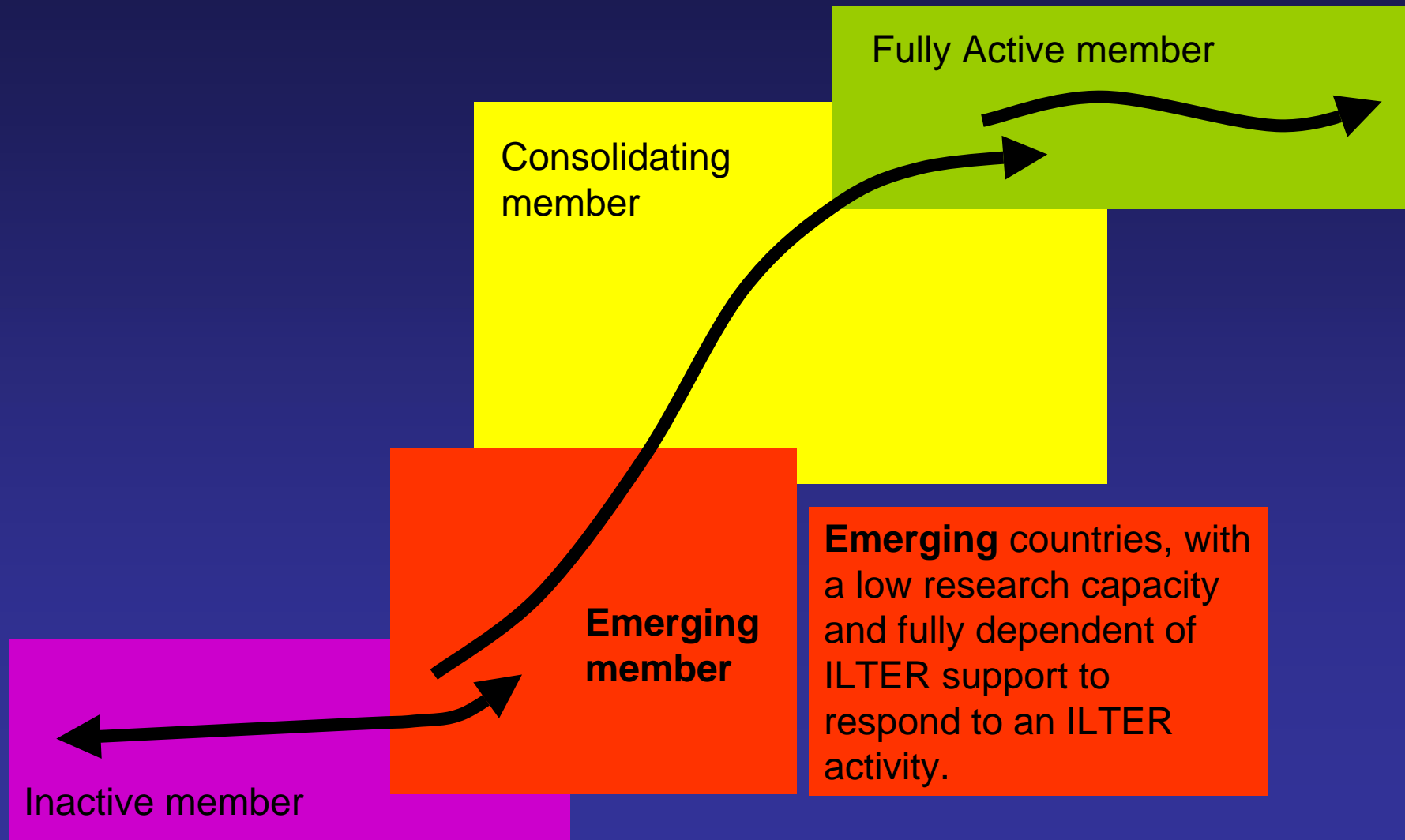
Stage / Type of Development Among ILTER Country Members



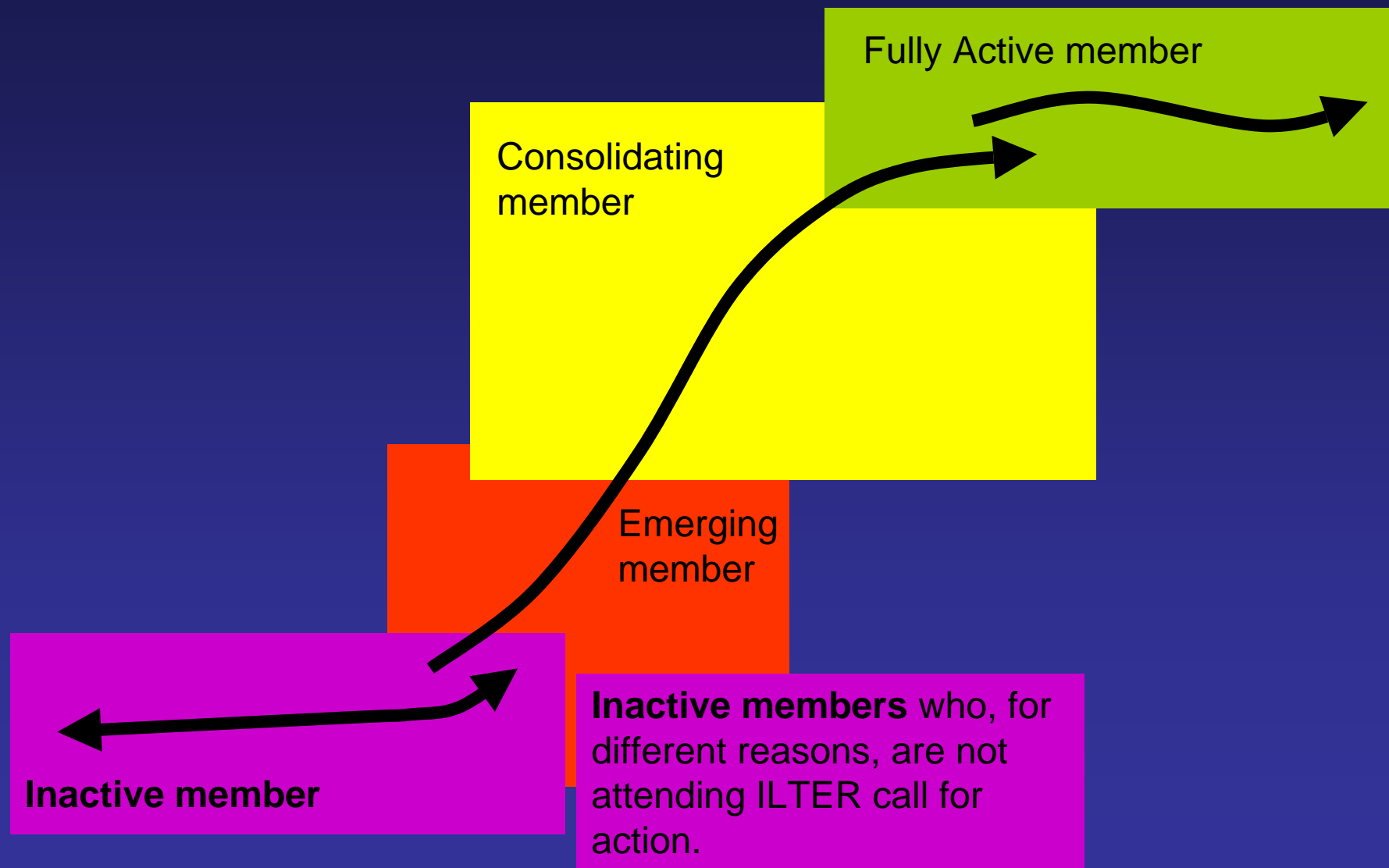
Stage / Type of Development Among ILTER Country Members



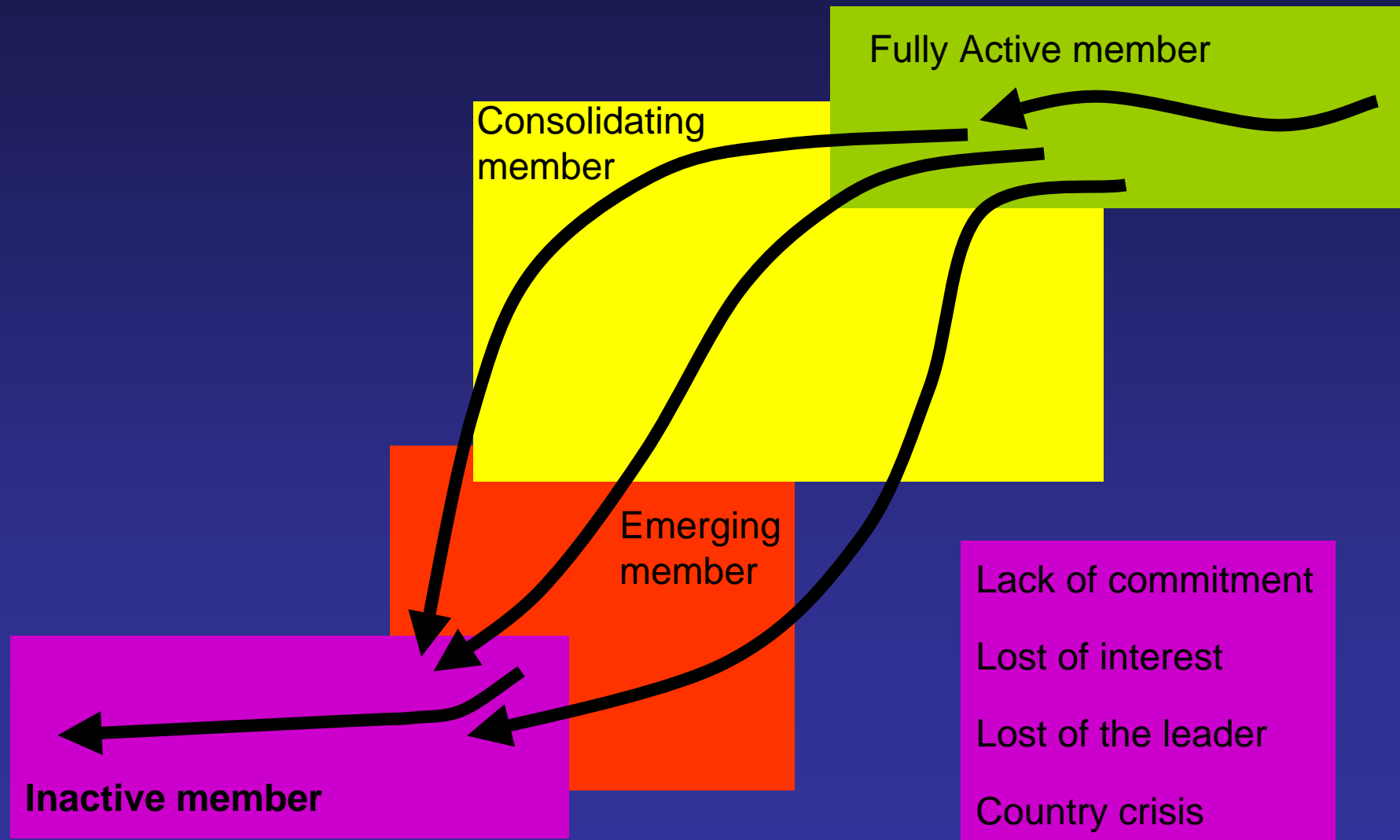
Stage / Type of Development Among ILTER Country Members



Stage / Type of Development Among ILTER Country Members



Stage / Type of Development Among ILTER Country Members



ILTER Country Members

Fully active national network are those with a well established ongoing LTER research and monitoring program, with a secure source of money for several years ahead, and with a critical mass of scientists ready to respond properly to almost any ILTER suggested activities.

Consolidating national networks are those with an established program and a reasonable research capacity, but with a limited source of money which constrains their capability to respond to all ILTER activities.

Emerging national networks are those with a low research capacity and fully dependent of ILTER support to respond to an ILTER activity.

Inactive national networks are those that, for different reasons, are not attending ILTER call for action.

Right to.....

	Fully active	Consolidating	Emerging	Inactive
attend Coordinating Committee Meeting	/	/	/	/
have a voice at the CC	/	/	/	/
vote at the CC	/	/	/	X
be listed in the ILTER web page	/	/	/	X
participate in special committees	/	/	/	X
be proposed as a CC meeting host	/	/	~	X
be considered for regional/ subject projects	/	/	~	X
lead special committees	/	~	X	X
being nominated for the LTER chair	/	~	X	X
be considered for strategic projects	/	~	X	X
request special \$ support from ILTER	X	~	/	X

/ Always

~ Under certain conditions

X Not have

Commitment to...

	Fully active	Consolidating	Emerging	Inactive	
respond to emails	/	/	/	/	
foster capacity building	/	/	/	/	
conduct LTER research & monitoring	/	/	/	/	
update country Web page	/	/	/	X	
attend Coordinating Committee	/	/	/	X	
conduct regional/subject research	/	/	~	X	
share data	/	/	~	X	
response to LTER call for action	/	~	~	X	
conduct LTER strategic research	/	~	X	X	
made an \$ contribution	/	~	X	X	

/ Compulsory

~ Under certain conditions

X Not required

We don't want ILTER being drag by slow country networks, but we neither want to leave countries behind. We need to develop an operational plan according to this reality, planning one type of activities for fully active country members, another type for consolidating or emerging members.

If we detect that only 30% of the country networks are “fully active” we can set a goal to “***reach 60% of the country members to a fully active stage in the next 10 years***”, and design activities to help consolidating countries to increase their capabilities.