/WHY IT MATTERS

You may be wondering how planning is related to the key aspects for a sustainability mindset. The connection is not in the planning as an activity per se, but in the way we think and process information when we plan. Planning is about organizing and structuring in order to control outcomes, and we frequently assume simple cause-effects relationships. But what about multi-effects, multi-causes, and feedback loops?

Contrast this with the sustainability problems we are facing. To begin with, they are complex and multidimensional by their very nature. Many are the result of our linear thinking, for example we believe that we can pursue unlimited growth, yet depletion of natural resources shows us this is not possible. Our reliance on the human mind can create a collective assumption that we are in control, but a “small” manifestation like Covid-19 arrives as a surprise to debunk the myth of our own superiority.

Planning in itself is not the problem but rather, excessive reliance on carefully crafted steps, and forgetting the natural cycles of growth and decline.

How your group balances the cognitive, behavioral and affective dimensions

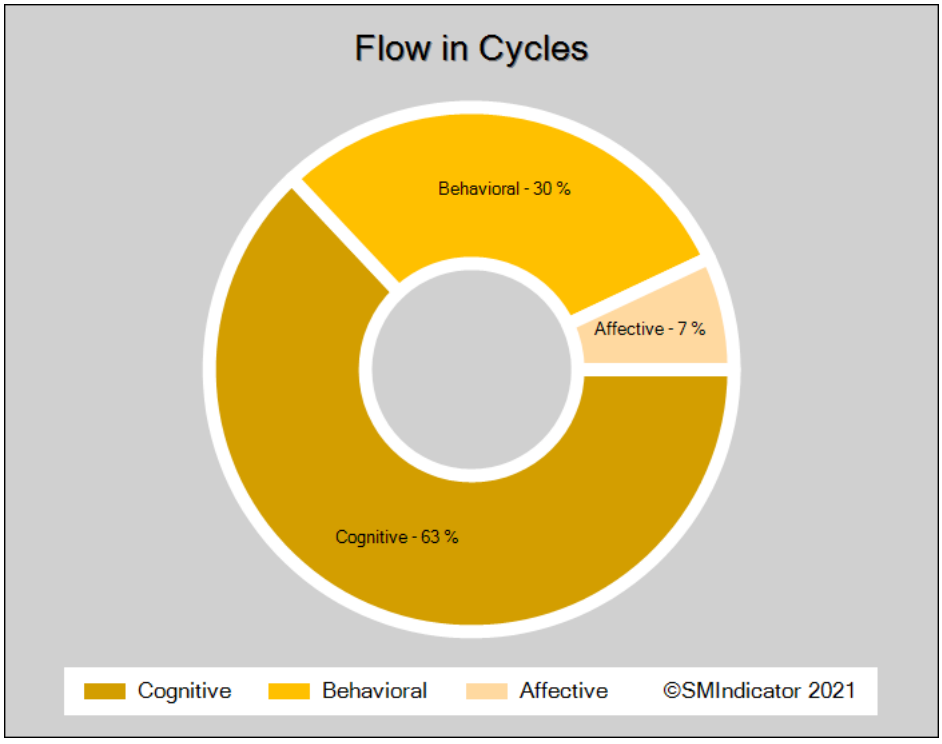

Figure 10