

Making the case for Equitable Water Resource Management

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Achieving SDG6 in a Changing Climate



#WaWF23

Water management and governance?

- Water is used for drinking, livestock, irrigation, hydropower, but also needed for ecosystem health.
- Water has an uneven temporal and spatial distribution, and sometimes has quality issues.
- Moreover, there are multiple –sometimes competing demands and water-related risks.

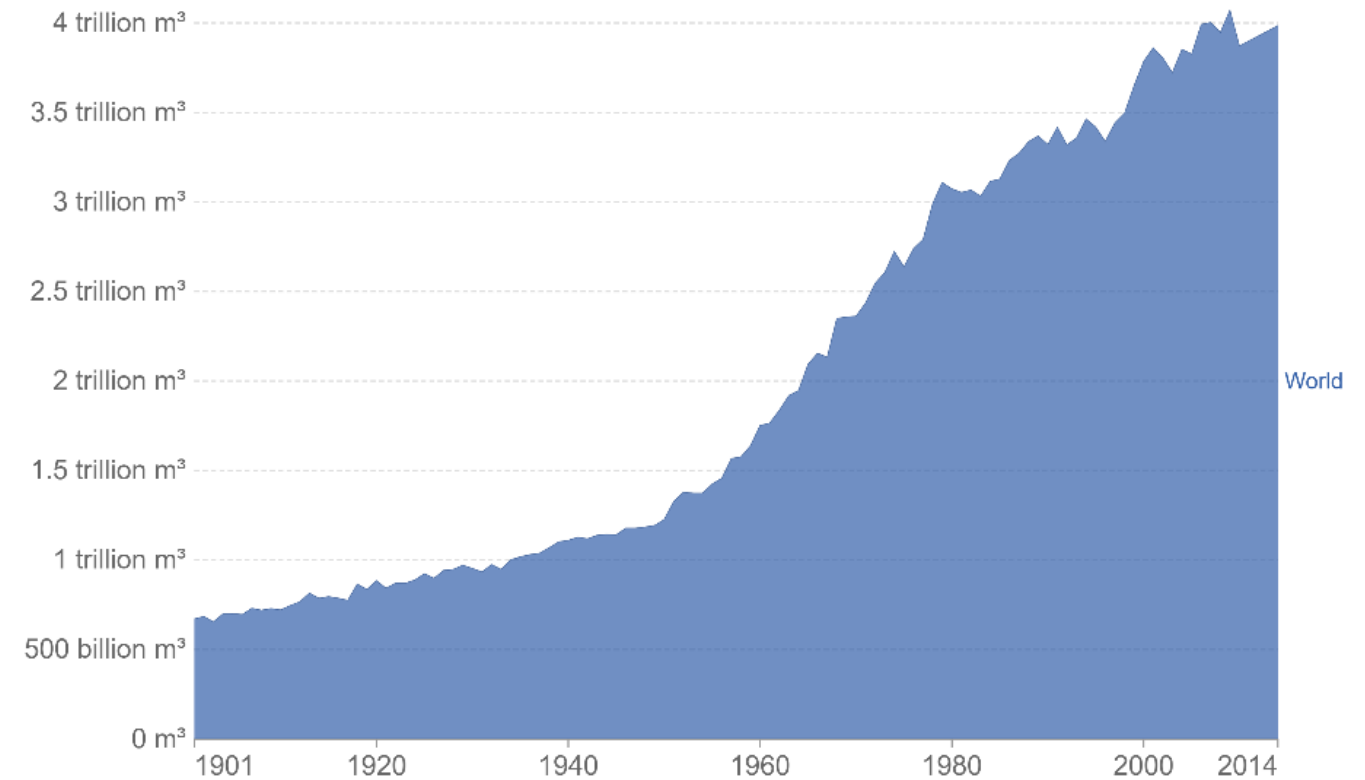


An ever more thirsty and polluted world, in the face of climate change

- Demand for water has increased eight-fold:
 - Population growth
 - Economic growth
 - Rising living standards
- The hydrological cycle of water is severely disturbed:
 - Climate change
 - Human activity

Global freshwater use over the long-run

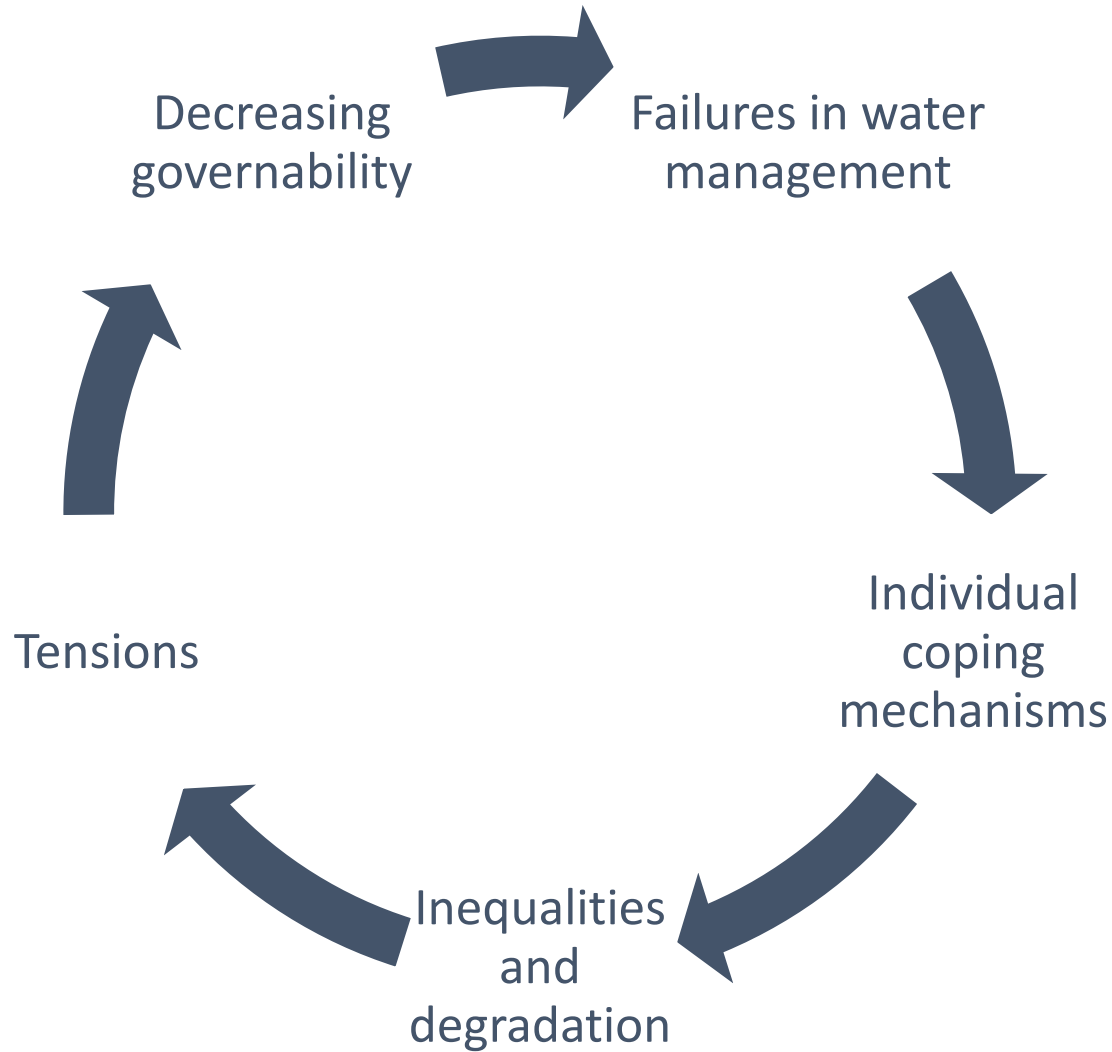
Global freshwater withdrawals for agriculture, industry and domestic uses since 1900, measured in cubic metres (m³) per year.



Source: Global International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGB)

OurWorldInData.org/water-access-resources-sanitation/ • CC BY

Vicious cycle of inequality



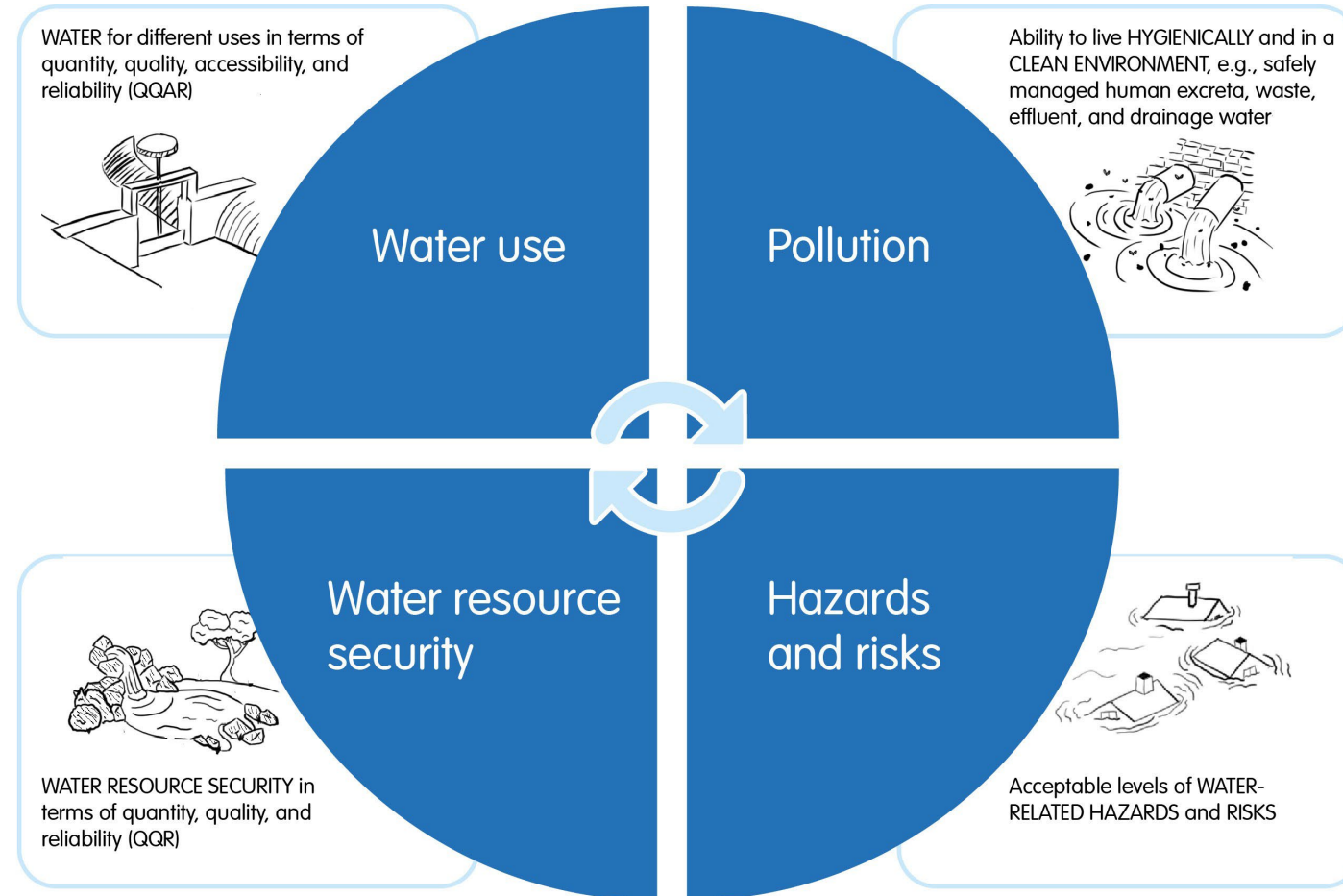
- 2 billion people experience high water stress,
- 4 billion people without safely managed sanitation
- Rate of groundwater depletion doubled between 1960 and 2000.
- 90% of all natural disasters are water-related
- Etc. etc.

Rethinking, reforming and strengthening water governance is urgent

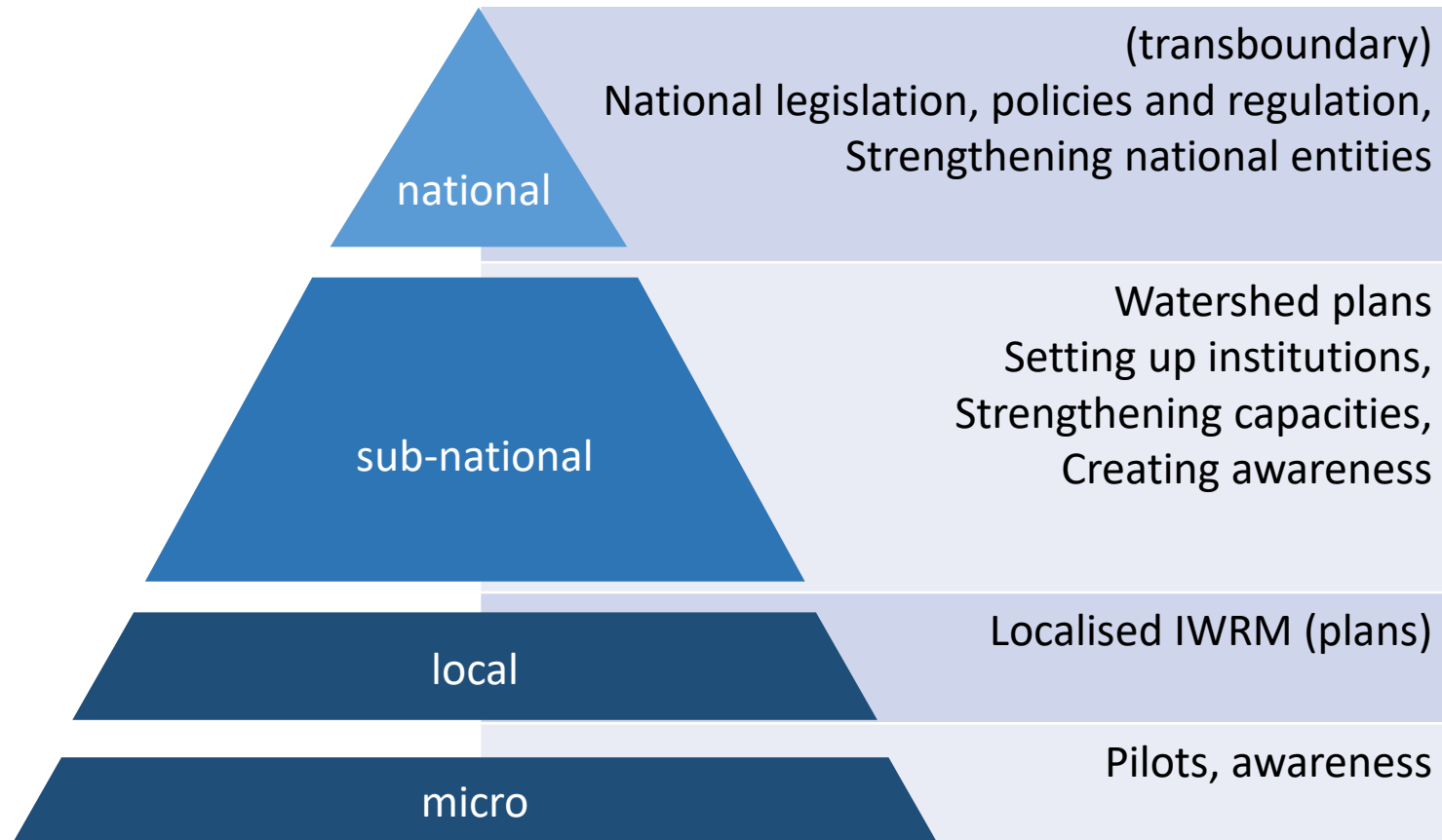
What do we want to achieve in water?

Water security for all

- the reliable availability of an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihoods, ecosystems and production, coupled with an acceptable level of water-related risks



What do different current IWRM approaches have in common?



What does this all have in common?

- Focus on building integrated institutional structures
- Process oriented
- Working on plans
- Working on a huge range of issues
- Equity is one of the many topics

Strengthening cascading IWRM organisations

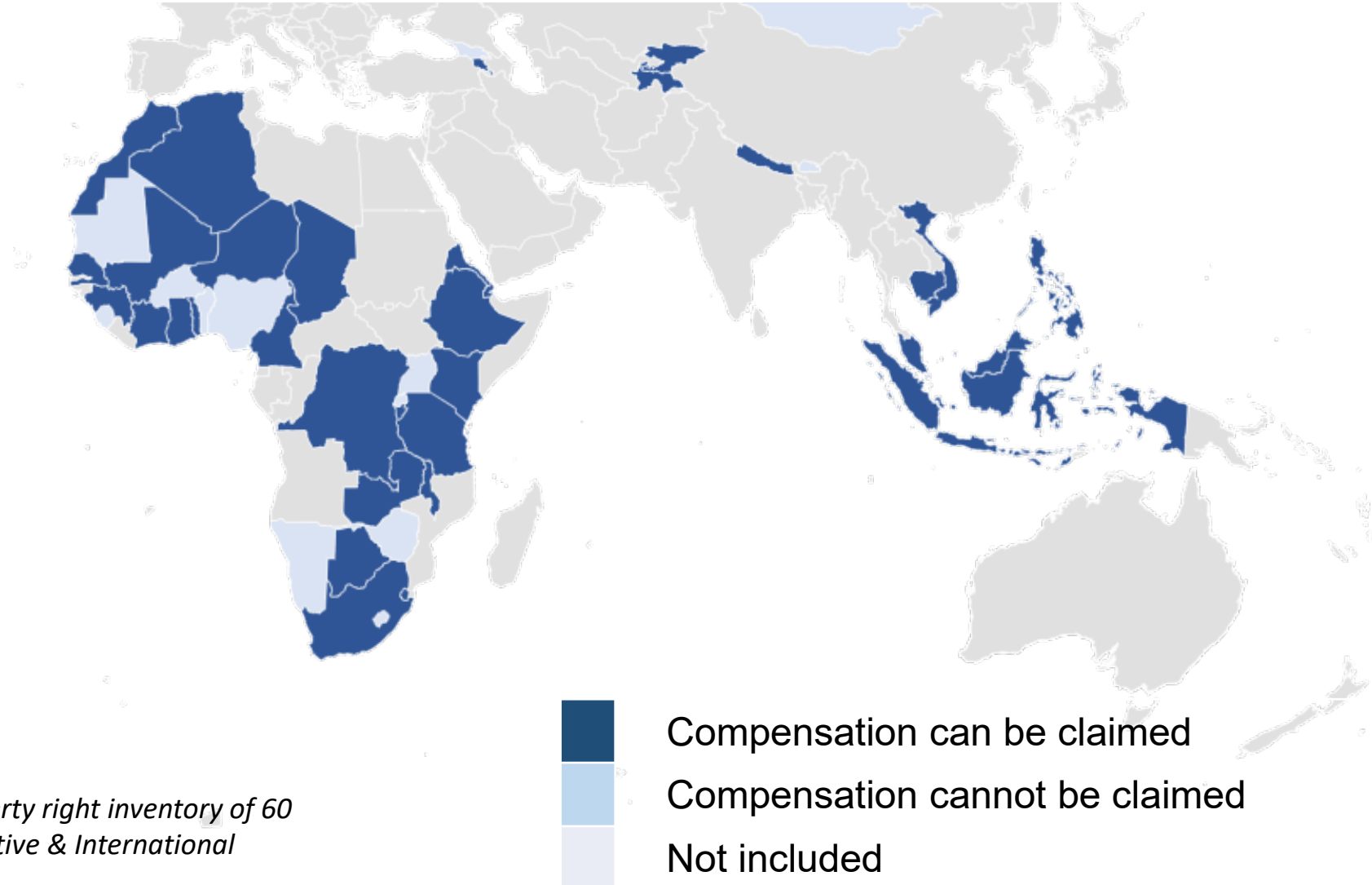
	Netherlands (Waterschap)	Burkina (Agence de l'Eau)	Kenya (WRUA)
Area (km2)	1,600	60,088	211
Population (people)	780,000	6,400,000	17,148
Annual budget (AUD)	218,190,000	3,272,850	7,800
Staff (fte)	464	50	7
Budget per km2 (in AUD)	136,369	54	37

Are we moving towards the required reform for greater equity?

- Water “owned” by the nation or State. Access regulated through “water resource user rights”.
- Part of water use (and discharge) is exempted from permits. Part of the permits are based on historic or customary water resource rights, others are newly issued.
- Not always based on available resource. Water permits and licences:
 - Who may hold the permit/ licence?
 - Duration?
 - Entitlement?
 - Transfer?
 - Compensation?
 - Monitoring of abstraction and/or discharge?

Countries where compensation from the state can be claimed for losses resulting from limitation of water use permits

- Compensation when the water use permit cannot be used in full (e.g. suspending or limiting)
- Compensation for re-allocation of water use permit



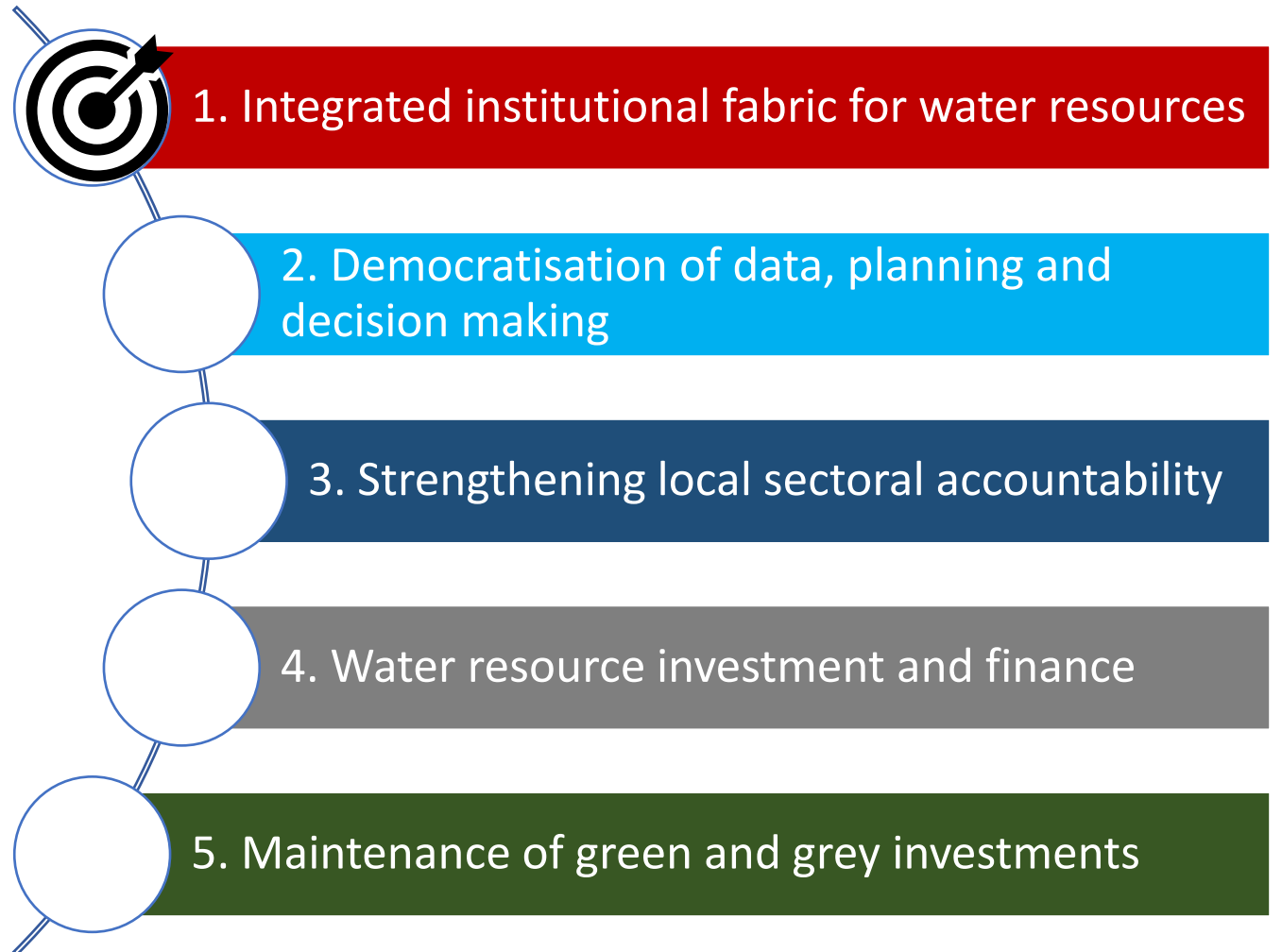
Source: 2021, Bosch, J. et al, "A water property right inventory of 60 countries", *A Review of European, Comparative & International environmental Law*

Why equitable water resource management?

- Focus on equity, integration is a “means to an end”
- Prioritise equitable water use: between people, between current and future generations, and between humans and the environment.
- More attention to sectoral accountability and demand management, beyond water stewardship
- Start with existing water resource rights, understanding and compliance
- Invest in data and transparency



What are the key elements of Equitable Water Resource Management?



LISTEN - Laikipia Isiolo Samburu (Kenya)

Implementing consortium: SNV, FCDC and AGRA

- Water resource licensing, metering and payment
- Bringing stakeholders into compliance
- Monitoring
- Rehabilitation and protection

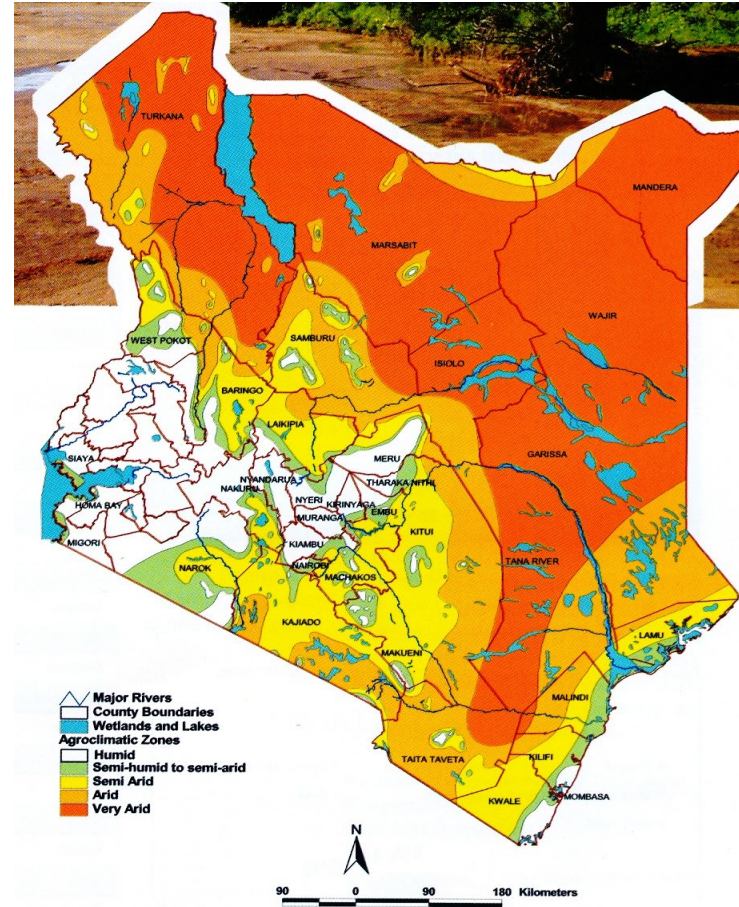


Figure 1: Agro-climatic zone map of Kenya's drylands, including very arid lands. (Map: ICRAF)



Equitable water resource management: focus on how the water is **shared**

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