

# Water Stewardship Standards: an overview

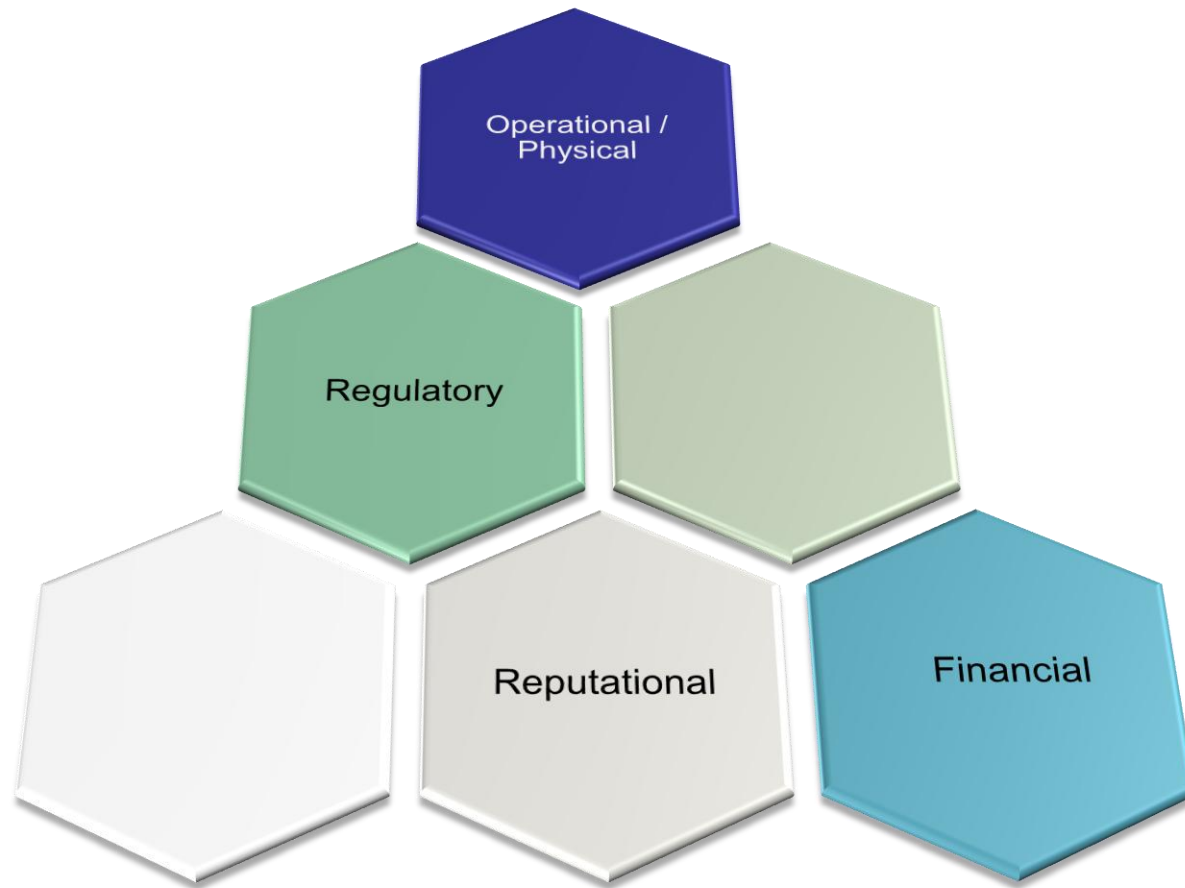


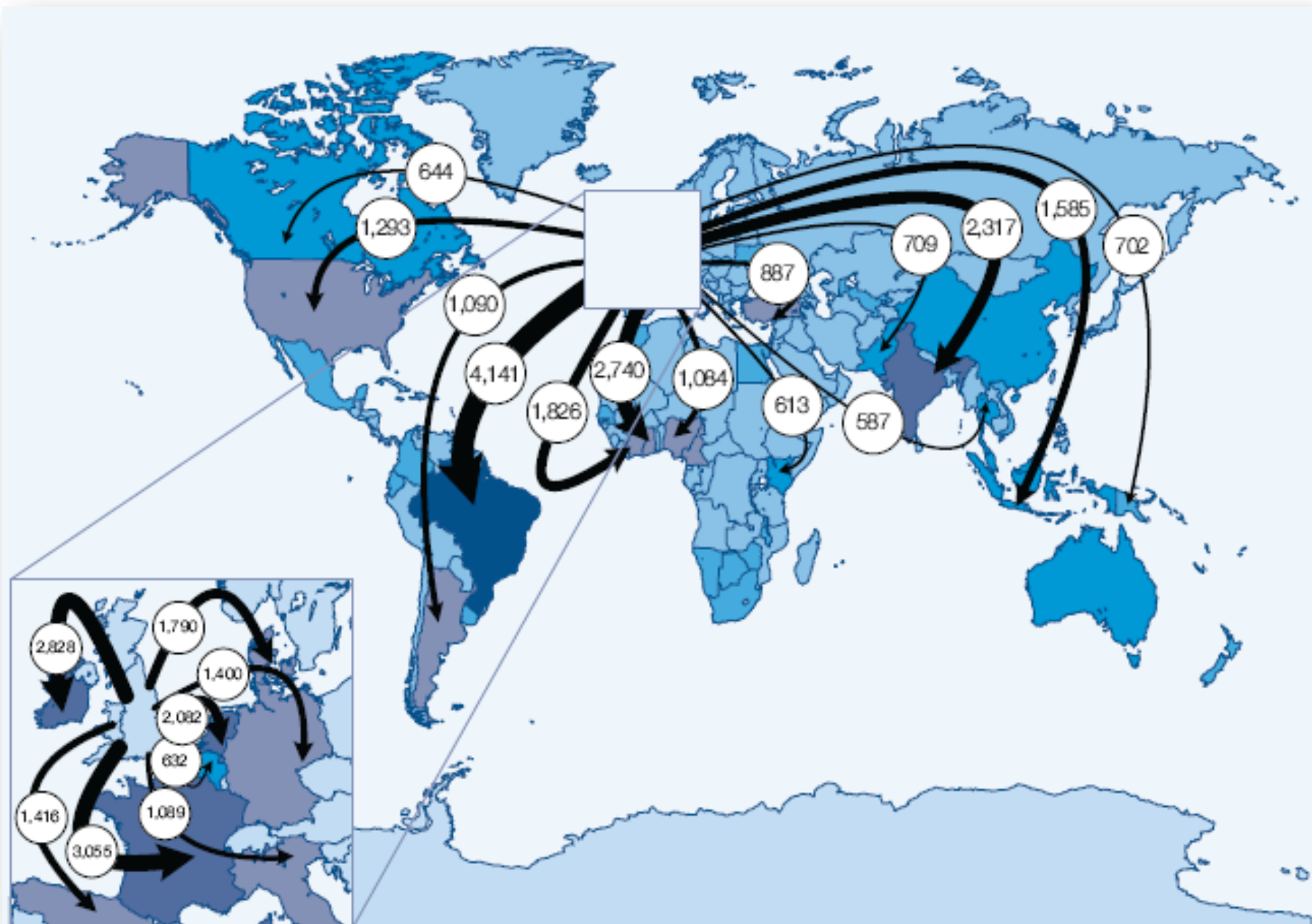
Nick Hepworth  
Water Witness International

# Why we need an International Water Stewardship standard?

1. Economic and social development relies on sustainable water use
2. Challenges of increasing demand and climate change
3. Difficulties facing state led water resource management
4. Increasingly sensitive markets, buyers and consumers
5. Existing standards do not adequately address sustainable water use

# Water risks facing producers







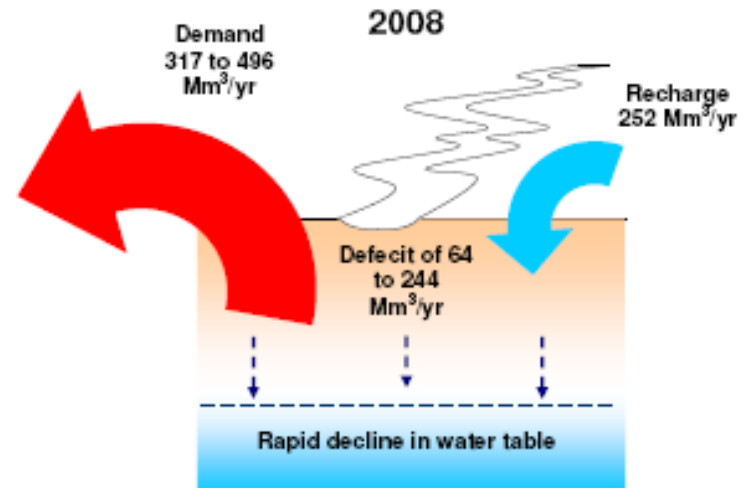
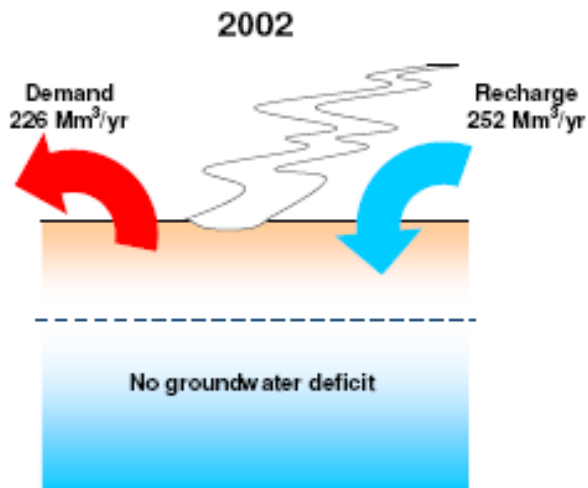


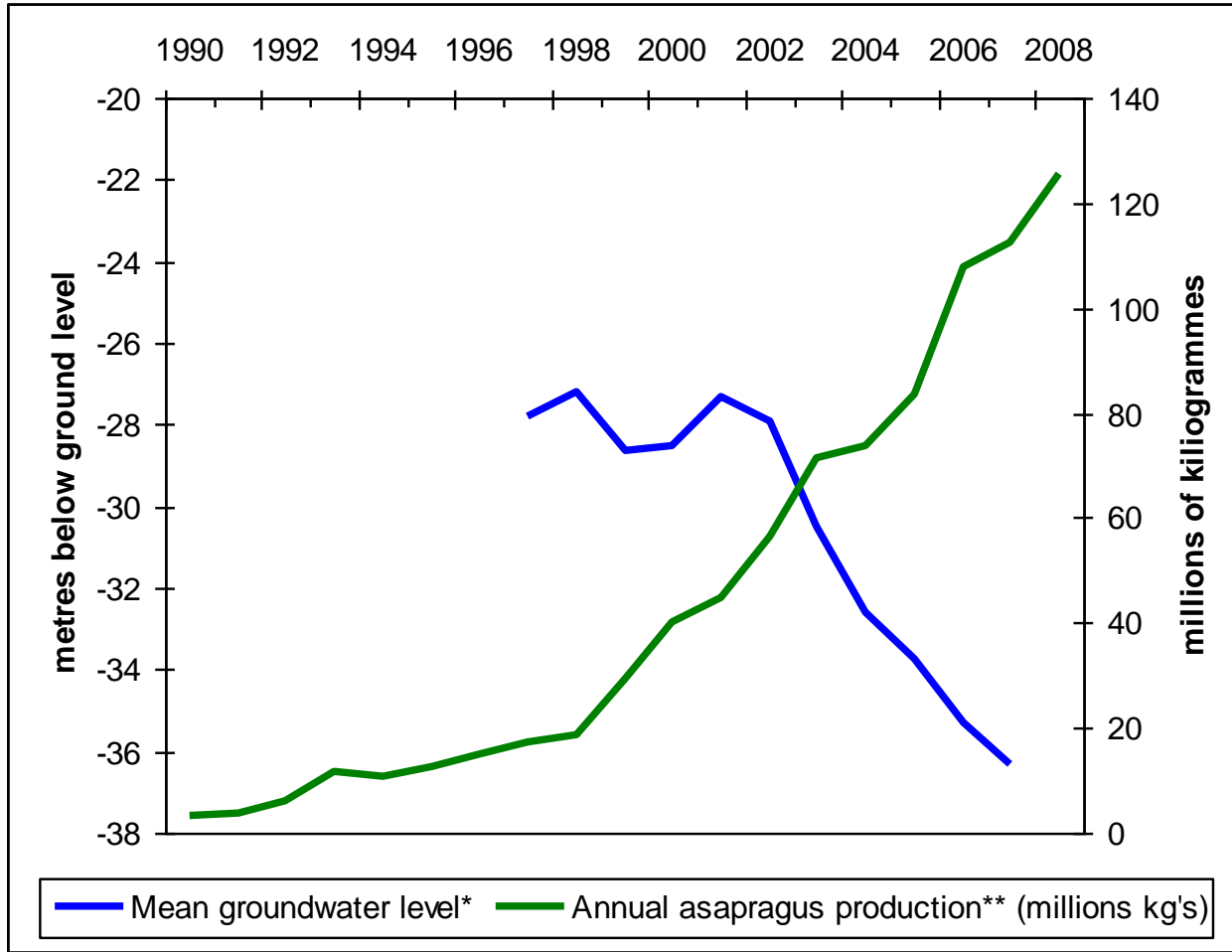












ALLIANCE FOR  
WATER STEWARDSHIP



**TESCO**

Sainsbury's

Waitrose

**ASDA**

**Walmart**   
Save money. Live better.

**GLOBALG.A.P.**

**Natures Choice**



**IFC**

**International  
Finance Corporation**  
World Bank Group

# The Alliance for Water Stewardship



# The Alliance for Water Stewardship

ALLIANCE FOR  
WATER STEWARDSHIP



## AWS Board Organizations



## A Sample of Organizations Engaged / Supporting the AWS (alphabetical)



# Water Stewardship

- ▶ Use of fresh water that is socially beneficial, environmentally responsible and economically sustainable
  - ▶ Socially beneficial water use recognizes basic human needs and ensures long-term benefits (including economic benefits) for local people and society at large.
  - ▶ Environmentally responsible water use maintains or improves biodiversity and ecological processes at the watershed level.
  - ▶ Economically sustainable water use is secure, reliable and financially viable in the long term.



# A Water Stewardship Program

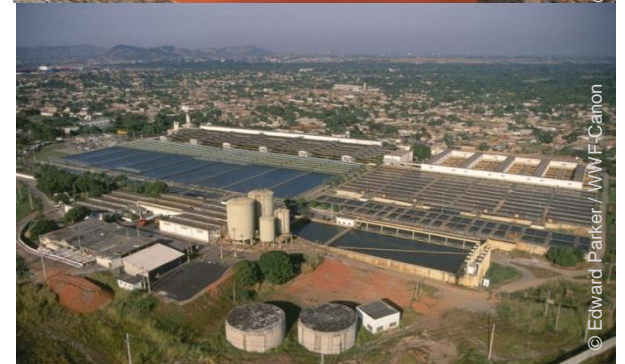
- ▶ Guides, recognizes and rewards water users who take a lead in 'doing the right thing'
- ▶ Global in scope
- ▶ Internationally consistent
- ▶ Complements regulatory approaches
- ▶ Applicable to all water users



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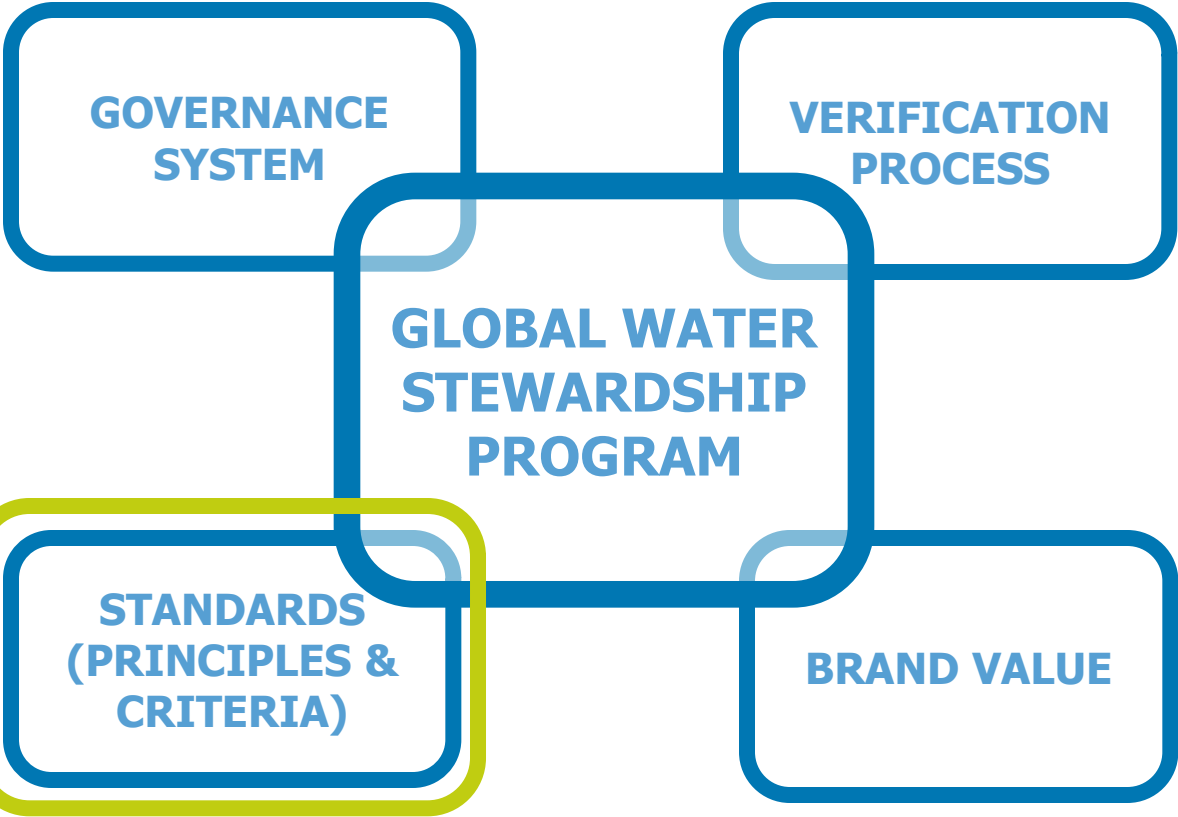
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# A Water Stewardship Standard

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# A Water Stewardship Standard

- ▶ Focus on catchment level assessment, impacts, actions and benefits
- ▶ Meet technical specifications
  - ▷ Globally and locally applicable;
  - ▷ verifiable and cost effective;
  - ▷ direct and indirect water use;
  - ▷ focus on organisational behaviour;
  - ▷ credible minimum requirements, as well as rewarding 'stretch';
  - ▷ align with other standards, systems and tools.
- ▶ Developed through a multi-stakeholder *Water Roundtable* launched June 2010.
- ▶ ISEAL Code of Good Practice
- ▶ Must deliver value for civil society, public and private sector



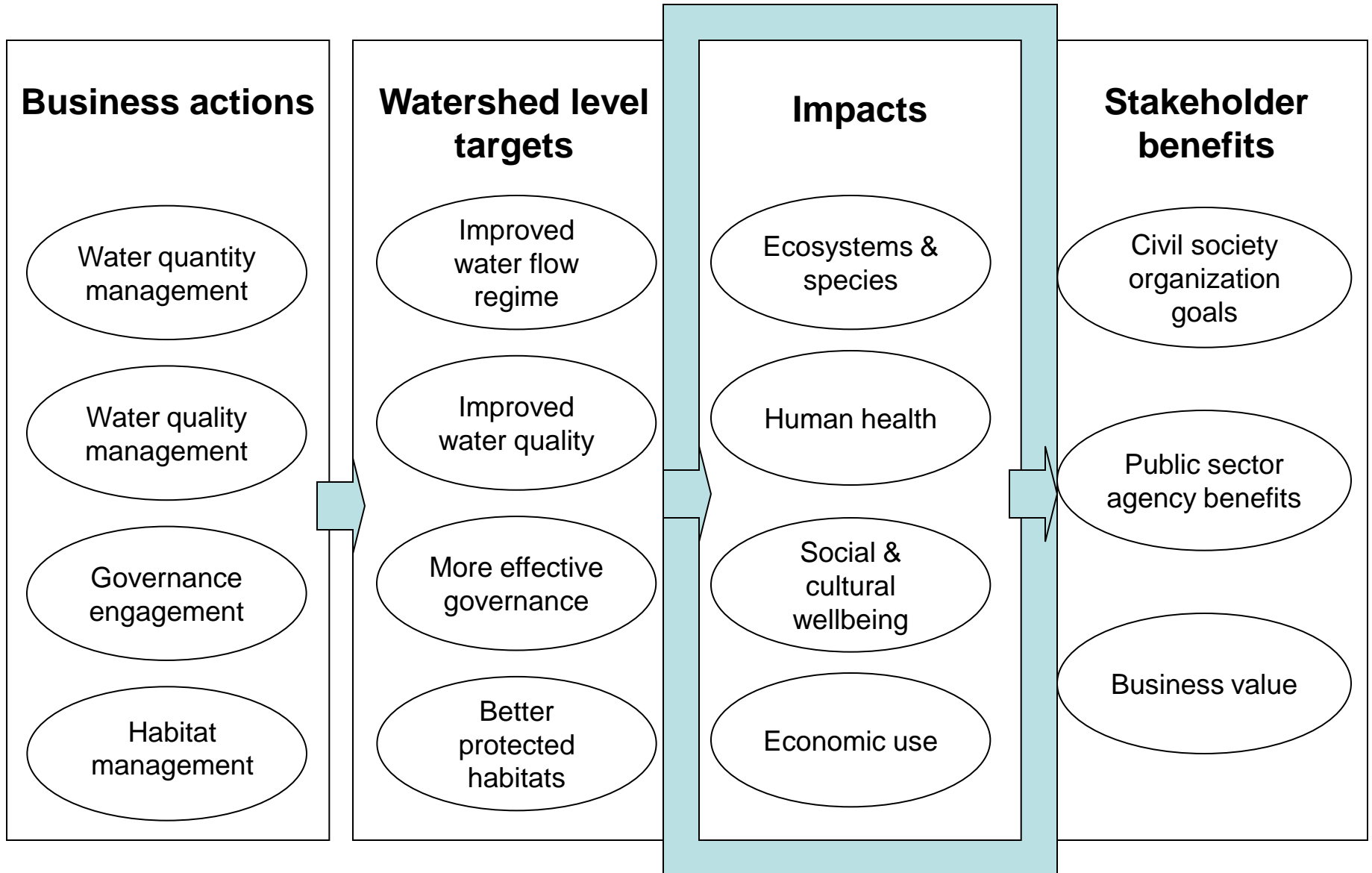
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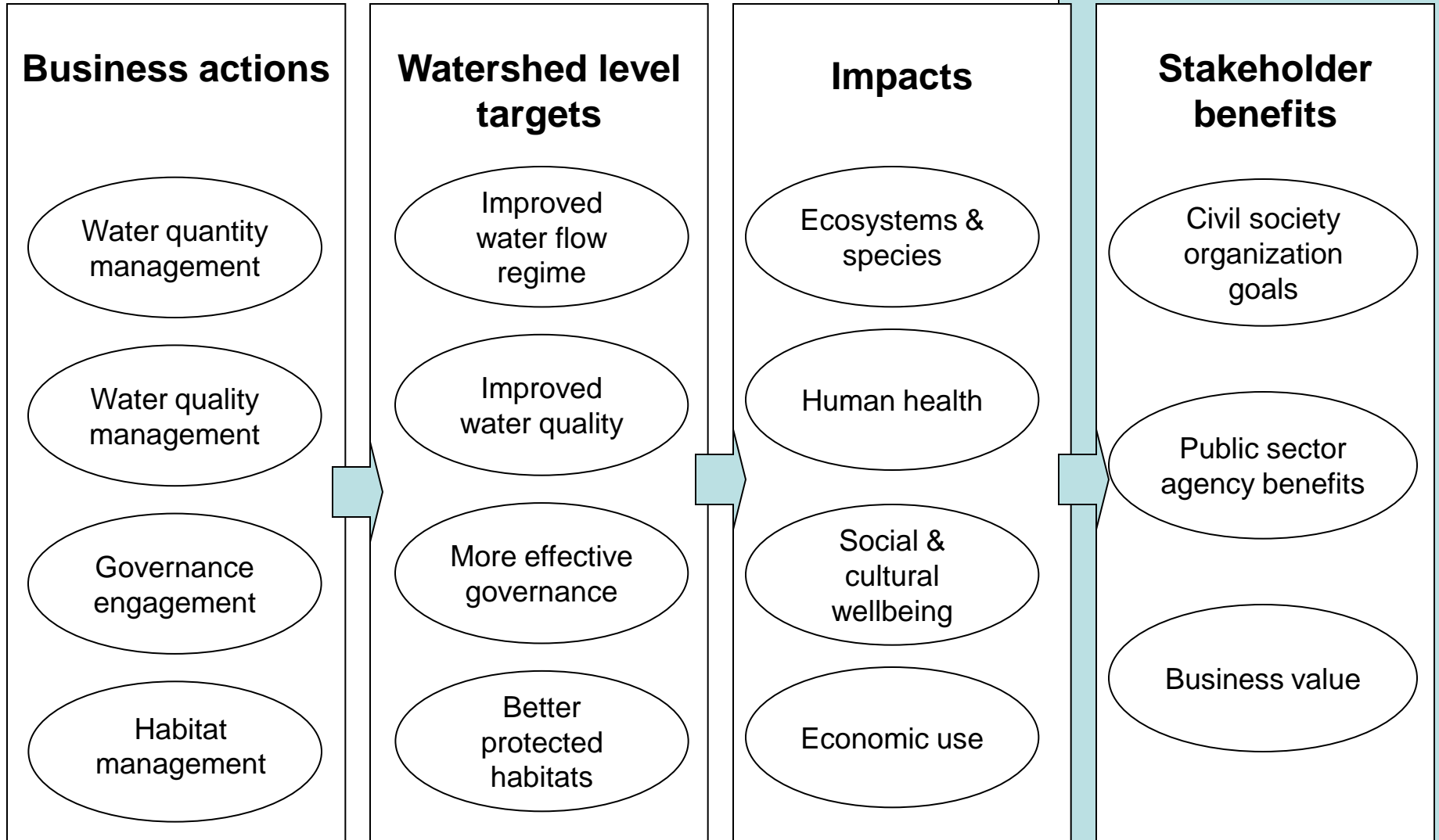


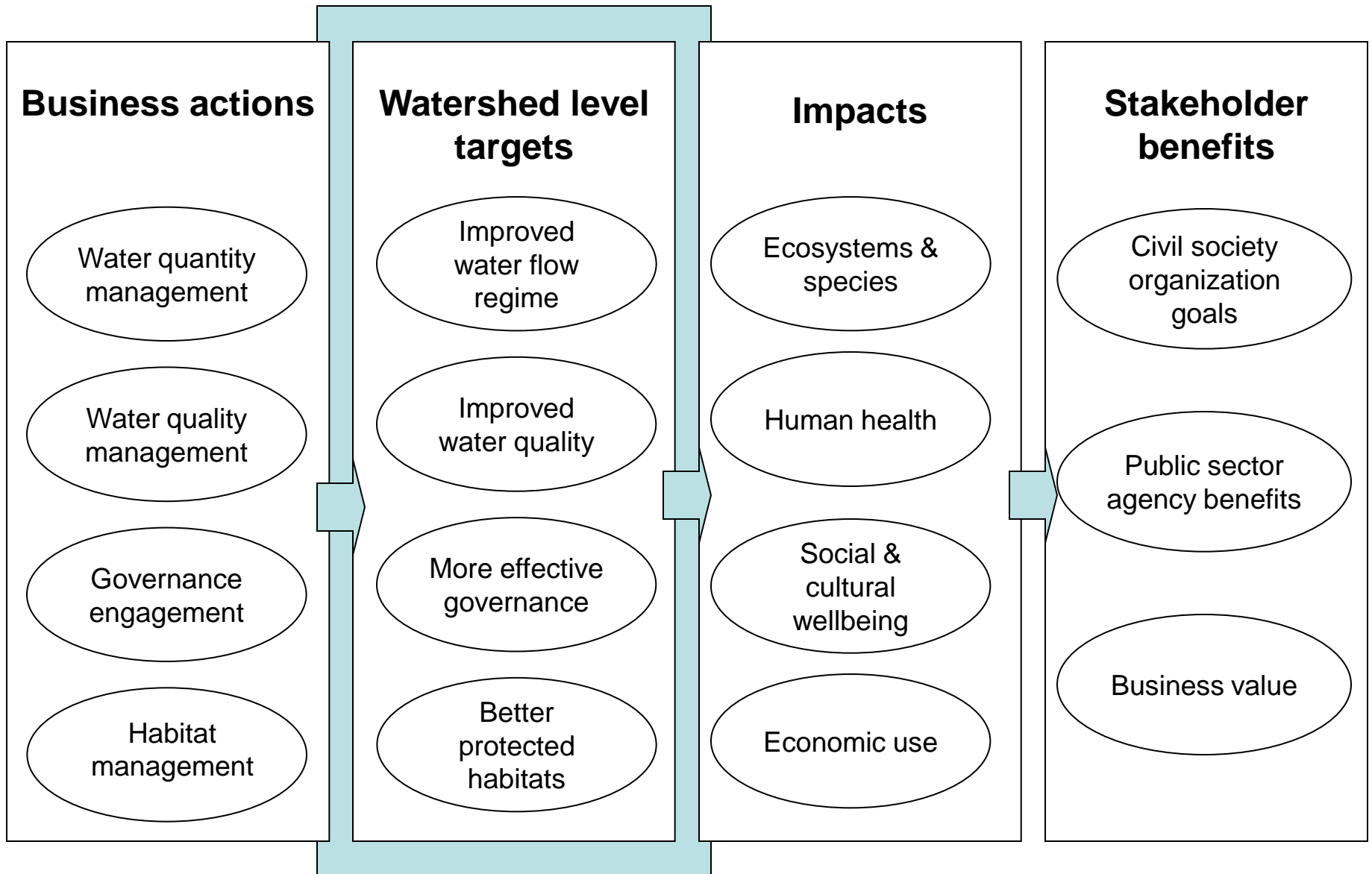
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## Business actions

Water quantity management

Water quality management

Governance engagement

Habitat management

## Watershed level targets

Improved water flow regime

Improved water quality

More effective governance

Better protected habitats

## Impacts

Ecosystems & species

Human health

Social & cultural wellbeing

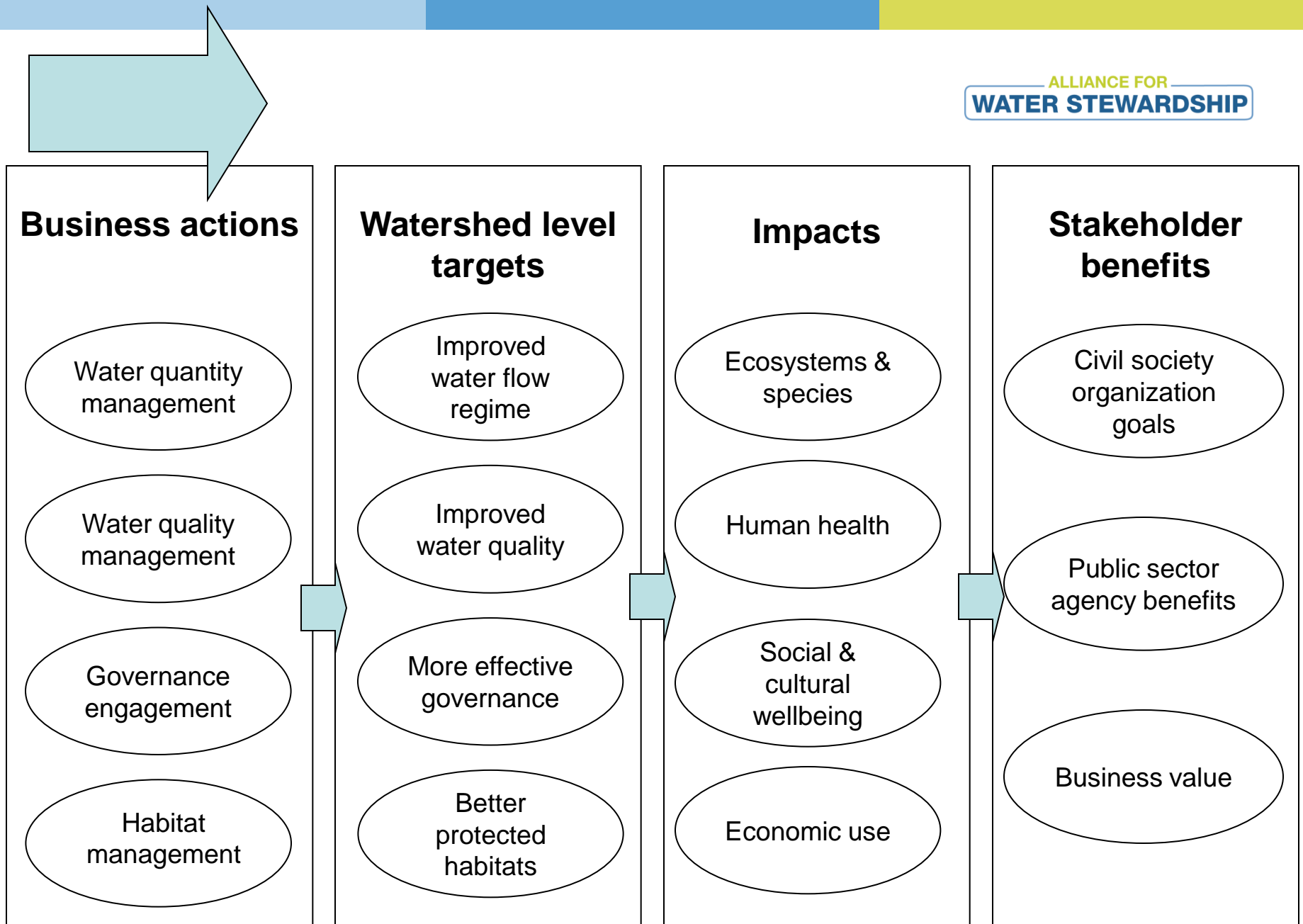
Economic use

## Stakeholder benefits

Civil society organization goals

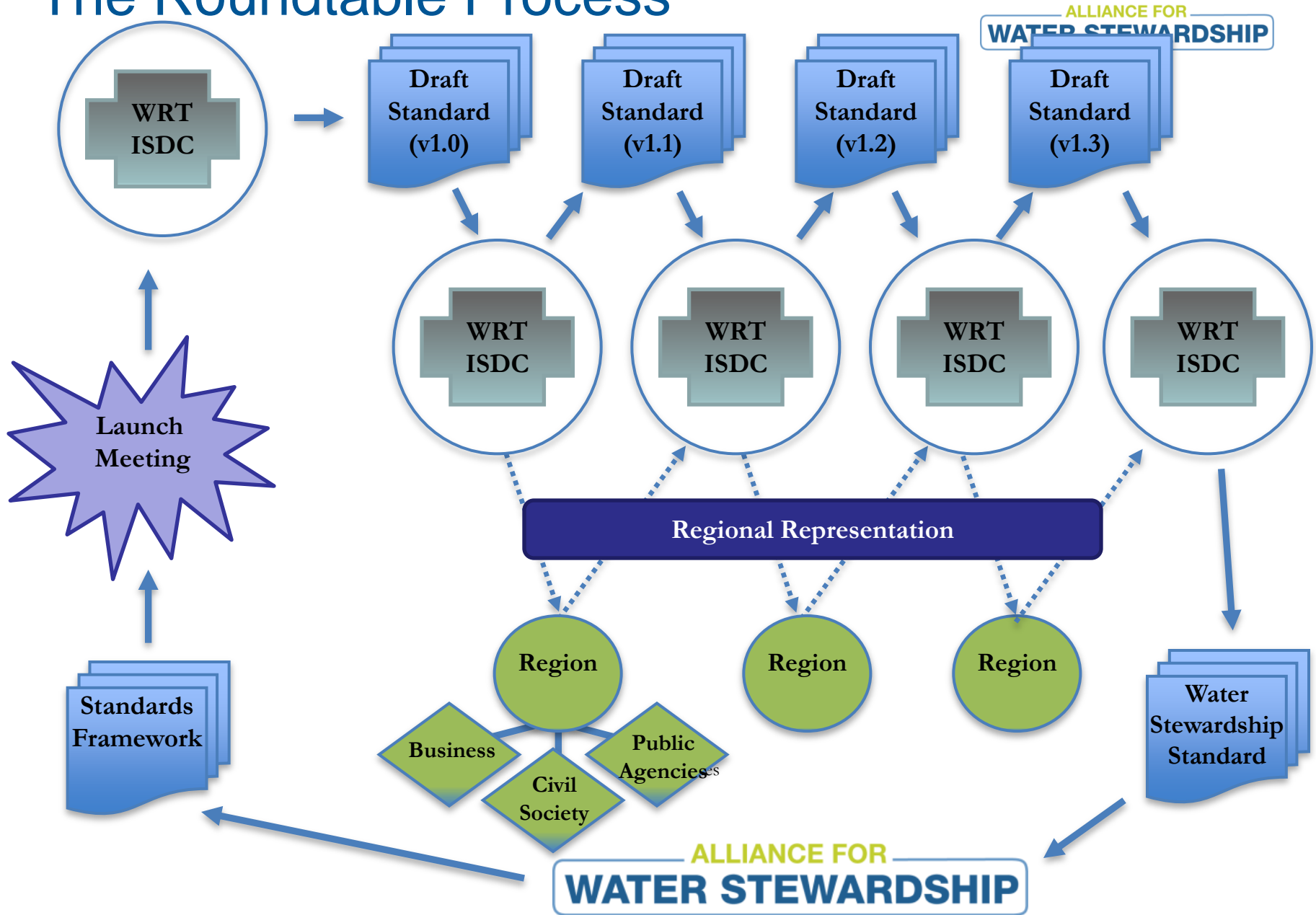
Public sector agency benefits

Business value





# The Roundtable Process

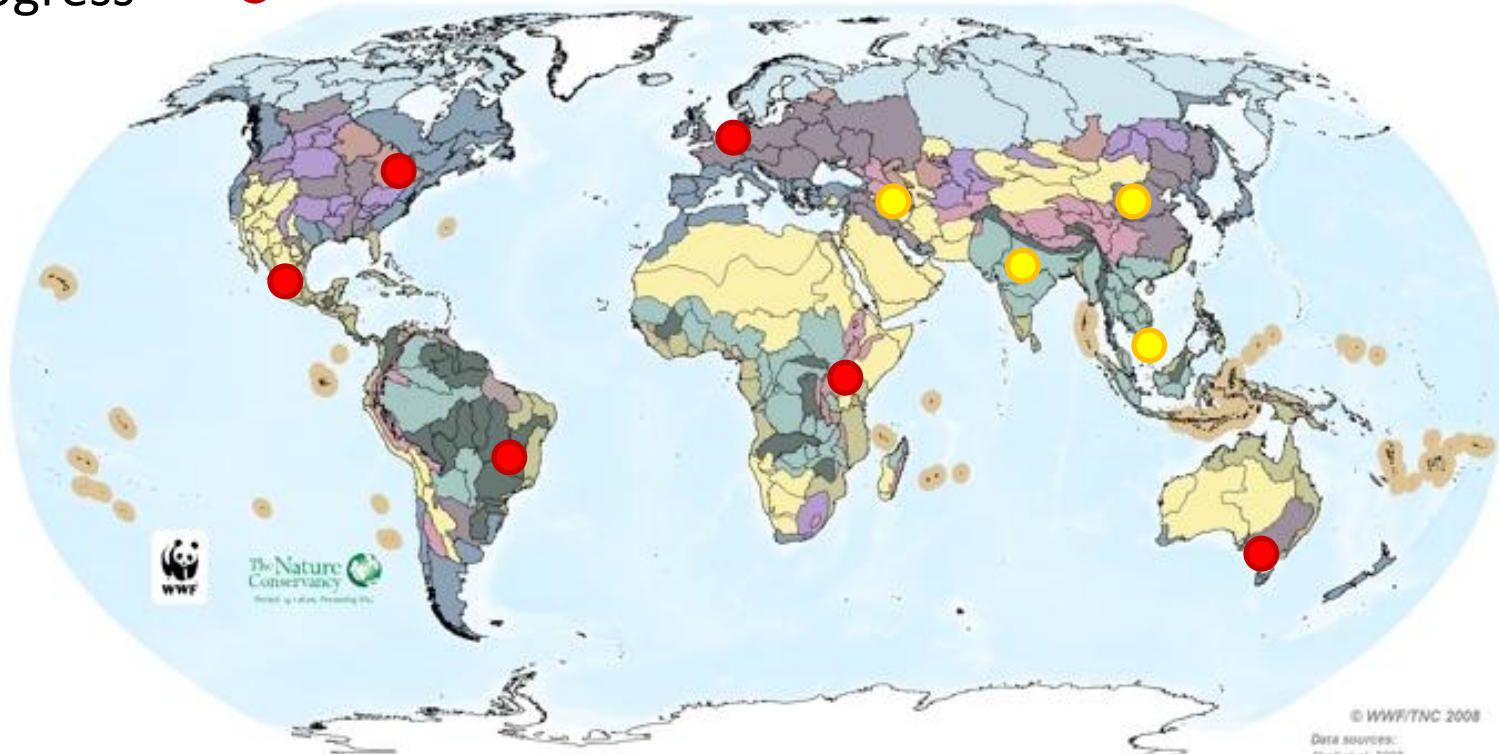


# An International Process

In progress



Planned



## TIMELINE

2009

2010

2011

2012

AWS & WRT  
Formation

WRT Launch

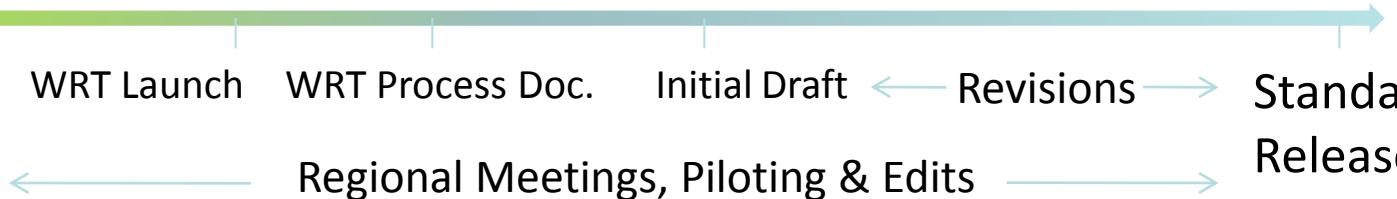
WRT Process Doc.

Initial Draft

Revisions

Standard  
Released

Regional Meetings, Piloting & Edits



# AWS Kenya Case study

## Key findings



*Exploring the value of Water Stewardship Standards*  
Alliance for Water Stewardship Kenya Case Study



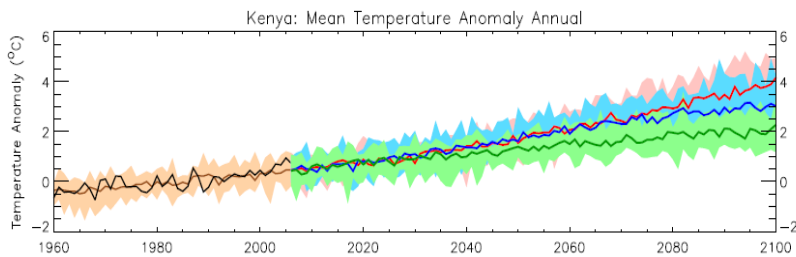


Figures 1 and 2: Location of the Lake Naivasha Basin and land-use in the basin

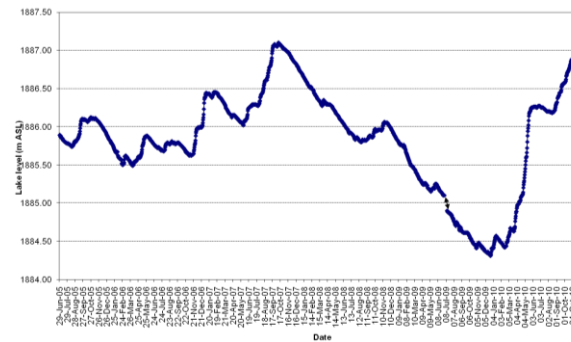


# Key challenges

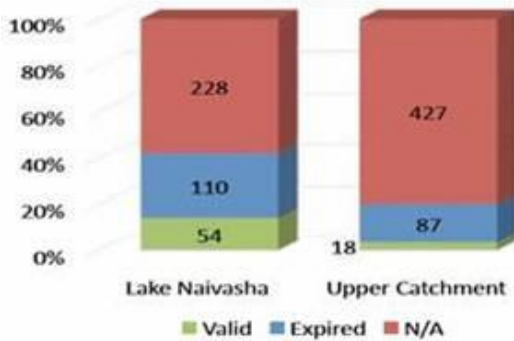
## Highly variable and changing climate



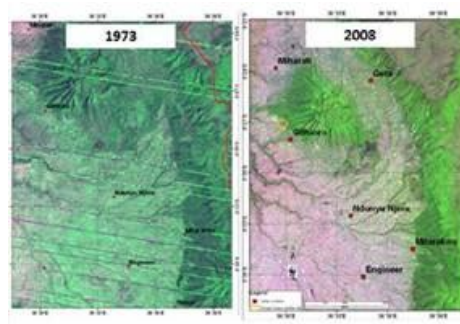
## Lake levels and over-abstraction



## Unregulated water use



## Catchment degradation, nutrients and erosion



## Threats to biodiversity and natural capital



## Primary pilot sites - Naivasha

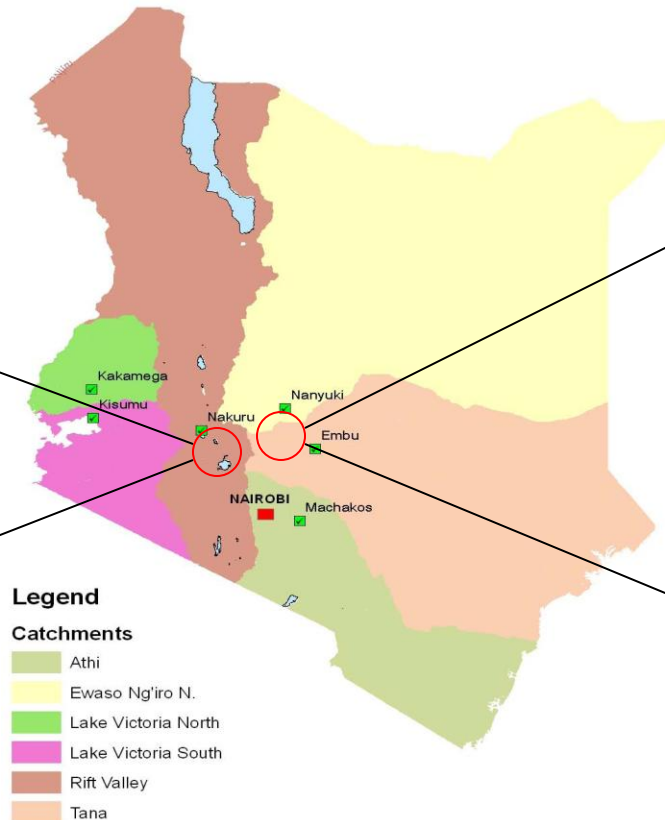
## Supplementary pilot sites



Flamingo flowers



Vegpro horticulture



Gikanda coffee cooperative



Mana horticulture/dairy

# Key findings

1. Some best practice already in place at site and basin level
2. WSS identifies opportunities for further improvement
3. WSS offers multiple benefits for producers:
  - reduced costs and efficiency gains
  - reduced operational, regulatory and reputational risks
  - securing certain markets and accessing new ones
4. WSS drives positive outcomes off site for:
  - downstream water users and the environment
  - biodiversity conservation
  - sustainable economic growth
  - conflict prevention

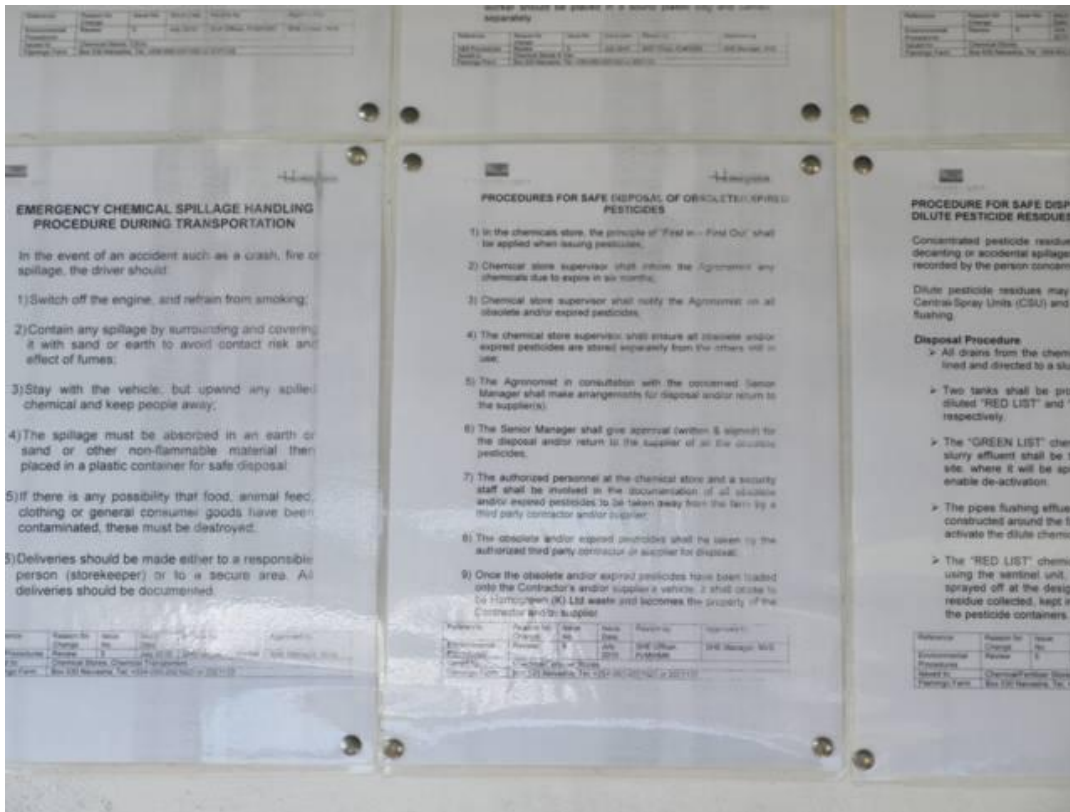


WAS  
OIL TANK

SAW

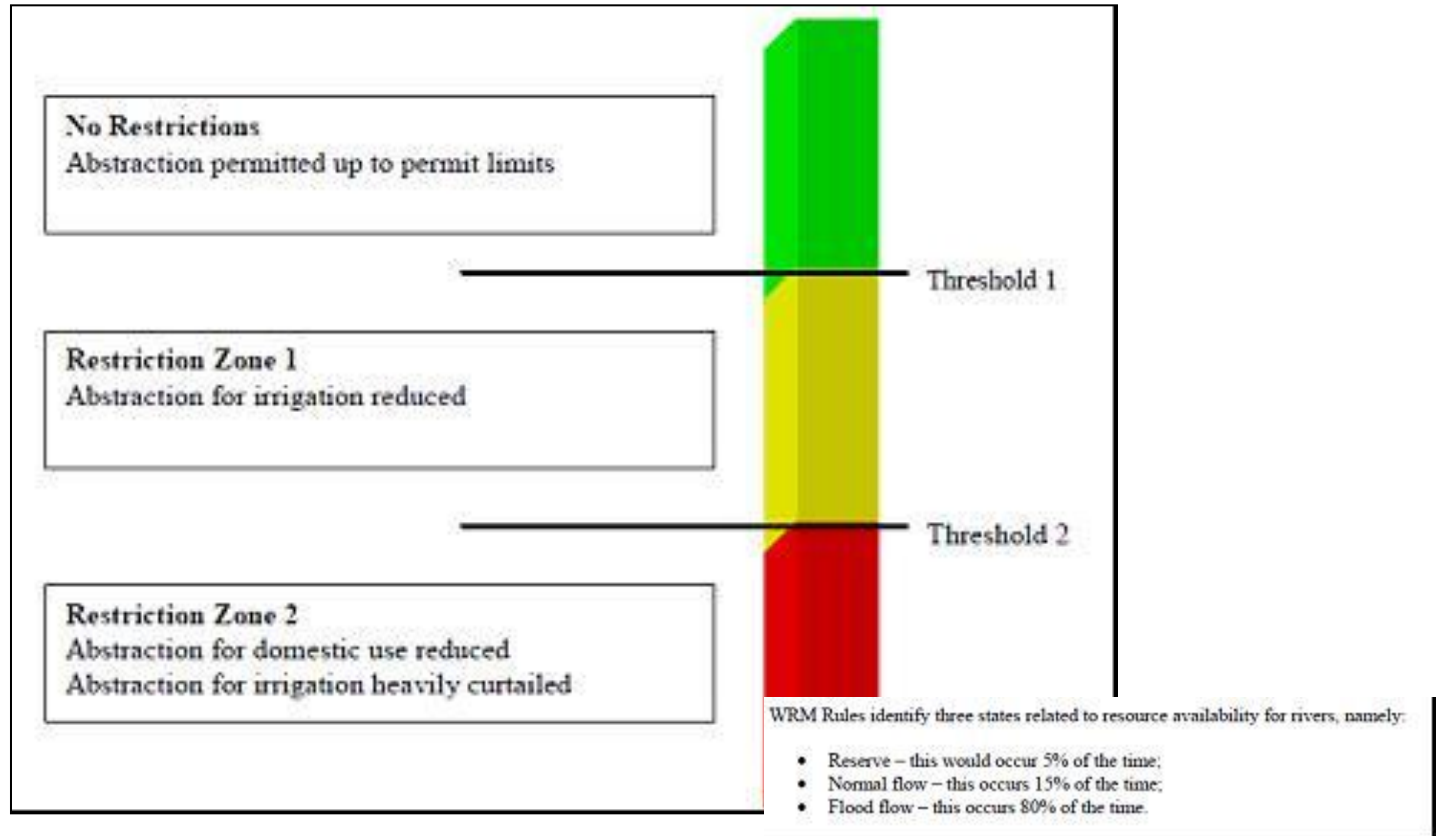
USED OIL  
FILTERS







## Water Allocation Plan





## Key findings...continued

5. WSS a powerful tool to advance implementation of government policy

6. Improved service delivery by government is highlighted and incentivized *e.g. sewage and waste treatment; water use permits*

7. Provides proof of concept for water stewardship standards

- ensuring regulatory compliance
- driving efficiencies in resource use
- proactive, efficient and risk-based action on key water issues
- promote effective action throughout the 'chain of influence'

8. To unlock maximum benefits:

- refine the basin governance elements
- generate demand / develop an internationally valued brand
- work with stakeholders to resolve problematic / thorny issues

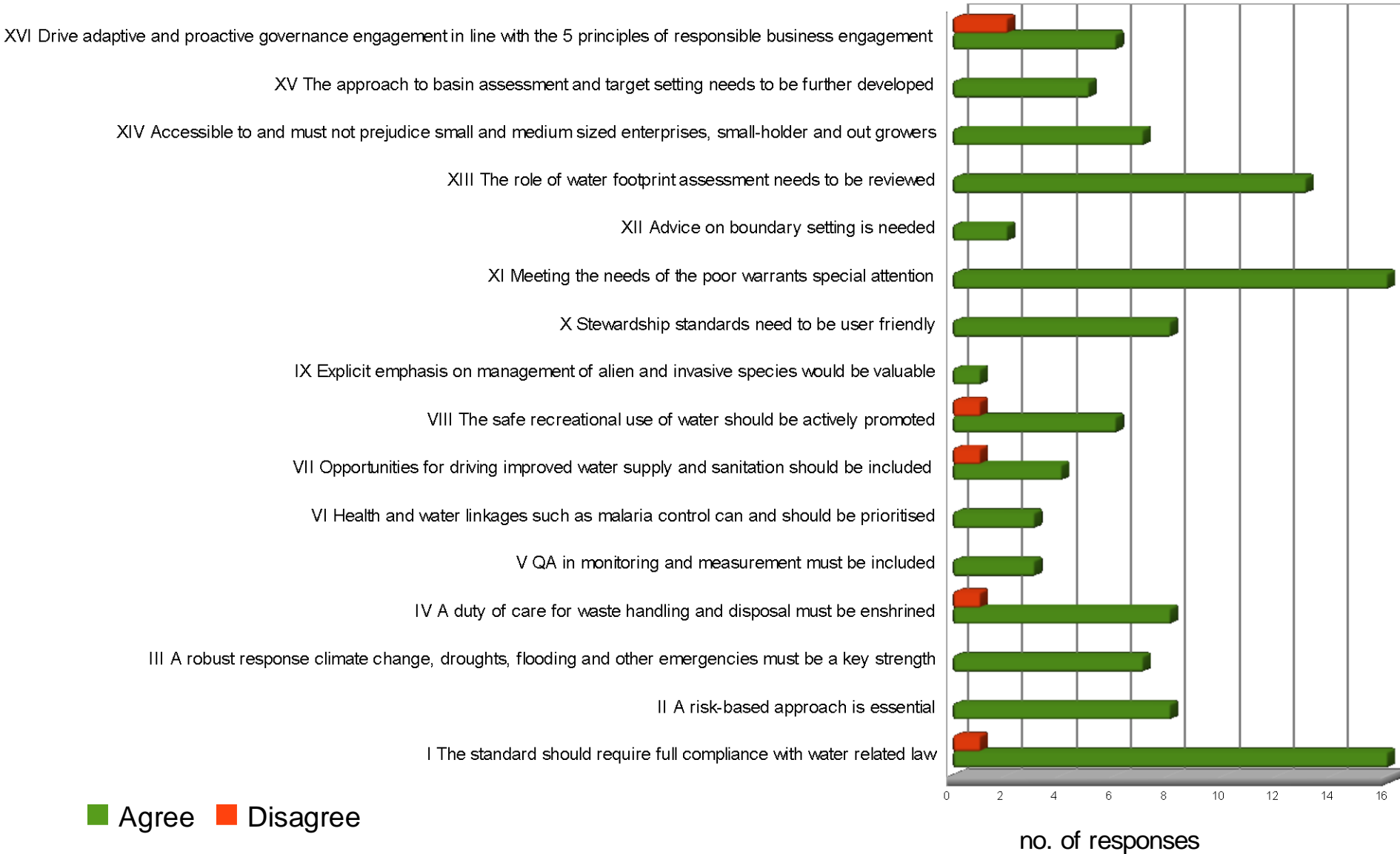
# 'Thorny' issues - difficult questions

1. Where meeting the standard relies on performance of a third party.  
*eg. full compliance, duty of care for solid and liquid waste?*
2. Engaging with out growers, smallholders and SMEs.
3. How to define stewardship in data scarce, large or 'governance challenged' catchments?

# High level discussion group



## High level meeting feedback on recommendations





## Testimony of Kenyan stakeholders

*‘Now we understand what the AWS standard is about, it is clear it will help us implement IWRM and our national water policy. It has our full support’*

CEO, Water Resource Management Authority

*‘This work is very important. It will change the way water is managed in Naivasha’*

Vice-chair, Naivasha Basin Water Resource Users Association Umbrella Group

*‘Standards bring many benefits but some audits aren’t thorough and there isn’t much attention to water. This focus on water will bring targeted action’*

Quality and Compliance Manager, Naivasha Agri-business

*‘Of course our resources are stretched, so anything that promotes compliance and business cooperation is a welcome initiative’*

Director of Enforcement and Compliance, National Environment Management Authority

## AWS next steps: standard

- ▶ International Standards Development Committee (ISDC) convened: 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in February 2012
- ▶ First draft *international* water stewardship standard: due February 2012
- ▶ Establishing additional regional initiatives (regional coordinators, and stakeholder convening processes)
- ▶ Knowledge and information exchange system under development
- ▶ Pilot testing, stakeholder review and technical working groups

## Next steps: AWS organizational development

- ▶ Executive Director appointed
- ▶ Regional coordinators established (some)
- ▶ Board and Secretariat ('back office') strengthened
- ▶ Business plan and brand development (2011)
- ▶ Impact monitoring system (2012)
- ▶ Verification system (2012)
- ▶ Training program (2012)

# AWS: How to be involved

- ▶ Piloting
- ▶ Regional deliberation
- ▶ Regional coordination, collaboration and sponsorship roles
- ▶ Technical Working Groups
- ▶ Advisory Council

# Thank you



[www.allianceforwaterstewardship.org](http://www.allianceforwaterstewardship.org)