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From Nirvanas to Reality

Reflections on water governance
lessons from practice

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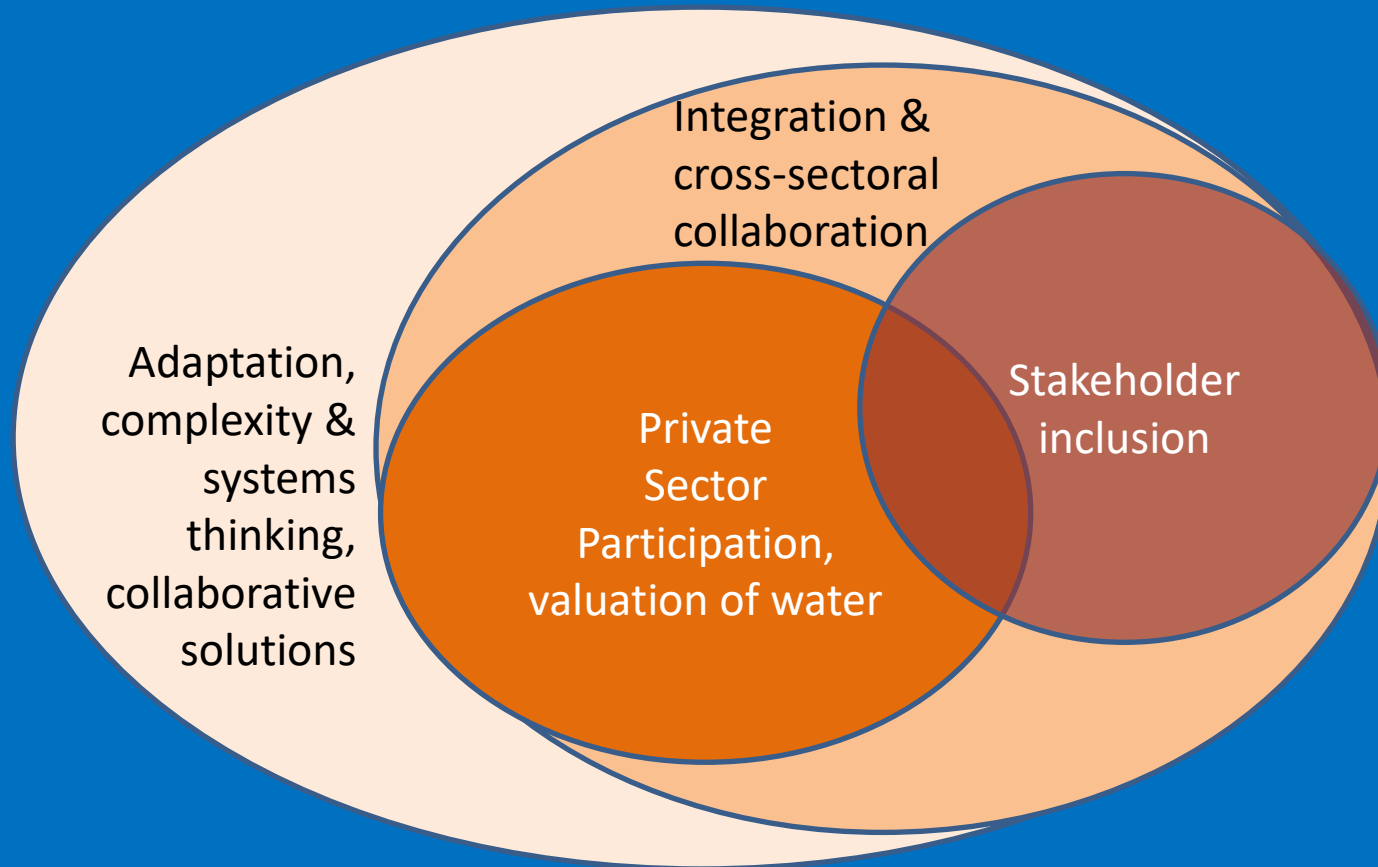


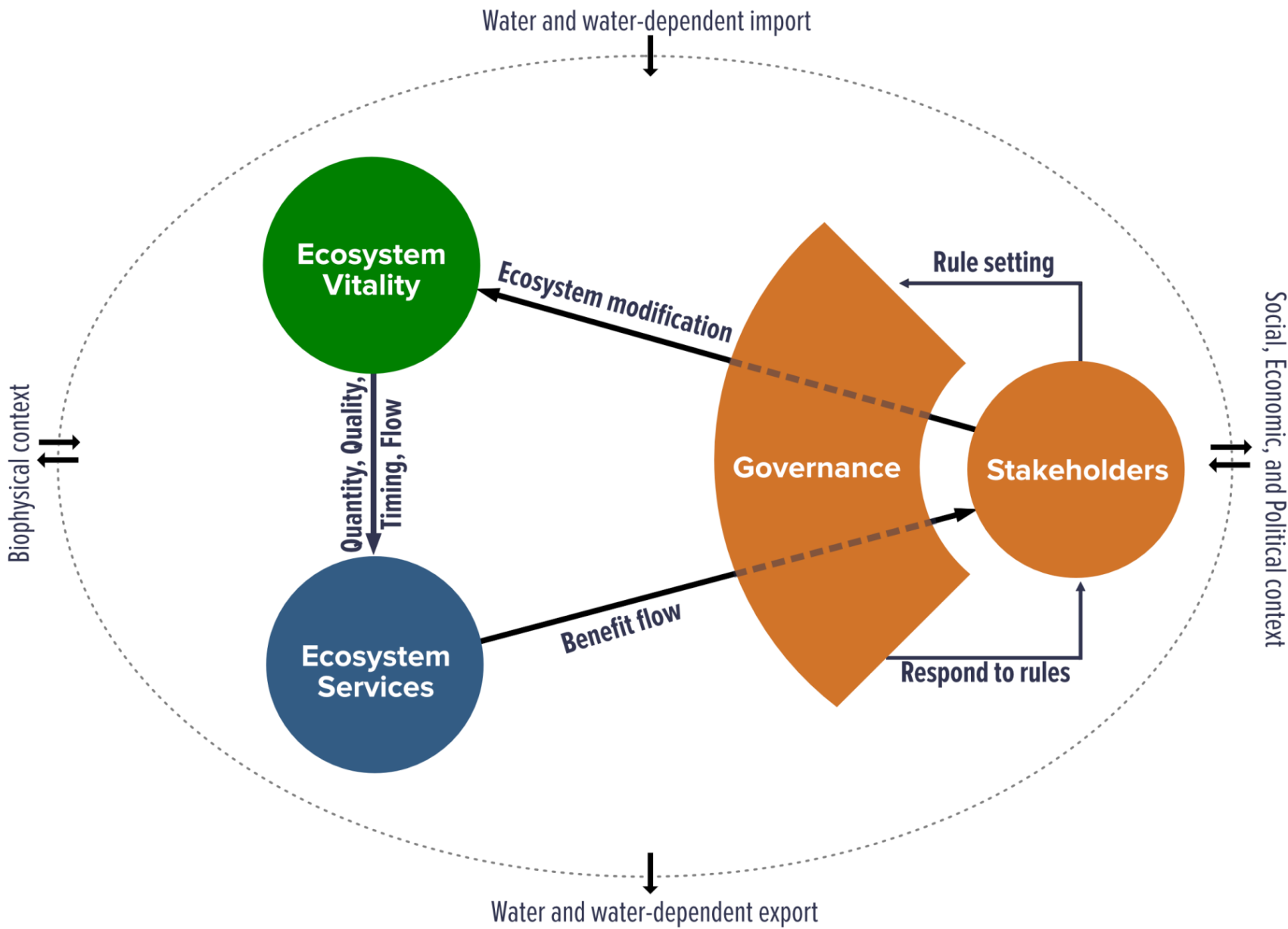
Roots and evolution of “Nirvana” concepts, framing and labels

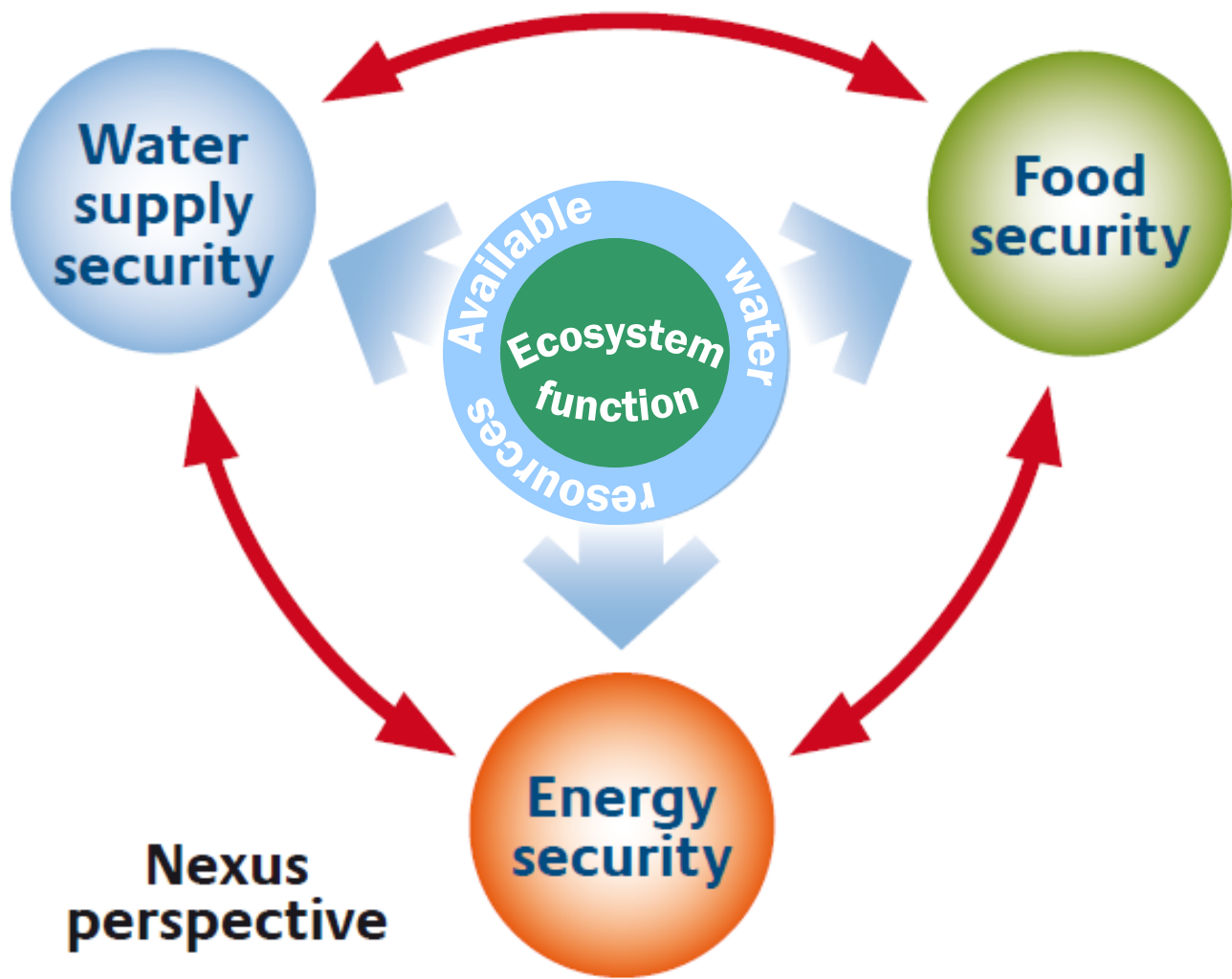
Building on Bréthaut & Schweizer, 2018:

Nirvana concepts	Evolving framing and language
Communalization	1990s: Public participation, decentralisation 2010s: Equity and voice; Stakeholder inclusiveness
Integration	1990s: IWRM 2010s: WFE Nexus, MLG
Commodification	1990s: Privatisation, water as an economic good 2000s: PSP, MBI 2010s: PPP, valuing benefits from water and water-related ecosystems, regulated markets
Adaptation	Climate change, water security → Dealing with complex, polycentric SYSTEMS that are DYNAMIC

Complexity, Systems thinking and...Nested Nirvanas







**Nexus
perspective**

From stylisation to reality

- “Normative fuzziness” ...or flexibility and necessity to customise
- “Polysemy in practice”: political, institutional, social and economic systems vary → translation of concepts differs on the ground
- Increasing appetite for co-definition of locally customised objectives – “tailored nirvanas”
- The challenges of measuring social change!

Examples from Practice

- Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE)

→ Multilevel governance and vertical linkages

→ Using new dialogue spaces to bridge institutional territories



- Sustainability and Inclusion strategy for Growth Corridors in Africa (SUSTAIN – Africa)

→ Water in a complex system and striving for the SDGs

→ Cross sectoral collaboration and adaptation in practice



A Landscape Approach for Inclusive Green Growth



Better water
resources
management

Better land
resource
management

...for achieving
sustainable &
inclusive growth in
a green economy

Better business
practice

Better policies...

SUSTAIN Landscapes Approach

Existing capabilities & tools

- water, land & ecosystem solutions
- building capacities, empowering
- learning , communicating
- monitoring, mapping
- evidence → policy effectiveness, business strategies, knowledge brokering

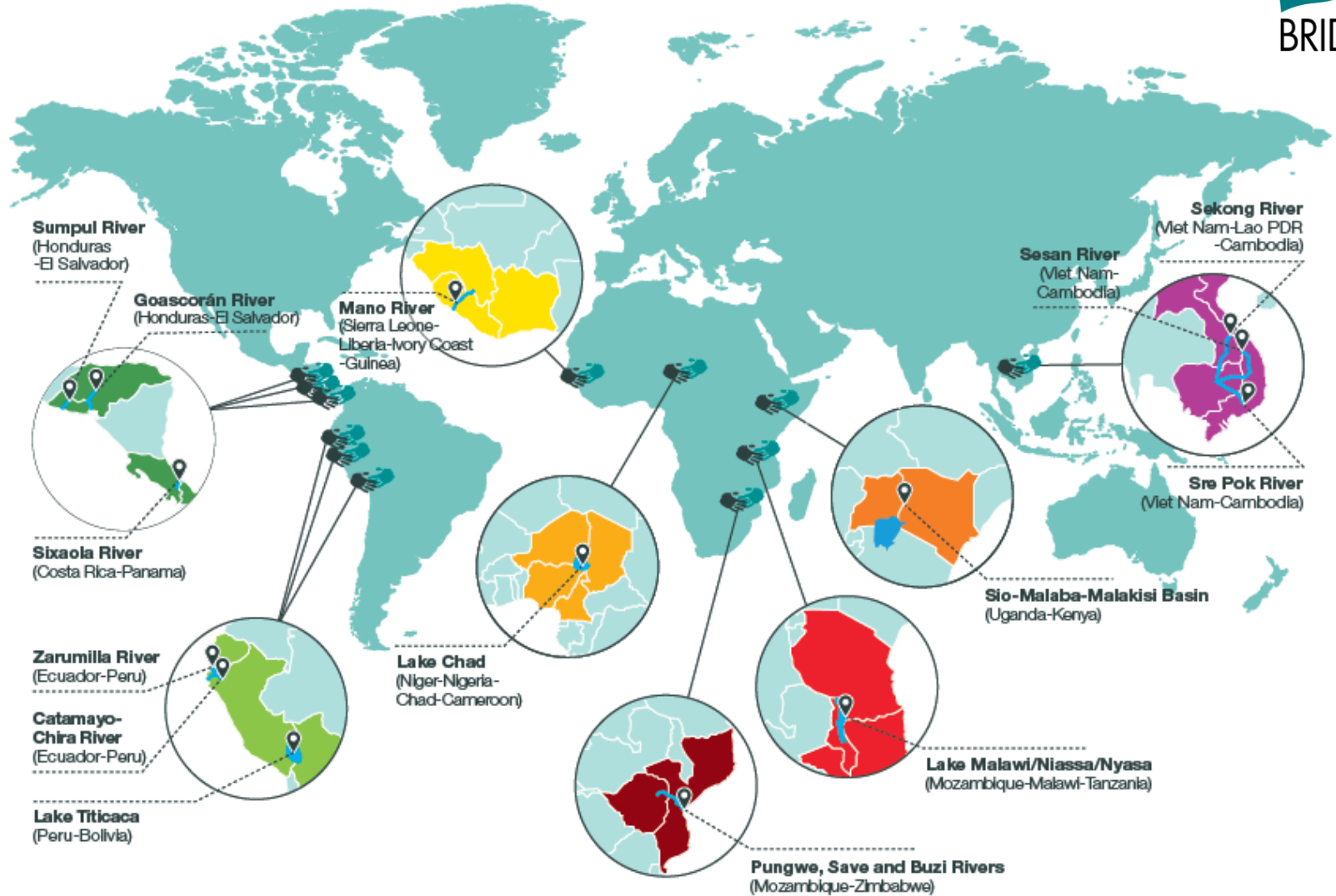
... with innovation

- value chain in landscapes
- incentives, investment
- regulations, compliance
- standards, investment screening

Partnerships → civil society, government, business



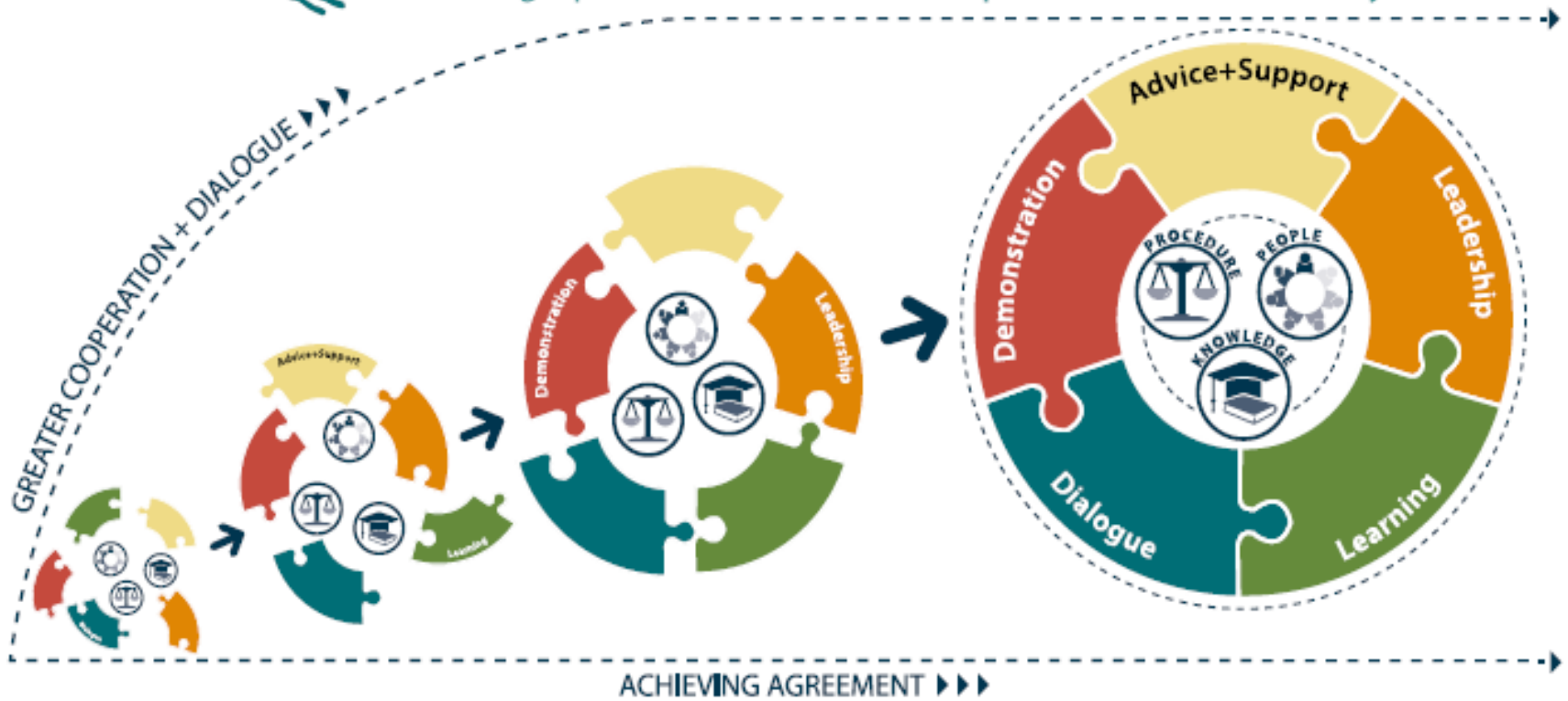
BRIDGE in the World



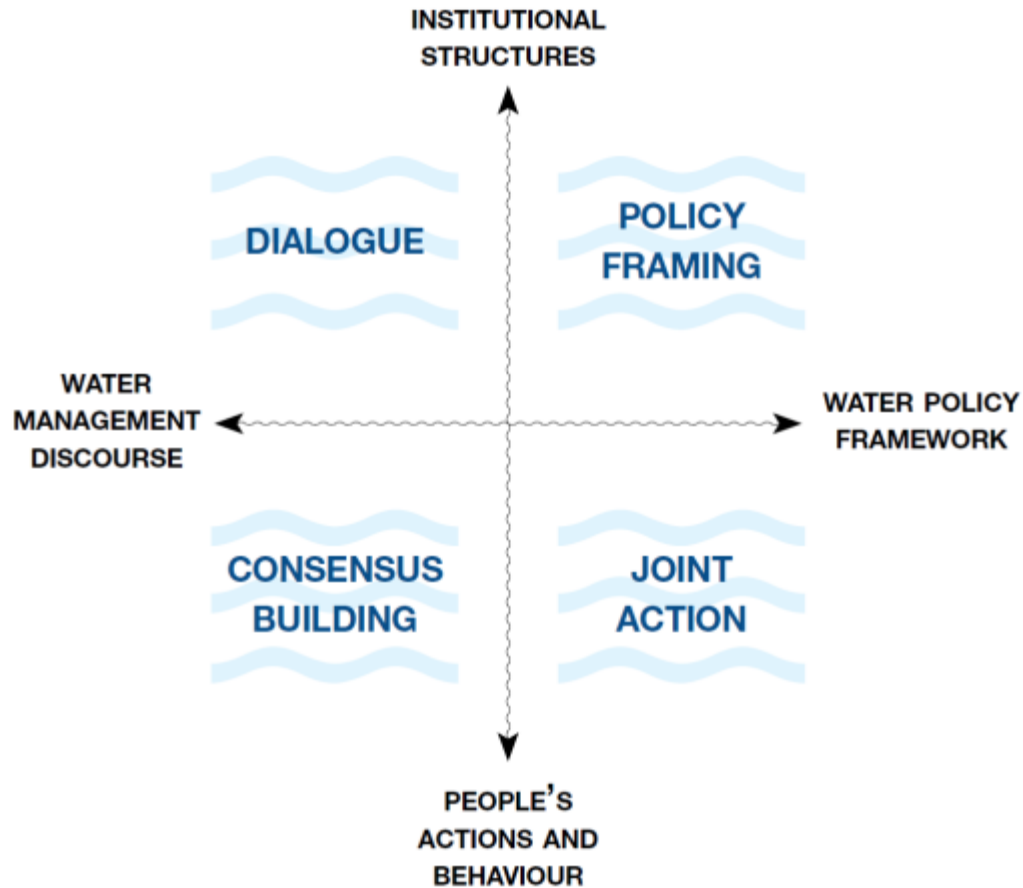


BRIDGE - BUILDING RIVER DIALOGUE AND GOVERNANCE

Strategic process towards water cooperation in transboundary basins



Change & Scaling Up



References

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Smith, M., and Clausen, T. (2015). *Integrated Water Resource Management: A New Way Forward*. A Discussion Paper of the World Water Council Task Force on IWRM

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IUCN Water Programme resources: www.waterandnature.org



Thank You!

