



# Global Water Agenda: WASH & Ecosystems

**Business case by Wetlands International**

Susanne Boom, 28 June 2013

# Global Water Agenda

- Global water crises: WASH provision **cannot be sustainably addressed** without integrating in wider water resources and waste management policy, planning, governance, etc.
- Ecosystems as '**natural water infrastructure**' are increasingly understood in ensuring good water management ➤ water for ecosystems but also **ecosystems for water**
- Essential for sustainability and effectiveness is to **bring** WASH, water resources and waste management **sectors together** to develop and implement solutions at suitable scales, linked closely with development plans. **Role of ecosystems is crucial to consider – source and sink**

# Cross sector cooperation needed:

Join up **landscape approaches**

(to solve causes of water scarcity or pollution and reduce risks of natural disasters)

with **community /household approaches** to provide adequate drinking water and sanitation

An example coming up...

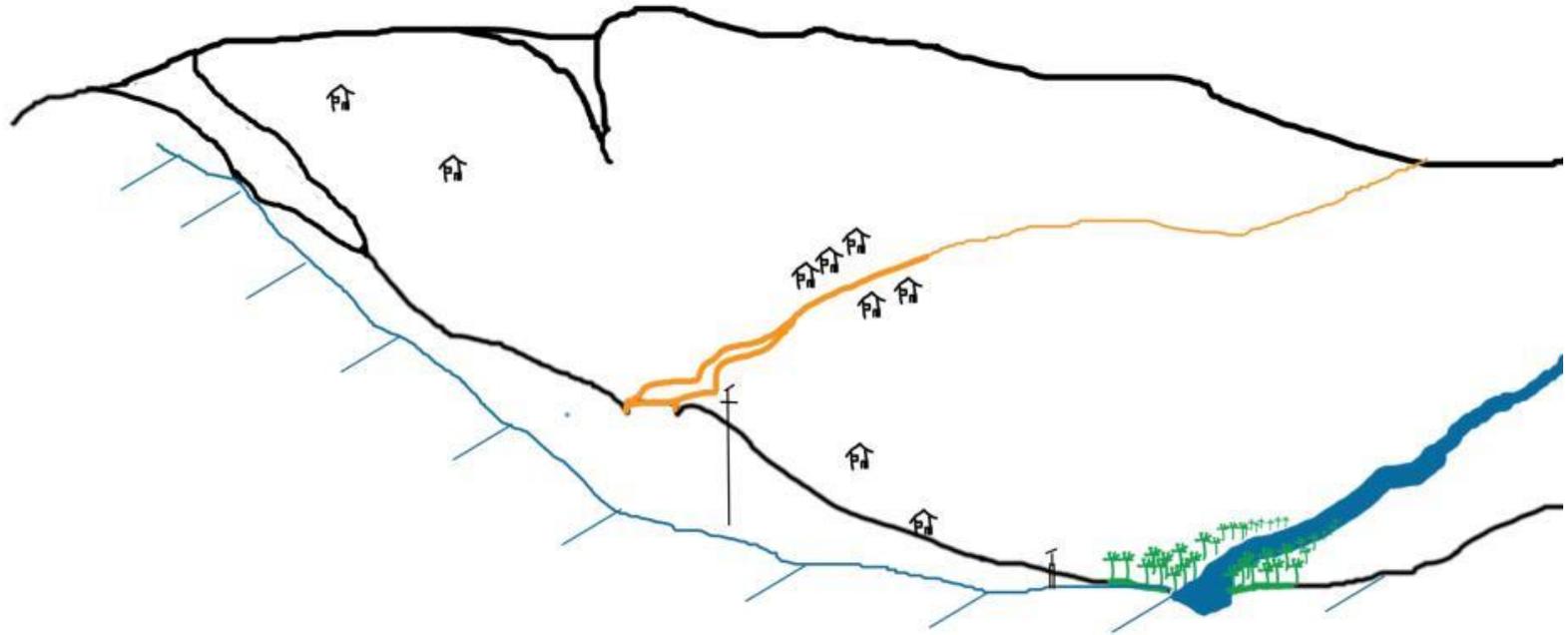
# DWA Rwambu project, Uganda

Taking a landscape approach to WASH



# Landscape cross-section

## Rwambu catchment



### Uphill issues

Long walking distance to water-source  
Few opportunities for agricultural expansion without possible soil erosion

### Slope issues

Drop of ground-water table, loss of soil moisture  
Relatively long walking distance to water-sources

### Village issues

Existing water-sources such as boreholes dried due to dropping water-table.  
People suffer from water-borne diseases such as cholera/typhoid

### Downhill issues

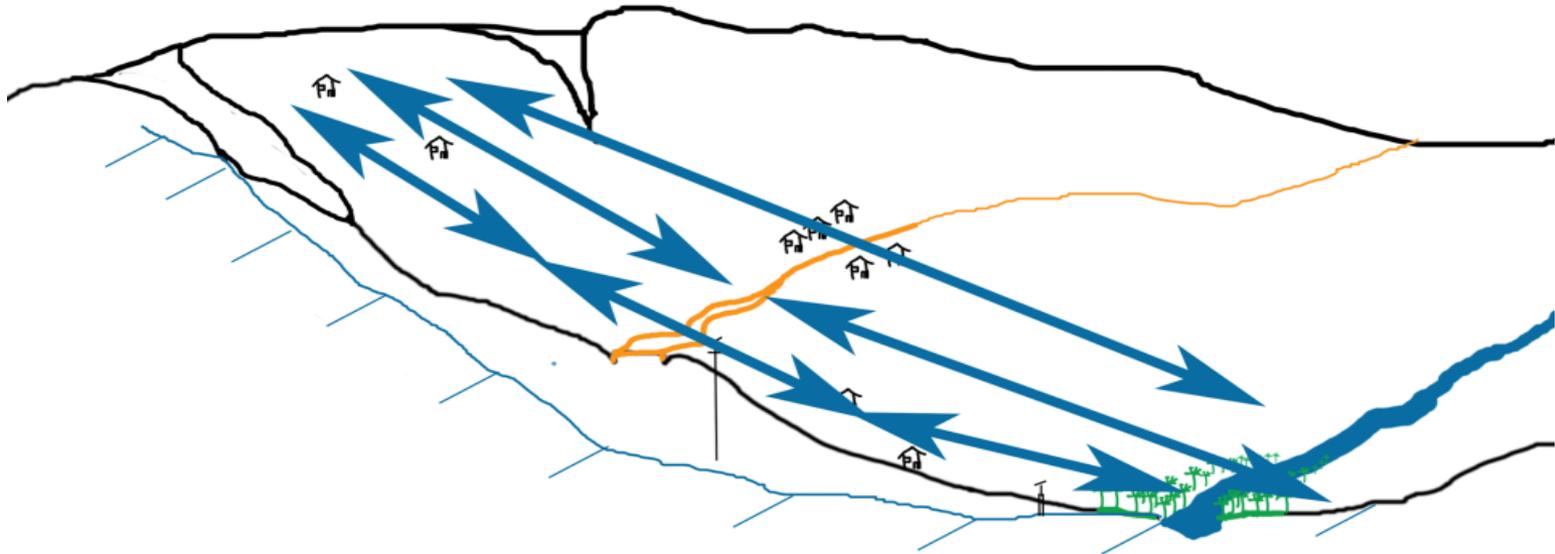
Poluted water-sources due to latrine infiltration or surface runoff off into open water-sources

### Wetland issues

Encroachment into the wetland, drainage of parts of the wetland

# Interconnected problems & solutions

Landscape / ecosystem inclusive



- Sanitation and waste management: ➤ delink with surface/groundwater flow
- Recharge, retention & reuse: ➤ increase water buffer and access uphill
- Wetland wise use: ➤ restoring ecosystem services provision for WASH & livelihoods

# Why post 2015 finance proof?

- Post 2015 development **agenda discussions drive towards this integrative approach** to be reality and shape policy development and related finance / investment
- The most **marginalised and vulnerable communities** are very difficult to reach with current WASH approaches and targets – few resource rights and practical difficulties – yet as **they depend on natural (ecosystem) water resources** they are **most vulnerable** to the **global water crisis**
- Programme themes:
  - Watershed scale governance including ecosystem-WASH relationship
  - WASH planning within sustainable resource availability
  - Stimulating corporate investment in maintain and restoring natural water infrastructure
  - Capacity building to account for risks to WASH from unsustainable planning

# Why post 2015 finance proof?

- **Donors (governments & foundations)**
  - Post MDG goals
  - Food-water-energy nexus
  - Disaster risk reduction & resilience
  - Link with human health
  
- **Policy makers**
  - Human rights to WASH
  - IWRM
  - Economic development
  - Water security
  - Payment for ecosystem services
  
- **Companies**
  - Greening the economy
  - Level playing field for responsible industry
  - Climate smart spatial planning
  - CSR, CSV, MVO

**1st step: you – (WASH) NGOs allies - to come on board!**

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