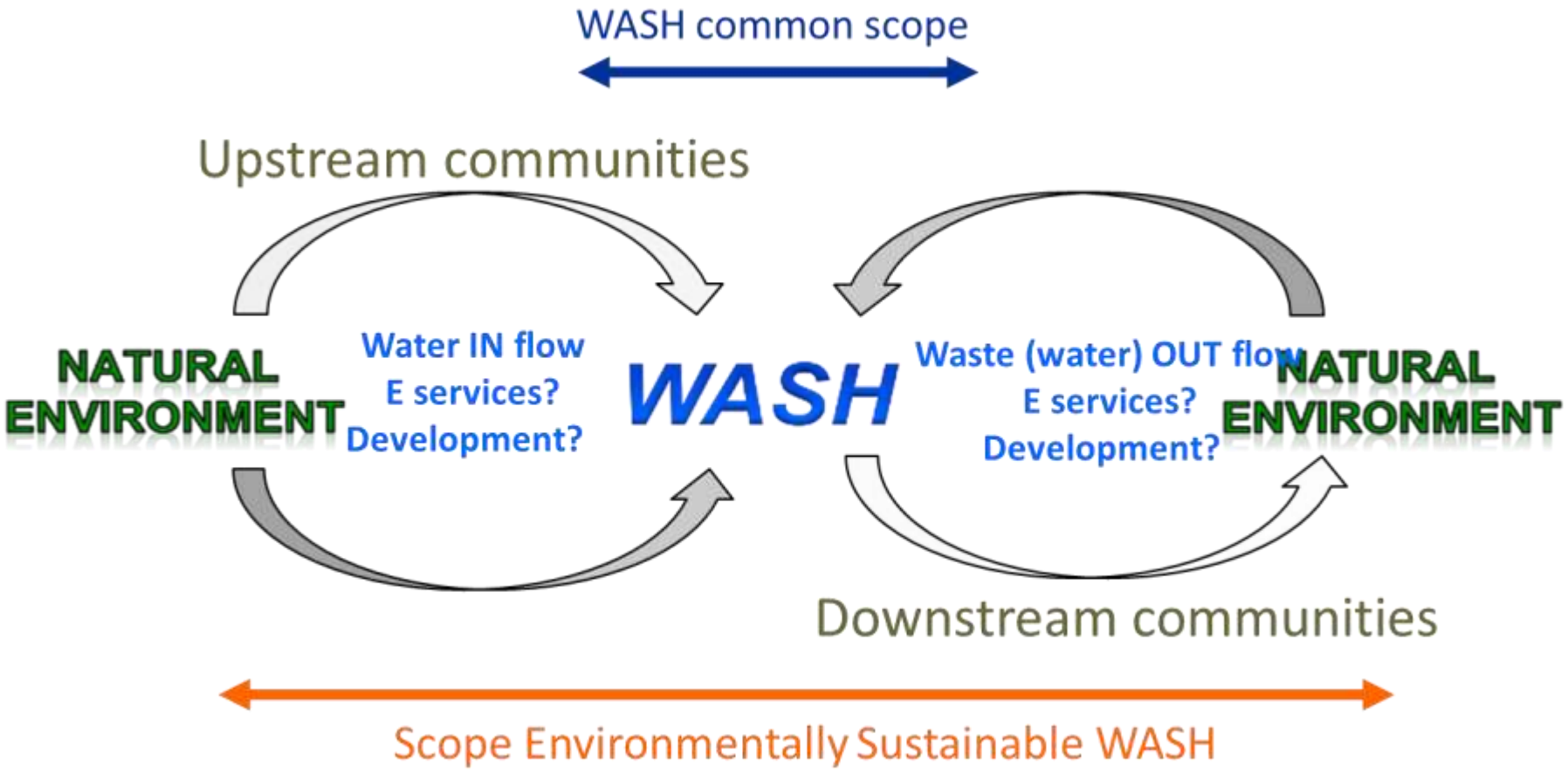
Environmental Sustainability

Status & Achievements under the Dutch WASH Alliance Programme

By Susanne Boom, Dhaka, 18 February 2014

simavi akvo.org AMREF FLYING DOCTORS icco Partner to enterprising people RAIN Rainwater Harvesting Implementation Network WASTE Wetlands INTERNATIONAL

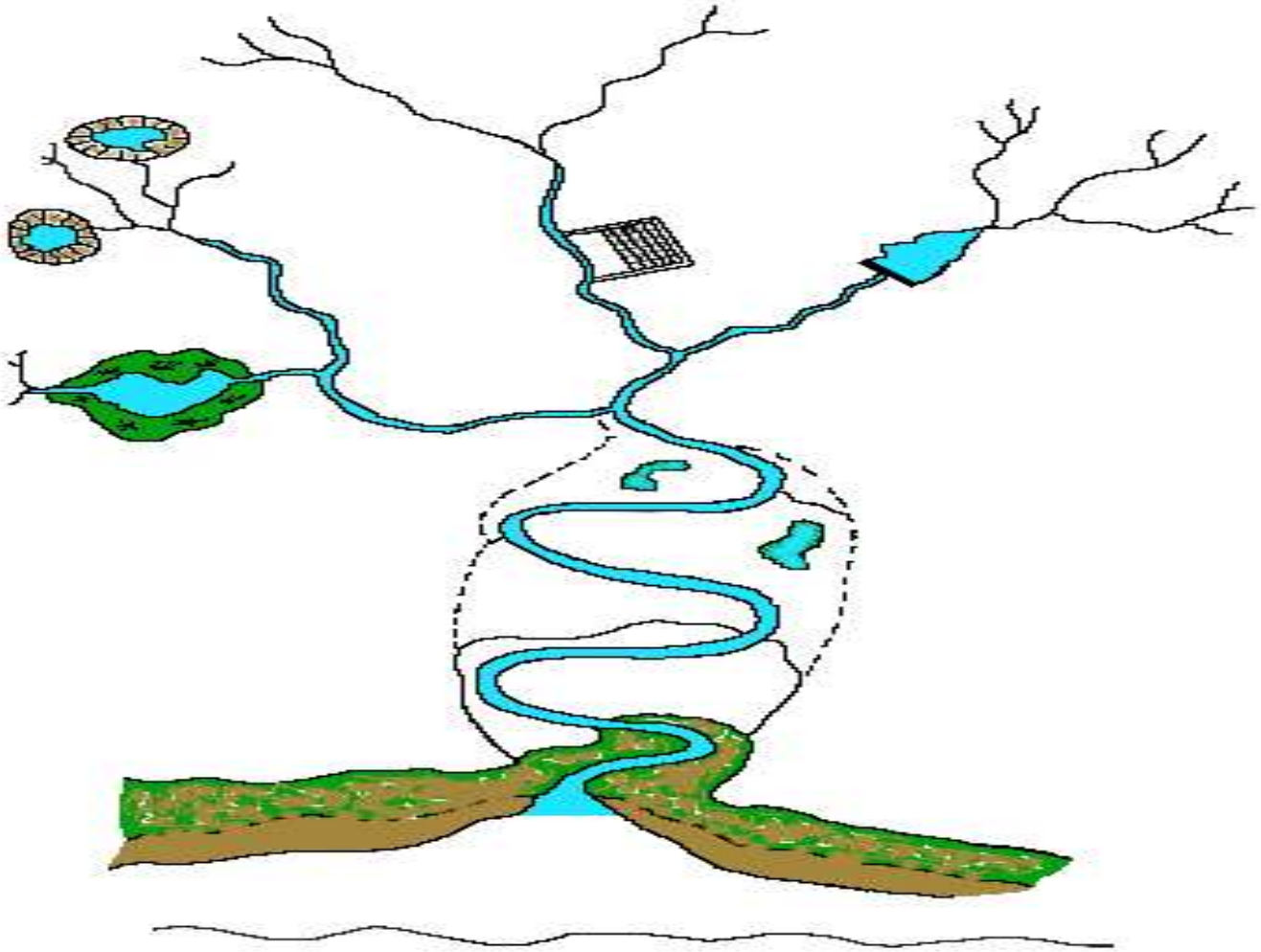
Interaction WASH and Natural Environment



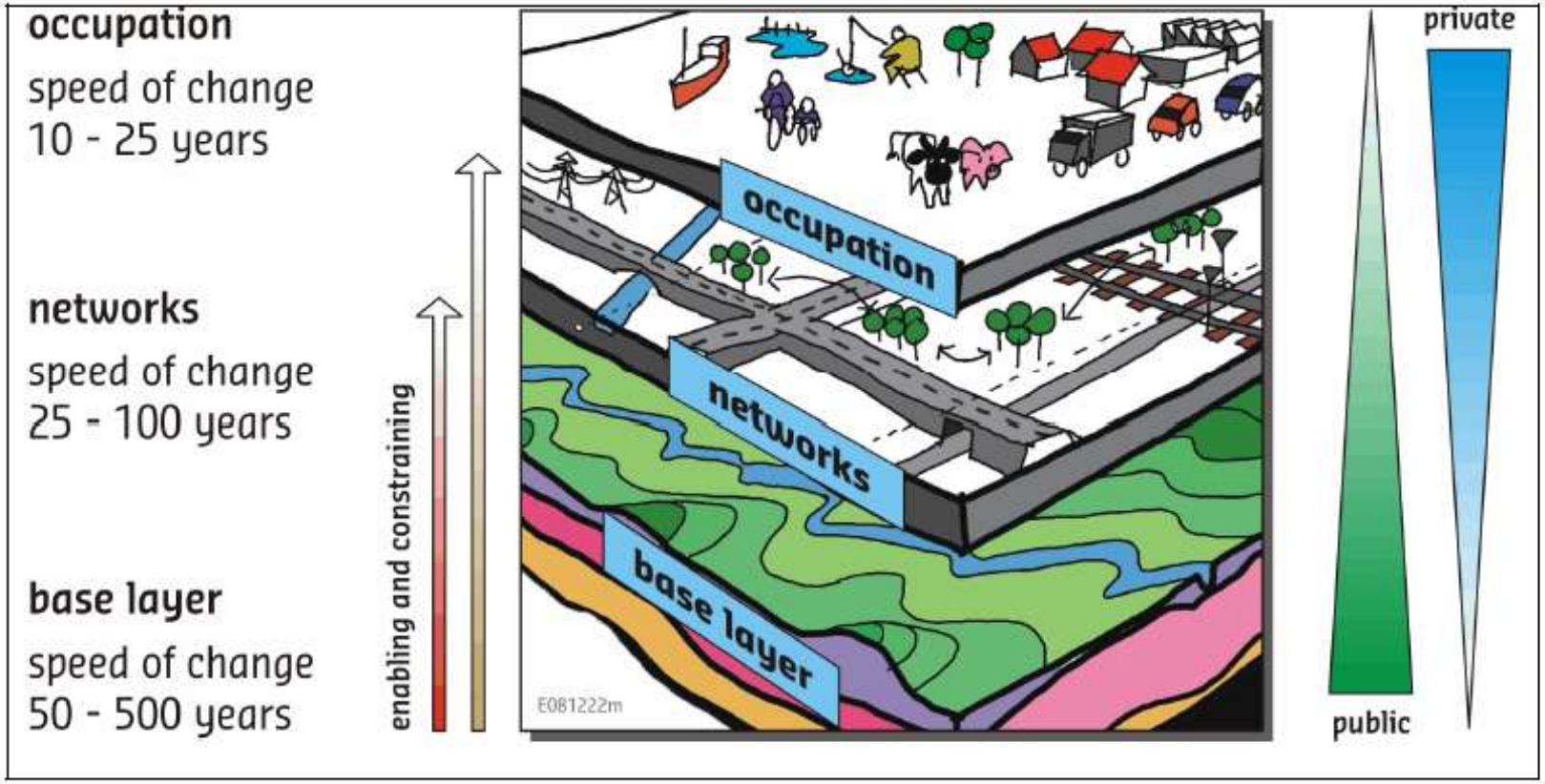
Definition E component by DWA

The element of environmental sustainability implies placing WASH interventions in the wider context of the natural environment and implementing an approach of integrated and sustainable management of water and waste(-water) flows and resources. WASH interventions connect to and affect the natural environment and hence people's livelihood.

Natural environment context

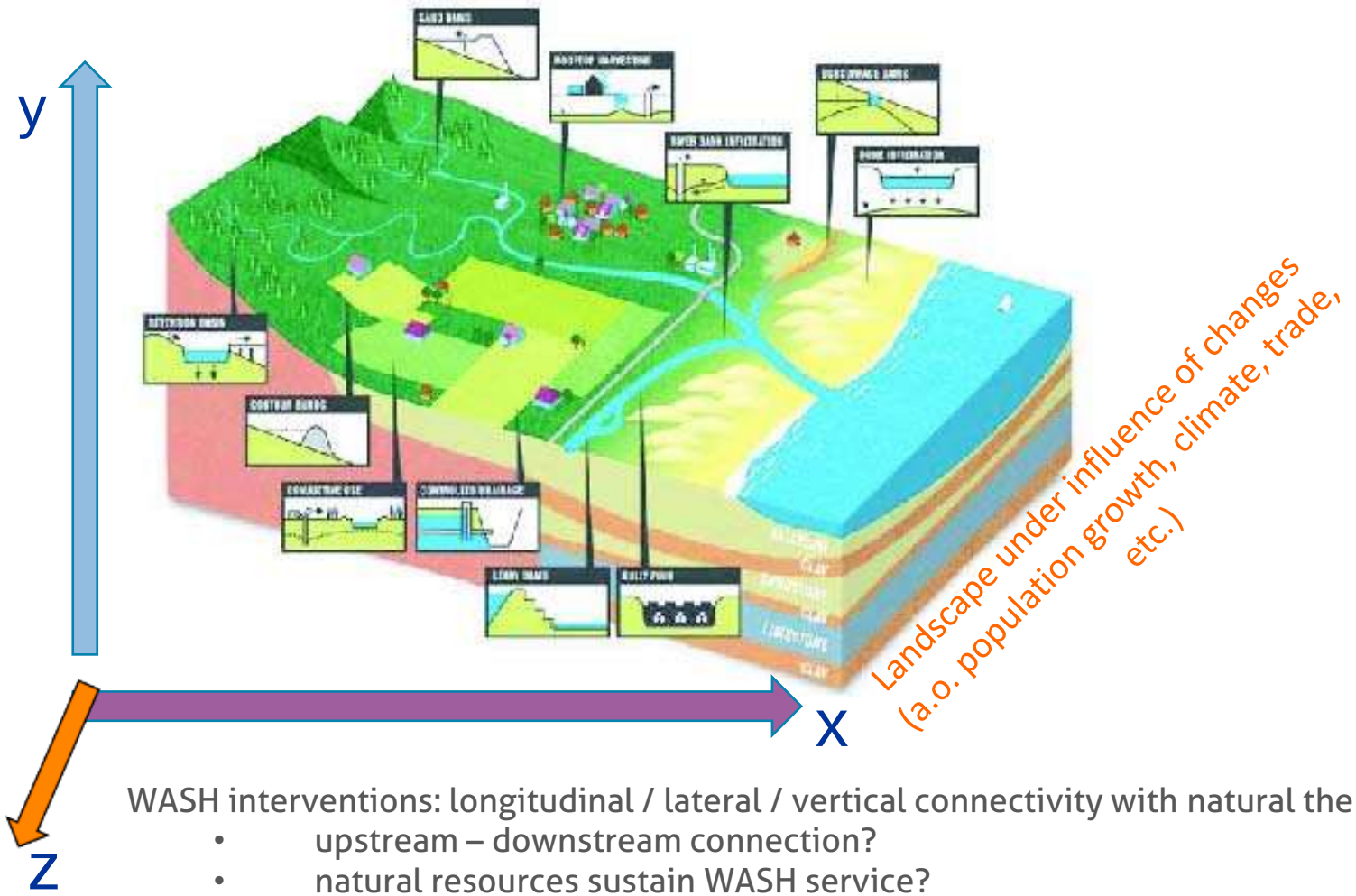


Where is the ecosystem?



Courtesy VROM, Netherlands

DWA Vision Environmental Sustainability



WASH interventions: longitudinal / lateral / vertical connectivity with natural the environment:

- upstream – downstream connection?
- natural resources sustain WASH service?
- wider effect of WASH services on natural resources of others inhabitants?

Wider context WASH interventions

Key actors of civil society, public and private sector are aware of the linkage between WASH interventions and the natural environment and are capable of balancing environmental and development needs into their strategies and interventions.

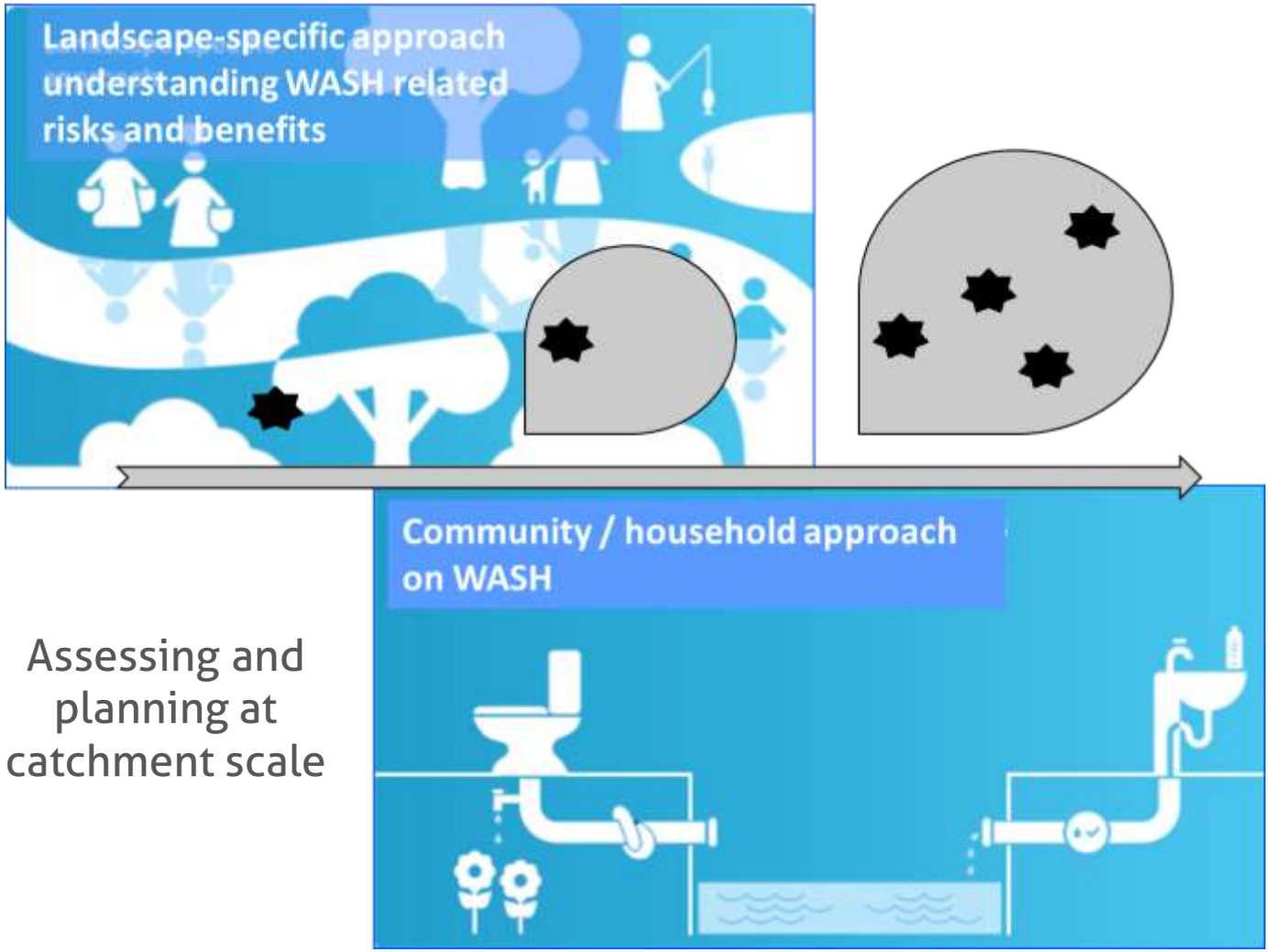
The Dutch WASH Alliance works towards ensuring integrity and functioning of the natural ecosystem in which WASH interventions take place and upon which local livelihoods (both rural and urban) depend.

Approaches towards Environmental Sustainability

1. Thinking with the landscape: understanding relations at catchment level
2. 3R: Recharge, Retention and Re-use of water resources
3. Waste flow management: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle of waste(flows)
4. Landscape-fitting technology choices for water supply and sanitation
5. Understanding, maintaining and restoring ecosystem base upon which WASH and community depends

Result area	Result	Indicator	Target 2015
Outcome	Programme Partners have adopted the key elements of Environmental Sustainability (as defined by the WASH Alliance) in strategic documents related to their [policy, planning, technical guidance, implementation, lobby & advocacy]	Number of countries where at least 2 Programme Partners have adopted the key elements of Environmental Sustainability (as defined by the WASH Alliance) in strategic documents related to their policy, planning, technical guidance, implementation, lobby & advocacy	5 countries
Output	Country Programme Partners are capacitated to apply Environmental Sustainability approaches for WASH.	Number of Programme Partners and stakeholders/actors capacitated on Environmental Sustainability approaches for WASH.	500 Programme Partners and stakeholders/actors

How to: combining approaches



Assessing and planning at catchment scale

How to: addressing source to sink

- Catchment level assessment for project / intervention
- Define vulnerability WASH infrastructure versus catchment resources
- Identify options to 'optimise' landscape for WASH , f.e. artificial recharge, wetland restoration
- Prioritise suitable WASH activities (incl. technology choice)
- Inclusion of waste flow management and treatment
- PME includes hydrological and ecosystem health indicators
- Evidence based lobby & advocacy

Products / resources for support

- Catchment Assessment Tool near completion (guidance document)
- Factsheets (4) further explaining DWA Environmental Sustainability
- Promotional animation on E component near completion
- Reference base of international available Ecosystem & WASH documentation
- Publication under development on "Inclusion of WASH in water allocation – a guidance for decision makers"
- Growing number of supporters and allies (Uganda, Kenya, Mali) familiar with catchment level / landscape based orientation for WASH interventions → an 'experience expert' pool to tap from

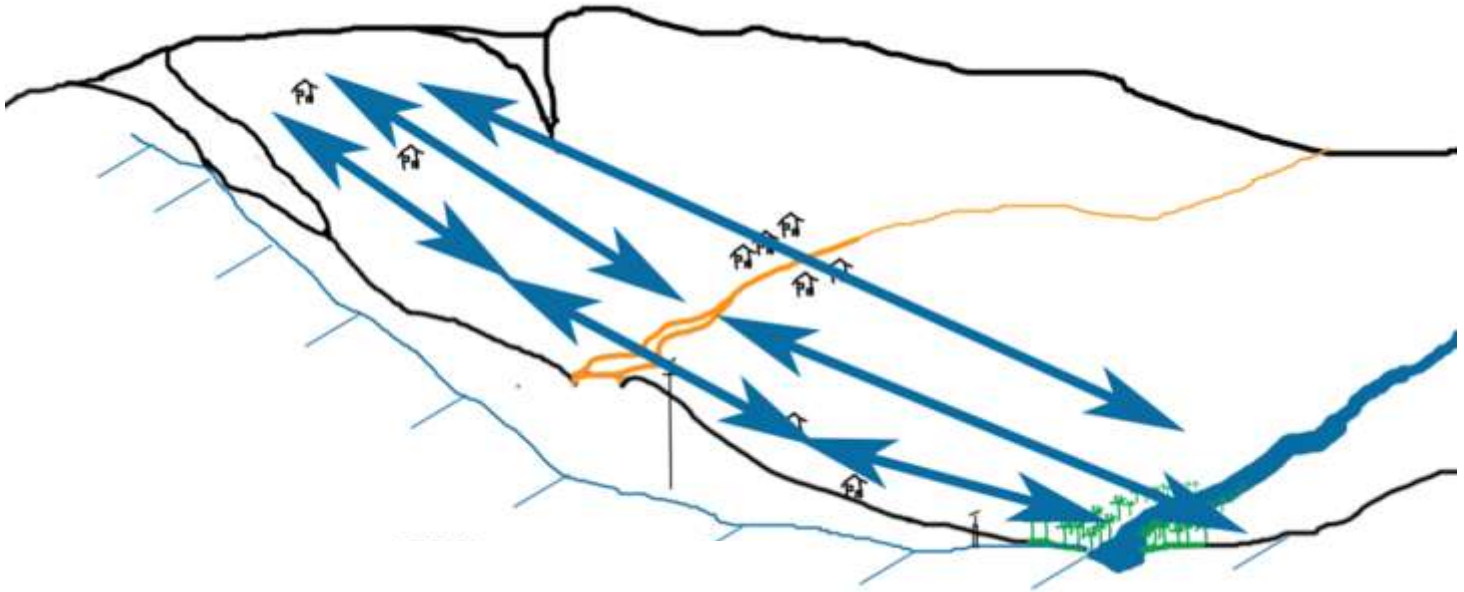
Progress under DWA effort

- Catchment assessments are at the basis of WASH intervention planning for new sites in both Mali and Uganda.
- Rwambu catchment project implementation by local NGO JESE in Uganda well under way and taking-up all aspects of the DWA FIETS approach
- AMREF is taking up 3R approach in Kenya and Uganda and exploring further connection with natural resource base in their intervention areas
- Environmental sustainable thinking is increasingly mainstreamed in tools, guidelines and communication within DWA (f.e. SMT, WaterCompass, PME)
- Joint initiatives are under development, e.g. "One hundred wetlands" proposal by AMREF, RAIN, WI, Ugandan NGO's and institutions .
- In Bangladesh, Uttaran and Practical Action willing to explore catchment context of few projects/activities

Rwambu catchment project, Uganda (animation available)

- Planning & implementation: design of WASH project in catchment context
- Recognition by JESE and CSOs that WASH access problems are related with landscape; solution approach needs to be too

➢ Combined sanitation, waste management, water recharge retention & reuse techniques + wetland management



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