



renoka

We are a river



24 August 2022

NAP EXPO 2022- TRANSFORMATIONS TO ADAPT

Transformative adaptation approaches for building the resilience of people and ecosystems: experiences from the SADC Region

Lesotho's catchments:

A vital natural resource for the country and the entire Orange-Senqu basin



Lesotho's catchments are vital for livelihoods, the economy and environment

- Lesotho's river catchments are directly responsible for 22% of GDP and 30% of employment
- Lesotho's water transfer to South Africa depends on healthy catchments. It supplies water to over 12 million people and yields LSL 1 billion annual revenue (3.7% GDP) and 6% of our electricity generation.
- Severe catchment degradation currently threatens rural livelihoods and national economic gains:
 - Annual depletion of natural resources is at 6% GDP
 - Every hour, Lesotho loses 300 lorry loads of top soil due to erosion
 - Significant reduction in arable land leads to food insecurity



There is no future for Lesotho without healthy catchment areas

- The decrease of dam levels in recent years are likely caused by catchment degradation and not by lack of rainfall.
- Healthy catchments and wetland ecosystems are required to absorb rainfall. The recent floods indicate the effects of severe catchment degradation. Climate change will further aggravate flood and drought events.
- A loss of water supply schemes due to catchment degradation would shrink Lesotho's economy by 3.7%. The impact on government finance would be the equivalent of 14% of tax revenue, 48% of health expenditure and 41% of education expenditure.

ReNOKA – we are a river

The national programme for integrated catchment
management in Lesotho



In Sesotho, re noka means, 'we are a river'

A river is the coming together of individual water droplets, flowing in one direction, able to sustain life.

ReNOKA represents a network of individuals, communities and professionals that are stronger together, fluid and growing, dedicated to the restoration of water, land, and the long-term prosperity of all communities.



ReNOKA represents a strategic vision for Lesotho

We define integrated catchment management as “a multi-stakeholder process, which promotes the integrated, sustainable, and risk-informed development and management of water, land, and related resources in Lesotho's catchment areas.”

Our vision is:

Livelihoods and economic development for today's and for future generations are improved through the conservation of biodiversity, land, and water resources in the catchment areas of the rivers in Lesotho. This will benefit the country, the Orange-Senqu basin and the entire Southern African region.



ReNOKA objectives and principles as agreed with stakeholders

Our objectives:

The population of Lesotho benefits from:

- water availability and quality for all domestic, rural, industrial, or agricultural users
- sustainable water and land management
- the reduction of land degradation and soil erosion
- contributions to resilience to climate change impacts

Our principles:

- Multi-stakeholder and participatory approach
- Holistic and integrative approach
- Decentralized approach (Subsidiarity)
- Balanced approach
- Evidence based approach
- Human-rights based and socially inclusive approach

Support for ReNOKA

Understanding the EU-German support and the development of a multi-stakeholder partnership for ICM

Support for the institutionalisation and implementation of ReNOKA

A partnership between the Government of Lesotho, the European Union and the Government of Germany



Support Action with the specific objective:

”Integrated Catchment management is institutionalised and under full implementation in Lesotho based on gender equality and climate adaptation principles“

Timeframe:

January 2020 to December 2023 (4 years)

- Extension until March 2025 planned

Multi-Donor Action:

EUR 5 million financing from Government of Lesotho

EUR 27.5 million financing by European Union

EUR 6 million financing by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

ReNOKA as a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership

Leveraging contributions from a diverse partner landscape

Participating Ministries in the ReNOKA programme



- Ministry of Water
- Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
- Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture
- Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship

Non-governmental partners for ReNOKA



Support Action for ICM



Regional institutions



International partners that support the implementation of ICM



The ICM Planning Approach

Protecting Lesotho's catchments from peak to valley

The ICM planning approach for Lesotho

ICM plans are developed according to hydrological boundaries.

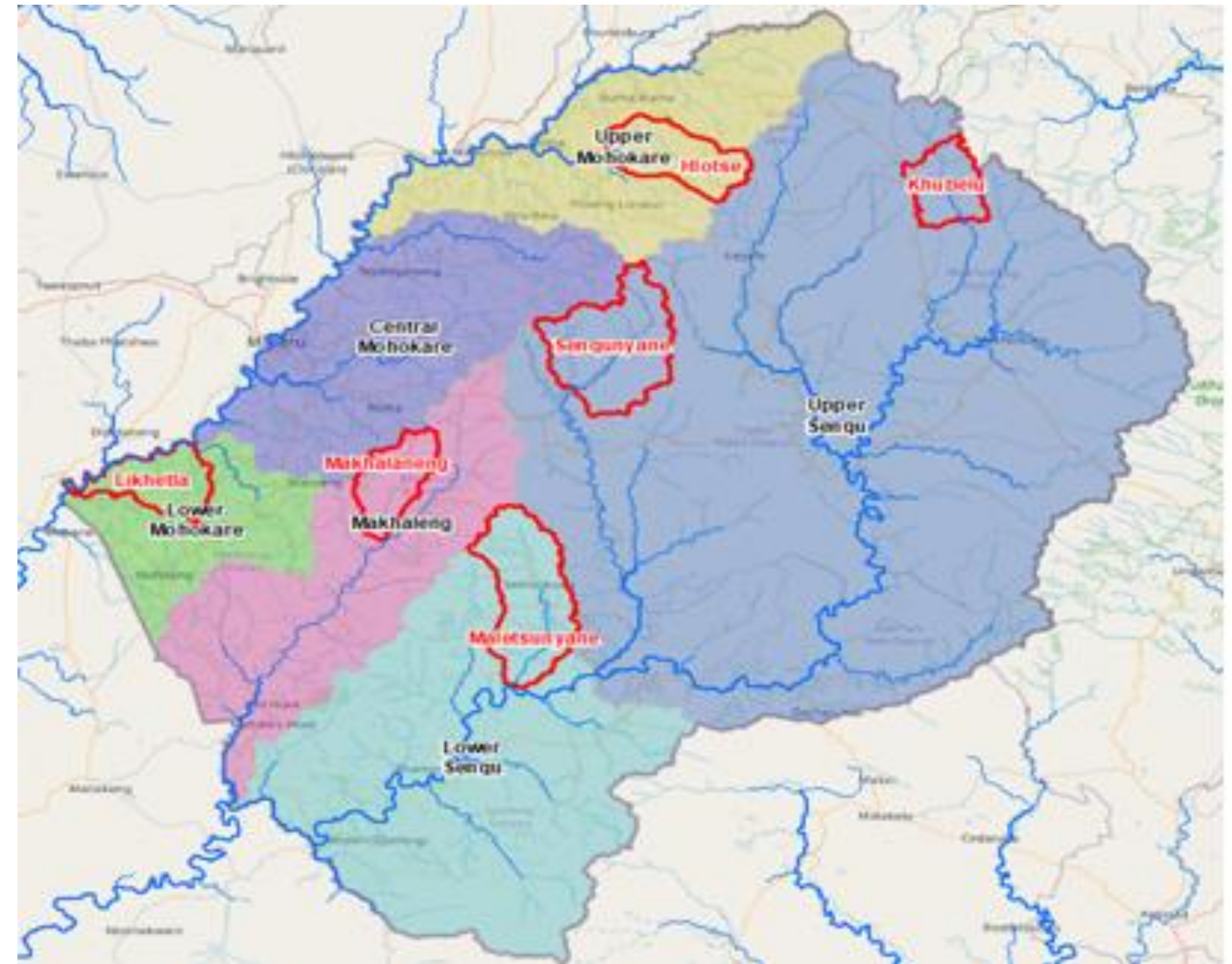
The ICM planning approach follows the catchment delineation outlined in the Long-Term Water and Sanitation Strategy and the ICM framework-

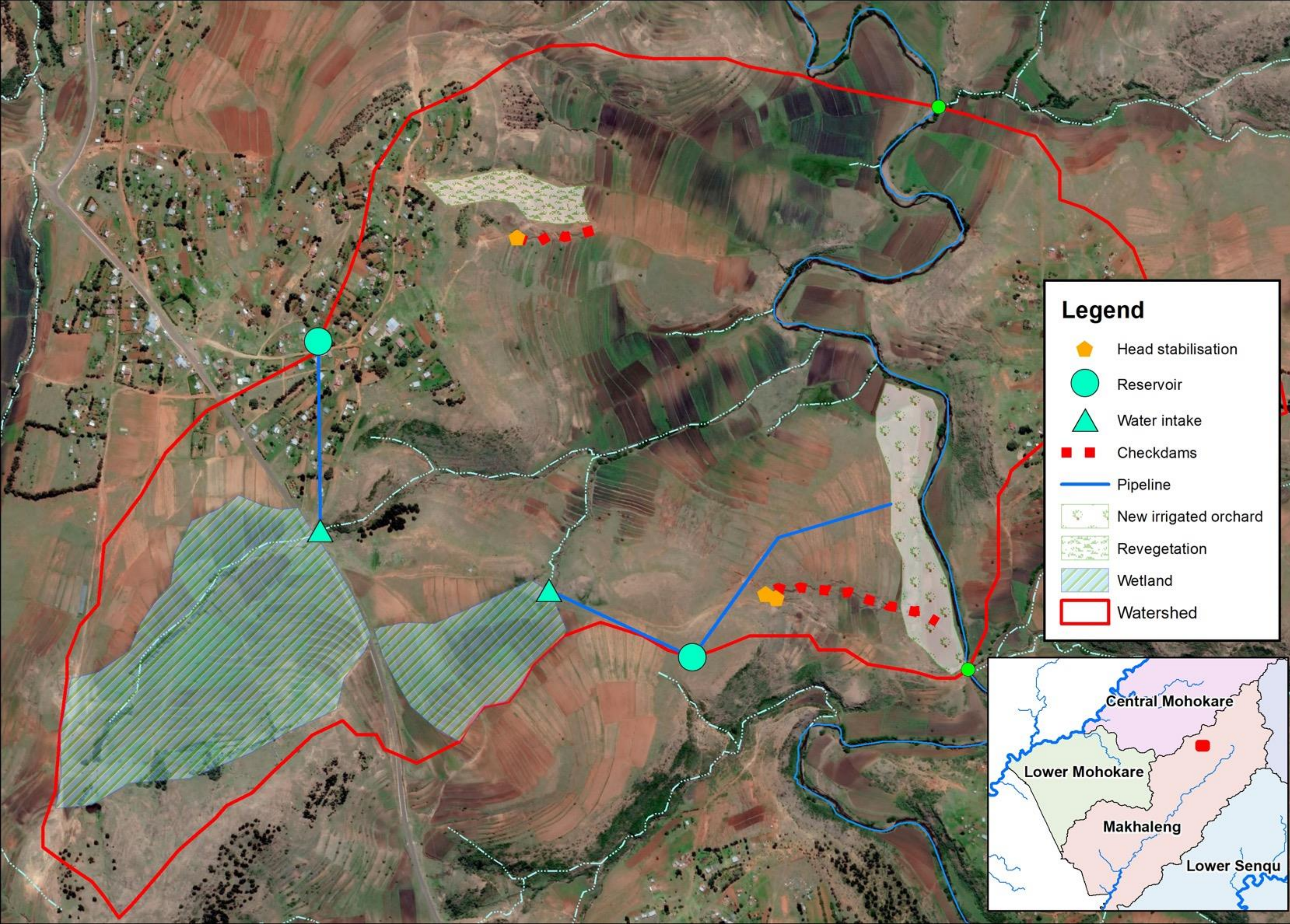
- 6 Catchment Management Areas in Lesotho
 - Upper, Lower and Middle Mohokare
 - Upper and Lower Senqu
 - Makhaleng

Strategic Catchment Management Plans (3-5 years) to be developed for each CMA










- The 6 Catchment Management areas consist of 74 sub-catchments. Each sub-catchment consists of a number of micro-watersheds

Annual ICM Action Plans to be developed by Community Watershed Teams and Local Councils to cover priority measures in relevant watersheds





Legend

-  Head stabilisation
-  Reservoir
-  Water intake
-  Checkdams
-  Pipeline
-  New irrigated orchard
-  Revegetation
-  Wetland
-  Watershed



Integrated “basket of measures” from peak to valley:

Plan with community:

Water security

- Restore water source areas by incentivising shift of cultivation to downslope area (high value orchard)
- Restore baseflows in Makhalaneng tributary stream
- Water storage and distribution to village and fruit orchard

Food security

- Rehabilitation of erosion / protection of cultivated areas
- Shift from low-value to high-value crops

Content of Integrated Catchment Management Plans

Catchment Management

Climate Change and Ecosystem-based Adaptation

Water Resource Protection

Flood and Drought Risk Management

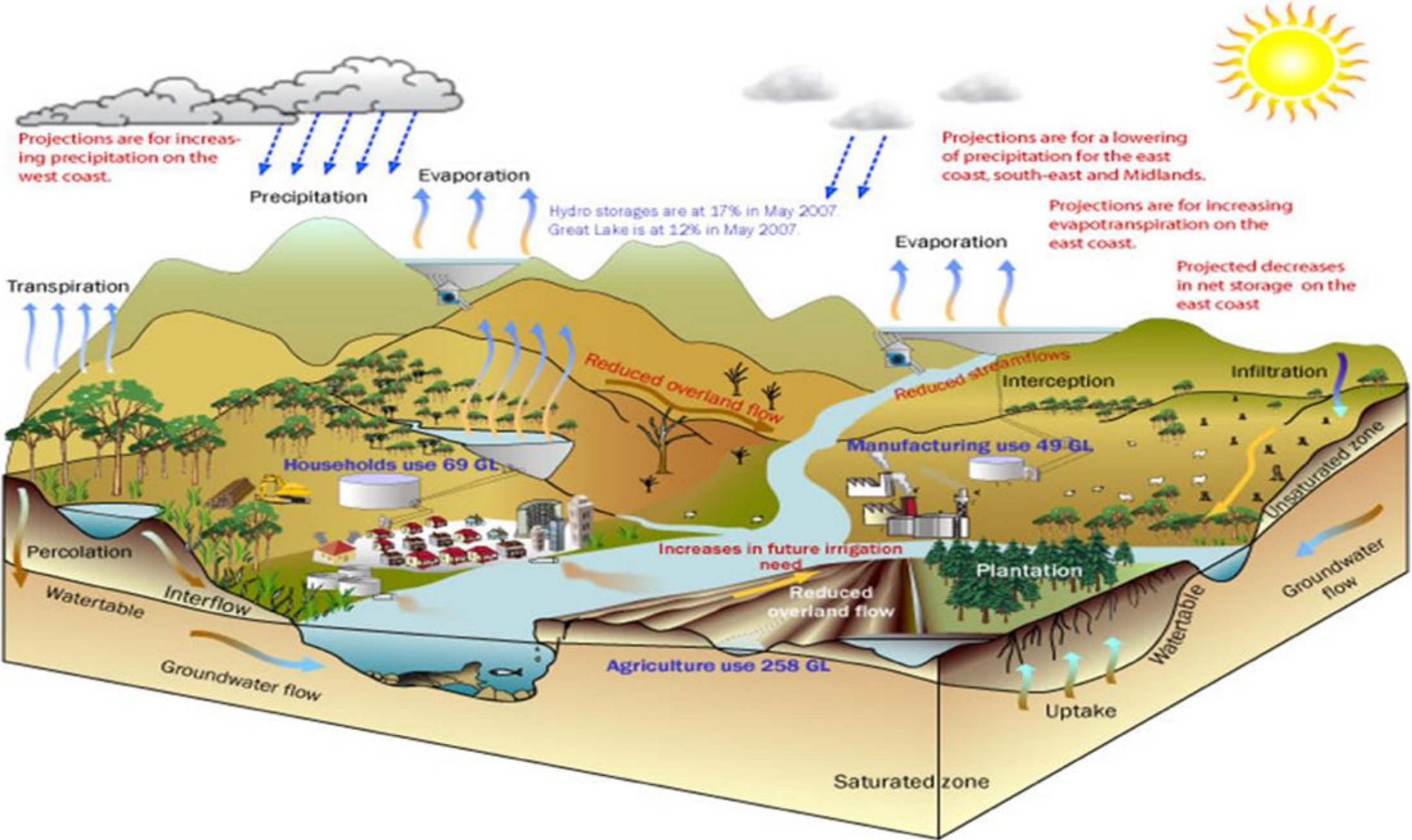
Groundwater Management

Hydromet Monitoring

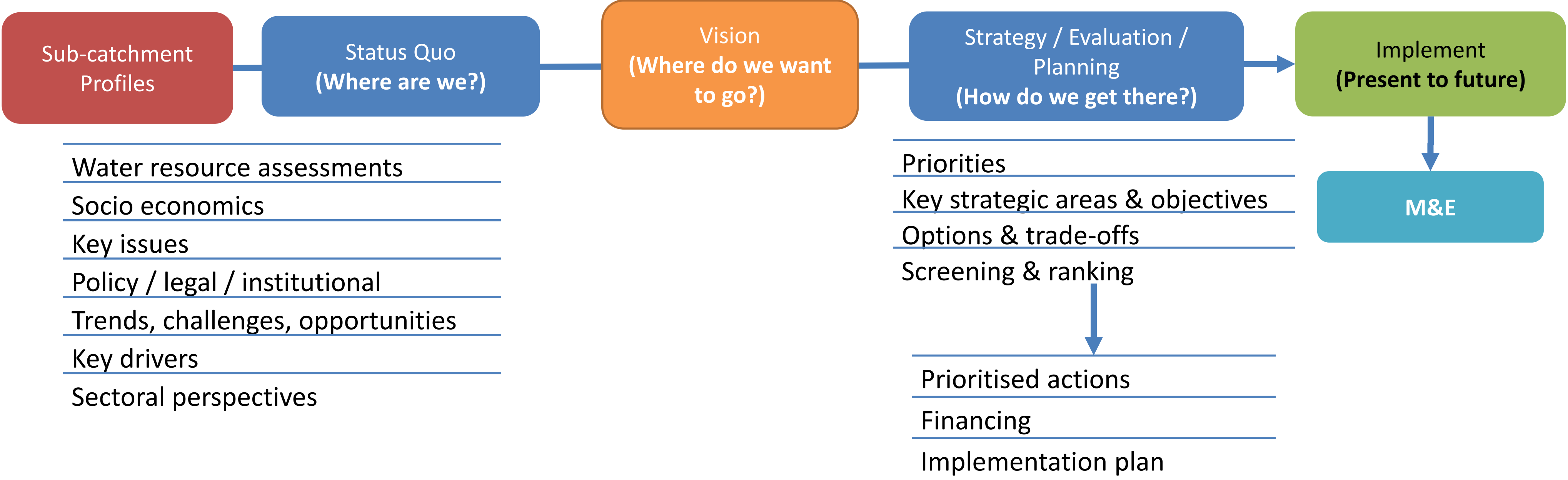
Water Quality Management

Water Balances and Water Resource Development

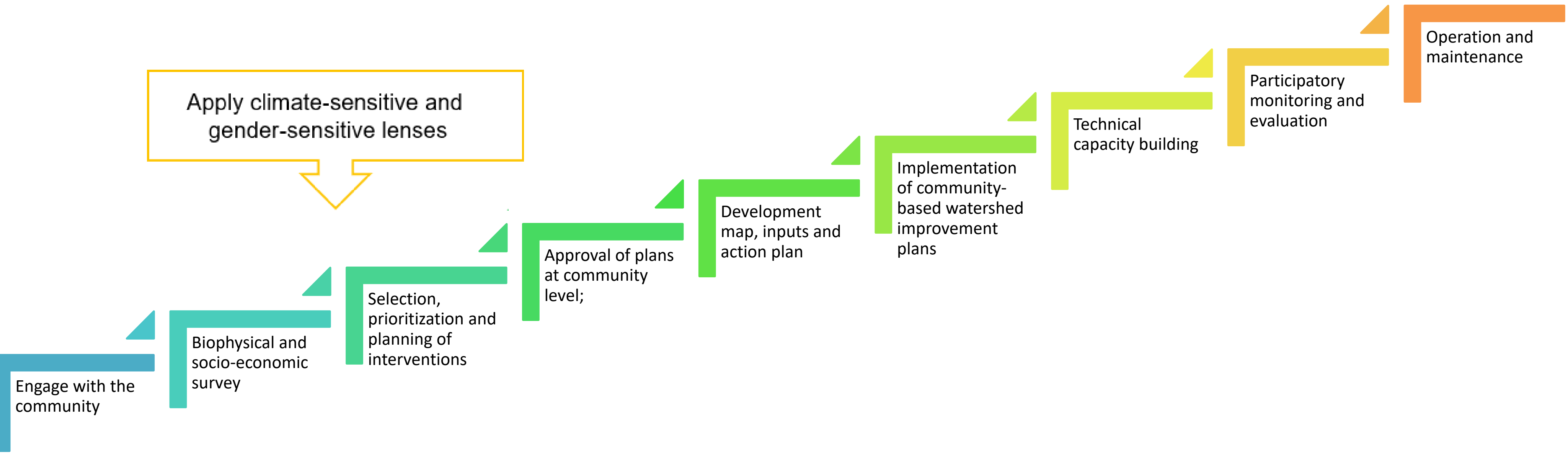
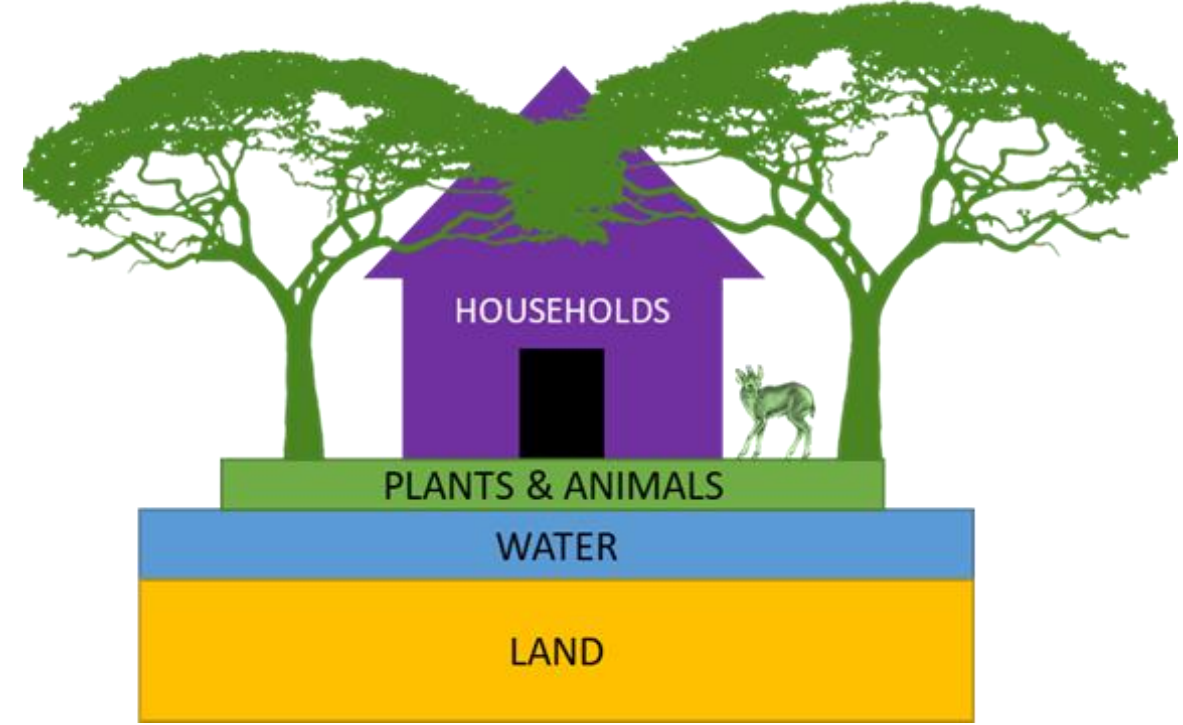
Institutional Strengthening



Catchment Planning Process



Development of ICM Action Plans for Micro-Watersheds and Community Councils



ReNOKA in practice -What is an ICM planning approach?

Planning for catchment management requires us to understand and integrate a huge amount of information:

- How people are using water-drinking, agriculture, industrial uses
- The geography and geology of an area
- How water bodies are connected
- How the water flows from where it falls
- What are crucial ecosystems and their services (i.e wetlands)
- Uses of the land & causes of its degradation
- Climate Change risk & adaptation strategy

Sustainable planning involves:

- Gathering the best information & scientific evidence on the catchment
- Engaging all relevant Ministries & local authorities for an integrated planning approach
- Engaging local communities
- Selecting and adopting appropriate measures according to the upstream/downstream dynamic

