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Institute for Integrated Management
of Material Fluxes and of Resources



TECHNISCHE
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ADVANCING A **NEXUS APPROACH**
TO THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT
OF **WATER, SOIL AND WASTE**



INTERNATIONAL
KICK-OFF WORKSHOP

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Nexus governance and institutional arrangements for inclusive planning and management - water, soil, waste -

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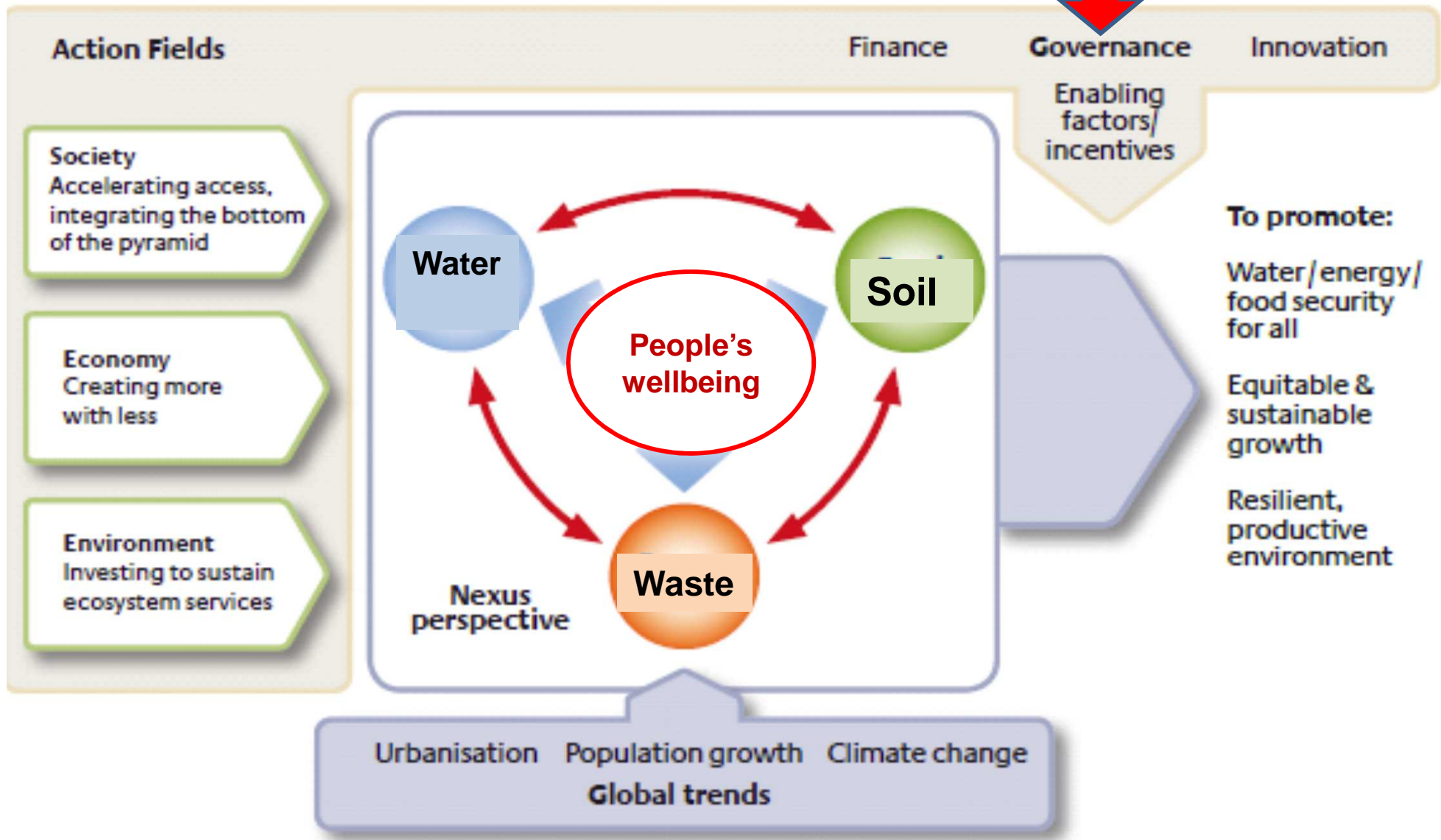
UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (**UNU-FLORES**), Dresden,
Germany, 12 November 2013

Overview

1. The Nexus functions depend on governance
2. Applications to water, soil, and waste
3. The challenges of decentralized nexus governance
4. Strategy and practical steps on the way forward

Nexus Thinking: people at the center and governance facilitating the last mile for impact



Nexus governance ?

Expectations from governance:

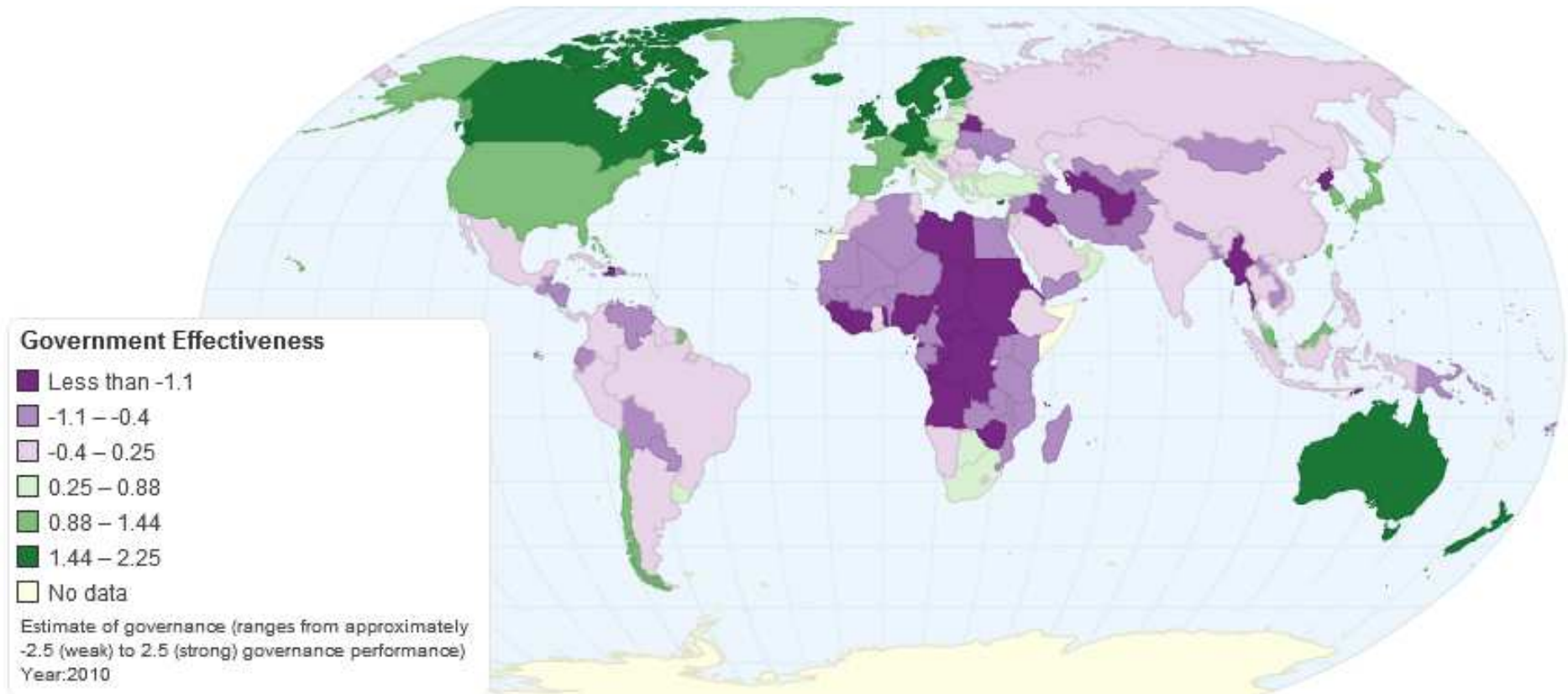
Basics

- Define agendas
- Grant power
- Exercise leadership

Called for

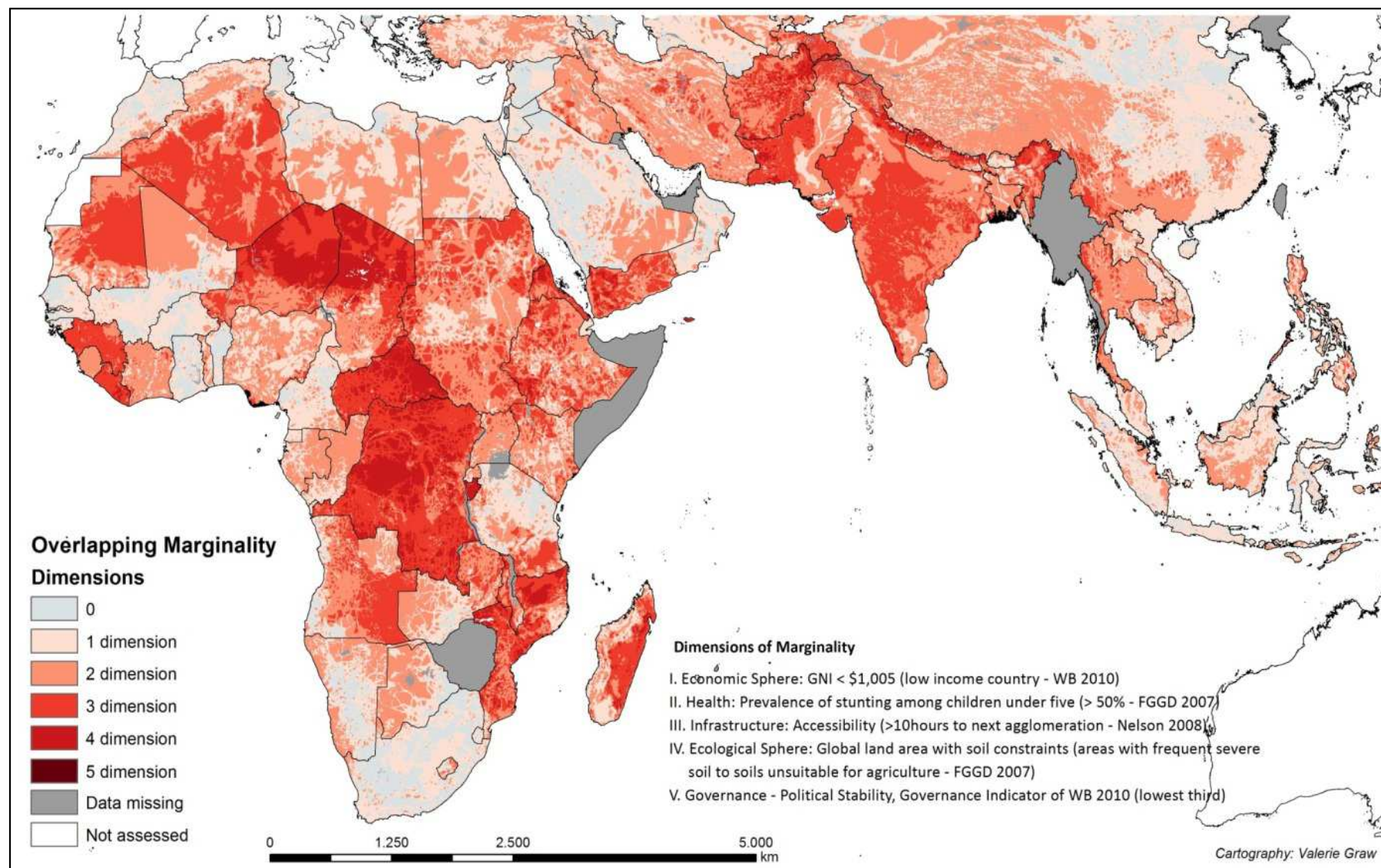
- Facilitate participation
- Implement under rule of law
- Verify performance

Government Effectiveness mapping



Source: World Bank 2010

Governance quality is part of what defines marginality or lack thereof in ecology context (soil, water, etc.)



Source: Graw & Husmann, Chap.5, in von Braun, Gatzweiler, 2013

An online book, free for all at: <http://www.springer.com/environment/book/978-94-007-7060-7>

What is a nexus government body?

Should there be such nexus government bodies?

"governance" is what a "governing body" does

Problem: lack of established governing body for nexus governance

Solutions:

First best - establish Nexus governing bodies

Second best - establish intra-governmental consultative mechanisms for Nexus-governance

Both solutions entail transactions costs

Realism suggests to gradually move from second best to first best solution

Nexus Approach: Opportunities and Governance Challenges

- NEXUS system changes are driven by demand, prices, technology, resource constraints
 - > governments need knowledge about the powerful forces to govern and provide frameworks!
- NEXUS approaches are needed to tap positive and avoid negative externalities
 - > needs rule making / governance!
- Investments in the NEXUS areas (sector overlaps) yield high returns
 - > investments need governance!

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**Filling critical gaps in nexus
for a purpose**

Water

Soil

Waste linkages,

and connecting to economic
development and the next set of
MDGs+2015

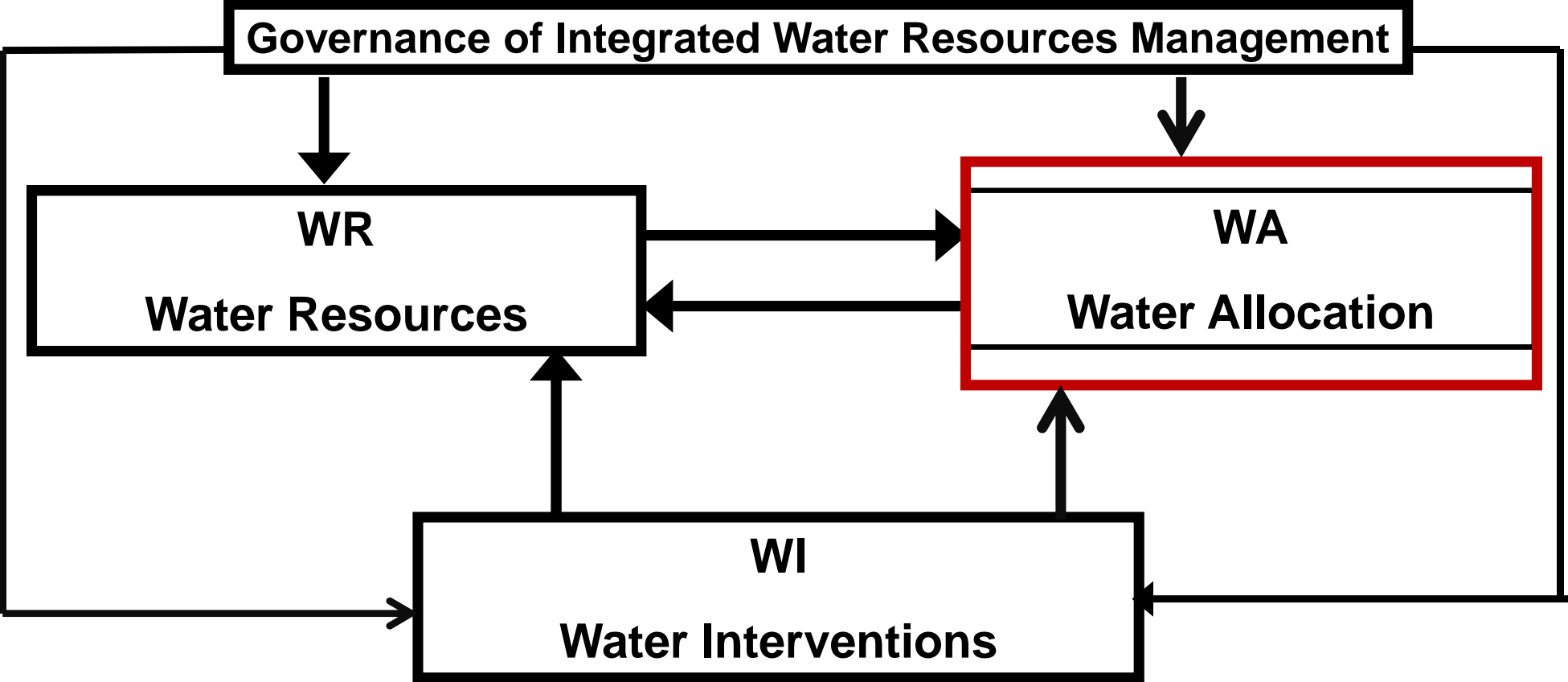
The governance challenges of water, soil and waste

Governance done in isolation

- Water: public, private and contested
- Soil: private and neglected
- Waste: public, private and regulated and mismanaged

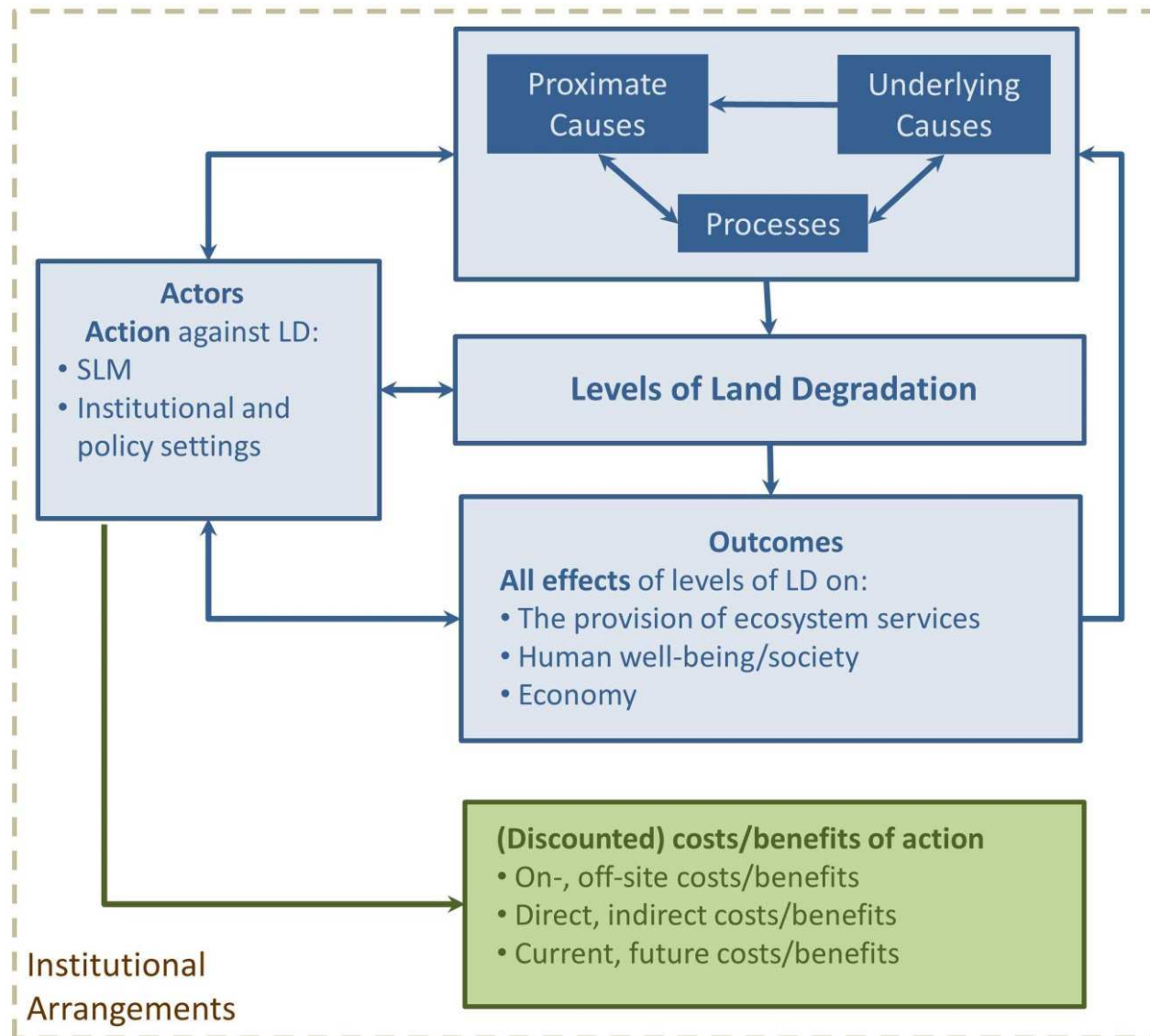
The challenge to govern the nexus aspects of water, soil, waste; but how?

Example 1: Governance of water value chains

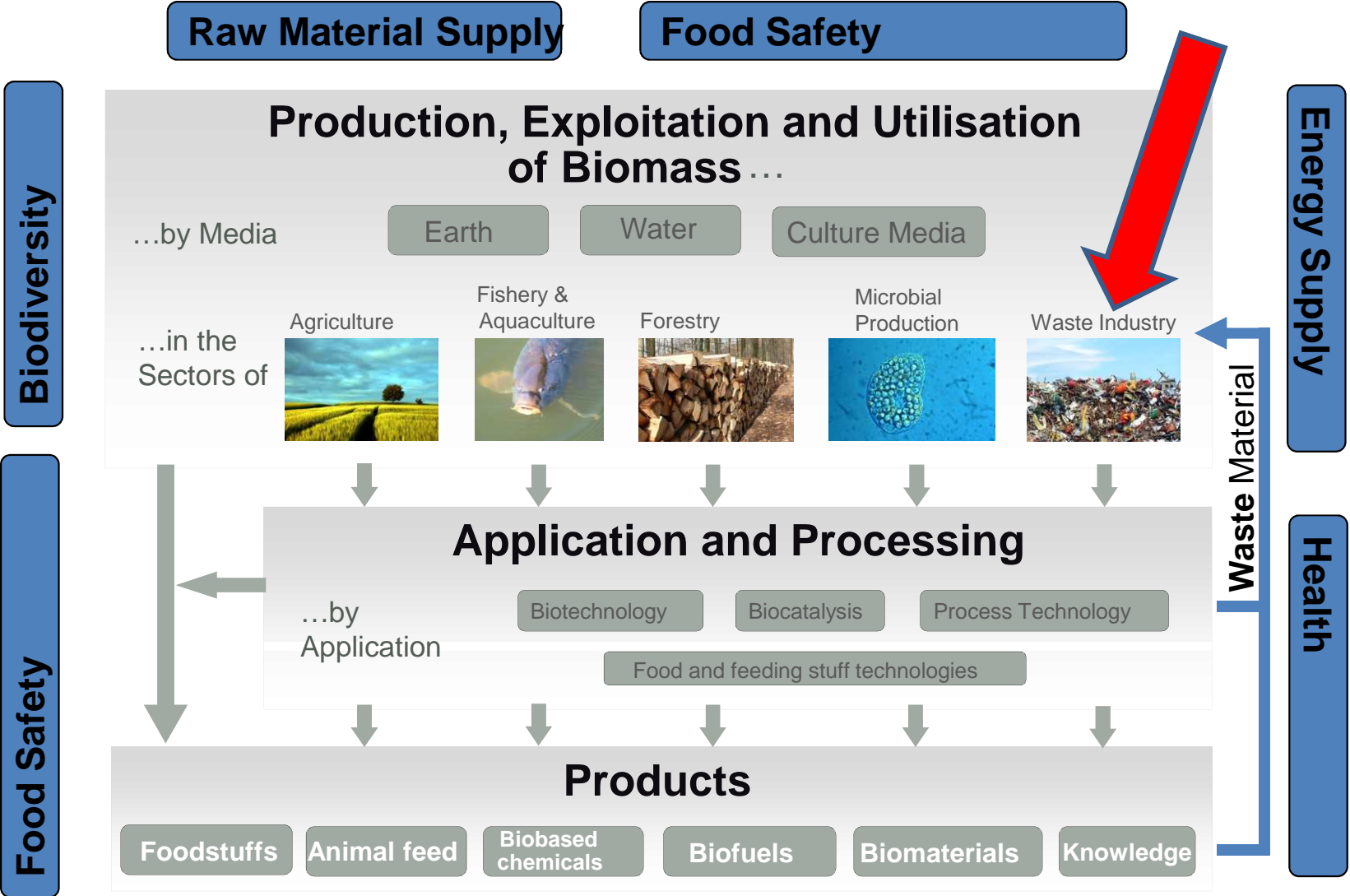


Example: ZEF Olifants Project- South Africa

Example 2: Governance of soil and land management (degradation)



Example 3: Bioeconomy Governance – Connecting water, soil, waste in “value net”



Source: adapted from Bioeconomy Council, Germany, 2010

Lessons: governance challenges of water, soil and waste

Lessons from examples:

1. Water, soil, waste: all three have local and national and global governance challenges
2. Nexus approach needs a way of comprehensive systems thinking and nexus governance needs platforms for coordination and action

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Challenges of water, soil and waste cannot be governed effectively and efficiently in centralized ways

Nexus governance does not only require

- **inter-departmental** and
- **trans-disciplinary** cooperation and action, but requires
- **coordination accross government levels (between central and local), and**
- **between national governments**

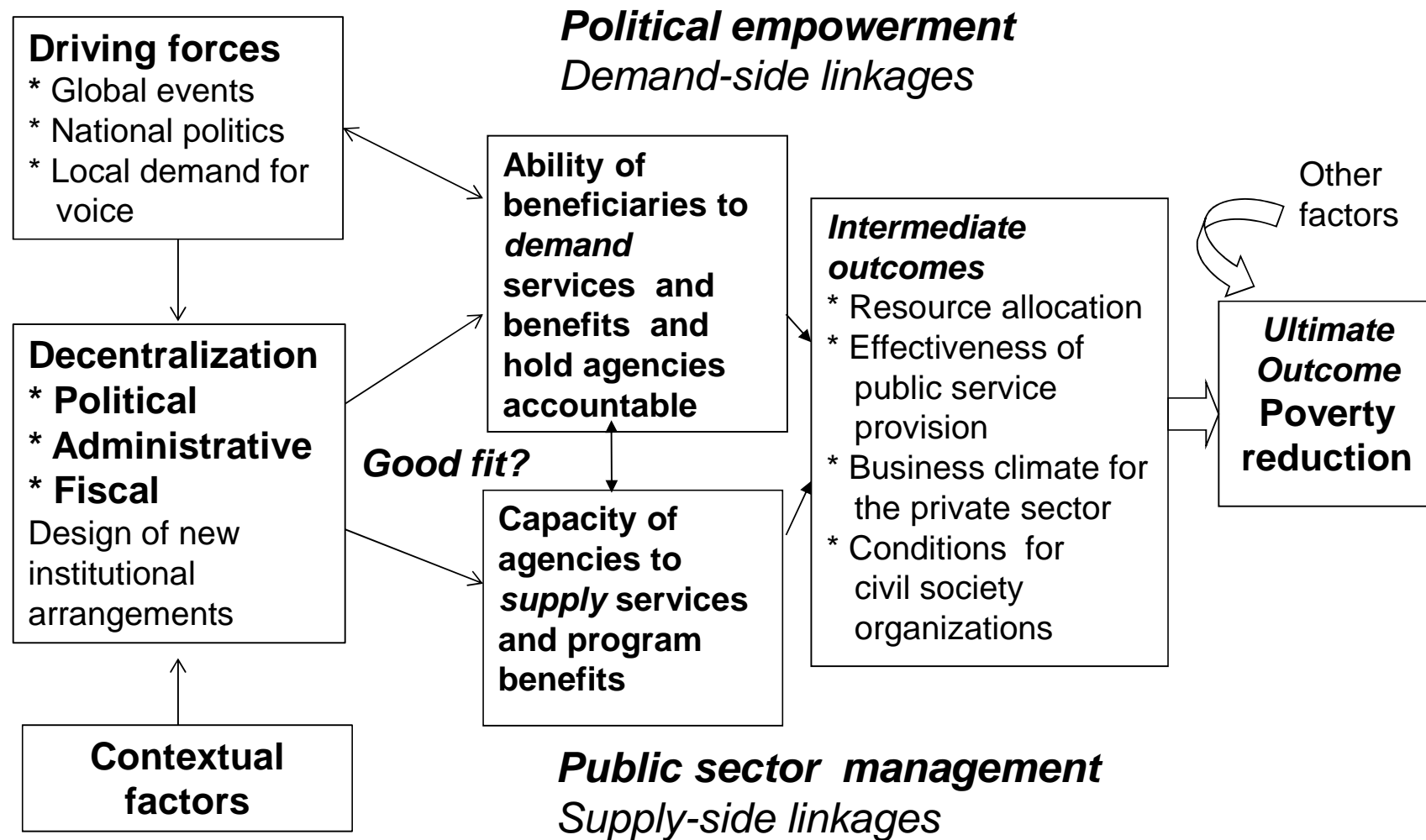
Emphasis on local governance in combination with global rule-making

- Requires well functioning decentralization – fortunately positive world wide trend toward better decentralization
- The three elements of effective decentralization matter for nexus governance:
 1. Administrative decentralization
 2. Political decentralization
 3. Fiscal decentralization

Birner R. and von Braun, J. 2009. Decentralisation and Public service provision-a framework for pro-poor institutional design. In: *Does Decentralisation Enhance Service Delivery and Poverty Reduction?* Ed. Ehtisham Ahmad and Giorgio Brosio. Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, UK. 287-315

von Braun, J., and U. Grote. 2002. Does Decentralization Serve the Poor? In: *Managing Fiscal Decentralization*. Ed. E. Ahmad, and V. Tanzi. London and New York: Routledge -- Taylor and Francis Group.

Supply and demand side linkages in decentralized government services for water, soil, waste



Local elite capture of nexus opportunities ...



**He participates, she participates,
you participate, I decide.**

Water, soil, waste related services need nexus governance

Services:

- Water - availability, access, quality
- Soil - ecosystems services
- Waste – management, and prevention

Decentralized services depend on design- and context-specific factors. Institutional arrangements that work in one situation may not be appropriate for another: **move “from best practice to good fit.”**

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Strategy and Tactics for promoting nexus governance and institutions in water, land and waste

Strategy	Tactics
Involve powerful actors in social groups Global learning but also at local levels	Alliance building with related nexus movements (climate change, energy, agriculture and food)

Strategic orientation for strengthening nexus governance and management related to water, soil, waste

Must not create new bigger, better silos, but be inclusive and flexible accross structures

Direct government-to-government networks may be the most effective mechanisms, rather than intergovernmental or international organizations to act on nexus governance

Some tasks for UNU-Flores: toward strengthening nexus governance and management related to water, soil, waste

- **Institutional effectiveness:**
 - Strengthening WSW ownership and use rights
 - integrating WSW polices
- **Involve consumers and business:**
 - labeling water, soil and waste foot prints
 - Incentive systems for waste prevention and recovery
- **Innovation support:**
 - Sharing innovations especially with developing countries
 - Experimenting with institutional and technical designs
 - Evidence based impact assessments

Way forward with nexus – UNU FLORES can support

- Facilitation of results oriented **connection among key sustainability goals** (effective implementation of MDGs+2015)
- Facilitate **stakeholders' voice and platforms**, (i.e. pre-governance; business and political bodies)
- Nexus **end-game** needs identification and nexus conferencing stream needs coordination for staying on a useful **track**