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Vlaanderen
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MINARRAAD
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An international perspective on water policy

**Jan Verheeke – Secretary, Flemish Environmental and
Nature Council**

STRATEGISCHE
ADVIESRAAD
VOOR HET
BELEIDSDOMEIN
LEEFMILIEU
NATUUR
EN ENERGIE

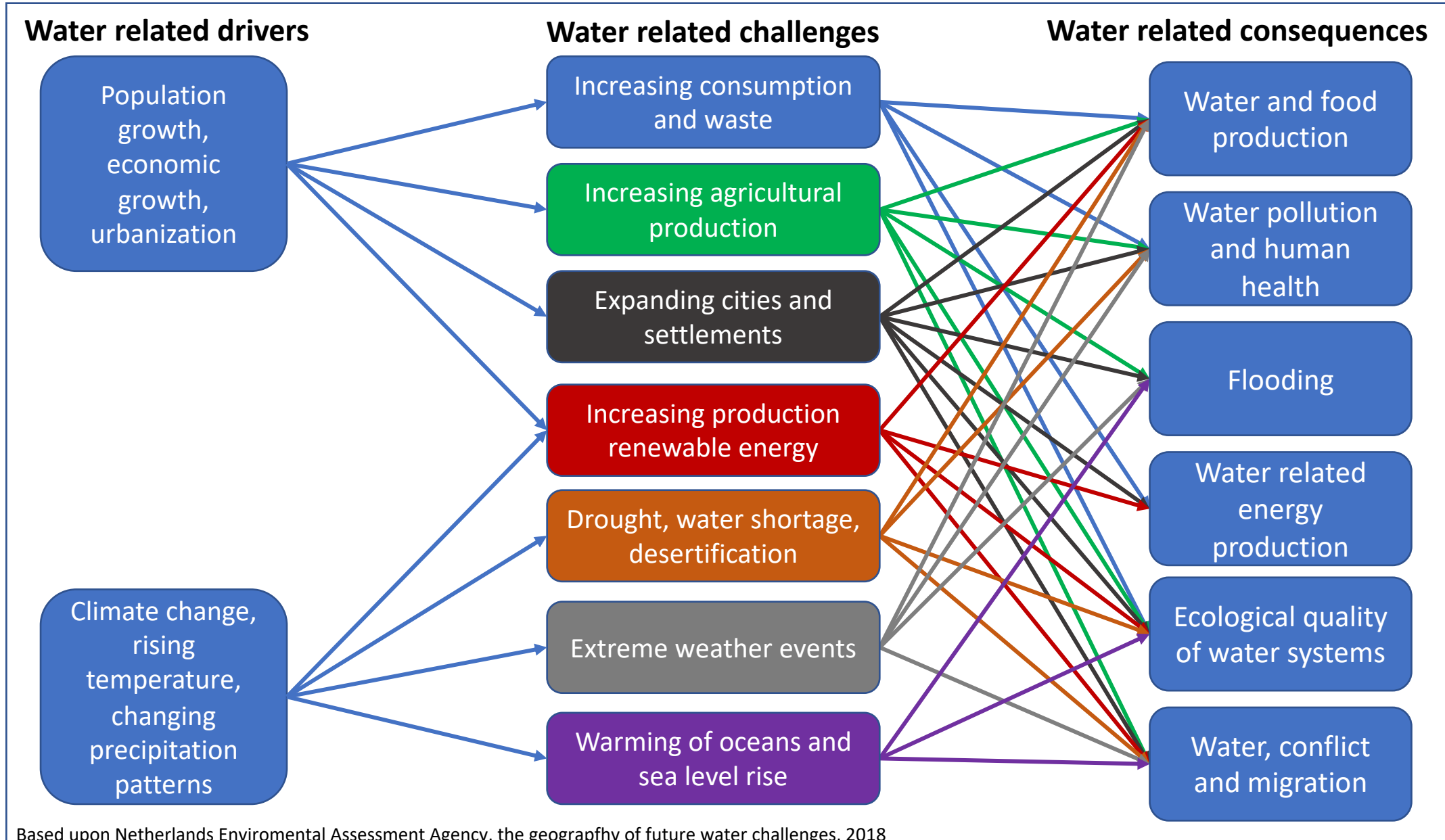


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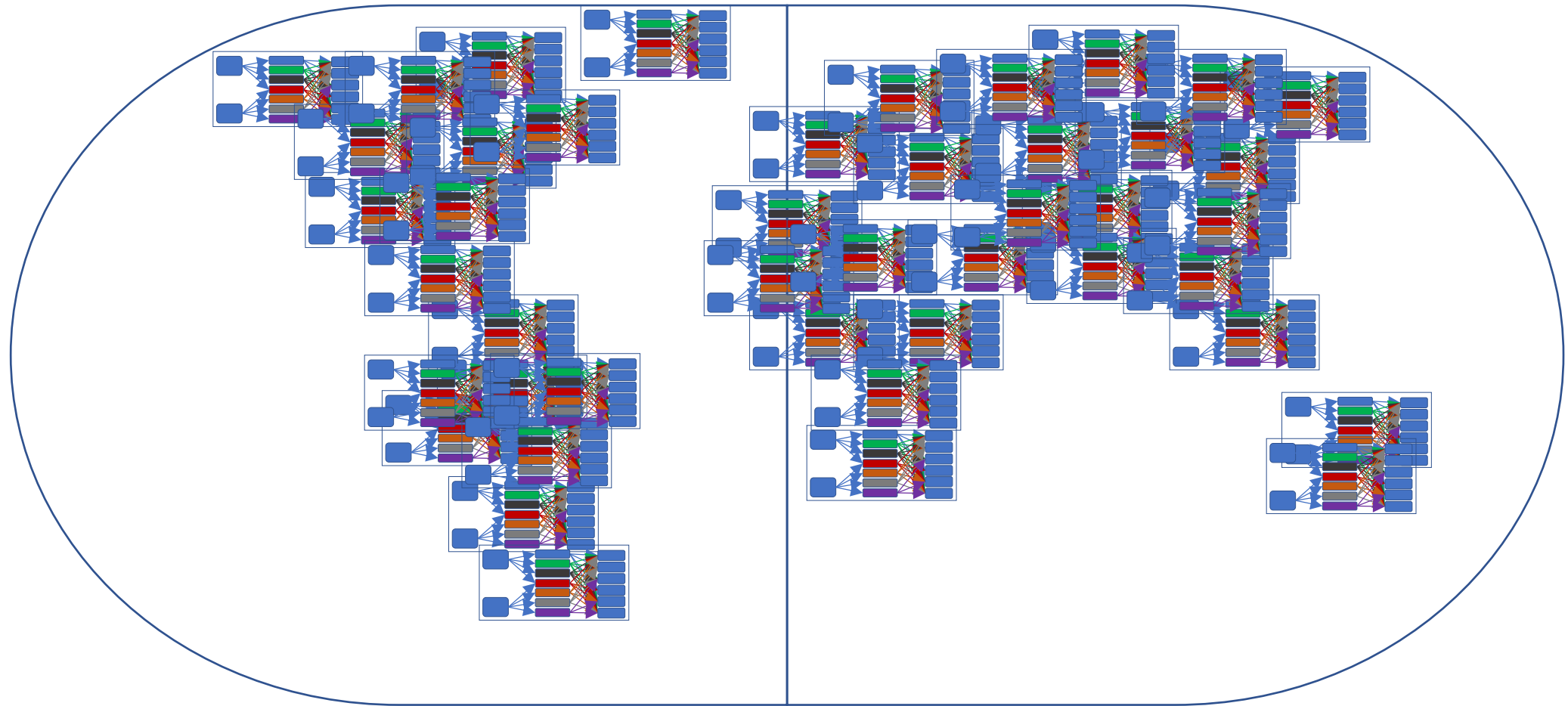


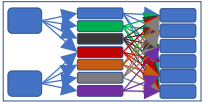
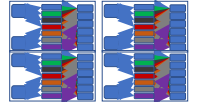
The international water challenge

Challenges, drivers and consequences



Water challenges on different scales



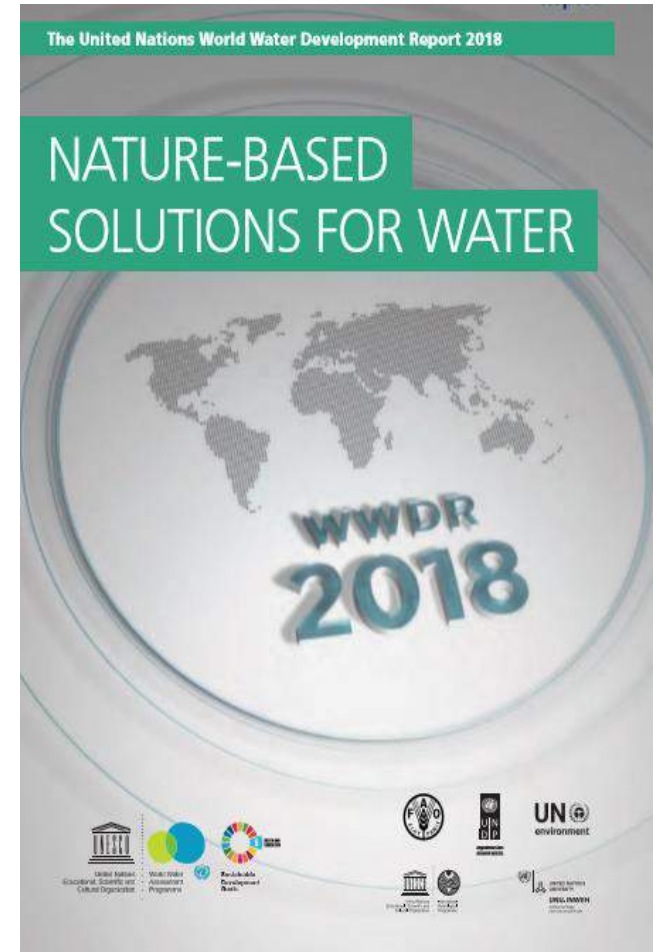
 =  *etc.*

Water in the Sustainable Development Goals



International water policy – “soft policy”

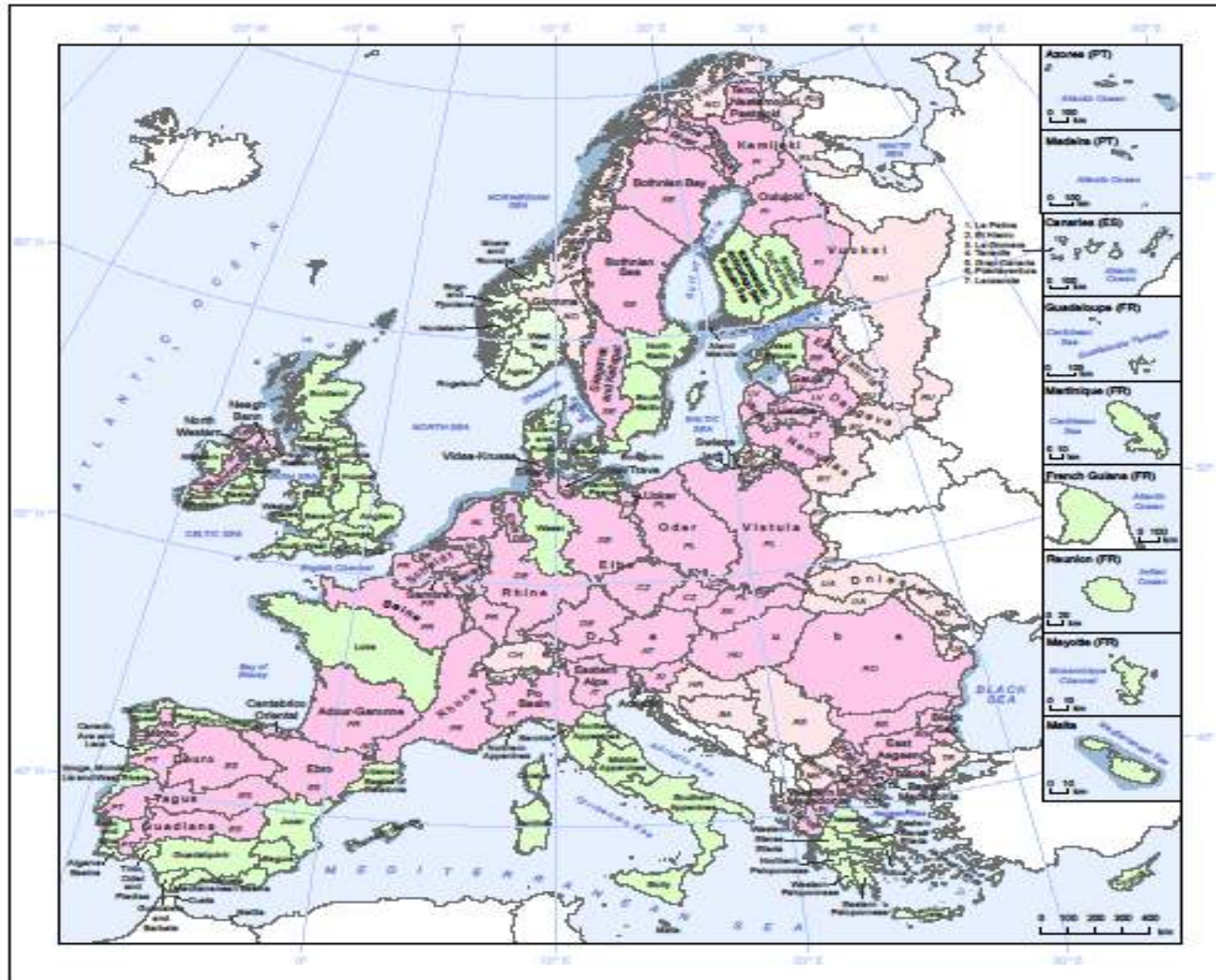
- There is no such thing as an Global Water Agreement, nor an international agreement on “*sustainable water use in the production of goods and services*”.
- The *Paris Agreement*, art. 7, stipulates that adaptation is country-driven.
- *UN-Water* is, in the United Nations, an inter-agency coordination mechanism for freshwater related matters.
- Still, there is the yearly *UNESCO World Water Development Report* is the UN-Water flagship report on water – 2018 on *nature based solutions*.





The Water Framework Directive ... as a framework

A water bodies / water systems approach ...

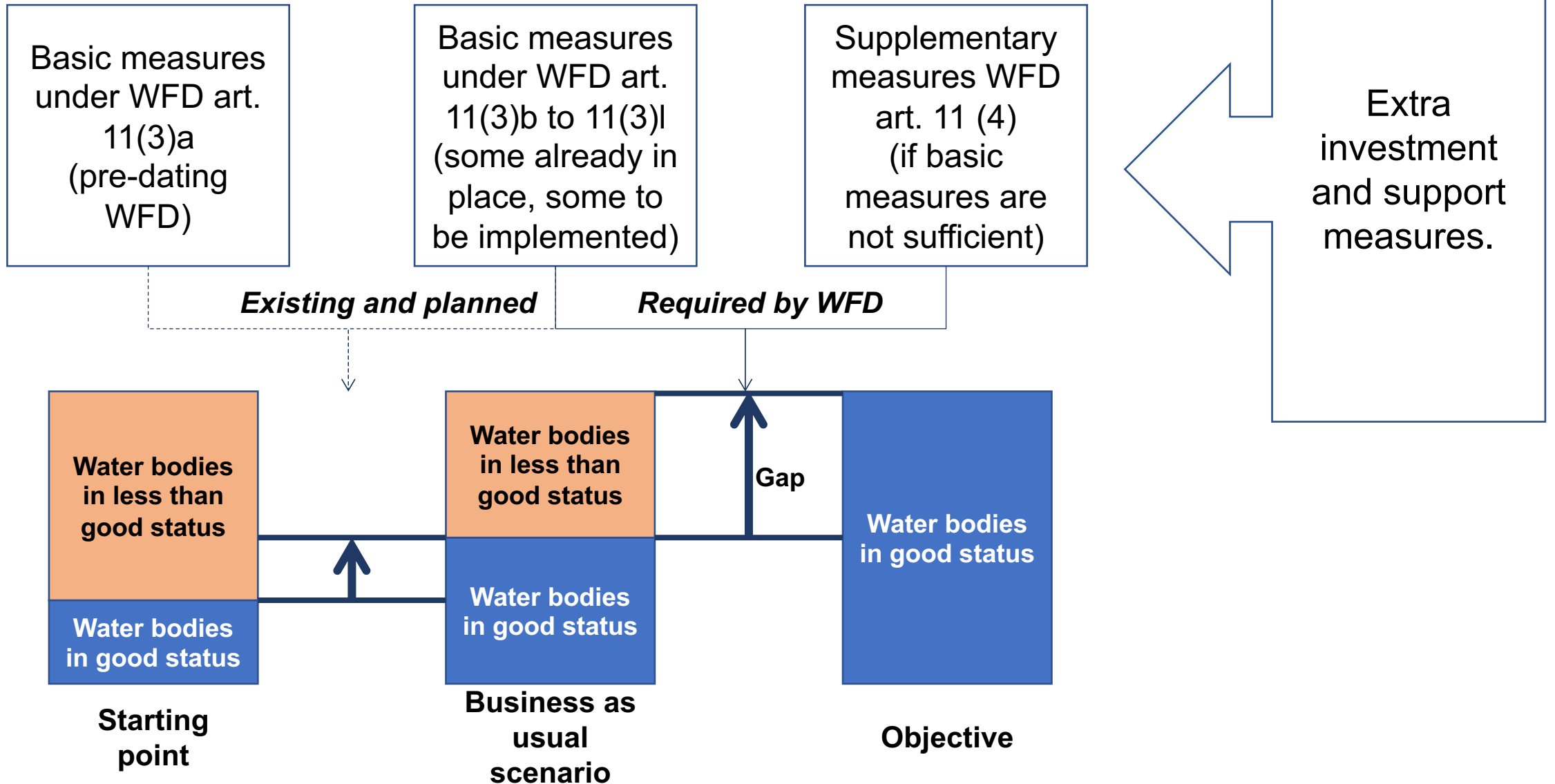


- Systems approach is projected upon river basins and water bodies
- “*Good status*” is essentially the situation whereby the water system and the social systems that depend upon it, are functioning in equilibrium and can remain so in a sustainable way.
- Guidance documents *provide* details ... but *create* details as well.

... a directive of the 3rd generation

1st generation	"Compartmental" water directives	separate directives on surface water, fish water, shellfish water, groundwater on dangerous substances and on measurement methods for fresh water quality
2 nd generation	Pollution abatement water directives	(1) Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, (2) Nitrates Directive, (3) Industrial Emissions Directive, (4) Drinking Water Directive
3 rd generation	Systems oriented water directives	(1) Water Framework Directive, (2) Floods Directive, (3) Marine Strategy Framework Directive, (4) Environmental Quality Standards (Priority Substances) Directive

Programmes of measures



The WFD – a partial success

OUTPUT

- Common implementation strategy
- River basin districts
- Competent authorities
- River basin management plans (RBMP)
- Programs of measures
- Monitoring programs
- Subsequently: Flood Risk management plans (FRMP)

OUTCOME ± 2015

	Number of member states	Number of water bodies	good status or potential 2009 (%)	good status or potential 2015 (%)	Progress 2009-2015 in %
Ecological status of surface waters	21 (*)	82.684	42 %	52 %	10 %
Quantitative status of groundwater	24 (***)	12.022 (5.197)	89 % (85)	96 % (92)	7 % (7)
Chemical status of groundwater	24 (****)	12.022 (5.197)	83 % (68)	89 % (77)	6 % (9)



Co-operating for water

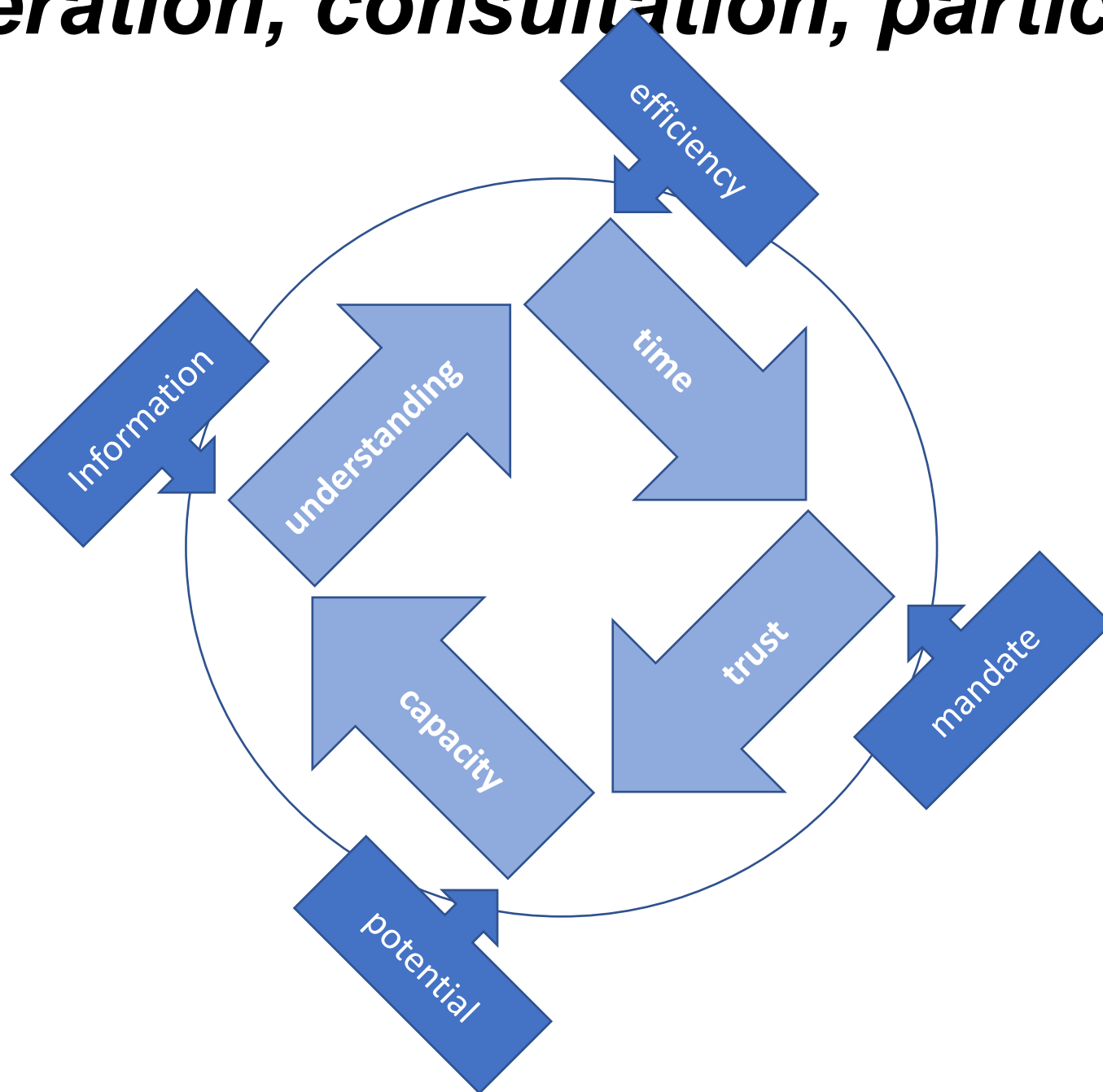
Water systems as economic goods

	Rival usage or consumption	Non rival usage or consumption
Users are excludable / good can be exclusive	<p><i>Surfaces and soils</i> / <i>Specific water quantities</i></p>	<p><i>Water structures</i></p>
No excludability	<p><i>Water systems</i></p>	<p><i>Services from water systems</i></p>

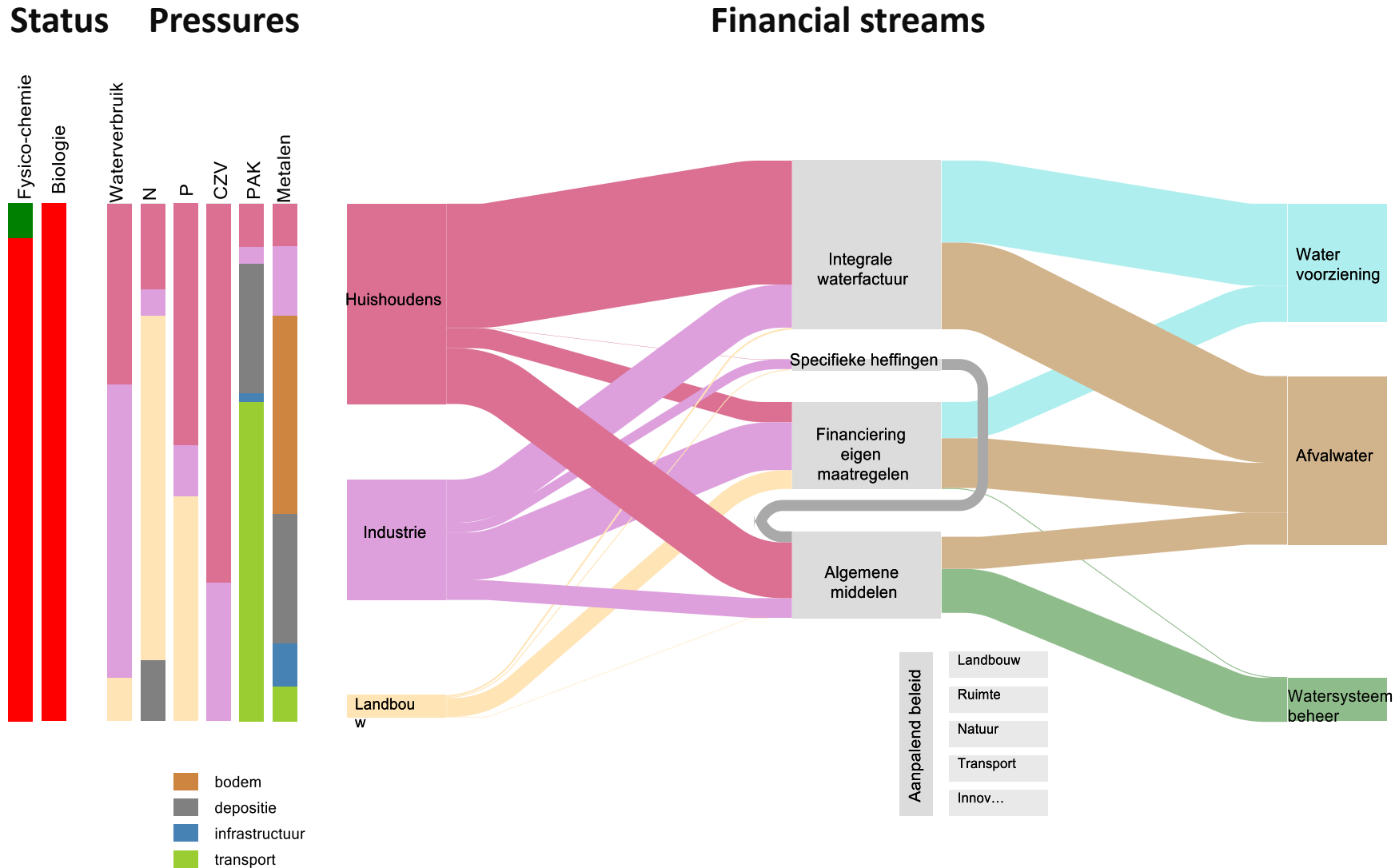


*“Build resilience against droughts (and water scarcity) by enhancing **infiltration and water retention capacity of landscapes** in regions of strategic importance for drinking water production. ... **Restoring and developing blue-green structures** in landscapes improves the hydrological resilience to droughts and floods, provides substantial climate mitigation **benefits** and benefits biodiversity.”*

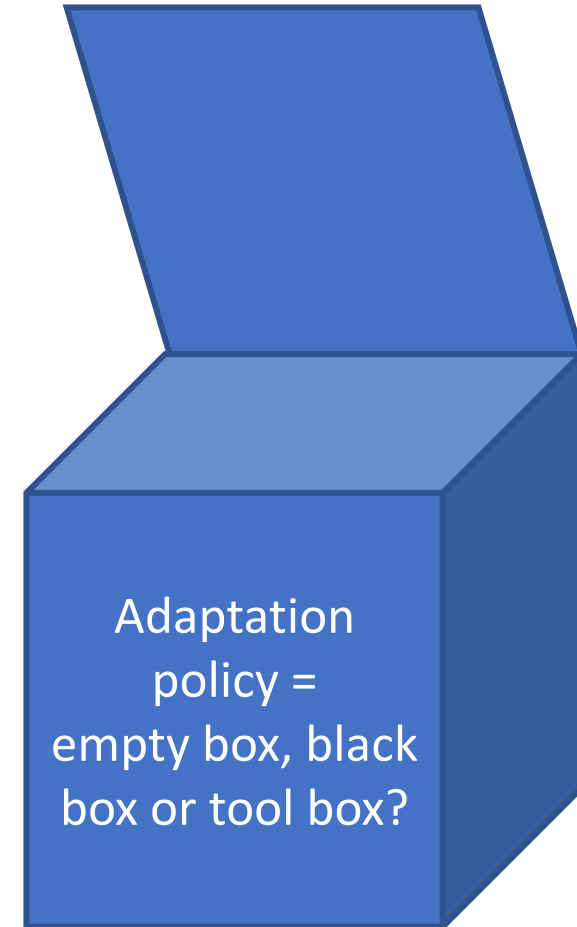
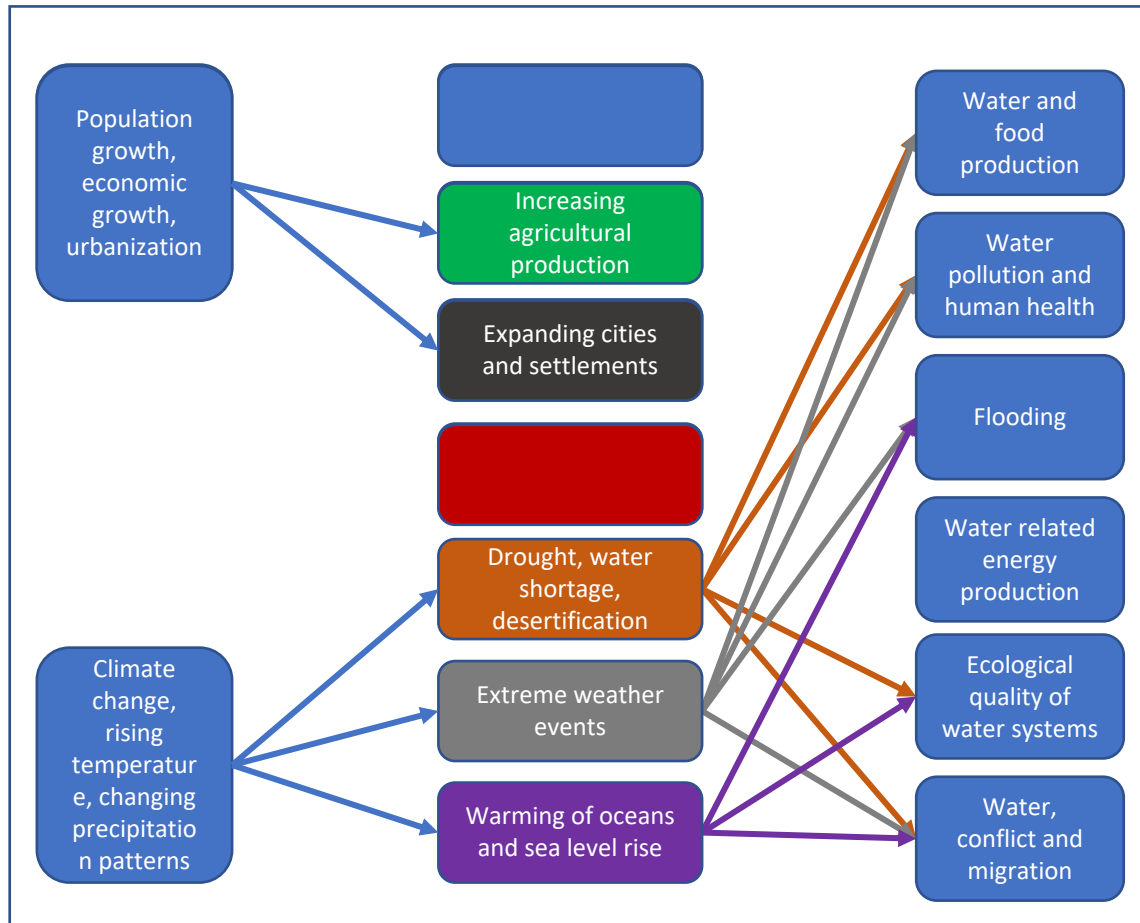
Co-operation, consultation, participation



State of the debate in Flanders: finance



State of the debate in Flanders: adaptation





Conclusions

- **The international challenges being what they are, most action will be local, regional and/or water-body oriented.**
- **The Water Framework Directive provides in a framework for the many policies that relate to the water challenge.**
- **Water services (the provision, usage and disposal of water) and water systems are, from the point of view of economic analysis, not really clear-cut goods.**
- **The challenge is to construct the appropriate willingness-to-pay or -to-invest and fitting management structures.**
- **Only with feasible projects, and with proper consultation and/or participation ... we'll be able to tackle the challenges.**