Integrating Environmental Sustainability in WASH Practice

Wetlands International's approach

Nature Based Solutions, World Water Week, 1 September 2013
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Our engagement with WASH

- Shifted from conceptual to practical:
  - Conceptual development with WASH and conservation organisations
  - Publication on Wetlands & WASH
  - Partner in Dutch WASH Alliance Programme www.washalliance.nl
- Highlighting:
  - Our context & thinking on collaboration
  - Examples from on-the-ground work
  - Case of influencing a multi-partner implementation programme
  - Lessons learned & way forward

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Evolving partnership approach

Operational & institutional aspects

and

conceptual & technical

Changing WASH focused organisation culture is more than showing a conceptual approach

It is also about changing the way problem analysis are formulated and responding to it

Very fundamental institutional changes that have major implications for staff capacity and the partnerships to work in

A mission **POSSIBLE**

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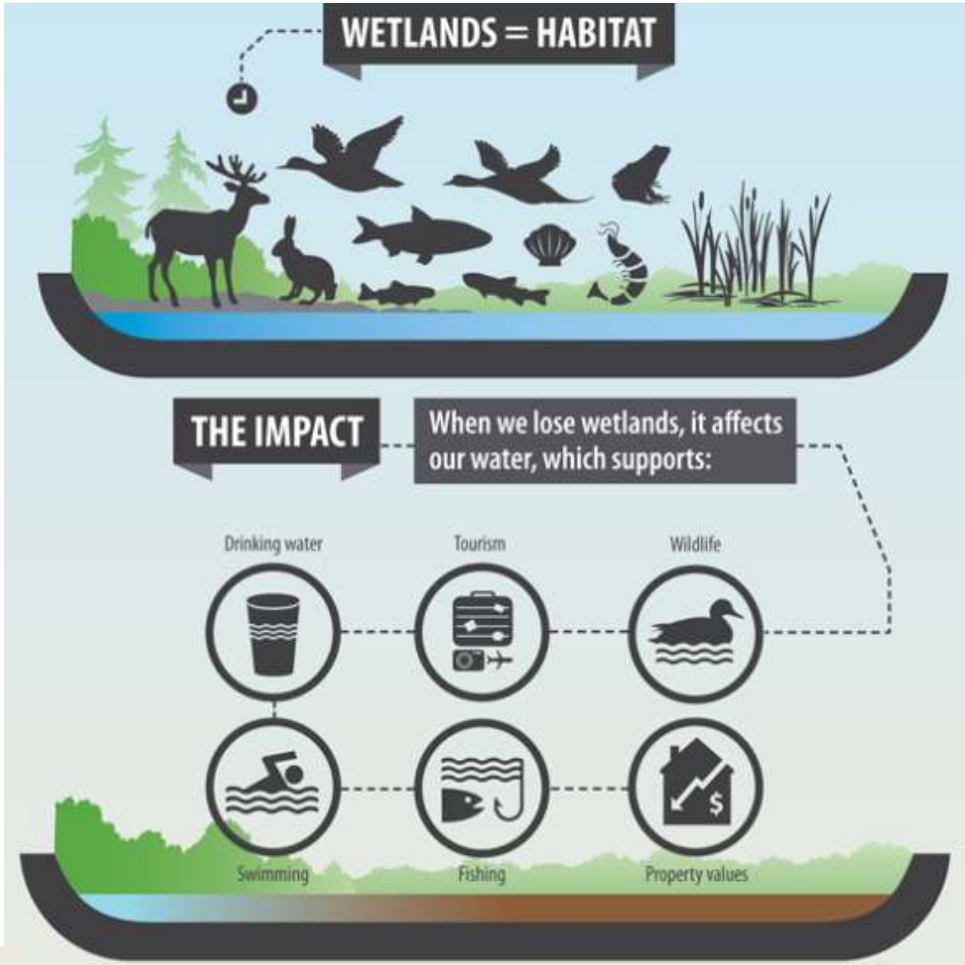
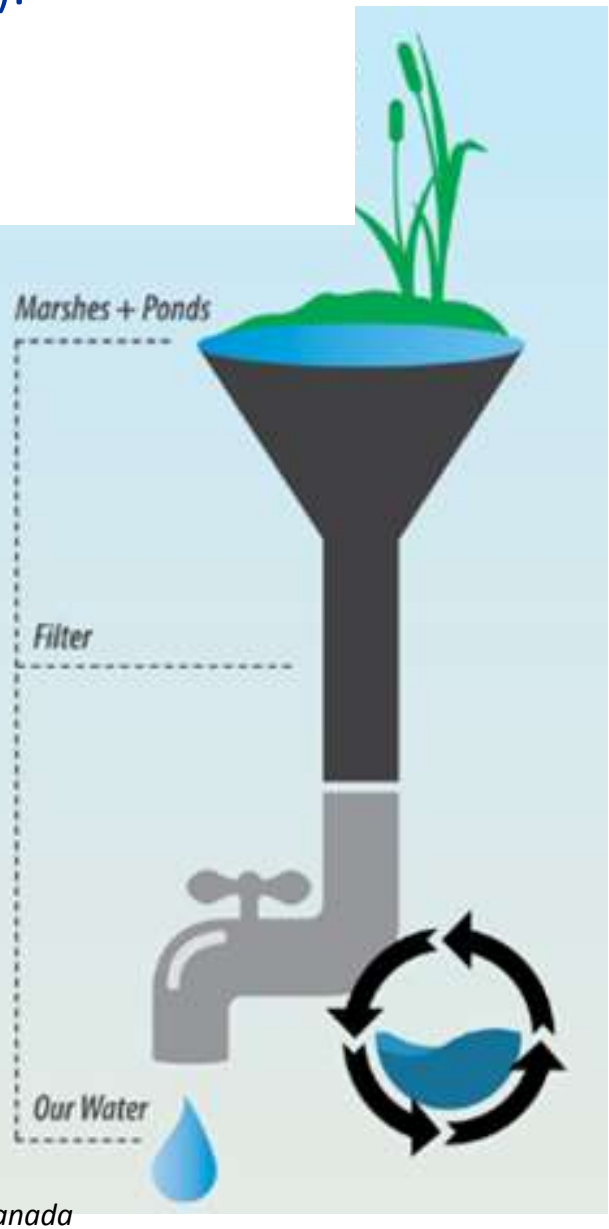
Wetlands as natural solutions for managing water

Link to WASH (relies on water and impacts water):

1. Water source
2. Sink function
3. Ecosystem services for survival





Infographic 'The truth about freshwater", produced by Ducks Unlimited Canada

What we do with partners

Landscape-specific approach understanding WASH related risks and benefits

+

Community / household approach on WASH

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What does this look like - Mali

Inner Niger Delta:

- Multi-partner research & knowledge development programme
- Analysis of water management options by communities
- Scenario analysis

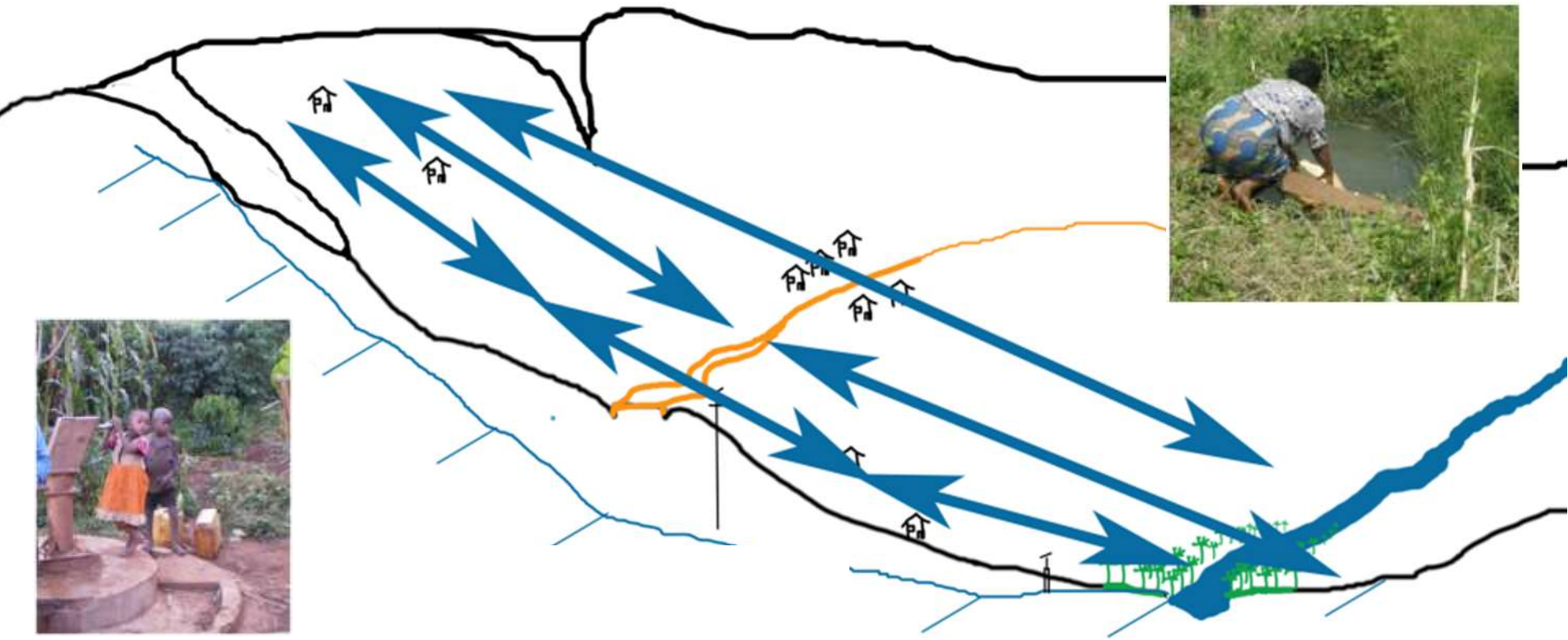
➢ Knowledgeable communities claiming specific options

What does this look like – Uganda

Rwambu catchment, Rwenzori Region:

- 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



What does this look like – India

Loktak Lake, Manipur Delta:

- Inclusive IWRM planning: ensuring WASH for wetland dependant communities as one of core actions in Loktak management plan

➢ Advice on WASH implementation at right locations in landscape in line with community expressed needs

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Influencing Dutch WASH Alliance (DWA)

- DGIS funded / € 45 million / 2011-2015 / 25% own funding
- 6 WASH organisations / 8 countries / 6 thematic partners

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

- Direct poverty alleviation, CSO strengthening, policy influencing
- Full sustainability approach: 'FIETS'
- Technical Leadership on Environmental Sustainability (= E)
- Influcencing WASH provider thinking and approaches

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What does this look like – DWA

FACTSHEETS ON E: DEVELOPED WITH DWA PARTNERS

Results so far of DWA effort

- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs is using sustainability model FIETS to judge proposals for the Sustainable Water Fund (150 million euro)
- Catchment assessments are at the basis of WASH intervention planning in both Malian and Ugandan sites
- AMREF - one of Africa's largest international health development NGOs – committed to reflect ecosystem services within its WASH Strategy.
- Environmental sustainable thinking is increasingly mainstreamed in tools, guidelines and communication;
- Joint initiatives are under development, e.g. "One hundred wetlands" proposal by AMREF, RAIN, WI and Ugandan NGO's.

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Lessons learned on inter-sectoral engagement

- WASH organisations are concerned with local scale interventions.
- Ecosystem services posing opportunities & risks to WASH must be assessed at the **landscape scale** and at the **beginning**.
- Process of co-creation regarding definition, vision, approaches, tools and activities.
- Develop information material and tools tailored to specific context of collaboration.
- Invest in the most interested organisations / lead thinkers
- Be willing and flexible to adjust along the way and at the same time fall back on the co-created ambition and hold each other accountable for this.
- Behaviour change is achieved through partnership; it requires a significant investment of time, institutional commitment and is incremental

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Way forward and how to support

- Seeking allies to scale up our work
- Modular capacity building tool
- Video in the making to inspire allies – looking for feedback
- Get further in touch with anyone interested to support

Invitation to follow-up with us during World Water Week:

Monday 2 September 09:00-12:00
Room M 20; located beside Hall B (Exhibition Area)
Chris Baker, Bakary Kone & Susanne Boom
Free coffee available ☺

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