



# Investing in Nature 投资自然

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IWRA Conference, Beijing, September 2023



**Ecological Integrity**  
生态完整性

Photo: © Nick Hall

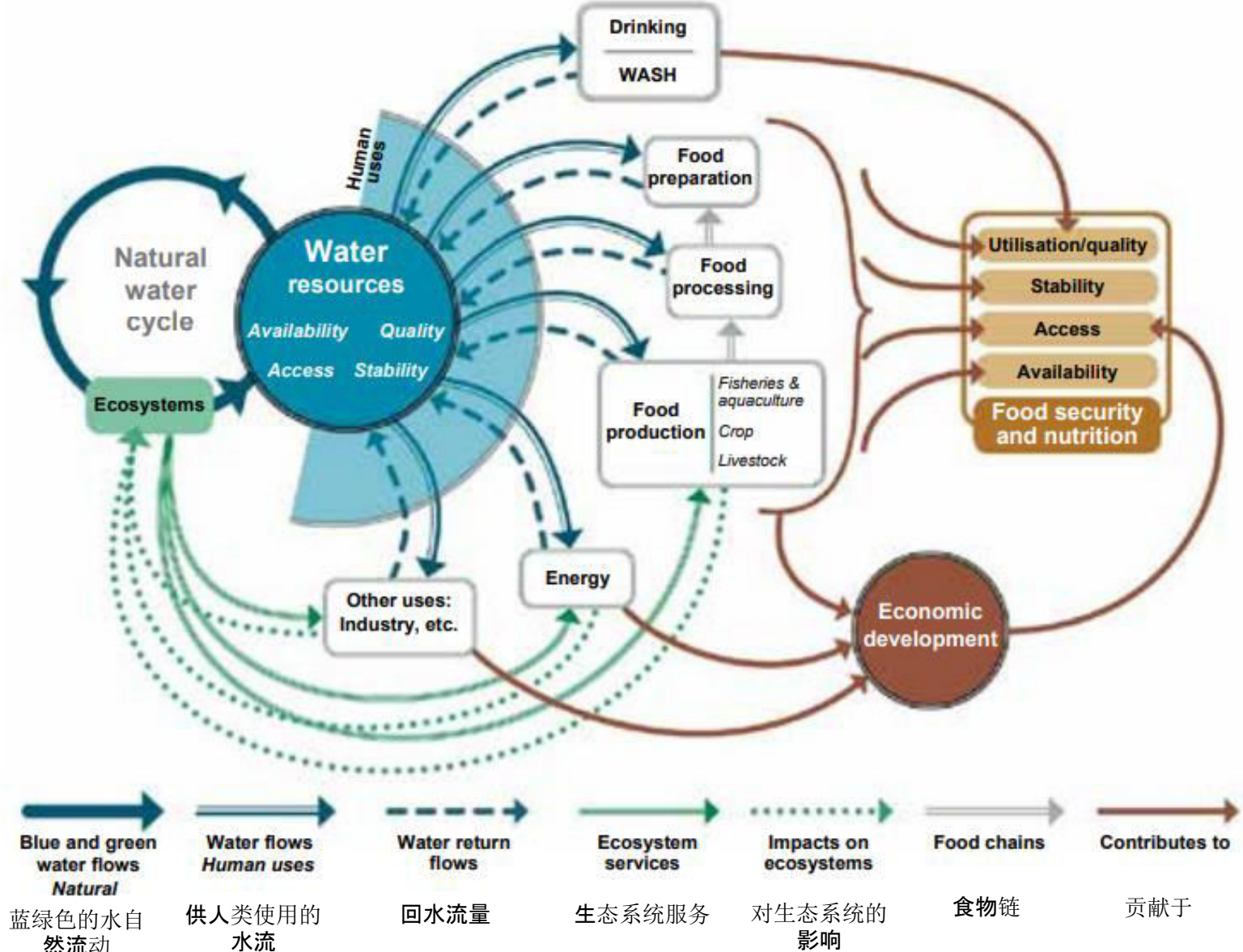


**Water Security**  
水安全

Photo: © Ami Vitale

# Ecological Systems Sustain Water Systems

## 生态系统维持水系统



Source: The What, How and Why of the World Water Crisis, 2023, Global Commission on the Economics of Water



**40%**  
watersheds  
degraded

40%  
的流域已退化




**37%**  
of rivers remain  
free-flowing

37%  
的河流自由流淌



**32%**  
of watersheds  
suffer severe  
water shortages

32%  
的流域严重缺水

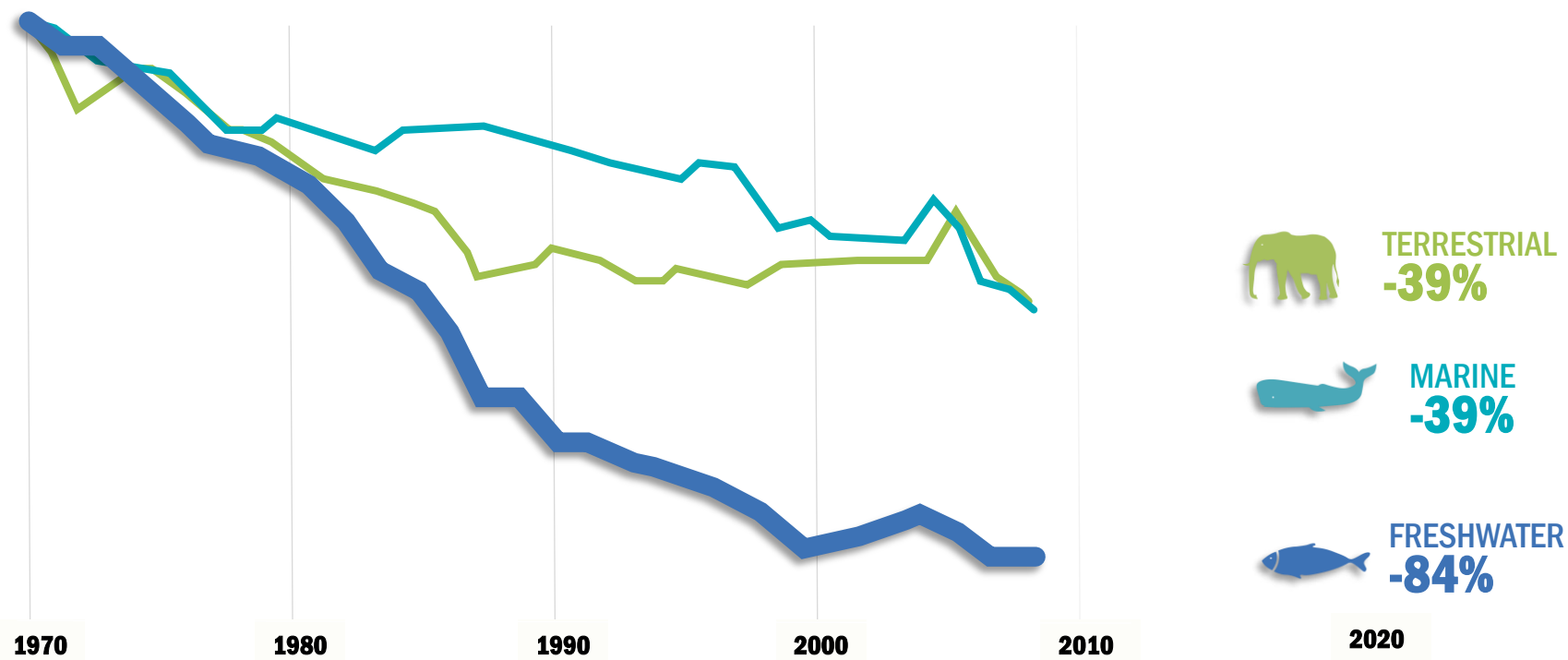


**87%**  
of global wetlands  
have been lost in  
the past 300 years

在过去300年中  
全球87%的湿地已  
经消失

# Freshwater Biodiversity Population Decline is Greater than other Biomes

## 淡水生物多样性种群下降幅度大于其他生物



Source: WWF, Living Planet Index – D, 2014

# We envision that water systems can be managed to be regenerative and restorative to nature 我们设想可以对水系统进行管理，使其再生并恢复自然

## The challenges



## What we strive for



# Examples of nature-based solutions (NBS)

## 基于自然的水质解决方案（NBS）示例

Agricultural best practices  
农业最佳实践



Forest and grassland protection and management  
森林与草地的保护与管理



River and riparian corridor protection and management  
河流和河岸走廊的保护和管理



Protection and restoration of wetlands  
保护和恢复湿地



Urban green infrastructure and storm water management  
城市绿色基础设施和雨水管理



# State of knowledge regarding the efficacy of NBS

## 关于NBS效用的知识状况

WATER SECURITY CHALLENGE	WATER AVAILABILITY		DISASTER RISK	WATER QUALITY		Potential for multiple co-benefits
	Dry season flows	Groundwater recharge	Flood risk	Erosion & sediment	Nutrients & pollutants	
<b>Protection</b>						
1 Targeted habitat protection	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	High
<b>Restoration</b>						
2 Revegetation	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	High
3 Riparian restoration	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	Medium
4 Wetlands restoration	✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	High
5 Floodplain restoration	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	High
<b>Management</b>						
6 Agricultural BMPs		✓		✓✓	✓✓	Medium
7 Ranching BMPs	✓	✓		✓	✓	Medium
8 Forestry BMPs	✓			✓	✓	High
9 Fire Management			✓✓	✓✓	✓	High
<b>Created Habitats</b>						
10 Artificial wetlands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	Low
11 Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	Low

LEGEND	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Magnitude of water security benefit			
Depth of evidence		✓	✓✓
Potential for multiple co-benefits			



# NBS to improve water quality: a global opportunity

## NBS改善水质：全球机遇

- **1000 cities** could generate a positive ROI  
1000个城市可以产生正投资回报率
- Half of all cities for **less than \$2/person/year**  
一半城市的人均年收入低于2美元

### How can nature help?

The lands around our water sources serve as vital infrastructure that can meaningfully improve water quality and quantity for cities worldwide

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LARGE CITIES\*



can improve water quality through upstream forest protection, reforestation and improved agricultural practices.\*\*

\*Large cities includes the data set of 4,000 cities with populations greater than 100,000 that were part of The Nature Conservancy's research conducted for the Beyond the Source report. \*\*This result represents only operating and maintenance costs.

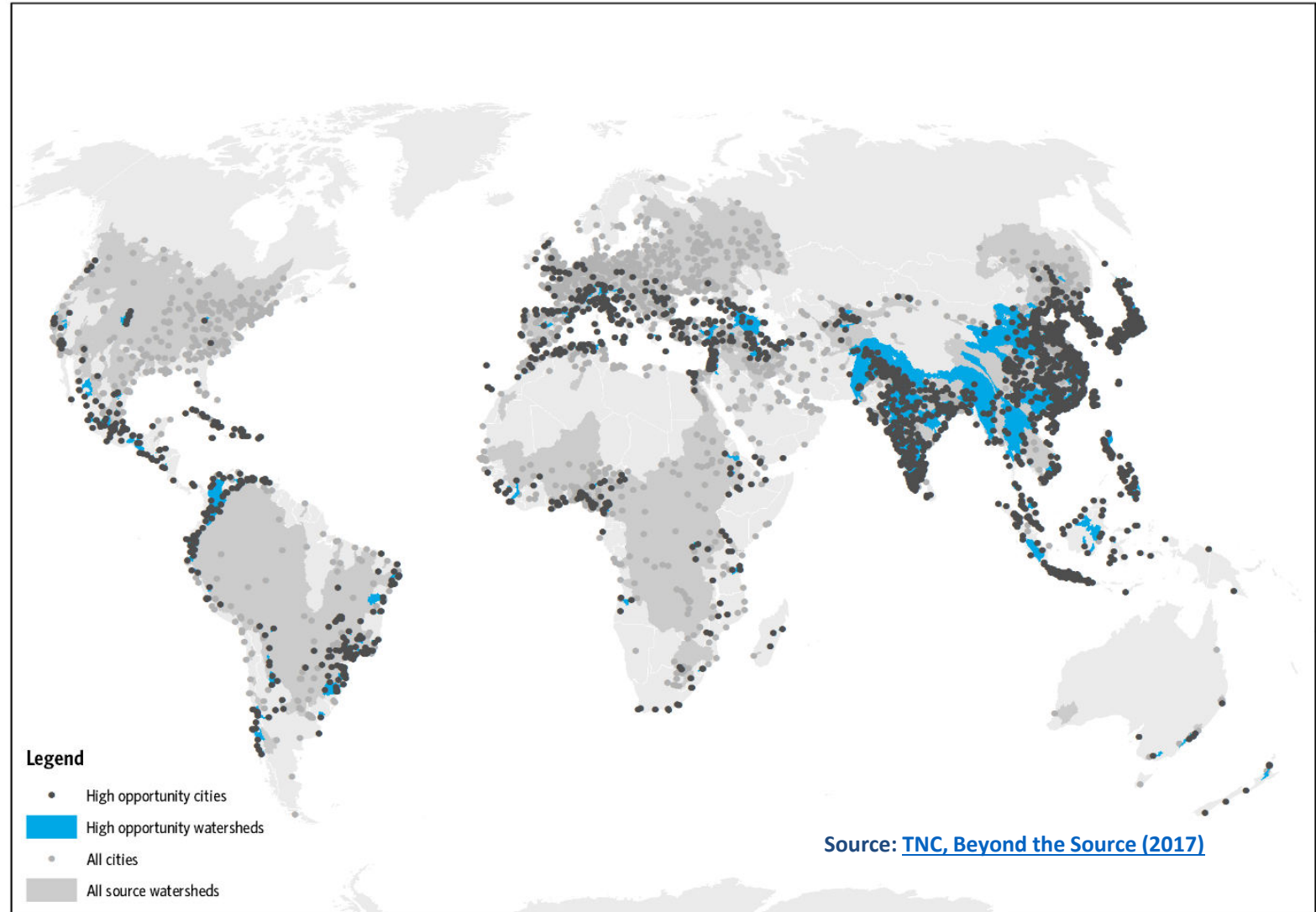
# 1/6

LARGE CITIES\*



can pay for natural solutions through savings in water treatment alone.\*\*

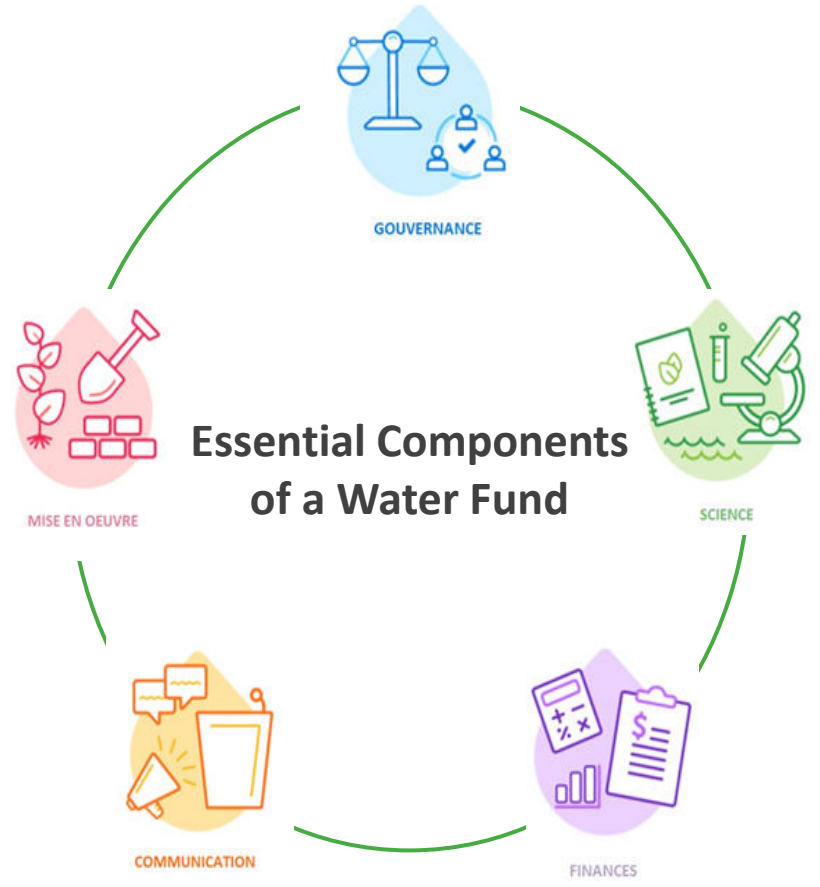
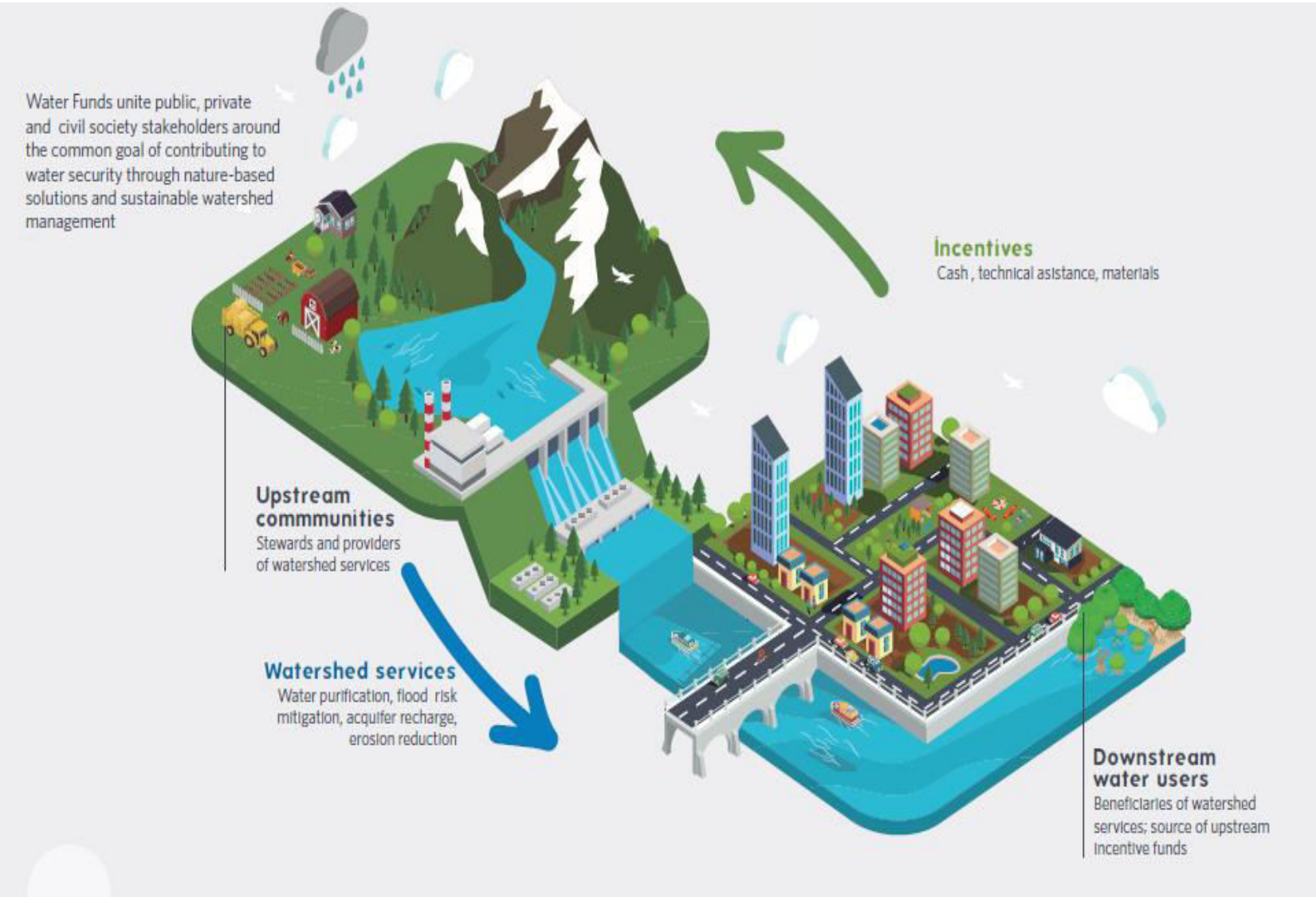
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## Challenges 挑战

- Lack of clarity regarding costs and benefits of NBS relative to other investments  
与其他投资相比，NBS的成本和收益不明确
- Lack of ability to work beyond jurisdictional boundaries, or to create collective action  
缺乏超越管辖范围开展工作或采取集体行动的能力
- Lack of data and evidence of impact  
缺乏影响的数据和证据
- Lack of enabling policies or at least, the absence of policy barriers  
缺乏扶持政策，或者至少没有政策障碍

# Water Funds are location specific mechanisms to deliver Nature-based Solutions



**Cape Town | Unique Biodiversity is Threatened by Alien Plant Invasions**  
**开普敦 | 独特的生物多样性受到外来植物入侵的威胁**



# Cape Town | 55 Billion Liters of Water a Year is Lost to Alien Plant Invasion

## 开普敦 | 外来植物入侵导致每年损失550亿升水

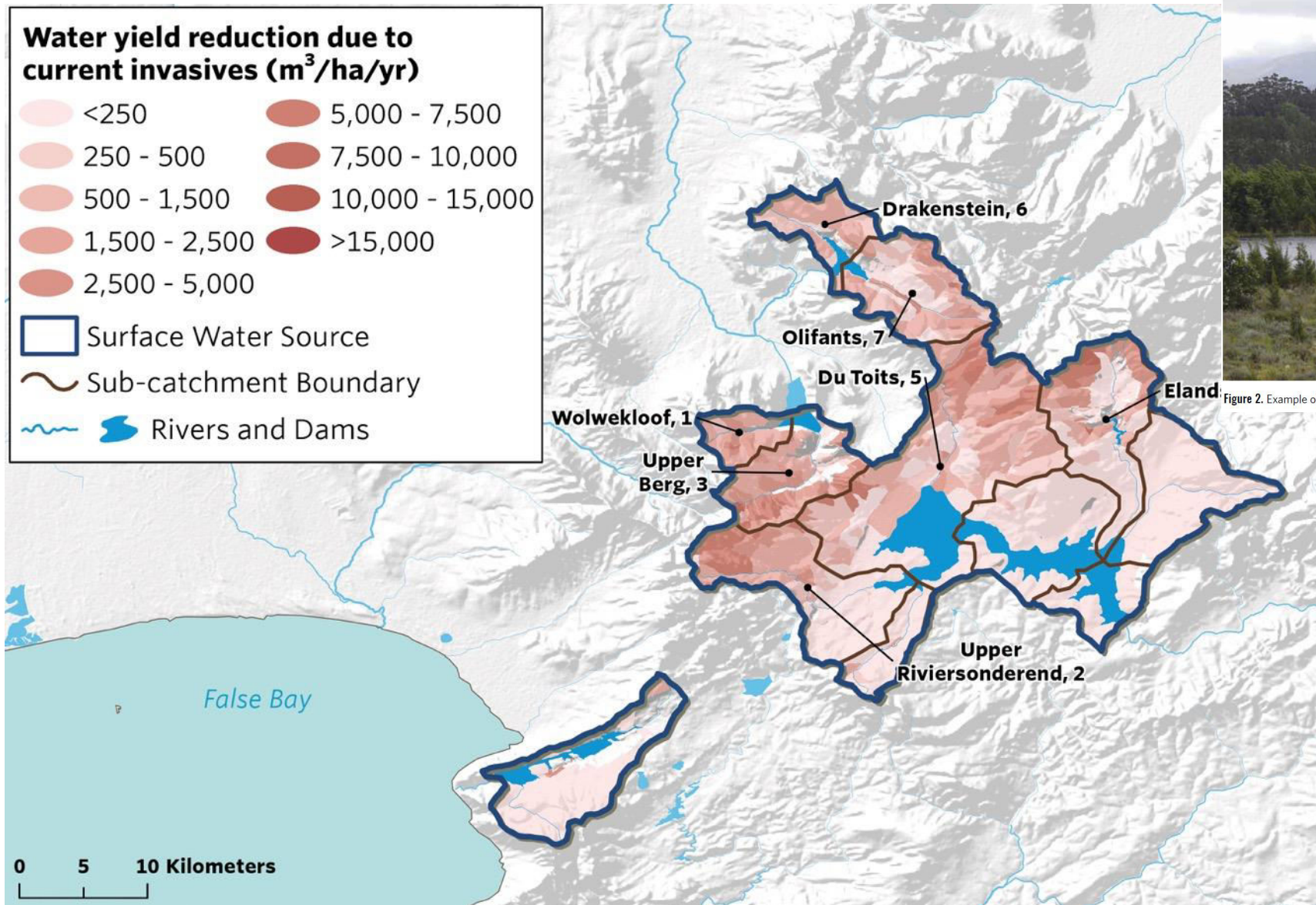


Figure 2. Example of black wattle tree invasion by Theewaterskloof dam.

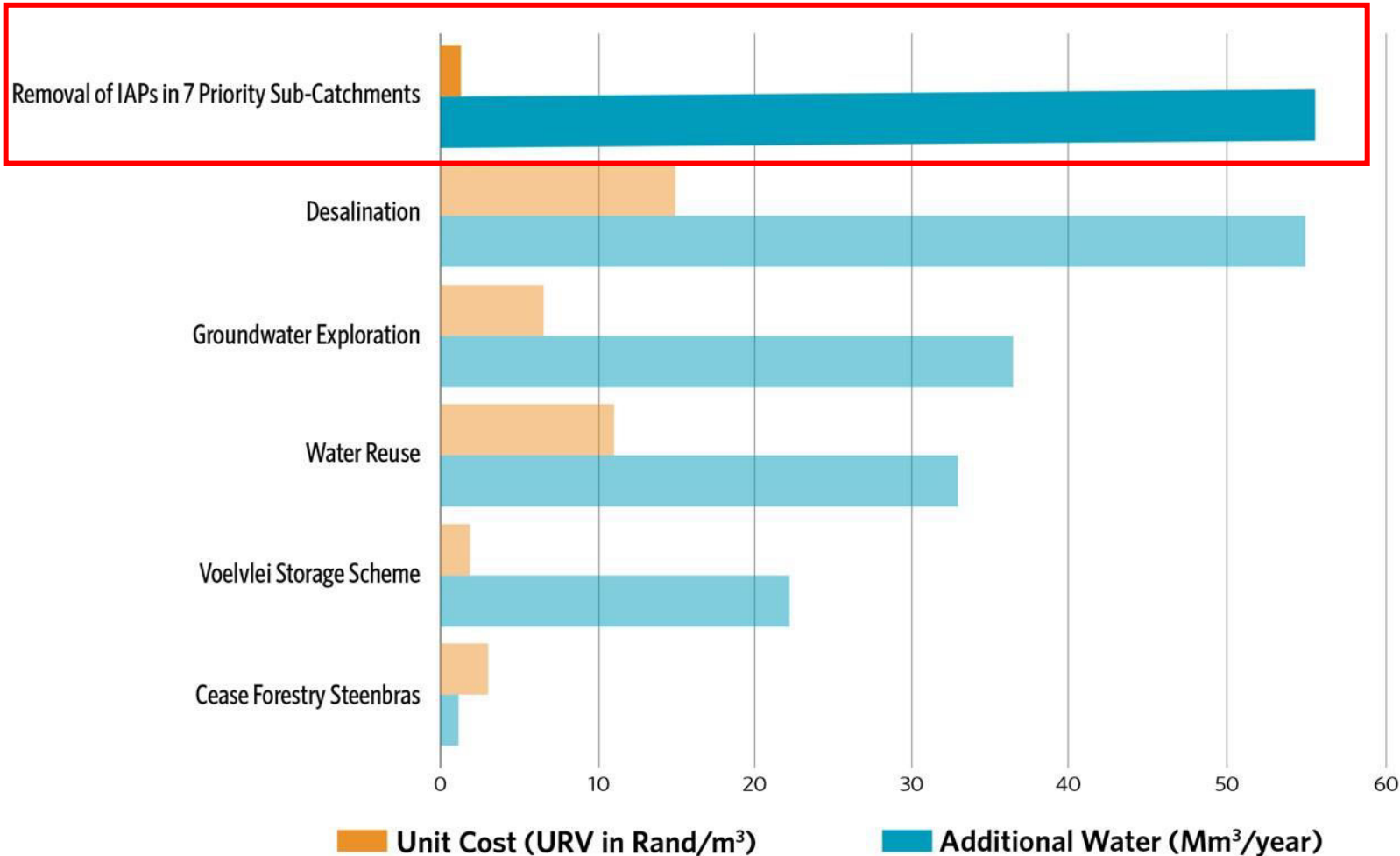


Two-Thirds of Sub-Catchments are Invaded by Alien Plants

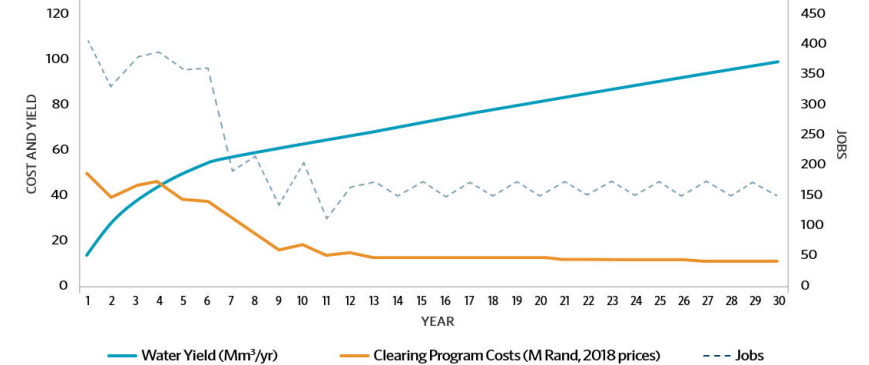
# Cape Town | Catchment Restoration Supplies Water at One-Tenth the Cost

## 开普敦 | 恢复集水区，并以十分之一的成本供水

### CATCHMENT RESTORATION INCREASES WATER SUPPLY AT THE LOWEST UNIT COST



Timeline of Annual Costs, Water Yield Benefits, and Jobs Created



# Qiandao Lake| Regenerative Practices to Maintain Balance



Photo: 方立贵

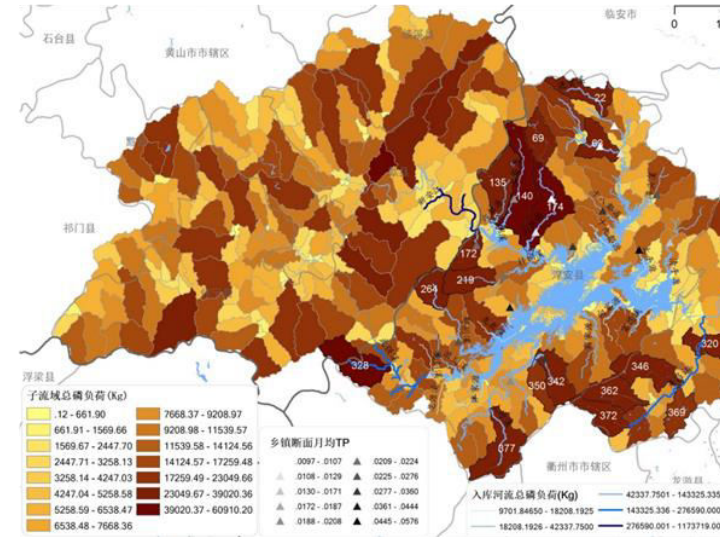
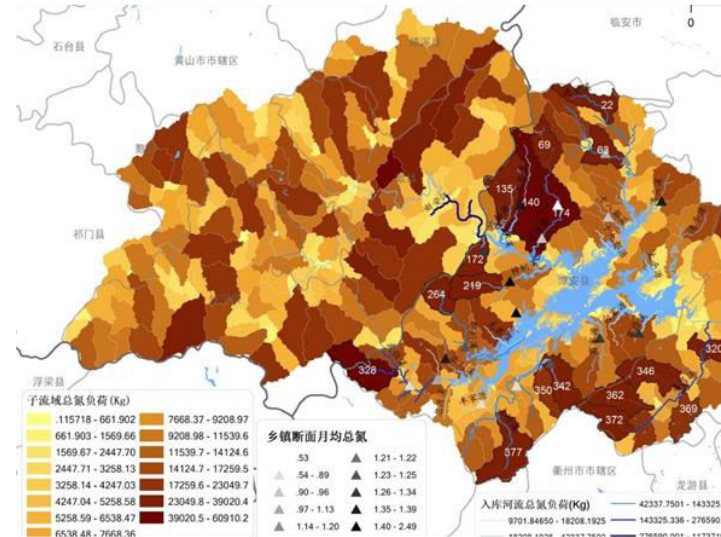
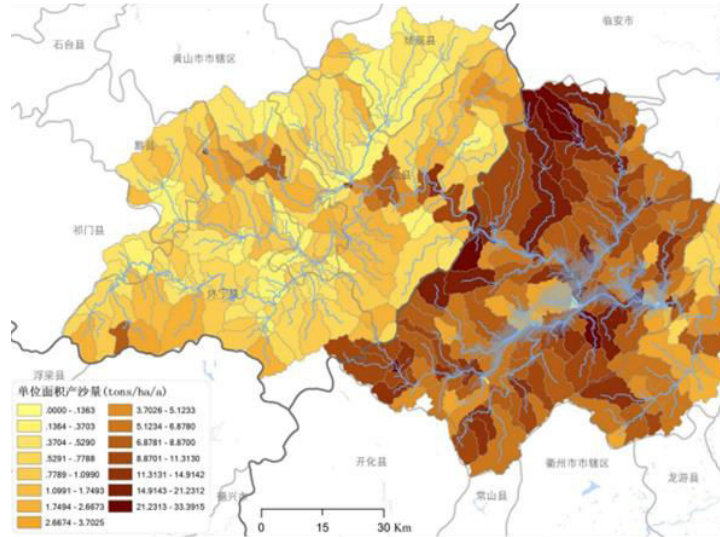
# Zhejiang Qiandao Lake (China): Nonpoint source pollution threatens water source quality

## 浙江千岛湖：面源污染威胁水源质量

Qiandao Lake Sub-basin sediment yield in unit area

Qiandao Lake Sub-basin Nitrogen load

Qiandao Lake Sub-basin Phosphorus load



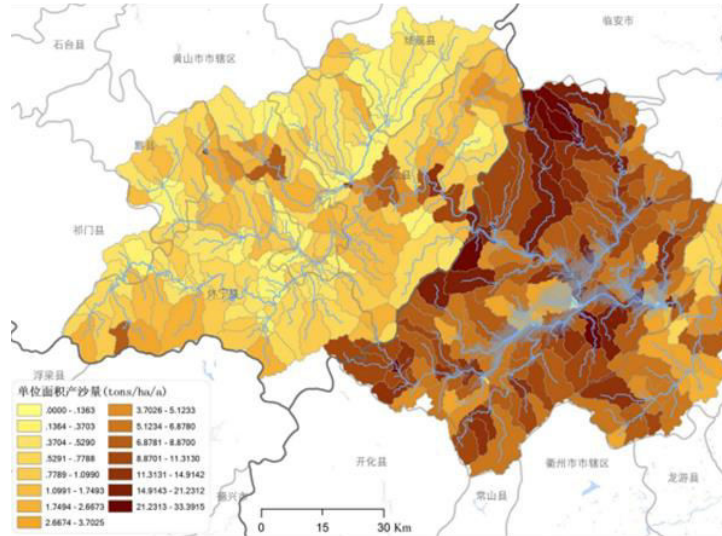
Watershed Analysis conducted by the World Bank and TNC  
由世界银行和TNC进行的流域分析



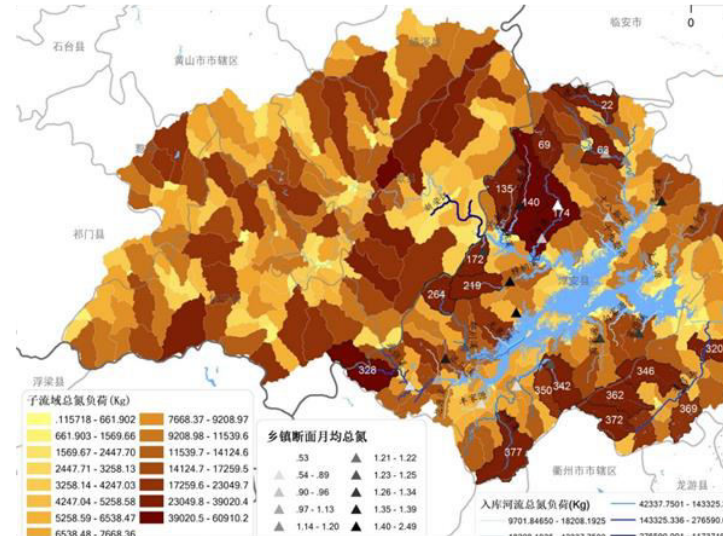
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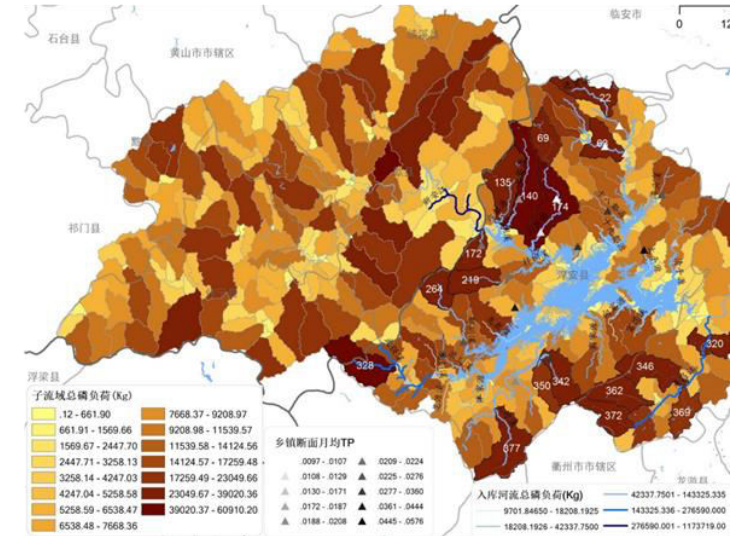
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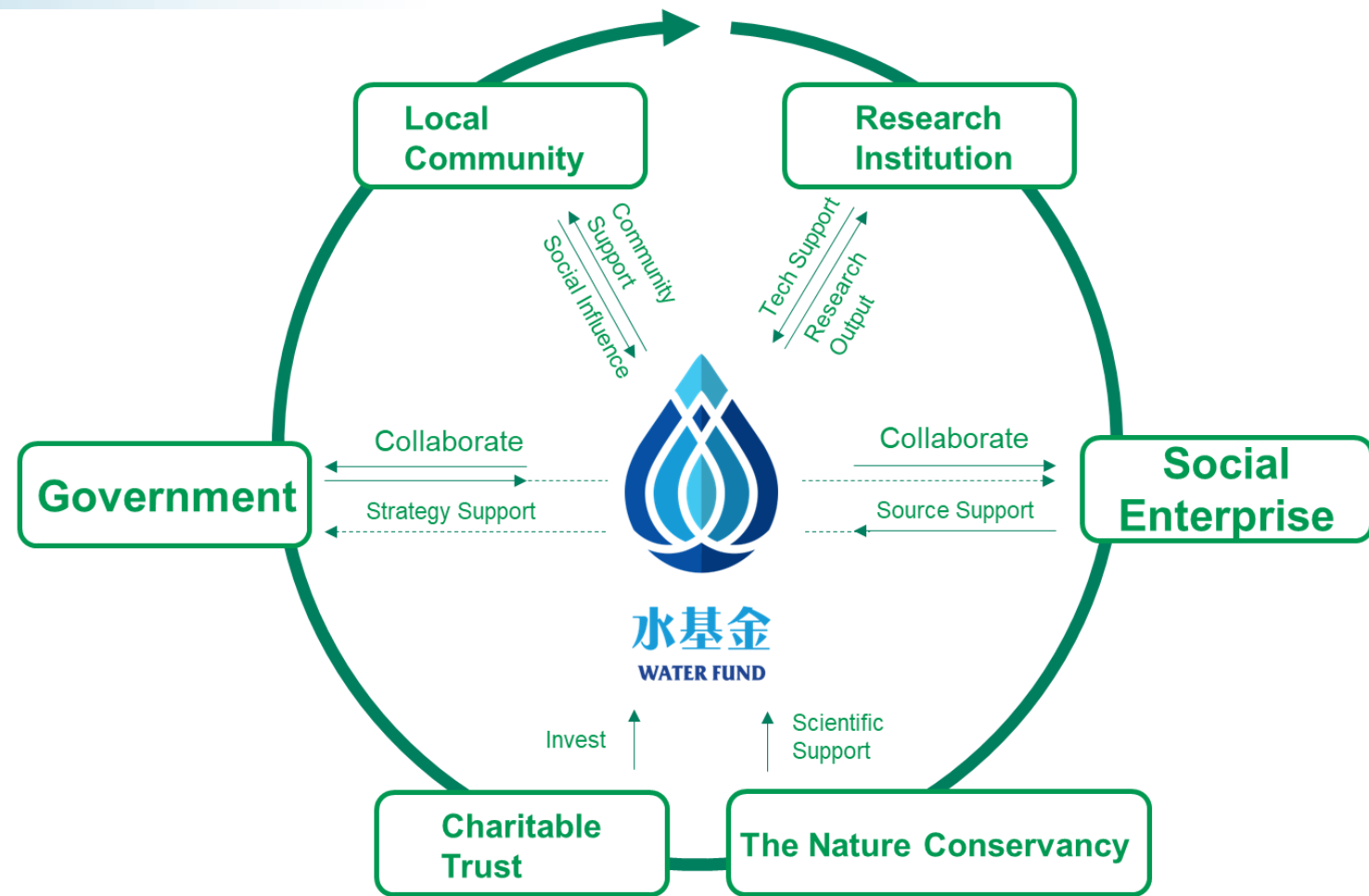


### Example: (Citrus) Orchard



1. Hedgerows (vetiver)
2. Hedgerows (broadleaf paspalum)
3. Abandoned cell
4. Blank control
5. Groundcover (Astragalus sinicus + Medicago falcata)
6. Groundcover (Lolium multiflorum L.+ Medicago falcata)
7. Groundcover (Lolium multiflorum L. + Vicia villosa Roth var.)
8. No fertilization
9. Groundcover(Astragalus sinicus) + Hedgerows (vetiver)
10. conditioner

- Collaborative Participation
- Share Profit
- Benefit Environment



- 协作参与
- 共同受益
- 造福环境

# Urban storm water management using NBS



## Ecosystem services

- > Flood management/ flood risk reduction (sewer flooding)
- > Water quality
- > Community well-being

## Beneficiaries

- > Water and sewerage utilities
- > Cities and public authorities
- > Insurance and reinsurance companies
- > Local communities

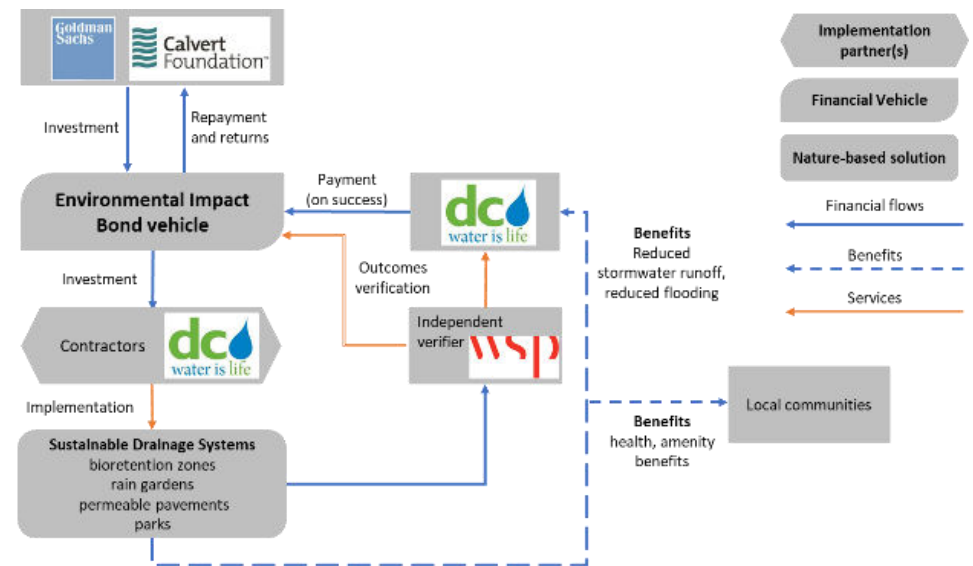
## Revenue streams & potential funding/financing solutions

- > Network management cost savings
- > Regulatory incentives
- > PES to land owners
- > Environmental impact bonds

## Case study: DC Water Environmental Bond

1st **Environmental Impact Bond** issued by DC water to fund a series of SuDS in Washington DC, complementing grey infrastructure to **address flooding and quality issues from combined sewer overflows**

**25MUSD, 5-year bond with risk sharing scheme** indexed on performance outcomes ranging from 0.5% (low performance) to 6.3% (high) with base scenario at 3.43%



# Wetland Restoration and Mitigation Banking



## Main ecosystem services

- > Water quality & supply
- > Flood risk reduction
- > Biodiversity
- > Carbon sequestration
- > Recreation

## Beneficiaries

- > Water and sewerage utilities
- > Public Authorities
- > Water dependent companies

## Revenue streams & potential funding/financing solutions

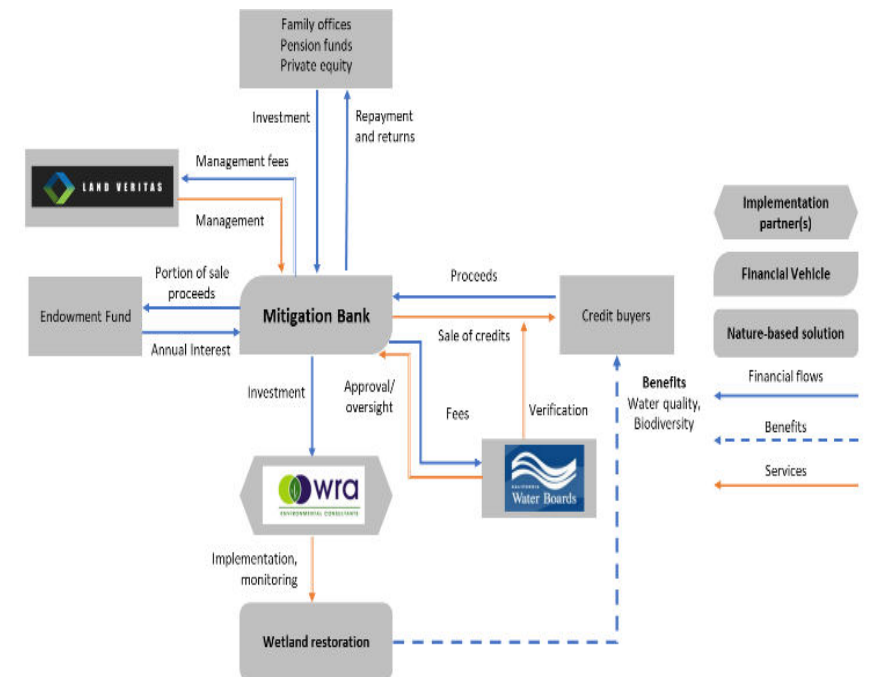
- > Cost savings for water treatment
- > PES: mitigation credits
- > Water company balance sheet

## Case study: Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank

**Largest wetland mitigation bank in California** and one of the largest in the USA (1,714 hectares)

**Specific regulatory framework** in the USA: requirement for project developers to **mitigate and compensate any unavoidable environmental impacts by purchasing credits issued by approved mitigation banks**

**20MUSD invested** in land purchase and restoration of wetlands repaid from sale of mitigation credits



# Thank you

