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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

National Policy Perspective and framework: Community Participation in Integrated Water Resource Management

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Context

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

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Policy and Legislative Framework (1)

- The Constitution contains several provisions that give direction to the water and sanitation sector
- Constitutional imperative:
 - Guarantees the right to an environment that is not harmful to health or well-being (Section 24(b)(i to iii));
 - Guarantees the right to have access to sufficient food and water (Section 27(1)(b))
- The National Water Act translates this Constitutional imperative into :
 - The Basic Human Needs Reserve is the water allocated for human consumption before any other water can be assigned (The Reserves ensures that people are never overlooked in favour of ecosystems, calculated as a minimum of 25 litres per person per day).
 - The Ecological Reserve relates to water required to protect and sustain the aquatic ecosystems in order to secure ecologically sustainable development and water use (the National Water Act protects the rights of water ecosystems because they provide people with many free services necessary to life).

Policy and Legislative Framework (2)

DWS has resolved to decentralise water resources management

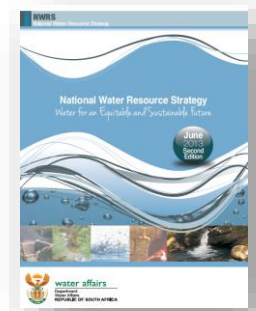
- South Africa committed to the concept of IWRM through the White Paper on Water and Sanitation
- The NWA mandates the establishment of Catchment Management Agencies as vehicles for decentralising water resources management
- NWRS2 gives effect to the NWA, and defined water management areas
- Decentralisation of water resources management is considered as best practice



White Paper on National Water Policy



National Water Act



National Water Resources Strategy 2

Separate mandates for water resources and water services

- Water resources management is the sole constitutional responsibility of national government, whereas the constitutional responsibility for the provision of water services is allocated to local government.
- The role that the Minister (and the national Department of Water Affairs) plays with respect to water services is very different to the role it plays with respect to water resources management. In the case of water services, the Minister has the responsibility to regulate and support local government. In the case of water resources, the Minister has direct responsibility.

For these reasons, two separate Acts.

SOUTH AFRICAN WATER INSTITUTIONAL LANDSCAPE

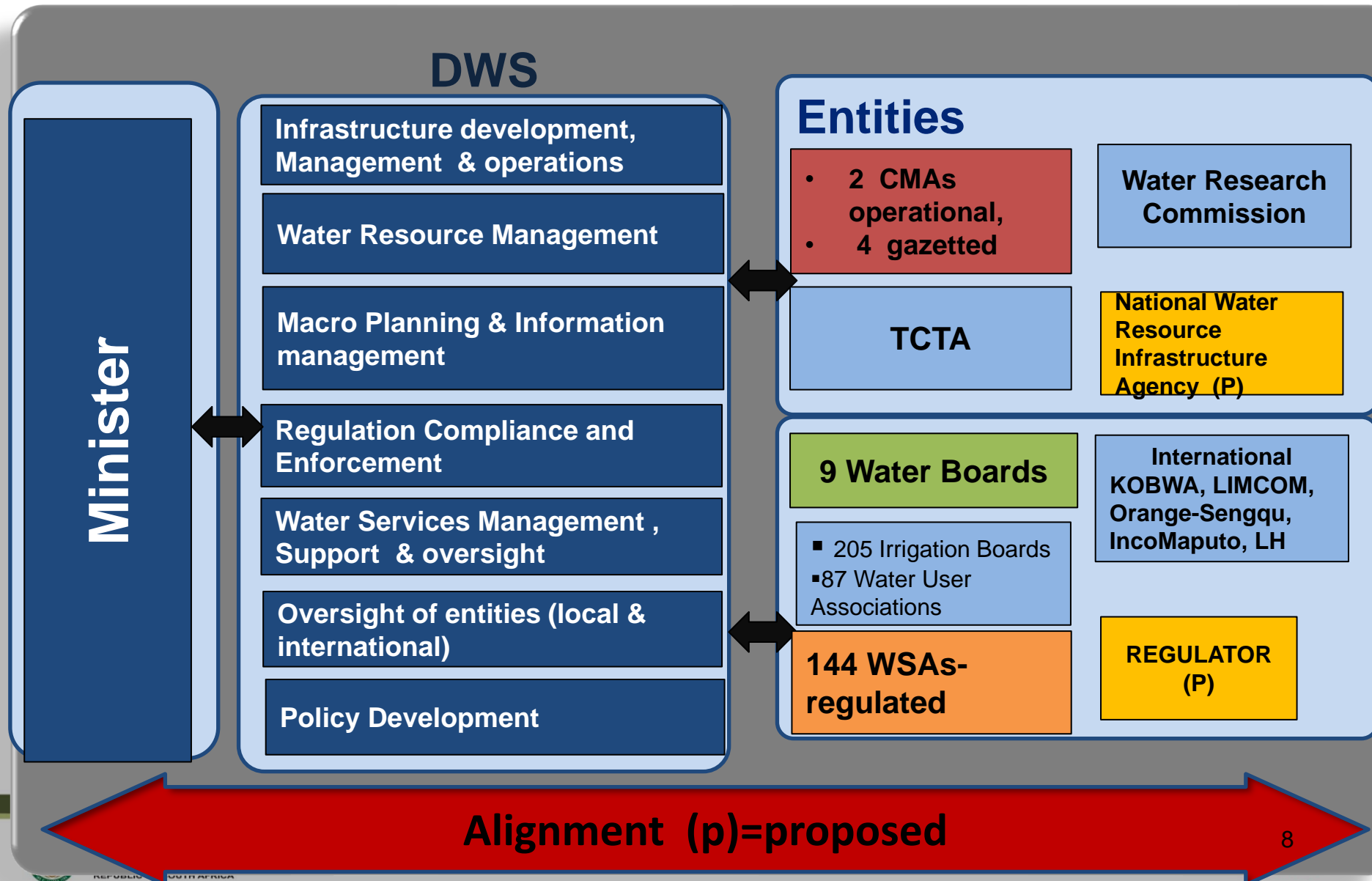
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SA Water Sector Institutional Landscape



INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CMAS

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IWRM Principles still relevant today for our country

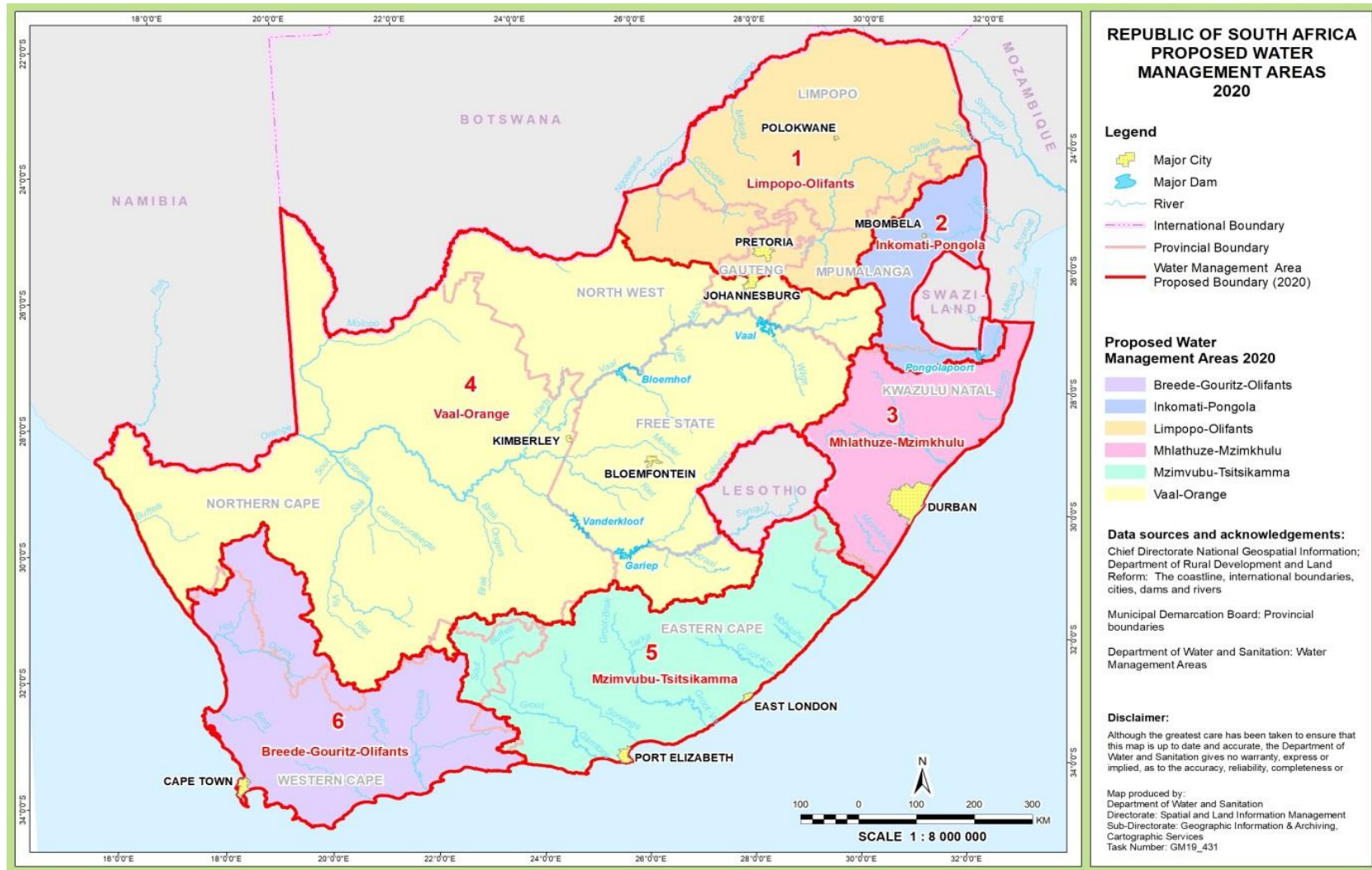
- Social Equity
- Efficiency and economic growth
- Environmental Sustainability.

There is still massive inequality in access to water, both in terms of access to a basic service and in terms of the allocation of water for productive economic purposes.

At the same time, the rights to water use are fully allocated (and even over-allocated) in some areas, placing a much greater emphasis on the need to use water efficiently and effectively.

And thirdly, the quality and quantity of the water in many rivers are below the levels required to sustain aquatic ecosystems.

Future Outlook for CMAs



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

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Rationale for Community Participation in integrated water resource management ?

- Community Participation contributes to good governance (transparency and citizen's voice in decision making)
 - Water connects across sectors, places and people as well as geographic spaces.
 - Hydrological and administrative boundaries do not coincide .
- It is both a global and local concern, involves a plethora of public, private and various stakeholders in decision making.
 - Multi-faceted support to sector partners
 - Coping with current and future challenges requires multi-level governance

Water as a catalyst for growth and development really is also a catalyst for change in communities

- Support local catchment management activities
- Support the development of Catchment Vision, integrated water resource management plans, etc.
- Participate in river health programme, working for wetlands, working for ecosystems, etc. plus land development / management
- Participate as vehicle to foster cooperative governance between the CMA, local government and other stakeholder interest groups,

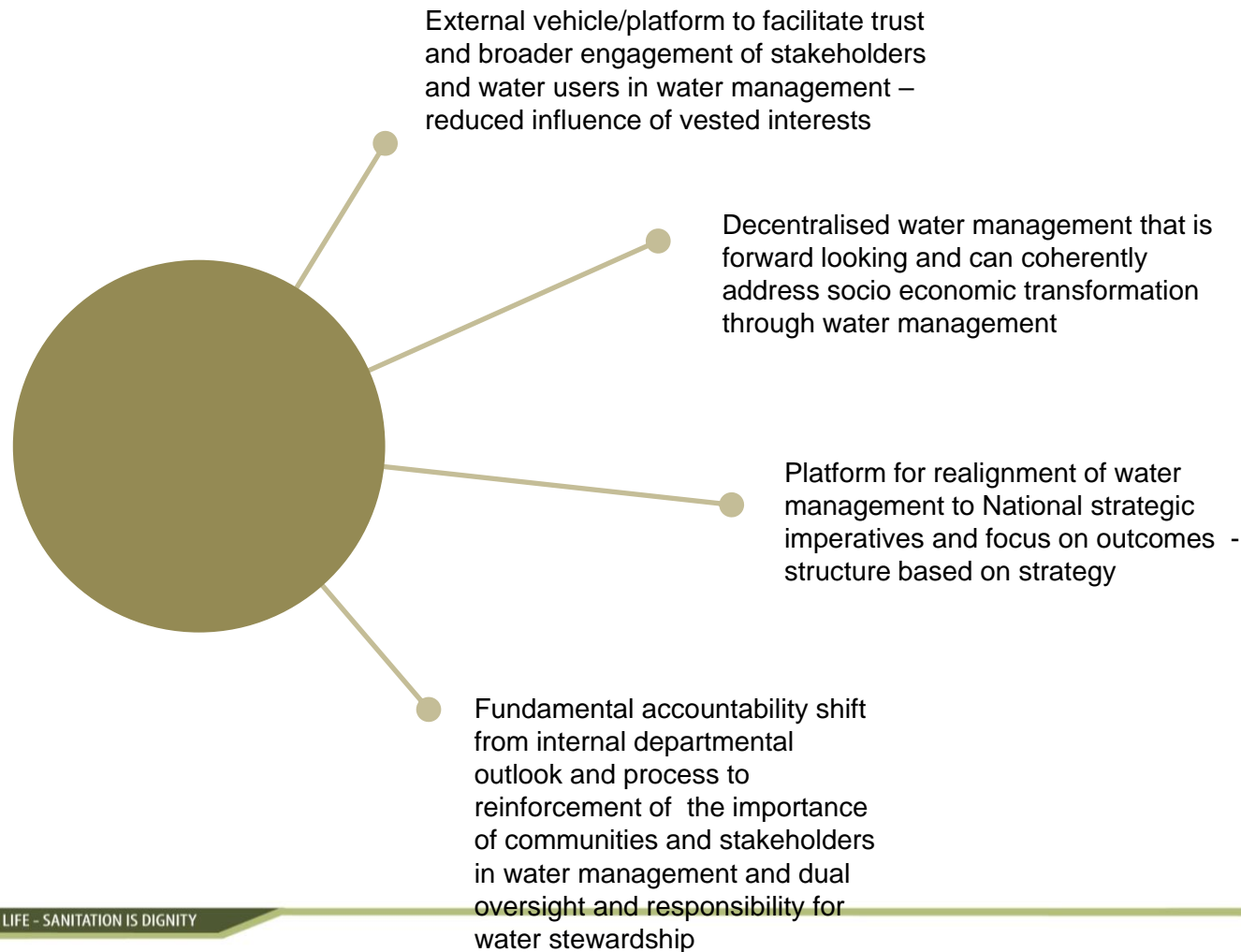


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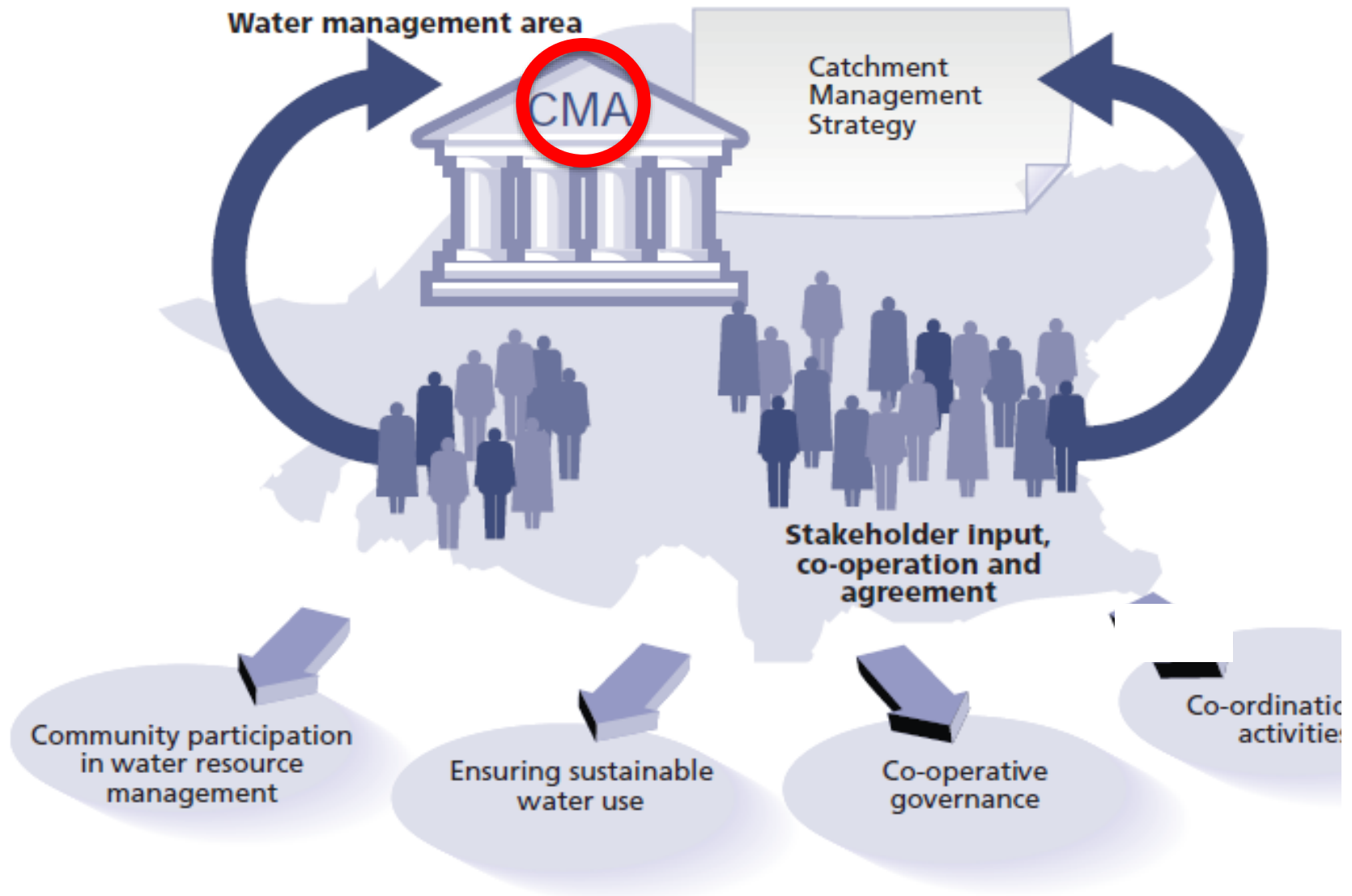


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CMAs as platforms for change at local level



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- CMAs facilitate stakeholder engagements and general public participation during and after
- Various Catchment Management Forums have been established.

LESSONS LEARNED

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Community participation is core to organised sector



Benefits

- Improved performance, effectiveness and responsiveness to water users .
- Improved governance, accountability and transparency – Board and Departmental oversight
- Agile and contextually appropriate decision making
- Sharpening our messages
- CP facilitates inclusiveness -Gender equity
- Community participation needs to be budgeted for.
- WE need Honest Brokers to facilitate the processes.

THANK YOU ...



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