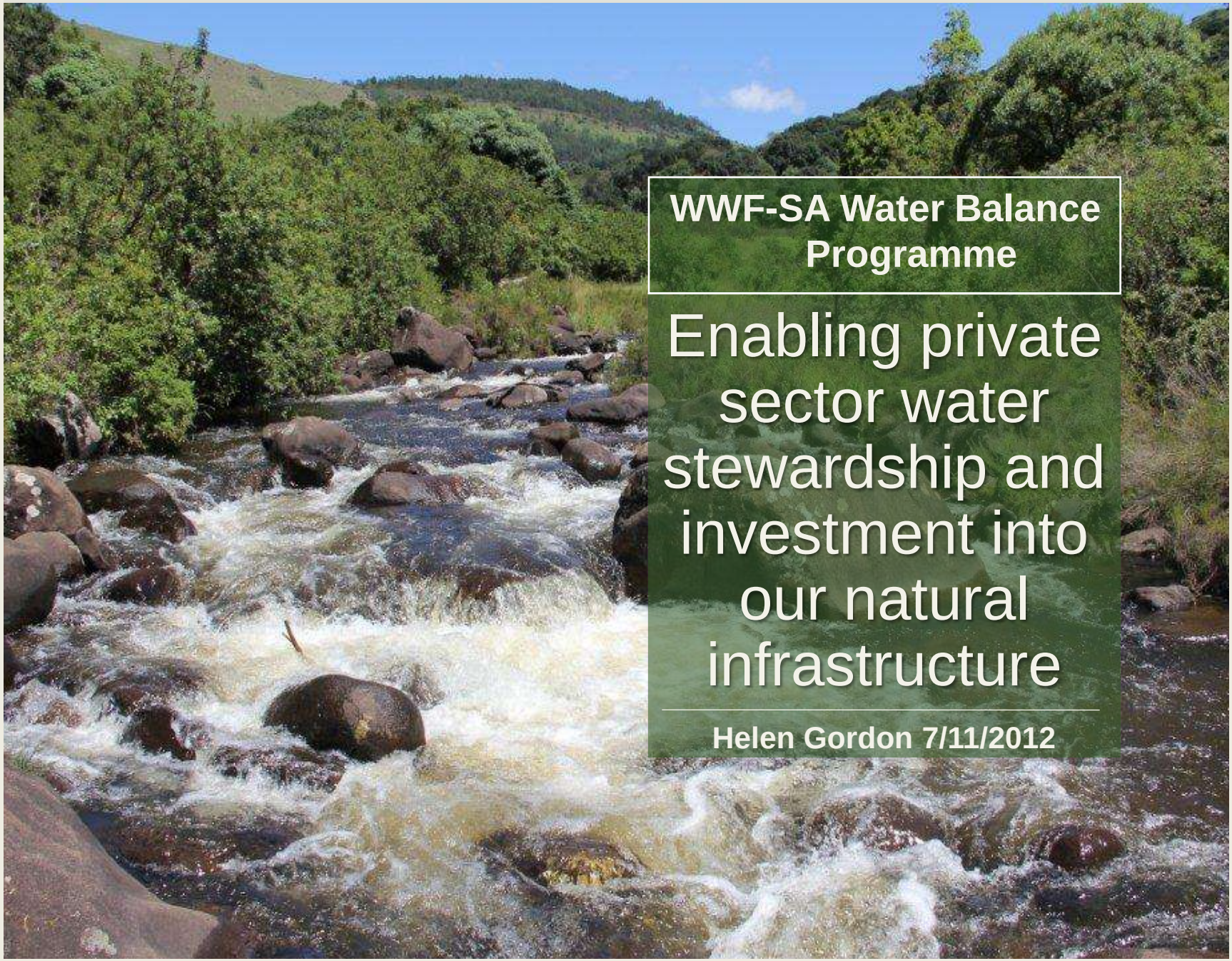


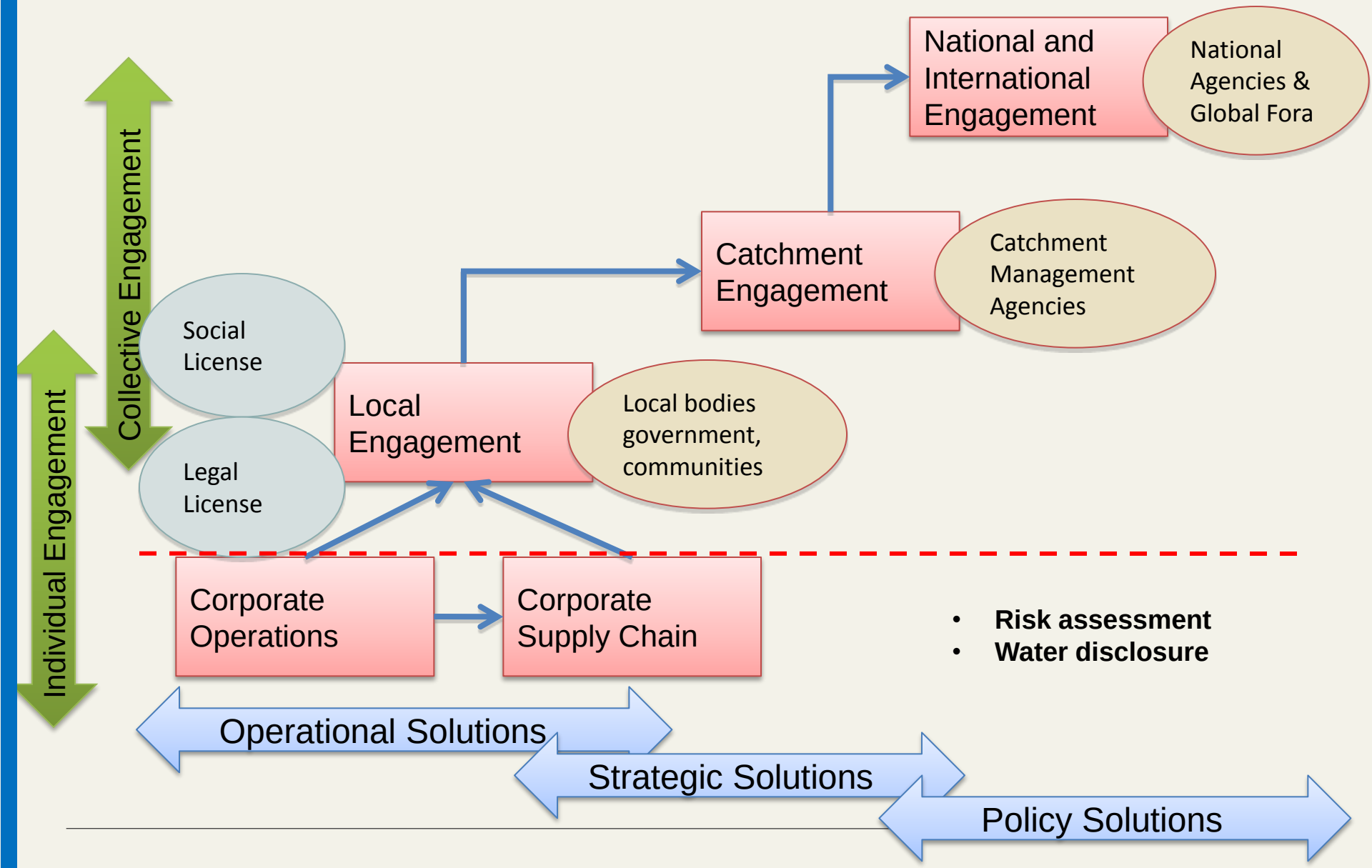
WWF-SA Water Balance Programme

Enabling private sector water stewardship and investment into our natural infrastructure

Helen Gordon 7/11/2012

The Water Stewardship Journey

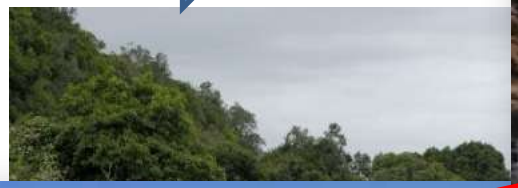
(Corporate response)



Water User

Link to

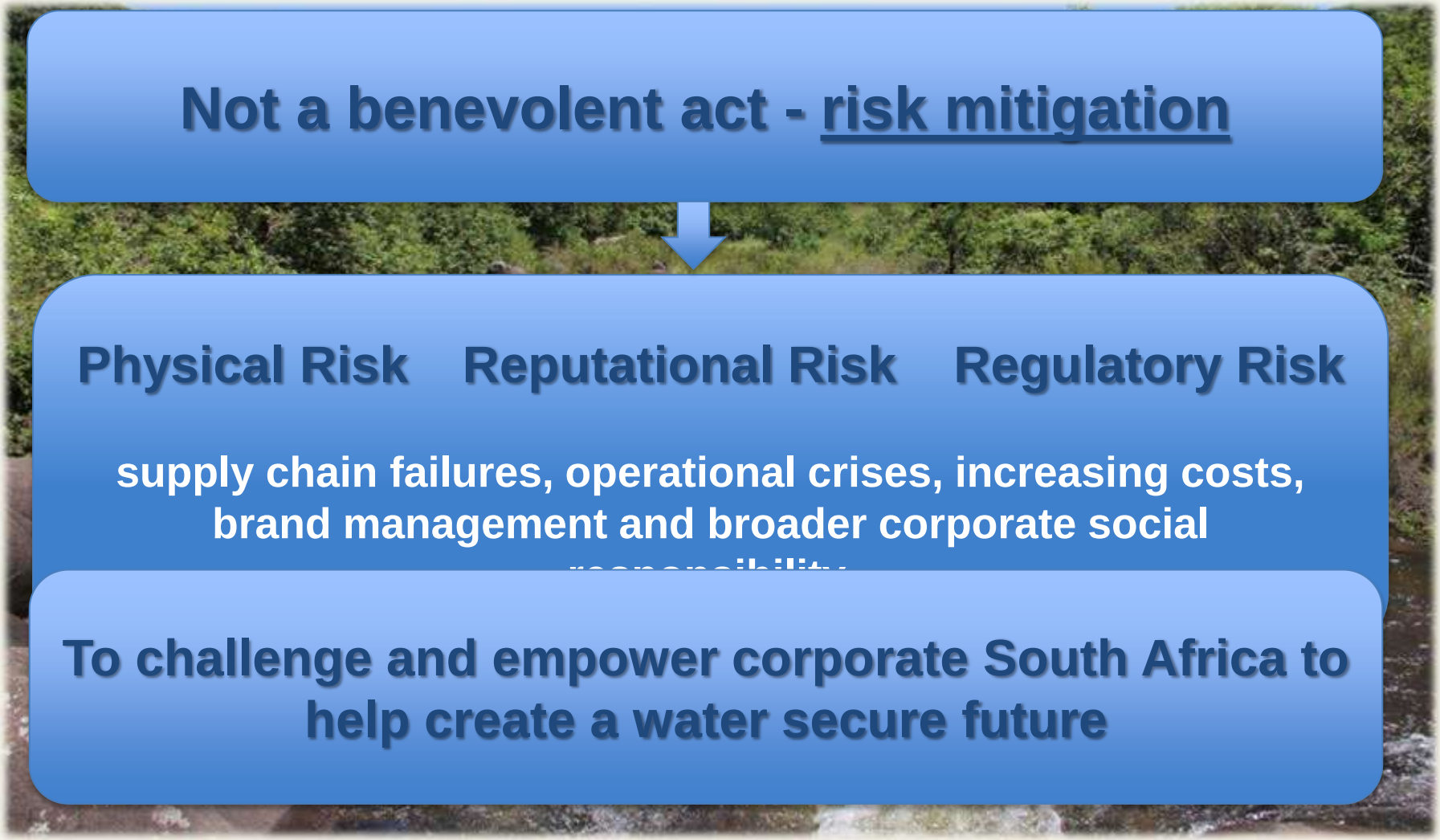
Catchments



Built infrastructure

Natural infrastructure

The WWF-SA Water Balance Vision



Not a benevolent act - risk mitigation

Physical Risk Reputational Risk Regulatory Risk

supply chain failures, operational crises, increasing costs, brand management and broader corporate social responsibility

To challenge and empower corporate South Africa to help create a water secure future

The WWF-SA Water Balance Programme

- Investing back into the country's water security in proportion to the water user's size – **quantitative approach**

big operational water use = big investment

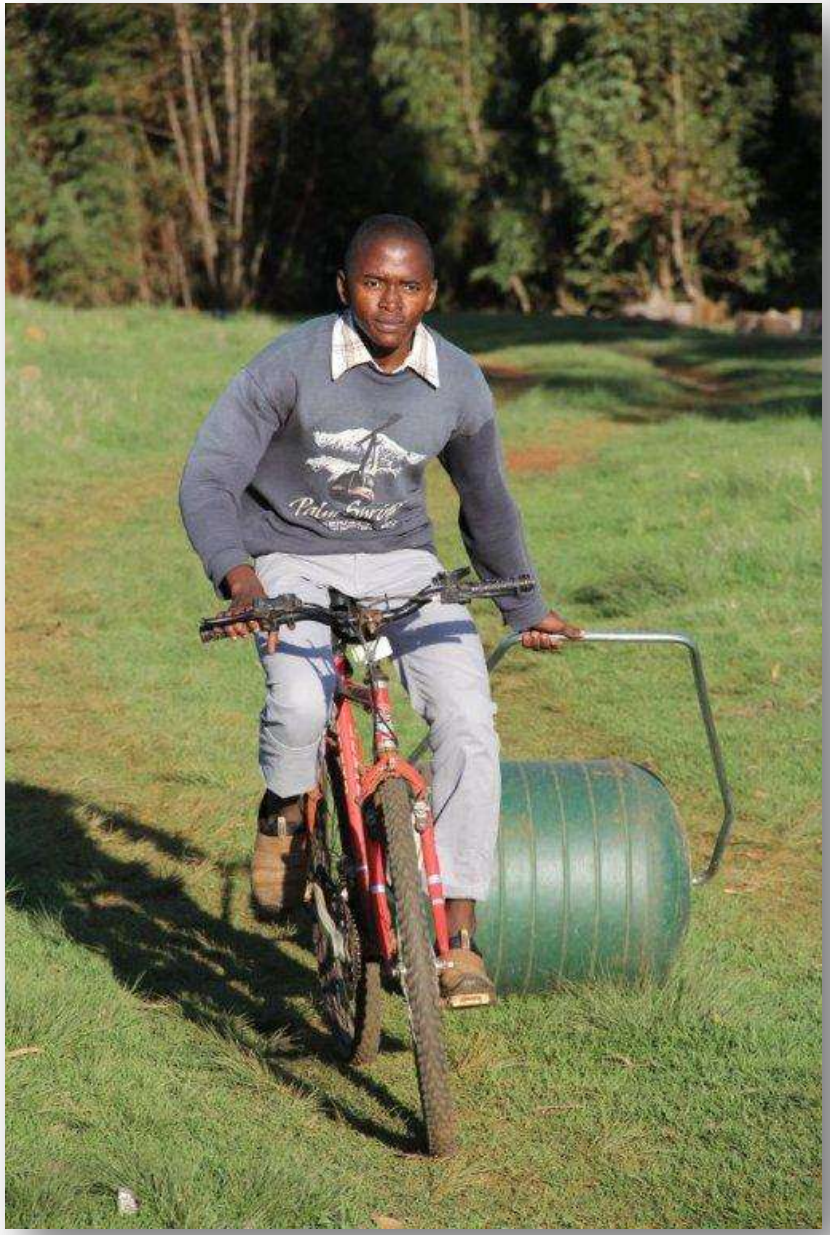
- Taking a **holistic approach** to the fresh water systems considering biodiversity, carbon and water impacts of any intervention

- Platform linking corporates to tangible impacts where it counts most for the country

12% of SA's land generates over 50% of our water!

South Africa's "water factories"

- Umgeni (KwaZulu Natal – Durban/PMB supply)
- The Grasslands (Mpumalanga – North Central KZN & Gauteng supply)
- Garden Route from George to Plett (Western Cape)
- Upper reaches of the Berg & Breede catchments (Western Cape – Cape Town supply)



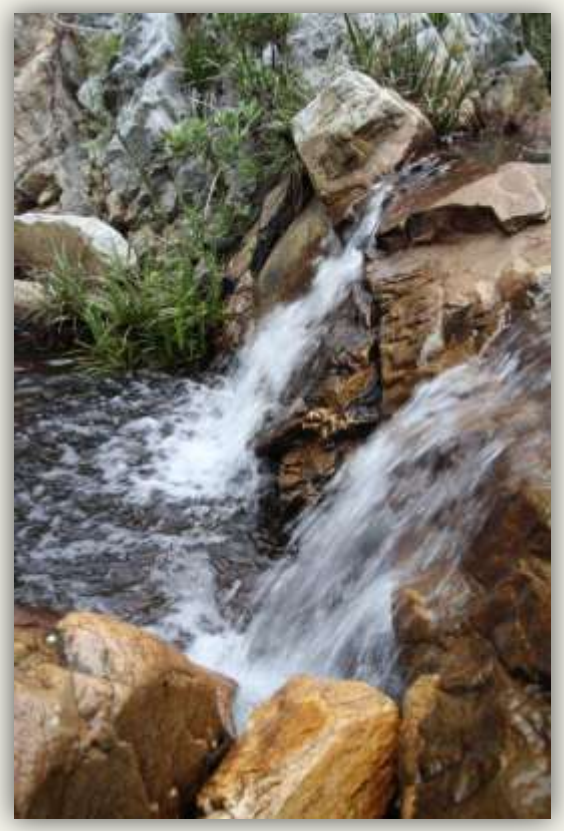
R3

Review
Reduce
Replenish

Demand side management

Supply side management

Approach



1. Review:

Participants are required to accurately measure their operational water usage.

2. Reduce:

Participants are required to develop and implement a water reduction & efficiency strategy.

3. Replenish:

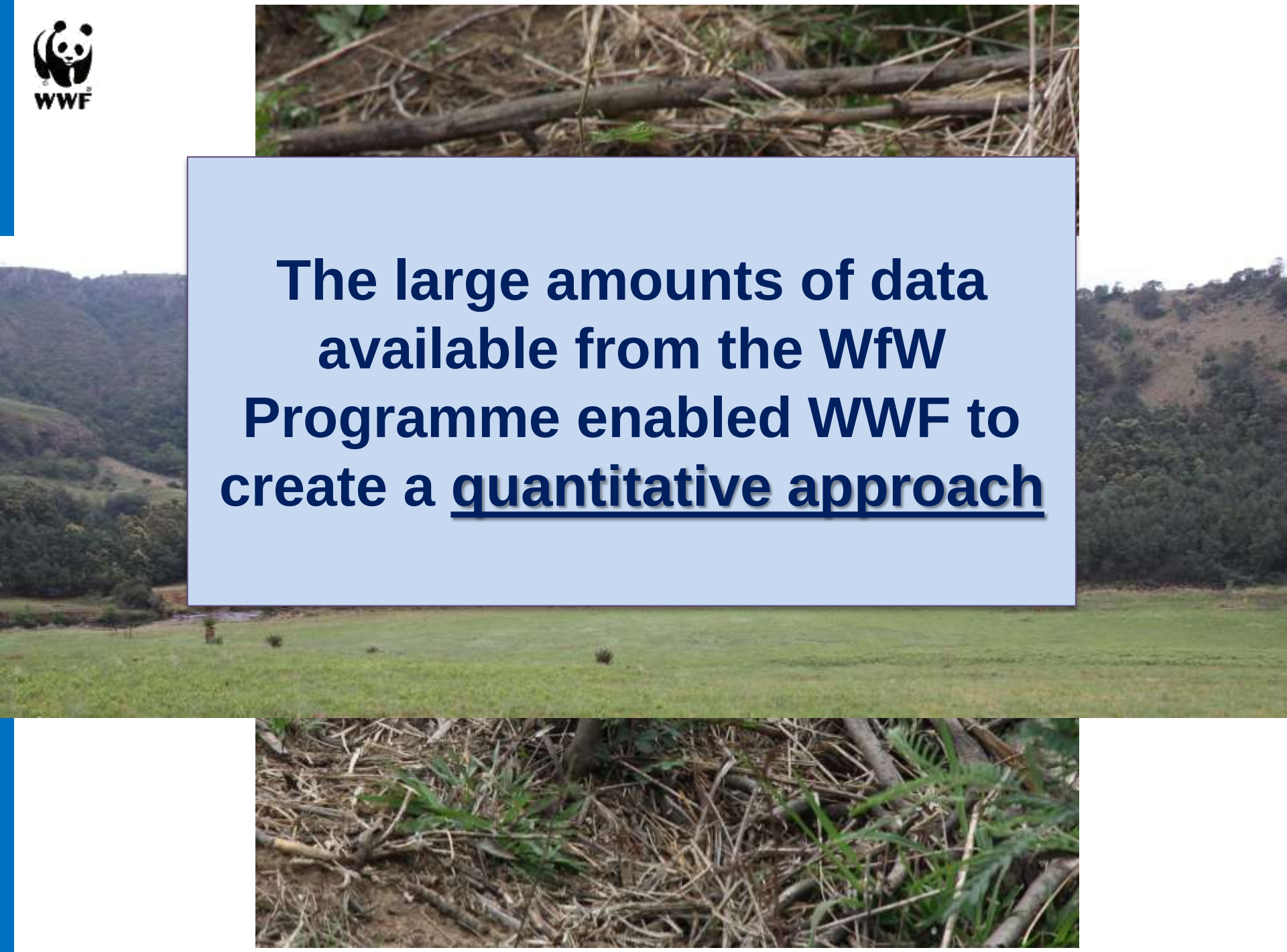
Participants are required to invest in projects that will make available ‘new’ water into fresh water ecosystems, approximately in proportion to their operational water use.

- Total area invaded = 18 mil ha (condensed=1.5 mil ha).
- Est. reduction in surface runoff = > 3000mil m^3 (+-7% of national total). Could increase >8 times
- Working for Water has treated 2.3mil ha since inception (1995 – 2012) & spending over R800 mil / annum

What's the issue with IAP?

- Invasive alien plants (IAP) destroy proper functioning of riparian zones & wetlands & hence diminishes the ecosystem services (benefits from the environment) these provide

WWF Water Balance



The large amounts of data available from the WfW Programme enabled WWF to create a quantitative approach

Water Balance – the maths

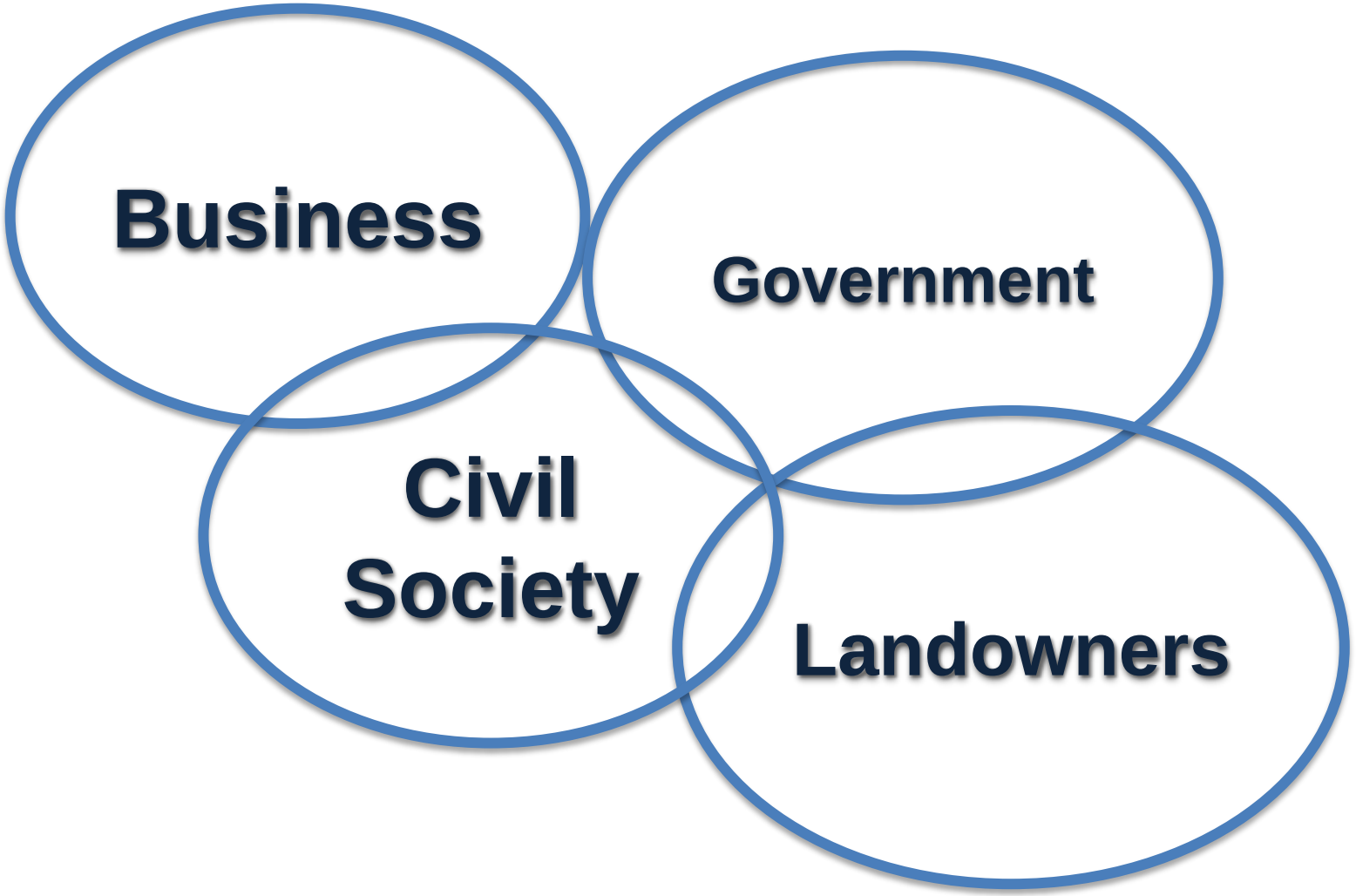
1) the *average* amount of **water "replenished"** through clearing a hectare of IAP & maintaining it clear

2) the *average* **cost** of clearing a hectare of IAP & maintaining it clear

PARTNERSHIPS

Landowners

PARTNERSHIPS



Corporate Participants

NEDBANK

WOOLWORTHS

Sonae Novobord

A company of the group SONAE INDUSTRIA

Founders:

Inspired by a Nation SAB The South African Breweries Limited

WWF Water Balance

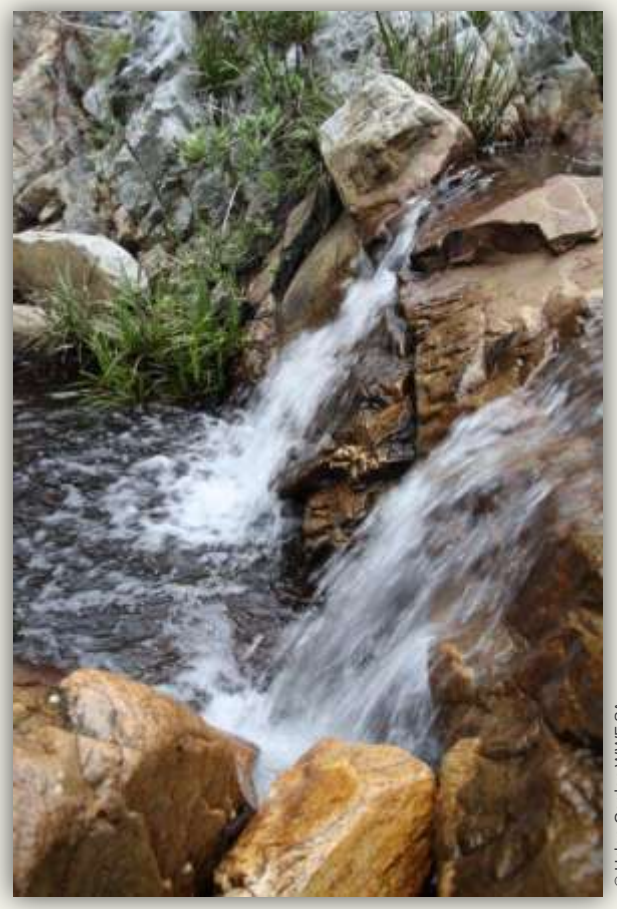
What Water Balance has achieved to date…

- ✓ Just over 1500 ha have been cleared or been committed to clearing
- ✓ Prevented 1.7mil kl being lost to IAP annually & once clearing targets are achieved this will increase to approx. 3.1mil kl each year
- ✓ R15mil committed mostly over 5 yrs
- ✓ Approx 14 260 person days of work have been created so far
- ✓ 2012 biomass supported secondary markets with 643 tons of charcoal & 345 tons of pulp wood

More than only contributing to water security

economic, environmental & social benefits

- Improving water quantity & quality
- Reducing fire risks & the intensity of the impacts of both fire & flood events should they occur
- Adds to food security by addressing the loss of productive land



economic, environmental & social benefits cont'd

- Improving the functioning of ecosystems & protection of biological diversity (climate change adaptation/resilience)

- Incentivising best management practices
- Job creation

Thank you

wwf.org.za/waterbalance

Key aims for WWF – SA FW programmes

12% of RSA critical for water security is protected

Land and water stewardship protect critical water source areas from inappropriate development.

Best water practice for agriculture & mining

SAMBF guidelines implemented.
Guidelines for water stewardship and riparian buffers for agriculture.

Local government is incentivised to integrate FW protection into plans

Land-use planning, economic development planning and water services planning ensure necessary protection of water resources.

Corporate funding catalyses catchment security

Water Balance reinvests in natural water provisioning.
Water-user institutions empower stakeholders to respond to shared water risks (SAB, de Beers).

Investors support water security

Water risks and water security impacts are visible to investors and insurers and influence decisions.

"Water availability is one of the most decisive factors that will affect the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of South Africa over the next decade"

Kadar Asmal (2008)