The CEO Water Mandate

Assessing the Sufficiency of Catchment Conditions and Stewardship Response

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Objectives

The UN Global Compact's **CEO Water Mandate**, **The Nature Conservancy**, and **CDP** are proposing a new endeavor that explores:

- How do we assess whether current catchment conditions, such as *water balance, water quality*, *access to water*, etc. are sufficient and sustainable?

- How can companies assess whether their operational practices and collective action projects are sufficient to drive sustainable conditions (and thereby manage risks)?

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Proposed deliverables

- **Discussion paper** that 1) outlines key challenges, 2) offers initial insights on approach, and 3) presents questions in need of exploration
- Integrate sufficiency concepts into the final version of **Corporate Water Disclosure Guidelines** and **CDP Water Information Requests**
- A characterization of the types of **data, web-based information management platforms, and tools** that enable companies and others to assess sufficiency

Timeline

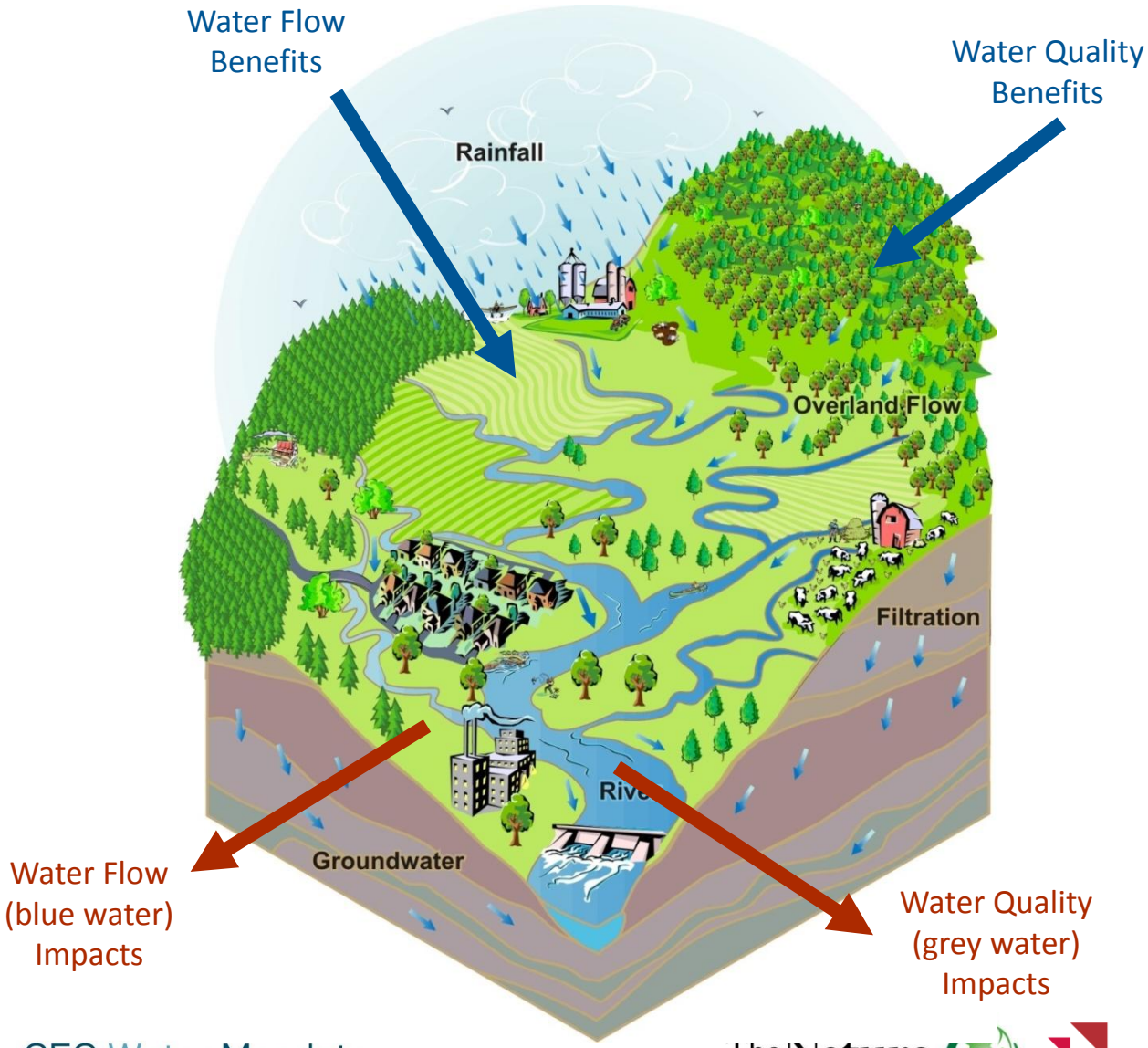
- Today: Convene face-to-face meeting in Lima with company representatives, stakeholders, and stewardship initiatives to discuss key issues

- Q2 2014: Present and discuss initial findings with Mandate working group to garner additional input and further refine thinking

- Q2 2014: Consult investor community to assess what further types of information might be beneficial

- Early-September 2014: Release discussion paper in conjunction with CEO Water Mandate meetings at Stockholm World Water Week

Sustainability/stewardship focused at the catchment level



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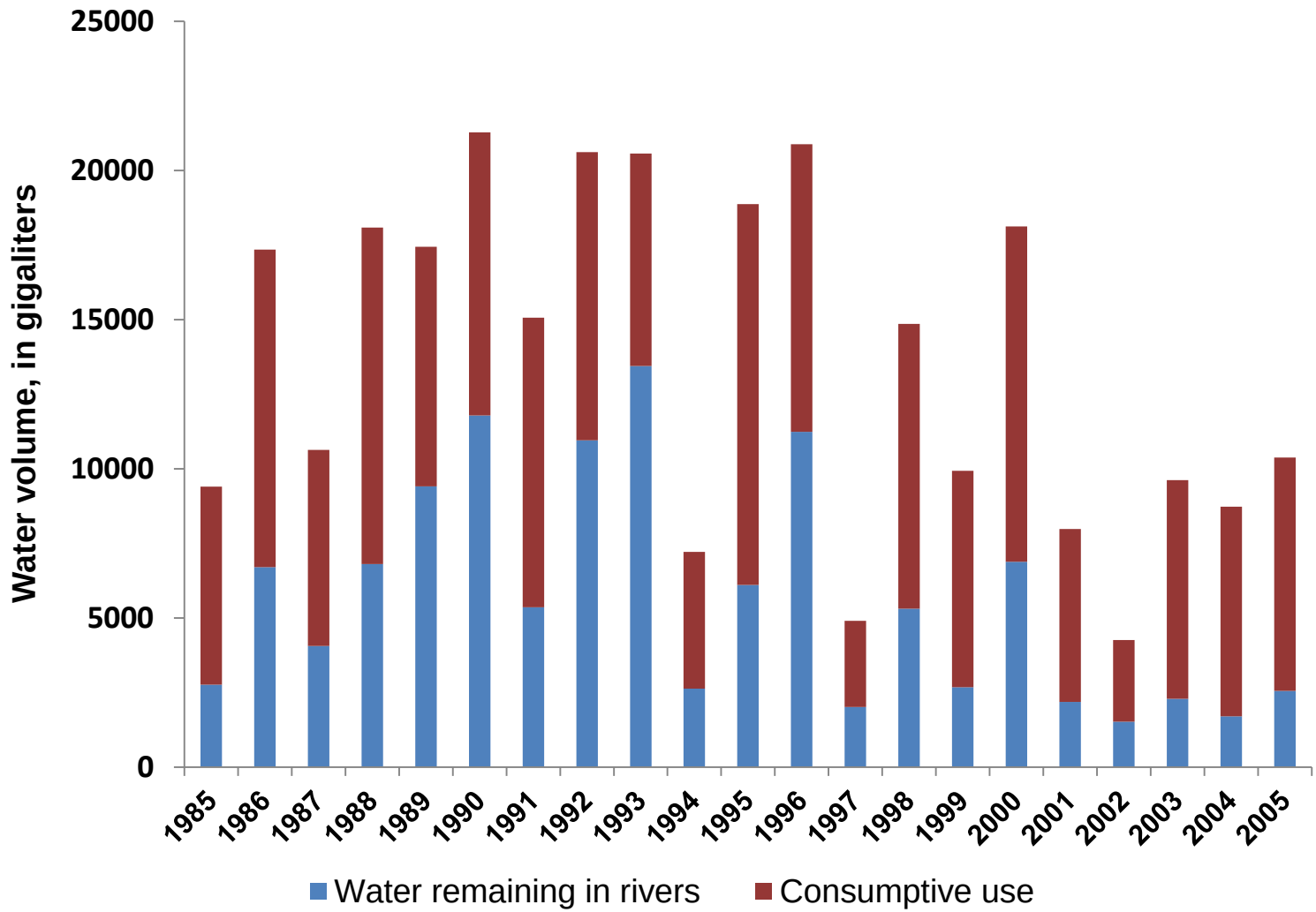
Case in point: The Murray-Darling Basin, Australia (1)



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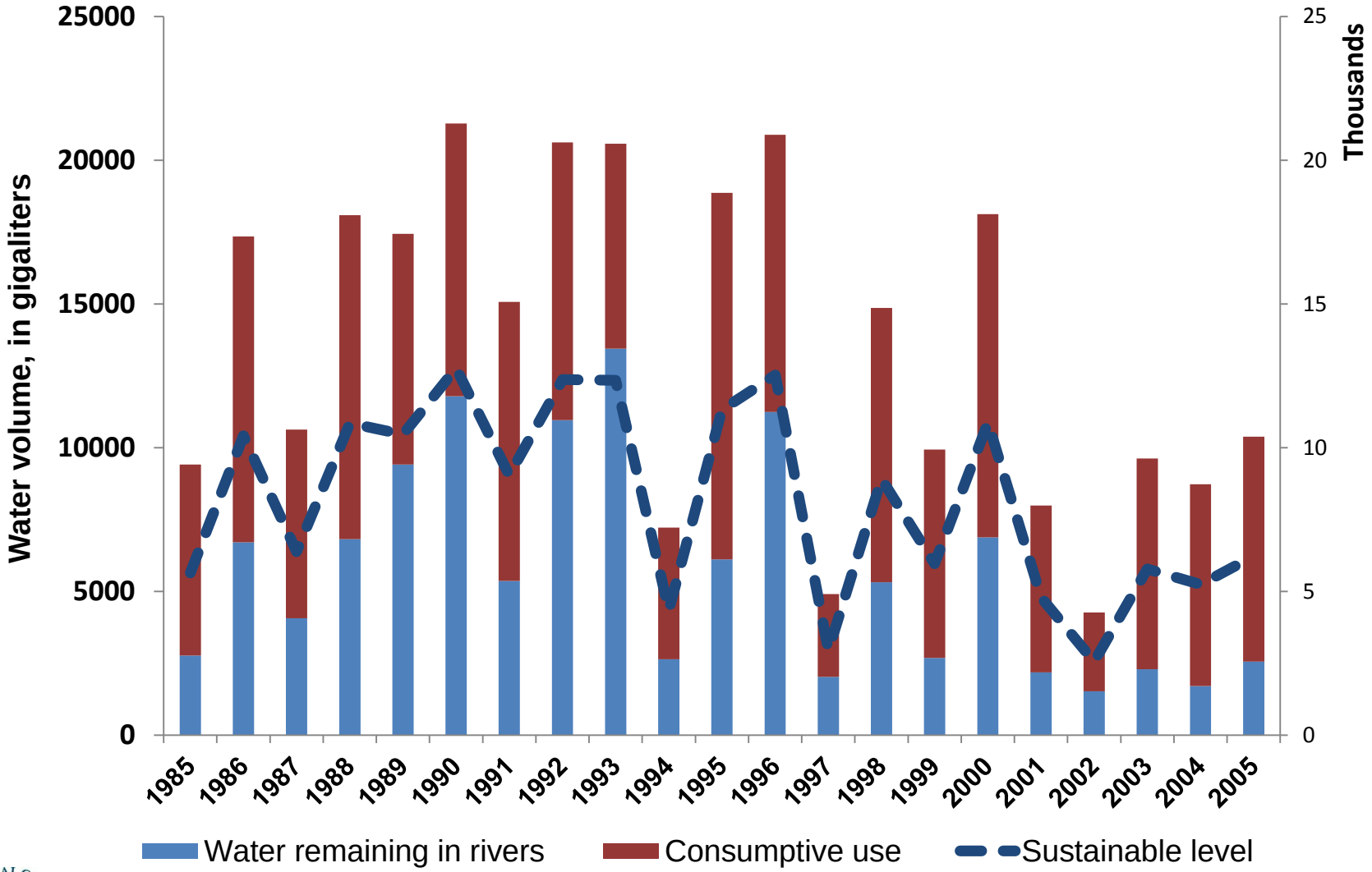
Case in point: The Murray-Darling Basin, Australia (2)



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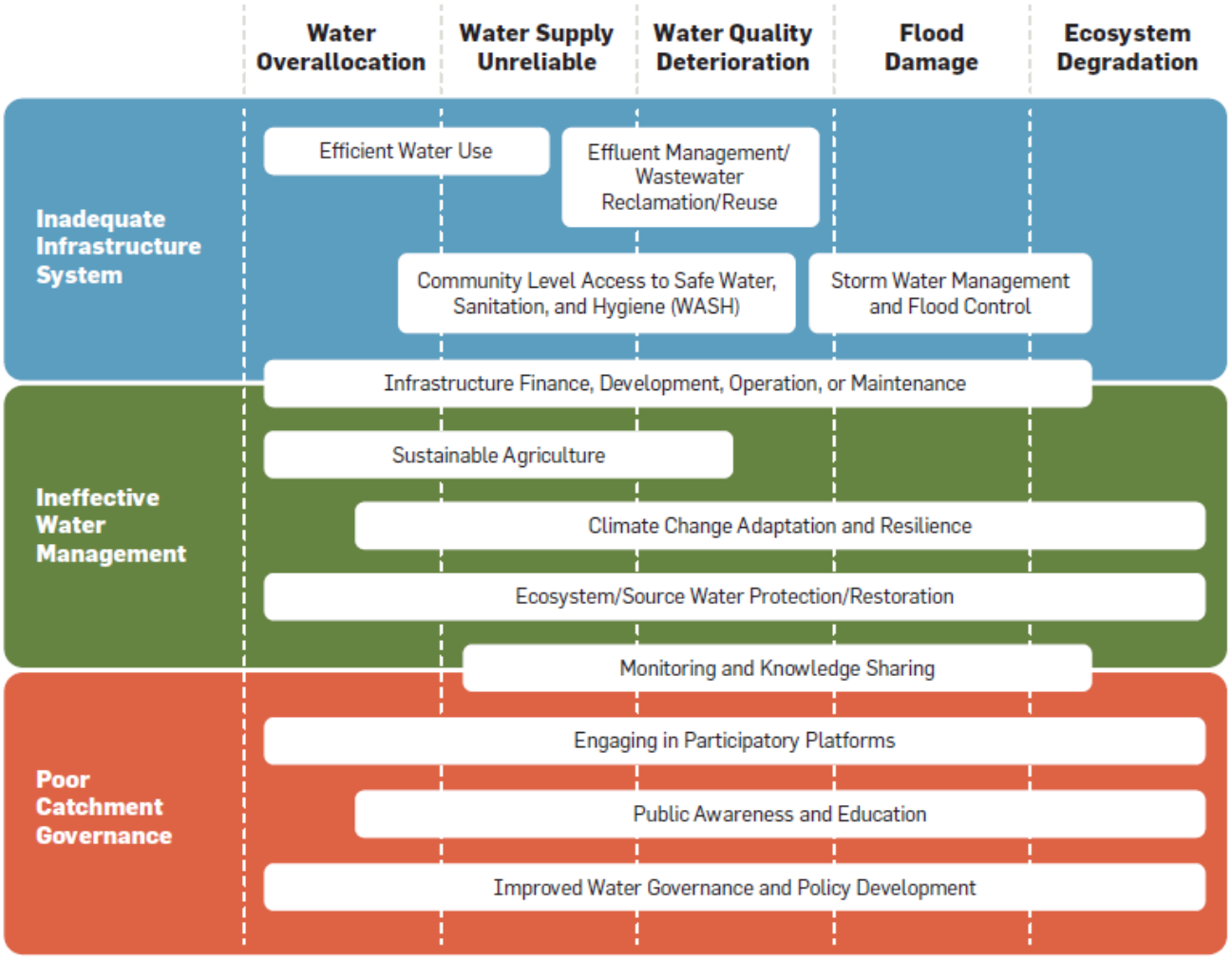
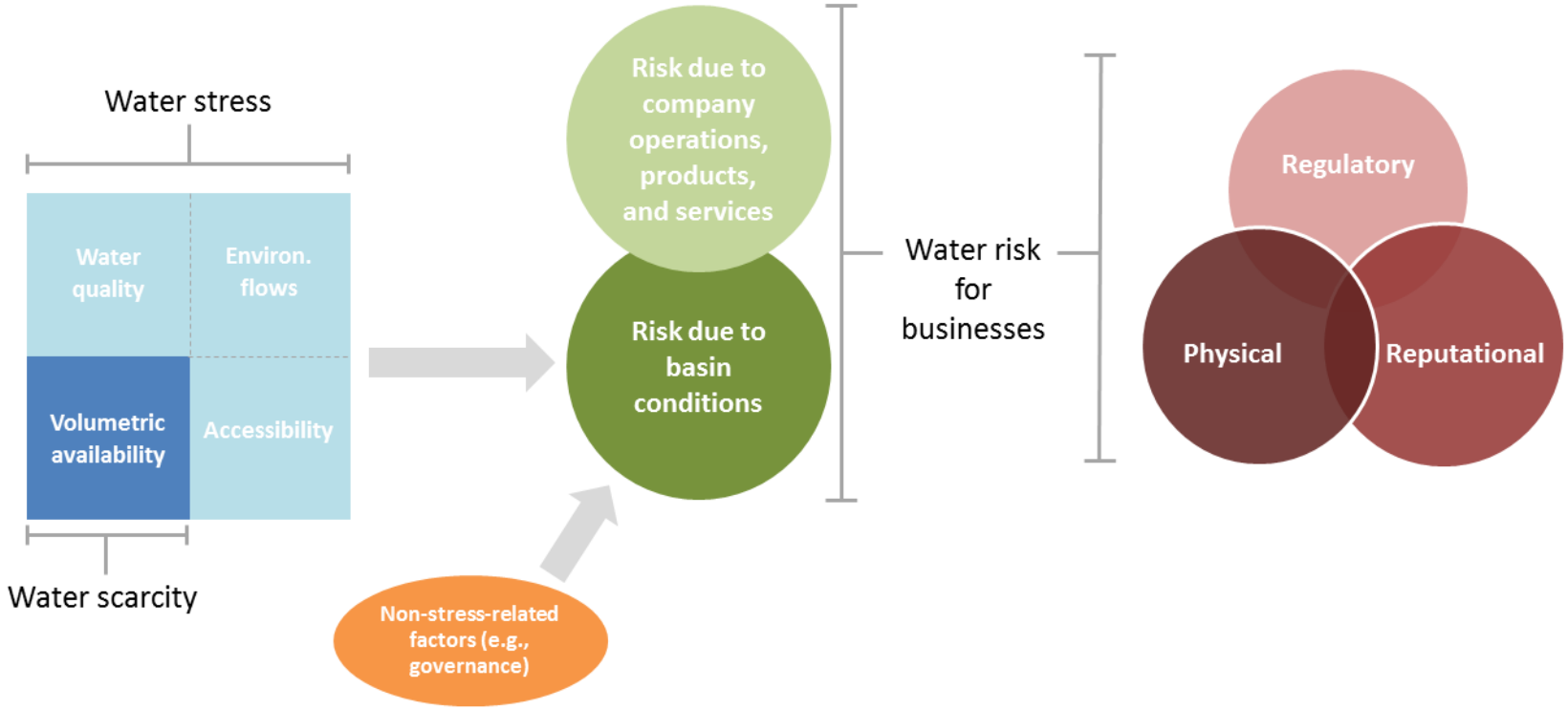
How can sufficiency concepts benefit Mandate endorsers and inform the Mandate Secretariat's work?

- Can inform the Guidelines and how to report on collective impact
- Mandate endorsers will better understand whether their efforts sufficiently and effectively manage risks and impacts
- Potential collective action partners will have a shared understanding of catchment challenges and the response needed.

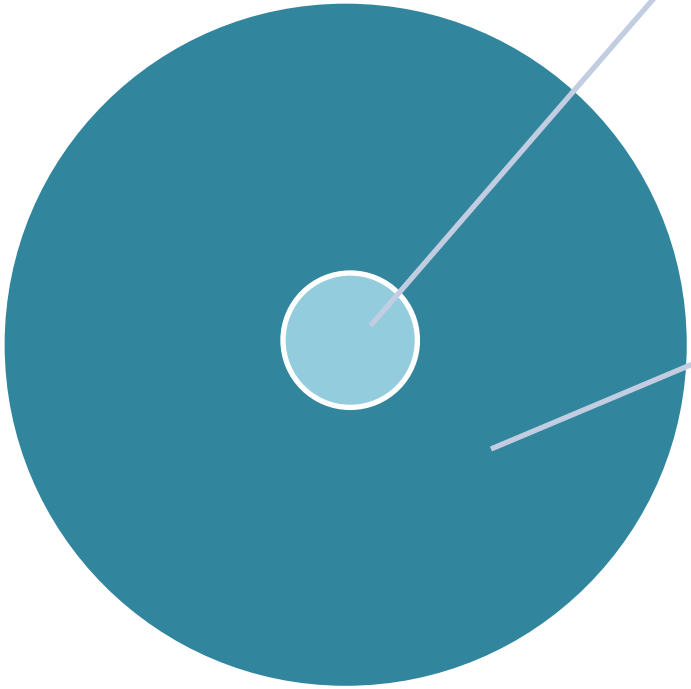
What frameworks might be helpful in understanding sufficiency? (1)



What frameworks might be helpful in understanding sufficiency? (2)



Sustainable water management is best long-term risk mitigation strategy



Company

- Water use efficiency
- Wastewater treatment
- Compliance
- Impacts on communities and ecosystems

Basin / catchment

- Water stress
- Water pollution
- Inadequate infrastructure
- Lack of government capacity
- Climate change
- Lack of community access to safe drinking water

Often, the greatest risks come from conditions over which the company has the least influence

Discussion questions

1. How does your company or organization assess whether a region is sustainable with respect to water, set individual and collective action sustainability goals based on this knowledge, and gauge whether response actions are sufficient to achieve these sustainability goals?

2. What are the key barriers to assessing sufficiency effectively?

3. What can the CEO Water Mandate and others do to advance more effective and meaningful action in this area?

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