




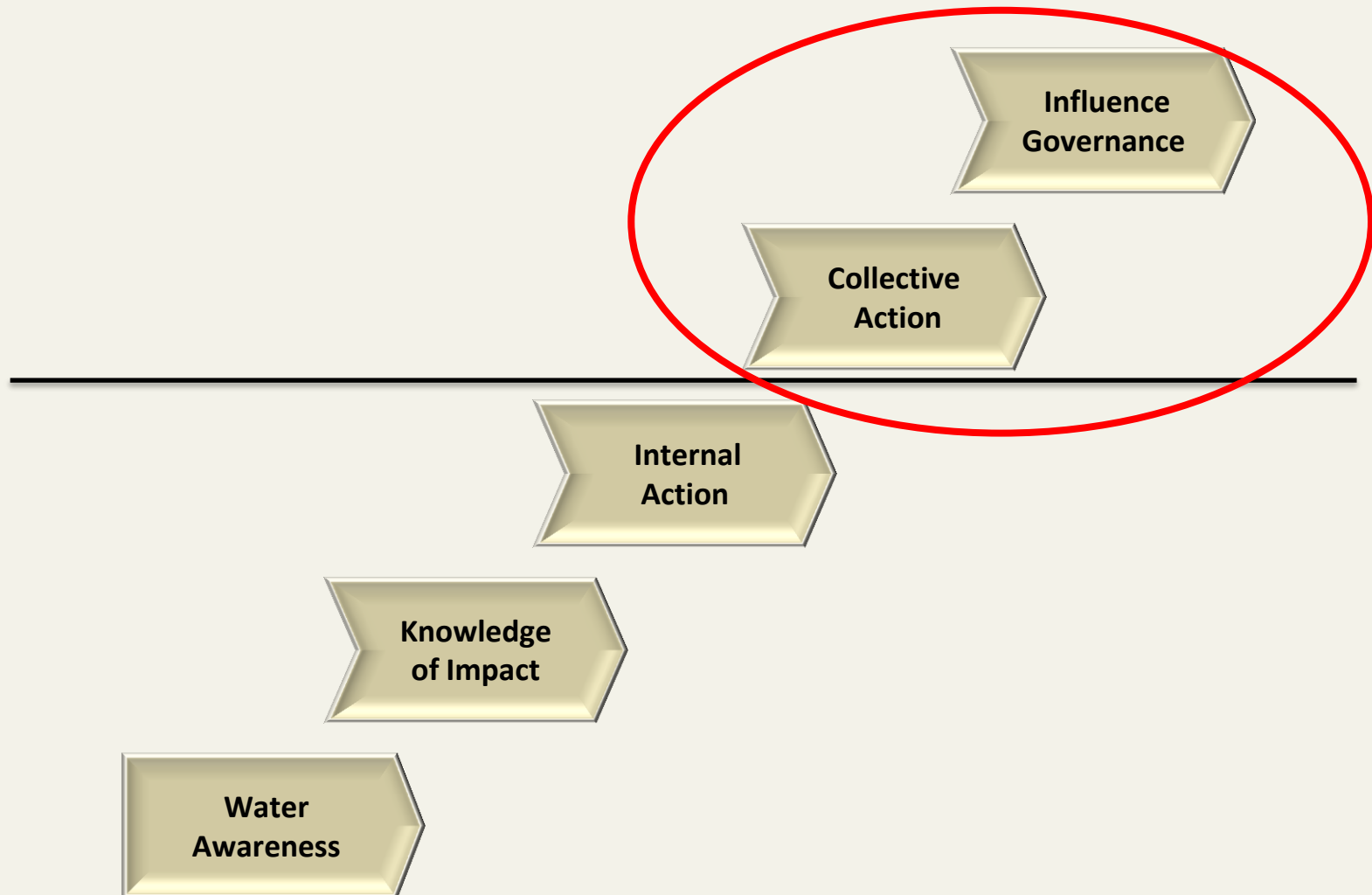
water witness 
...because we're all downstream



The opportunities and risks of corporate engagement on water policy

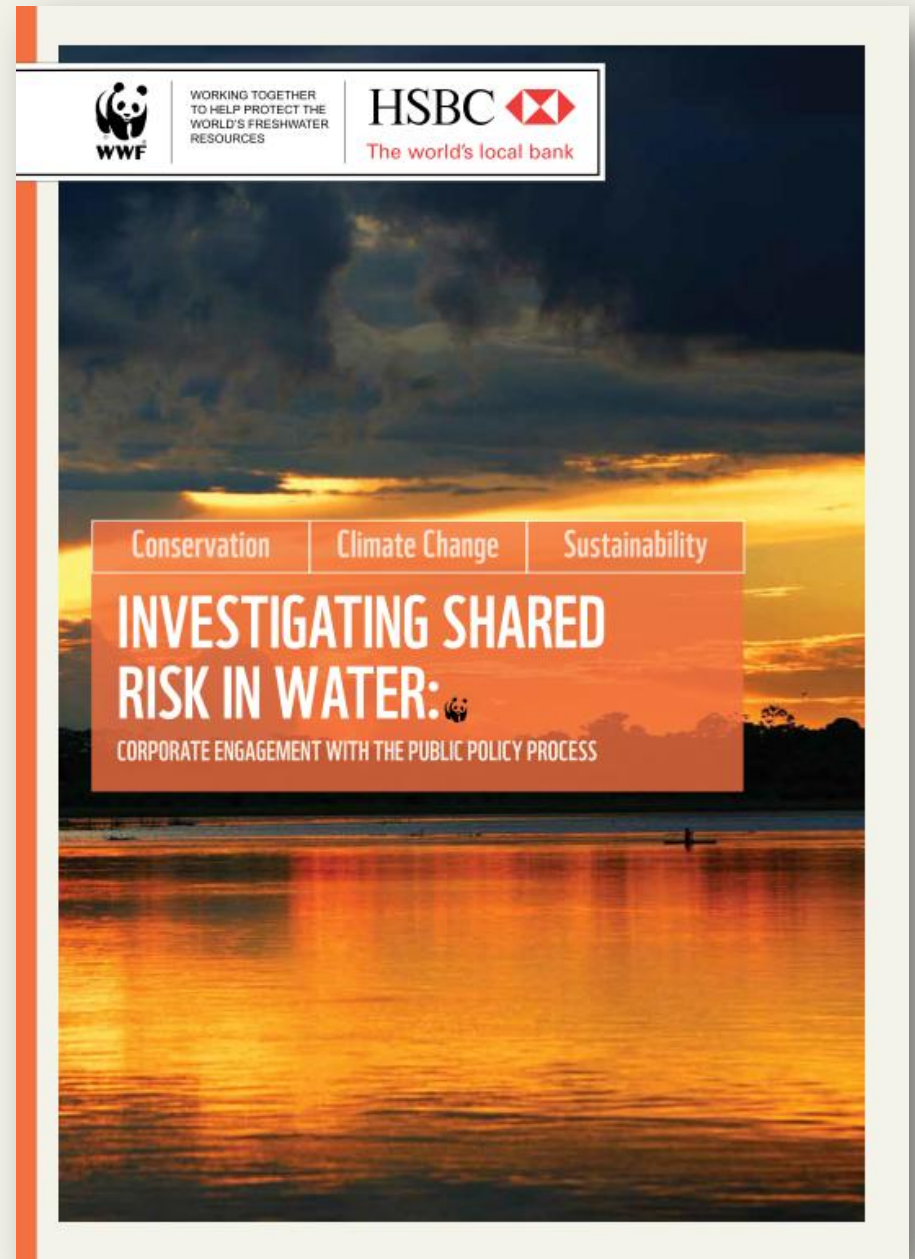
Stuart Orr & Nick Hepworth

Water Stewardship framework

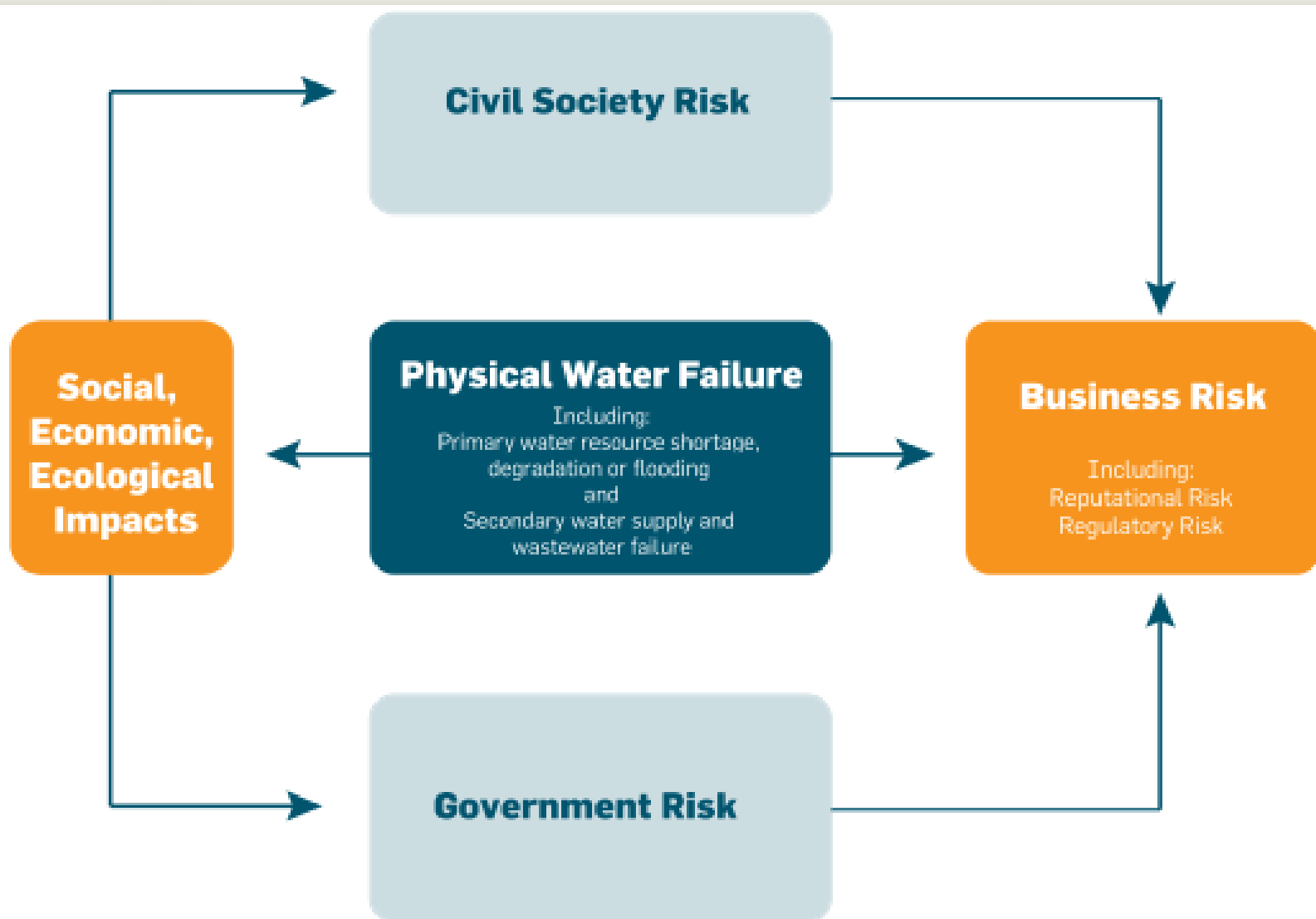




- Advocacy / lobbying / influencing
- Partnership / participating / facilitating
- Financial support / facilitation
- Institutional strengthening / capacity
- Self-regulation
- Implementation support









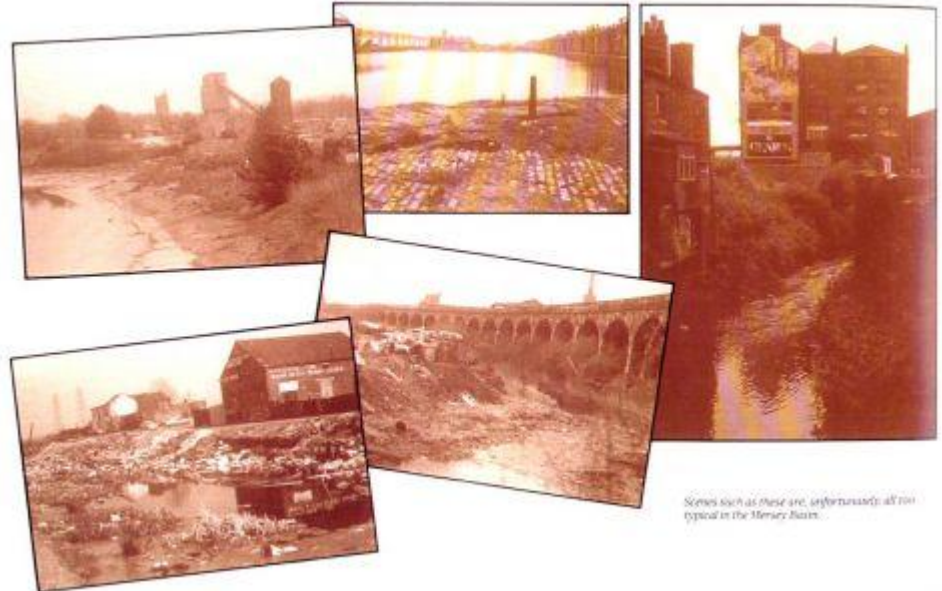
**2% - 3% of
GDP
10% of FEE**



The opportunities of corporate engagement in water policy

Bringing power to the table

- There's not a government in the world which doesn't listen to business!
 - Re-energizing stagnating IWRM processes
 - Mobilizing investment
 - Innovation
 - Communication power
-



Scenes such as these are, unfortunately, all too typical in the Mersey Basin.

1985-2010 | MERSEY BASIN CAMPAIGN





The risks of corporate engagement in water policy

Bringing power to the table

- There's not a government in the world which doesn't listen to business!
 - Non-aligned intent / actions
 - Misguided actions - perverse outcomes
 - Capture of resources, policy, process and regulation
-











Which way progress?

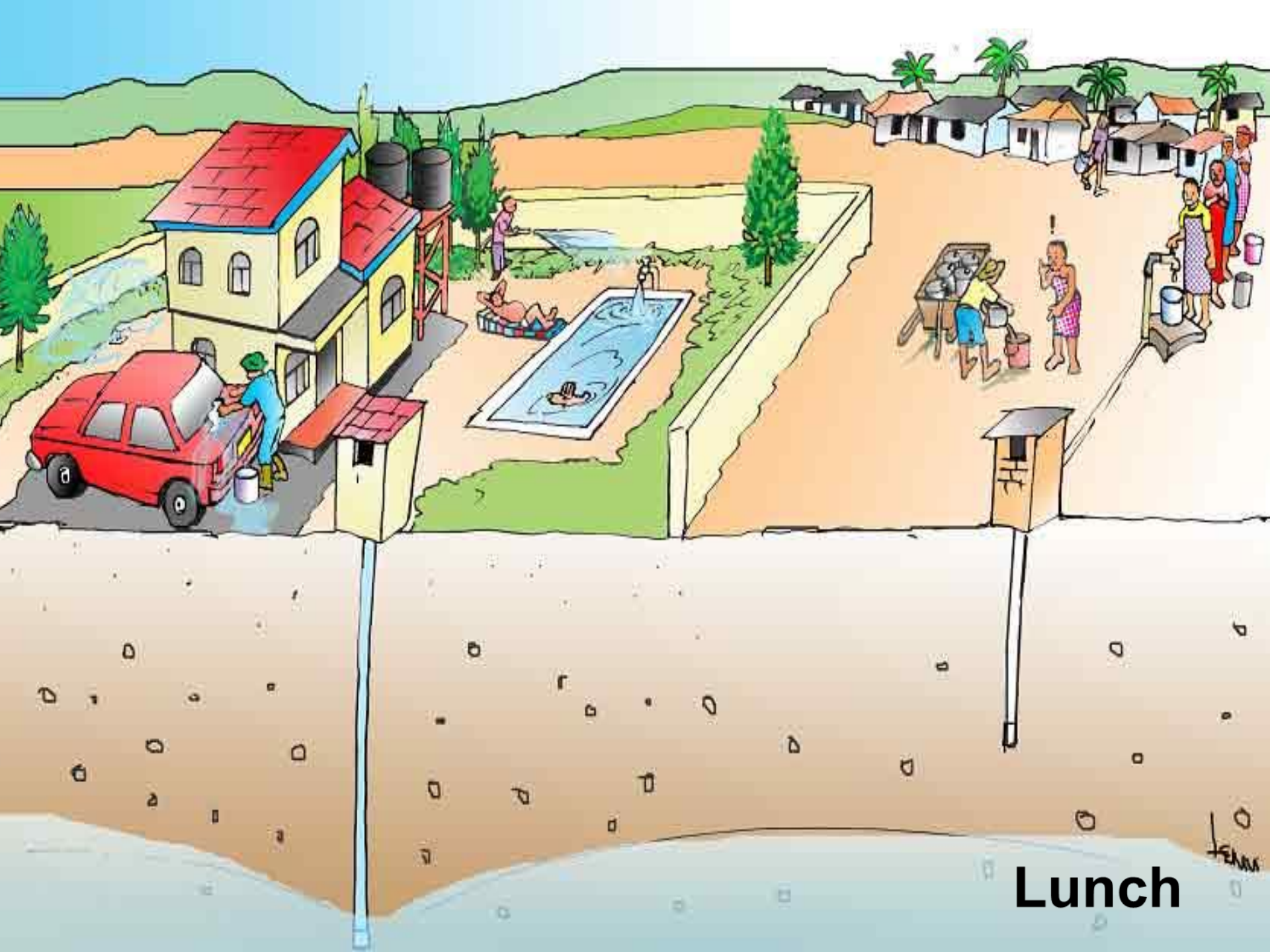
‘If we work together in the right ways the sky’s the limit’

‘An unenlightened approach to corporate engagement on water will hasten our collective doom’

How do we ensure that corporate engagement delivers ***water security for all*** and not ***water securitisation for a few?***



- What is the balance between “high economic value” water use and water use for local well-being?
- What role can and should companies play in facilitating greater procedural and distributive water justice (especially in areas of weak governance)?
- How can companies be encouraged to consider long-term profit drivers in the face of immediate short-term profit motives and shareholder pressure?
- Can companies actually advocate and lobby for water management in the public interest?



Lunch

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Which way progress?

- CEO Guidelines – 5 principles of responsible engagement on water policy
- CDP Water – Disclosure and transparency
- AWS – navigating the difficult landscape of stewardship and verification of corporate claims
- Research, knowledge and evidence – CoWRN
- Other?



Principles for responsible water policy engagement

Principle 1: Advance sustainable water management. Responsible corporate engagement in water policy must be motivated by a genuine interest in furthering efficient, equitable, and ecologically sustainable water management.

Principle 2: Respect public and private roles. Responsible corporate engagement in water policy entails ensuring that activities do not infringe upon, but rather support, the government's mandate and responsibilities to develop and implement water policy. Acting consistently with this principle includes business commitment to work within a well-regulated (and enforced) environment.

Principle 3: Strive for inclusiveness and partnerships. Responsible engagement in water policy promotes inclusiveness and equitable, genuine, and meaningful partnerships across a wide range of interests.

Principle 4: Be pragmatic and consider integrated engagement. Responsible engagement in water policy proceeds in a coherent manner that recognizes the interconnectedness between water and many other policy arenas. It is a proactive approach, rather than responsive to events, and is cognizant of, and sensitive to, the environmental, social, cultural, and political contexts within which it takes place.

Principle 5: Be accountable and transparent. Companies engaged in responsible water policy are fully transparent and accountable for their role in a way that ensures alignment with sustainable water management and promotes trust among stakeholders.