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UNESCO Water Cooperation in Asia Pacific Region

TG1: GEOSS ASIAN WATER CYCLE INITIATIVE (AWCI)
UNESCO Introductions to the International Activities on Water
(WebEX)

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Common Challenges AP

Water quantity and quality

- **Sharp increase in water use**
- **Depletion of Groundwater sources**
- **Food security**
- **Climate change – extreme events**
- **Rapid urbanisation – water footprints**
- **Massive Pollution of Vital Water Resources**
- **Nitrogen, pesticides, endocrine disruptors**
- **Biodiversity loss**



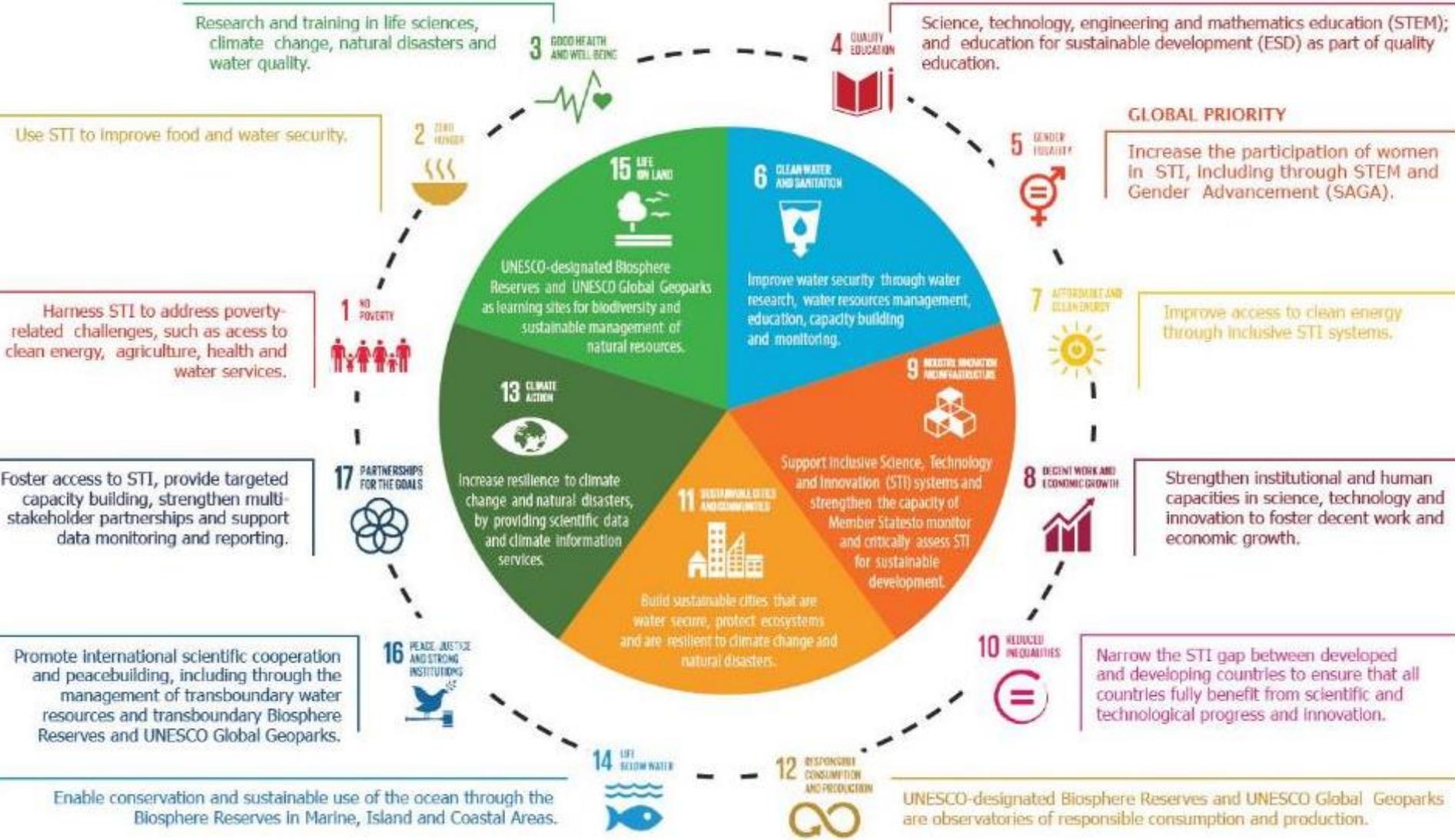


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Key Areas of Concern for Water Security in AP

- Limited knowledge of climate shift of agro-ecological zones
- Misinformed decisions resulting in unsatisfactory project output
- Inadequate resources (human, financial and material)
- Economic crisis and limited donor support
- Conflicting needs of funding agencies and communities
- Lack of communities involvement in regional projects, need to involve the main decision-makers at appropriate levels

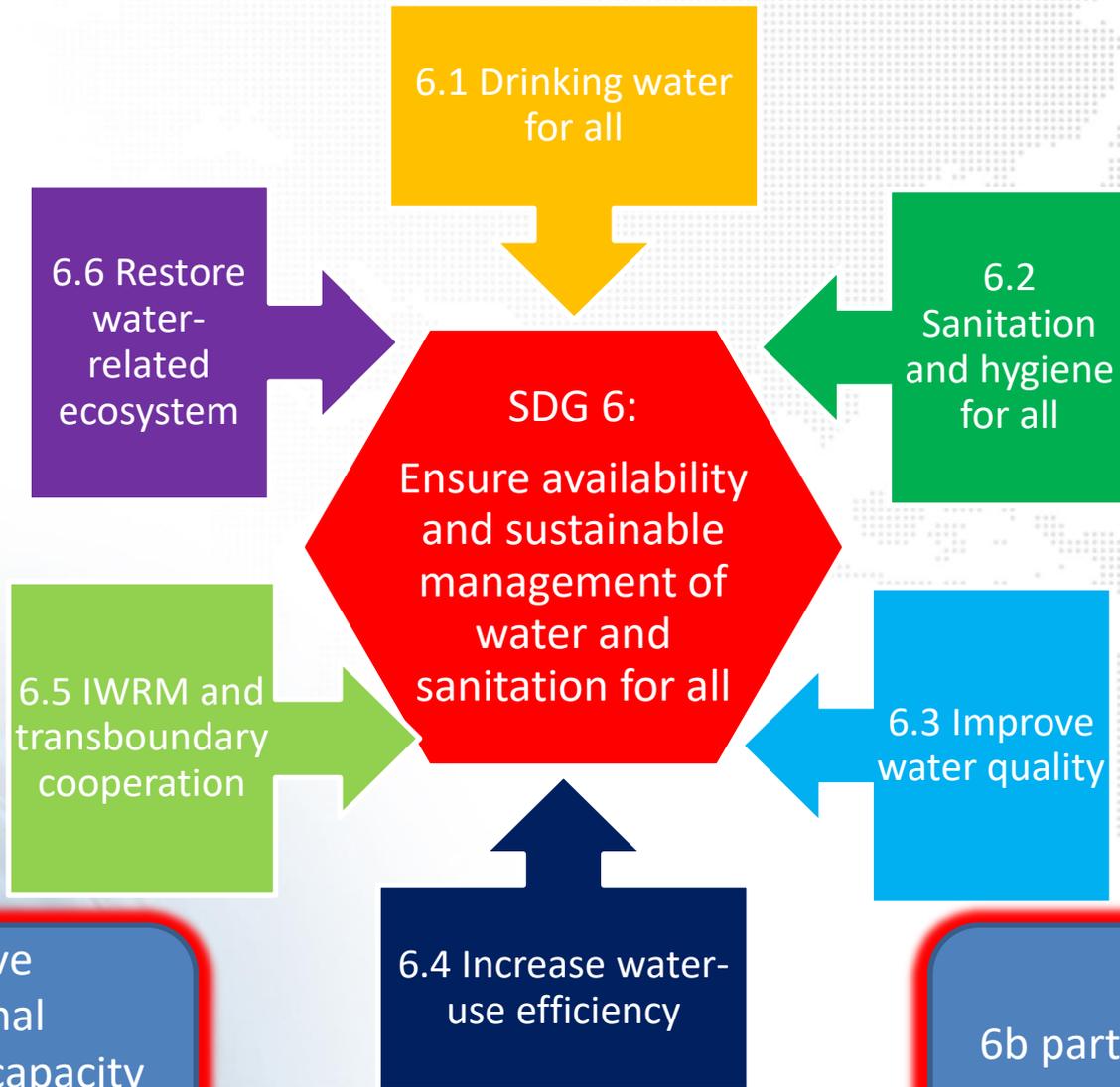
Harness science, technology, innovation and knowledge for sustainable development goals





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2030 Agenda and Water



6a effective international cooperation & capacity building support to developing countries

6b participation of local communities



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Water SDG Links to other SDGs

Goal 15:
15.8 Introduce measure to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystem

Goal 3:
3.3 End water borne disease

Goal 3:
3.9 Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from water

Goal 6
related other target

Goal 15:
15.1 Ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystem and their service

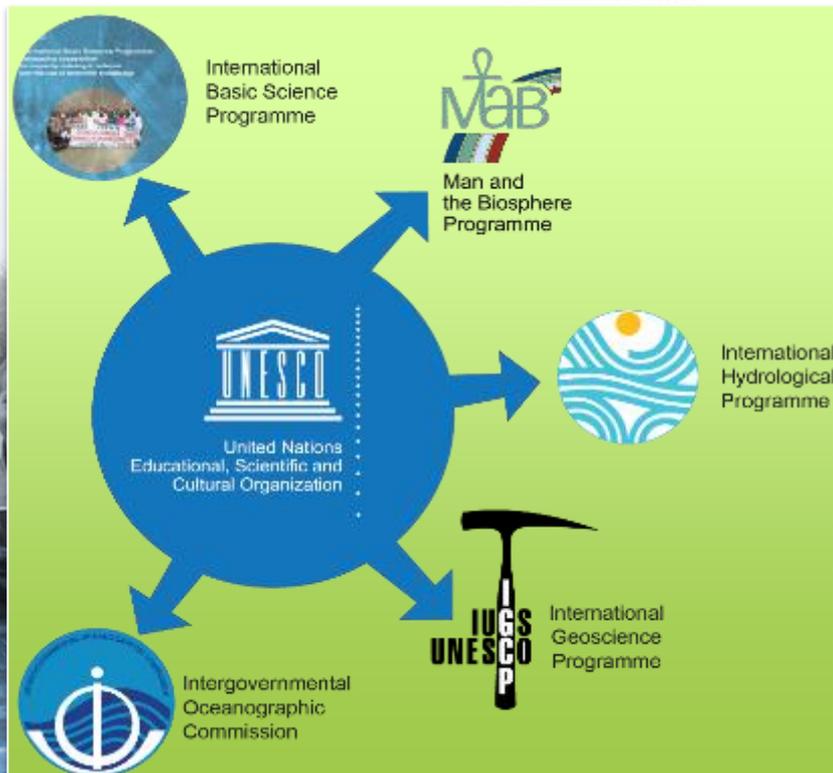
Goal 12:
12.4 Sound management of waste to reduce release in to water

Goal 11:
11.4 Significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of affected people and economic losses due to water related disasters

Contribution to International Research and Capacity Building on Natural Sciences

Promote the 5 UNESCO's intergovernmental and international programmes

Support 10 UNESCO's major Programmes, Initiatives and Bodies





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International
Hydrological
Programme

International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

UNESCO IHP is the only intergovernmental programme of the UN system devoted to water research, water resources management, and education and capacity building.





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IHP-VIII 2014-2021

Axis 1

Mobilizing International cooperation to Improve knowledge and innovation to address water security challenges

Axis 3

Developing institutional and human capacities for water security and sustainability



1

Water Related Disasters and Hydrological Changes



2

Groundwater in a Changing Environment



3

Addressing Water Scarcity and Quality



4

Water and Human Settlements of the Future



5

Ecohydrology Engineering Harmony for a Sustainable World



6

Education, Key to Water Security

Axis 2

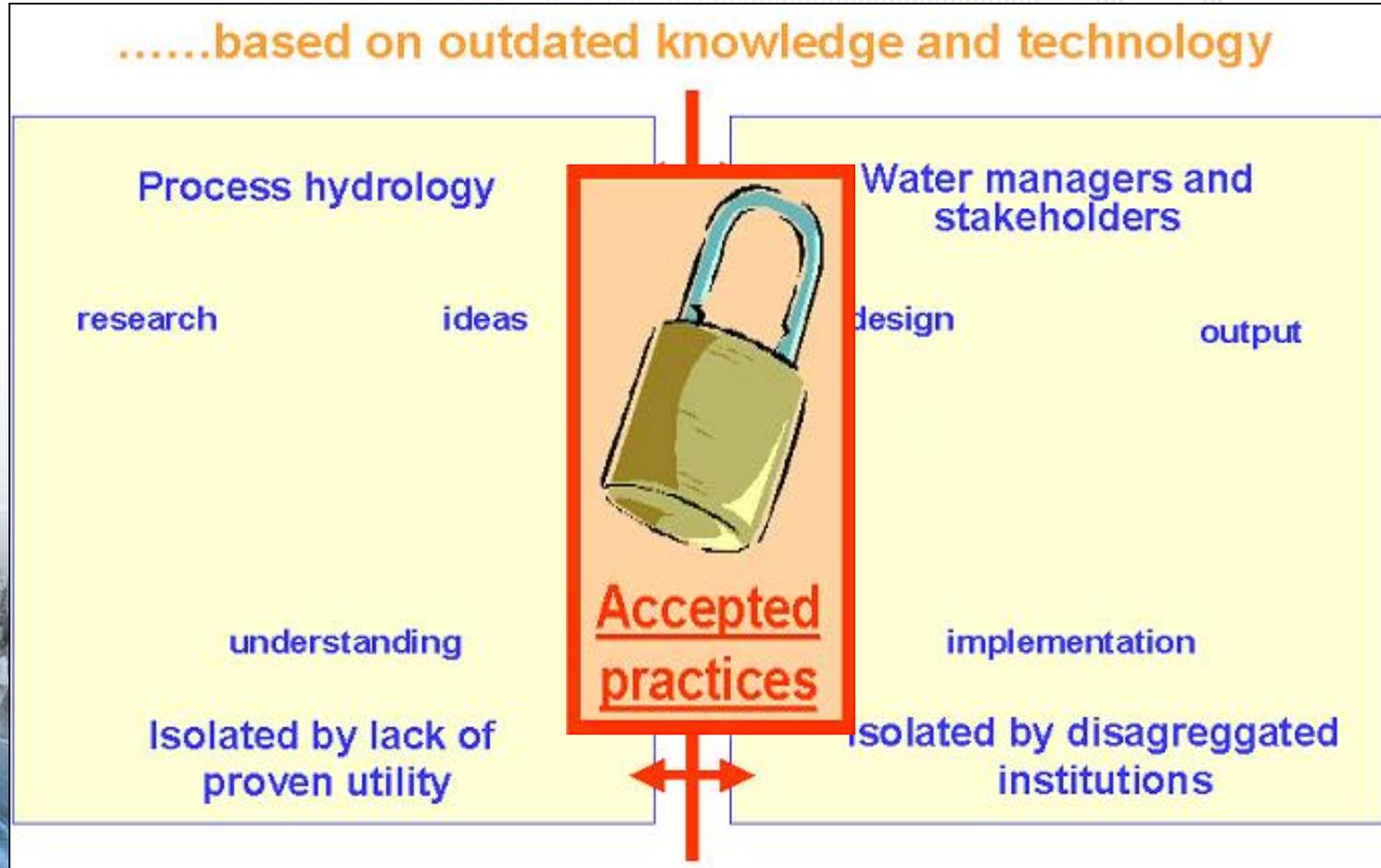
Strengthening the Science-Policy interface to reach water security at local, national, regional, and global levels



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The Challenge of Implementation

Due to Lack of Common Understanding there is a “Paradigm Lock”



Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

❖ Integrated water resources management (IWRM) is a step-by-step process of managing water resources in a harmonious and environmentally sustainable manner by gradually uniting stakeholders while accounting for changing social demands due to such changes as population growth, rising demand for environmental conservation, changes in sense of water value, and climate change.

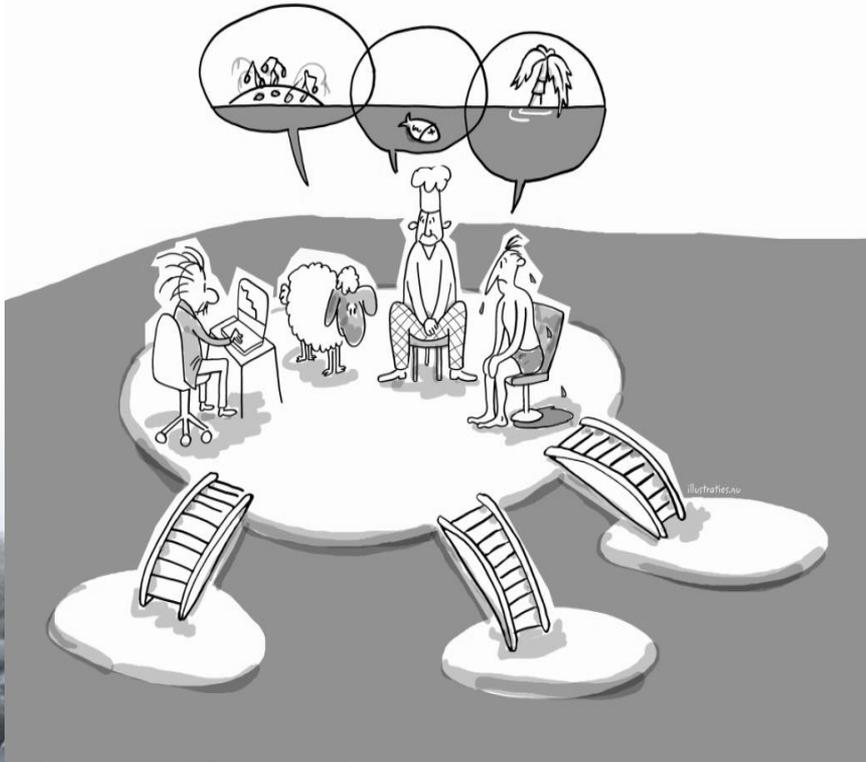
❖ **It is an open-ended process that evolves in a spiral manner over time as once moves towards more coordinated water resources management.**

IWRM is a "process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner, without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems." (GWP, 2000)



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Bridge Gaps Between Sectoral Approaches



Different Sectors



Different Groups



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[Further Information](mailto:s.khan@unesco.org)
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