



WATER PEACE & SECURITY

Alyssa Offutt - IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

Judith Blaauw - Deltares

Laura Birkman - Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS)

Svenja Wolter - International Alert

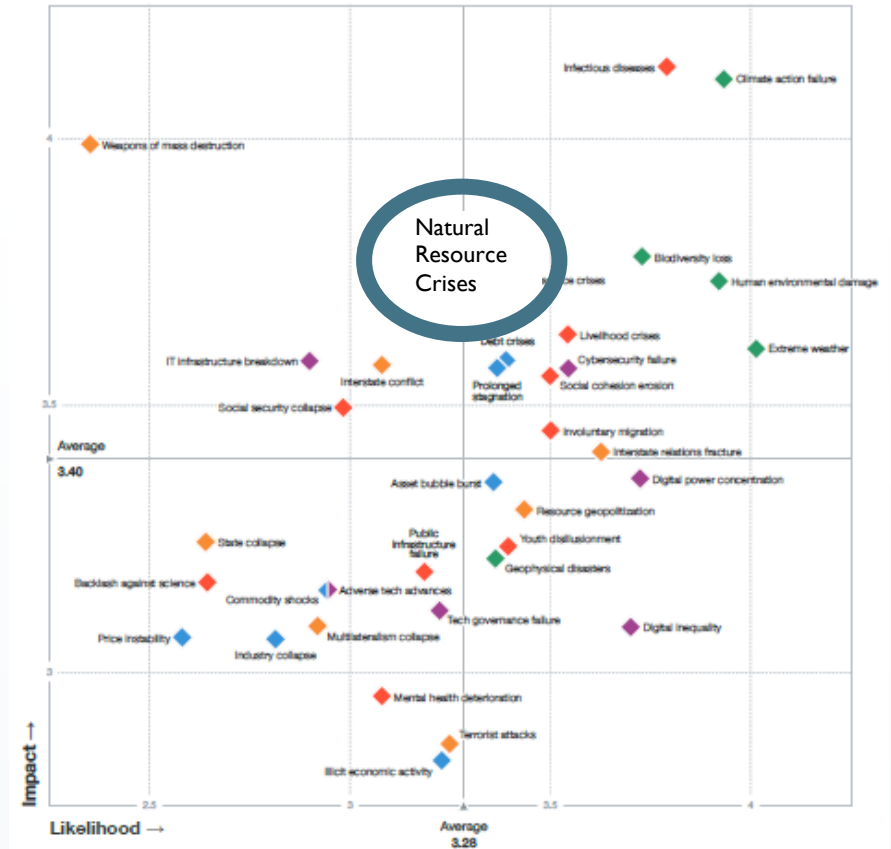
IHE
DELFT

Deltares



Water-Related Risks are Increasing and Complex

- Increased water stress can enhance perceived competition over water resources at all scales
 - Growing population-based and economic water demands
 - Increasing variability and impacts of climate adaptation measures
 - Environmental degradation
 - Insufficient governance and inefficient use
- Competition can facilitate water-related conflict and cooperation based on a range of intervening factors



Risk perception global landscape. Courtesy of the World Economic Forum's *The Global Risks Report 2021*.

Water Peace and Security (WPS) Partners



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE

Deltares



Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL



The Hague Centre
for Strategic Studies

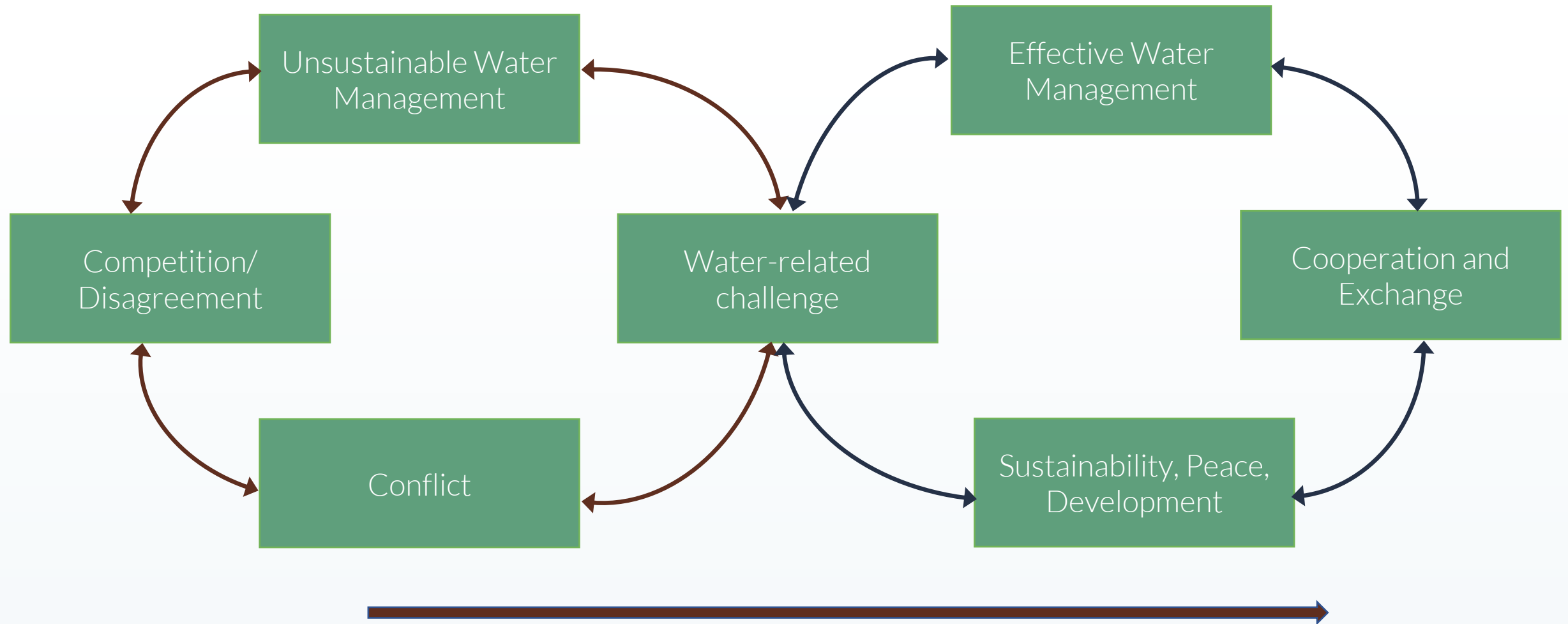


Clingendael
Netherlands Institute of International Relations

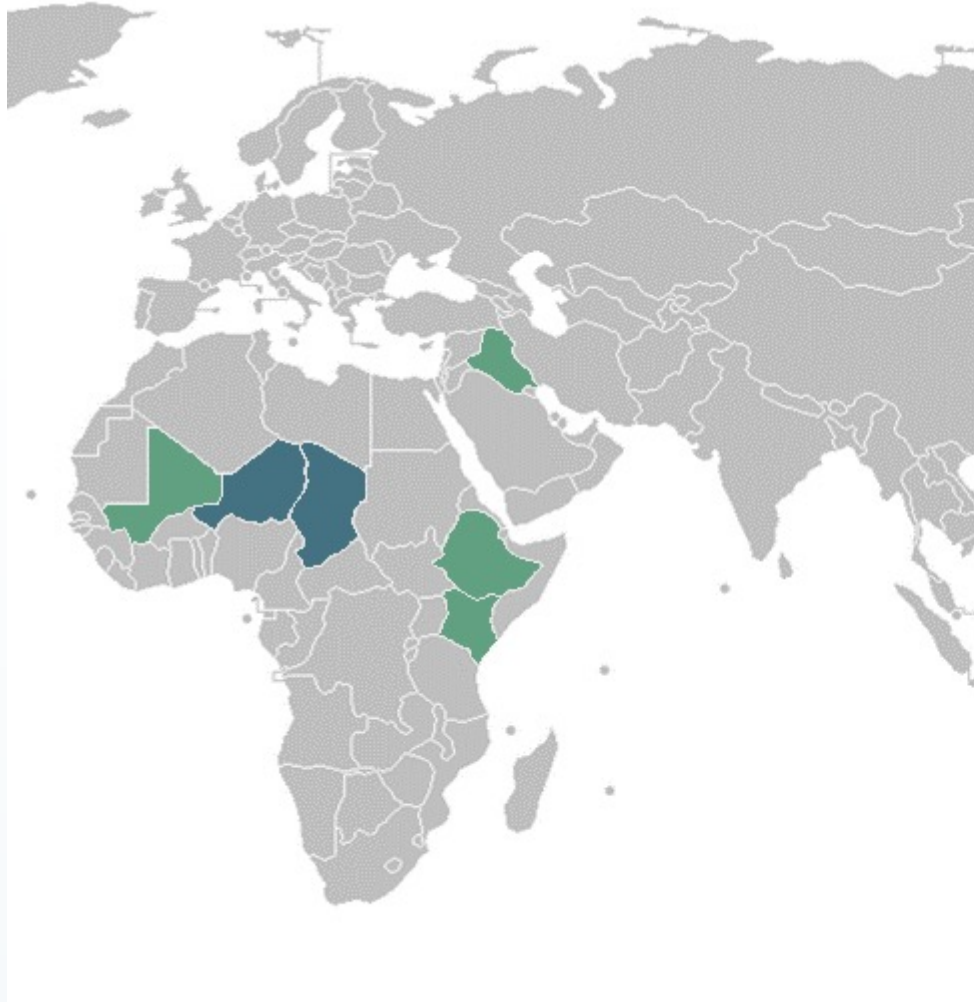


Oregon State
University

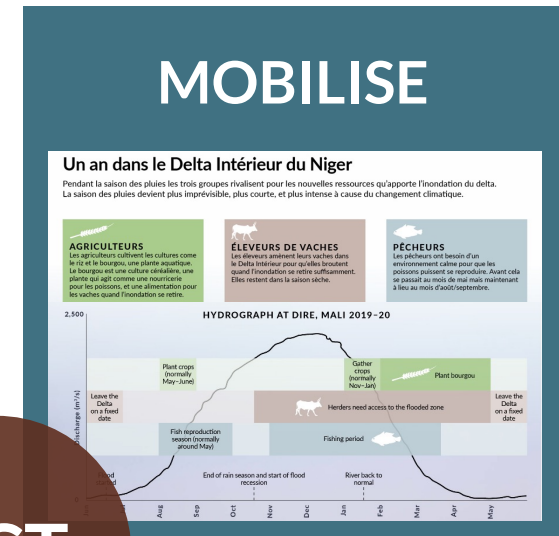
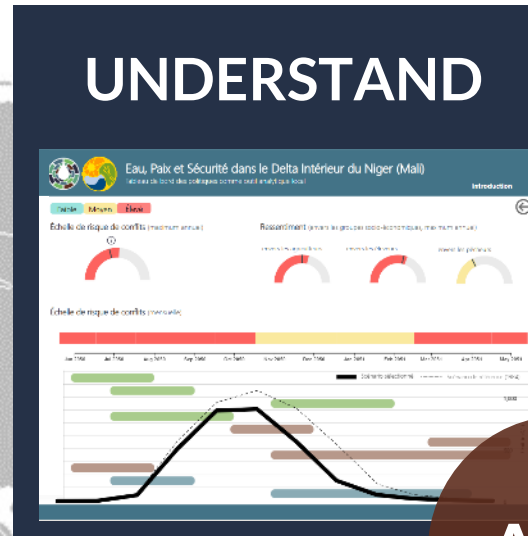
WPS Aim: To turn vicious cycles of water and conflict into virtuous cycles of water-based peace and cooperation



WPS Integrated Approach at Global and Regional Scales



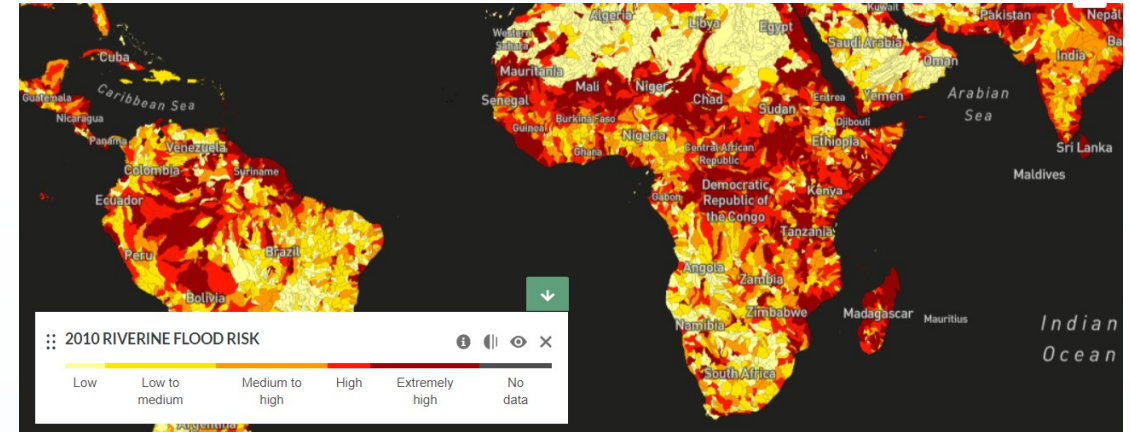
WPS regional engagement in Mali, Iraq, Kenya, Ethiopia (green), and in partnership with GIZ, Niger and Chad (blue).



The WPS Integrated Approach: Integrated, Informed and Inclusive

The Global Tool:

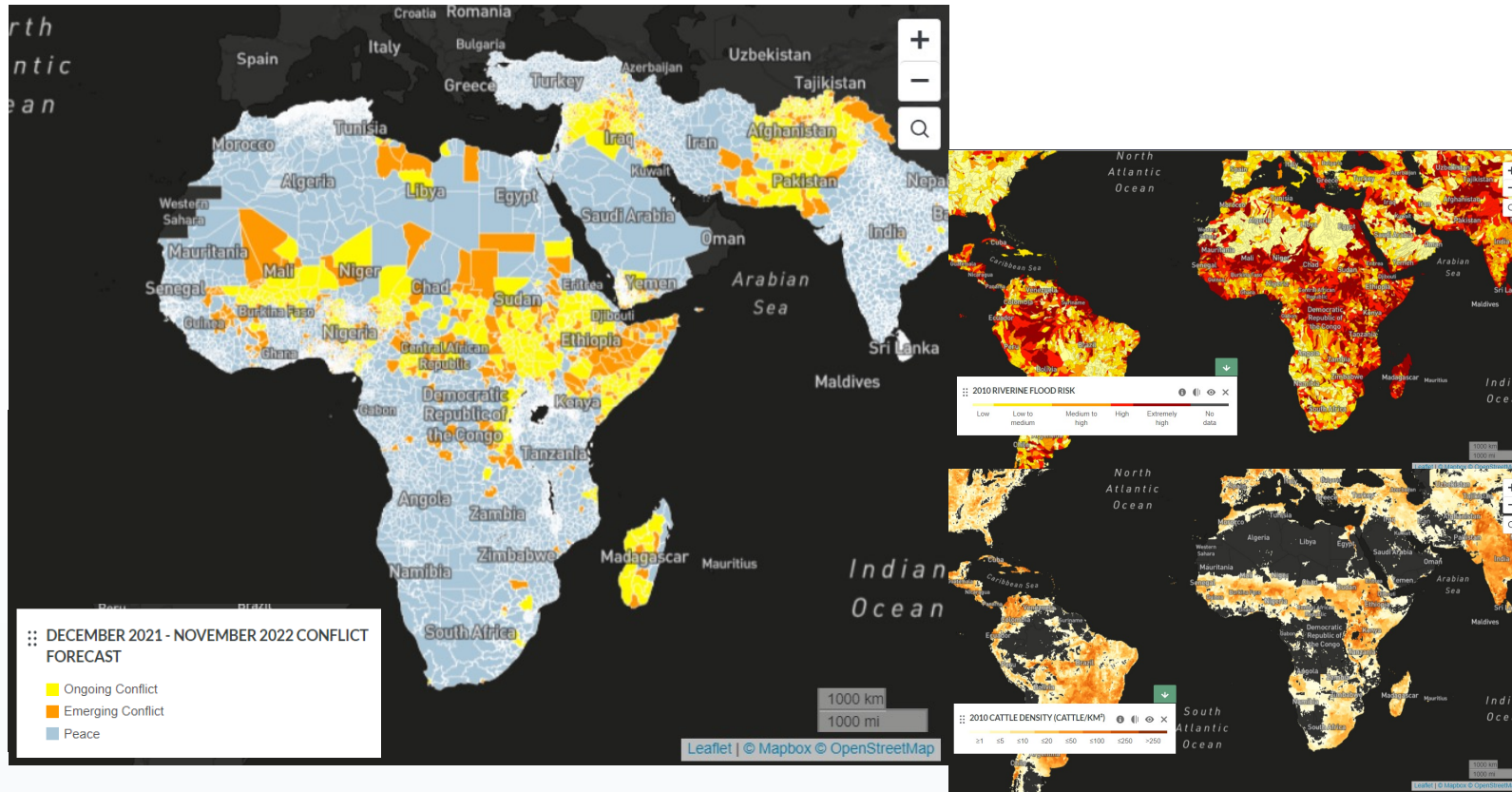
- Identify hotspots of conflict and water challenges
- Compare across regions
- Explore the underlying data



Local Tools and Engagement

- Support conflict sensitive water management
- Support conflict resolution and peacebuilding dialogue in a context of water-related stress
- Support building water and conflict resilience in a fragile context

Global Early Warning Tool



- Predicts likelihood of conflict over the next 12 months
- Uses machine learning techniques
 - Learns from over a decade of past patterns
 - Allows the model to decide which datasets to use
- Includes real-time climate- and water variables

WPS Regional Engagement

- **Co-develop a water security narrative**

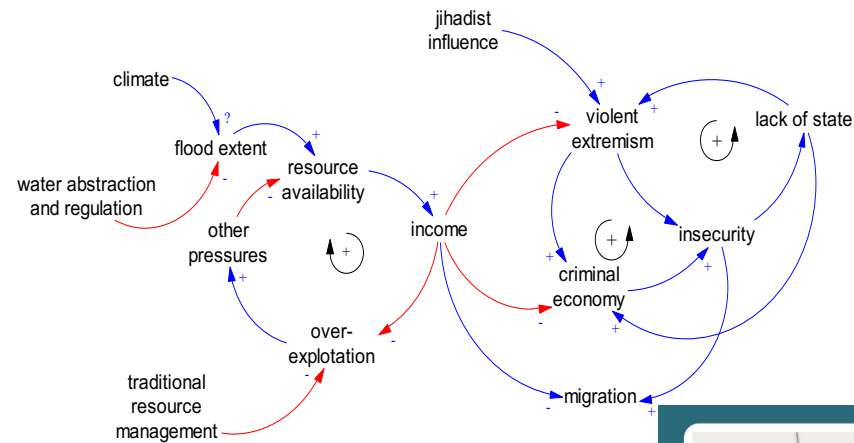
- Combines stakeholder, conflict and hydrological analysis
- Joint understanding of links
- Identify knowledge gaps
- Decide what requires quantification

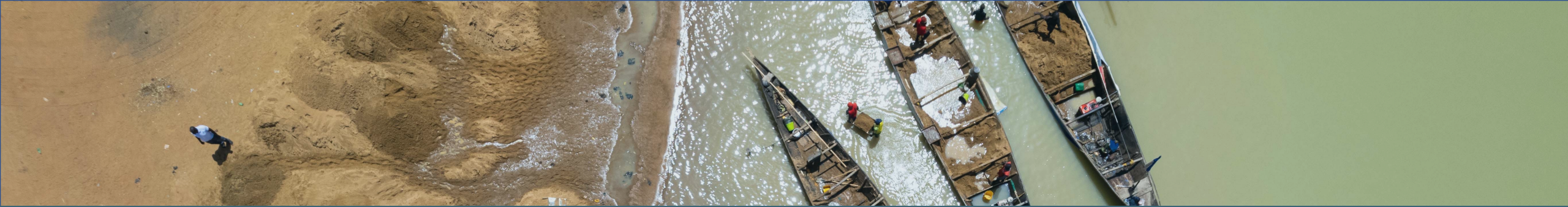
- **Quantify key indicators**

- Water system modelling
- Human responses modelling
- Scenarios
- Customize and visualize results

- **Engagement and dialogue**

- Support dialogue for peace
- Training and capacity building
- Inform existing relevant processes



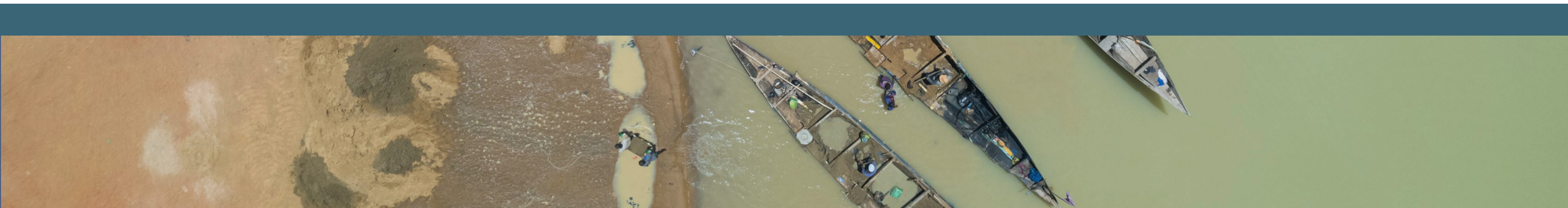


WPS in Mali

Svenja Wolter
International Alert

IHE
DELFT

Deltares



WPS in Mali's Inner Niger Delta

- Mopti, Djenne & Konna
- **Socio-economic/cultural groups:** Fishing communities, Pastoralists and Farmers
- **Conflict causes & drivers:** sand exploitation, pastoral routes, dam operation, farmland, parallel systems of conflict resolution
- **Compounding factors:** Climate change, population growth, climate-fragility, insecurity



How are we working?

- Community focal points
- Local water champions
- Community dialogue: Keeping channels of communication and cooperation open - trust building
- Influencing policy-level: Programmes for Economic, Social & Cultural Development (PDESC)
- Media engagement & advocacy
- Participation for ownership of dashboard (tool)

“ We favour dialogue as an instrument for conflict resolution. Dialogue has helped to resolve conflicts between Pinasse boatmen, fishermen and farmers in Mopti.”

Tiema Djenema, Touristic Association of Pinasse boats of Mopti

“The assessment of water resources is a prerequisite for sustainable development and rational water management. It is crucial for the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of irrigation and drainage systems.”

Moctar Touré, civil service Djenne



Impact Stories WPS Mali

waterpeacesecurity.org/info/mali-impact-story-02-14-2023



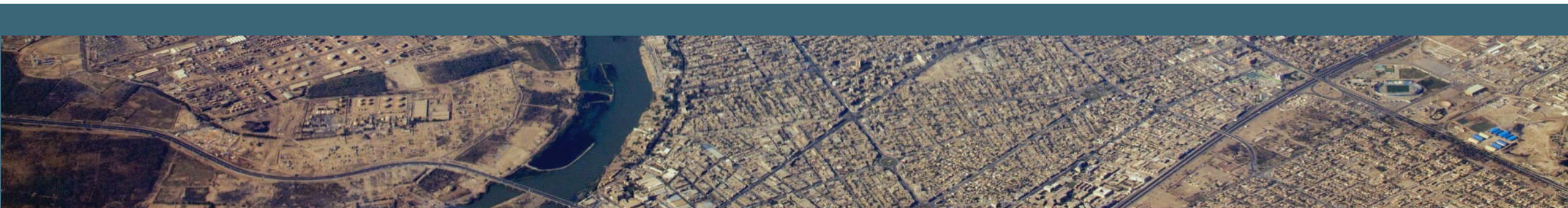
WPS in Iraq

Laura Birkman

Hague Centre for Strategic Studies

IHE
DELFT

Deltares



Water-related security challenges

- Decreasing water quantity (water supply from Tigris and Euphrates rivers reduced by 80% since 1980s)
- Decreasing water quality (impact on supply of freshwater and decrease arable land)
- Natural and anthropogenic causes (socio-economic, political, ecological impacts)
- Increasing water demand (population and urbanisation)

Focus areas WPS Iraq 2020-2024

1. Water scarcity: allocation and management
2. Water quality: pollution, salination and waste
3. Socio-economic impacts
4. Internal migration and development



Figure: Map of Iraq showing the selected provinces for the WPS Iraq engagement: Wasit, Missan, Dhi-Qar, and Basrah.

Understanding water-conflict dynamics in Iraq

- Water governance as a stressor and obstacle to resilience
- Conflict between authorities
- Conflict between authorities and citizens
- Conflict over scarce resources



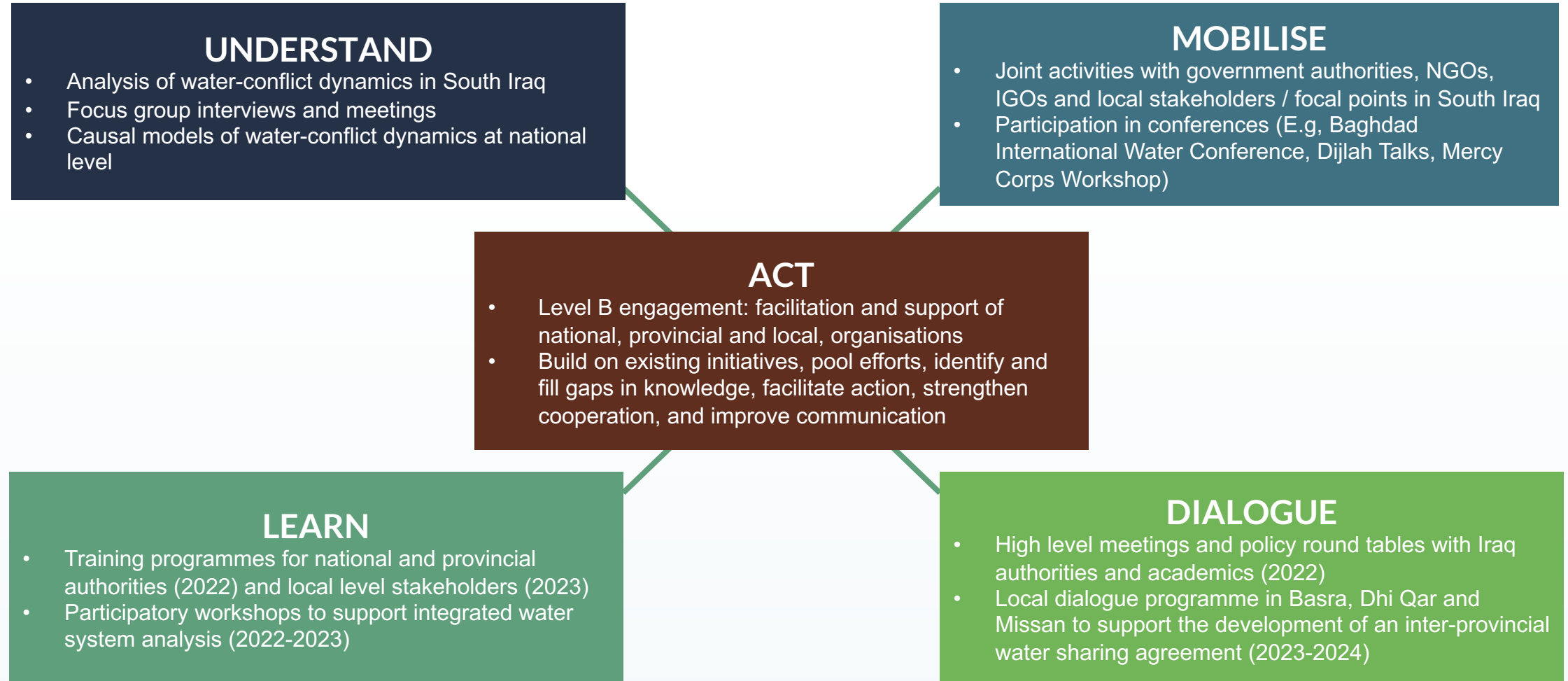
Demonstrations in Iraq's Basra Province in July 2018.

Source: [AA/Security forces disperse demonstration in Iraq's Basra](#)

Tribes are a driver *and* mitigator of conflict

- Historical relevance and influence of tribes
- Today, **75% of the population** belong to one of Iraq's 150 (main) tribes
- Tangled power structures
- Co-opted by governorate security forces
- Traditional conflict resolution mechanisms to deter outbreak or escalation of conflict
- Social safety net

WPS Integrated action areas in Iraq



THANK YOU

Website: waterpeacesecurity.org
Email: info@waterpeacesecurity.org
Twitter: [@waterpeacesec](https://twitter.com/waterpeacesec)



Water, Peace and Security