



Implementing environmental
flows: Insights from
international experience

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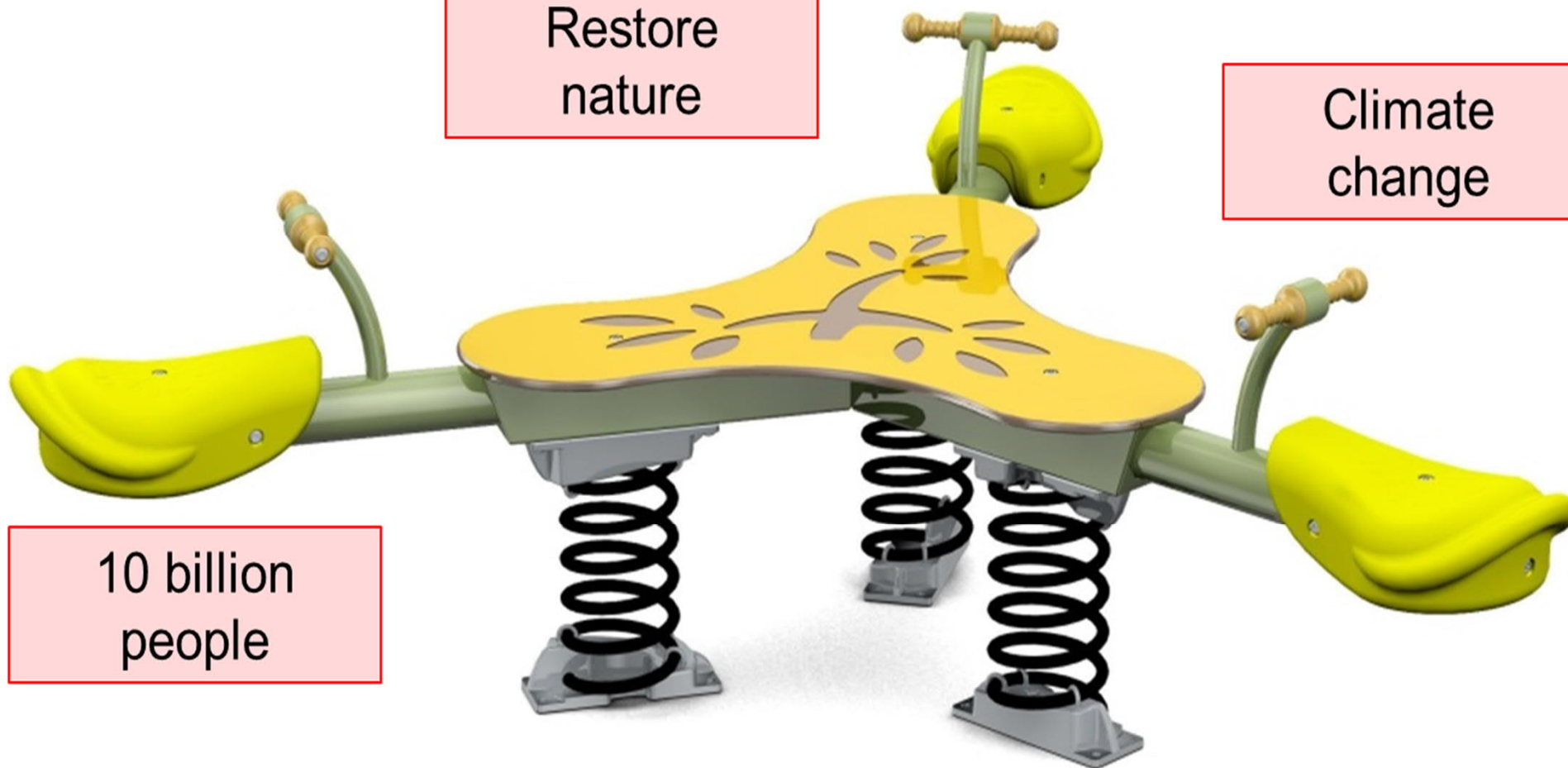


Crises & opportunities

Restore
nature

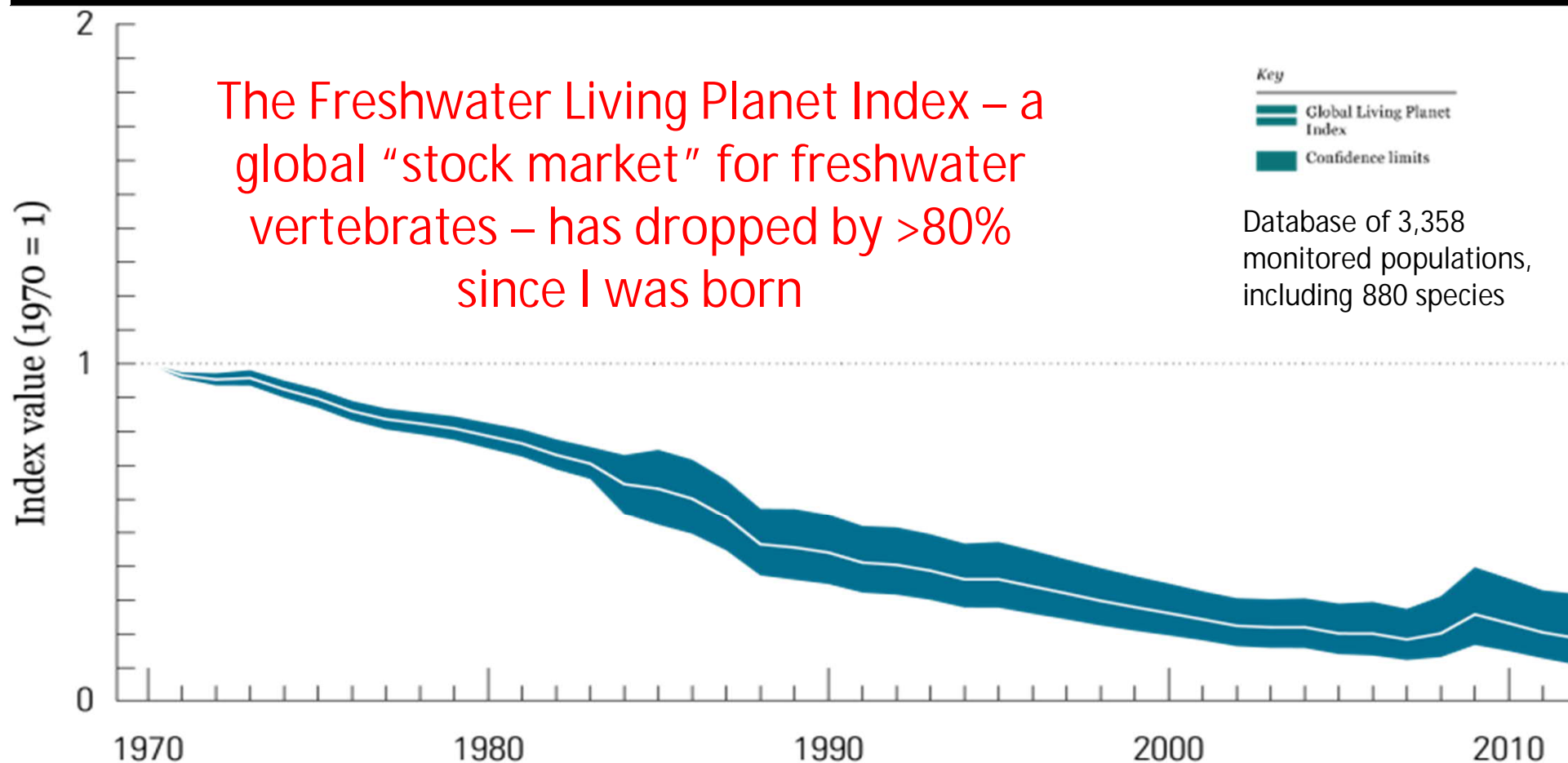
Climate
change

10 billion
people





Crises & opportunities

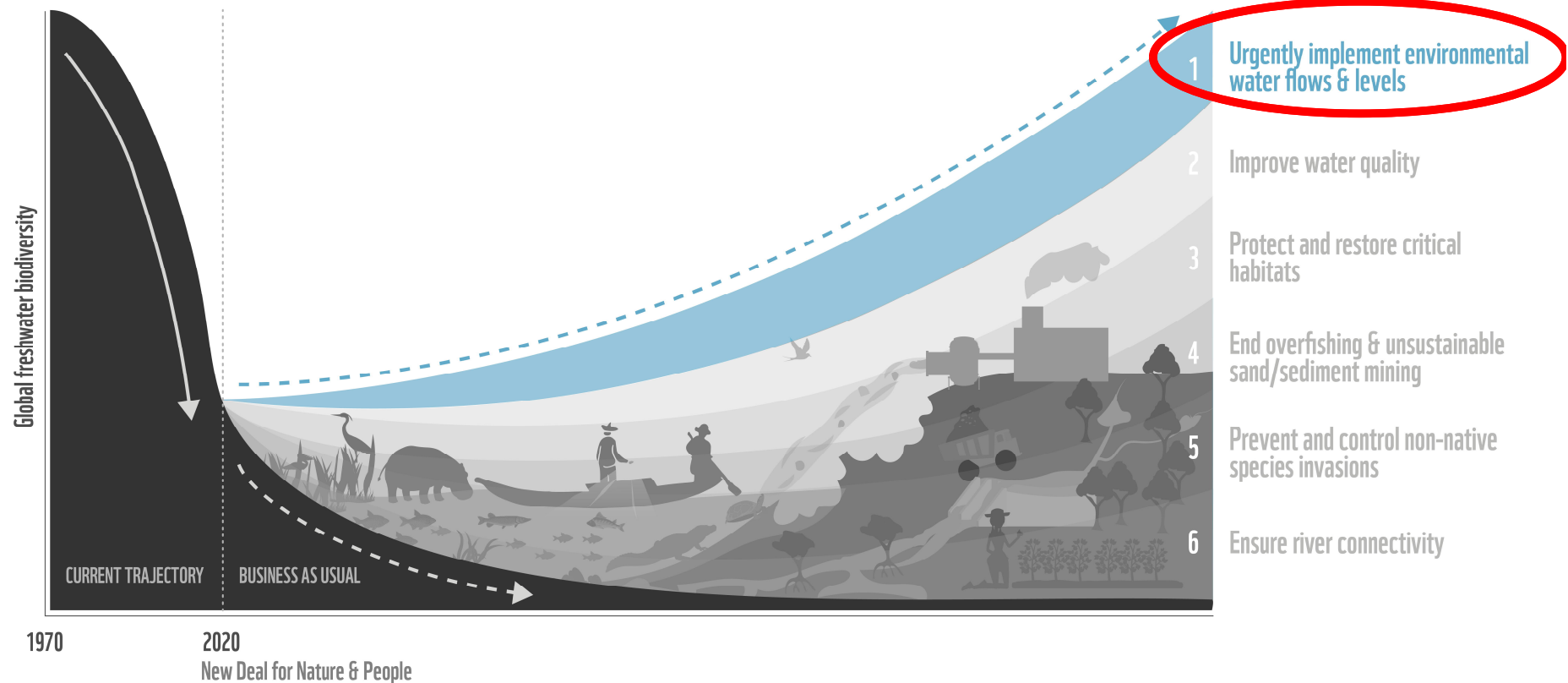


Source: WWF/ZSL, 2016, *Living Planet Report*



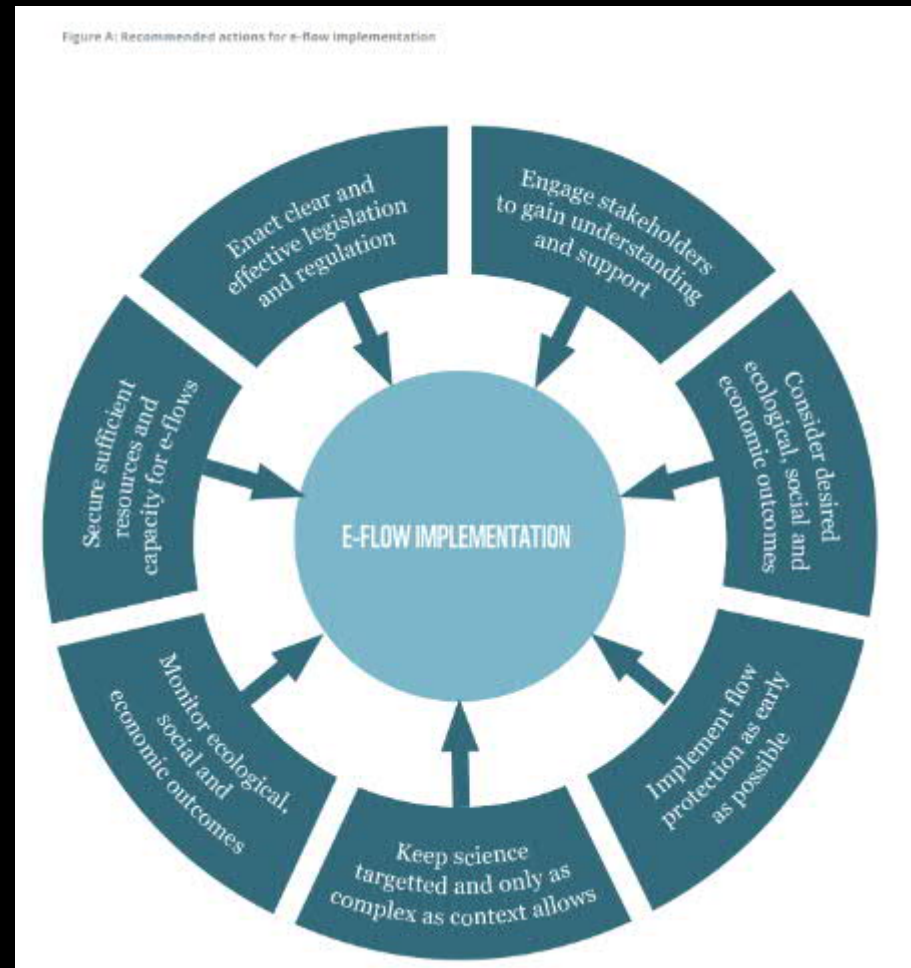
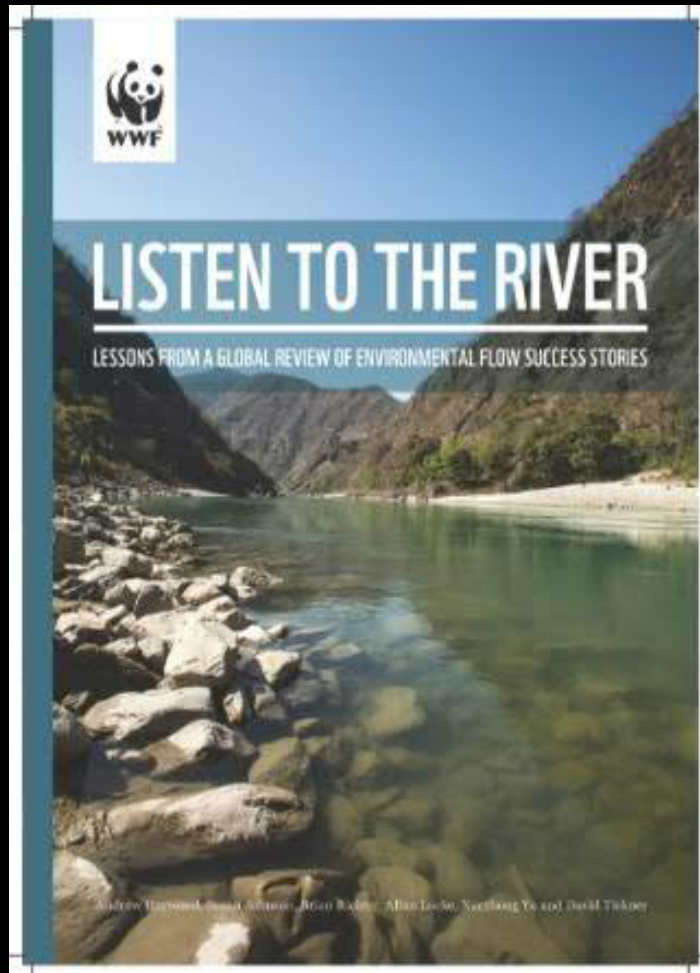
Crises & opportunities

BENDING THE FRESHWATER BIODIVERSITY CURVE - AN EMERGENCY RECOVERY PLAN



Source: Tickner et al, 2020, *Bioscience*

Listen to the River



Harwood et al, 2017, *Listen to the river*, WWF

Listen to the River



Implementing Environmental Flows: Lessons for Policy and Practice

Submission closed.

13 Articles 68 Authors Impact Comments

34,499 VIEWS

About this Research Topic

River flow has been described as the "master variable" which influences the condition of many freshwater ecosystems. Widespread and significant alteration of river flow regimes around the world, linked to dam construction and abstraction of water for multiple human uses, is a significant cause of observed ...

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The Brisbane Declaration and Global Action Agenda on Environmental Flows (2018)

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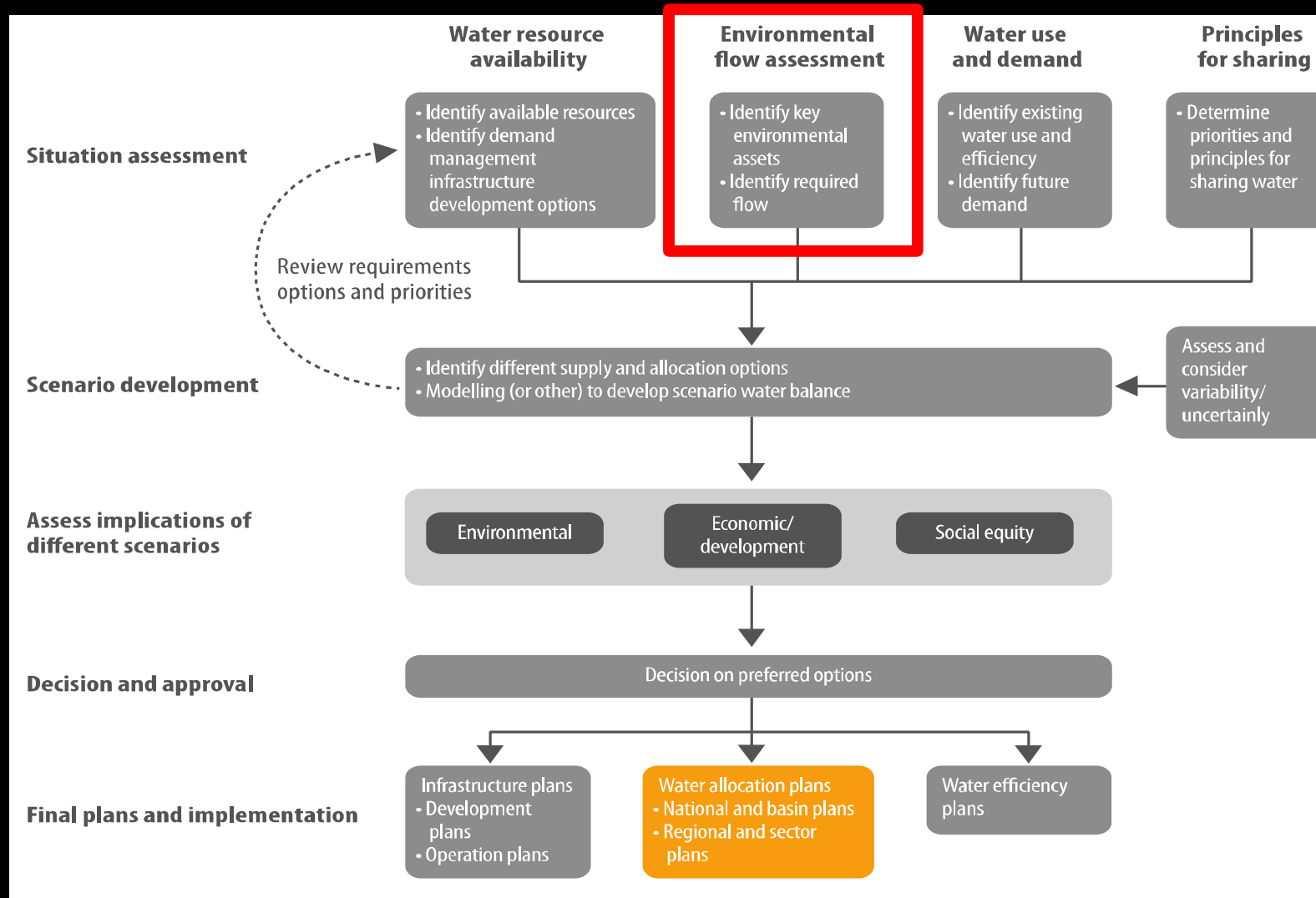
A decade ago, scientists and practitioners working in environmental water management crystallized the progress and direction of environmental flows science, practice, and policy in the Brisbane Declaration and Global Action Agenda (2007), during the 10th International Riversymposium and International Environmental Flows Conference held in Brisbane, Australia. The 2007 Declaration highlights the significance of environmental water allocations for humans and freshwater-dependent ecosystems, and sets out a nine-point global action agenda. This was the first consensus document that brought together the diverse experiences across regions and disciplines, and was significant in setting a common vision and direction for environmental flows internationally. After a decade of uptake and innovation in environmental flows, the 2007 declaration and action agenda was revisited at the 20th International Riversymposium and Environmental Flows Conference, held in Brisbane, Australia, in 2017. The objective was to publicize achievements since 2007 and update the declaration and action agenda to reflect collective progress, innovation, and emerging challenges for environmental flows policy, practice and science worldwide. This paper on The Brisbane Declaration and Global Action Agenda on Environmental Flows (2018) describes the inclusive consultation processes that guided the review of the 2007 document. The 2018 Declaration presents an urgent call for action to protect and restore environmental flows and aquatic ecosystems for their biodiversity, intrinsic values, and ecosystem services, as a central element of integrated water resources management, and as a foundation for achievement of water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Global Action Agenda (2018) makes 35 actionable recommendations to guide and support implementation of environmental flows through legislation and regulation, water management programs, and research, linked by partnership arrangements involving diverse stakeholders. An important new element of the Declaration and Action Agenda

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Arthington et al, 2018, *Frontiers in Environmental Science*



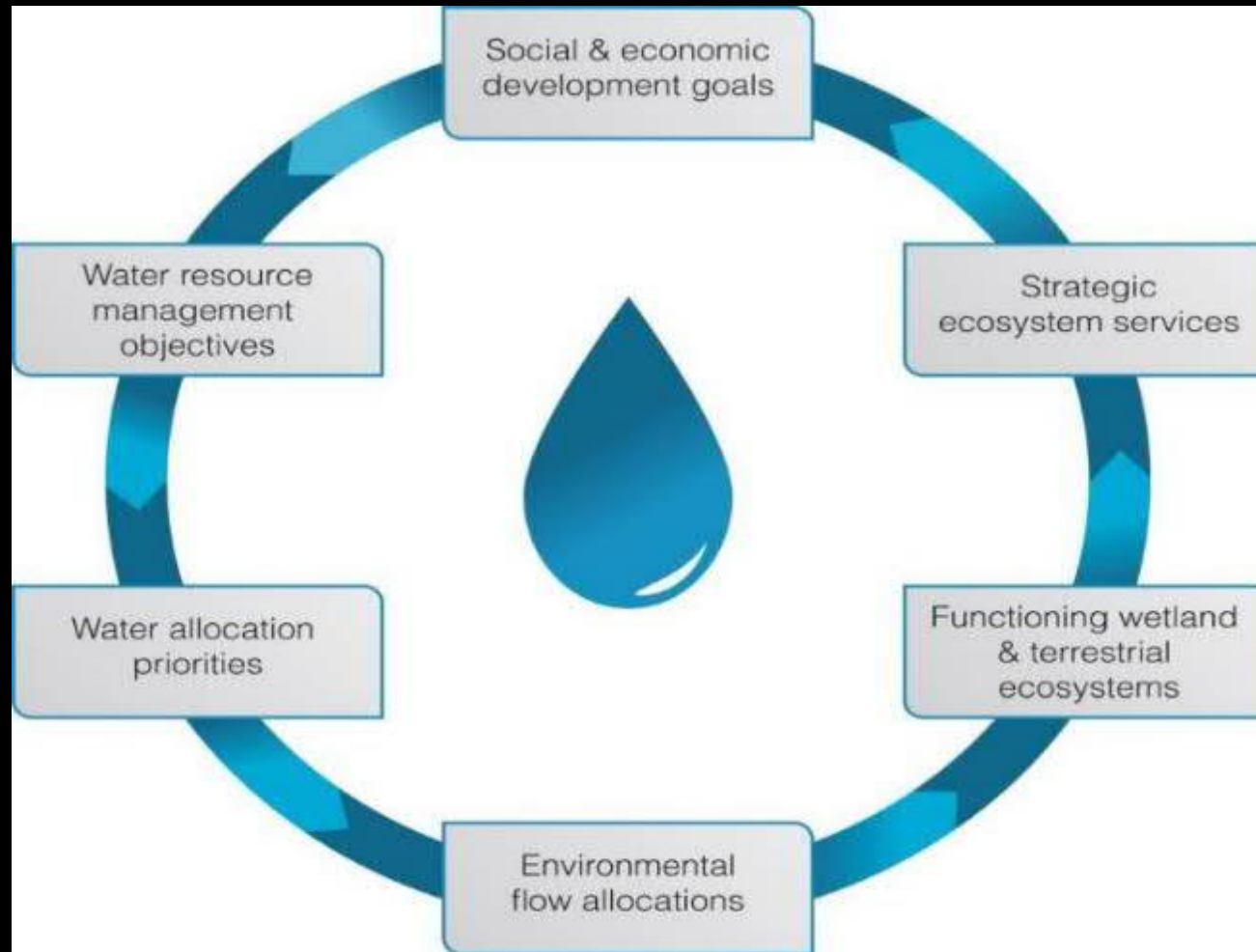
Insight #1: Understand **water planning** processes





Insight #2:

Place e-flows in context of **development priorities**



Tickner & Acreman, 2013, *Water security for ecosystems, ecosystems for water security*



Insight #3:

'Hot moments' can trigger e-flow implementation

Triggers		
1	Drought	Responsive
2	Water supply shortage	
3	Environmental damage	
4	Impacts on human health	
5	Political or institutional motivation	
6	Response to anticipated pressures	Proactive
7	Significant cultural / social events	
8	Climate change	



Insight #4:
Champions (aka “hot people”) accelerate e-flows implementation



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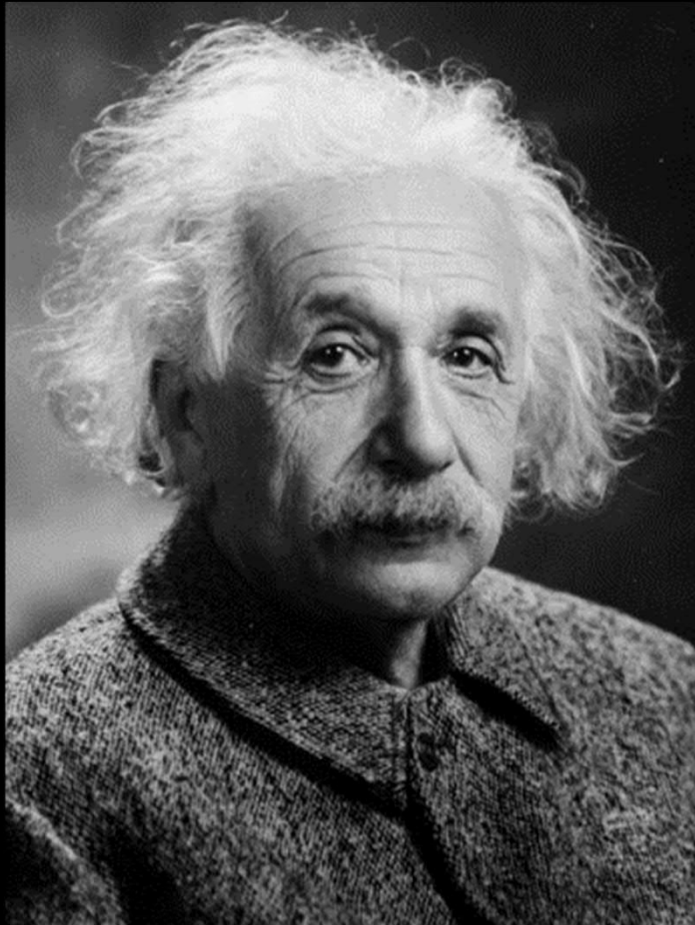
Insight #5: Enabling factors guide e-flows implementation

Enabling factors	
1	Legislation and regulation
2	Collaboration and stakeholder engagement and understanding
3	Driving force – a champion
4	Technical knowledge, understanding and tools
5	Resources and capacity
6	Standards and guidelines
7	Monitoring networks and adaptive management
8	Reallocation and trading mechanisms



Insight #6:

E-flow assessments should be **as simple as possible** and targeted to the context





"I choose to **listen to the river** for a while, thinking river thoughts, before joining the night and the stars."

Edward Abbey