

Desecuritization as a Foundation for Benefit-Sharing: Lessons from the Okavango River Basin

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Why should I worry about the future? What is in it for me?

The only thing we can change is the future. We are also going to live the rest of our lives there.... So we better get it right!

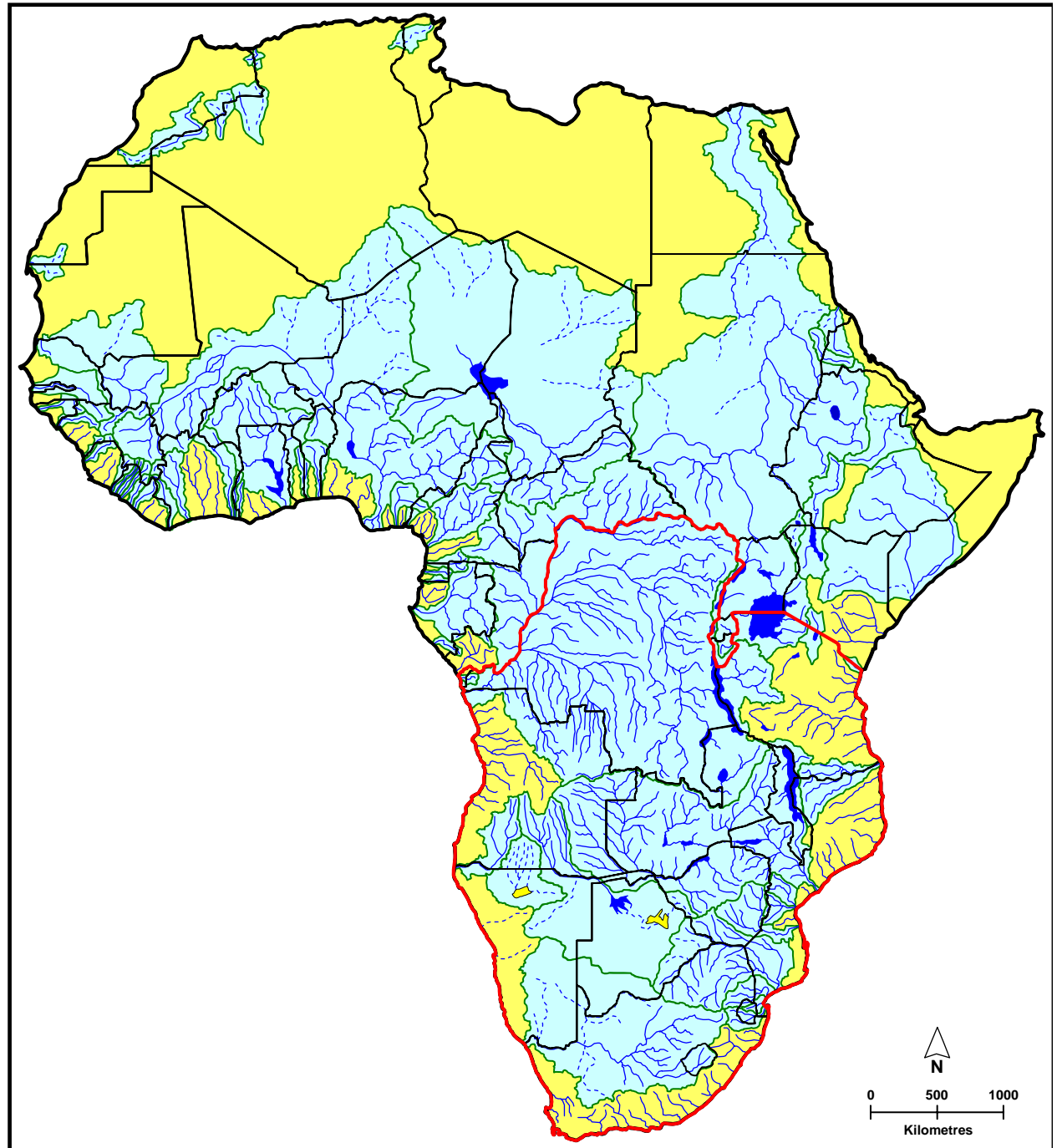
Layout of Presentation

- Okavango River Basin
- Securitization
- Desecuritization
- Benefit-Sharing
- Conclusion


Shared River Basins

Africa's shared river basins contain:

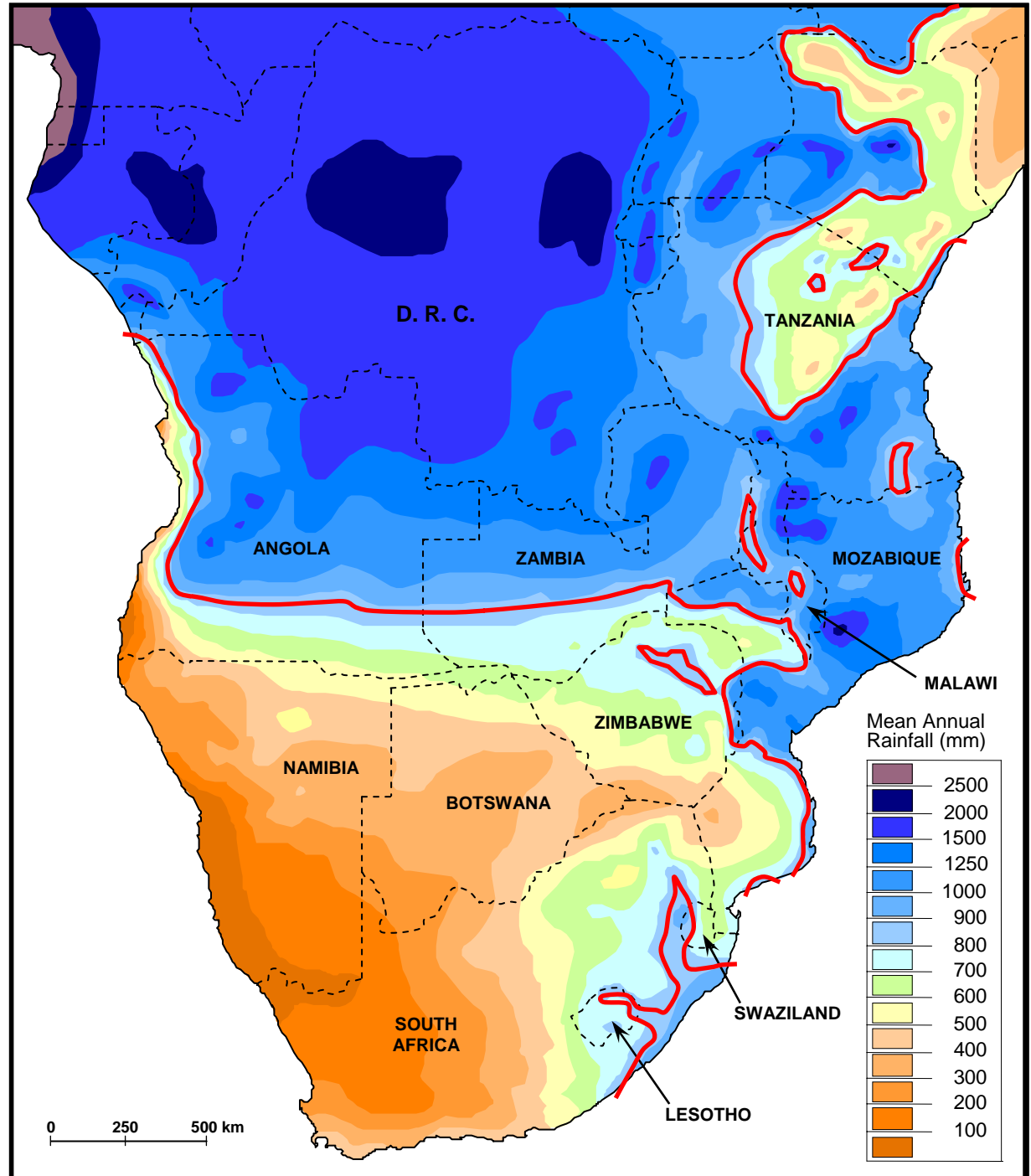
- 61 % of the area
- 77 % of the people
- 93 % of the water



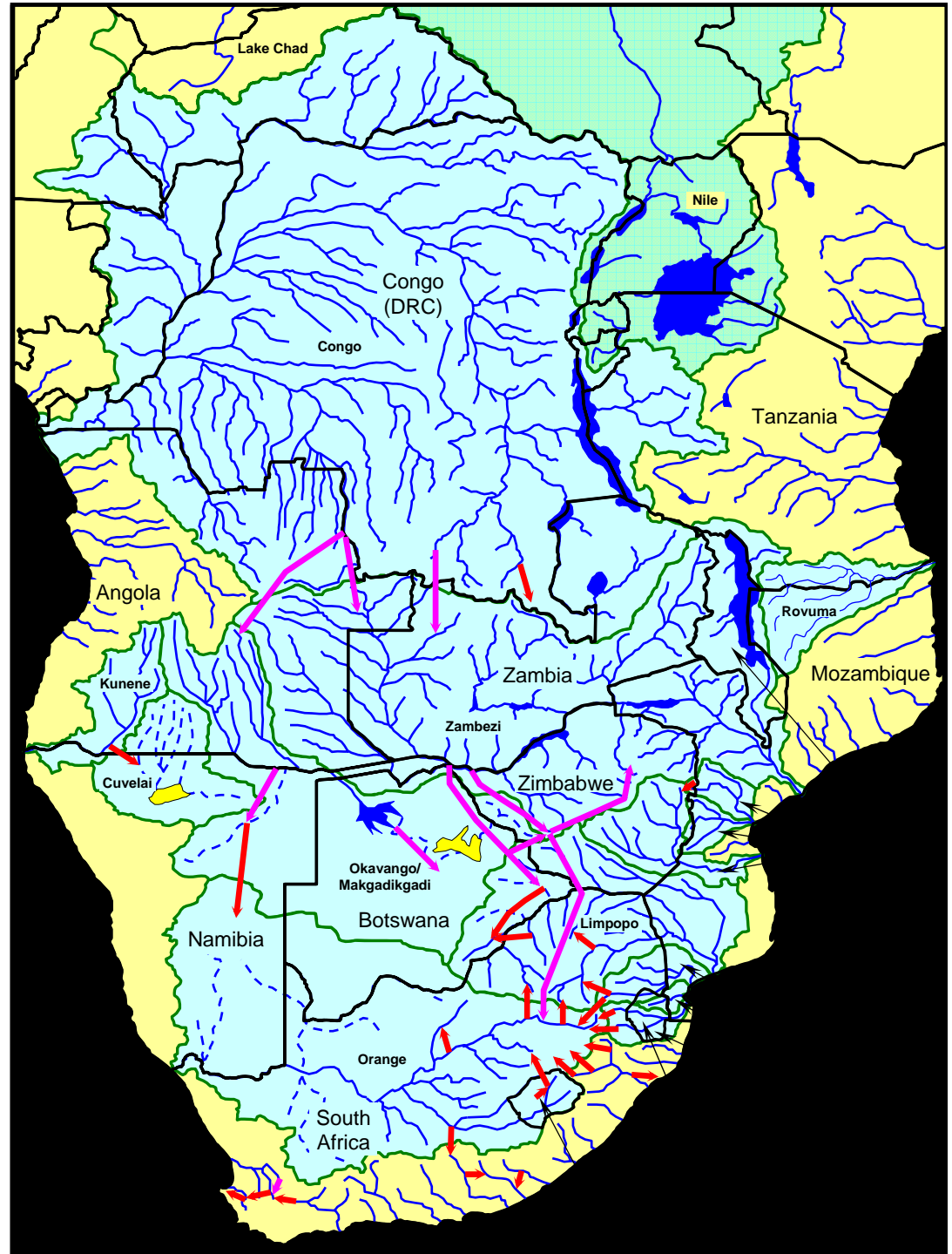
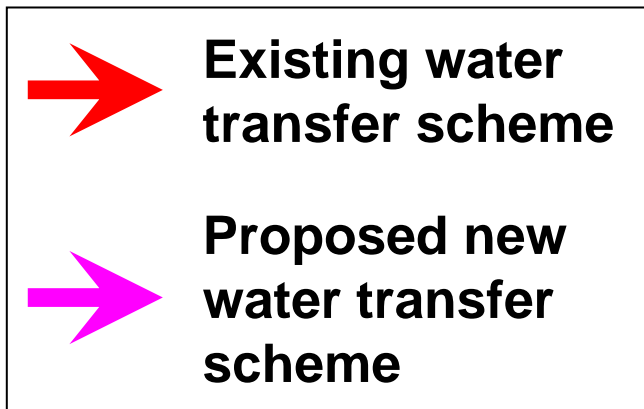
MEAN ANNUAL RAINFALL

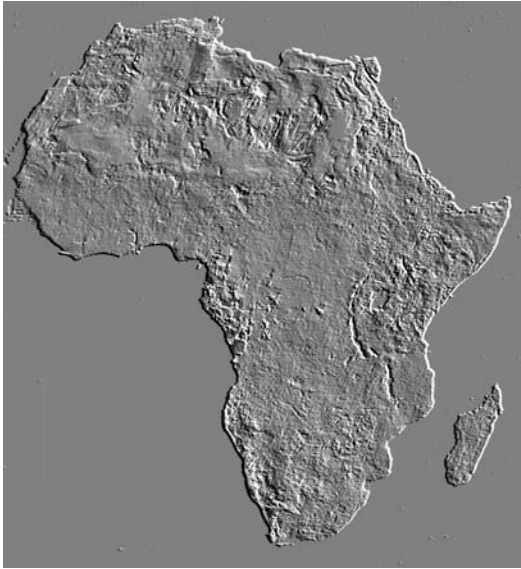
 = 860 mm isohyet
= World average rainfall

SADC Average Annual Rainfall = 948 mm

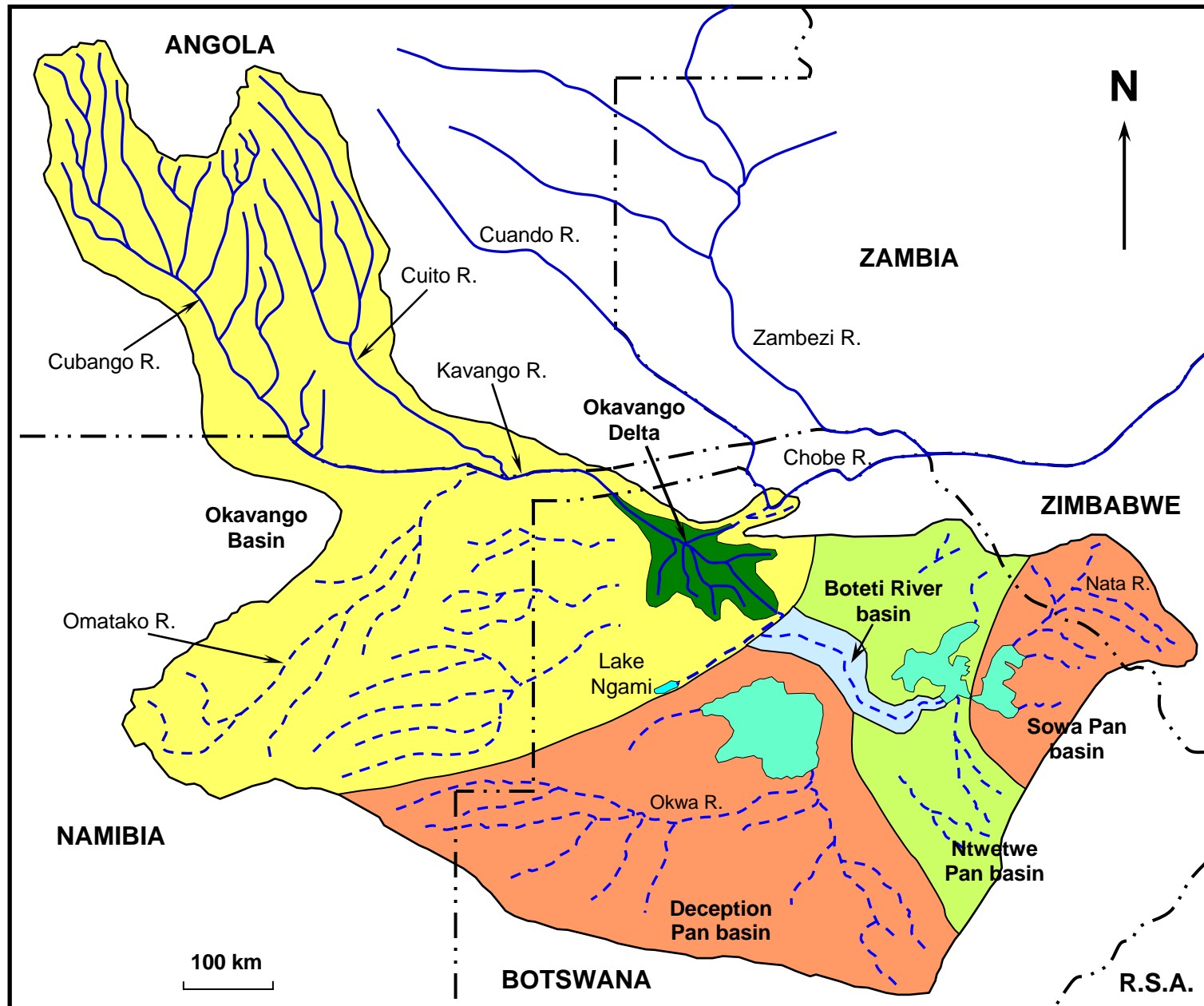


WATER TRANSFERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA





Okavango River Basin and Makgadikgadi Catchment



Map sourced from GEF Report on Okavango Delta Study

Angola



Namibia





Botswana



Securitization

- Linkage between perceptions of national security (survival) with water security
- Driven by a specific Threat Perception
- Shifts water resource management out of the domain of the Technocrat into the domain of the Securocrat
- Data becomes classified as Secret
- National interests dominate the agenda
- Regional integration is undermined
- Zero-sum in outcome

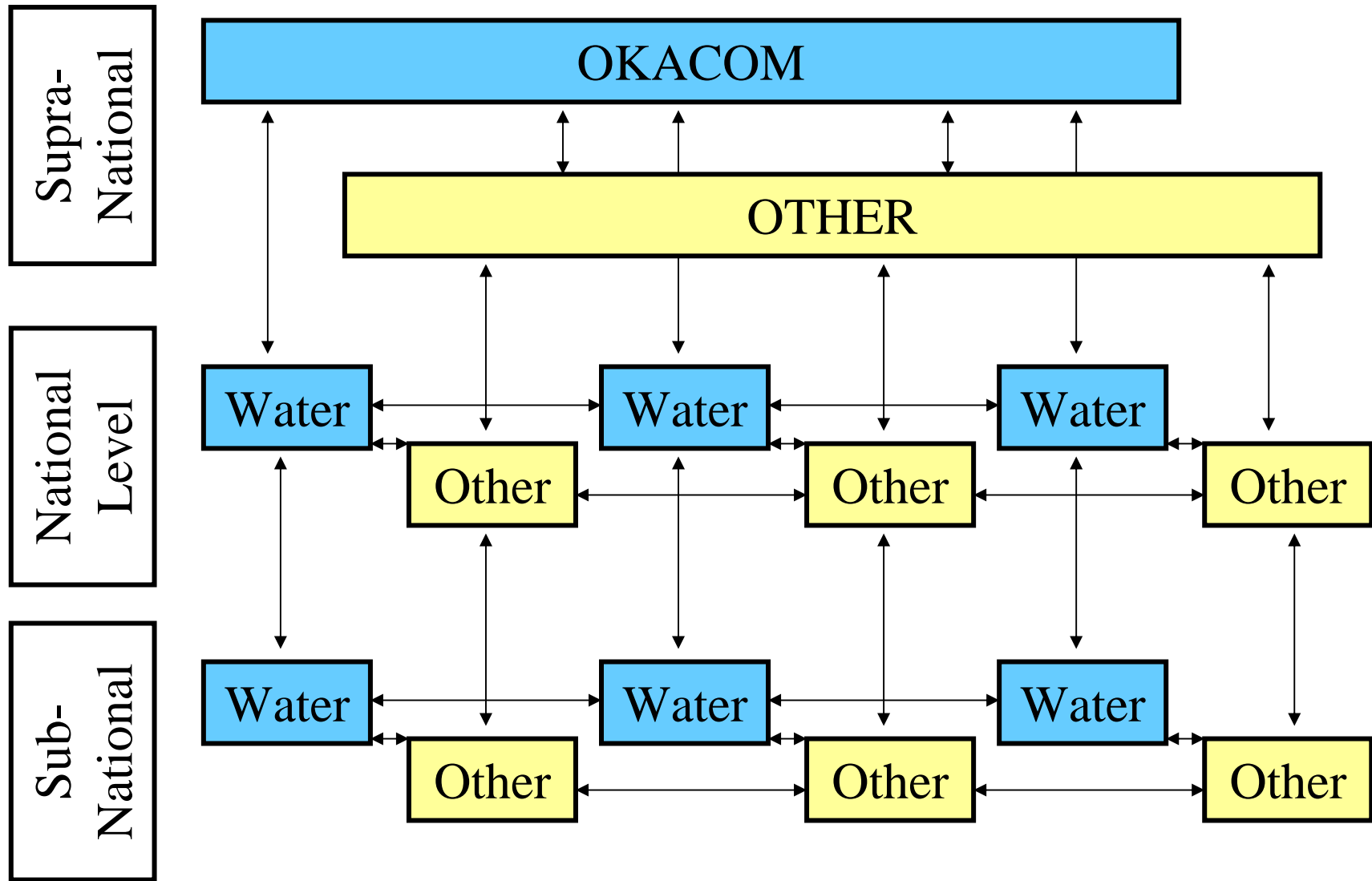
Desecuritization

- Politicization of water resource management
- Changed posture based on different Threat Perception
- Shifts water resource management back into the domain of the Technocrat
- Data becomes accessible and institutionalized
- National interests redefined in terms of regionalism
- Regional integration is stimulated
- Plus-sum in outcome

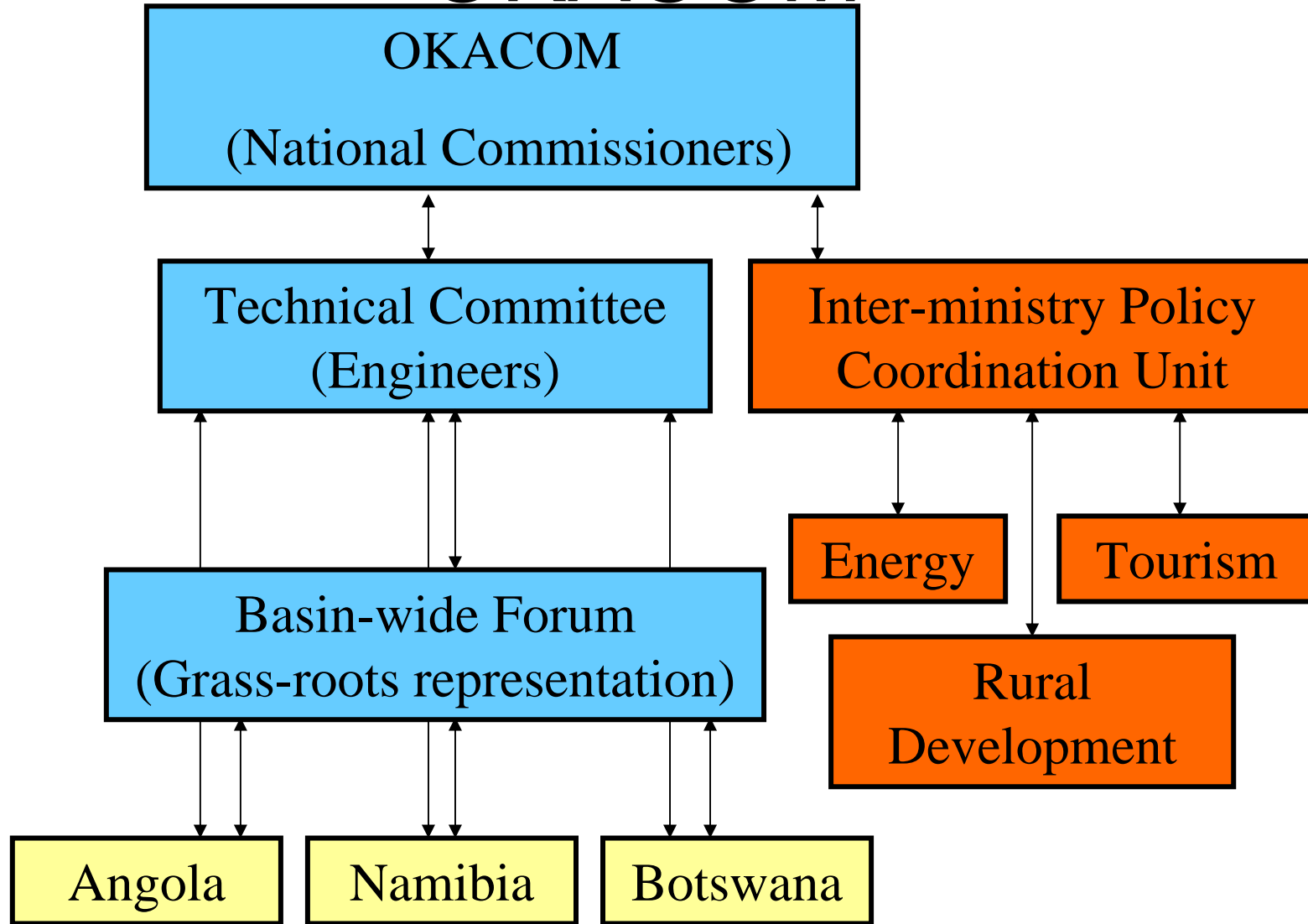
Benefit-Sharing in the Okavango

- Cold War theatre of armed military confrontation
- Downstream reliance on ecological flows
- Upstream need for rapid economic development and post-conflict reconstruction
- Possibility of paying upstream country not to develop the resource
- Needs robust institutional arrangement
- Parallel National Action Approach

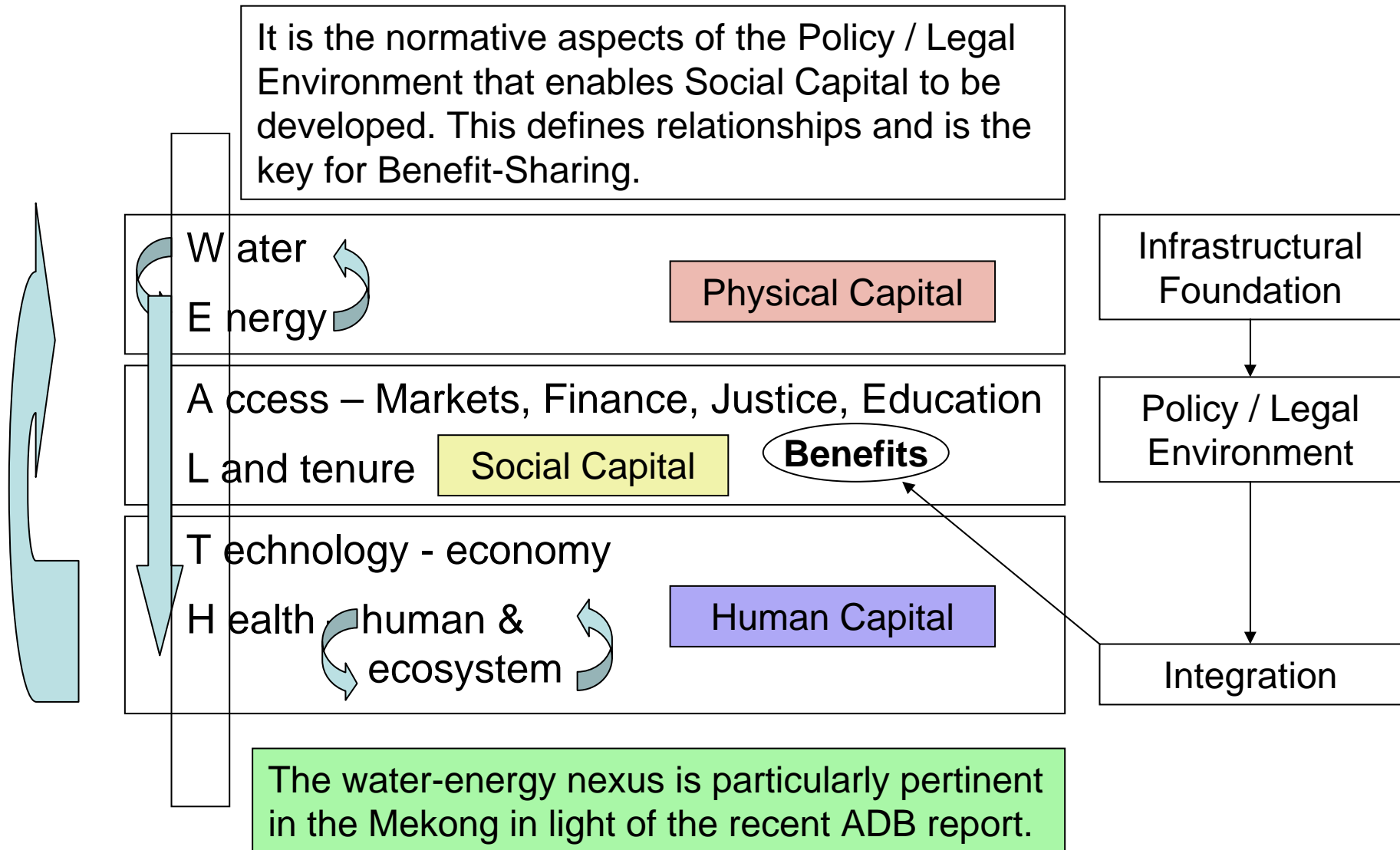
Parallel National Action Model



Possible PNA Model for OKACOM



Benefit-Sharing Model



Benefit-Sharing in the Okavango

- Written up in **Turton, A.R. & Earle, A. 2003. An Assessment of the Hydropolitical Dynamics of the Okavango River Basin. Paper presented at the 2nd Workshop of the Green Cross International Water for Peace Project on the Okavango River Basin, held at the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia, Gobabeb, Namibia from 23-25 February. Available from the Website**

<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/libarts/polsci/awir>

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Benefit-Sharing in the Okavango

- Written up in **Turton, A.R. & Earle, A.** 2003. *Discussion Document on the Implications of International Treaties on the Development of a Management Regime for the Okavango River Basin.* Deliverable D 6.2 of the Water and Ecosystem Resources in Rural Development (WERRD) Project. African Water Issues Research Unit (AWIRU). Pretoria University.

Benefit-Sharing in the Okavango

- Written up in **Turton, A.R. & Earle, A.** 2004. An Assessment of the Parallel National Action Model as a Possible Approach for the Integrated Management of the Okavango River Basin. Deliverable D6.2 of the Water Ecosystem Resources in Rural Development (WERRD) Project funded by the European Union. Available online at (<http://www.okavangochallenge.com/okaweb/wp6/default00748.htm>).

Benefit-Sharing in the Okavango

- Written up in **Turton, A.R. & Earle, A.** 2005. Public Participation in the Development of a Management Plan for an International River Basin: The Okavango Case. In **Jansky, L. & Uitto, J.I.** (Eds.) *Enhancing Participation and Governance in Water Resources Management: Conventional Approaches and Information Technology*. Tokyo: United Nations University Press.

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