

Land Management in time of crisis



المؤتمر العربي
الثاني للأراضي

Second Arab Land
Conference

22-24 FEBRUARY 2021
CAIRO, EGYPT

Understanding water governance and
tenure for addressing water scarcity and
advancing climate resilience

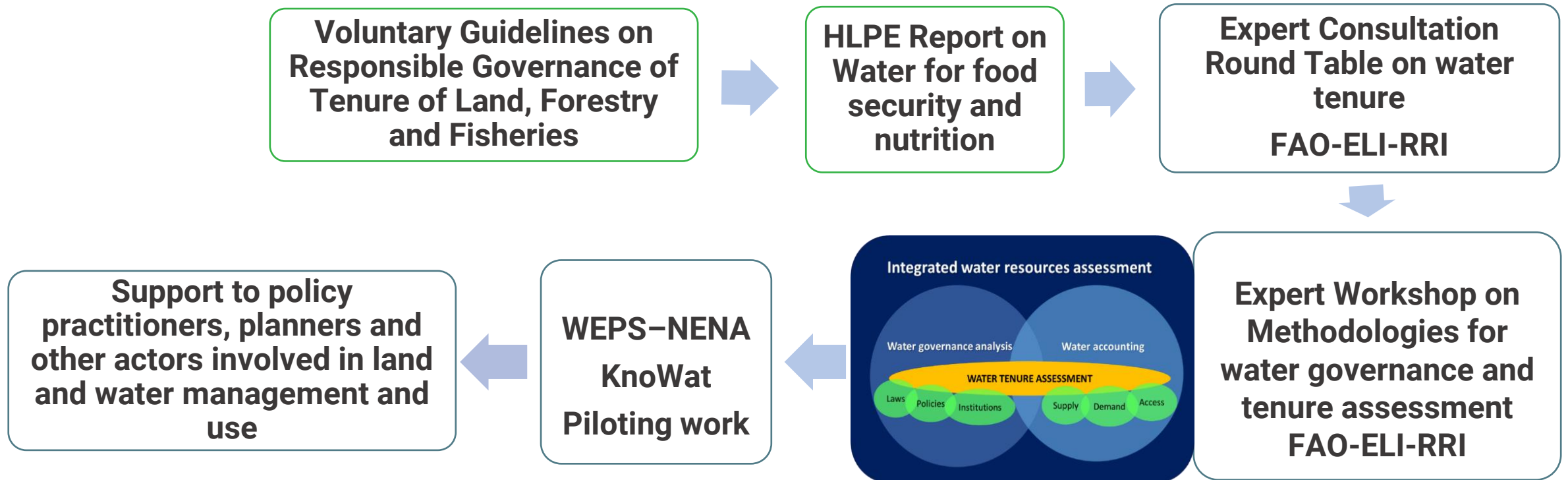
Sofia Espinosa Flor- FAO, Sofia.Espinosa@fao.org

Domitille Vallée- FAO, Domitille.Vallee@fao.org

Why water governance and water tenure assessment?

- **Increased demand for land, water, and food** comes with increased scarcity of resources, interconnectedness between actors and sectors, and raising inequalities
- **Maximization of economy, equity, nutrition and environmental sustainability** are competing goals that involve important trade-offs and opportunities
- **Better understanding of water tenure is essential** to :
 - ✓ identify **institutional weaknesses**,
 - ✓ Identify **map and protect local rights**, practices and dynamics,
 - ✓ Identify **potentially conflicting interests** and concerns,
 - ✓ Do a **more accurate water accounting** (once these non-formal uses are accounted for in the water balance),
 - ✓ **build coalition of actors** to support implementation of needed institutional and socio-economic reforms

From normative standards to operationalization



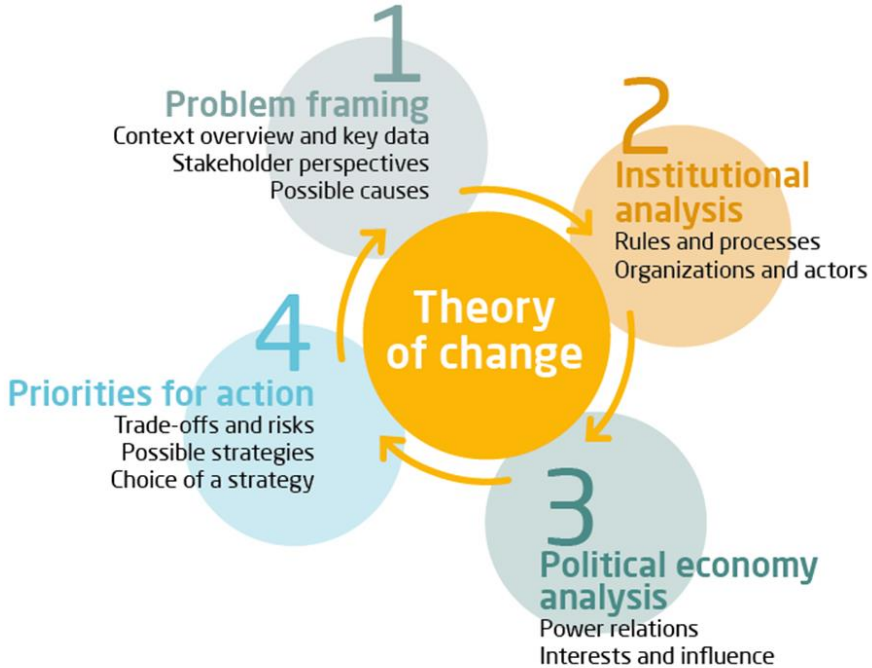
FAO WEPS - NENA region*

Combining water accounting and water auditing for sustainable and equitable water management and use

Method: Flexible, iterative and participatory

- Framing priority problem. Tackling multiple perspectives
- Mapping the problem to institutions
- Engaging stakeholders and building alliance
- Developing plan of action. Bridging science, knowledge and realities

* Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

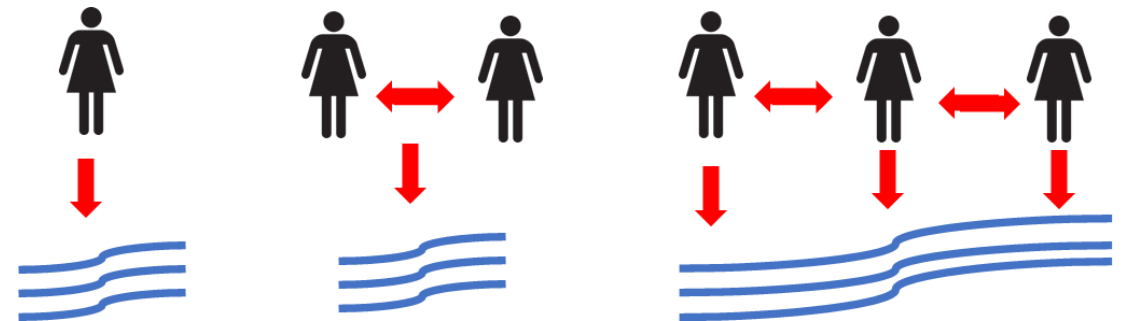


FAO KnowWat*

Building on water governance and water accounting

Zooming in water tenure

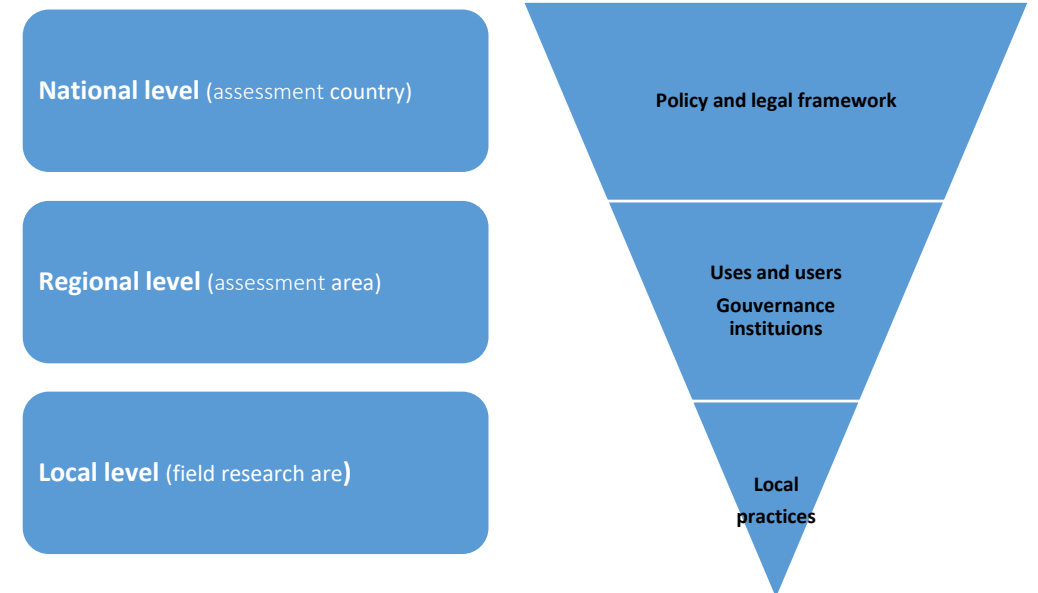
"The relationship, whether legally or customarily defined, between people, as individuals or groups, with respect to water resources."



FAO KnowWat

- Focusing on the actual uses and users of water resources
- Considering both formal rights and informal, customary rules and practices
- Legal assessment – mapping rules and their implementation and relationships
- Building on water accounting – mapping water uses and users
- Role of governance arrangements related to water tenure
- Field research – level of acceptance and implementation on the ground

Testing : Rwanda, Senegal and Sri Lanka



Where we are now?

- **Jordan/Lebanon** – equity in water allocation and distribution (North JV and Kalb basin)
- **Morocco** – aquifer contracts and equity in access to groundwater (Berrechid)
- **Palestine** – water allocation and distribution (Al Far'a basin)

- **Rwanda** – Yanze Catchment: awareness raising with local partners, preliminary legal research and uses and users
- **Sri Lanka** – Malwathu Oya West Sub Catchment of Malwathu Oya River Basin: awareness raising with local partners, preliminary legal research
- **Senegal** – Delta de la Vallée du Fleuve Sénégal Rosso Bethio: awareness raising with local partners, preliminary legal research



Field research will start shortly

CONCLUSIONS AND MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF RELEVANCE TO THE REGION

Better understanding of water governance and water tenure assessments can lead to:

→ technically valid and politically feasible policies for water management and use

→ increased equity and sustainability in water allocation systems and regimes

findings from piloting at country level to feed:

- FAO Regional Conference on Experiences and lessons learned from country assessments
- Inputs into the work of the High level Joint Water Agriculture Committee of LAS on Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Allocation Mechanisms of Water Resources in Agriculture
- Mobilizing interest for Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Water Tenure



- **THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION!**

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/knowat/en/>

<http://www.fao.org/tenure/fr/>

<http://www.fao.org/land-water/home/en/>

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/water-efficiency-nea/en/>