

# Partnerships for water, food and ecosystems

## Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia

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# Outline presentation

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- Partnership 'Water for food and ecosystems'
- Introduction to Central Rift Valley
- Methods and approaches
- Some results
- Lessons learned



# Partnership 'Water for food and ecosystems'

- Initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality.
- Strengthen cooperation between Netherlands and international partners on wise use of water contributing to:
  - Integrated water resources management
  - Sustainable development
  - International water policy frameworks and conventions



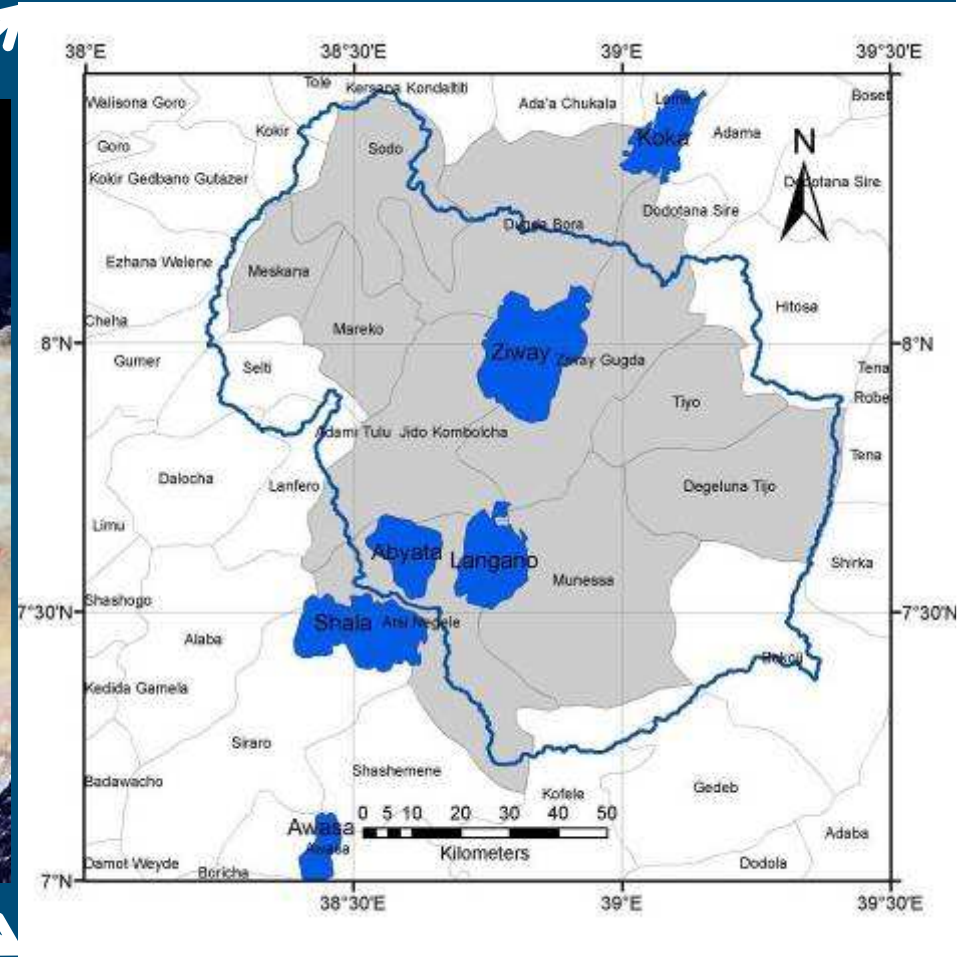
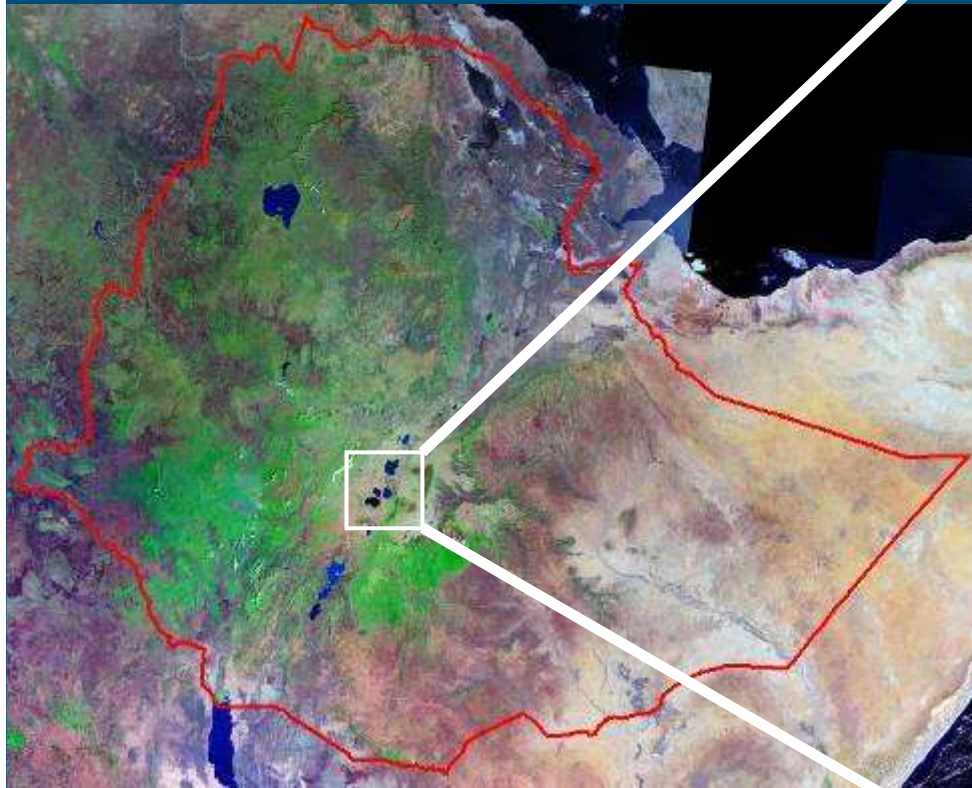
# Partnership 'Water for food and ecosystems'

- FAO/Netherlands Conference Water for Food and Ecosystems in 2005.
- Recommendations for actions related to:
  - Fostering implementation of know-how
  - New economy for water
  - Creating enabling institutional conditions
- Required: Awareness raising, stakeholder engagement, know-how for action, capacity building





# Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia



# Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia

- $\pm$  1 Mln ha
- $\pm$  1.5 Mln people
- Altitude 1500 -3000 m
- Rainfall 650-1250 mm
- Short rainy season



# Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia

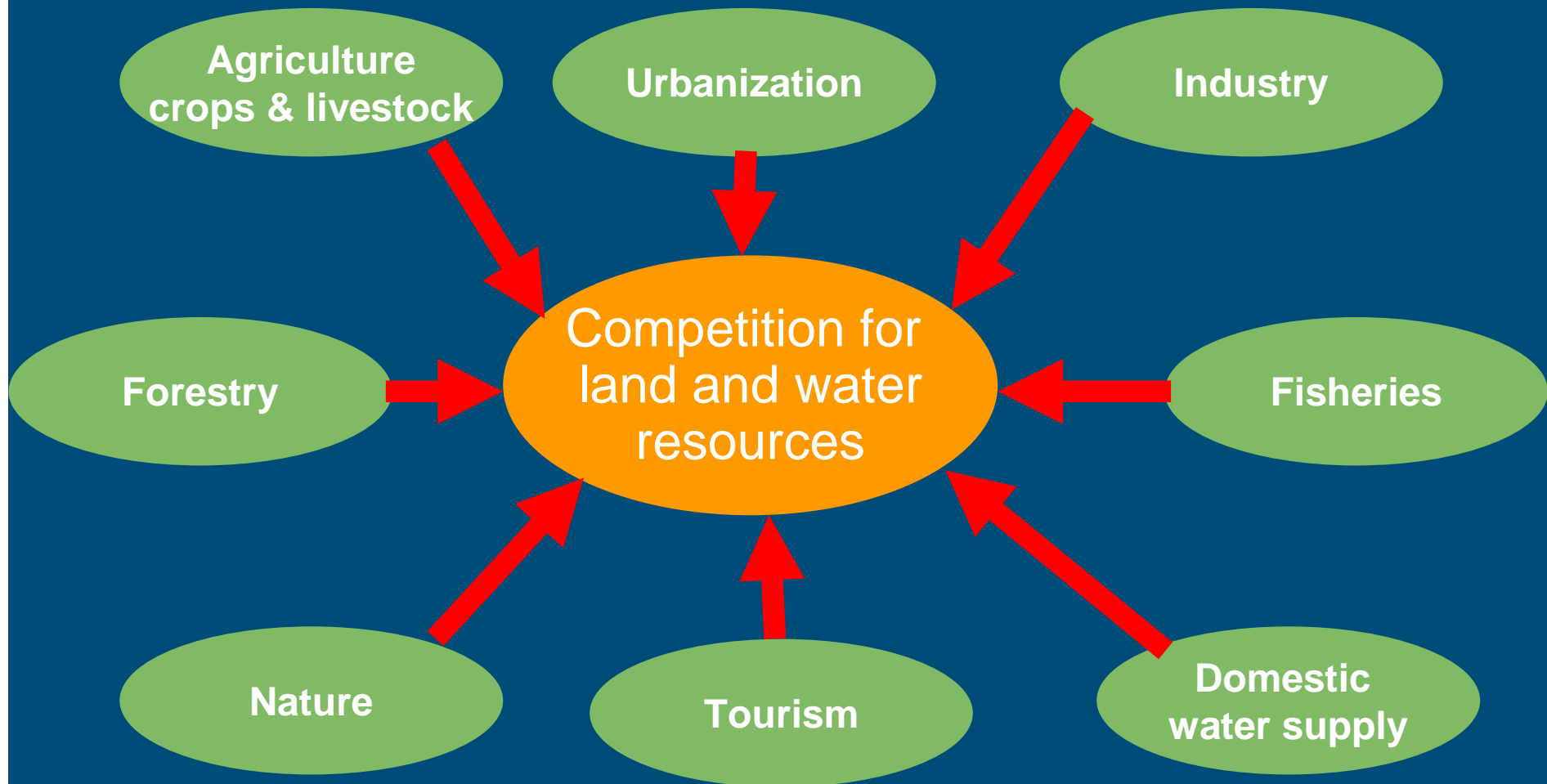
Why is the Central Rift Valley an interesting case study?

- Closed river basin
  - Recent economic development through both small scale and large scale irrigated horticulture/floriculture.
  - Downstream located National wetland Park
  - Emerging eco-tourism industry
- Multiple stakeholders, competing natural resource claims





# Multiple stakeholders, conflicting interests





# Objective of CRV partnership

To strengthen local authorities in the field of integrated water resources management contributing to a sustainable development of the CRV

- Improve knowledge
- Raise awareness
- Stakeholder participation and dialogue

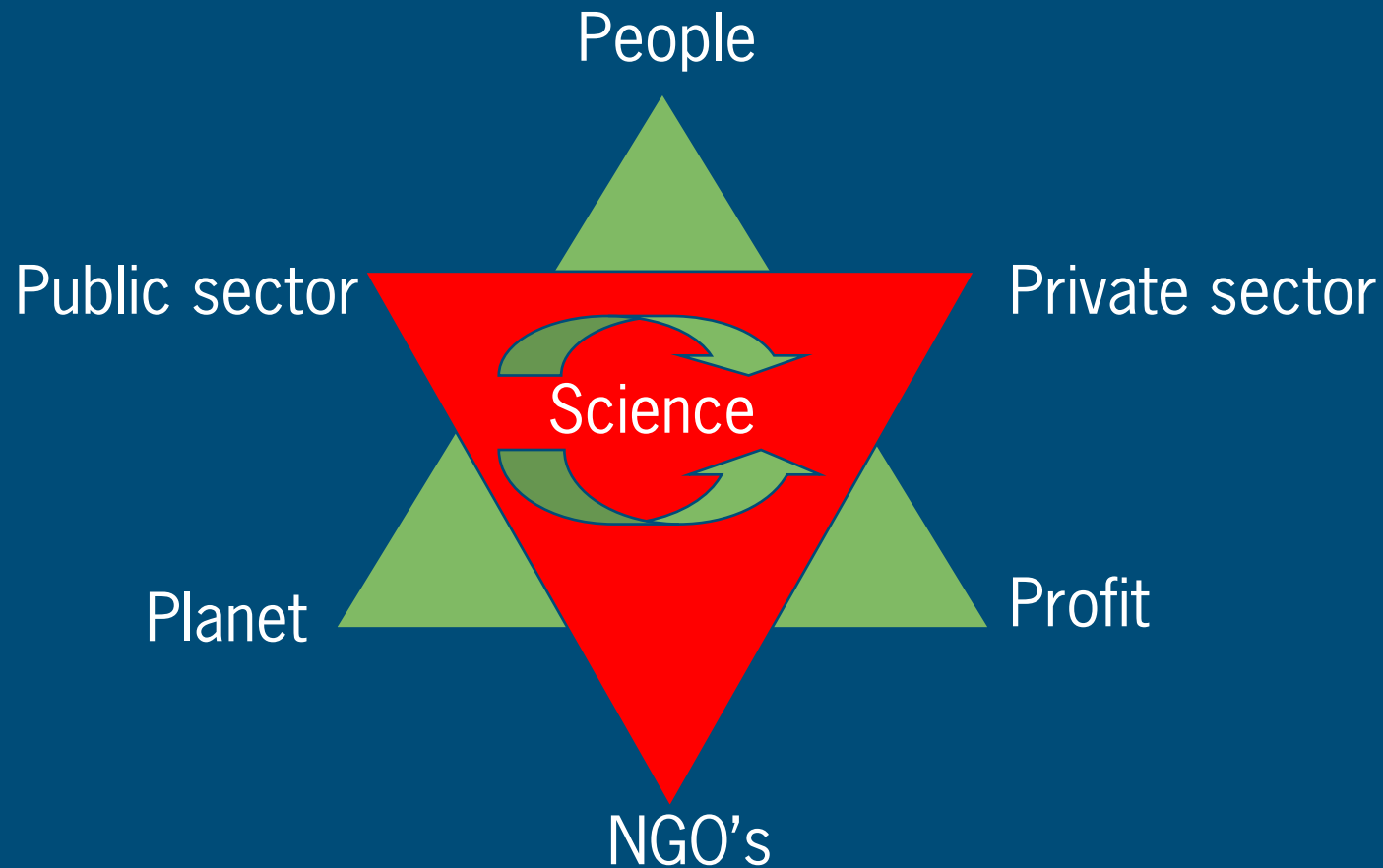


# Methods and approaches

- Development of knowledge base
  - Quick scans (land use change, water use, climate change)
  - Demand driven action research on request by NGOs
  - Local and international MSc students (capacity building)
- Raise awareness and stimulate dialogue:
  - Collaborate with multi-stakeholder platform
  - Link up with other activities (e.g. Master Plan for Rift Valley)
  - In-country presentations, e.g. during World Water Day
  - Participatory land use plan workshop



# Methods and approaches



## Some results of the knowledge base

- Increased intensification of land use (quadrupled in last 30 years).
- Irrigated smallholders are the major water users.
- The increase of irrigated area is associated with a drop in the water table of the terminal lake Abijata.
- Water & land productivity in floriculture > 10 times higher than smallholder vegetable production.





## Some results of awareness raising and dialogue process

### ■ Demystification, e.g.:

- water use (efficiency) of smallholders *vs* greenhouses
- Contribution of soda ash plant to regional water use
- Low performance of smallholder vegetable production
- Climate change (not less rainfall)

### ■ Empowerment:

- Stakeholders are better able to decide (informed decision-making), and to
- develop alternative livelihood strategies such as eco-tourism.



## Some results of awareness raising and dialogue process

- Strengthening of networks, by bringing together stakeholders:
  - that didn't know each other while their actions have cross-cutting effects.
  - operate at different levels (national, regional, district, community).
- Building of trust among stakeholders through the development of a common vision for a part of the CRV.



# Lessons learned

- Strong counterpart in target area (in our case Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre)
  - Organization
  - Self-interest
  - Own funds
- Who are the stakeholders? How to involve them in the dialogue, and keep them involved?
- Dialogue, but also try to get something done 'on the ground' through R&D activities.



# Lessons learned

- Communication, which method is most effective (websites, reports, policy briefs, presentations, etc.)?
- Be aware of cultural, institutional, power relationships.
- Fight against common believes (greenhouses *vs* smallholder irrigation).
- Dialogue is a process: 'give it time', but when to stop?





**Thank you**

