

Competing claims for water in the Central Rift Valley of Ethiopia: Global drivers and local opportunities

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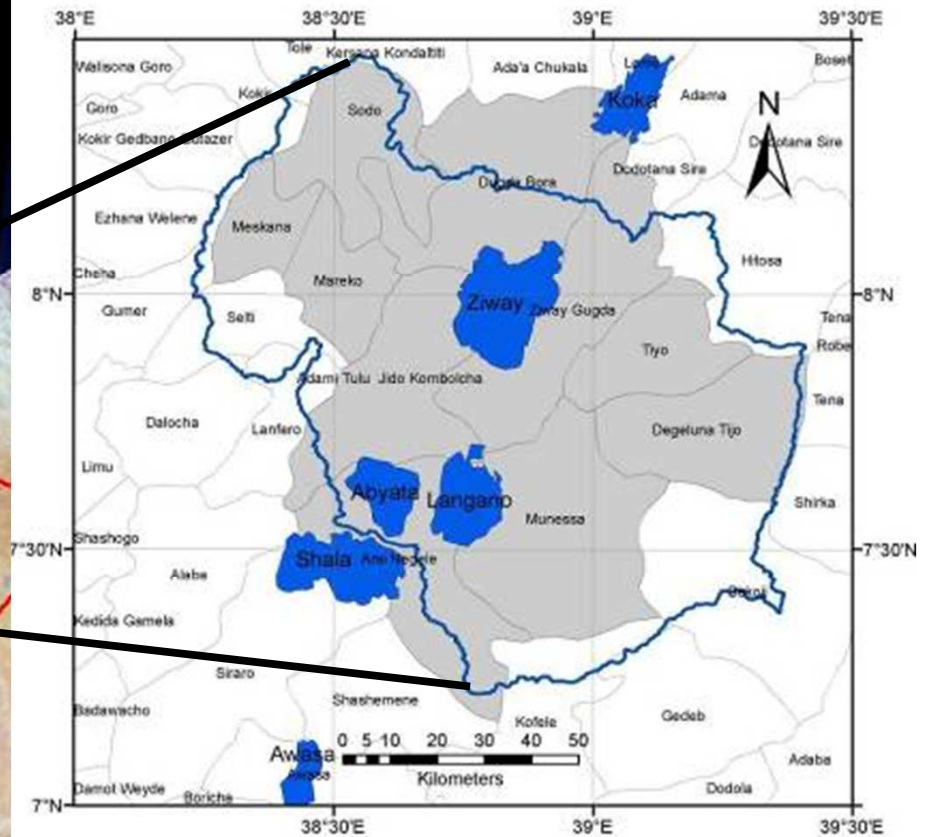
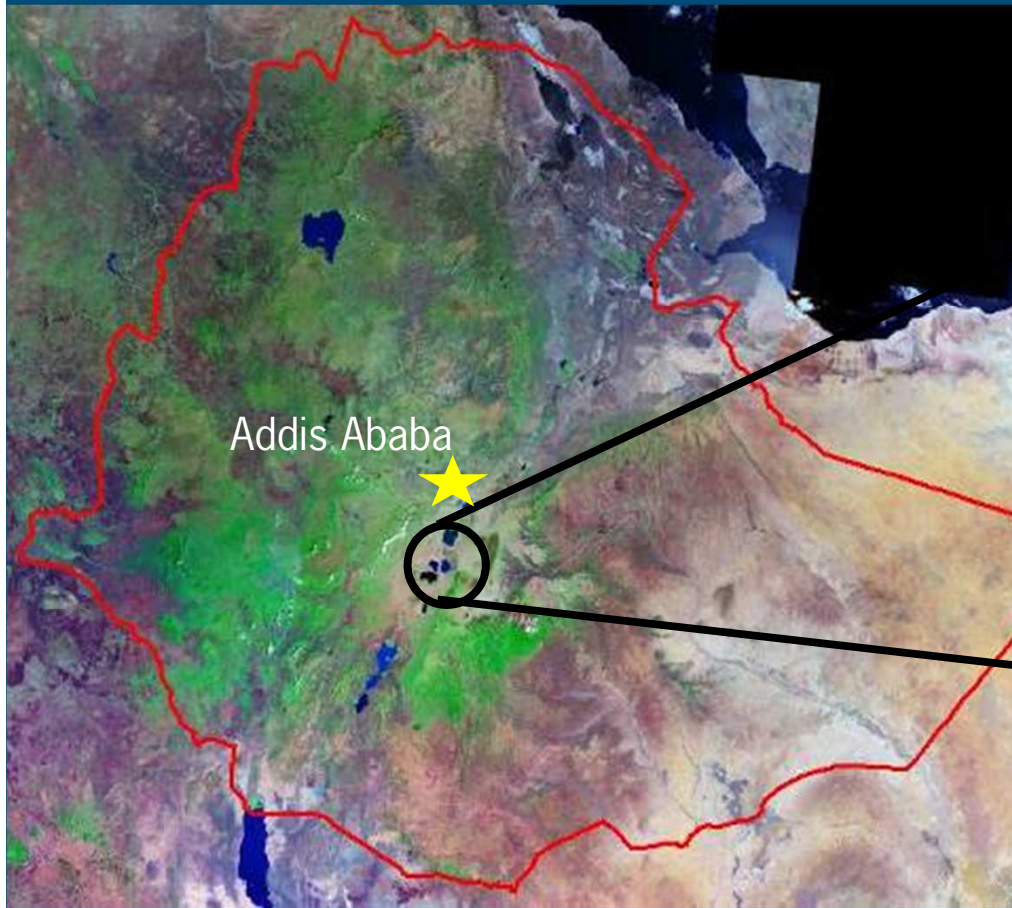
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Content

- Introduction to the Central Rift Valley
- Drivers at different scales affecting local responses
- Competing resource claims and impact
- Approach to stimulate policy dialogue and to initiate R&D activities
- Conclusions



Central Rift Valley in Ethiopia



Area \pm 1 Mln ha
Population \pm 1.5 Mln

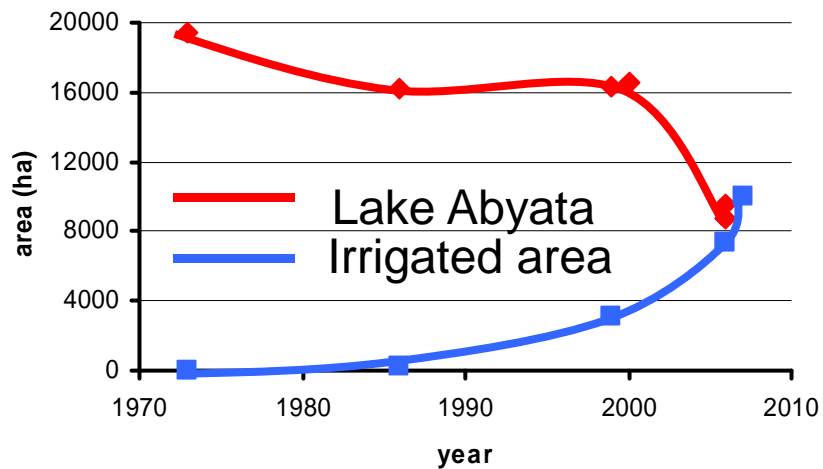


Drivers at different scales.....consequences:

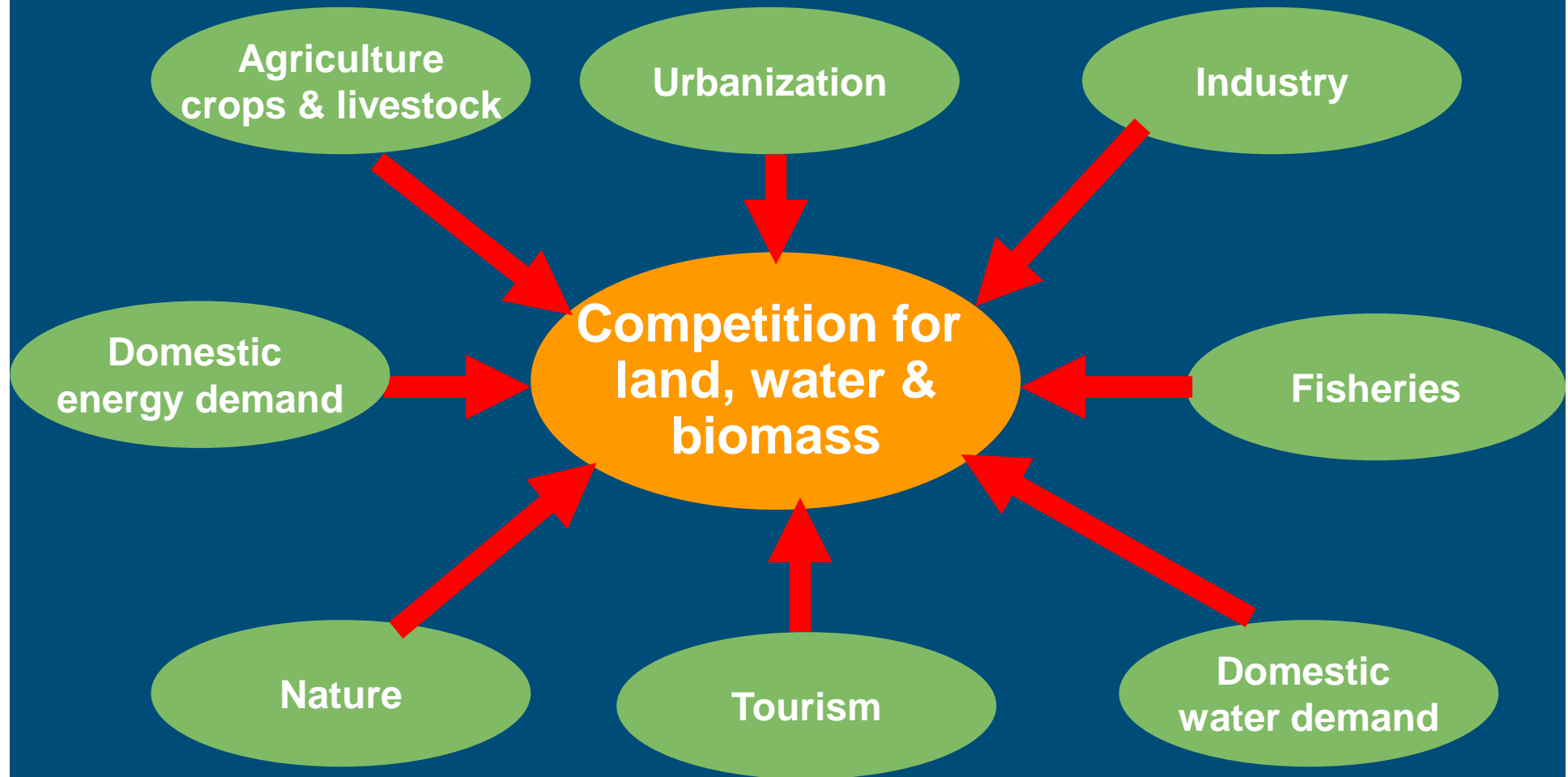


Local responses and feedback to driving forces from higher scales are limited

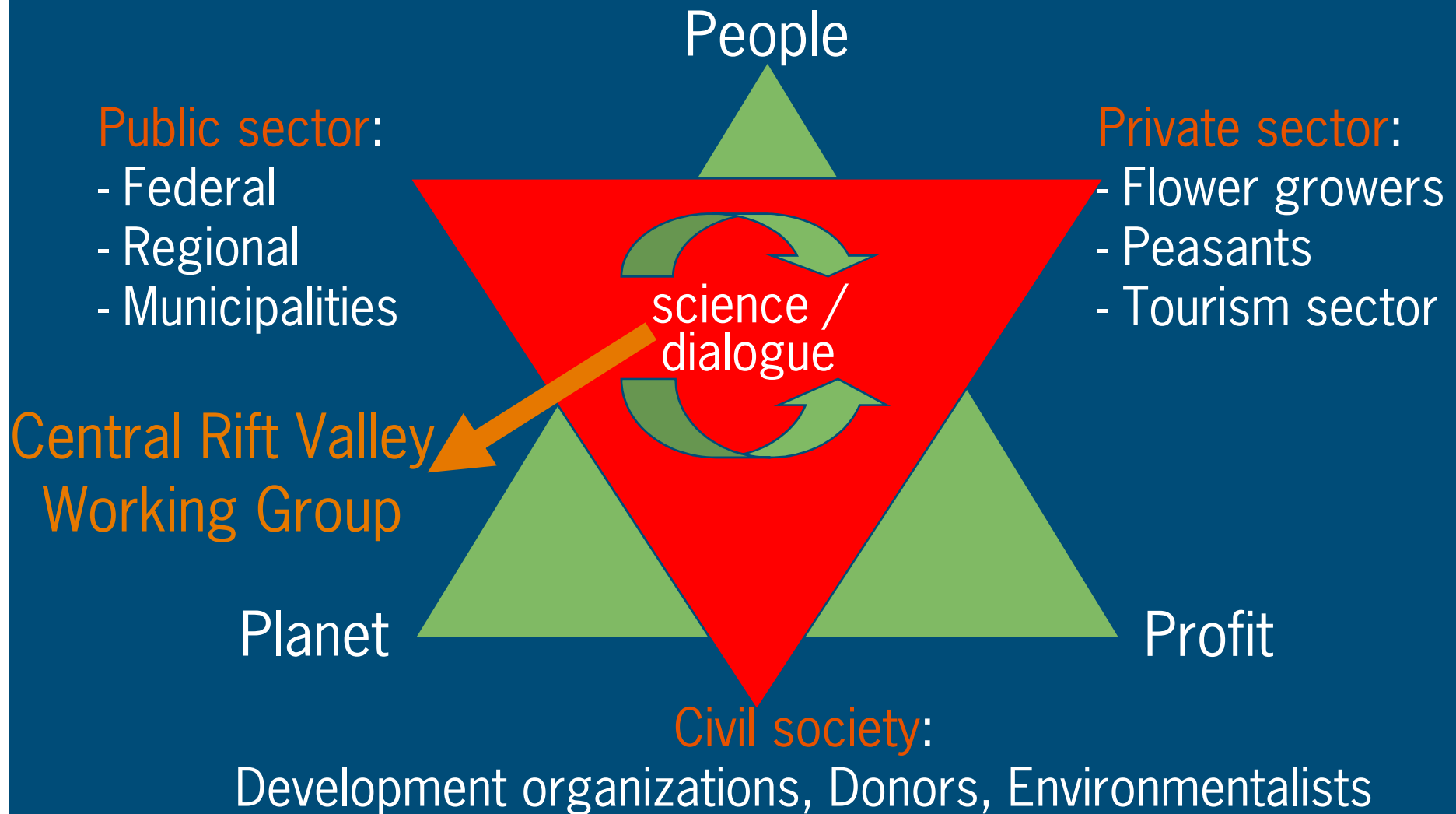
One of the symptoms of increased competition for water resources: Downstream Lake Abyata is drying up



Cross-sectoral claims for natural resources



Stakeholder dialogue to stimulate sustainable development



Approaches to stimulate policy dialogue

■ Develop joint knowledge base

- Action-oriented research (science, civil society, private sector)
- Reports and website: www.crv.wur.nl

■ Raise awareness

- Presentations at public events (e.g. World Water Day)
- Multi stakeholder workshops
- Policy briefs
- Connect different dialogues and discourses

■ Capacity building

- Training of students and staff (e.g. extension)
- Introduction to new research and participatory planning methods



From policy dialogue to local action

Three considerations:

- Driving forces from higher scale levels difficult to be influenced by local stakeholders.
- Local stakeholders have own mandate and capacity.
- Actions should be in line with findings of analysis, e.g.:
 - Environmental and economic performance of smallholder irrigation sector can be improved considerably.
 - Agricultural intensification may affect water quality.
 - Develop livelihood strategies that consume less fresh water resources than irrigated agriculture.



Participatory developed R&D activities

New alliances of public, private and civil society organizations resulted in 4 R&D activities:

1. Training of horticulture extension.
2. Water quality monitoring to raise awareness and to stimulate thinking about required institutions.
3. Buffer zones along lakes and rivers to reduce emissions from agriculture and preserve the landscape.
4. Promotion material for tourism as alternative source of income.



Lessons learned

- Stakeholders are part of the increased resource claims and thus should be actively involved in developing solutions.
 - Jointly developed knowledge base resulted in acceptance of results, trust among stakeholders and new public-private-civil society partnerships.
- Policy dialogues take place at different levels; it is the art to connect these and to provide them with relevant information.
 - Science and knowledge for policy development at different levels.
 - Develop adaptive capacities of local stakeholders.
- Stakes are high in Ethiopia, i.e. strong drivers to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty:
 - Little knowledge/experience with agricultural intensification.
 - Environmental concerns neglected.



Thank you

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