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Orange-Senqu River Basin Stewardship Learning Journey

Session 2 Mini-Report

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Resource Economics Africa



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INTRODUCTION

This mini-report presents a description of the second of four sessions of the Orange-Senqu River Basin (OSB) Learning Journey, which was held online on 10 February 2021.

The OSB Learning Journey is a learning exchange that aims to bring key stakeholders from Lesotho and South Africa together to identify shared risks around water security and joint solutions to protect the natural resources and economic and social benefits stemming from the Orange-Senqu Basin for Lesotho and South Africa. The OSB Learning Journey is convened by GIZ NatuReS, GIZ ICM Lesotho and the National ICU, and hosted under the auspices of ORASECOM.

The OSB Learning Journey constitutes the following four sessions:

<p>Session 1: Understanding the Orange-Senqu Basin</p>	<p>Paint a clear understanding of the catchment from headwaters to users in Gauteng, including where it flows, how it is used and abused, how it is impacted on, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geo-physical/environmental profile – including risks, ecological infrastructure ▪ Different ecosystems along the catchment and their importance for water provision and mitigation for climate change as well as their close relationship with livelihood. ▪ Identification of interested parties. ▪ Socio-economic & macro-economic profile of the basin. ▪ Risks & Threats. <p>Understanding water stewardship as a concept.</p>
<p>Session 2: The people of the OSB: users & custodians</p>	<p>The objectives of the second session are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure stakeholders remain mindful of the threats & risks identified in joint session 1. ▪ To confirm the “layout” of the stakeholder landscape on the OSB and what the key interests of the major stakeholders are using a participatory matrix. ▪ To identify the interests and responsibilities of government, private sector, communities, and NGO/donors in respect of the main interests. ▪ Identify the benefits & challenges of trans-boundary¹ & multi-stakeholder cooperation.
<p>Session 3: Catchment management lessons for learning.</p>	<p>Part 1: Framing the issues / Recap / NRAF Part 2: Catchment management lessons: (Resilim; Letseng; Sasol) Part 3: What are the lessons learned from others in all aspects –use b/away sessions focusing on each topic (Trans boundary co-operation; Stakeholder mobilization and involvement (govt, PS, & CS) + roles & responsibilities; Risk identification and management) Part 4: Closing thoughts in prep for S.4 Introduce to 10 x 10</p>
<p>Session 4: How to protect the OS basin?</p>	<p>Collaboratively develop a way forward to protect the OSB, drawing from all previous sessions. What is the most appropriate response? What form should it take? How do we need to structure ourselves to achieve a sustainable collective response?</p>

¹ The question of trans-boundary stewardship will be addressed in Session 3 of the Learning Journey.

SESSION 2: THE PEOPLE OF THE OSB: USERS & CUSTODIANS

The session was held online on 10 February 2021, and lasted two hours and 45 minutes. Stakeholders from Lesotho and South Africa were invited. The focus of the session was to understand the stakeholder profile of the OSB, focussing on the Lesotho-Gauteng section of the Basin. The specific objectives of the session included the following:

- To ensure stakeholders remain mindful of the threats and risks identified in Session 1 of the Learning Journey.
- To confirm the profile of the stakeholder landscape on the OSB between Lesotho and Gauteng.
- To identify and explore the interests and responsibilities of government, private sector, and civil society.
- Explore the benefits and challenges of trans-boundary, multi-sectoral co-operation.

Participants

Of the 40 people who participated in the second session² of the Learning Journey, 21 were from Lesotho (including GIZ staff), and 19 were from South Africa, (including GIZ staff). There was good representation from different sectors from both Lesotho and South Africa, as indicated in the table below:

LESOTHO STAKEHOLDER GROUPINGS	SOUTH AFRICAN STAKEHOLDER GROUPINGS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Water (ICM & ICU) ▪ Ministry of Agriculture ▪ Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation ▪ Lesotho Millennium Development Agency ▪ Lesotho Highlands Water Authority ▪ Lesotho Highlands Development Authority ▪ Lesotho Highlands Development Authority: Hydropower ▪ Lihobong Mines ▪ Lesotho National Farmers Union ▪ MG Health ▪ GIZ ▪ Caritas ▪ Catholic Relief Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Department of Water & Sanitation ▪ Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) ▪ ORASECOM ▪ Eskom ▪ Sasol ▪ GIZ ▪ SWPN ▪ IFAD

Programme

The programme³ followed in Session 2 was highly interactive, drawing on the background information gathered in Session 1. The purpose of Session 2 was to collaboratively build a more accurate picture of the stakeholder profile of the OSB, specifically the stretch between Lesotho and the Vaal system.

² An attendance register is attached as Appendix 1.

³ The agenda is attached as Appendix 2.

'M'e Mahlalele Sethlako, from the Lesotho Integrated Catchment Management Coordination Unit welcomed the group.

Giuliana Branciforti brought into the discussion a recap on main threats and risks to the Orange-Senqu Basin (OSB) discussed in Session 1 by way of setting the basis of the discussion.

Dominic Mitchell from Real Consulting facilitated a discussion to add to the existing identification and validation of who were the key, primary and secondary stakeholders in the OSB: in Lesotho and in South Africa. This was followed by an examination of what the particular interests in the OSB resource are from different stakeholders. In this instance a more detailed breakdown of the core categories of public sector, private sector and civil society was developed. Having identified the interests, the participants then broke away into three smaller groups to discuss from a multi-sector perspective what the key responsibilities should be of the three core categories of public sector, private sector and civil society. The results were then shared with the bigger group in plenary. The last exercise of the session invited participants to co-create an understanding of the benefits and challenges associated with trans-boundary and cross-sector cooperation.

The essence of each of the exercises will be captured in this report⁴.

Recap: What are the key threats and risks to the OSB?

Giuliana Branciforti brought into Session 2 the discussion held in the previous session looking at major threats and risks to the sustainability of the OSB. It is because of these very threats and risks to the high shared value of the OSB that a collaborative water stewardship intervention is so necessary.

Giuliana reminded participants that:

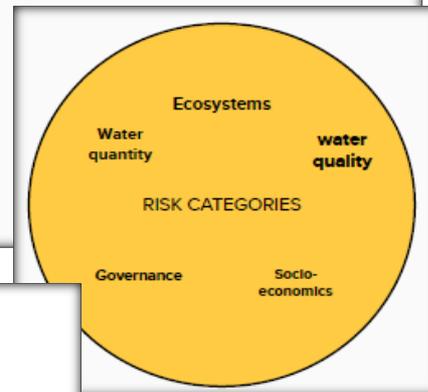
- Different stakeholders will experience risks associated with degradation of the OSB in different ways, all serious.
- That many of the risks can be categorised into core aspects, which makes designing integrated conservation interventions easier and more rational.
- Specific threats to the OSB can be ascribed to particular human activity, and it is these that should form the basis of engaging particular stakeholders to address issues relative to their areas of operation.

An important risk was raised in the discussion related to asset management of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase 1 as well as the timely implementation of LHWP Phase 2. This is the primary infrastructure that ensures that the water *asset* is accessible both for sellers and consumers. If the extent of the infrastructure cannot meet the demand at any point in time, then the economies of the both Lesotho and RSA become economically compromised. The LHWP has recently begun working on its Phase 11 project, which is due for completion in 2026⁵.

⁴ The slide deck that was used to guide the interactive engagement is attached as Appendix 3.

⁵ Please see this short report on the progress of the LHWP <https://www.afrik21.africa/en/lesotho-results-of-phase-2-of-the-highlands-water-project-expected-in-2026/>

The following slides summarize the main threats and risks the OSB is facing.



Multiple risks and threats to water sources & catchments,

SOME KEY FACTORS THAT ARE THREATENING THE OSB:

- Climate change impacts – temperature change; precipitation change; unpredictability; downstream & upstream impacts.
- Increased abstraction due to increased demand – urbanisation, industrialisation
- Sedimentation & siltation resulting from eco-system degradation, such as wetlands.
- Large-scale industrial pollution from industries and mines.
- Toxic runoff from large-scale agri-business.
- Soil erosion from agriculture (large- & small-scale) & urban development.
- River bank degradation from large & small-scale agriculture.
- Disruption of flow & silting affecting estuary ecology.

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Stakeholder validation exercise

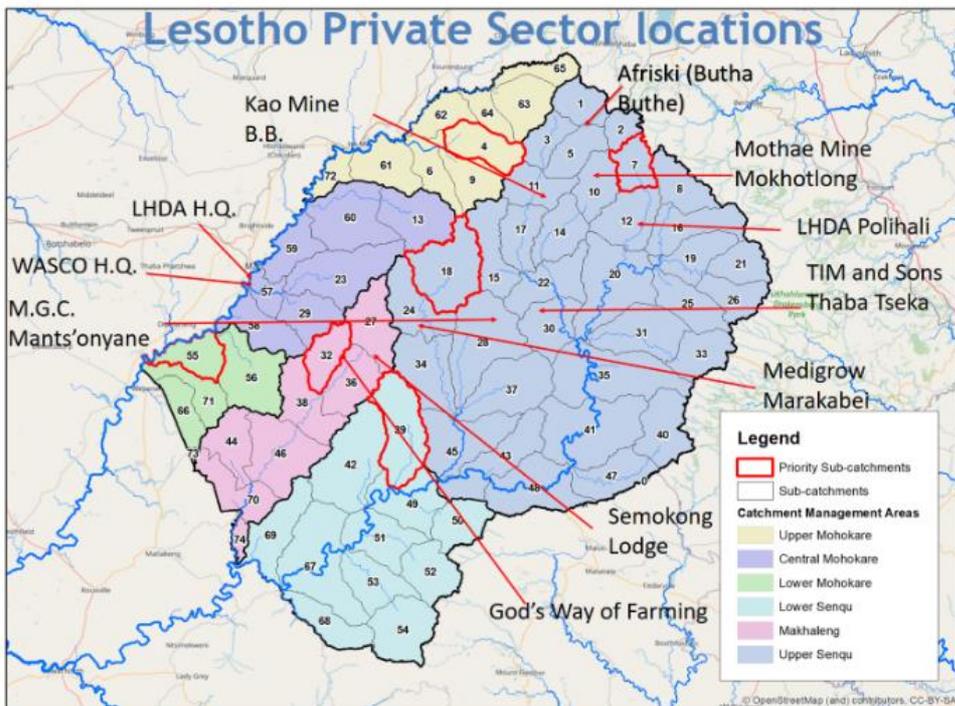
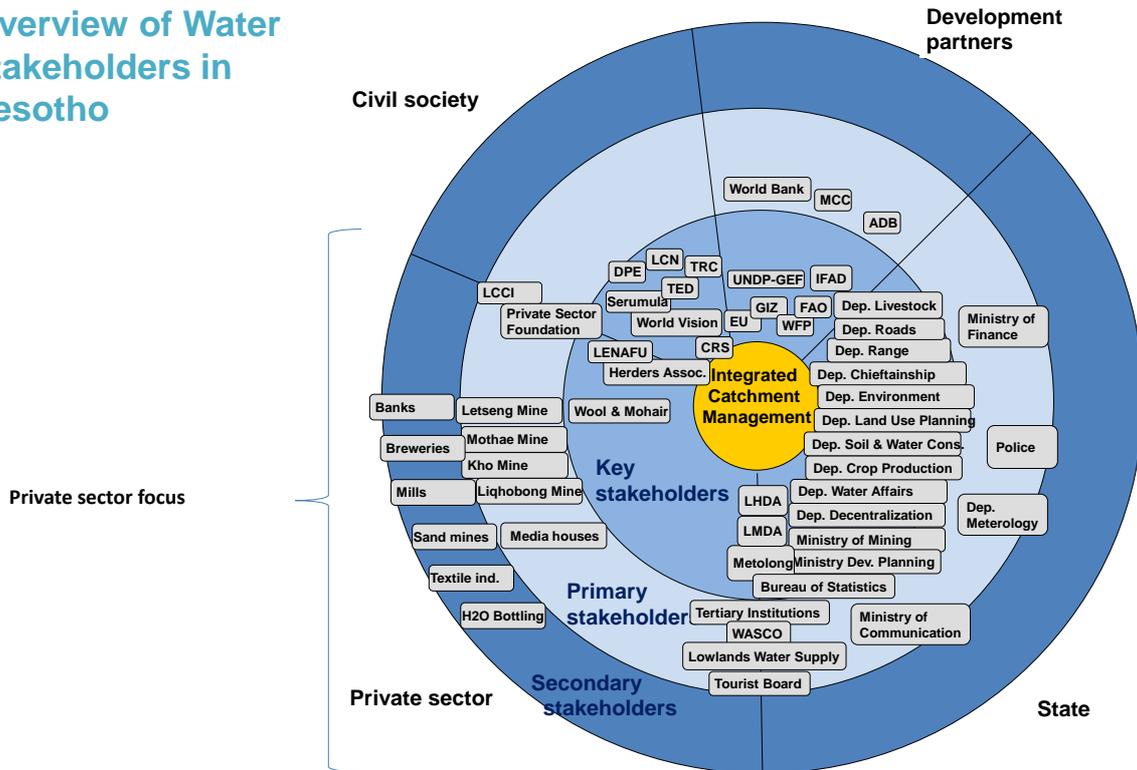
The recap set the scene for the main focus of Session 2: the identification of stakeholders, their interests as and their responsibilities.

This exercise began with the presentation of three stakeholders map:

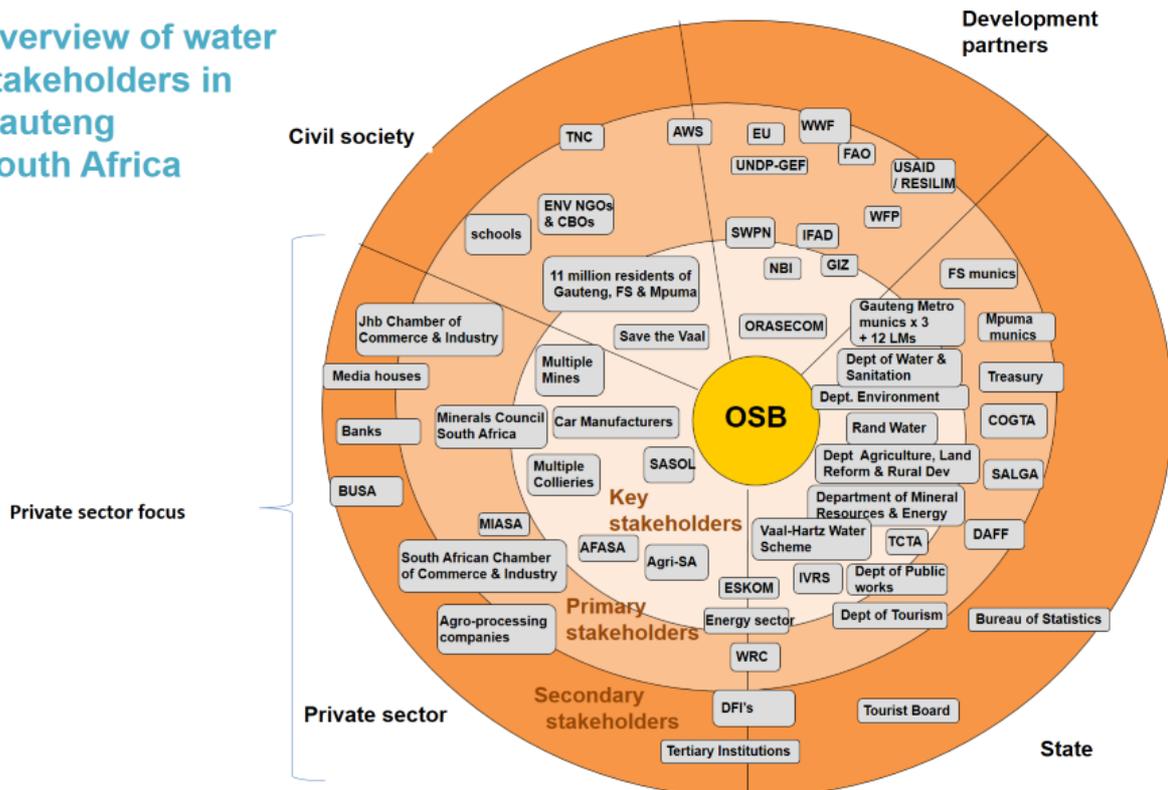
- The first identified the major stakeholders in Lesotho, grouped according to sector – public, private civil society and development support.

- The second identified where significant Basotho private sector stakeholders are located geographically.
- The third identified the major stakeholders in South Africa also grouped according to sectors.

Overview of Water stakeholders in Lesotho



Overview of water stakeholders in Gauteng South Africa



While it was understood that it was impossible to identify each and every stakeholder especially in the large and complex economy of Gauteng, it was important to ensure that the major categories were identified and that stand-out individual entities should also be named. This also ensured that participants developed a common understanding of which stakeholders are key to include/to keep in mind when talking trans-boundary water stewardship. The following stakeholders were added to the list:

	LESOTHO	SOUTH AFRICA
PUBLIC SECTOR	National University of Lesotho (+Innovation Hub) Lesotho Disaster Management Authority Finance Ministry for Revenue Collection LHDA Katse, Mohale and 'Muela Matsoku weir Local government structures	Water & Sanitation Sector Leadership Group Working for Water Working for Wetlands SANBI CSIR Dept of Transport SDG6 Working Group (Mark Bannister) Water User Associations Local government structures
PRIVATE SECTOR (including commercial agriculture)	Agro-processing companies Grazing Associations Tourism Sector Beverage manufacturers Lodges and hotels Anchor farmers e.g, Likhothola Sedibeng Water Fisheries operating from Katse Dam	Agro-processing companies Beverage manufacturers Lodges and hotels Commercial farmers especially in Free State Farmers Organisation in Free State
CIVIL SOCIETY (including FBO/NGO/CBO & subsistence agriculture)	Paramount chiefs	Various environmental organisations (Mvula Trust, Groundup, Greenpeace, Earthlife AFRICA, Environmental Justice Network Forum, Environmental Monitoring Group, Empowerment for African Sustainable Development, The Greenhouse Project, Groundwork, Group for Environmental Monitoring, Sustainable Energy Africa)
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS	Lesotho Country Water Partnership African Development Bank Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility The Nature Conservancy International Union for Conservation of Nature International Water Management Institute Institutions of higher learning	

In concluding the stakeholder identification and validation exercise, it was noted that once a planned water stewardship programme is decided upon, a key activity for that exercise would be a detailed stakeholder analysis and engagement process. For the purposes of this Learning Journey, the key output is an initial scoping of potential partners for a cross-boundary platform based on the identified major categories and significant individual role-players that make up the complex landscape of a trans-boundary context.

Identification of major stakeholder interests in the OSB

From identifying and verifying major stakeholders, the next exercise focussed on examining the interests that these stakeholders and stakeholder groupings have in the OSB. Learning Journey participants were invited to give their input prior to the session. From the inputs received, the following table was generated:

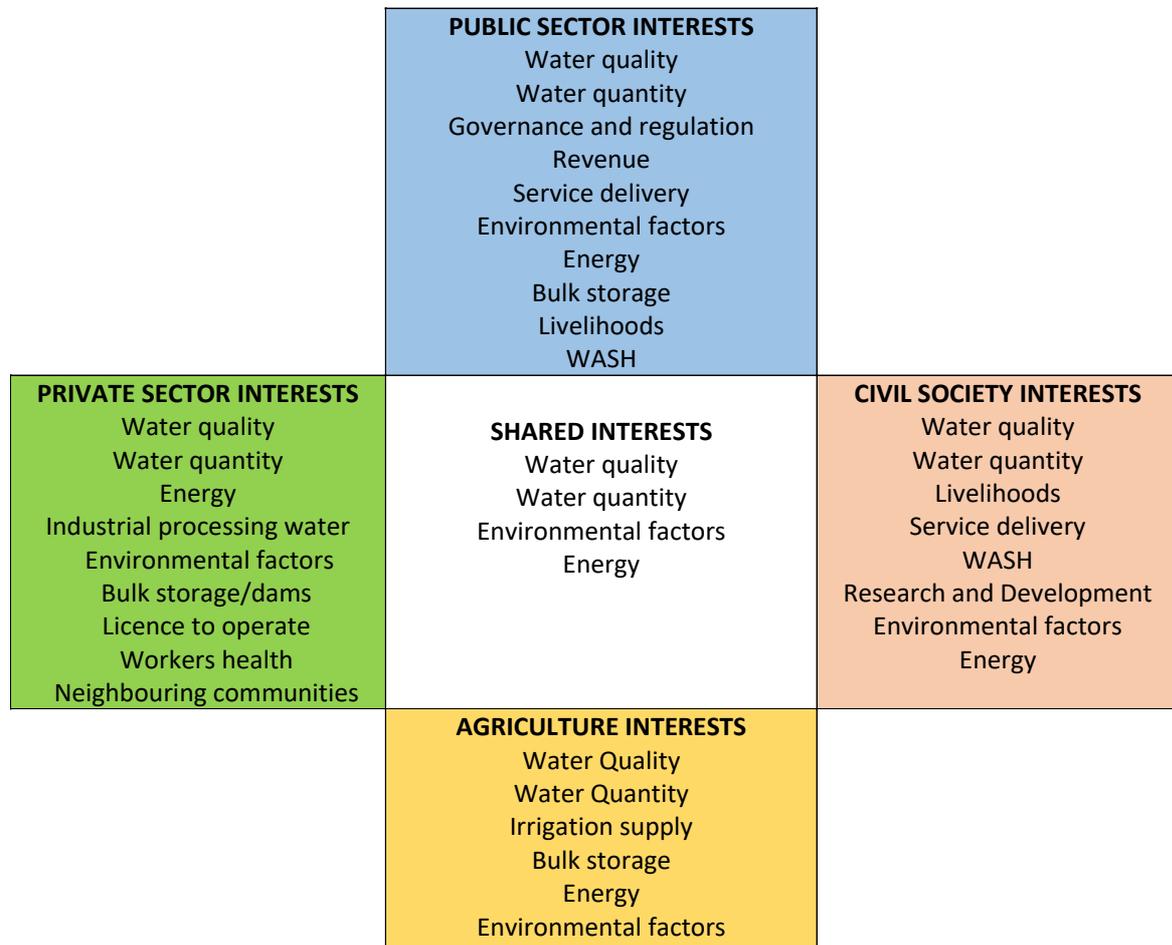
SECTOR	STAKEHOLDER	VESTED INTERESTS OF THE RANGE OF USERS													
		State revenue	Governance & regulation	Service delivery	Energy	ecosystem services/biodiversity	Irrigation	Water for industrial processing	Bulk storage/ Dams	WASH	Water quality	Water quantity	Livelihoods	Research & dev	Tourism
Govt	Water authorities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Enviro authorities	X	X	X	X	X				X		X	X		
	Local Govt	X		X						X	X				
	Inter-govt regional SOE (ESKOM)		X			X			X			X	X		
	Agric-range mangt	X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	
	Private Sector General	Mining				X	X		X		X	X		X	
Manufacturing					X			X		X	X				
Energy					X			X		X	X				
Tourism						X				X	X				X
Utilities								X	X	X	X		X		
Private commercial agric	Irrigation schemes				X	X	X		X	X	X				
	Corporate growers				X	X	X		X	X	X				
	Other: Cannabis growers, etc					X	X		X	X	X				
Agric Private: small-scale	Subsistence					X				X	X	X			
	Animal husbandry					X						X			
Residential / ordinary users	Urban users			X	X	X				X	X	X	X		
	Rural users					X				X	X				
NGOs & donors	International	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Local					X				X	X	X	X	X	
Knowledge management	Research agencies			X		X				X	X		X	X	
	Universities			X		X				X	X		X	X	

Naturally the public sector checked every interest. The government is the grand custodian of our natural and human environments. It is their overall mandate to ensure that all aspects of successful life are regulated and managed to the benefit of all life on earth, human and otherwise. Their mandate is to ensure good governance through rational regulation and policy development that addresses firstly, the needs, and then the wants of society in a way that assures sustainability for the long future. As we move through the rest of the stakeholder interests, we see a more specific set of interests emerging.

From this identification of cross-sector interests, the data was re-presented in the form of identifying which interests were specific and which were shared. Not surprisingly, four key interests are shared:

- Environmental factors, including ecological sustainability, catchment protection, pollution management, ecosystem service protection, etc.
- Water quality
- Water quantity
- Energy

These four interests basically encompass the rest. Environmental degradation of the resource will diminish water quantity and quality, which will compromise energy supply. The rest of the more specific interests will obviously be affected consequently.



Taking the sector approach, the discussion shifted from interests to responsibility, with the basic guiding question: as a custodian or a user, if you wish for your interests to be protected, then what should your responsibility be to ensure that this should happen, and what should be the responsibility of other sectors, from your perspective.

Break-away group: What are the responsibilities of each sector in respect of their interests?

The break-away discussion was multi-sectoral but with a specific sector focus. The full group of participants were divided into equal size groups made up of representatives from public sector, private sector, civil society and development partner organisations from both South Africa and Lesotho. For this exercise, participants were encouraged to share ideas on sector-based responsibilities shared from own and different sector perspectives, which were linked to their specific and shared interests. The feedback from this discussion was then brought back into the plenary forum to share.

The following three tables capture the suggestions that were made by the participants in the three breakaways, with comments shared in the plenary integrated into the tables for ease of reference.

Public Sector Responsibilities

As the custodian of water provisioning, the public sector (or government) has the greatest responsibility with regard to protecting water sources and ensuring ongoing provisioning for all users in the Private Sector and Civil Society. This is done directly and through regulation. It is critical that the public sector involve the other sectors and hold them to account as necessary and as optimal.

KEY INTERESTS	KEY RESPONSIBILITIES
Water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Preventing pollution ■ Water quality monitoring – temperature turbidity ■ Testing ■ Compliance monitoring and enforcement ■ EIAs and EMP adherence ■ Prevention water borne disease ■ Water treatment/maintenance of water works ■ Wastewater treatment ■ Reticulation ■ River transfers
Water quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Wetland protection ■ Catchment management ■ Infrastructure dams, water transfer ■ Water allocations ■ Leak prevention – water loss ■ Licensing withdrawal management and usage monitoring – validation and verification ■ Water conservation and demand management ■ Ground water monitoring – quality/quantity implications ■ EIA/EMP
Governance and regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Legal Framework ■ Monitoring and enforcement ■ EIA/EMP ■ Stakeholder collaboration ■ Demand and supply forecasting studies ■ Permits
Revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tariff setting ■ Payment for water provision and services ■ Functional water service authorities ■ Non-revenue water management (unaccounted for water!) ■ Growing agriculture through water smart/climate smart irrigation development ■ Billing systems
Service delivery WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reticulation ■ Maintenance ■ Setting standards SANS ■ Advisory services e.g .wetland protection ■ Awareness and education ■ Extension services
Environmental factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mobilize funding for catchment restoration ■ PES
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Energy planning (Integrated Resources Plan) ■ Energy efficiency initiatives

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clean energy promotion ▪ Tariff setting ▪ Securing Finance
Bulk storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water harvesting ▪ Construction and financing ▪ Maintenance of infrastructure ▪ Dam safety ▪ Water quality ▪ Protection and security of reservoirs and dams
Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diversification ▪ Ensuring that recreational facilities are safe and attractive ▪ Availability of markets ▪ Promotion of intensive agriculture and high value ▪ Socio-economic studies
Disaster Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mixed roles

Private Sector Responsibilities

A key overarching interest for the private sector is the sustainable access to water quantity and quality supplies into the future, as economic growth depends on this. For some industries the need for reliable water supplies is direct (e.g. commercial agriculture, textiles, power generation, mining, and others). The responsibilities are aligned to the interest. It is in the overall interest of the private sector to share the responsibility for ensuring that water resources are sustainable into the future. The responsibilities are identified in influencing policy and regulation, compliance, and monitoring as reflected in the following table.

KEY INTERESTS	KEY RESPONSIBILITIES
Governance & regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To influence policy and regulation. ▪ To realise the economic value of water resources and to partake in water resources management efforts e.g. PES and CRS ▪ To ensure compliance. ▪ To provide monitoring and feedback services.
Water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waste Water Treatment compliance ▪ Effective Water Treatment and Effluent Management, ensuring minimal contamination ▪ EMSP water quality and monitoring-quarterly and yearly ▪ Not to pollute the water resources ▪ Capacitate employees in making the right releases from an environmental perspective: provide training and improve awareness ▪ Ensure business practices do not contribute to blocking of sewer systems which contaminate water sources. ▪ Compliance with water use licence requirements ▪ Comply with water quality objectives: daily operational responsibility linked to their business productivity (need for their processes -should not be left as a checking exercise at the end of the month)
Water quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Produce cleaner and greener products and services minimising impact on water resources ▪ Measure & monitor how much is used through metering- you cannot control what you do not measure → improve water use performance ▪ Efficient use of water at the operational level

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Households and business alike have to use water efficiently ▪ Water licence compliance (especially regarding how much water is abstracted for operations) ▪ Exploring and implementing water reuse technology and systems - key to reducing water abstraction ▪ Research and Technology development of new more and efficient technologies
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investigate and implement new technologies that utilise less water ▪ More efficient energy usage to reduce consumption (and therefore demand) ▪ Low carbon generation- potential for more renewables development ▪ Build awareness about the energy costs of moving water
Industrial processing water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement & promote four R's in business practices: reduce-reuse-recycle-recover
Environmental factors: land, wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proactive adoption of voluntary environmental management tools by private sector ▪ Thorough Environmental Impact Assessments and Environmental Management Plans to establish impact on the environment – not just for compliance but for responsible ongoing management ▪ Advocacy and education on all water matters, including integrated catchment management, wetland conservation and other aspects ▪ Refrain from seeking mining applications on sensitive lands ▪ Promote green and circular economy-reduce to waste to landfill ▪ Adopt conservation projects
Bulk storage/dams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of own storage to increase supply reliability
Licence to operate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compliance with water use licence regulations ▪ Water licence compliance (how much water is abstracted for operation) ▪ Life cycle asset management product and services ▪ You cannot water from rural communities without benefits being allocated to those communities (mines but also other businesses) Communities will vandalise the assets if there is no benefit to them- economic losses- i.e. Tugela water scheme ▪ Inclusive approach in the country all should benefit not only urban areas but rural and less fortunate as well
Workers health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safe and healthy work environment for employees and contractor ▪ Covid 19 risks and response plan ▪ WASH
Neighbouring communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusive participation into planning and benefit sharing ▪ Social responsibilities to communities (water energy, land jobs, businesses) ▪ Covid 19 risks and response plan ▪ WASH

CIVIL SOCIETY RESPONSIBILITIES

As end users of water, civil society has a general key responsibility to be informed about water issues, with a full understanding of what water assurance entails - in all its implications. Civil society organisations can play a powerful role in this regard. Armed with information, civil society (individuals and organisations) can play a watchdog role, advocating with government and the private sector to influence a water stewardship approach to protecting the OSB in particular and all water sources in general, as well as embracing water conservation practices at home, schools and other civil society structures.

The general comment was that civil society needs to participate in water resource protection, and themselves be compliant of regulations and laws, while influencing the private sector and government to do the same.

For civil society, the primary concern is with water quality and water quantity, as all other aspects are seen to flow from this, such as WASH requirements and service delivery, livelihoods, energy use, environmental aspects and other aspects.

KEY INTERESTS	KEY RESPONSIBILITIES
Water quality & Water quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Watchdog to ensure that other stakeholders (Government & Private Sector & Civil Society) working to their mandates. ▪ Information & data access & dissemination is key for Civil Society to perform a watchdog / involved function. Civil Society needs to make sure that they are informed about water issues, laws, etc ▪ Education & Awareness building for each other – especially leveraging indigenous knowledge ▪ Civil Society needs to manage own behaviour around securing water resource use & management – especially around pollution and waterway contamination. ▪ Adhere to by-laws that are designed to protect water sources, waste management, range management and other activities that may harm water sourcing, provisioning and use. ▪ Civil Society organisations need to take up the responsibility of gathering info, sharing & disseminating, building awareness about water conservation ▪ People need to understand that what water assurance needs to be well understood in all its implications ▪ Integration & collaboration are key behaviours to ensure that water stewardship is carried out – Civil Society needs to play a watchdog role in this and make sure that they involve themselves ▪ Citizen science tools can be well used – by communities, schools, etc ▪ Water pricing affects water quality & quantity and is experienced by all
Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Civil Society needs to understand the link between water and livelihoods, and therefore it is their responsibility to take care of the resource ▪ Civil Society orgs need to align themselves and the work that they do to ensure confusion is limited and that Civil Society gets a straight story
Service delivery & WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Watchdog – ensuring government depts. deliver on their mandates
Research and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build information, share & disseminate info
Environmental factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Citizen science tools can be used by communities (including schools) to monitor the health of local waterways.
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educate Civil Society that there is a direct relationship between energy, energy use/value & sustainable water supply

In the plenary, it was established that just as there were common interests shared by all stakeholders in all sectors, so were there common responsibilities. It was noted that in most cases, each sector had a slightly different responsibility regarding shared interests, depending on their mandate and interest. The following schematic illustrates a zoom into some of the key interests and responsibilities.



		PUBLIC SECTOR INTERESTS	PUBLIC SECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES		
		Water quality Water quantity Governance & regulation Revenue Service delivery Environmental factors Energy Bulk storage Livelihoods WASH	- Ongoing consultation & communication - Develop appropriate policies & regulations - Enforce policies & regulations - Manage water pricing optimally - Maintain accurate information & knowledge - Source expertise - Resource infrastructure requirements & maintenance - Resource conservation & environmental rehabilitation (including PES)		
PRIVATE SECTOR INTERESTS	PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES	SHARED INTERESTS	SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES	CIVIL SOCIETY INTERESTS	CIVIL SOCIETY RESPONSIBILITIES
Water quality Water quantity Energy Industrial processing water requirements Irrigation supply Bulk storage Environmental factors	- Develop & implement internal water protection protocols & practices (use, contaminant management, conservation) - Manage abstraction & use optimally - Contribute to policy development - Share knowledge, expertise for common benefit - Share financial resources - Fund innovation - Resource water-related CSI	Water quality Water quantity Environmental factors Energy	Overall collaboration in the service of the protection of the OSB - Policy development, enforcement & compliance - Knowledge & expertise - Financial resourcing - In-kind resourcing - Infrastructure design, development & maintenance - M&E	Water quality Water quantity Livelihoods Service delivery WASH Research & Development Environmental factors Energy	- Be informed - Comply with regulations - Perform watchdog role in respect of both public & private sectors - Engage in local conservation & rehabilitation projects - Involve schools and learners





Linking interests to responsibilities from a sector perspective, leads the conversation naturally to how these three sectors, all of which are users and beneficiaries of the water resource, can work together in an effective water stewardship collaboration for mutual advantage.

Benefits and risks of co-operation

The final exercise of the session focussed on co-operation between the three sectors in a trans-boundary context. It is acknowledged that while the core mandates and priorities of the different sectors focus their main attention on different aspects, ultimately they are aligned and overlap in many ways. This is exactly why it is so important that different sectors have a clear insight into how each other views water resources, how they value the asset, for what reasons, and ultimately that they all have a shared overall interest in the protection and sustainability of river catchments – in the case of the OSB, from the source in Lesotho to Gauteng. This awareness of the shared interest and shared responsibility must translate into co-operation, however the different priorities can entail risks and challenges in effective co-operation.

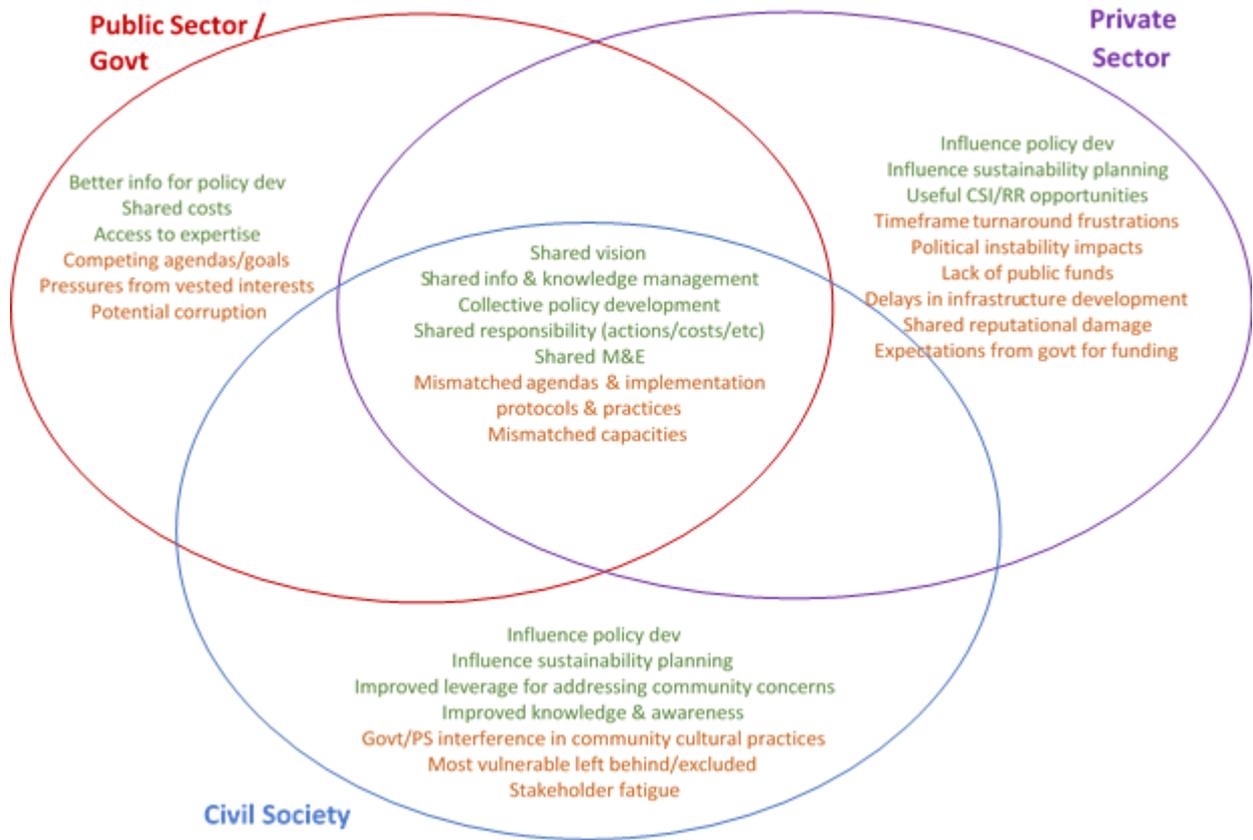
The exercise to examine benefits and risks aimed to surface some of the key issues that need to inform how exactly a water stewardship programme on the OSB should be planned.

A participatory exercise captured responses to the following questions:

- Q1. What are the key benefits for government in working with the private sector and civil society for OSB catchment resilience?
- Q2. What are the key risks or challenges for government in working with PS and civil society for OSB catchment resilience?
- Q3. What are the key benefits for the private sector in working with the Government and civil society for OSB catchment resilience?
- Q4. What are the key risks or challenges for the private sector in working with government and civil society for OSB catchment resilience?
- Q5. What are the key benefits for civil society in working with the private sector and government for OSB catchment resilience?
- Q6. What are the key risks or challenges for civil society in working with the private sector and government for OSB catchment resilience?

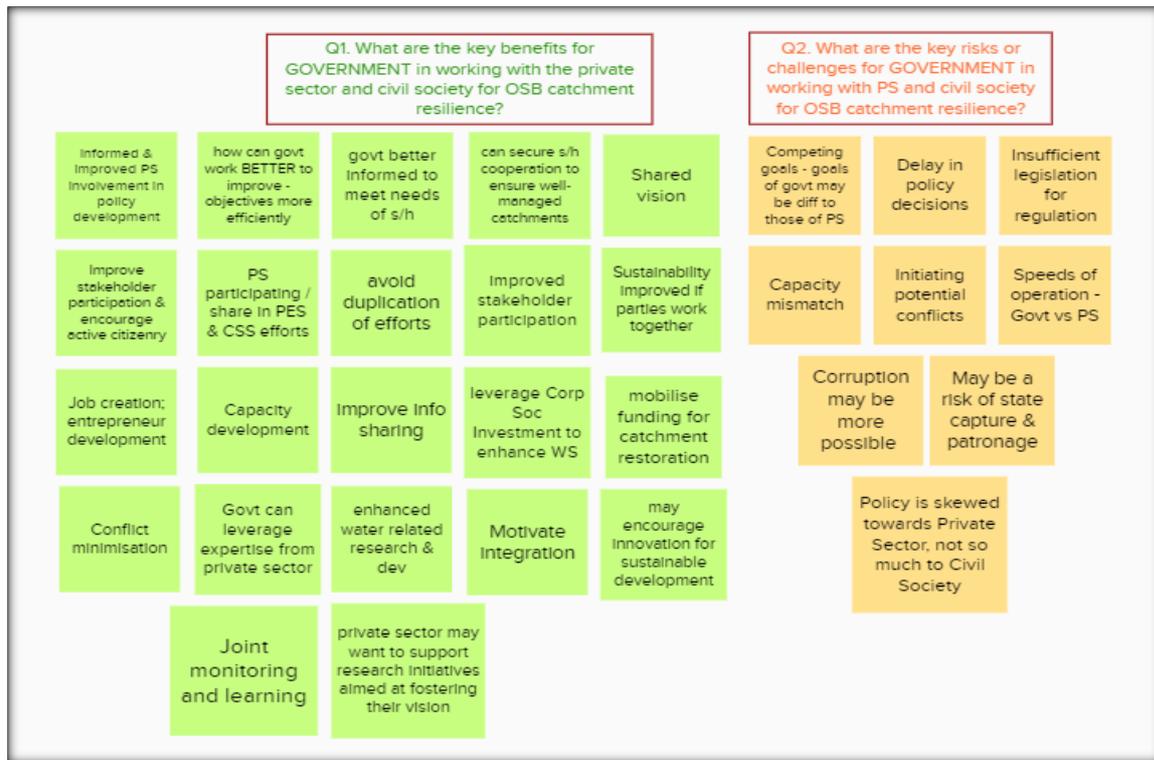
A summary of the main benefits (green) and risks (red) are represented in the following visual:





The results of each breakaway discussion are as follows.

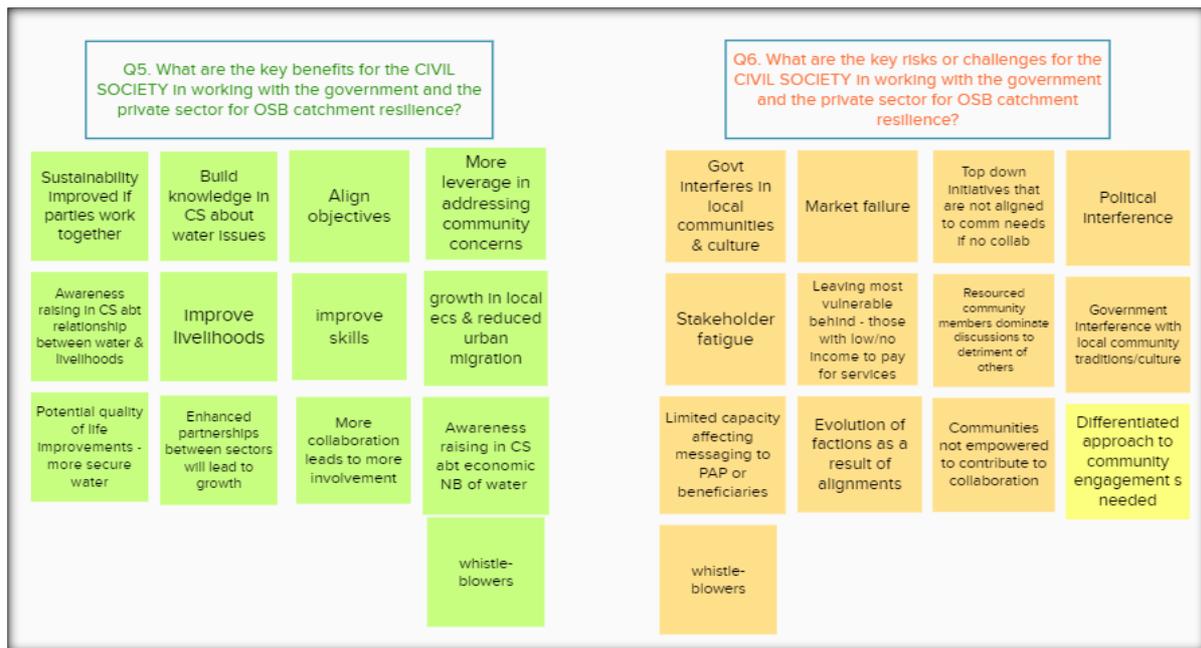
Focusing on benefits and risks for Government to work with the Private Sector and Civil Society



Focusing on benefits and risks for the Private Sector to work with Government and Civil Society



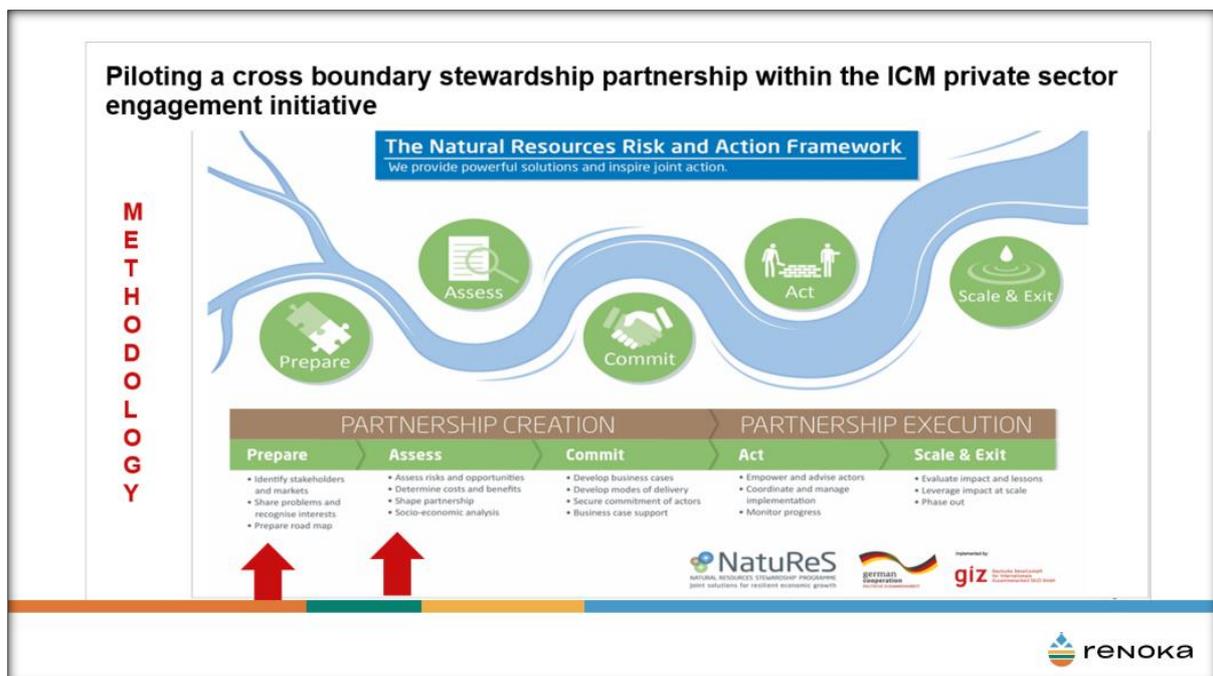
Focusing on benefits and risks for Civil Society to work with Government and the Private Sector



By the end of the discussion participants agreed that the benefits in almost all instances outweighed the risks, and that the risks could be managed by careful planning.

Closing comments

In closing the session on stakeholders, Lea Derr, reminded all that examining stakeholders in the context of water stewardship is a key step towards stronger multi-stakeholder collaboration which is essential to successful stewardship approaches. She referred to the NRAF, which frames our learning journey and it is therefore a valuable compass in where we stand and how we progress throughout the sessions.



Lea thanked participants for their valuable contribution, and invited them to attend the third session of the Learning Journey, which will focus on unpacking examples of water stewardship, enabling the OSB stakeholders to learn from these examples, and to consider particular aspects of water stewardship planning and implementation such as:

- Trans-boundary co-operation.
- Private sector investment in basin resilience initiatives.
- Risk identification and management.
- Program planning.
- Stakeholder mobilization and involvement.
- Developing capacity of stakeholders.

A last word

At the end of the session, participants were asked to respond to one question:

After two sessions into the Learning Journey, what do you see as the most important aspect of Water Stewardship?

