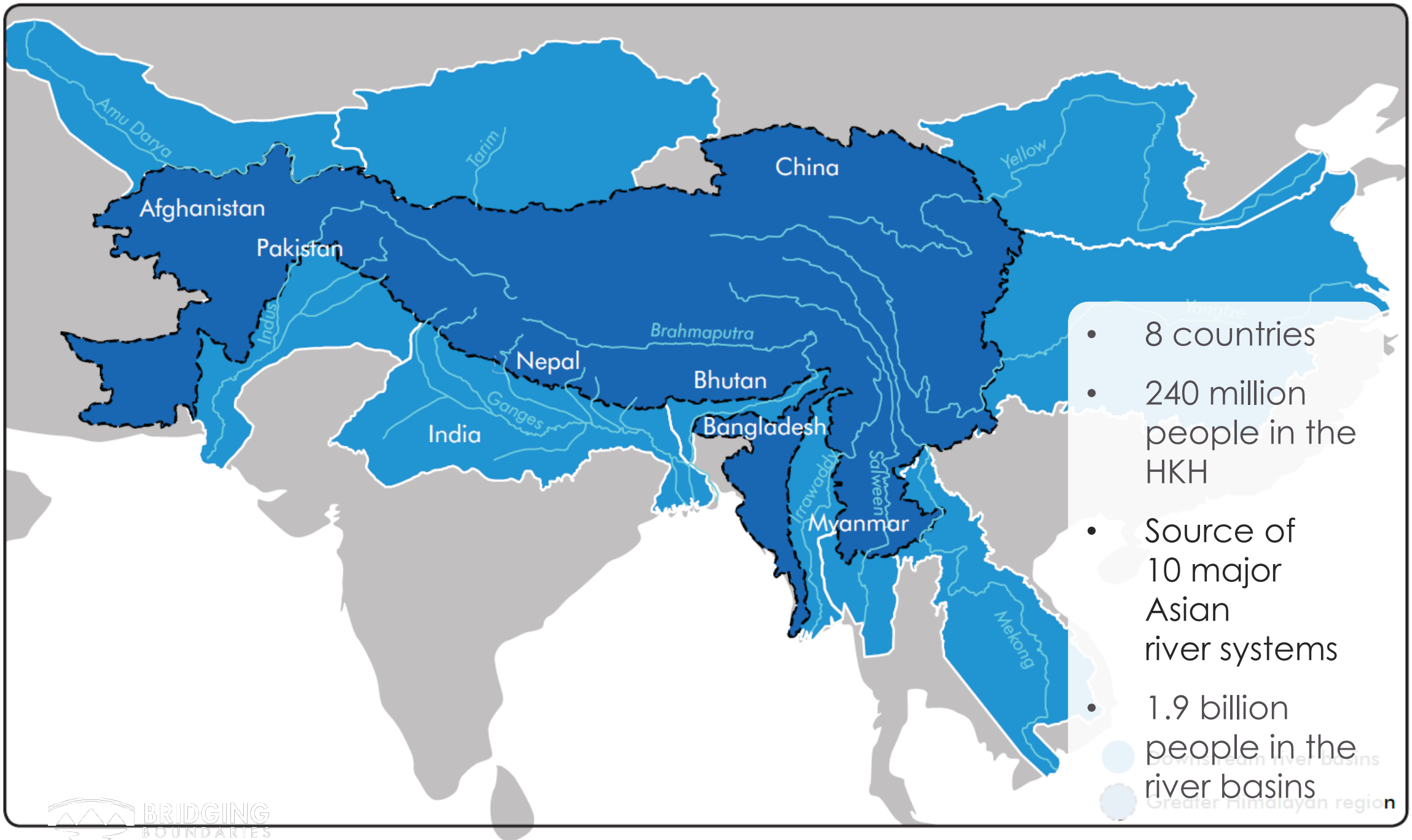


The background of the slide is a wide-angle landscape photograph. It shows a vast, arid region with a winding river in the foreground and middle ground. In the distance, there are rolling hills and a range of mountains with patches of snow under a clear blue sky.

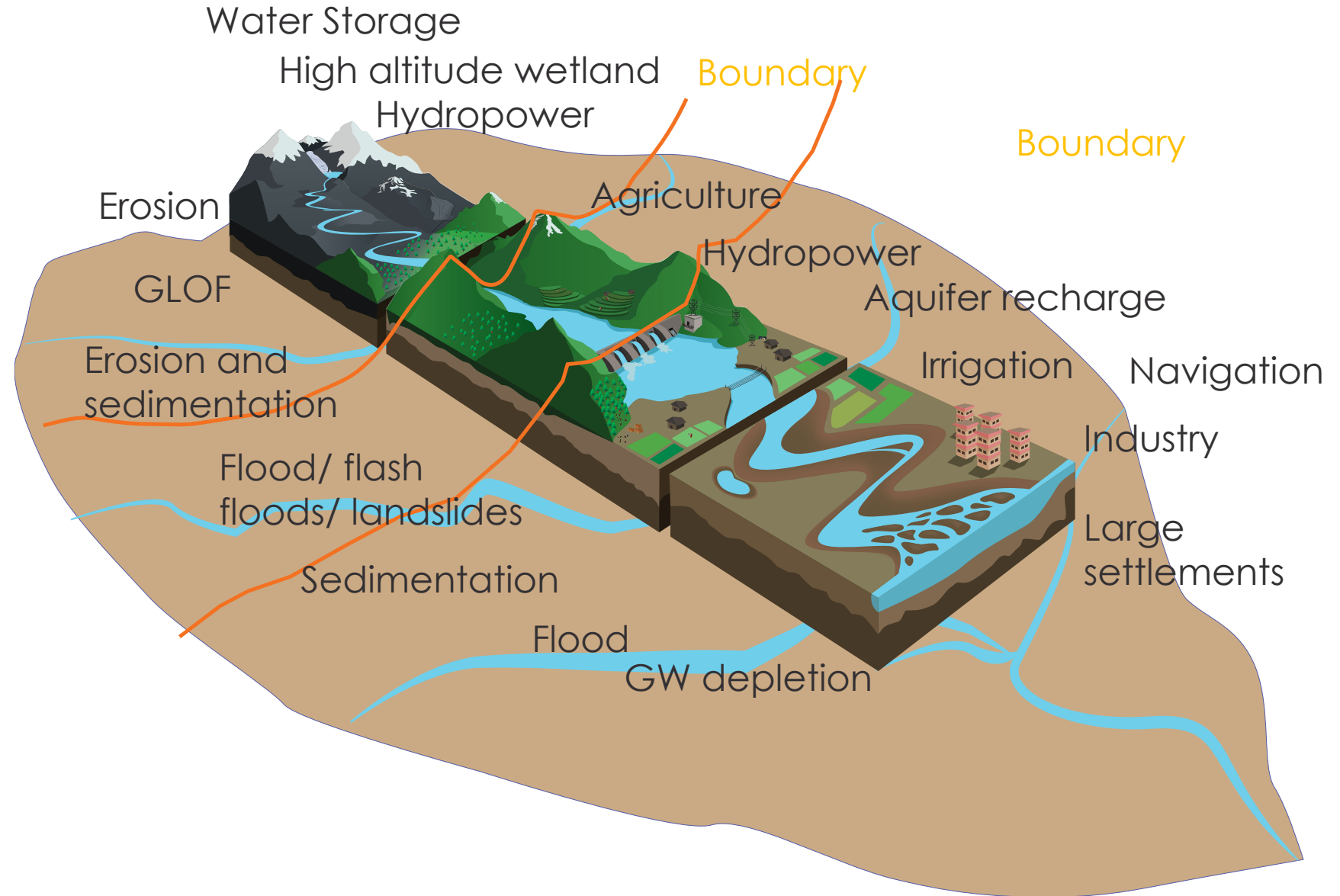
Arun Bhakta Shrestha, Regional Programme  
Manager, ICIMOD

09 November 2020

River basin and transboundary  
landscape approaches: Could  
WEFE nexus bring synergy to those  
approaches in South Asia?

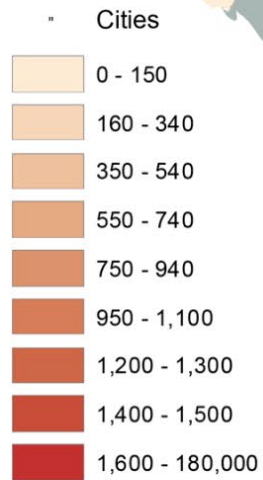


# Upstream-downstream Linkages





# HKH basins support some of the world's most populated areas



- Population 1.9 billion in 2015
- Up to 2.3 billion by 2050, 65% urban
- Increasing water and energy intensity in agriculture
- Water demand will double by 2050

# Transboundary opportunities, challenges and status

Water availability, Hydropower, Navigation

Floods, erosion and sedimentation

Limited cooperation:

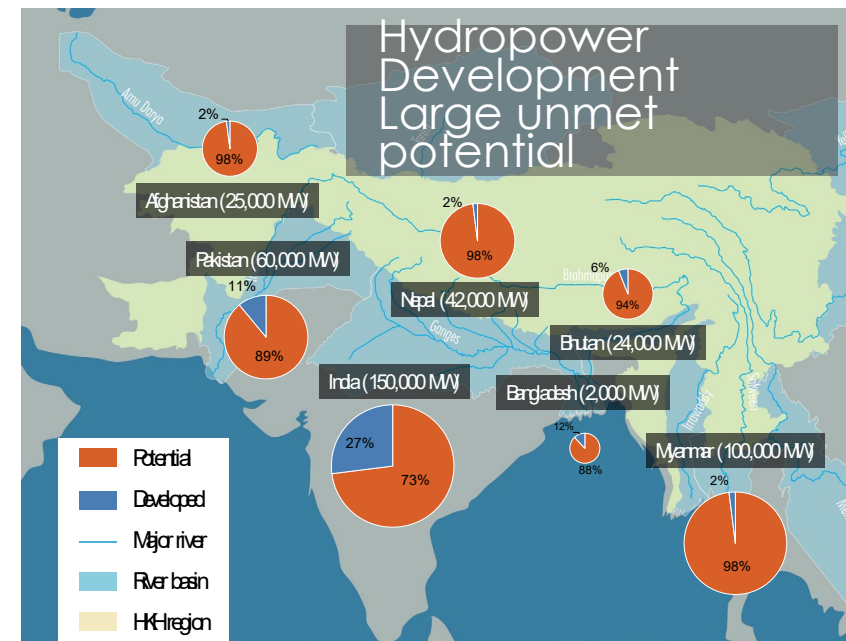
bilateral vs regional, sectoral vs integrated; resources vs benefits

ICIMOD's efforts:

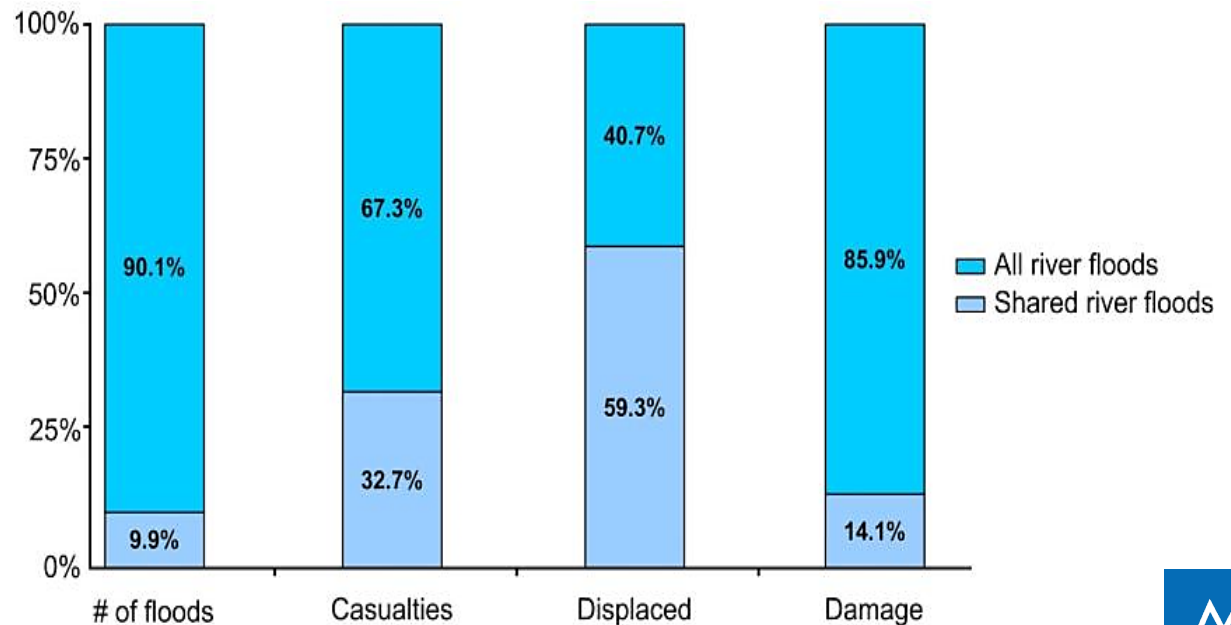
Science based cooperation

HKH Assessment > Call to Action >

Ministerial Declaration  
(<https://bit.ly/3eElnmu>)



ICIMOD in prep



Bakker 2006





A photograph of a water management system. In the foreground, a large black pipe is partially visible on the left. To its right, water is gushing out of another pipe, creating a turbulent, white-water stream that falls into a dark, earthen ditch. In the background, several other pipes of varying sizes and materials (some black, some concrete) are visible, some lying on the ground and others partially buried. The background is filled with green vegetation and trees, suggesting a rural or agricultural setting.

## Why regional cooperation on water?

Manage varied distribution of water

Reduce risk of climate related effects making water supply erratic

Opportunity for overcoming economic, environmental, technological, and institutional barriers

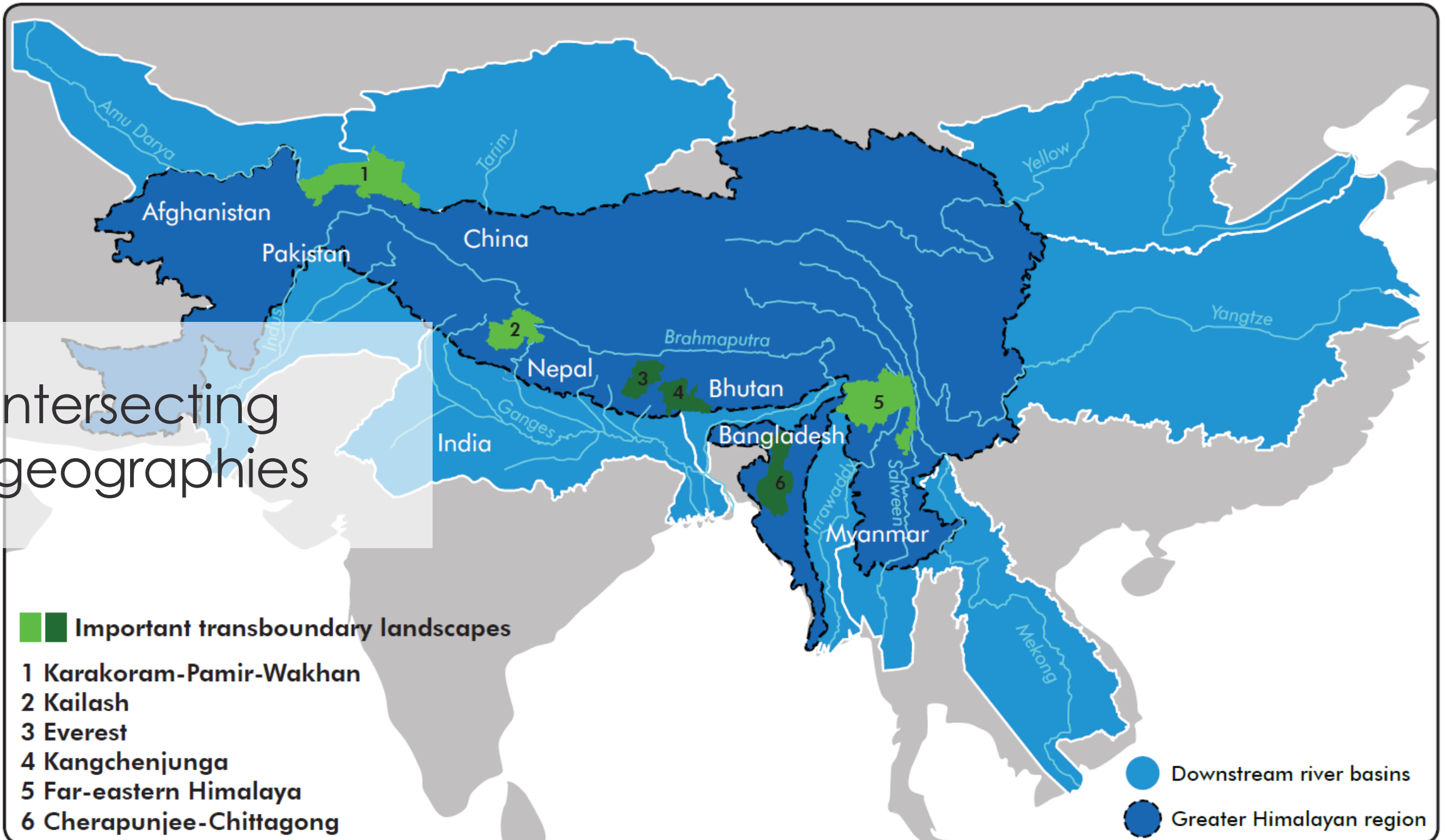
Multiple benefits of infrastructure development

# Intersecting geographies

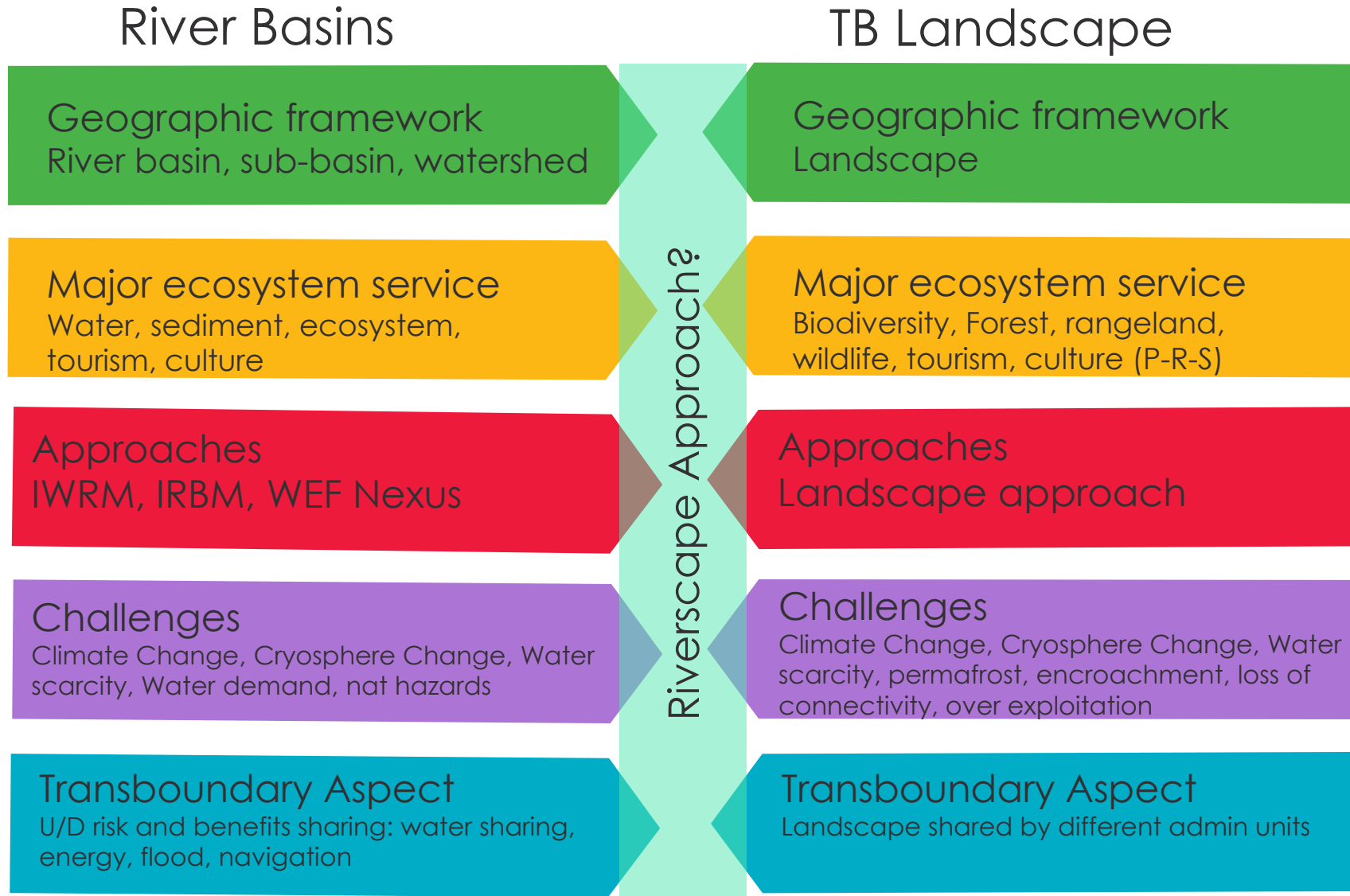
## ■ ■ Important transboundary landscapes

- 1 Karakoram-Pamir-Wakhan
- 2 Kailash
- 3 Everest
- 4 Kangchenjunga
- 5 Far-eastern Himalaya
- 6 Cherapunjee-Chittagong

- Downstream river basins
- Greater Himalayan region



# Two approaches





# The Riverscape approach

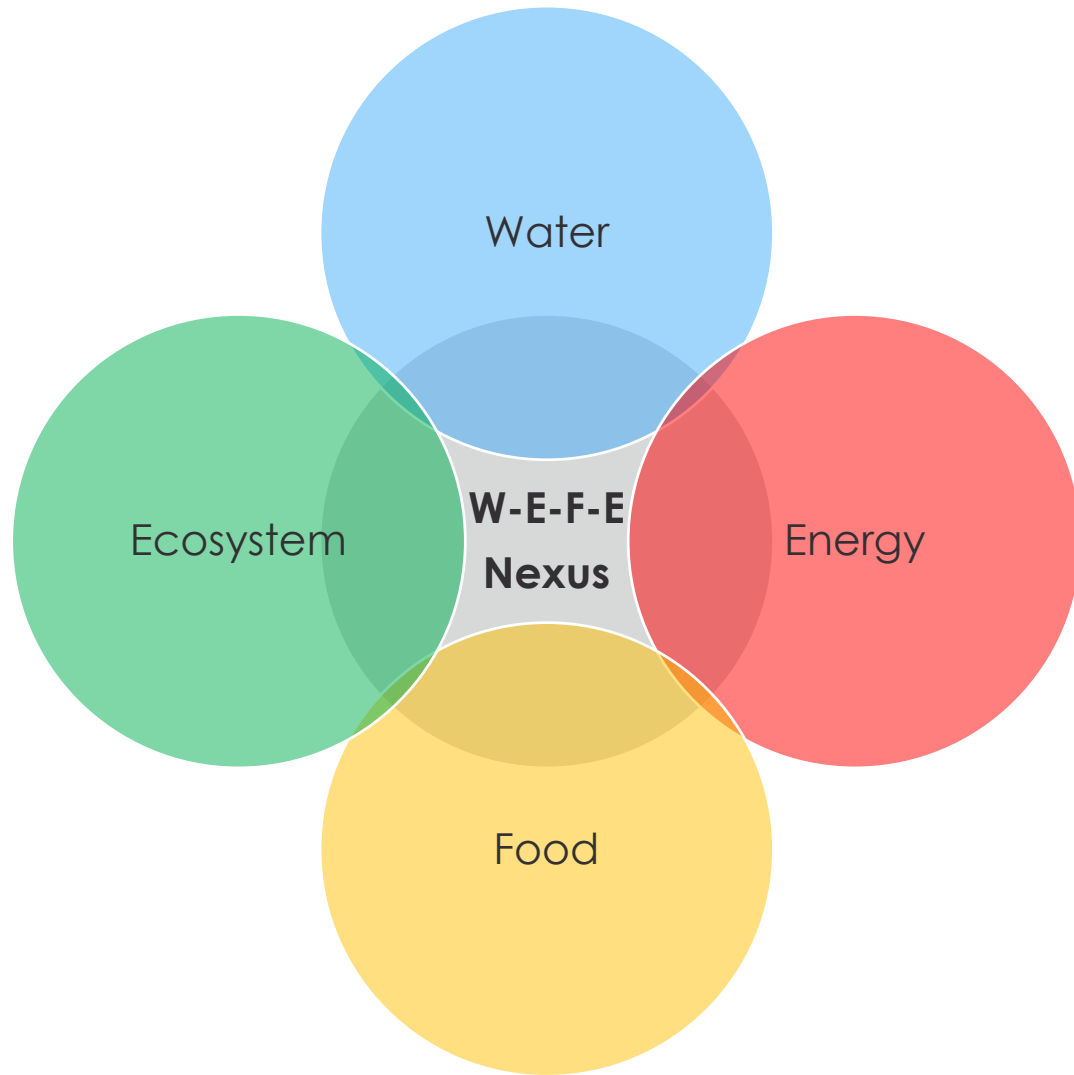
Natural resources and ecosystems services underlie water, food, and energy security.

## Underlying principles

- Interdependence of resources
- Interdependence of sectors
- Integrated policy solutions
- Value natural capital

## WEFE nexus – potentials for transboundary cooperation

- New resources and approaches for TBC
- Alter actor dynamics- engaging key actors
- Reset TBC thinking –broader aspect of w,e,f and e security





What next?

W-E-F-E Nexus in the context of  
HKH

A mechanism for transboundary  
cooperation

Piloting

**Thank you**