



# GP-CoCoon

Groundwater in the Political Domain:  
Occupied Palestinian Territories,  
Yemen, Ethiopia

# Objective

- To get 'into the political black box'

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To put groundwater on the political agenda

- Understand the political game
- See opportunities for CHANGE for effective management and equitable allocation

## Groundwater:

- Technology opened new opportunities
- It is invisible and often unknown
- But it is the major source of useable fresh water
- It is widespread
- It allows independent supply

Much of the increase in water use in the world since 1970 is due to groundwater development



A photograph of a man in a dark shirt and pants filling a blue and white water bottle at a stone well. The well is built with rough-hewn stones and has a large, rounded spout. The man is standing to the right of the well, and the water is splashing into the bottle. The background shows some green foliage and a stone wall. The image is overlaid with several black text boxes containing white text.

# Groundwater development has brought economic and social benefits:

Food security

High value agriculture and horticulture

Safe drinking water supply for Households

Buffer for climate adaptation

Industrial water




Spreading ranging area for livestock

## But also:

- Overuse – threatening to undermine economic and social base of regions and countries
- The deeper the water table the more the poor and weak loose out
- Concerns on quality



# Three countries/ areas:

	<p>Occupied Palestine Territories</p>	<p>Power asymmetry, barred access (the Wall) and overuse by Israel</p>
	<p>Yemen</p>	<p>Overuse and institutional deadlock</p>
	<p>Ethiopia</p>	<p>Underutilization of groundwater and at the same time persistent poverty</p>

# Consortium

## Political operators

- Oromia Water Works Design and Supervision Office
- Palestinian Water Authority
- MetaMeta

## Engaged researchers

- Technical University Delft
- WEC, Sana'a University
- Mekelle University

*Non Research*

*plus*

*Research Organization*



Political and  
institutional  
analysis



Focal area  
and response  
studies



Political action plans



Communication  
and capacity  
building



GP COCOON:ACTIVITIES





# CoCoon: Understanding Conflict and Cooperation

Scenarios	Results
Nothing happens	Maybe the worst
Conflict	At least brings things on the surface
Co-operation	If ineffective may 'mask' the problem
Cooperation and conflict	Also happen simultaneously

THREE DOMAINS>

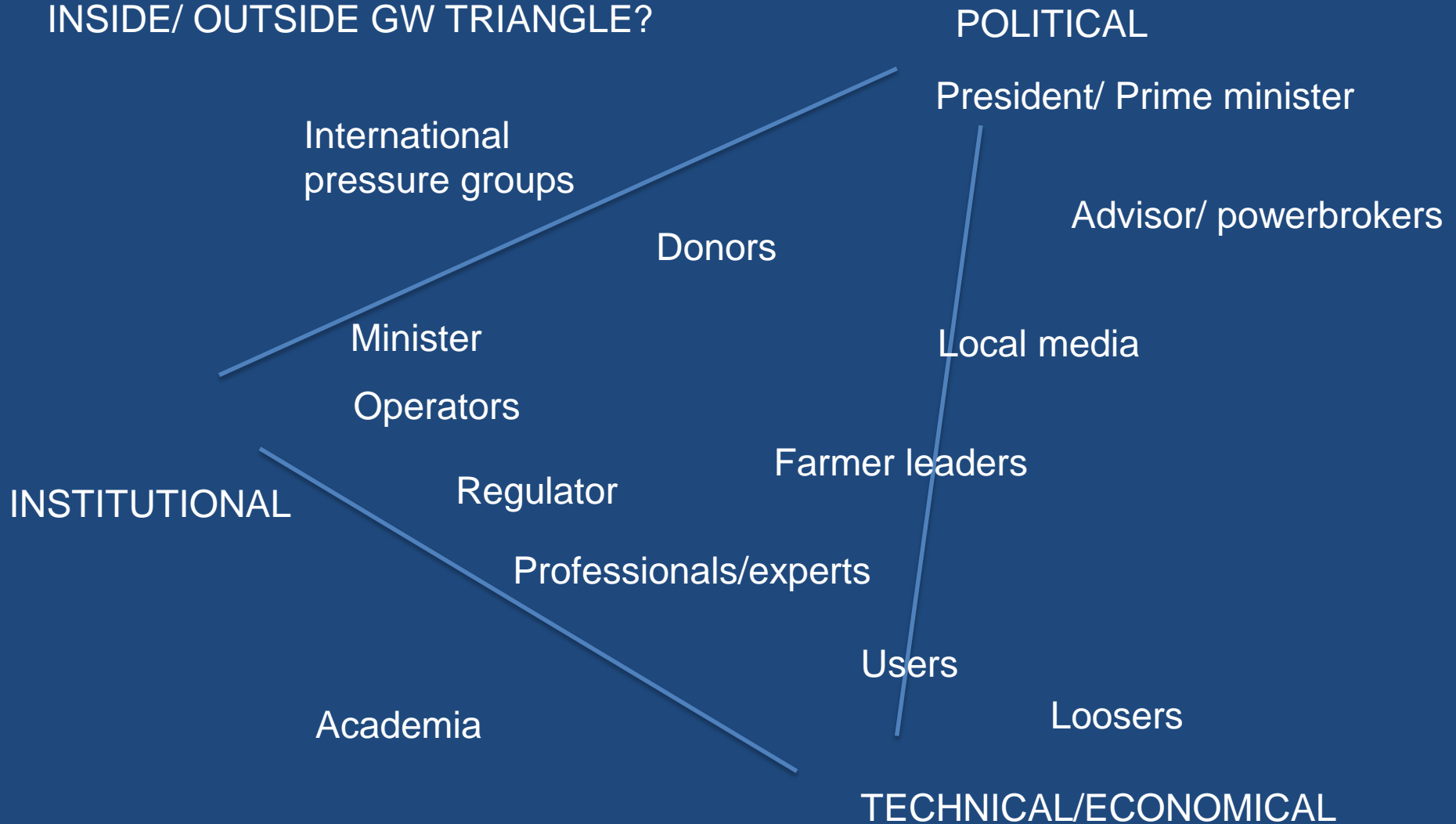
POLITICAL

INSTITUTIONAL

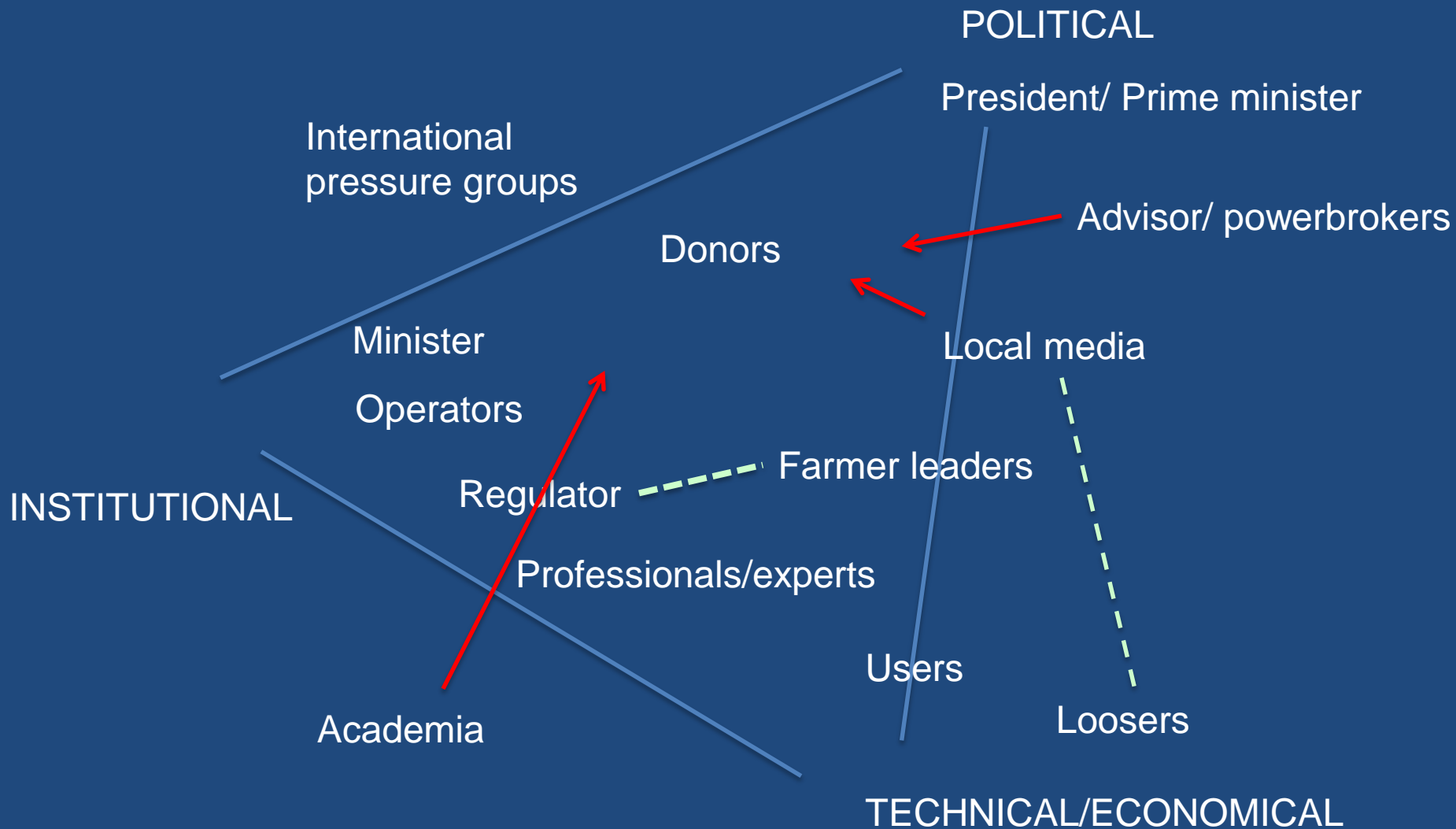
TECHNICAL/ECONOMICAL



POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS  
WHERE ARE THE STAKEHOLDERS?  
INSIDE/ OUTSIDE GW TRIANGLE?



# POLITICAL ACTION PLANS: MOVING/ CONNECTING STAKEHOLDERS



Focus area studies to bring the  
issues to the table

**Qalqiliya (Occupied Palestinian Territories): farmers lost land, access to water and livelihoods due to the Separation Wall and fences**





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Raja-Kobo (Ethiopia)  
Who will get access to groundwater  
irrigation  
In a chronically food-insecure area





Al Mujellis (Coastal Yemen)

Area abandoned after lost recharge and overpumping





# Knowledge sharing/ cooperation within the consortium

- Comparing experiences – learning from the differences between the countries
- ‘Added value’ of international project to raise issues politically
- Joint contribution to debate on groundwater governance

# Knowledge sharing/engagement with political stakeholders (political action plans)

- Turn the black box into a grey box
- Carefully find entry points in 'real politik'
- 'Political' communication

# Knowledge sharing and cooperation with other stakeholders

- Courses and case studies for teaching curricula
- Visual communication packages (maps, videos)
- Awareness creation

# Knowledge sharing and cooperation within CoCoon

- Sharing on how to move the cases into the political domain
- Learning on how rights based approaches are applied in practice
- Learning on effective communication methods and tools



GP COCOON: LINKS



# Main challenges

- Understand the politics around groundwater in three areas/ countries
- Actions to make change towards sustainable and equitable use

# Many thanks

