

# Transformative research: a view from below

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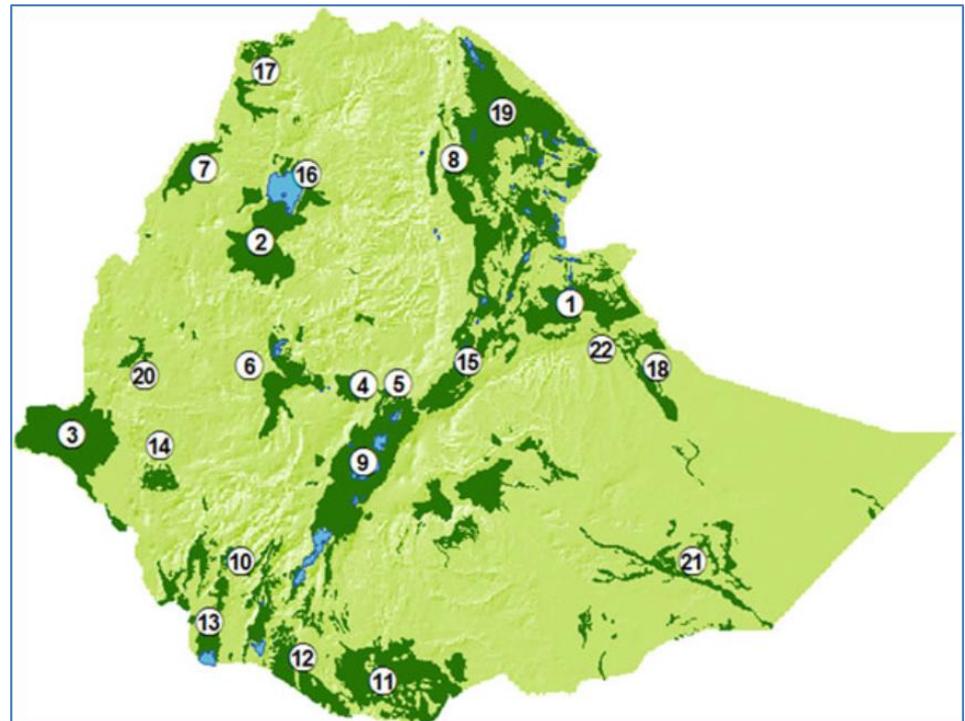
# Climate change affects people's ability to create livelihoods





Ethiopia, showing potential for shallow groundwater use

In many parts of Sub-Saharan Africa shallow groundwater is available for small scale irrigation





## Resource management at the community level

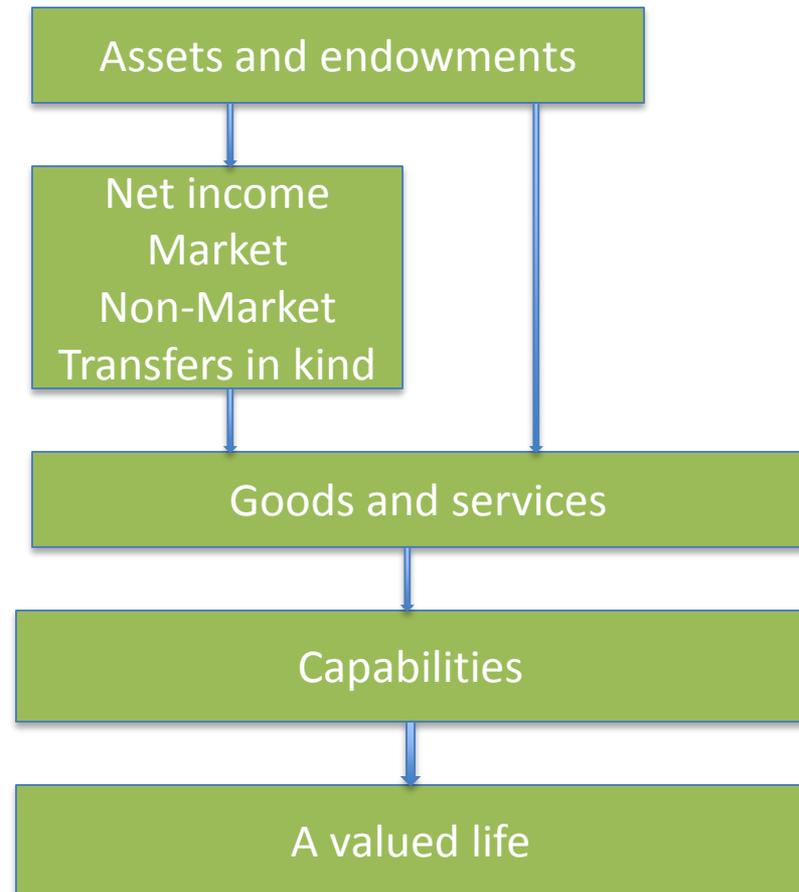
Shallow groundwater resources are most likely to be used by poorer communities because of their accessibility, but they are vulnerable to over-exploitation and climatic variability.

Realisation of the potential for poverty reduction therefore requires a focus on how local communities can **assess and manage their own resources** taking account of physical, socio-economic, and governance contexts.



## Reconsidering poverty analysis

Capabilities analysis encompasses multidimensional aspects of poverty to identify the characteristics that contribute 'towards improving the ability of persons to lead a life that they have reason to value' (Frediani et al. 2014)

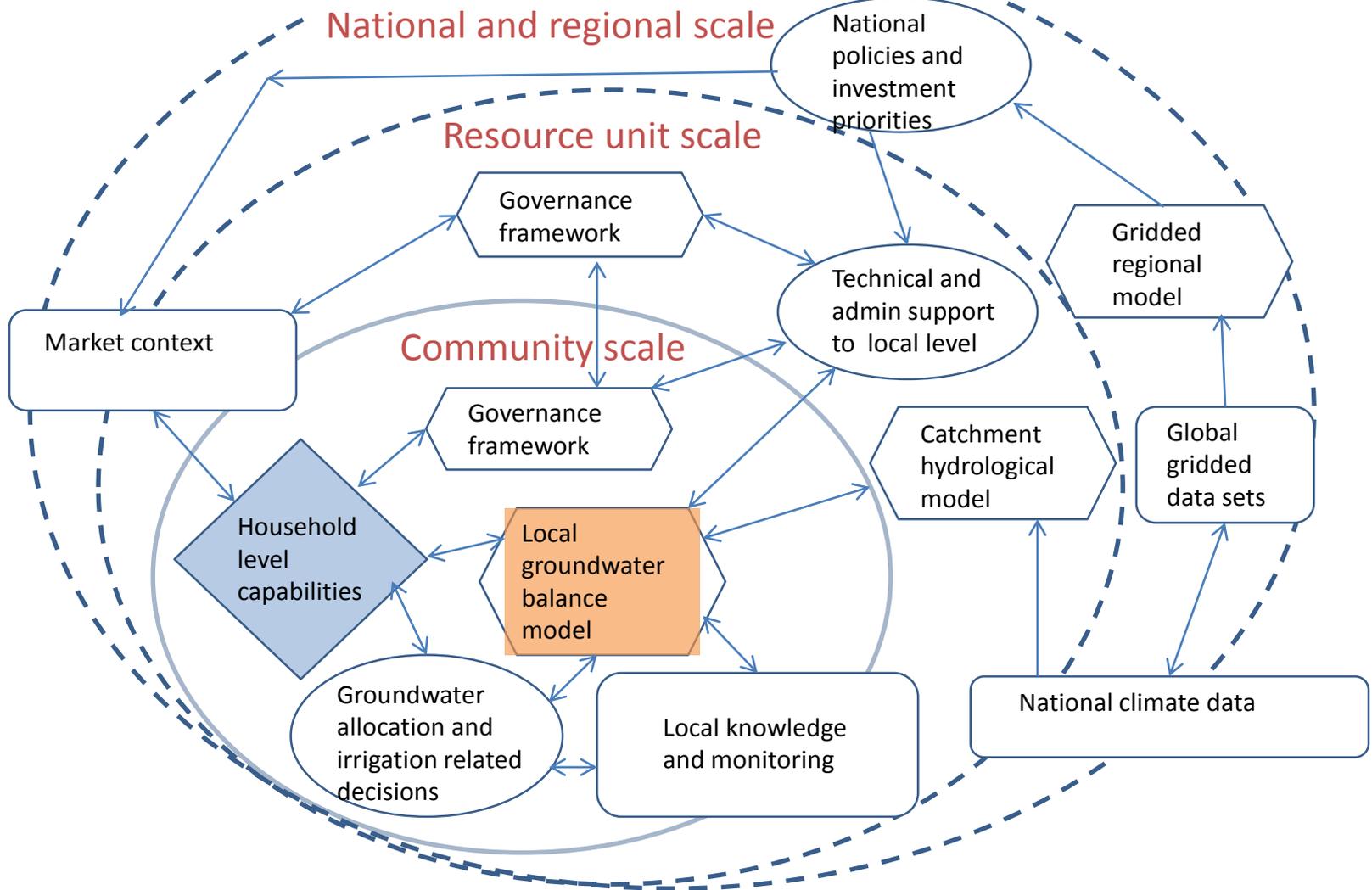


The move from poverty analysis to capability analysis



Figure 1: Schematic diagram of multi-scale research approach

adaptive management of groundwater in Africa





# adaptive management of groundwater in Africa

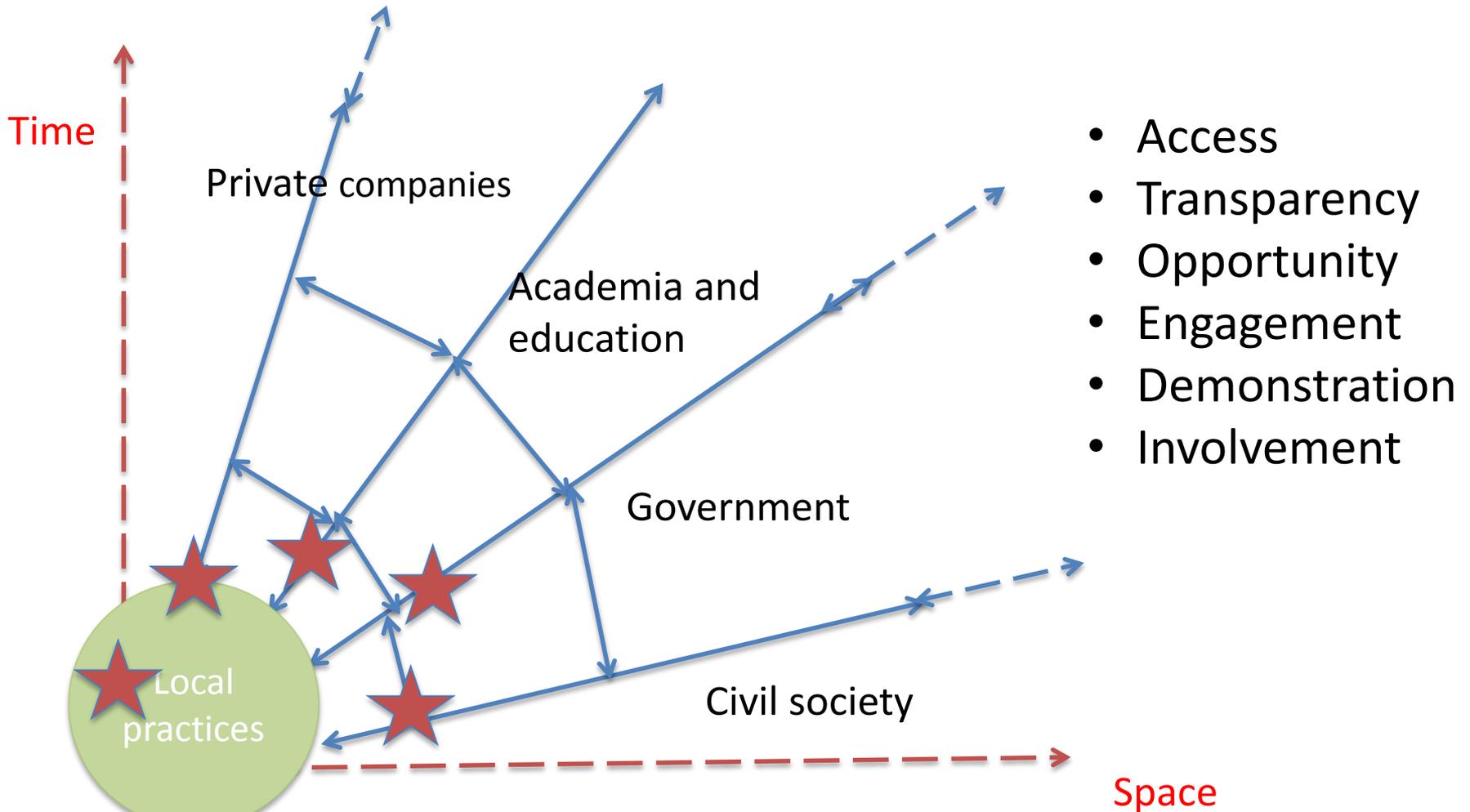


women's focus group

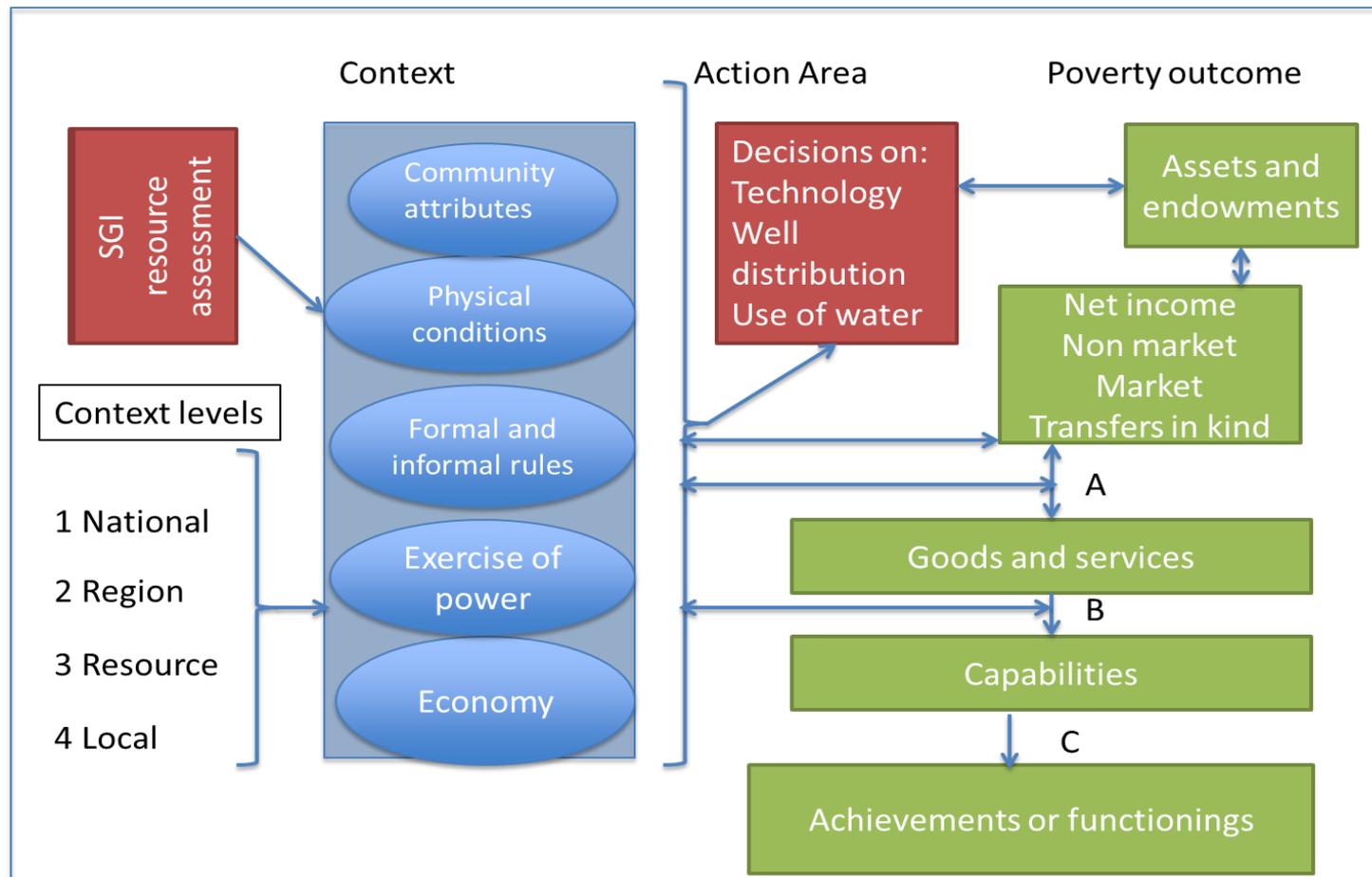




# adaptive management of groundwater in Africa



Pathways to impact- stakeholder involvement



The interaction of poverty and governance with shallow groundwater irrigation

# Perspectives from below

- Public representation
  - the expression and engagement of public, consumer and stakeholder preferences, knowledge, values and motivations\*
- Problem framing
  - determining boundaries,, identifying diverse possibilities, reframing and growing
- Informing and revealing scope for intervention in complex socio-technical systems
  - designing institutions to cope with uncertainty and risk, informing effective governance of complex systems

## Some implications for research governance

- The need for a move from knowledge **transfer** to knowledge **exchange** and acceptance of different knowledges
- Complex interdisciplinary research projects require new ways of review and assessment
- There is a need for creative learning from what works and what doesn't both in research practice and research governance

\*See work by Phillipson J and Lowe P. for deeper analysis of these points