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TAIWAN INT'L
WATER WEEK

Smart Watershed, AI-Driven Innovation

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Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan

28 October 2025

1

Current and Future Challenges



Natural Context Global Intensification of Extreme Climate Events and Accelerating Water and Drought Disasters

Canada

May 2025
Wildfires and drought occurring simultaneously; uncontrolled fires in central and southern regions trigger emergency evacuations of 17,000 people from two provinces.

United States

May 2025
Severe thunderstorms strike Pennsylvania and Ohio; tornadoes sweep through central regions, causing at least 32 deaths and thousands injured.

Brazil

May 2024
Heavy rainfall and flooding in southern regions result in 163 deaths and 600,000 evacuated, marking South America's most severe flood disaster.

September 2024
Summer extreme heat and drought set century records; precipitation drops to less than one-quarter of normal levels.

United Kingdom

May 2025
UK experiencing its driest spring in 69 years; reservoir levels dropping, crop growth deteriorating, and wildfires spreading; more severe drought anticipated for summer.

Spain

September 2024
Summer extreme heat and drought set century records; precipitation drops to less than one-quarter of normal levels.

Nigeria

May 2025
Monsoon season-heavy rainfall in northern regions triggers flooding; at least 111 deaths reported.

Congo

May 2025
Widespread flooding in eastern villages; over 100 deaths.

Zimbabwe

April 2025
Drought causes food shortage across southern Africa; 68 million people affected.

China

April-July 2024
"Hundred-year" floods devastate Guangdong; water level exceed 55 meters; 20,000 evacuated.
April 2025
Most severe drought in 60 years; drought-affected area reaches 97.5%.

Japan

July 2024/August 2025
Consecutive heavy rainfall and typhoons trigger multiple flooding and landslide disasters.

Philippines

September 2024
Typhoon Marawi severely impacts Philippines and Vietnam; 796 deaths, most severe typhoon flooding in 20 years.

India

September 2024
Ganges River flooding causes 46 deaths.
April 2025
Heavy rainfall result in over 100 deaths.

Kenya

April-May 2024
Monsoon combined with El Niño phenomenon triggers heavy rain and landslides; 181 deaths, nearly 200,000 evacuated.

Indonesia

March 2025
Jakarta heavy rainfall causes flooding up to 8 meters deep; over 10,000 evacuated.

Australia

Early 2025
Five-hundred-year event; severe flooding emerges consecutively in Queensland north and New South Wales; 50,000 people stranded.

 Flooding
 Drought



Social Context Water Resources Management Facing Significant Challenges



Urban Population/Industrial Concentration

Concentrated urban populations increase water demand and heighten disaster risks. Economic and industrial development drive continued growth in water consumption.



Labor Shortage, Declining Birthrate, Aging Population

Declining birthrate, aging population, and labor shortage necessitate industrial transformation and digital transformation as emerging trends.



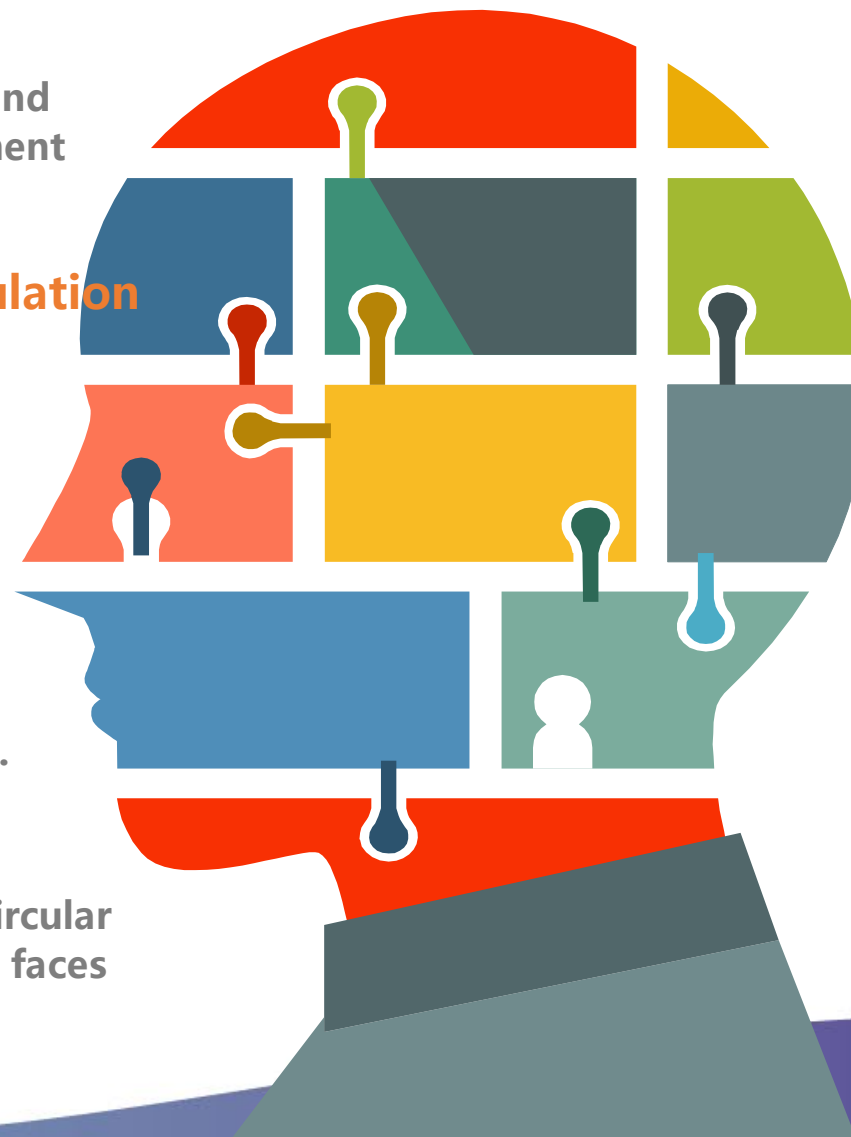
Balance Between Resilience and Environmental Conservation

Rising environmental awareness elevates public expectations for water environments; water management must transition toward nature-based adaptation solutions.

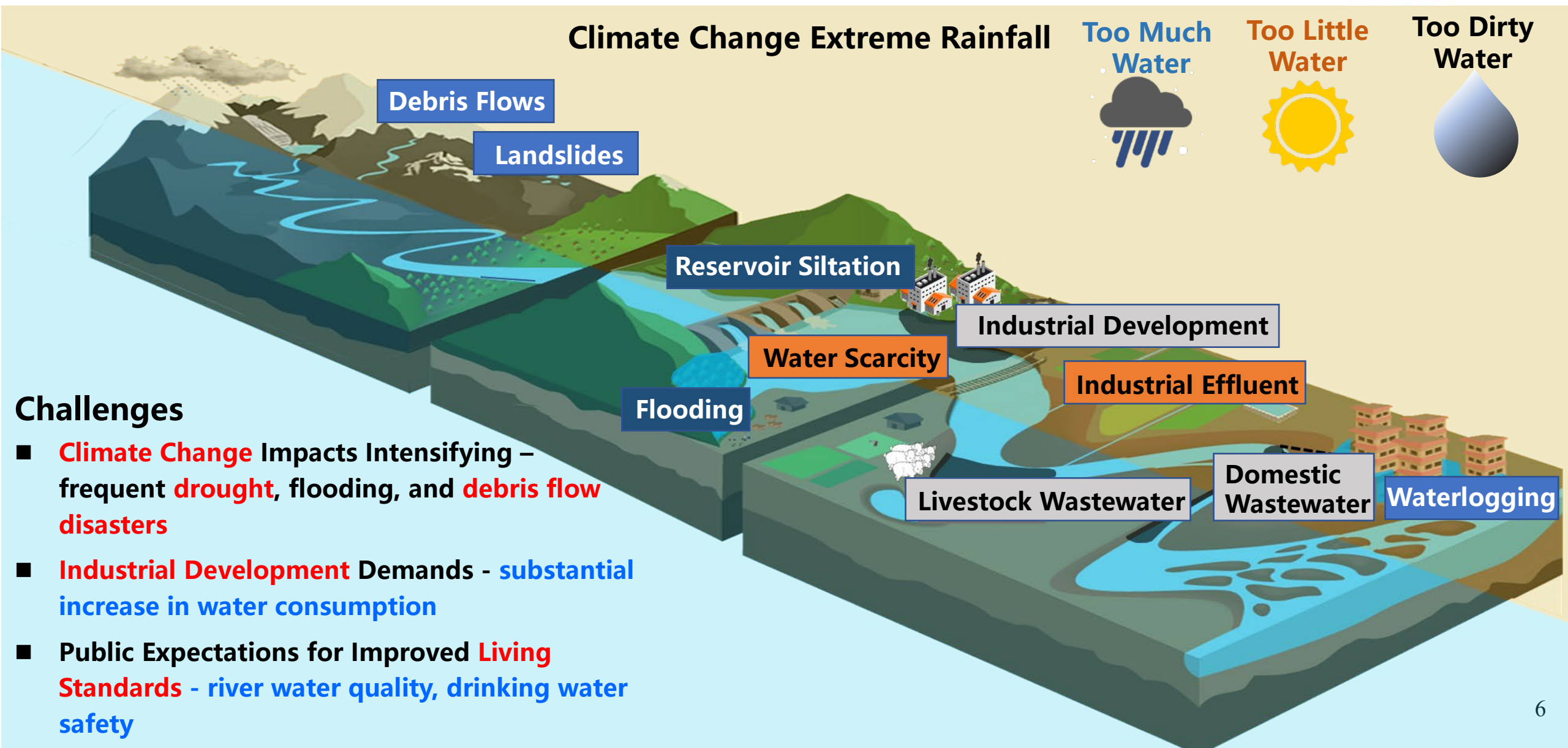


Net-Zero Transition

Facing policy objectives of low carbon, negative carbon, circular economy, and energy transition, water management work faces transformation challenges.



Rapid Internal and External Environmental Changes Intensifying Watershed Water Environment Impacts



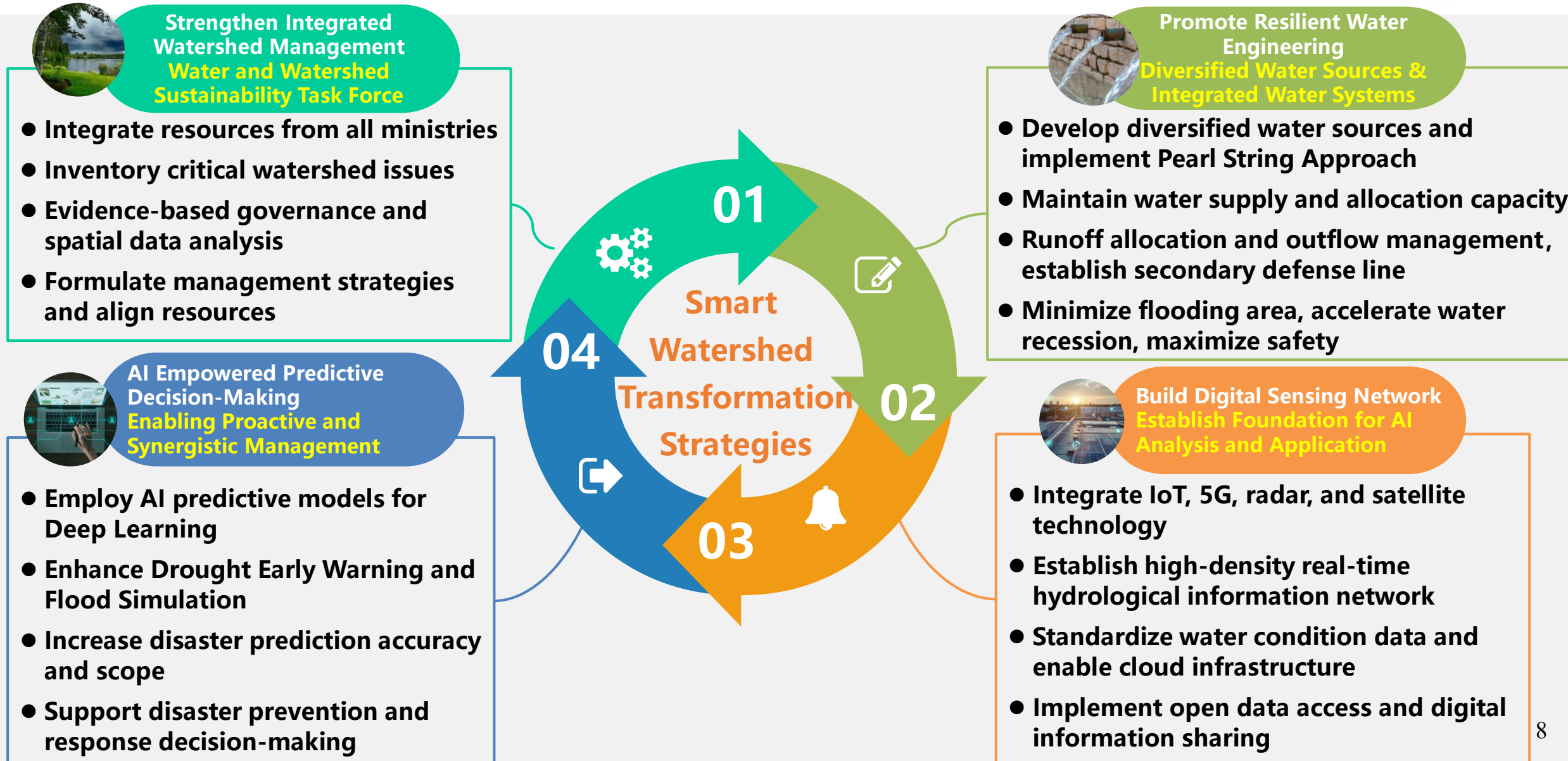
Challenges

- **Climate Change** Impacts Intensifying – frequent **drought**, flooding, and **debris flow** disasters
- **Industrial Development** Demands - **substantial** increase in water consumption
- Public Expectations for Improved **Living Standards** - river water quality, drinking water safety

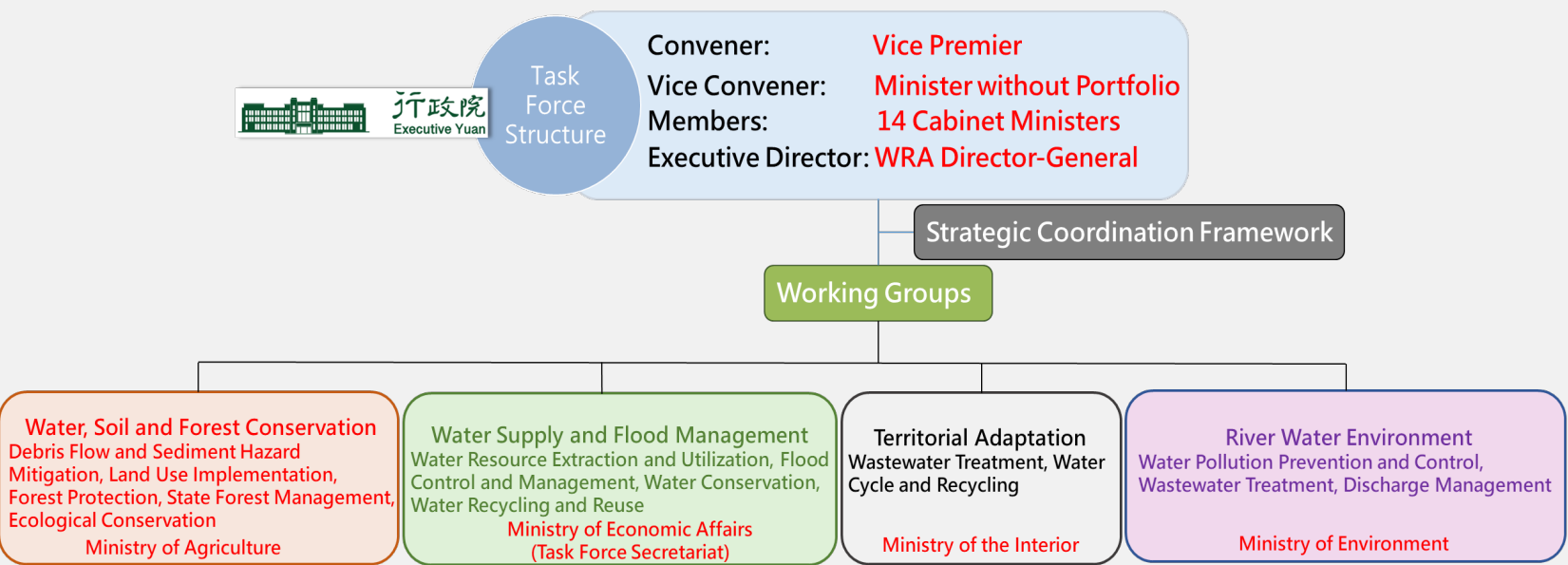
2 Key Strategies



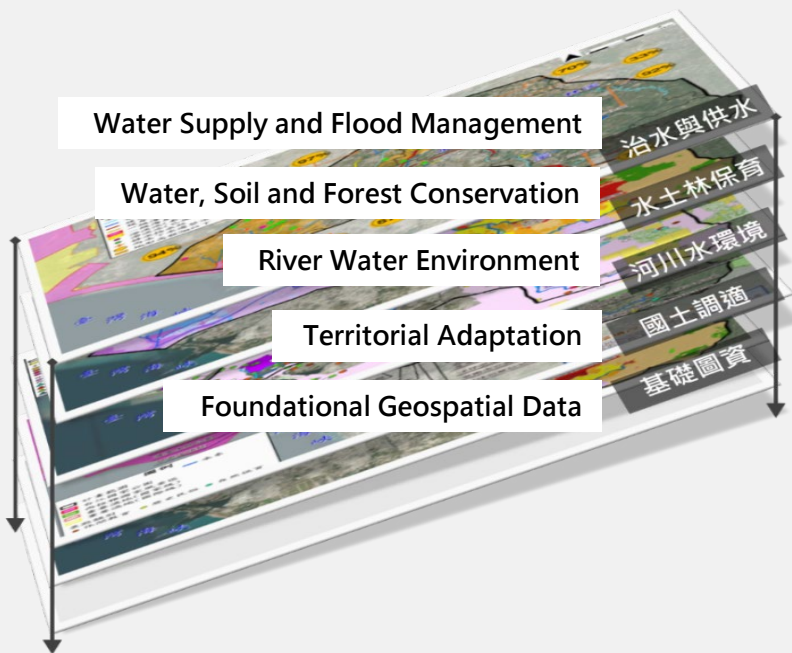
4 Key Strategies of Smart Watershed Transformation



Advancing Integrated Watershed Management Through the Water and Watershed Sustainability Task Force



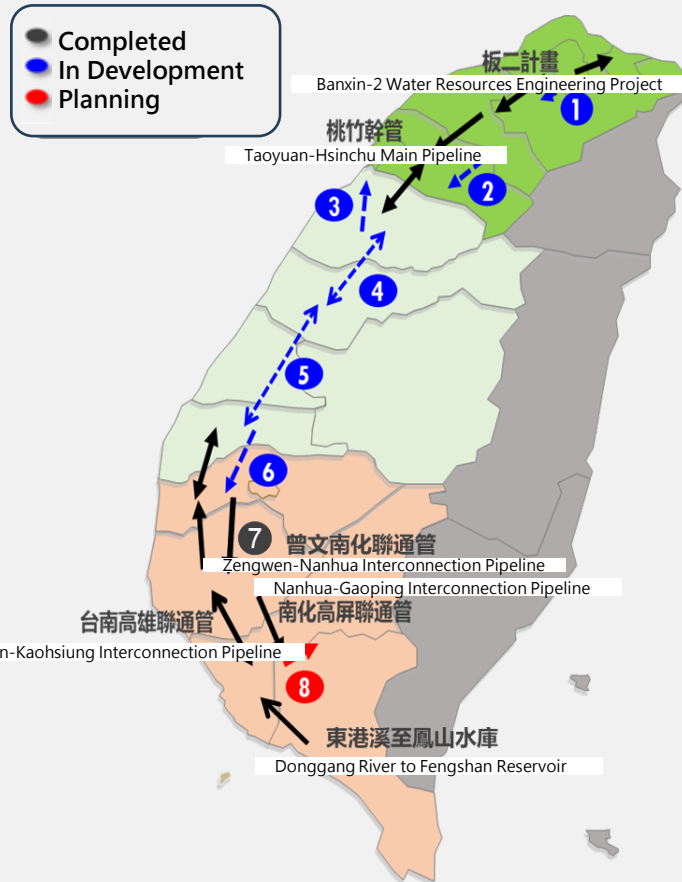
Evidence-Based Governance Framework Spatial Data Analysis



Evidence-based Governance

- #1 Data-Driven Approach**
Consolidate **geospatial information** systems across all ministries; integrate **geographic datasets** and baseline mapping
- #2 Science-based Assessment**
Validate **climate impact** responses through **scientific analysis**; align **risk**, **budget** allocation, and **climate** scenarios.
- #3 Systematic Planning**
Incorporate **regional development** priorities; formulate **holistic strategies** from **watershed perspective**; establish **short-, medium-, and long-term** management targets.
- #4 Integrated Program Development**
Prioritize **resilience enhancement**; consolidate inter-ministerial and local **initiatives**; concentrate **resources** on priority challenges.

Promote the “Pearl Necklace” Interconnection Project and Diversified Water Sources to Meet Development Demands Through 2036



Northern Region— (Unit : tons/day)

Xindian River Water Source Southward Transfer

1. Water Supply Network Improvement in Sanchong and Luzhou Districts

(Phase 1 by 2028: +65,000 tons/day; Full completion by 2031: +200,000 tons/day)

2. Shimen Reservoir to Hsinchu Interconnection Pipeline

(Completion 2028; Shimen Reservoir Backup Supply to Hsinchu: +300,000 tons/day)

Central Region—

Resolving Allocation Bottlenecks

3. Liyu Leke to Miaoli

(Completion 2025: +120,000 tons/day)

4. Daan-Dajia River Interconnection Pipeline

(Completion 2026: +255,000 tons/day)

5. Taichung to Yunlin Water Source Allocation Pipeline

(Completion 2029; Taichung-Changhua Allocation: +200,000 tons/day; Yunlin-Changhua Allocation: +120,000 tons/day)

Southern Region—

Enhancing Water Source Utilization Efficiency

6. Zhuoshui Main Pipeline and Northern Main Pipeline Integration

(Completion 2025; Increased Annual Water Utilization: 11 million tons)

7. Zengwen-Nanhua Interconnection Pipeline

(Completed 2025; Allocation: +800,000 tons/day)

8. Kao-ping Pearl String

(Planning; Enhanced Bi-directional Kao-ping Allocation: +200,000 tons/day)

Artificial Lakes

Niaozueitan Artificial Lake, Nantou

Storage Capacity: 14.5 million tons;
Daily Supply: 250,000 tons

Hyporheic Flow

Xingtian Hyporheic Flow, Kaohsiung

Developed: Houlong River, Tongxiao River combined total 410,000 tons/day; ongoing development includes Youluo River, Daan River

Reclaimed Water

Coastal Reclaimed Water Facilities

16 approved facilities; 7 operational facilities supplying 172,200 tons/day; full completion capacity reaches 606,900 tons/day

Desalinated Seawater

Hsinchu Desalination: 100,000 tons/day

Mainland Taiwan: 2 facilities (Hsinchu and Tainan) under construction; operational capacity 200,000 tons/day; 5 additional facilities in planning phase

Since 2017: Daily supply increased by 2.37 million tons, Next 6 years: Additional daily supply increase of 1.33 million tons

Five Core Strategies for Systematic Flood Control

1. Overall planning governance

Integrated Watershed Treatment Planning
Accelerate mid- and downstream reach rehabilitation

2. Enhance Land Flood Absorption Capacity

Runoff Allocation, Outflow Management,
On-site Detention

3. Prevent Flood Ingress into Residential Areas

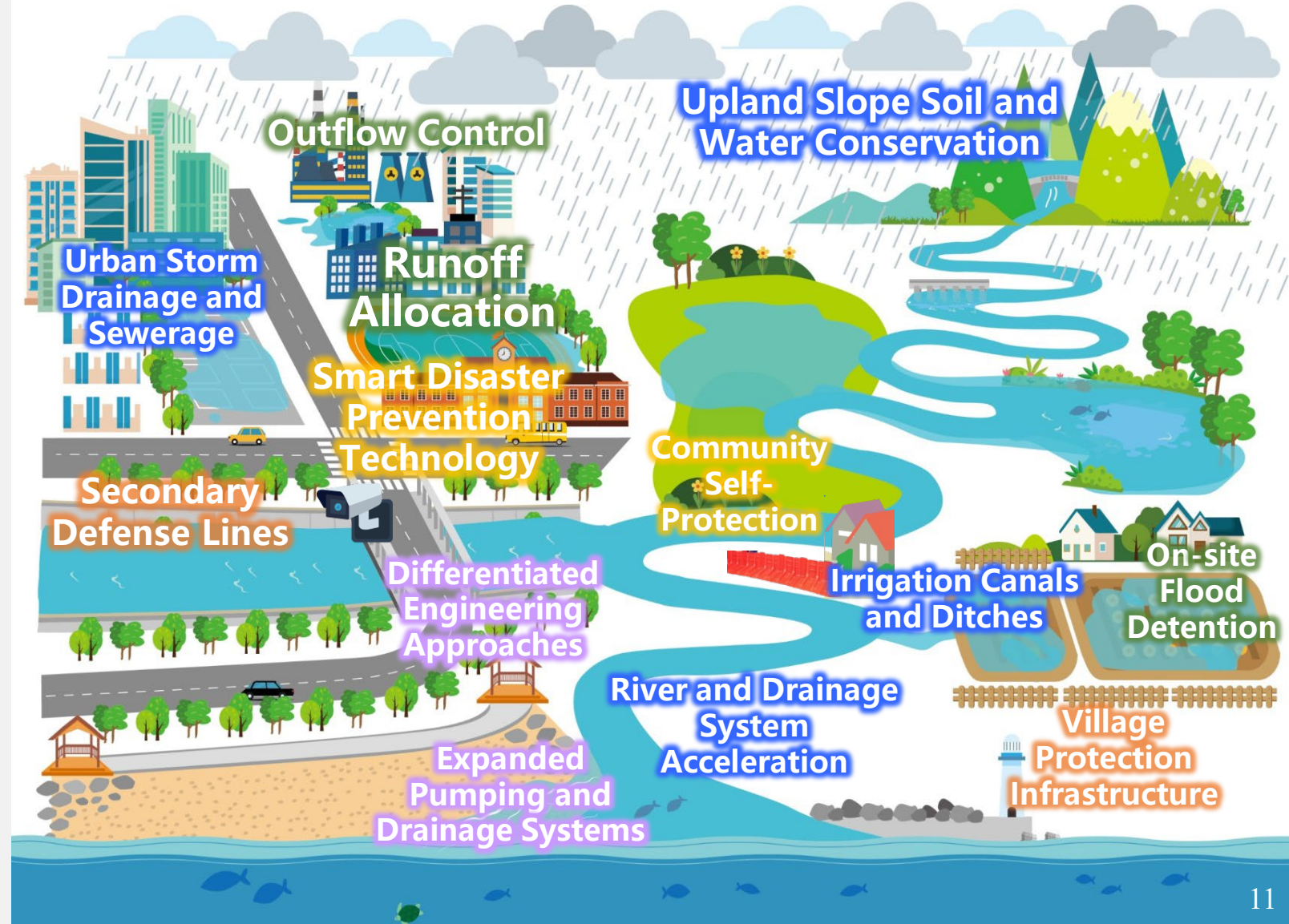
Deploy secondary defense lines, establish
village protection measures

4. Accelerate Flood Recession

Expand pump and drainage capacity, implement
differentiated Engineering Approaches

5. Disaster Preparedness and Response

Community self-protection initiatives,
technology-enabled smart disaster management

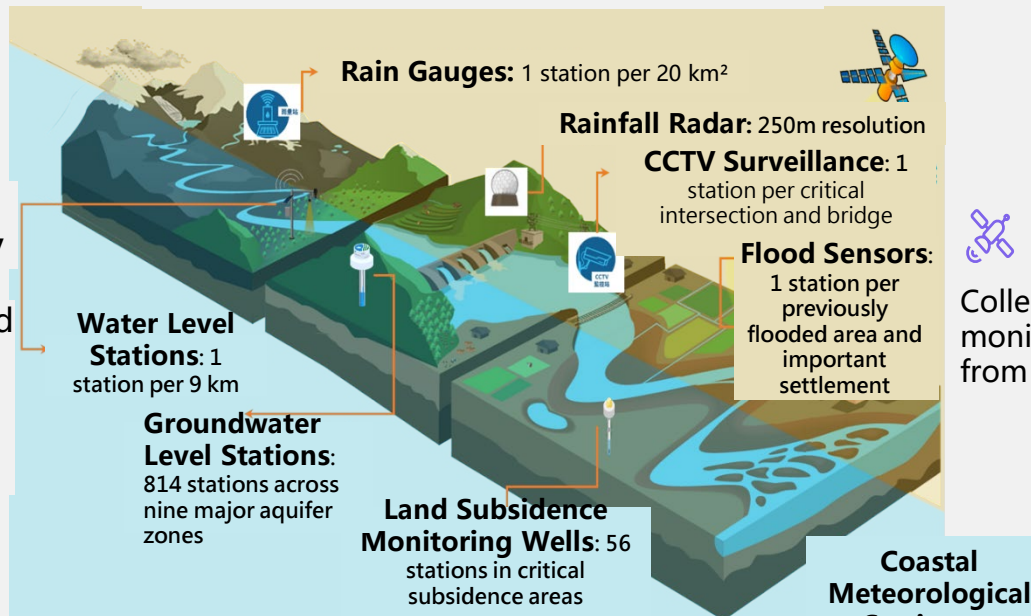


Establishing AI Data Infrastructure Foundation Through Standardized Open Data

Multi-Source Sensing Data Collection

5G Communications

Enable rapid, reliable data transmission



IoT Water Resources Network

Connect devices for real-time data collection and analysis

Satellite Remote Sensing
Collect global monitoring data from space

Data Standardization

Data Standardization

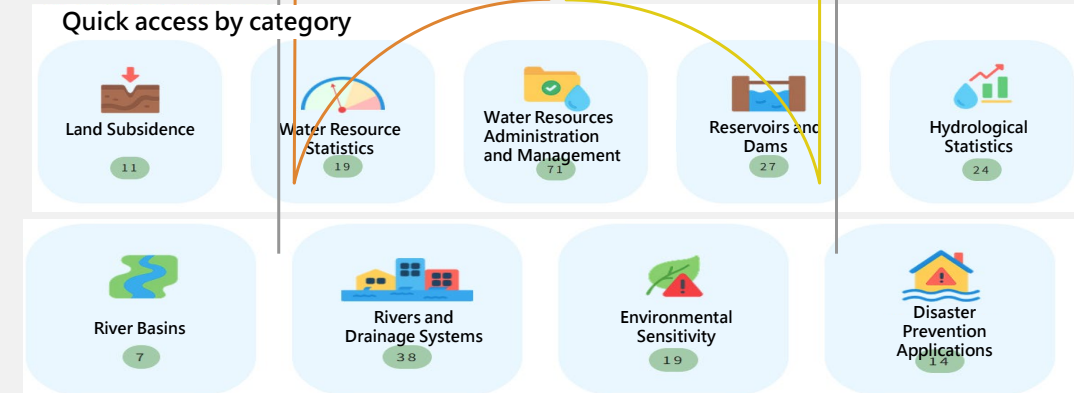
Format Standardization

Cloud-based

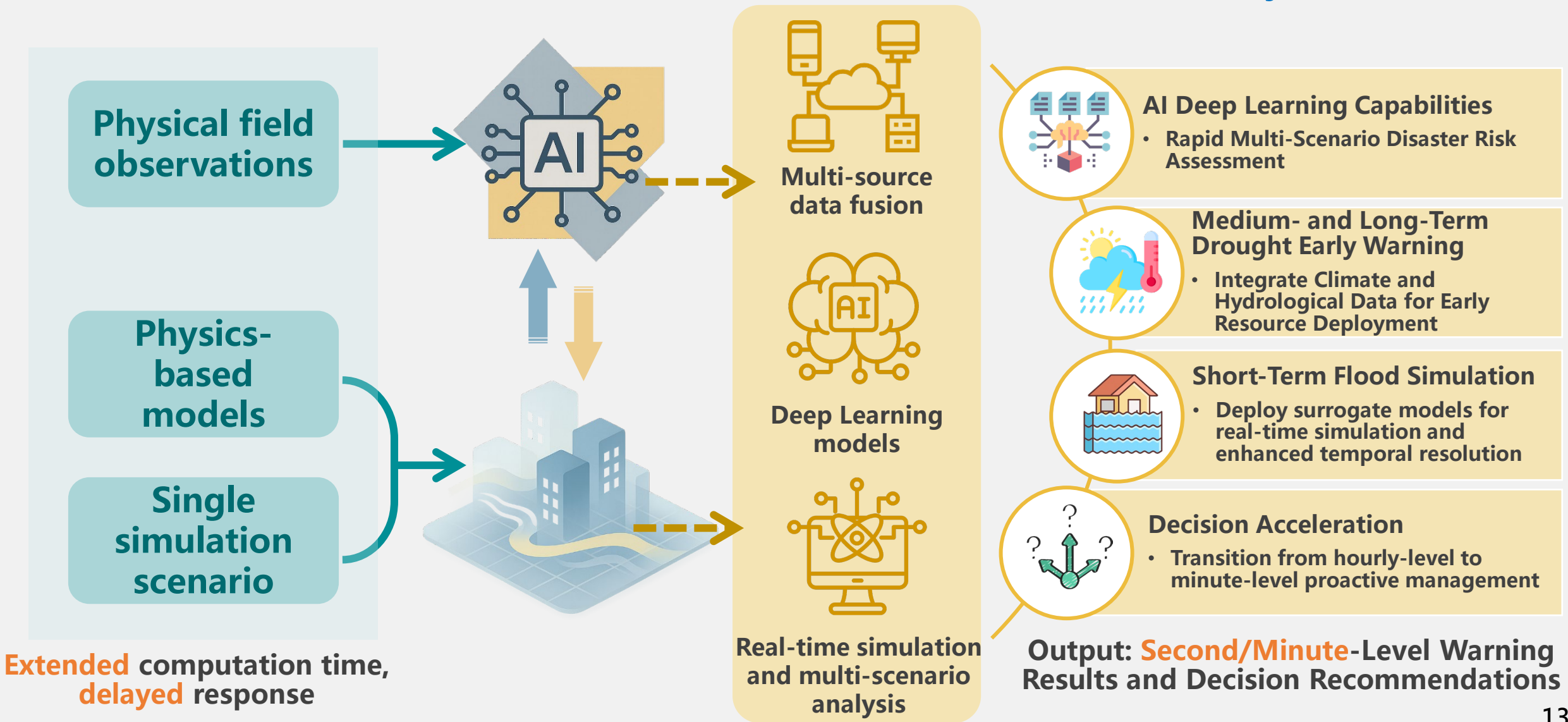
Easier data access

Open Data

Data Sharing



AI Empowered Predictive Decision-Making: From Passive Simulation to Proactive Multi-Scenario Analysis



3

Implementation Examples



Strengthening Rainfall Forecasting through Meteorology-Hydrology Collaboration

Drought

Century-scale drought with only **880mm** annual rainfall. Reservoirs across Taiwan reached historic low storage rates

Second Baoshan Reservoir



Storage rate 3.82%
5/30/2021

Liyutan Reservoir



Storage rate 1.75%
5/30/2021

Zengwen Reservoir on



Storage rate 3.81%
5/30/2021

Flood

Extreme climate with over **200 mm** rainfall in **one hour**. Short-duration intense rainfall caused disasters in multiple locations across Taiwan

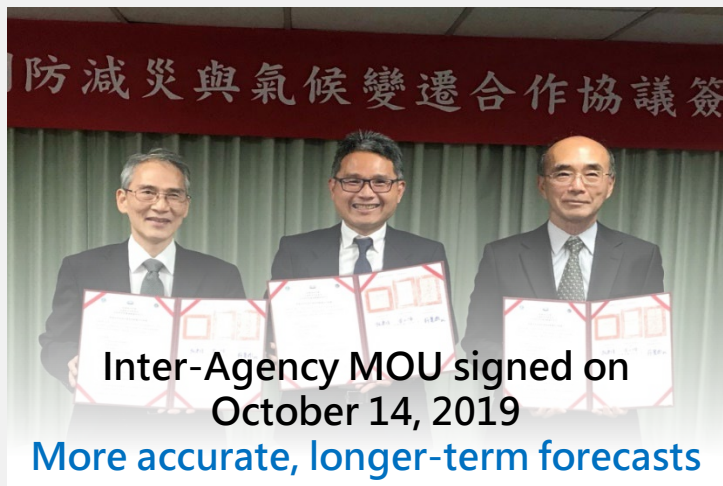
Tainan flooding Aug. 2019



Taipei flooding June 2021



Yilan flooding Oct. 2022



Increased
observation
stations

- Incorporated WRA reservoir catchment monitoring station data Bias correction

Bias correction

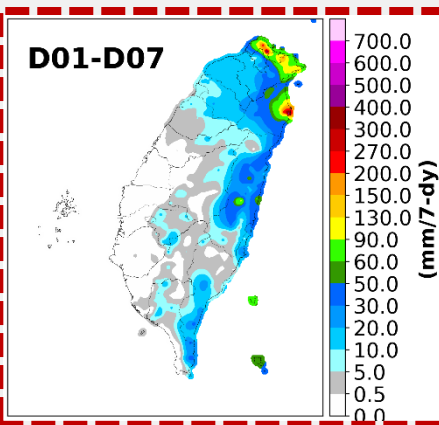
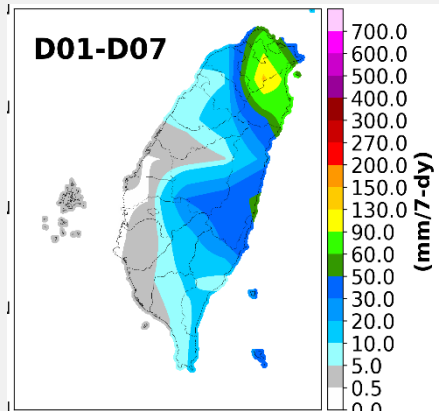
- Applied statistical methods for model bias correction

Downscaling
optimization

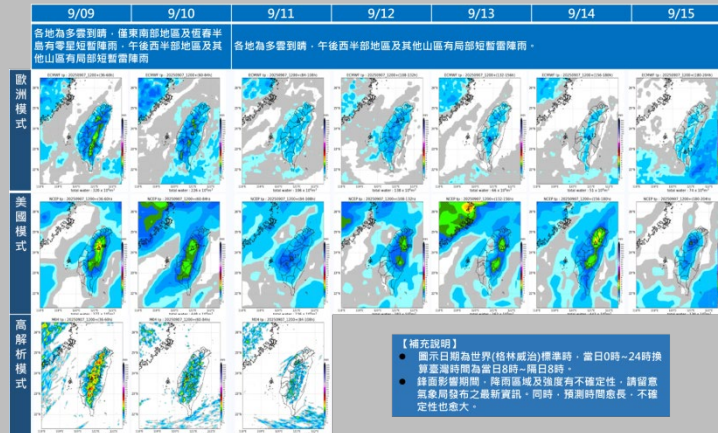
- Utilized long-term catchment observation data to optimize downscaling forecasts

Extended and More Accurate Meteorological Forecasts

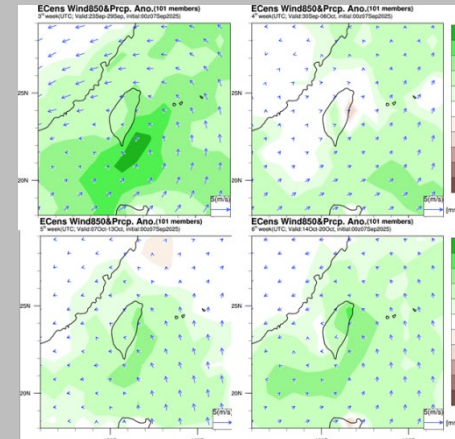
Improve Forecast Accuracy



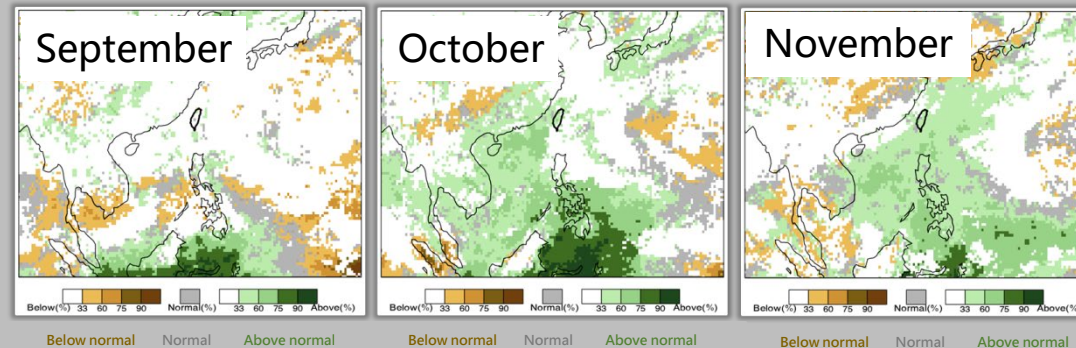
Daily rainfall predictions



Water availability outlook for the next 3-6 weeks



Seasonal rainfall estimates for the coming quarter



Extended range: 6-month rainfall prediction Enhanced precision: Catchment-level analysis at 1-kilometer resolution

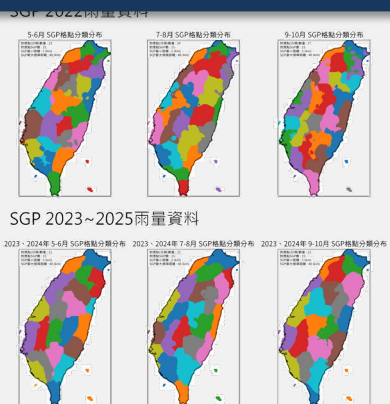
水庫集水區降雨類別預報(ECMWF_SEAS5/初始場2025年08月/reg_9gd)

	8月	9月	10月	11月	12月	1月	2月
石門水庫	84.2 - 144.7	124.2 - 214.8	304.3 - 552.5	146.2 - 251.5	143.0 - 208.6	37.9 - 61.4	122.3 - 269.8
新山水庫	361.1 - 595	583.5 - 294.6	637.8 - 947.7	515 - 889.5	508.6 - 716.8	341.2 - 223.9	380.2 - 533.7
翡翠水庫	117.3 - 201.9	98.1 - 221.8	583.2 - 919.1	349.2 - 605.9	317.1 - 486.5	73.8 - 136.4	224.4 - 382.4
寶山第二水庫	97.1 - 165.8	294.7 - 787.8	319.2 - 823.8	79 - 202.9	1.6 - 25.3	5.8 - 25.3	148.2 - 290.2
永和山水庫	103.6 - 204.8	158.8 - 270.8	225.4 - 815.8	58.6 - 186	18.9 - 47.4	3 - 24.8	119.9 - 305.9
明德水庫	92.5 - 160.4	147.1 - 242.5	144.8 - 620.1	46.8 - 131.1	17.2 - 38.8	1.5 - 22.2	89 - 276.9
鯉魚潭水庫	91.5 - 188	113.2 - 120.2	53.3 - 628.4	27.8 - 122.3	11.1 - 22.7	10.7 - 42.8	54.4 - 185.1
士林攔河堰	84.4 - 146.1	103.3 - 151.6	268 - 965.2	88.3 - 221.5	25.4 - 61.3	0.4 - 24.3	123.2 - 296
德基水庫	80.3 - 123.9	113.3 - 200.2	220.7 - 497.3	149.3 - 268.1	154.2 - 204.3	55.8 - 10.5	128.2 - 308.3
石岡壩	88.9 - 146.1	107.4 - 150.2	136.6 - 387.6	118.1 - 238.8	126.3 - 185.4	17.1 - 40.8	108.8 - 278.4
霧社水庫	88.9 - 145.2	102 - 120.7	132.6 - 308.1	81.7 - 188.8	18.2 - 49.7	29 - 38.9	105.4 - 231.3
日月潭水庫	95.8 - 150.7	100.2 - 200.2	128.4 - 312	84.3 - 176.6	18.4 - 45.4	30.2 - 36.2	97.3 - 189
集集攔河堰	123.9 - 187.4	100.6 - 170.6	118.3 - 339.1	10.8 - 31	13.9 - 39.3	30.3 - 38.6	68.9 - 109
湖山水庫	236.5 - 335.1	108.7 - 302.4	168.2 - 1151	48.6 - 123	66.8 - 102.7	10.6 - 30.8	95.4 - 104.8
仁義潭水庫	287 - 432.7	394.8 - 855.7	164 - 1154.3	34.2 - 87.9	49.3 - 77.8	42.2 - 82.2	42.2 - 82.2
白河水庫	376.3 - 454.5	405.1 - 976.8	180.2 - 599.2	34 - 82.5	11.9 - 37.8	31.2 - 17.1	31.8 - 63.1
烏山頭水庫	269.1 - 374.2	388.4 - 824.6	134.5 - 486.2	21.5 - 58.8	0 - 1.1	18 - 49.8	20.8 - 40.7
曾文水庫	258 - 378.2	391.5 - 852.8	197.9 - 1151	45.8 - 94.1	56.1 - 94.8	4.1 - 15	64.8 - 94.3
南化水庫	272.3 - 381.2	365.5 - 913.1	187 - 647.3	26.3 - 67.7	1.4 - 8.8	30.3 - 12.5	23.2 - 47.8
阿公店水庫	184.1 - 287.2	153.3 - 250.9	74.1 - 120.4	26.3 - 52.3	8.5 - 4.1	4.8 - 12.7	0 - 0
高屏溪攔河堰	211.8 - 359.1	301 - 643.1	155.4 - 348.1	98.8 - 125.4	11.1 - 37.4	2.1 - 18.4	32.8 - 71.1
甲仙攔河堰	211.2 - 384.9	382.3 - 846.6	91.5 - 127.5	62.9 - 119.6	65.8 - 118.2	16.8 - 15.5	47.1 - 103.8
牡丹水庫	248.5 - 380.9	388.9 - 401.2	275.1 - 664.8	307 - 611.8	96.2 - 157.7	25.1 - 42.1	84.7 - 125.2

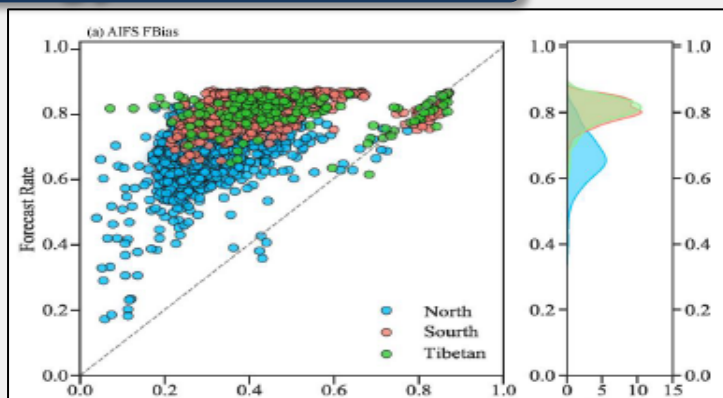
預報類別 EP10 EP10-30 EP30-50 EP50-70 EP70-90 EP90

High-Resolution, Multi-Model Rainfall Forecasting Technology Advancement

Forecast technology advancement



Increased historical data training length and analyzed the impact of different data lengths on SGP, QM, and DW calculation results



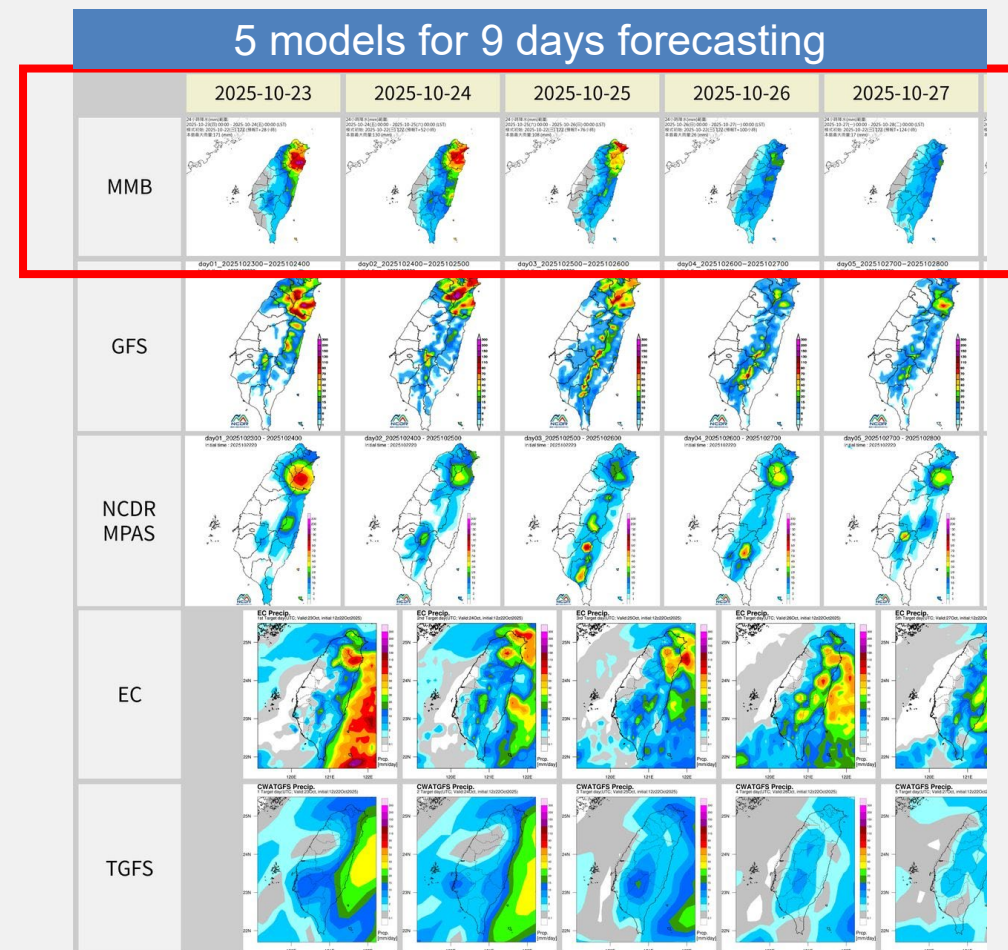
Added European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts AI model (ECMWF-AIFS)

- Time resolution: 6 hours
- Horizontal resolution: 25 kilometers
- Forecast lead time: 360 hours (12 days)

ECMWF AI model demonstrated high accuracy

Island-wide gridded forecasting with target resolution of 2 kilometers

Outputs are provided daily with other forecast models



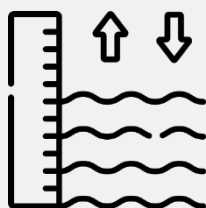
Continue Developing Flood forecasting by Integrating AI Technology

1. Collect hydrological data and watershed-related information

Data collection



Rainfall data



Water level data

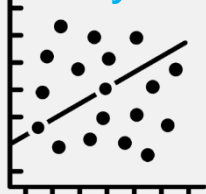


Reservoir data

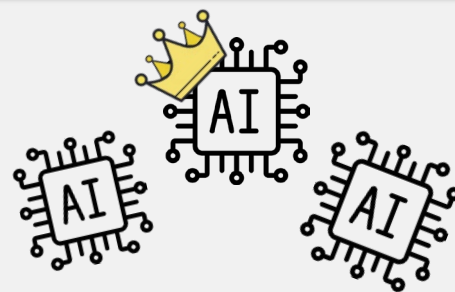
Data preprocessing



Correlation analysis



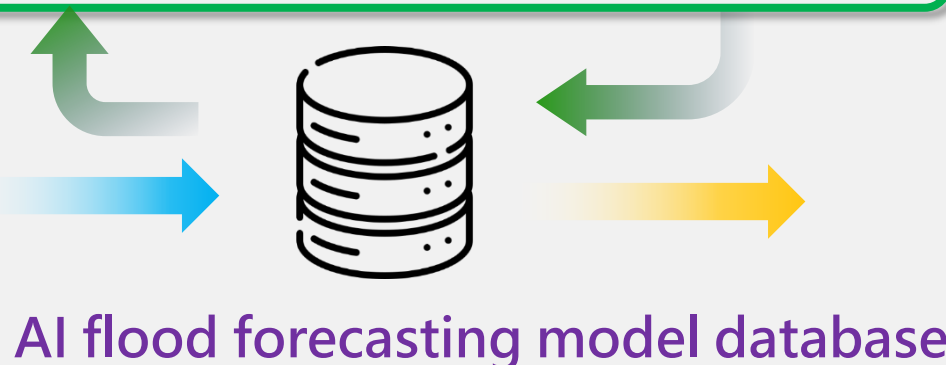
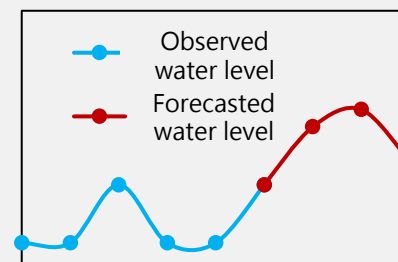
2. Establish AI flood forecasting models for Zhuoshui, Zengwen, and Bajhang Rivers



Establish and compare 3 AI model flood forecasts



Perform parameter sensitivity analysis on the optimal model



3. AI flood forecasting results deployed online



Updated every 10 minutes

Interface with real-time data



Rainfall observations



River water level



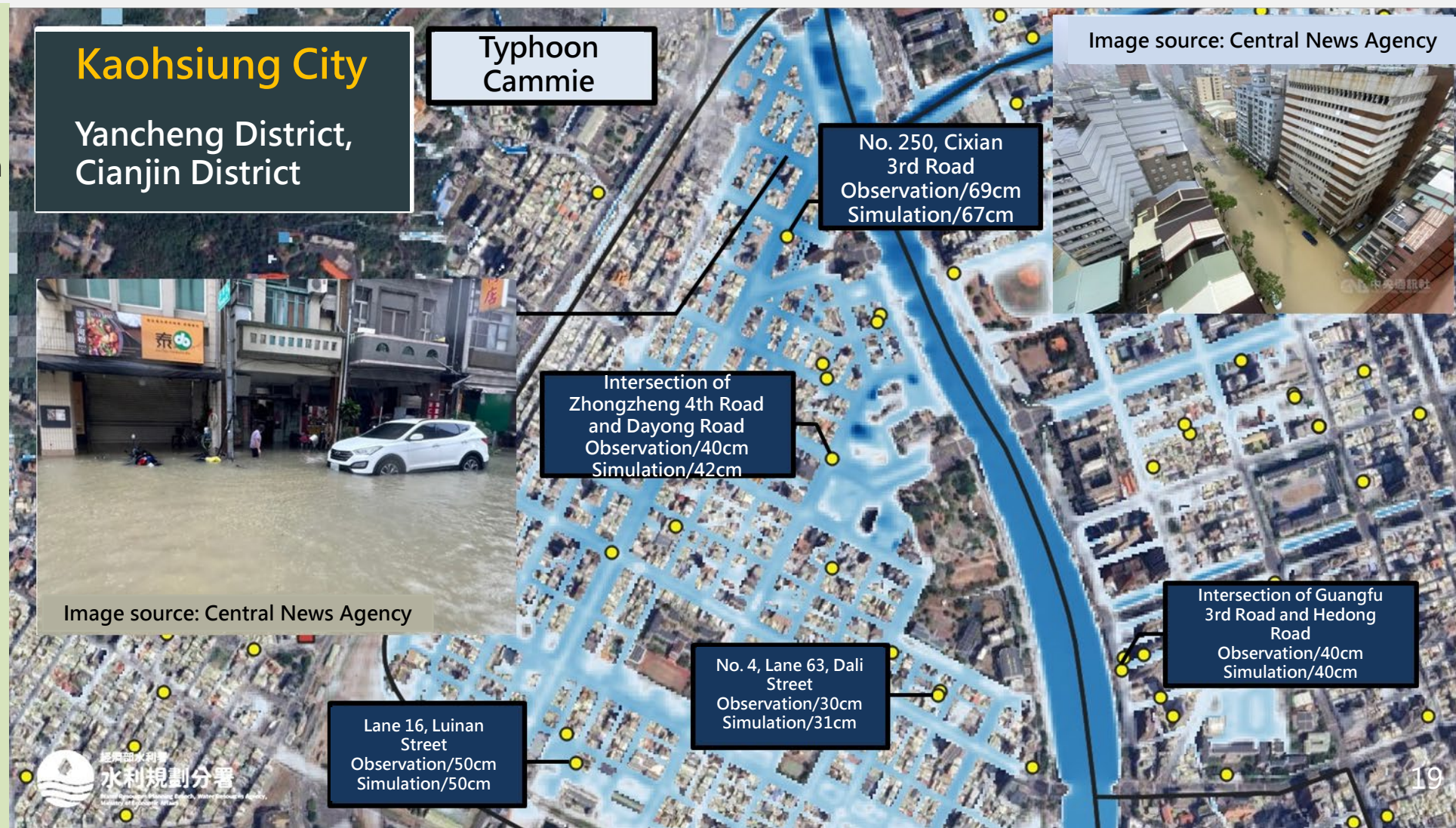
Rainfall forecasts

AI model forecasts river water level for the next 3-4 hours



Fourth-Generation Flooding Potential Maps Incorporating Fine-Scale Digital Elevation Models and Parallel Computing

- ✓ 4th-Gen flooding potential maps released **10 quantitative rainfall scenarios** for with both static and dynamic mapping resources to support each unit's disaster **prevention and response decision-making**.
- ✓ Through enhanced **AI computing power** and **large-scale event** simulation, flood early warning capability can be improved.
- ✓ Expected to combine with **digital mapping** to alert road users for **detours** and assist residents in installing **flood barriers**.

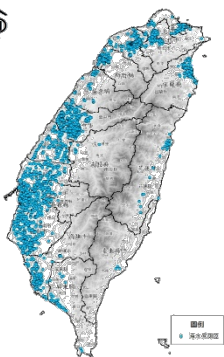


AI Image Recognition to Capture Flood Disaster Information for Real-Time Emergency Response

- ✓ Grasp flood situation, river water level height, issue real-time alerts, secure rescue operation window, prevent disaster escalation.
- ✓ Alert construction personnel and equipment to evacuate, safeguard lives and property.

01

Deploy **2,055** flood sensors



Interface over **9,000** camera feeds and **800** vehicle-mounted cameras



Water situation image online platform



02

Road ponding and flooding image recognition



Personnel, equipment, and water level image recognition



03

Support emergency duty rotation and notification identification



華緯訊資

2025-04-10 10:15:48 桃園市中壢區 龍岡國小-1 疑似發現淹水事件，請長官至 https://fmq.wra.gov.tw/FMGB/WebPages/CCTV_AICirculate.aspx?i=100008&name=道路淹水AI辨識通報查詢&sn=678488 查看。

上午 10:16

華緯訊資



上午 10:16

Flood Reporting via Messaging App

AI Image Recognition and Object Detection

Intelligent Monitoring Model for River Area and Engineering Quality Management

YOLO Image Recognition

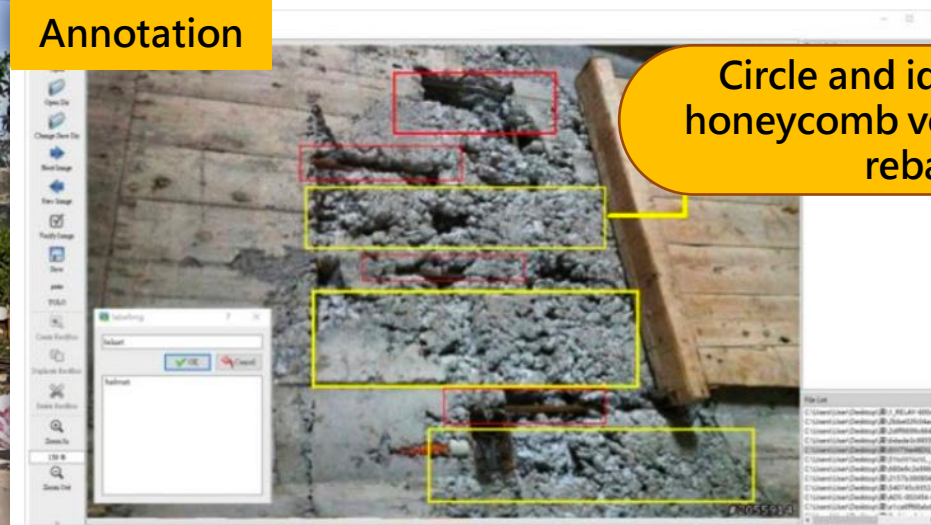
- ✓ Pre-filter out lighting, animals, and other non-primary target events.
- ✓ Identify vehicles, motorcycles carrying goods, and item. carried by personnel
- ✓ After image category detection, provide to LLM for analysis.



YOLO initial image screening, marking potential events

AI Object Detection

Annotation



Integrated recognition of concrete surface rebar exposure and honeycomb voids

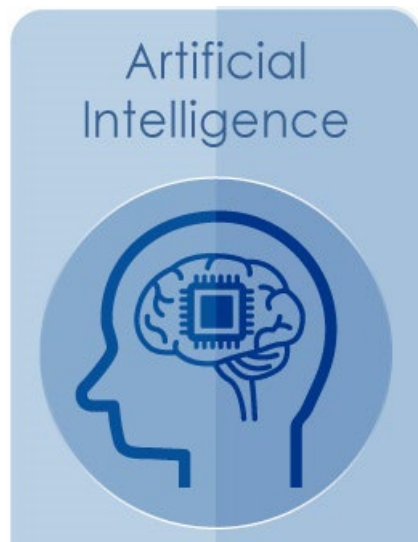
AI dual-layer filtering
Human verification event volume
significantly reduced by **80%**

Recognition accuracy
reaches **85%**

4 Conclusion



AI Innovation for a New Vision of Smart Water Management



Integrated Watershed Management



Enhance Early Warning Precision



Real-Time Disaster Response



Improve Operation Efficiency



Support Allocation Decision-Making

Build Global Smart Water Management Partnerships Taiwan Can Help!



Constructing a **value chain** of **smart water industry**

~Water conservancy is an ancient industry~

For the next generation

~Leveraging AI to unlock new value in water industry~





**Intelligent
Transformation**

**AI-Driven Innovation for Smarter,
Sustainable Water Resources**



**Sustainable
Development**



TAIWAN INT'L
WATER WEEK

Smart Watershed, AI-Driven Innovation

智慧流域 AI 領航

International Forum 2025

Intelligence in Motion

Building Resilient Systems for an Uncertain World



TIWW - 2025

28th October 2025

Kala Vairavamoorthy, CEO, IWA

inspiring change



the weight water carries



farming on
fragile flows



no water, no power



urban thirst rising



too little, too much,
too sick

water is a solution....because it's a victim



every drop reused

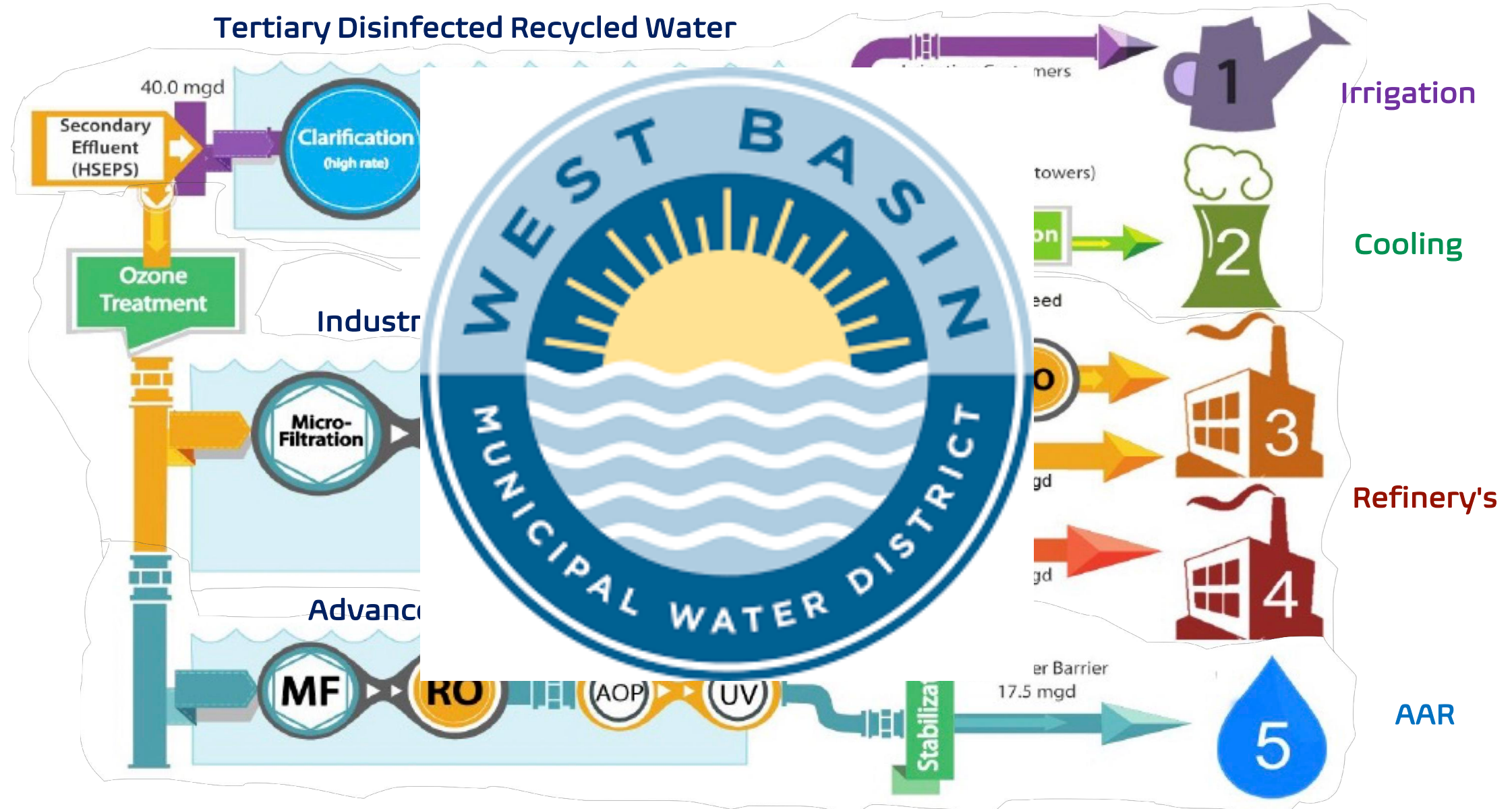


green works harder



flood-ready futures

designer waters, waters of different flavours



integrated portfolios build resilience



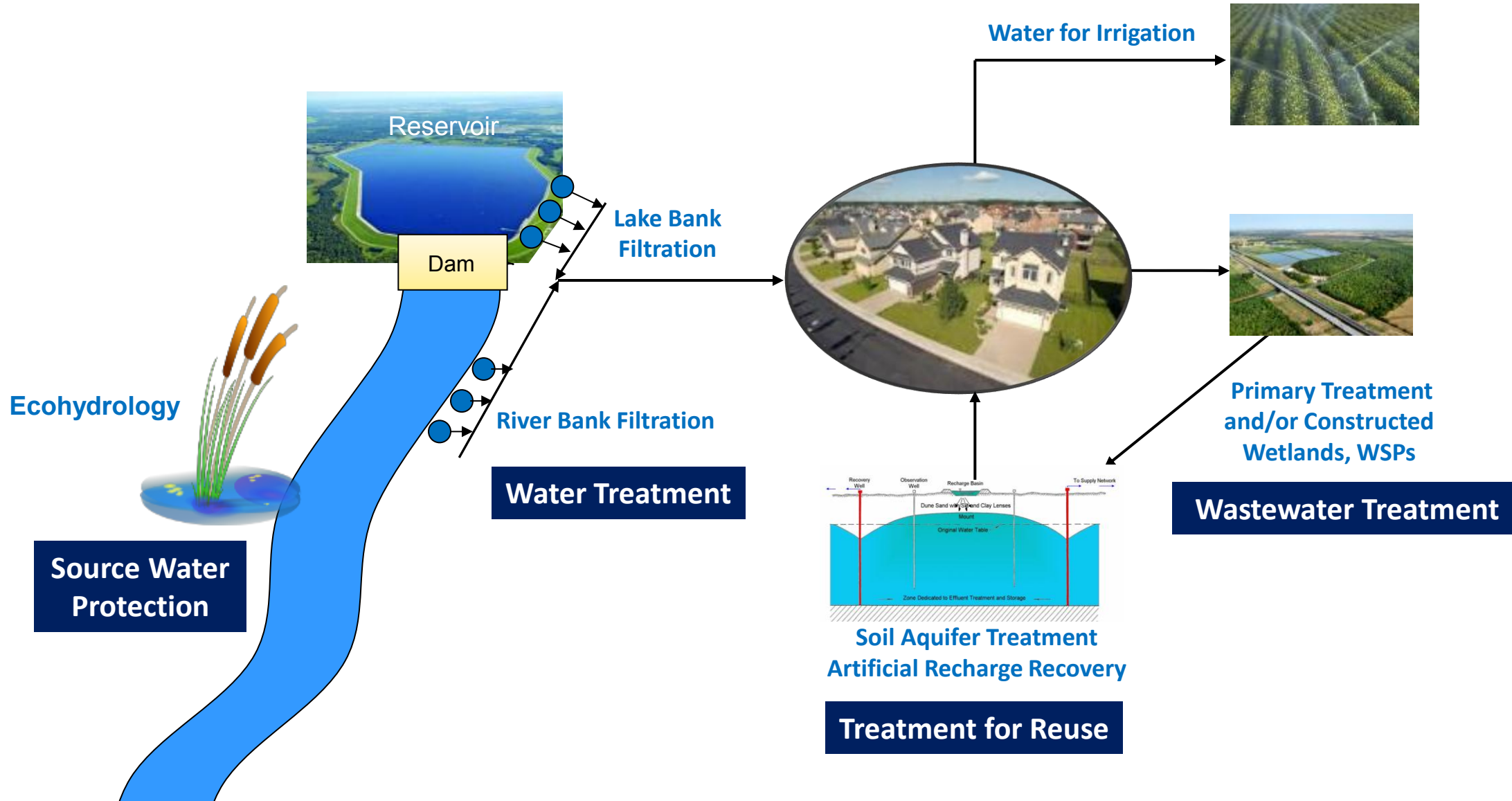
Chennai, India – 6 kudams



Singapore, 4 National Taps

nature-based solutions

closing the loop, boosting resilience



modular NbS: building blocks for living cities

eco-treatment



green roofs



pervious pavement



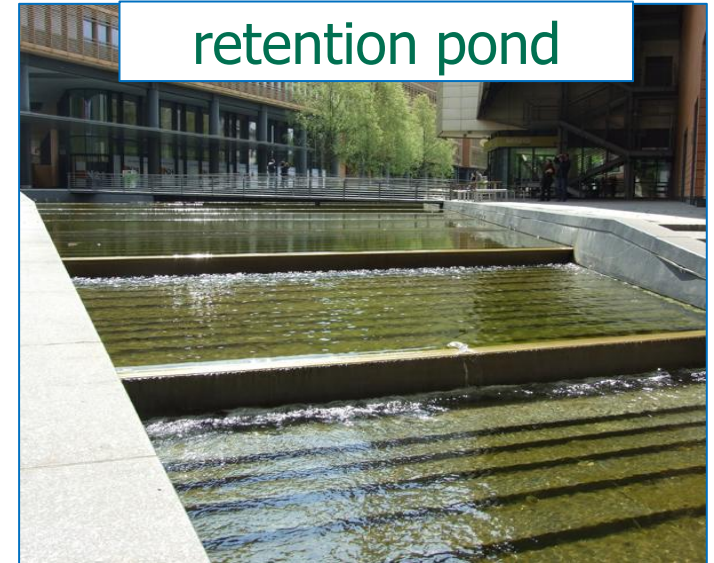
infiltration trench



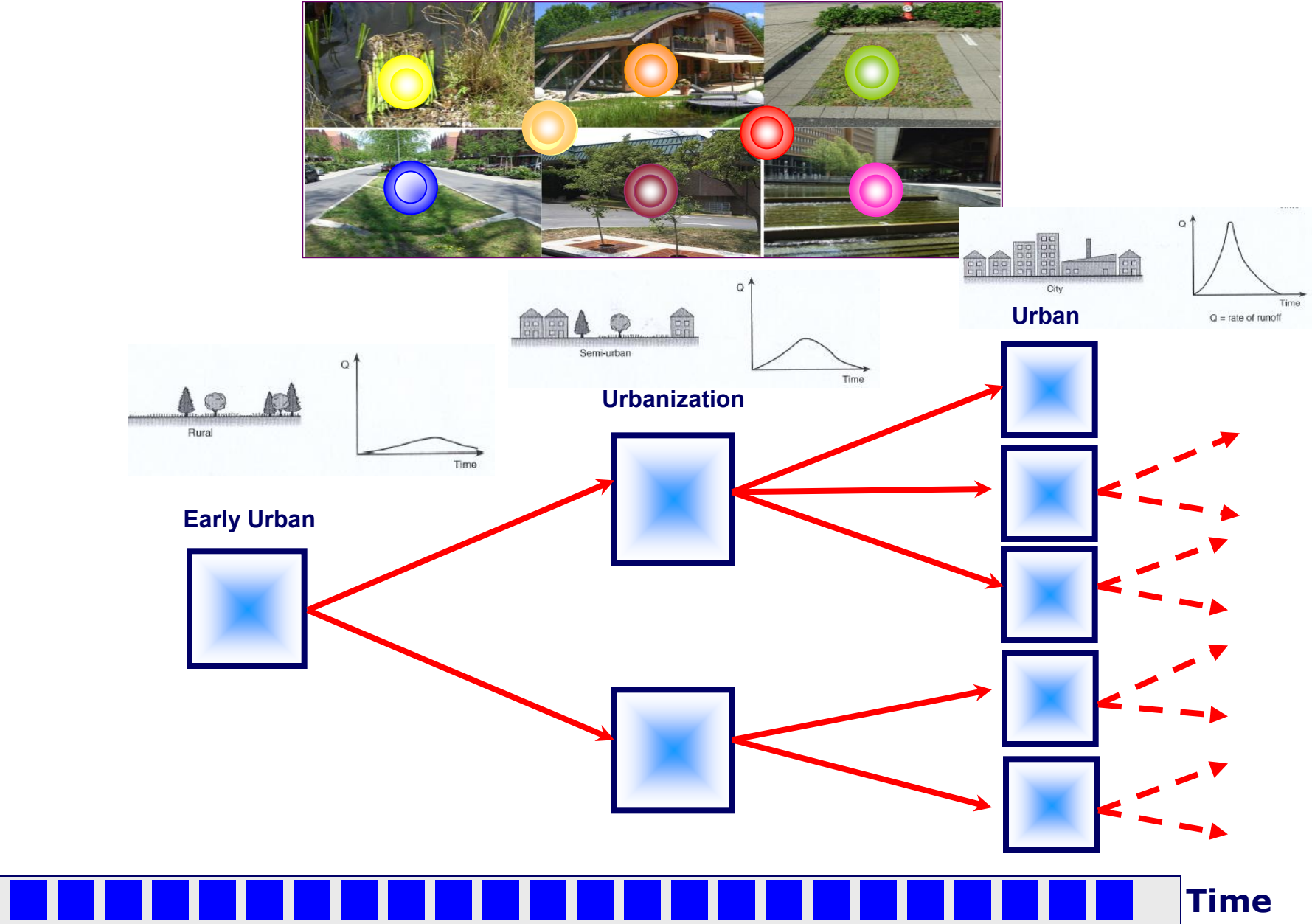
tree filters



retention pond

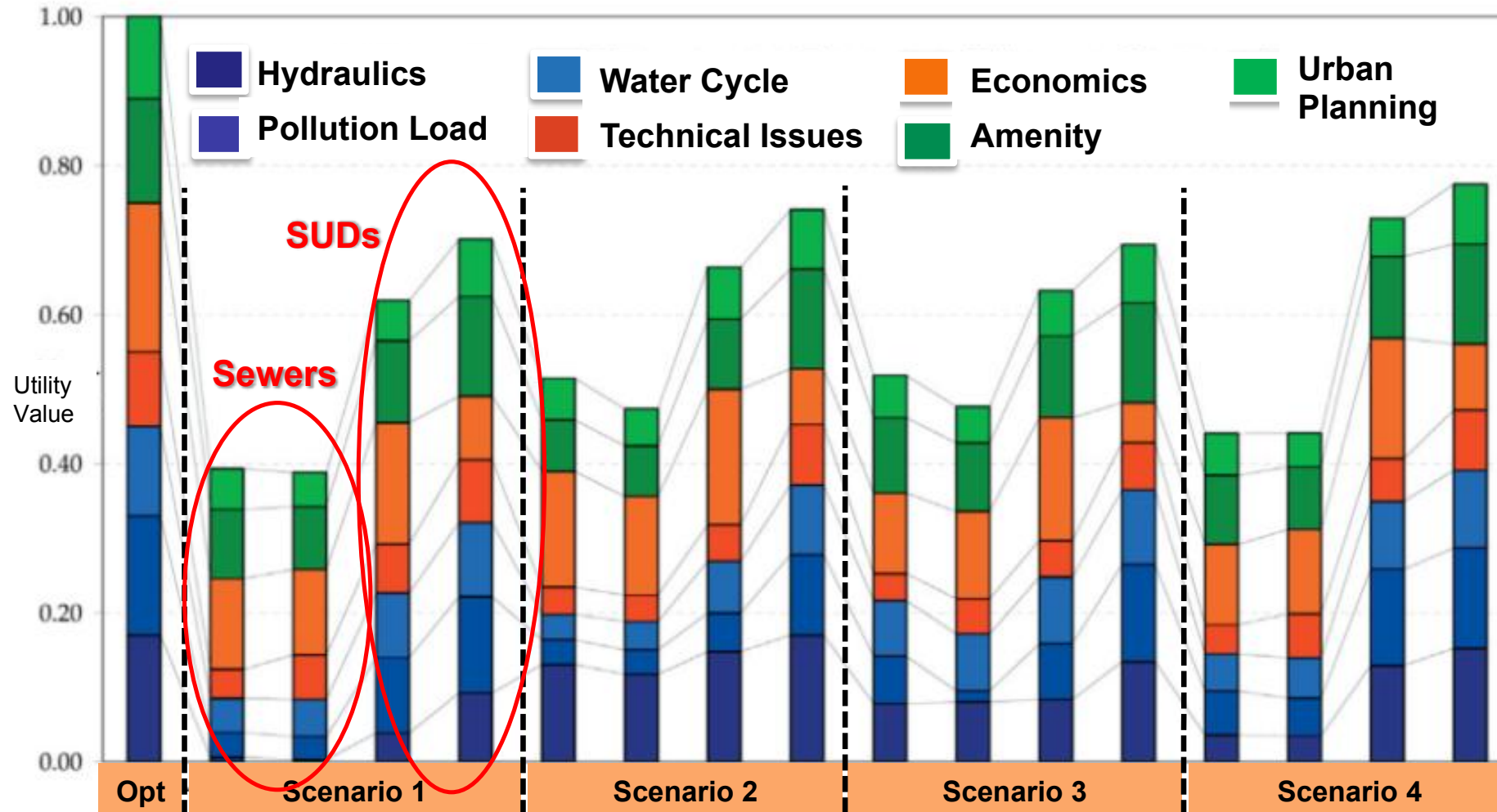


adaptive - designing within the uncertainty envelope



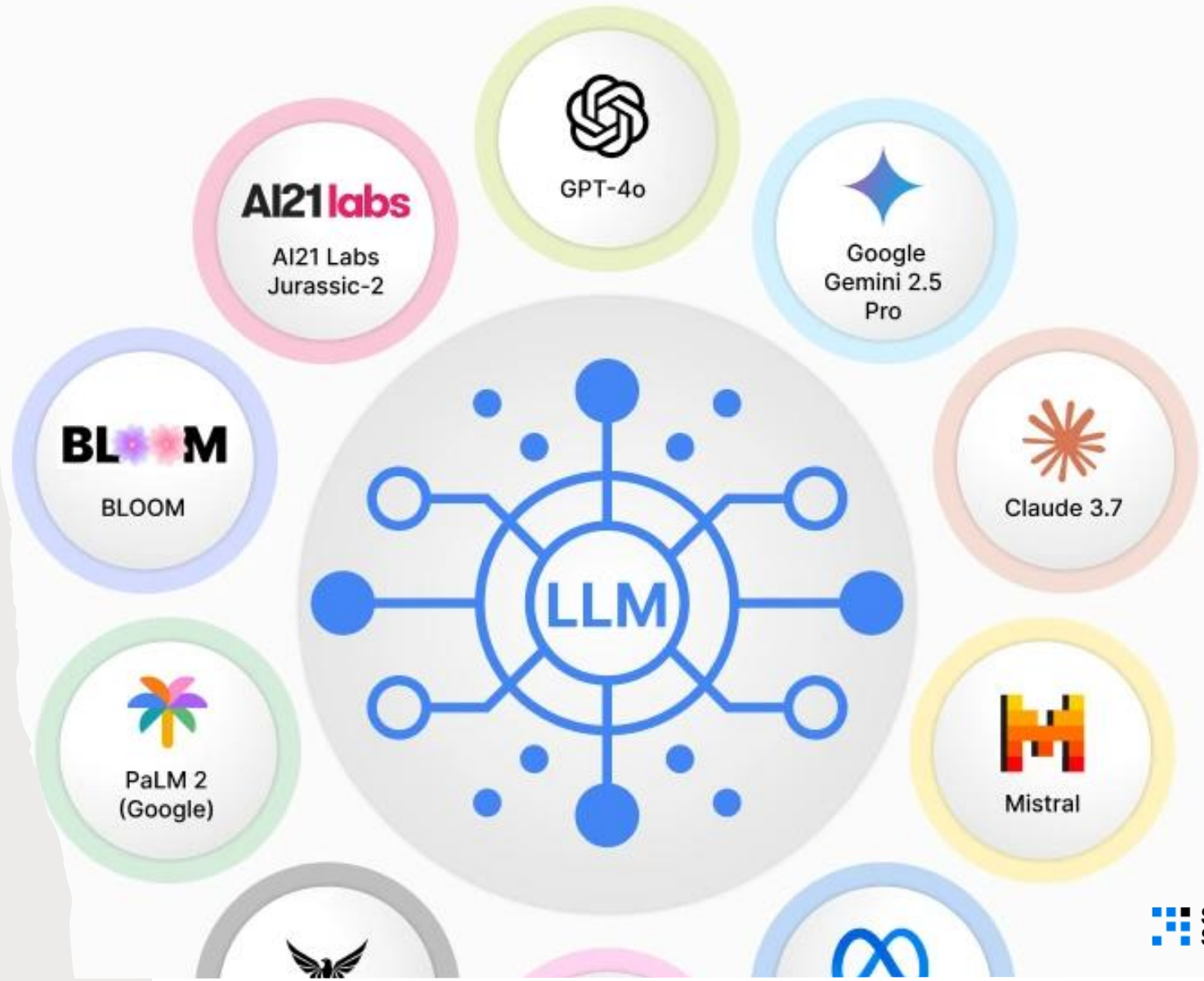
performance in practice: why modularity works

Case Study: Kupferzell Germany

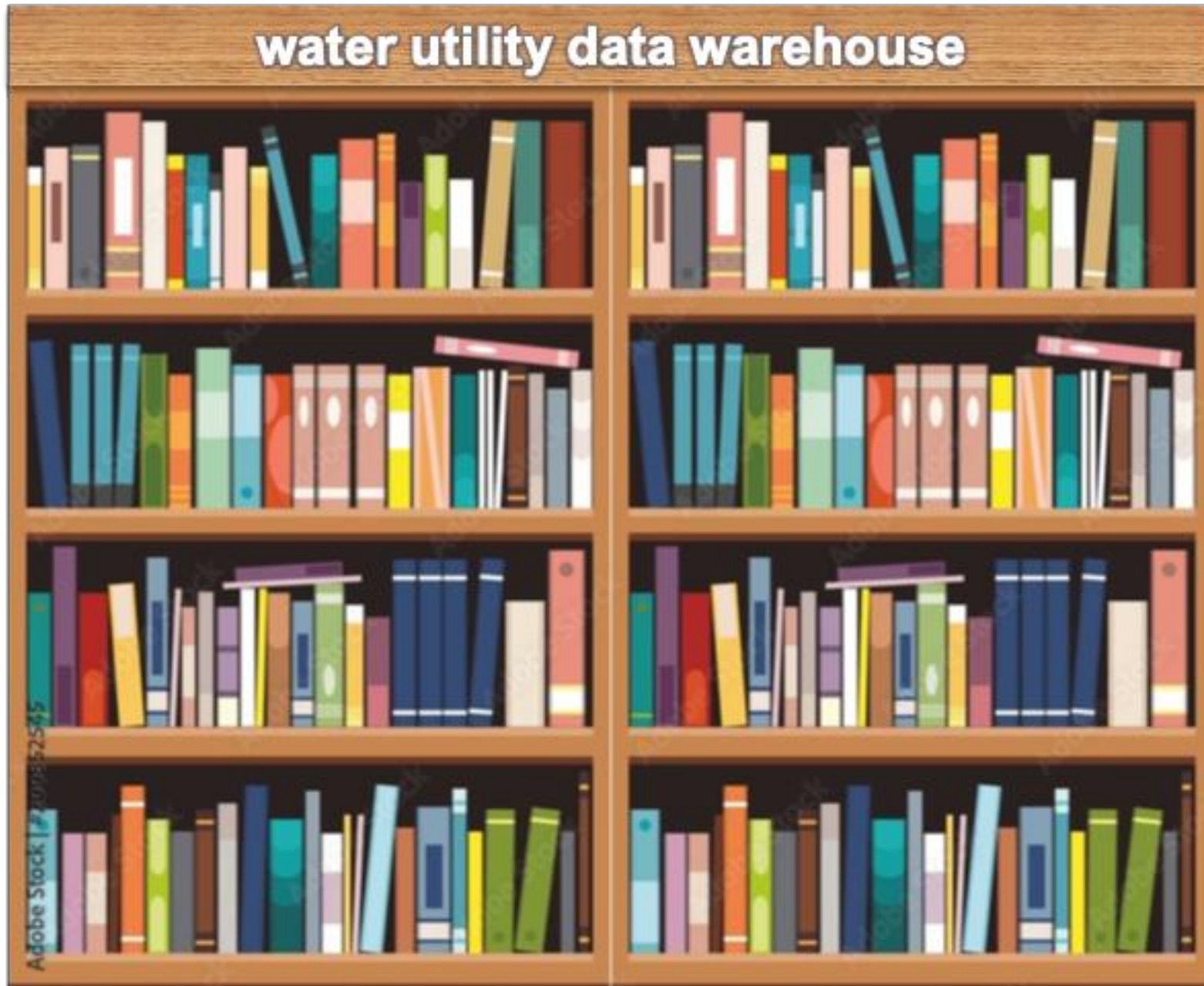


unleashing the power of generative AI

unlocking hidden
insights across all
our water systems
from complexity to clarity:
integrating **structured**,
unstructured, and **tacit** data



water utility data warehouse



water utility data warehouse



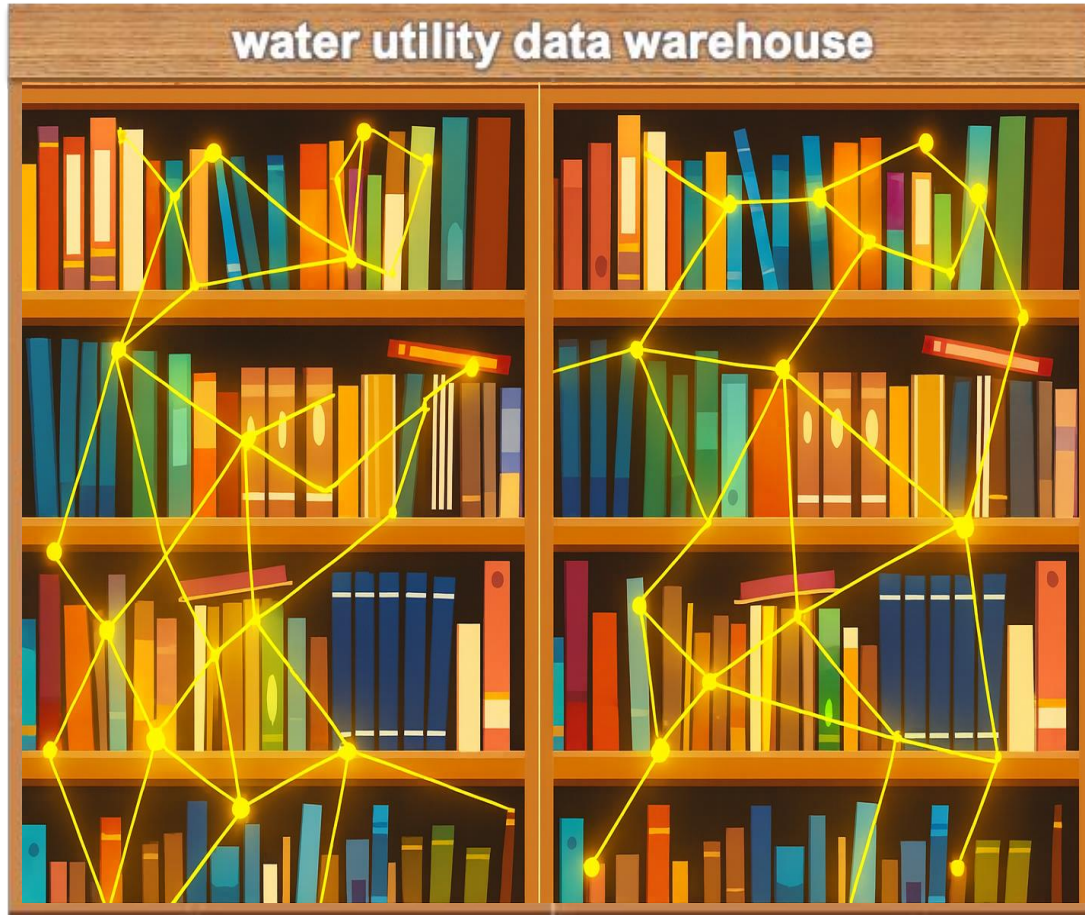
15% of data used
(mainly structured)

water utility data warehouse

85% of data not used
(both structured & unstructured)

from data blindness to data brilliance

Connected Data



Empowered People



RAG links the fragments of our knowledge so everyone - from control room to boardroom - can ask better questions and make smarter decisions

water utility data warehouse



tacit knowledge rarely used
(expertise, experience, insights)

anti-fragility - systems that grow stronger through stress

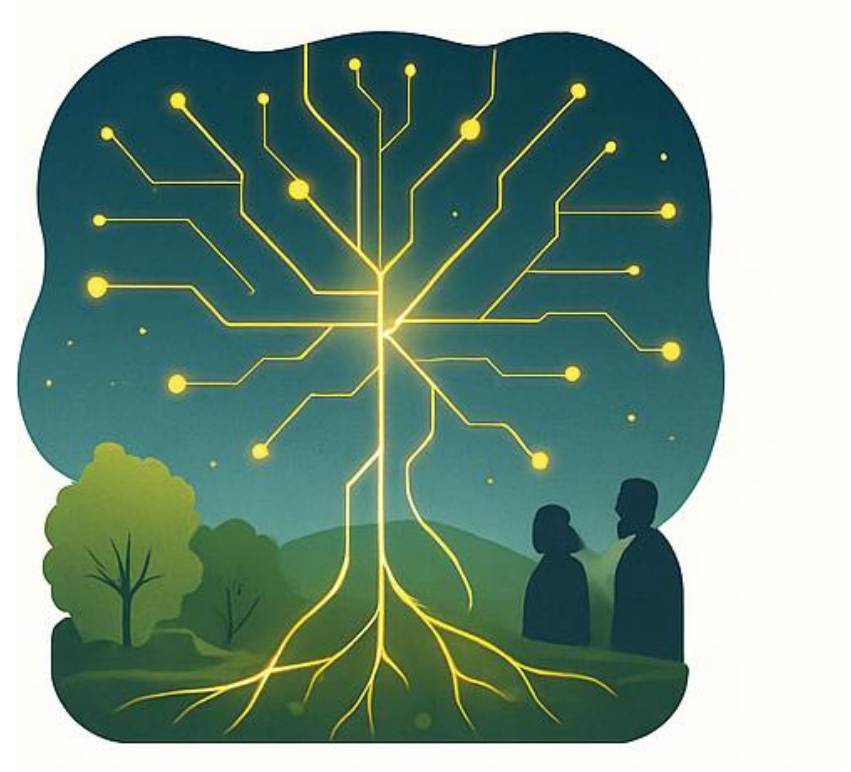


from monitoring to conversing

how generative AI helps us manage nature-based systems



living resilience



intelligent resilience

bridges people, nature & data - helping living systems learn, grow stronger through change

from monitoring to conversing

how generative AI helps us manage nature-based systems

- **Unify every lens on the landscape** — bringing together field notes, community observations, and ecological data into one shared view
- **Interpret complex change** — linking rainfall, vegetation, and land-use dynamics to reveal how ecosystems adapt under pressure
- **Connect human and machine sensing** — aligning satellite data with local observations to create a living feedback loop.
- **Co-design with nature** — generating adaptive design options that evolve with climate, hydrology, and ecology

from prediction to preparation

generative AI and water reuse – intelligence in motion



physical systems that don't resist change but learn from it

from prediction to preparation

generative AI and water reuse – intelligence in motion

- **Unify complexity in real time** — connect quality, weather, energy, and demand data across reuse systems.
- **Simulate and stress-test dynamically** — explore “what if” drought or demand surge scenarios before they happen.
- **Learn through disturbance** — turn every flood, failure, or fluctuation into intelligence that strengthens the next response.
- **Evolve continuously** — transform reuse systems from fixed plans to living, adaptive networks.

choices before us

