

### Background

[World Water Development Report 2021](#) themed

'[Valuing Water](#)' underpins contemporary water challenges across different sectors and multiple perspectives to imagine, draw and implement various scenarios for 'Sustainable Water Futures'



**Pluralism** : recognition and affirmation of diversity/values/perspectives within a system (s)

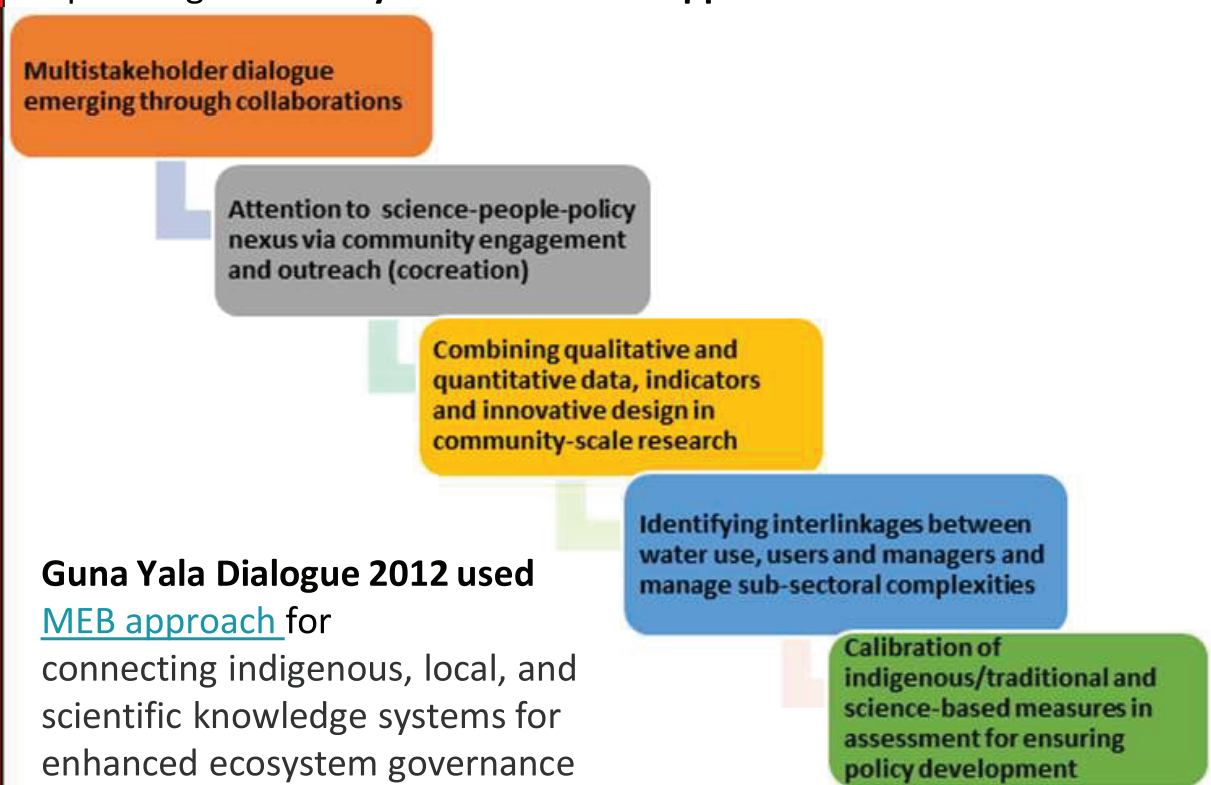
**Water Governance** : social, political, economic system for water management, use, allocation, distribution

**Multiple Evidence Base (MEB) Approach:** [framework](#) helps connect various knowledge systems/ views, local and scientific information for generating different manifestations, insights and innovations to support better governance models.

[Co-Creation of Indigenous Water Quality Tools \(CCIWQT\)](#)- a Global Water Futures research project led by McMaster University strives to implement an innovative framework that is community-led with their Indigenous partners with the overall objective of integrating Western Science and [Indigenous and Local Knowledge systems](#) with water Governance as a key research component.

### CONTEXT and FRAMINGS

MEB approach in indigenous research-oriented projects and programs can augment the authenticity and significance of co-creation outcomes for a wide range of actors, agencies, and institutions and allows embrace 'pluralism' in water governance planning. **The 5 key elements of the approach as** Adopted from Tengö et al 2014



### References

Tengö, Maria et al. "Connecting diverse knowledge systems for enhanced ecosystem governance: the multiple evidence base approach." *Ambio* vol. 43,5 (2014): 579-91. doi:10.1007/s13280-014-0501-3

Reid, W. V., Berkes, F., Wilbanks, T., & Capistrano, D. (2006). Bridging Scales and Knowledge Systems: Concepts and Applications in Ecosystem Assessment (p. 345). Island Press <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/download/18.3110ee8c1495db744321641/1459560253792/me%20fact%20sheet%20140916.pdf>

Malmer, P., Vanessa, M., Austin, B., & Tengö, M. (2020). Mobilisation of indigenous and local knowledge as a source of useable evidence for conservation partnerships. In W. Sutherland, P. Brotherton, Z. Davies, N. Ockendon, N. Pettorelli, & J. Vickery (Eds.), *Conservation Research, Policy and Practice* (Ecological Reviews, pp. 82-113). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### Five Key Points

1. Integration of 'pluralism' as valuation measure of water-wellbeing equation holds promise.
2. MEB approach allows equitable representation of various knowledge systems in shaping plans and designing solutions for **Sustainable Water Futures** for communities and populations, including in indigenous settings.
3. Integration of agendas and policies related for water governance require creating platforms for voices, meaningful participation, and incorporation of diversity of experiences and values- '[Co-creating of Indigenous Water Quality Tools](#)' project showcases set of activities/interventions towards this vision.
4. Allowing diverse and multiple narratives from local, traditional, and indigenous knowledge systems in designing water governance reforms /[Integrated Water Resources Management \(IWRM\)](#) agendas will better guide the science-policy-society (community) nexus.
5. International governance mechanisms such as [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\)](#), [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#), [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) outlines/defines pathways and perspectives for addressing indigenous knowledge systems in ecological (land, water, soil...) management planning in various socio-economic and socio-cultural systems.