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Hydro Nation Scholars Programme

Co-developing strategies to promote inclusive water governance in Malawi

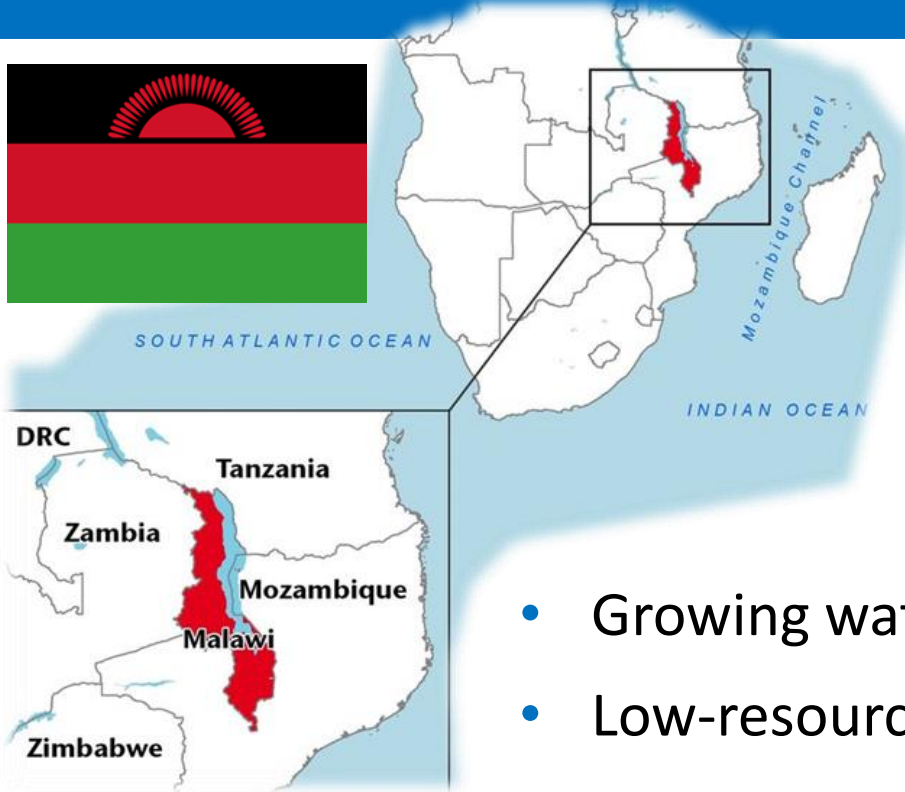
Sydney Byrns¹, Richard Quilliam¹, Tracy Morse², Ellis Adams³, Heather Price¹

¹ Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Stirling, UK

² Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Strathclyde, UK

³ Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame, USA

Malawi water context



- Growing water scarcity and pollution
- Low-resource environment
- Partial decentralization
- Community-based management
- NGO saturation
- Colonial legacy



Project aims

- To investigate the multi-level structure and dynamics of information flows and decision-making in the rural water sector of Malawi
- To co-develop strategies to improve hydrosocial governance at catchment level



Approach

1. Build historical context and narrative of formal and informal water institutions

1965

1977

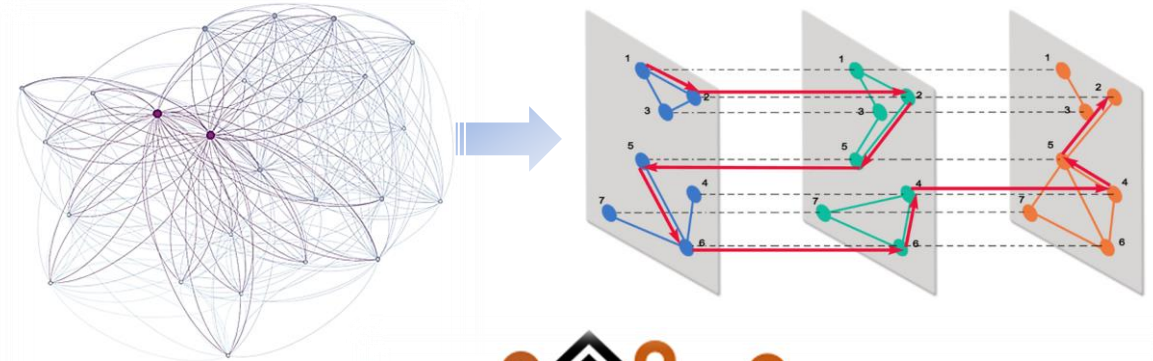
1995

1998

2005

2013

2. Map policy vs. practice of water institutions via social network analysis



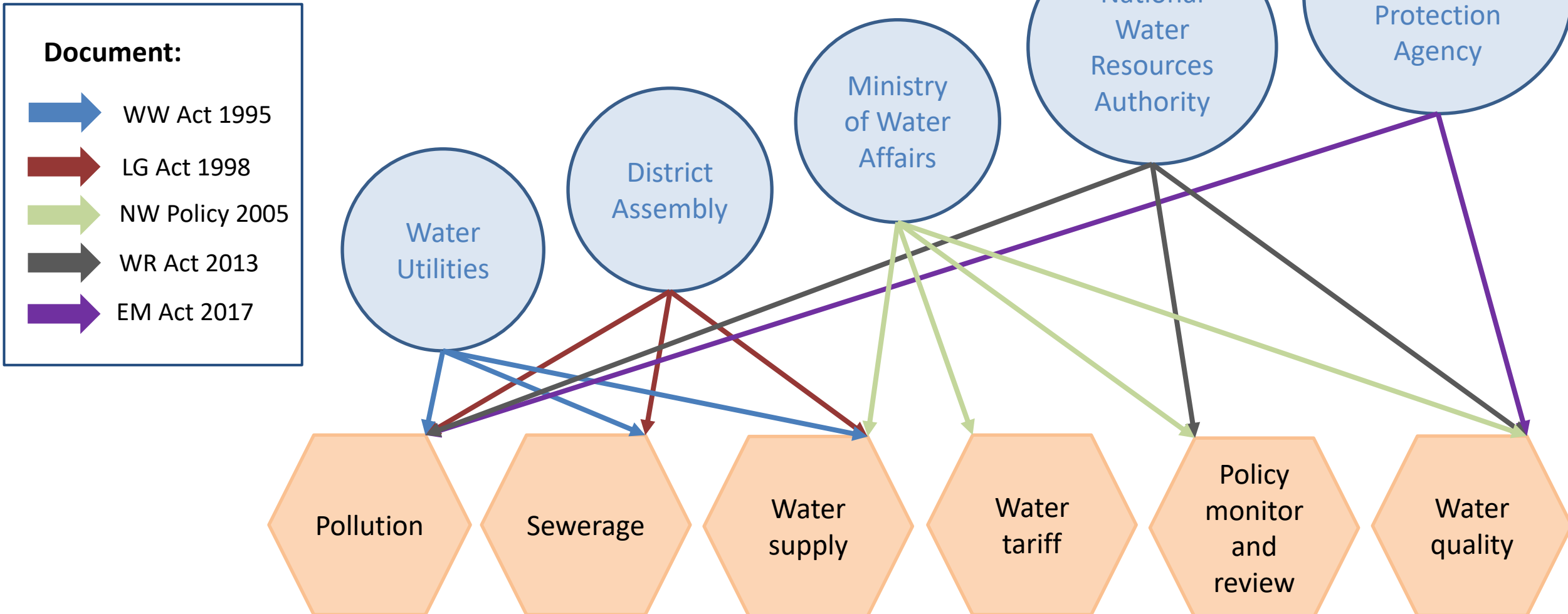
3. Understand informal catchment level decision-making processes and values



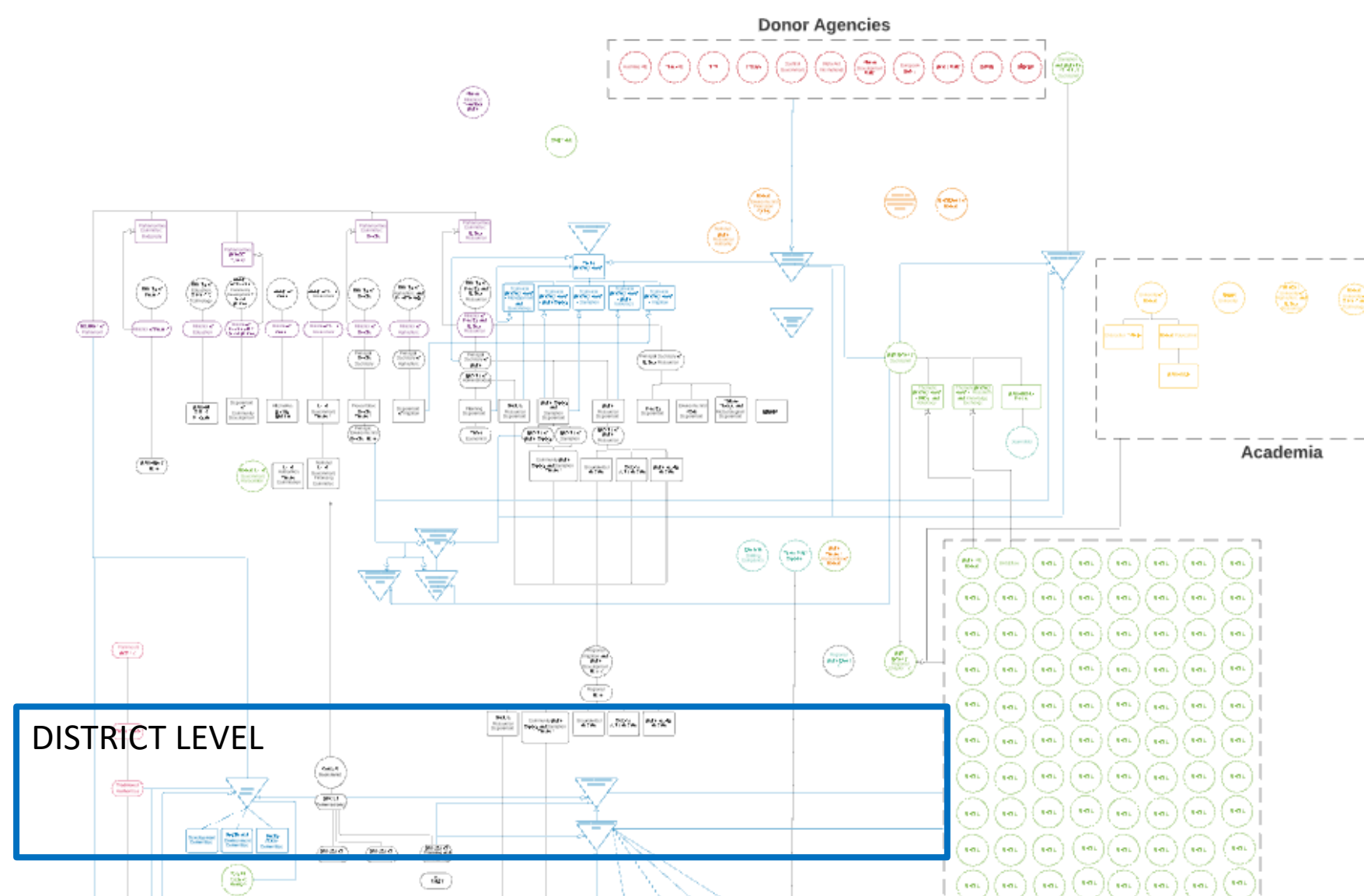
4. Co-develop strategies to improve multi-level governance



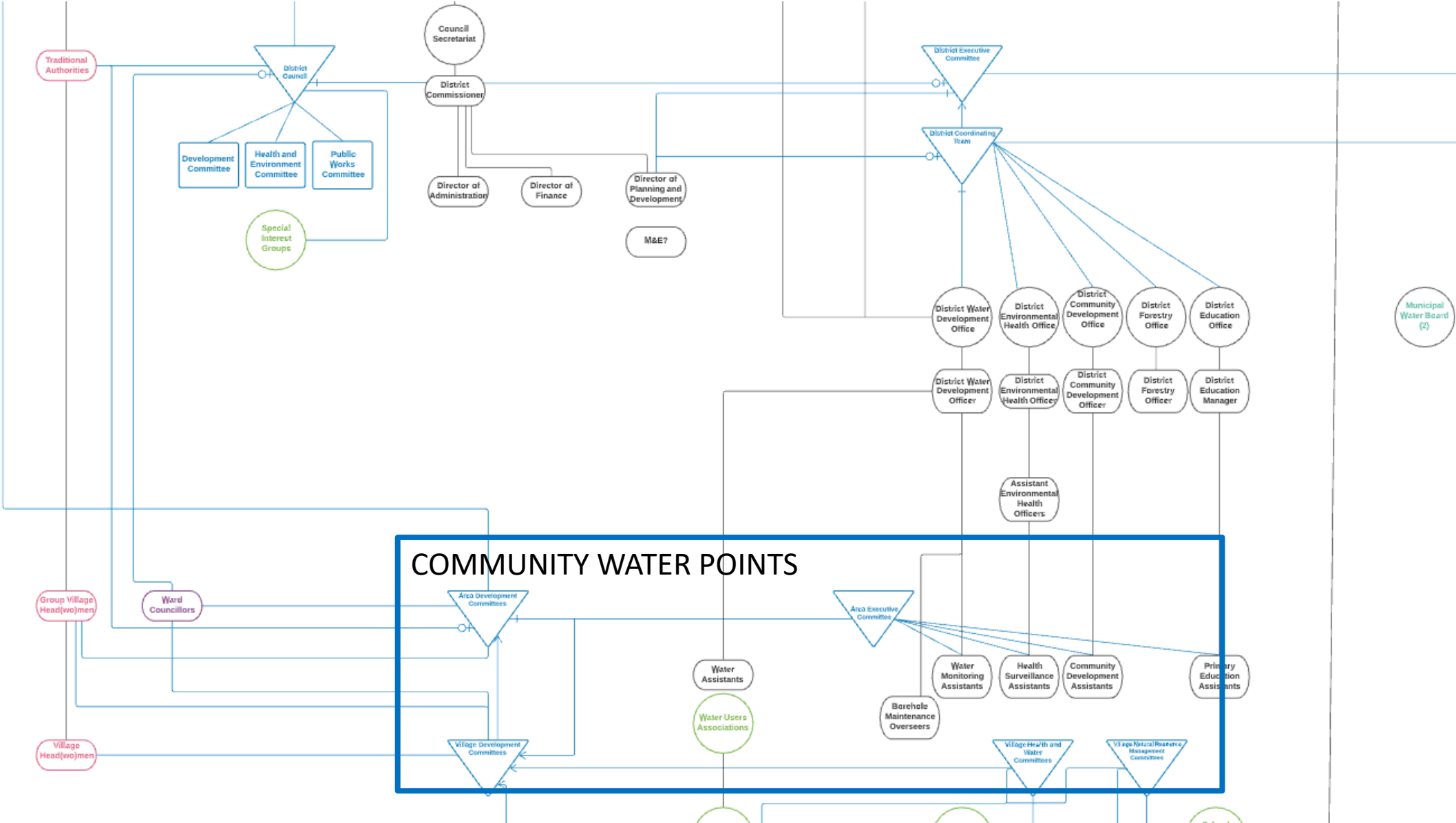
1. Stakeholder roles are not clear in policies/acts



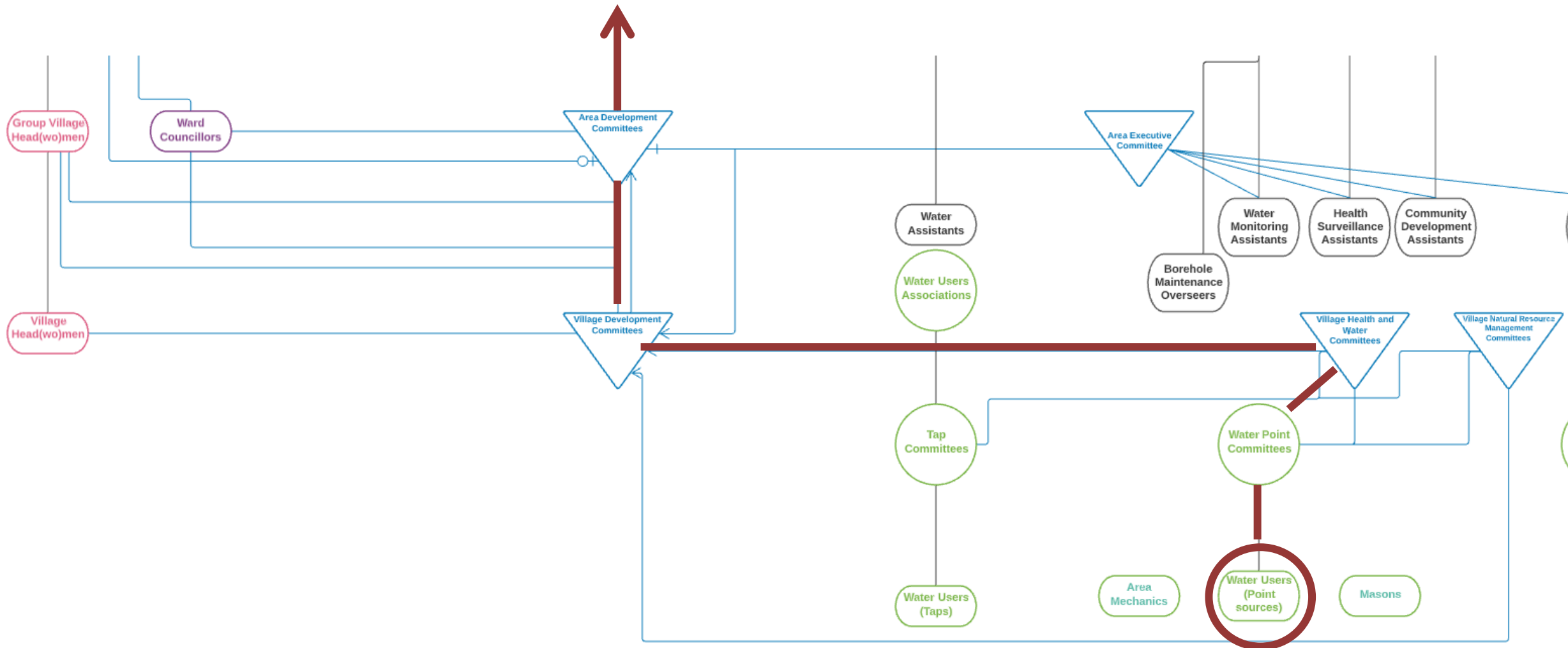
2. Sector structure has implications for decision-making



Zoom in: District level



Zoom in: Community water point level



- Building further historical context:
 - Interviews with longstanding members of the sector
 - Addition of events from grey literature and donor reporting
- Stakeholder mapping and social network analysis:
 - Designing the interviews and multi-level analysis
 - Contrasting policy vs. practice



Research partnerships

- **Malawi Scotland Regulatory Partnership:** A Hydro Nation funded project that supports improved water governance in Malawi



- **Research Advisory Board:** Members from Government of Malawi, local NGOs, advocacy groups, regulatory bodies, and academia



Zikomo kwambiri

Thank you

For further information & updates, please
contact s.c.byrns@stir.ac.uk

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