

River Basin Councils



Tamul waterfall, Pánuco river basin, México

Distrito Federal, México, 2011

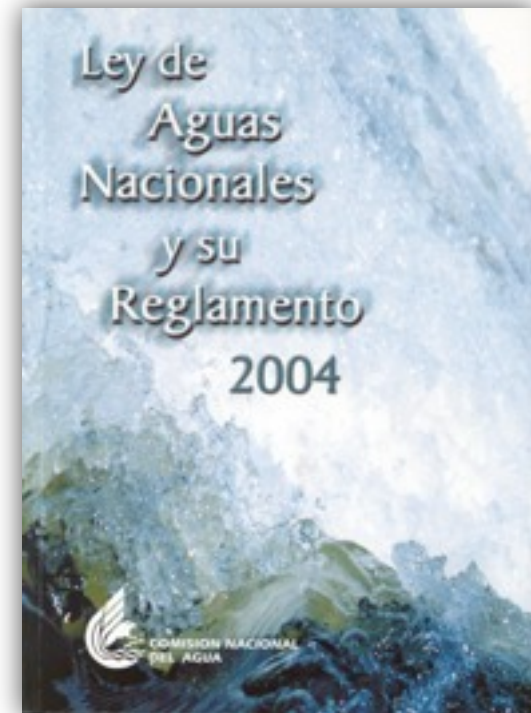
Historical Background

- ✓ In 1992, Mexico introduced in his National Water Law the concept of watershed as the management unit and established the creation of River Basin Councils
- ✓ In 1993 the first River Basin Council was established
- ✓ In 2009, the last River Basin Council was created, finishing the creation phase, since that year all the mexican territory was covered with River Basin Councils
- ✓ In 2004 the National Water Law reform introduced the concept of River Basin Organization and strengthened the concept of River Basin Councils through their restructuring and expanding their functions.

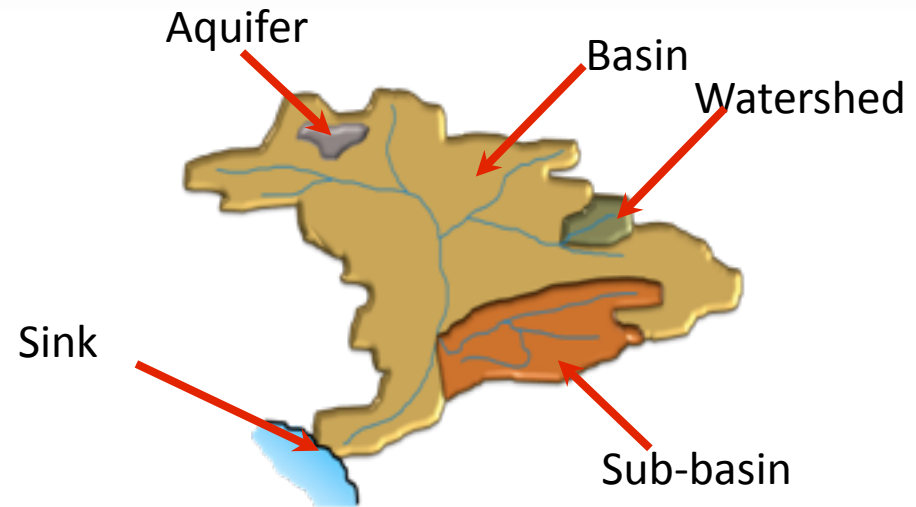
Principles of Public Interest

The National Water Law establishes as public interest causes:

- The basin and the aquifer as the basic territorial units for integrated water resources management
- Decentralization and improving integrated water resources management, through River Basin Organizations, as government agencies, and with River Basin Councils, as institutions of mixed composition, with the participation of the three branches of government, water users and civil society organizations, in decision-making and commitments.

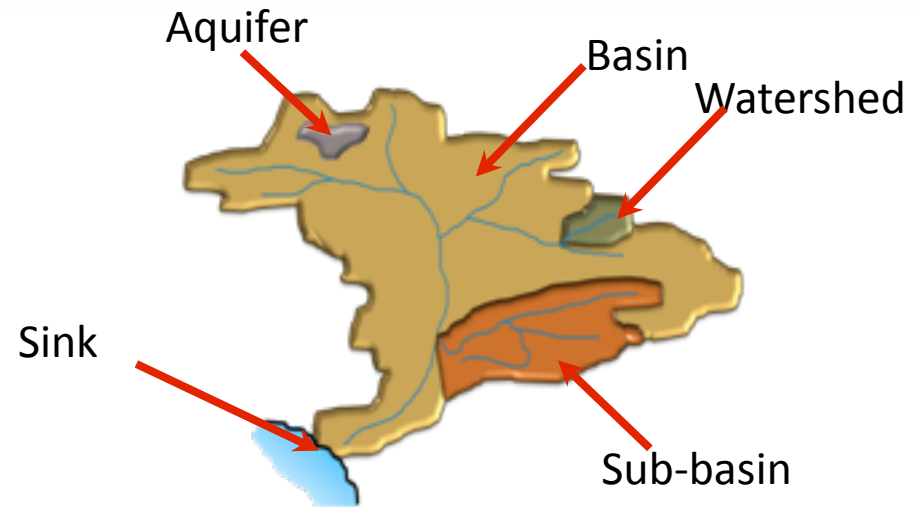


River basin management



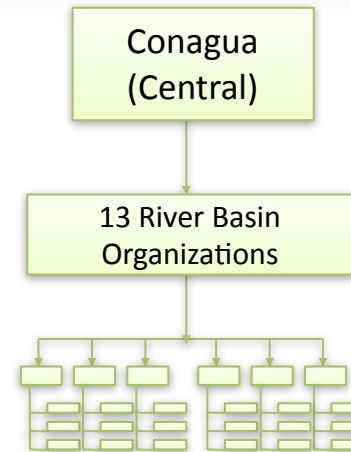
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River basin management



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River Basin Organizations



- I Península de Baja California
- II Noroeste
- III Pacífico Norte
- IV Balsas
- V Pacífico Sur
- VI Río Bravo
- VII Cuencas Centrales del Norte
- VIII Lerma Santiago Pacífico
- IX Golfo Norte
- X Golfo Centro
- XI Frontera Sur
- XII Península de Yucatán
- XIII Aguas del Valle de México

Hydrological-Administrative Boundaries

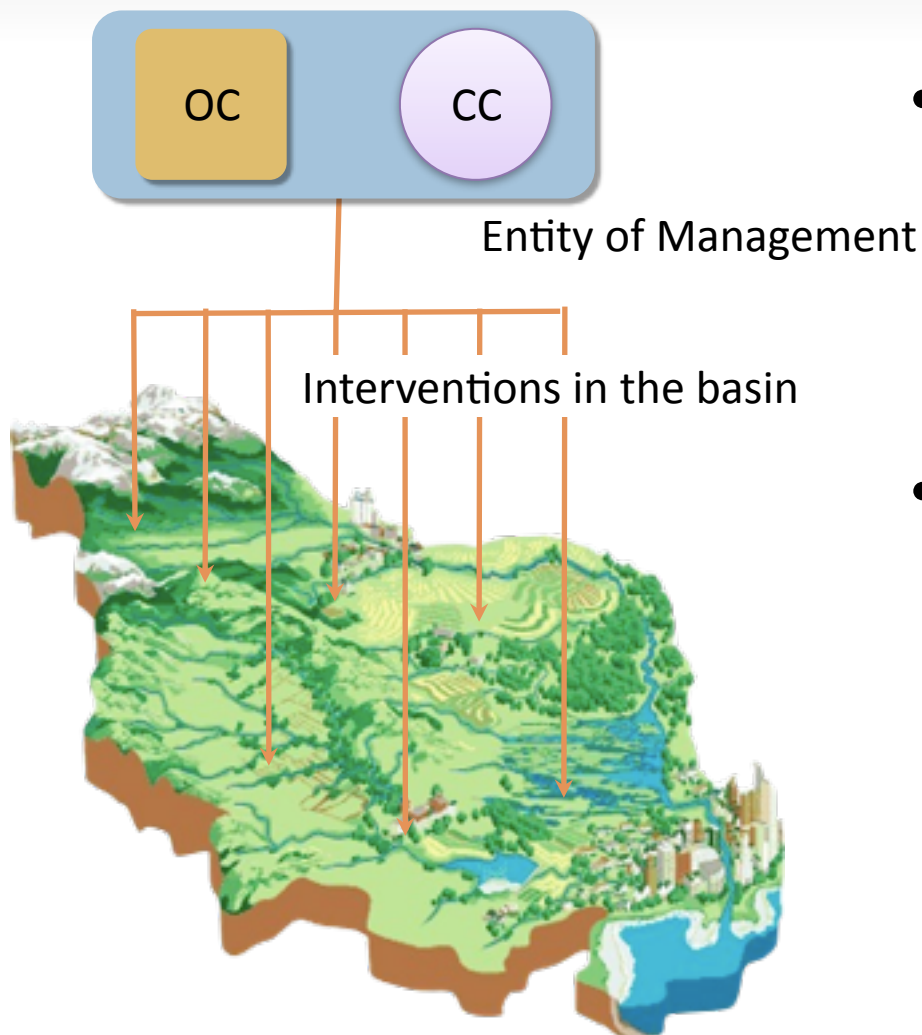
River Basin Councils



1. Baja California Sur
2. Baja California
3. Alto Noroeste
4. Ríos Yaqui y Mátape
5. Río Mayo
6. Ríos Fuerte y Sinaloa
7. Ríos Mocorito al Quelite
8. Ríos Presidio al San Pedro
9. Río Balsas
10. Costa de Guerrero
11. Costa de Oaxaca
12. Río Bravo
13. Nazas-Aguanaval
14. Altiplano
15. Lerma-Chapala
16. Río Santiago
18. Ríos San Fernando-Soto La Marina
19. Río Pánuco
20. Ríos Tuxpan al Jamapa
21. Río Papaloapan
22. Río Coatzacoalcos
23. Costa de Chiapas
24. Ríos Grijalva y Usumacinta
25. Península de Yucatán
26. Valle de México

Hydrological boundaries

RBO-RBC Interaction



- Features:
 - Systems approach
 - Strategic approach
 - Participatory approach
- Actions:
 - Structural
 - Non structural

River Basin Councils

National Water Law defines the River Basin Councils as:

Collegiate bodies → There is voting equality among its members

Institutions of mixed composition → Participate Government, users and society

Coordination and consultation bodies → Mechanisms of support, consultation and advice between the National Water Commission and the three levels of government, representatives of users and organizations of society



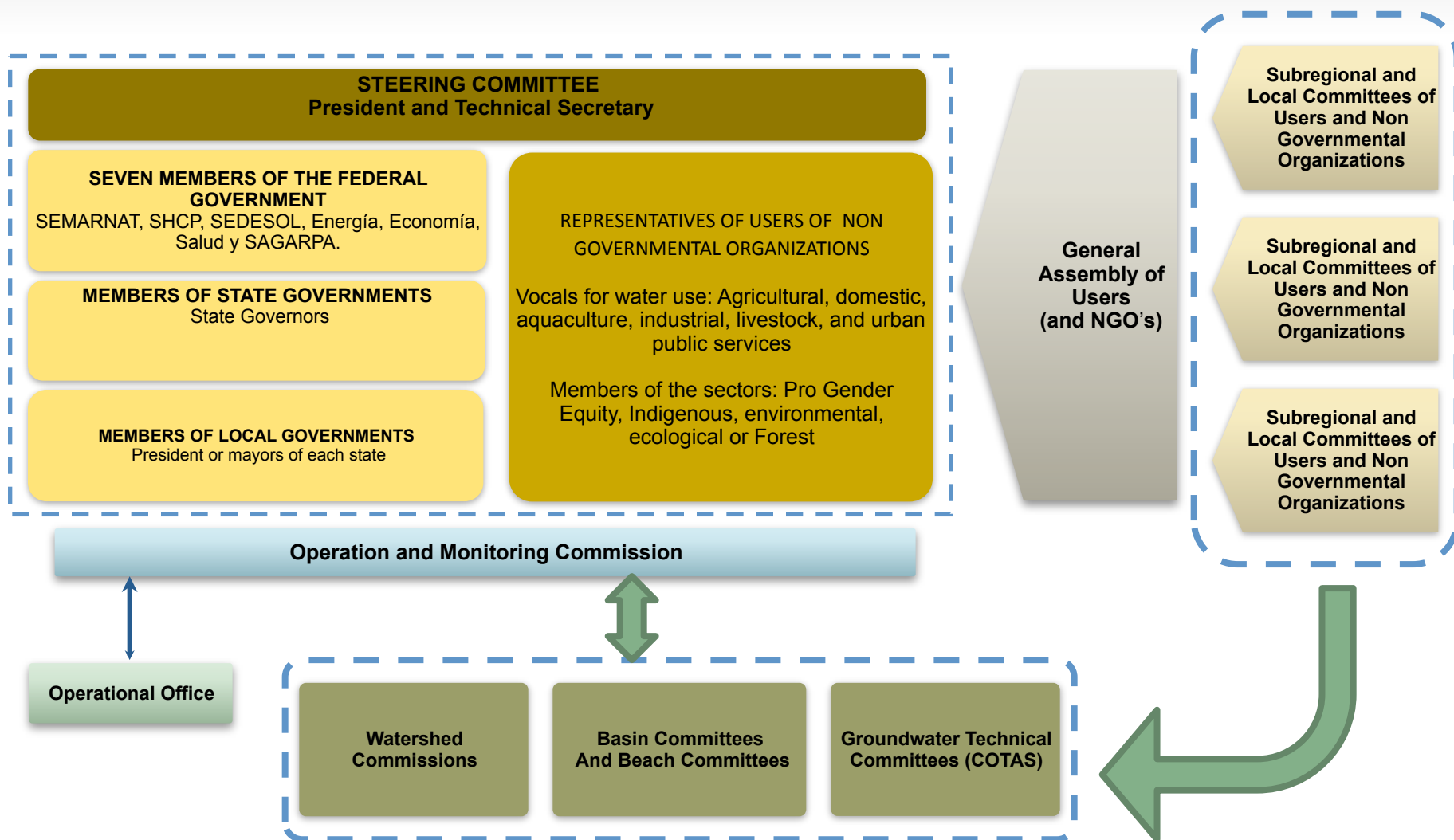
Targets of the River Basin Councils



Functions of the River Basin Councils

- ❑ Propose the priority order for water use
- ❑ Participate in defining the general targets and criteria for the formulation of water management programs in the basins
- ❑ Promote coordination and complementarity of investments
- ❑ Help to restore basins and water bodies that receive wastewater
- ❑ Contribute to economic, environmental and social valuation of water
- ❑ Support funding for regional water management
- ❑ Knowing the information and documentation relating to the availability in quantity and quality, water uses and rights reserved
- ❑ To promote the efficient and sustainable water use, reuse and promote the recirculation of water
- ❑ Establishment of subsidiary bodies

Structure



General Rules of Integration, Organization and Operation

These rules are intended to determine the basic procedures to regulate the organization and operation of the River Basin Council, in accordance with the rules, principles and objectives established in National Water Law, its Regulations, and general criteria of National Water Commission.

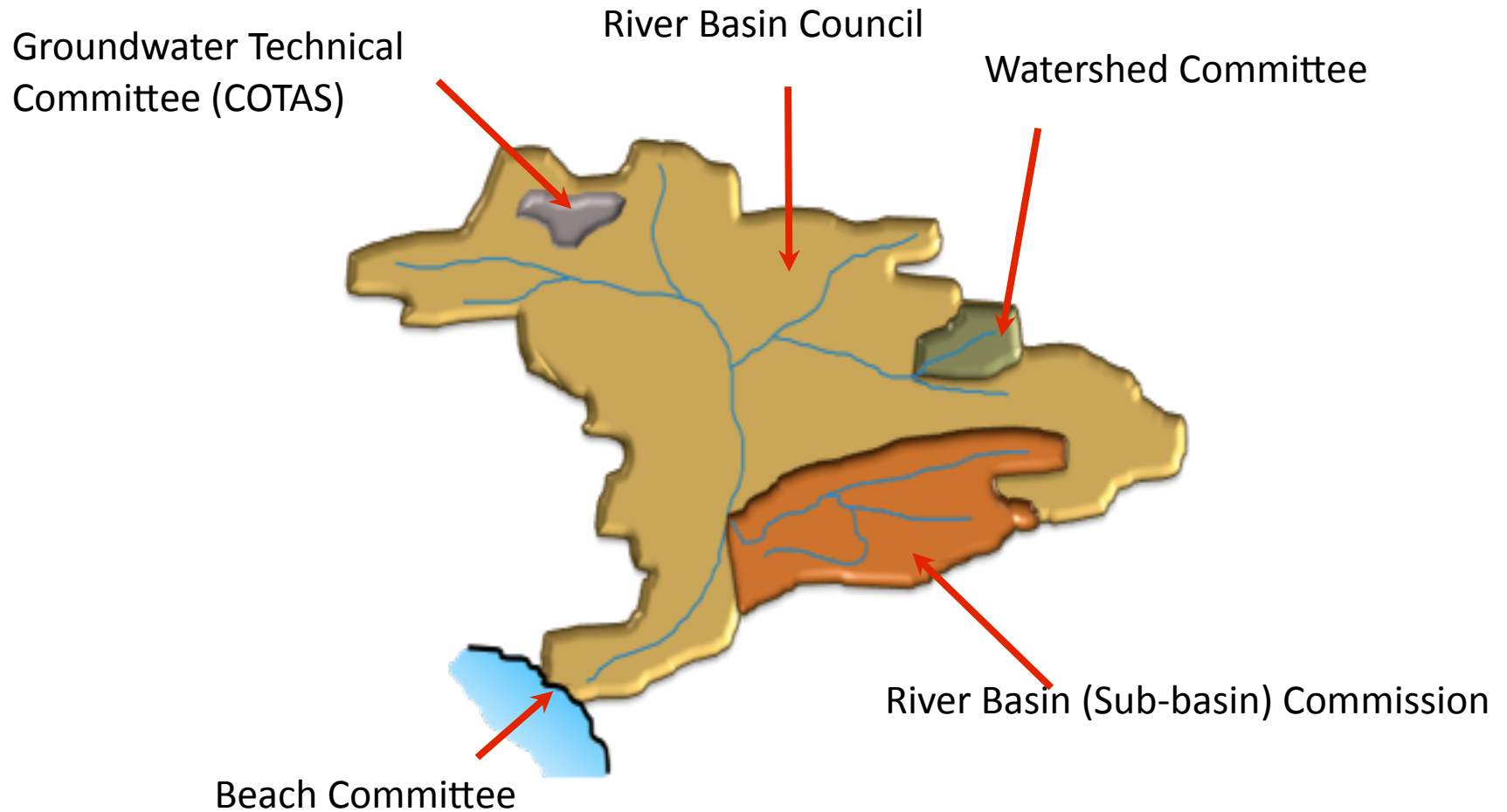
- Each River Basin Council have to develop and approve their Rules
- Rules establish work mechanisms, frequency of meetings and other points to regulate the operation of the River Basin Council Establish mechanism to elect the President of the River Basin Council



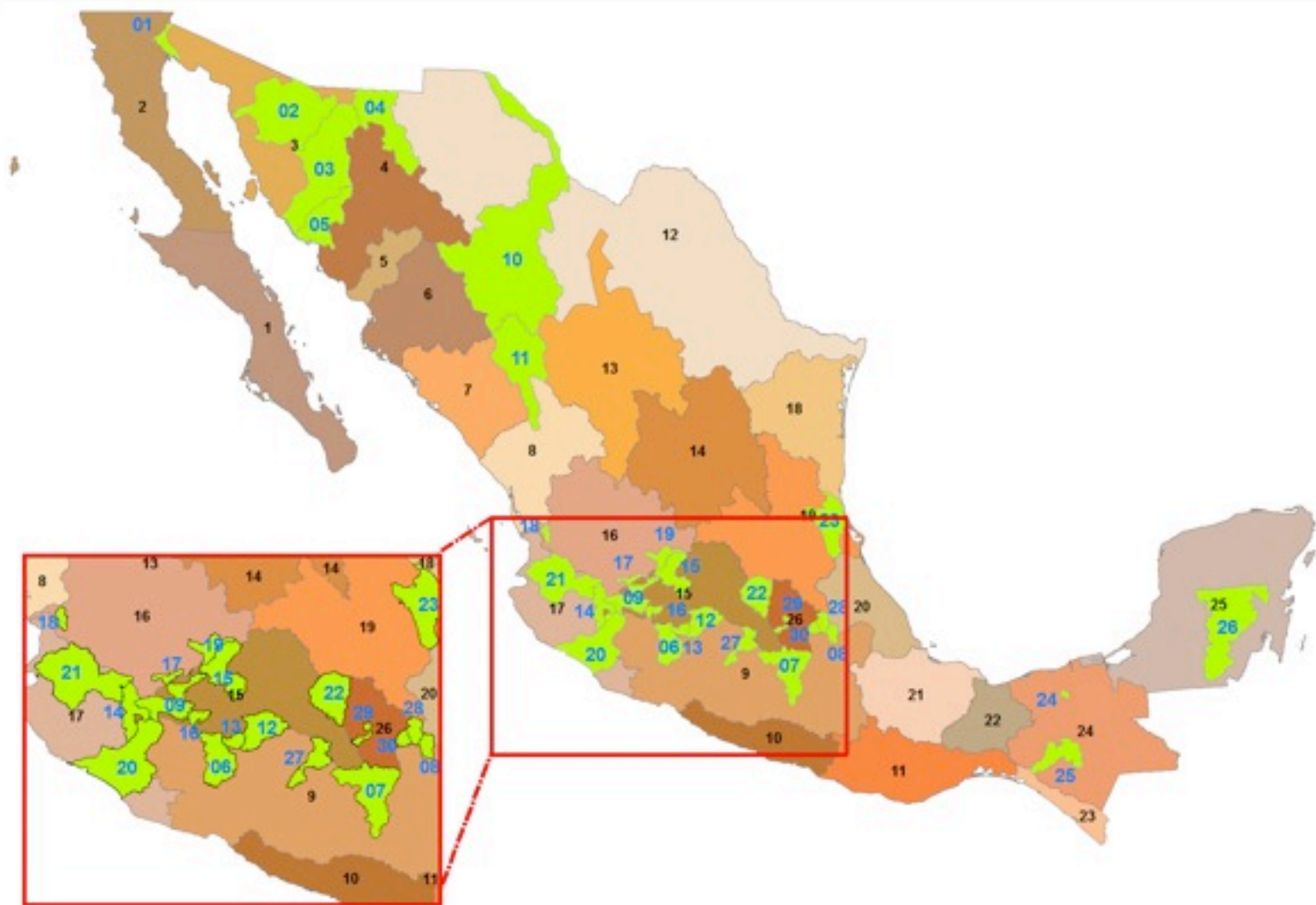
Subsidiary bodies of the River Basin Councils



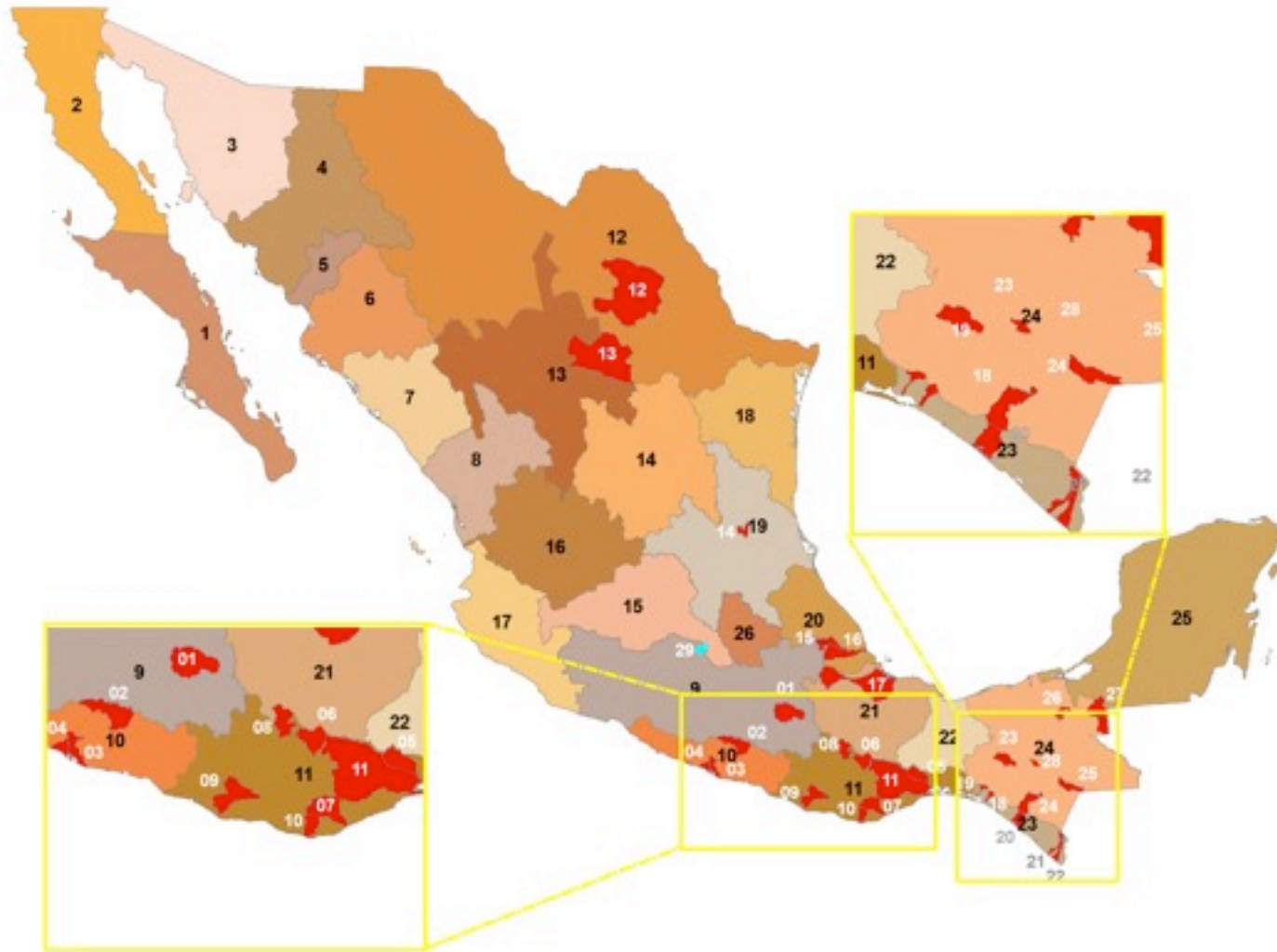
Subsidiary bodies



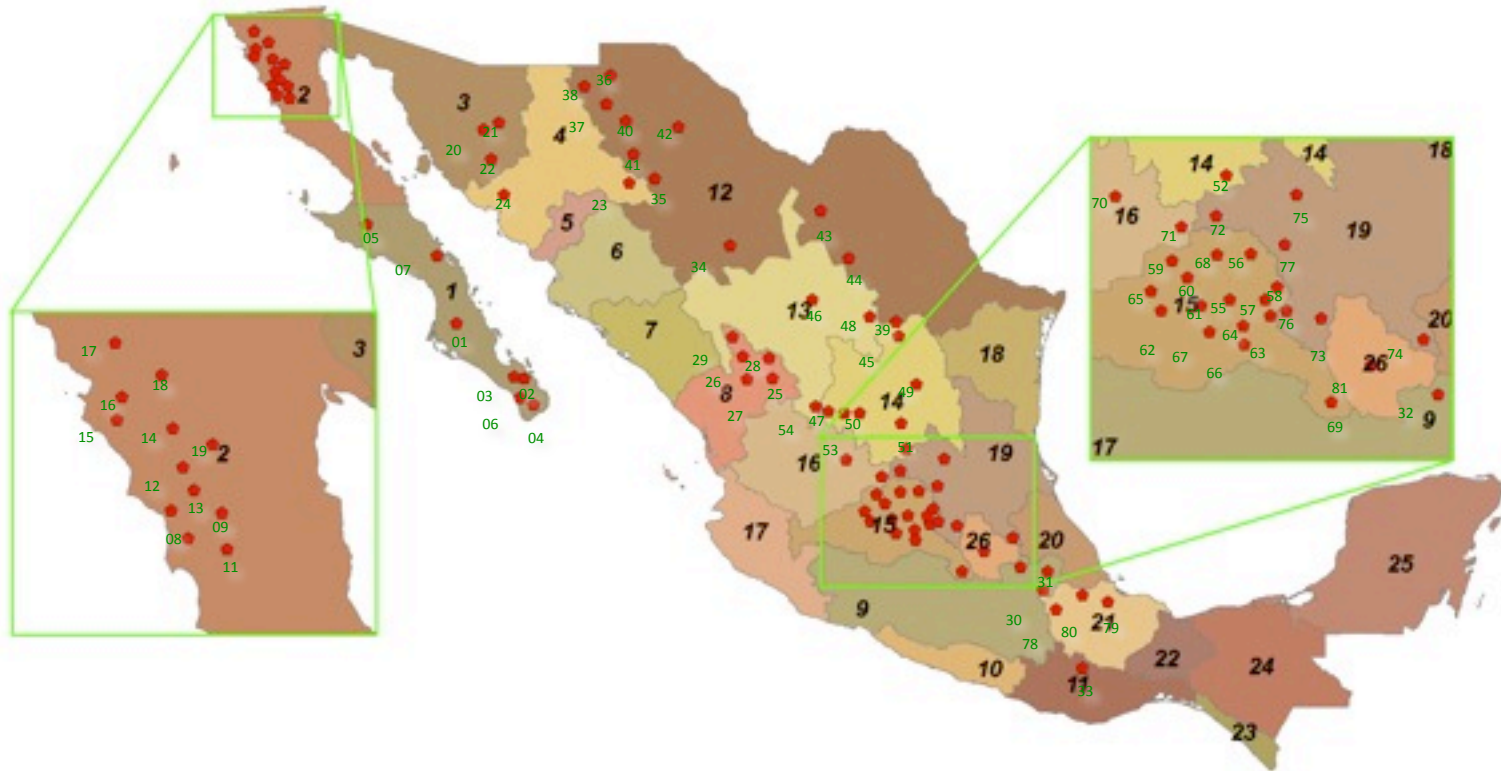
River Basin (Sub-basin) Commissions (32)



Watershed Committees (43)



Groundwater Committees (COTAS) (82)



Beach Committees (37)



Learned lessons



Social participation

- ❑ Public affairs are a space of all: the State as an abstract entity, the government as a network of organizations, and society as a citizen network.
- ❑ The design of public policies and their results are not only of the government or property of their institutions. Citizens, users, specialists and civil society organizations, among others, must engage responsibly in the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies.



To achieve sustainable development is important to have broad participation of society in decision-making

Characteristics of Social Participation

- In our country we are looking for water's social responsibility through the combined efforts of all members of the River Basin Council and its Subsidiary Bodies. To encourage groups to make commitments and take responsibility to meet them, it is necessary that everyone has the task or action that has to do.



REPRESENTATIVENESS

Participants in the River Basin Councils should represent all significant actors and stakeholders

INDEPENDENCE

The participation process should be conducted in an independent manner, ensuring equality for the different actors

ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholders must be present and take an active role at the early stage of problem definition, discussion of its main aspects, and choosing and implementing solutions

INFLUENCE

The result of participation should have an increasing impact on decision-making, sharing roles in water management.

COMMON WEAL

Find through an action predominantly democratic, a common weal vision over individual interests; Having the watershed as a framework that favors an collective vision rather than an individual vision.

Integrated Management

Integrated watershed management aims to harmonize the use, development and management of all natural resources (soil, water, flora and wildlife) and management of ecosystems within a watershed. Integrated management should consider:

- Relations between resources and ecosystems
- The economic and social targets
- Production practices and organizational forms taken by society to meet their needs and seek their welfare in a sustainable approach



Sustainable development

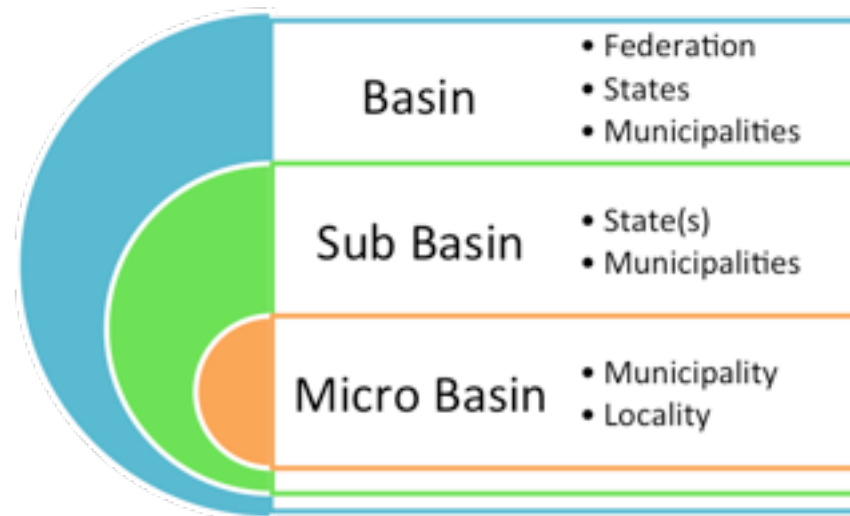


- **Sustainable development.** In terms of water resources, the evaluation process using criteria and **indicators of water status, economic, social and environmental**, which tends to improve the quality of life and productivity of people.
- Sustainable development is based on the necessary measures for the **preservation** of water balance and the **use and protection** of water resources, in a way that not compromise the water needs of future generations.

Subsidiarity

River Basin Council promotes that social participation is based in two key factors that configure the concept of subsidiarity:

- Water authority must be exercised on **the most appropriate level** to solve public problems
- Government is **an complement, not an substitute for, the action of individuals and social organizations**, taking a subsidiary role, who helps, assists, serves.



The Relevance of River Basin Councils



"... the Basin Councils represent the core of the National Water Program and National Water Law, which is the participation of society, the participation of representatives of users in the River Basin Councils ..."

José Luis Luege Tamargo
Speech

Installation of Costa Pacífico Centro River Basin Council
Bahía de Banderas, Nayarit.

February 25, 2009

Challenges of River Basin Councils

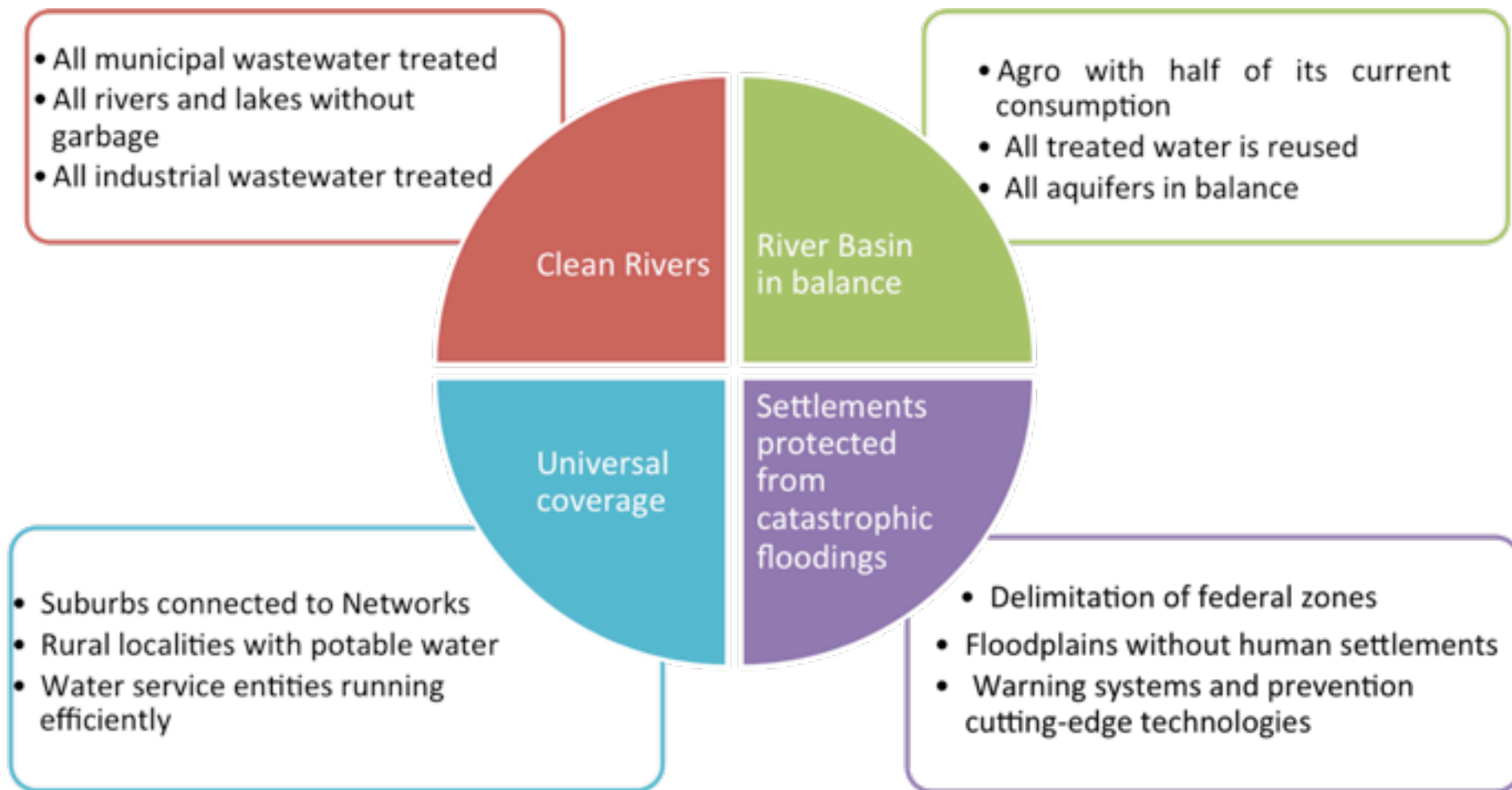
Society:

- ▣ Assume the presidency of the Watershed Council
- ▣ Improve the representativeness of the members and users of organized society
- ▣ Promote more and better information to council members, and the sectors they represent
- ▣ Achieve an co-responsible management of water, where the society makes commitments to improve the conditions of watersheds and aquifers

Government:

- ▣ Improve the participation of government representatives and agency officials from the three levels of government
- ▣ Coordinate programs and actions related to water within the River Basin Councils
- ▣ Discuss, get the necessary consensus and make decisions about priorities for government investment in watershed

Agenda del Agua 2030





¡Gracias!

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