

# Context for Transboundary Water Cooperation

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# Goals of the study

- ESCWA // World Bank // Mashreq Water Initiative
- Understand the **current situation** regarding transboundary water collaboration in the region (surface and groundwater)
- Understand the influence of **ongoing regional economic and political dynamics**
- Envision **future scenarios** to enhance/increase water cooperation towards more sustainable development trajectories

>>> Background analysis to inform future studies and action plans



## Specific Tasks

- ✓ **Policy and Legal Review**
- ✓ **Contextual Analysis**
- ✓ Case-studies from region & beyond
- ✓ Best practices, lessons learned & recommendations

# Policy and Legal Review

## National Level

- Transboundary considerations in:*
- National policies, laws, regulations
  - Institutional arrangements (at national level)
  - Review and gaps

## Transboundary Level

- Current status of:*
- Policy frameworks
  - Legal agreements/mechanisms
  - Institutional arrangements
  - Review and gaps

# Policy, legal and institutional arrangements at transboundary level

## At **Bilateral level** :

- Technical cooperation and exchange of information
- Legal arrangements, agreements, MoUs, .....
- Institutional frameworks (joint committees, basin organisations)
- Assessment of current/evolving operational status

## At **Basin-wide level**:

- Absence of multilateral cooperation
- Reflections on how to go beyond long-lasting debates on water allocations, IWL and sovereignty

## At **Global/Regional level**:

- Legal instruments for transboundary cooperation (e.g. Conventions)
- SDG 6.5.2. Reporting on status/progress of cooperation

**Challenges and potential opportunities to promote comprehensive collaboration/cooperation**

# Contextual Analysis

- Main events, conflicts, agreements influencing cooperation (past 20 years)
- Major existing and planned water developments (infrastructure) and competition
- Current status of collaboration/cooperation between co-riparians
- Emerging transboundary issues (droughts, floods, climate change; ecosystems, water quality)

Analysis of the new (geo)economic and (geo)political dynamics and its direct/indirect impacts on transboundary relations



**Matrix to assess Status & Scenarios of collaboration/ cooperation/ no-cooperation (transboundary and broader)**

# Rapid changes in regional dynamics

## Geopolitics and Geoeconomics

- Political and diplomatic rapprochements
- Increasing cross-border trade
- Economic and investment trade-offs
- Infrastructure planning of mutual benefits

## New actors

- Investors and international banks
- Investment in large-scale infrastructure
- Global economic actors/dynamics (e.g. BRI)

**How these factors and actors can hinder and/or enable cooperation at regional/transboundary levels?**



# Matrix: merging broader & transboundary cooperation

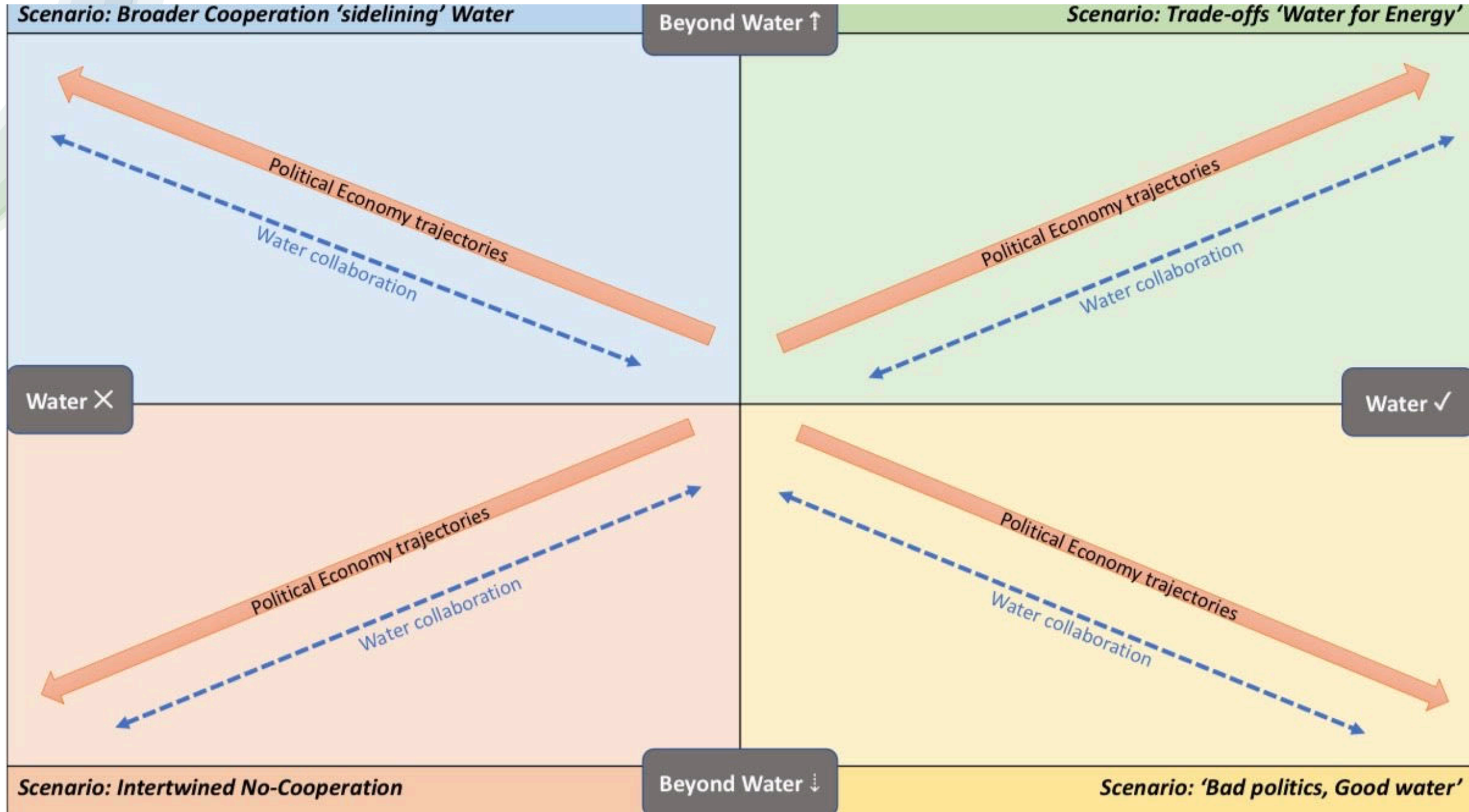
**Challenges and potential opportunities to promote comprehensive collaboration/ cooperation**

**How these factors and actors can hinder and/or enable cooperation at regional/transboundary levels**

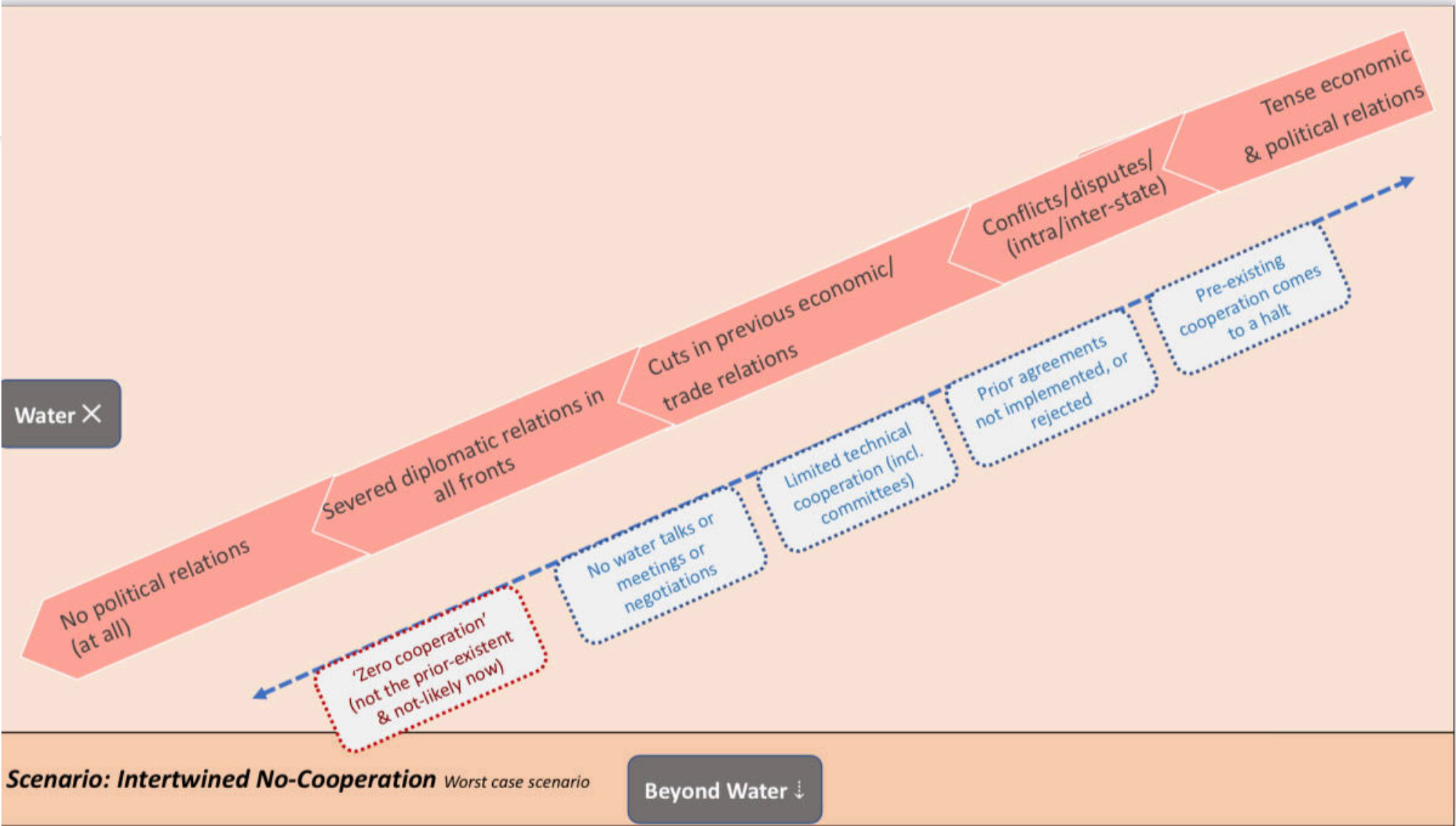
**Matrix to assess Status & Scenarios of collaboration/ cooperation/ no-cooperation (broader & transboundary)**



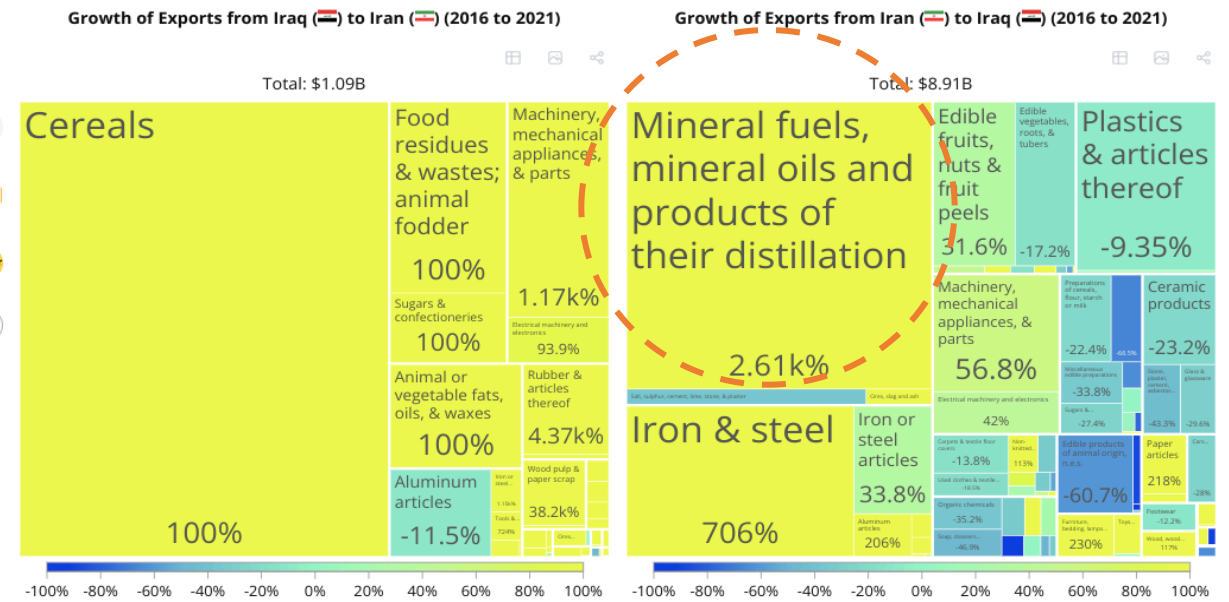
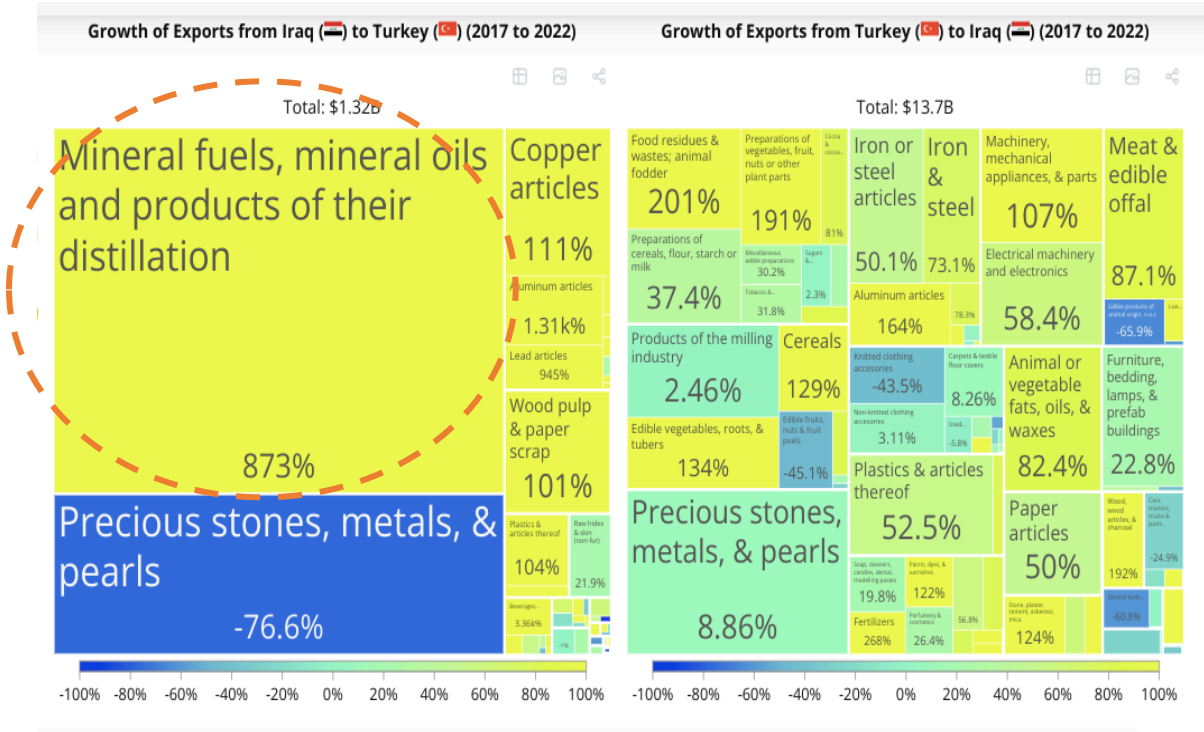
Matrix: a non-linear approach



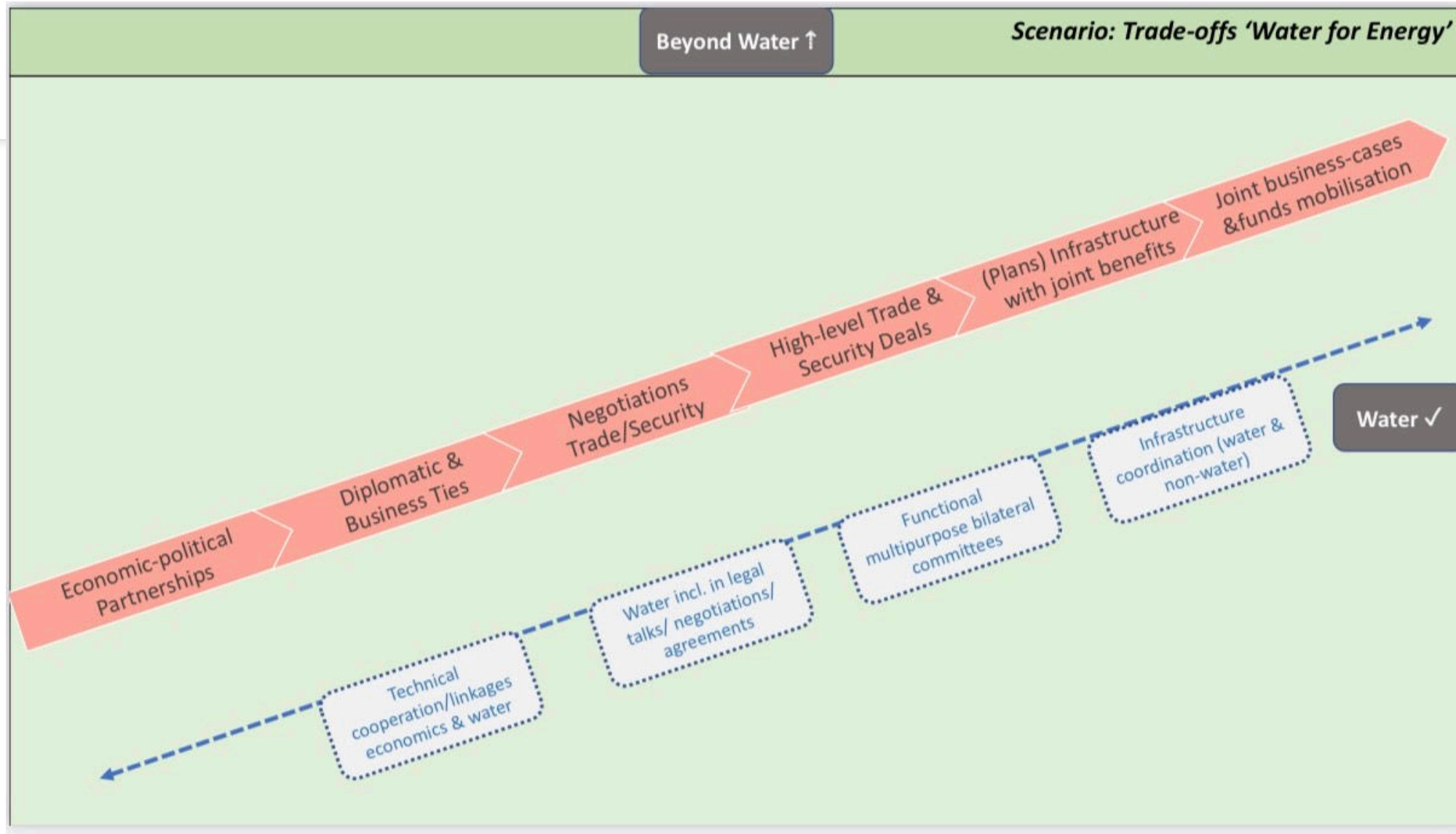
# No-cooperation: political conflicts hinder transboundary relations



# Transboundary water cooperation as part of trade/infrastructure agreements?



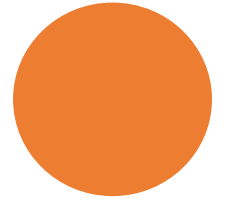
# Can good economic/political relations enhance transboundary relations?



# Transboundary environmental & climate cooperation?

- Water quality and pollution
- Ecosystem protection
- Degradation of deltas
- Biodiversity and Wetlands
- Climate extreme events

**>>>>> Mesopotamia Marshes**





Thank you for your attention