GWSP Science Conference

Proposal to SSC for a "Mission-Oriented" Conference

C. Vörösmarty

The proposal:

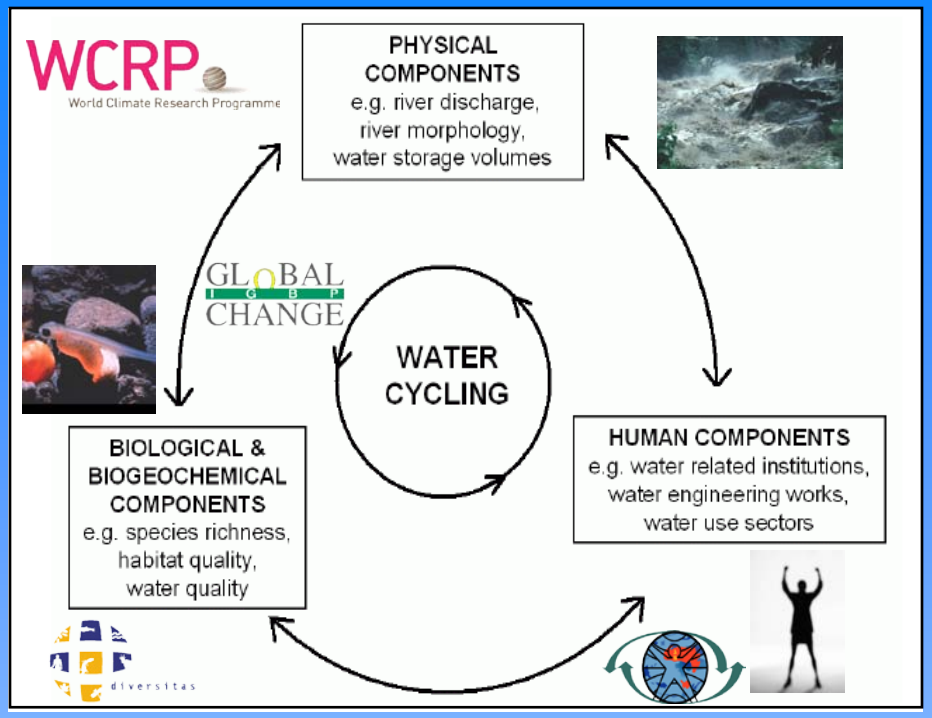
- Create an overall mission for the conference, that is, to support the ffw assertion

The last decade has been transformational (a "game-changer") with respect to our thinking and our research on the water systems of the planet

Or posed as a short series of questions….

What new knowledge and perspectives were developed over the last 10 years with respect to water? What are the key new ideas and insights and how are these different than at the turn of the century? How did GWSP contribute to this new thinking? How does the new thinking get us ready for "Future Water"?

A quick reminder that we have in the past profited from a core assertion…..



CENTRAL, FOUNDING TENET OF THE GWSP

Humans are changing the global water system in a globally-significant way

without…..adequate knowledge of the system and thus its response to change

Earth System Science Partnership

GWSP Global Water System Project

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Examples of what I mean by transformation:

- Country-level (e.g., U.N.) water scarcity "scores" have given way to geospatial analysis….with enormous increase in the estimates of people at risk
- Humans now playing a central role in the water cycle in ways other than climate
- River basins, globally, are transferring upland water management decisions downstream to the ocean margins (e.g., deltas, land-based pollution)

…and

- The concept of *Global Water* is no longer a dirty word

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Rationale for the proposal:

- Make the event a unique, bona fide, and recognizable capstone to the GWSP
- Claim appropriate credit for GWSP in the transformation of the thinking
- Engage the participants
- Produce tangible outputs that could be referenced in the design of "Future Water"

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Structure:

• Each of the themes could have the ffw, e.g.:

Theme 2 Global Dimensions of Change in River Basins

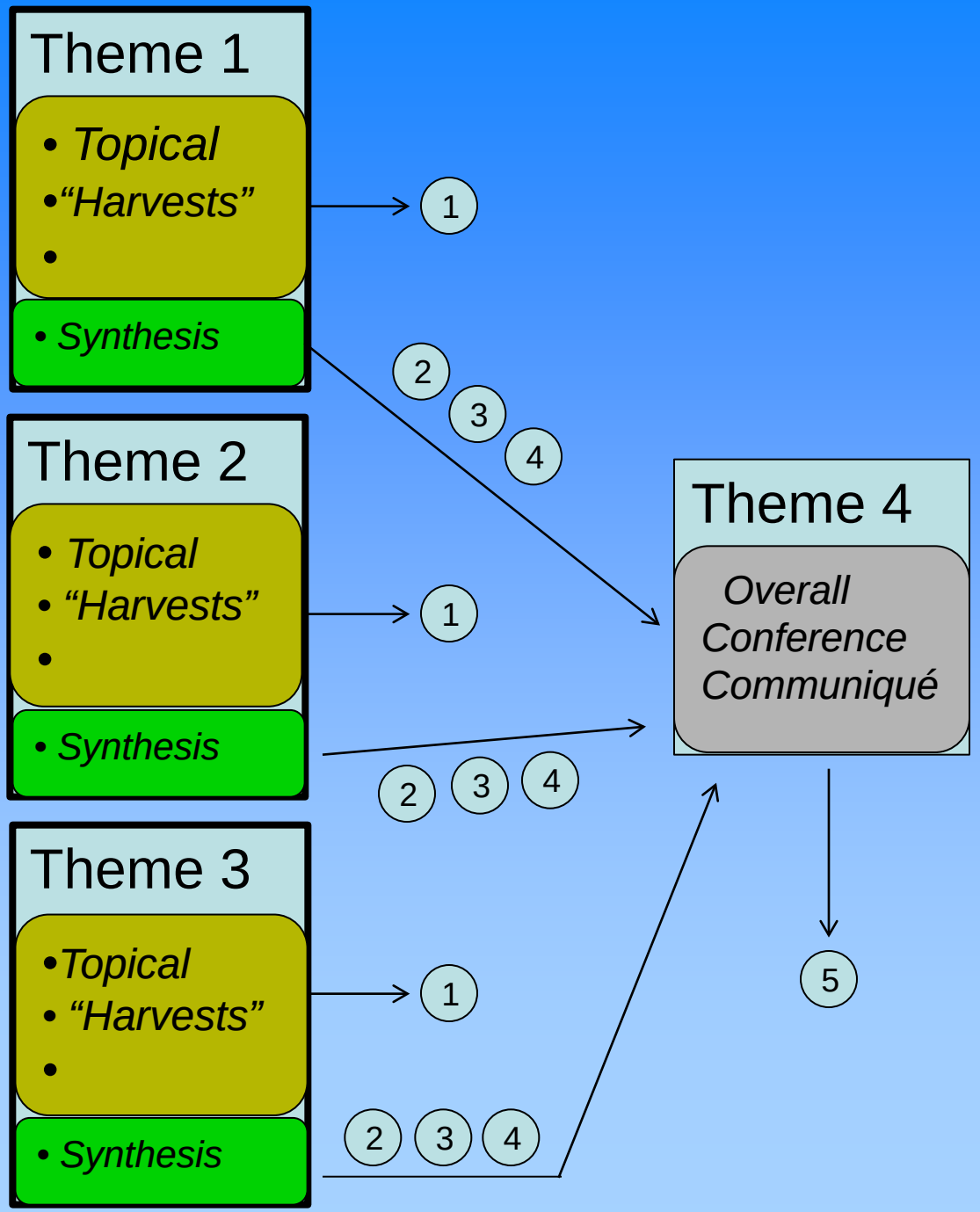
Research "Harvest"

- Rivers and the Nexus…
- Adaptive Water Governance…
- Basins and Aquifers…
- Others

Synthesis

- Forward Look Contributions to Future Water

Structure & Product Flows



1 = extended abstracts

2 = special issue

3 = policy briefs

4 = synthesis e-book *("Future Water")*

5 = *Science* Policy Brief