

# Aquifer Contract a new mode of groundwater governance

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# Groundwater : strategic roles

## Strategic role

- Primary source of fresh water in many parts of the world ( Morocco : 90% of rural population is supplied by round water resources )
- Socioeconomic development role (irrigates 40% of irrigated land in Morocco)
- The main alternative resource during drought periods

## Advantages of ground water use

- Free and easy access
- Easily regulated

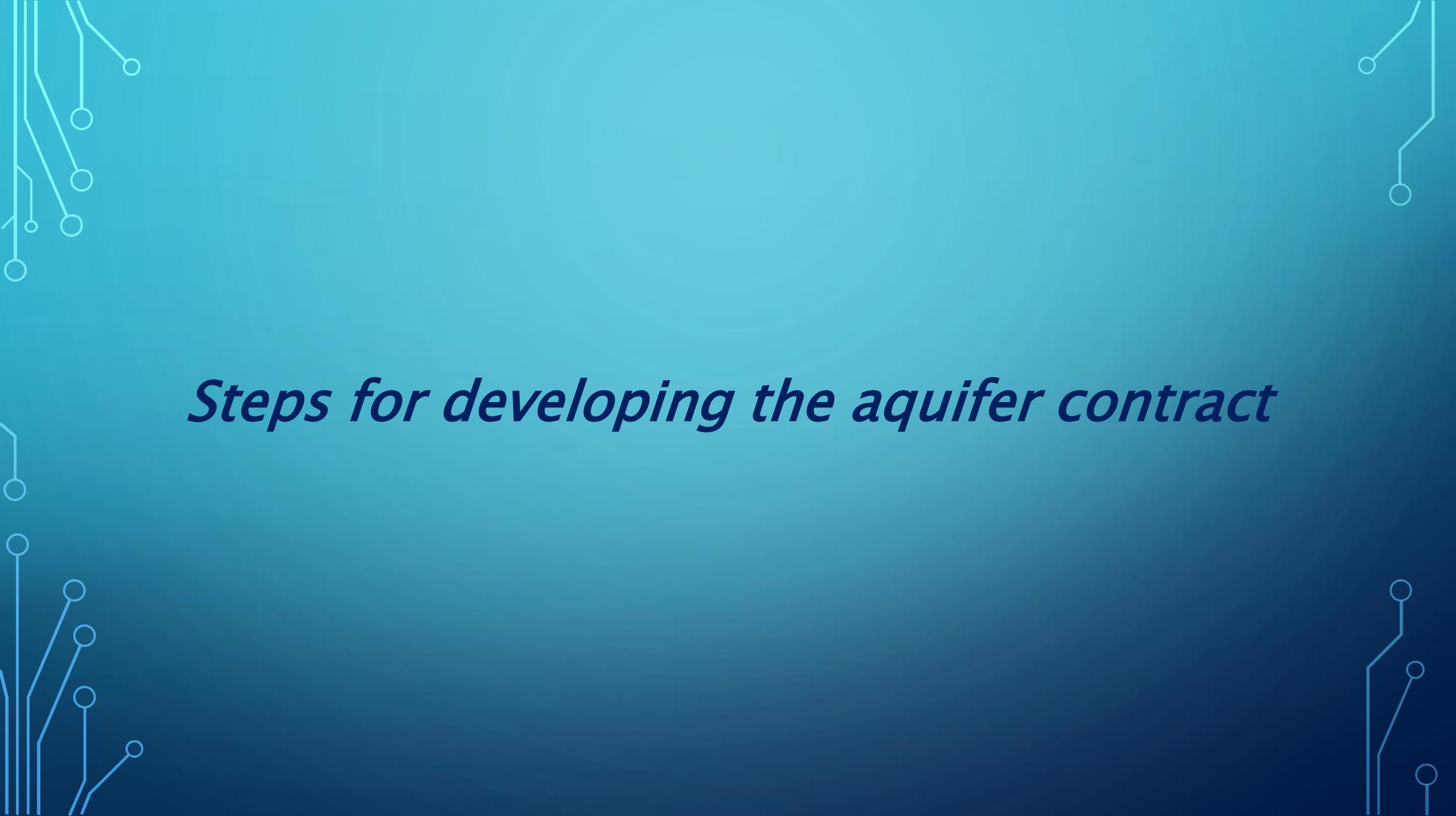
# Groundwater depletion : current situation

- Alarming level of overuse (annual deficit  $1\text{MMm}^3$ , recharge  $3.4\text{MMm}^3$ , discharge  $4.3\text{MMm}^3$ )
- Alarming depletion of the main aquifers, threatening water access and agricultural activities
- Deterioration of groundwater quality
- Illegal abstraction
- Conflicts between user during the droughts periods

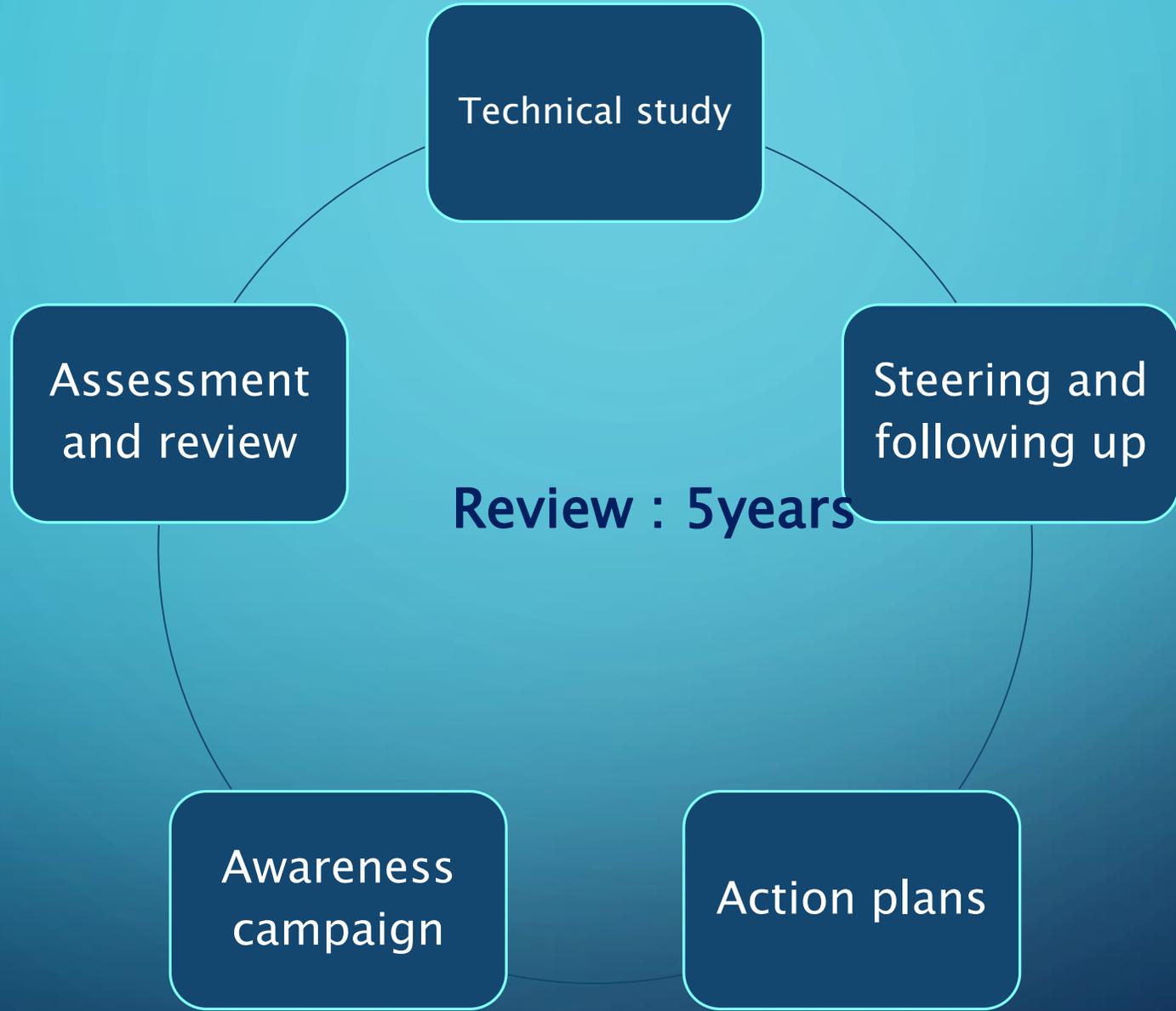
# Aquifer Contract: social innovation for groundwater governance

## Aims and objectives

- New mode of groundwater governance which strives for sustainable management of the groundwater resources
- Technical and financial agreement between partners and stakeholders (government, farmers, elected bodies, etc)
- Defining action plans : controlling depletion, protecting the resource, restoring the aquifer balance
- Approach based on consultation, participation, and accountability of stakeholders

The background is a solid teal color with a subtle gradient. In the four corners, there are decorative white line-art patterns resembling circuit traces or neural network connections. These patterns consist of straight lines of varying lengths and angles, ending in small white circles.

# *Steps for developing the aquifer contract*



# Steering and following up

- **Steering committee** : chaired by the Wali (higher level of regional authorities)
- **Follow up committee** : chaired by the Basin Agency, includes all users and stakeholders
- Define the sustainable management model of the aquifer
- Define the action plans
- Modalities of financing
- Deadlines
- Implementation
- Following up
- Awareness campaign

# Action plan

## Short-term

- Installation of measurement equipment
- Legalization of illegal wells
- Reduce water losses : water economics plan
- If necessary, restriction of cultivated area
- Payment of water fees
- Protection of aquifers from pollution

# Action plan

## Medium and long term

- Mobilizing the additional resources (dams construction)
- Encouraging water reuse
- Artificial recharge
- Encouraging rainfall collection
- Modernizing the irrigation system

The background is a blue gradient with white circuit-like lines in the corners. The lines consist of straight segments and small circles, resembling a printed circuit board or a network diagram. They are located in the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners.

***Thank you for attention***