

# Co-creating approach to routine groundwater water monitoring in Malawi

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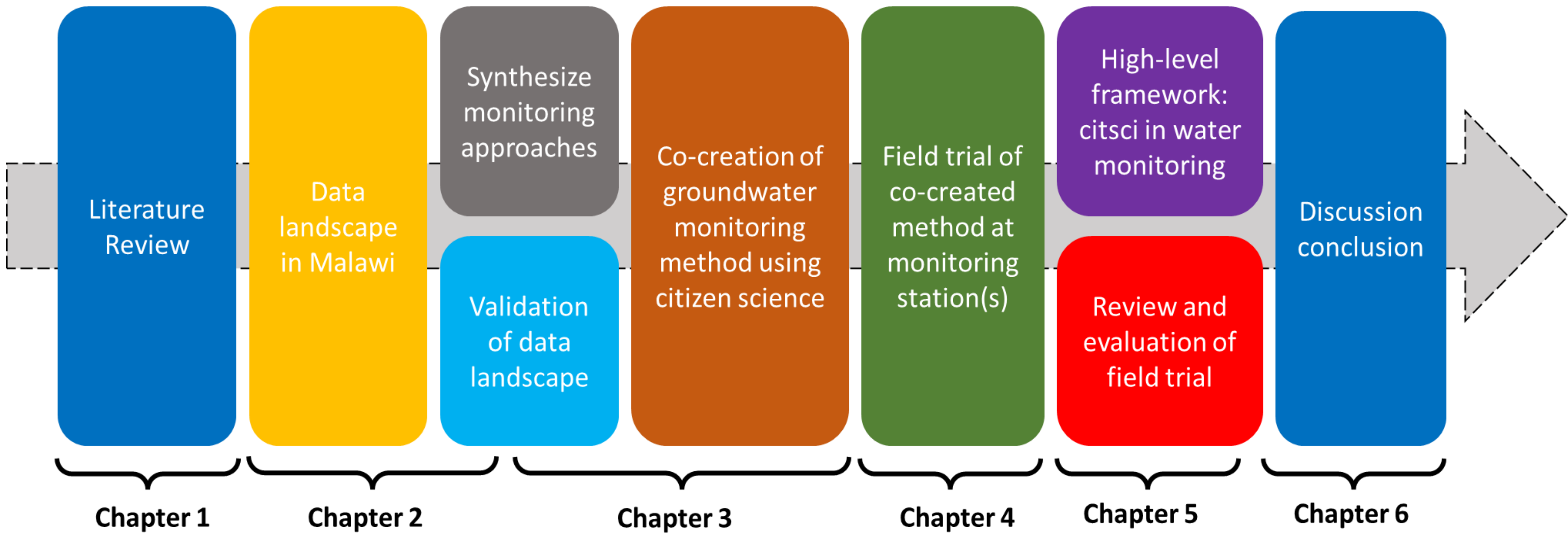
## 1. Why Groundwater Monitoring?

- **Crucial data** which underpins water management
- ~60% of Malawians are reliant on groundwater for their drinking water
- **Critical** to Malawi’s development strategy

## 2. Importance of community involvement

- ‘Citizen’ participation in water management is **common practice** in Malawi
- Numerous **co-benefits**
- Bad engagements at root cause of **several challenges**

## 3. PhD Thesis Overview



## 4. Co-creating an approach to environmental water monitoring: groundwater

### Malawi’s Groundwater Monitoring Network

Figure 1 (left). Image of a non-functional groundwater monitoring point in Machinga District. The monitoring point has been vandalised. (ND WASH Consultants, 2017)



Figure 2 (right). Image of a non-functional groundwater monitoring point. The monitoring point has been vandalised by local community. (Government of Malawi et. al, 2022)



- **106** groundwater monitoring sites in Malawi
- As of 2022, only **20 sites had gauge readers, only 6 had working data loggers** (Government of Malawi, 2022)
- Issues with training, community engagement, location, financial support

### Co-creation Process

- Co-creation with;
  - Government (local/national)
  - Donors
  - NGO
  - Private Sector
  - Communities
  - Other e.g. academia, civil society
- Workshops; defining challenges, context & solutions
- Goal: knowledge base for decision makers to develop guidance for operationalising the groundwater monitoring network in Malawi.

1. Government of Malawi, Department of Water Resources, BASEflow Malawi, BAWI. (2022). Report on the assessment of groundwater monitoring wells in Malawi. Lilongwe.  
2. ND WASH Consultants. (2017). Report: Situation Analysis Survey on Groundwater Resources Monitoring System for Central, Northern, and Southern Regions and National Consolidated Summaries, in Malawi. (unpublished).