

MedWet



MedWet Role Playing Game
The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative

Wetlands:

Fragile ecosystems that need protection...

Natural resources to share...

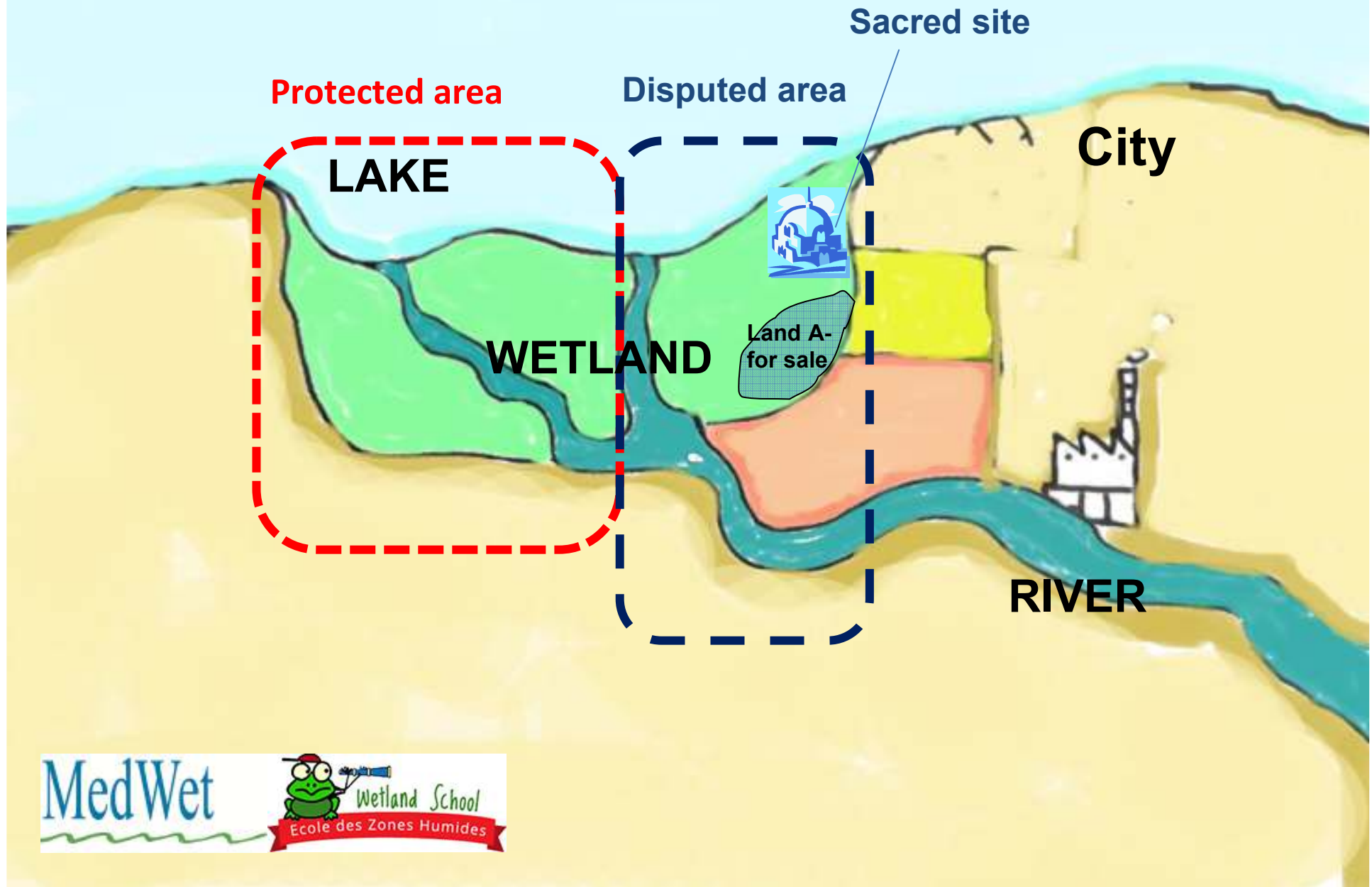


Scenario for the Role Playing Game

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Setting the scene....



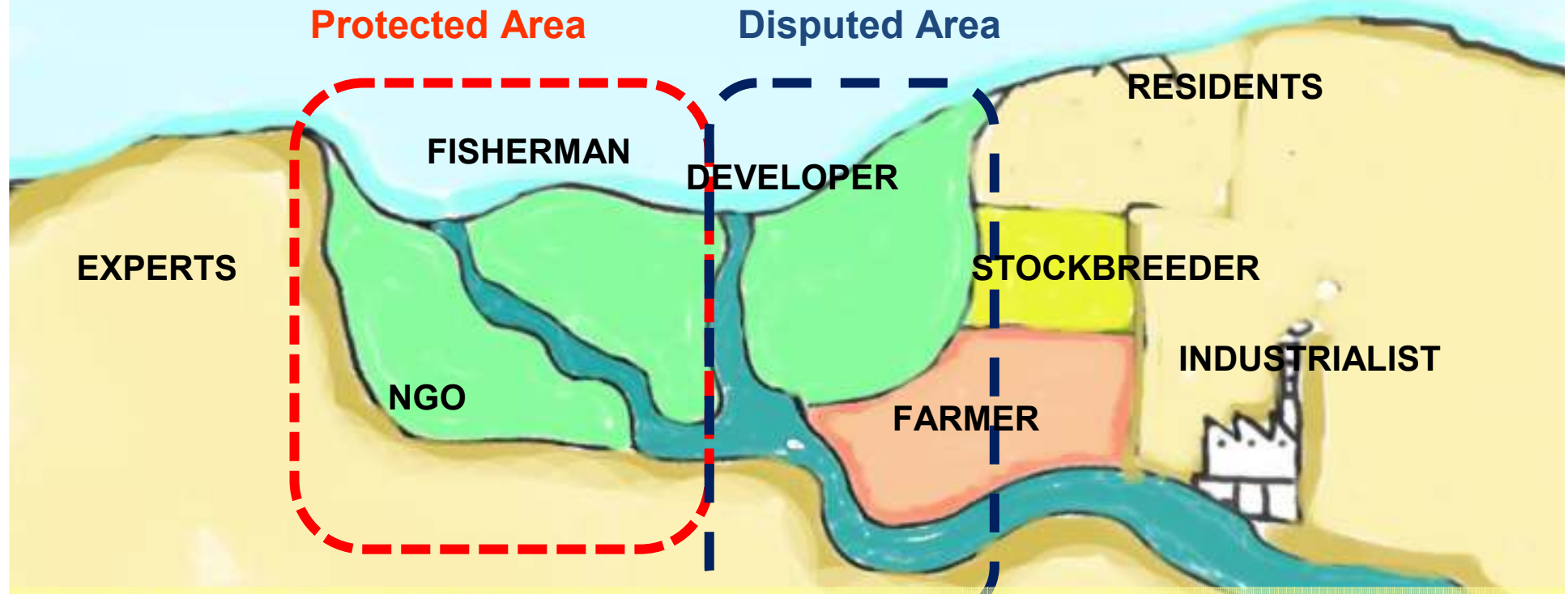
...the stakeholders



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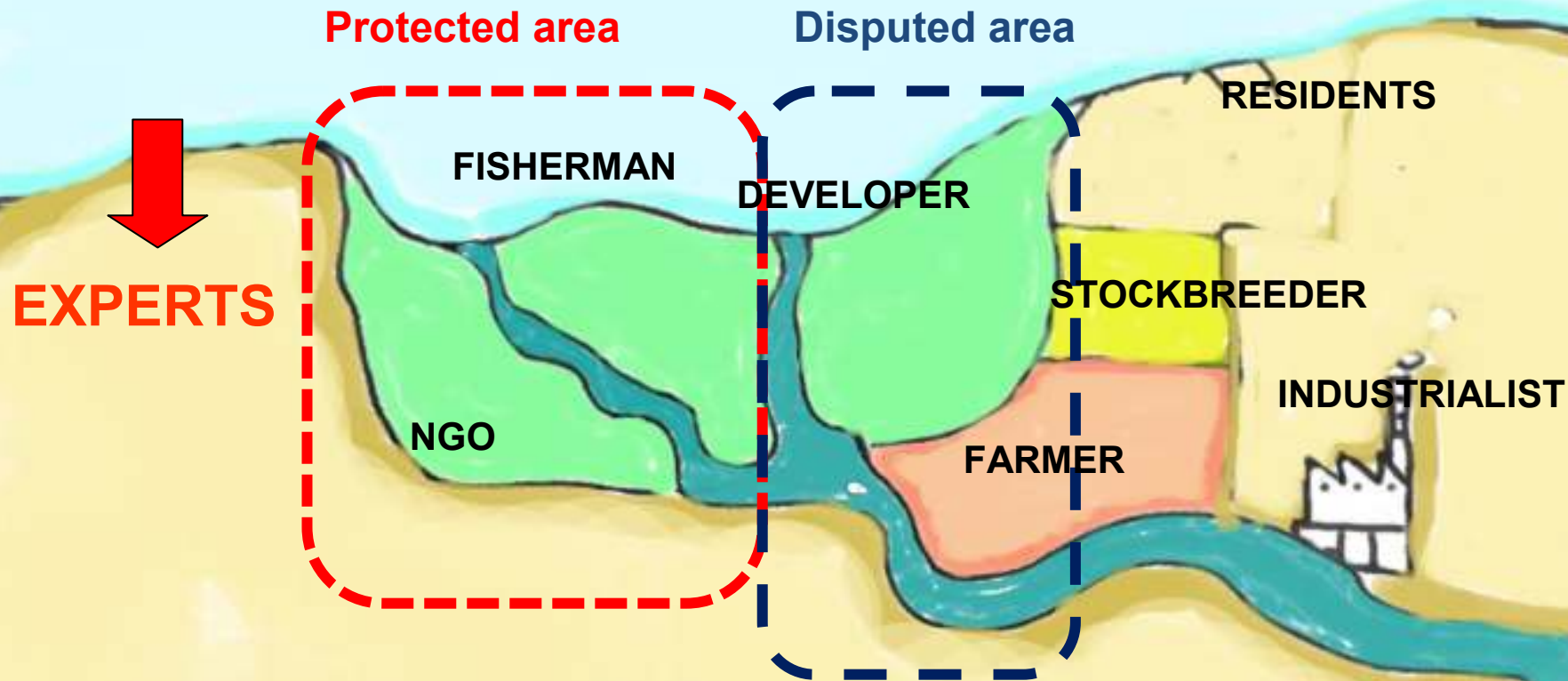


Scenario: Creation of a management committee.....



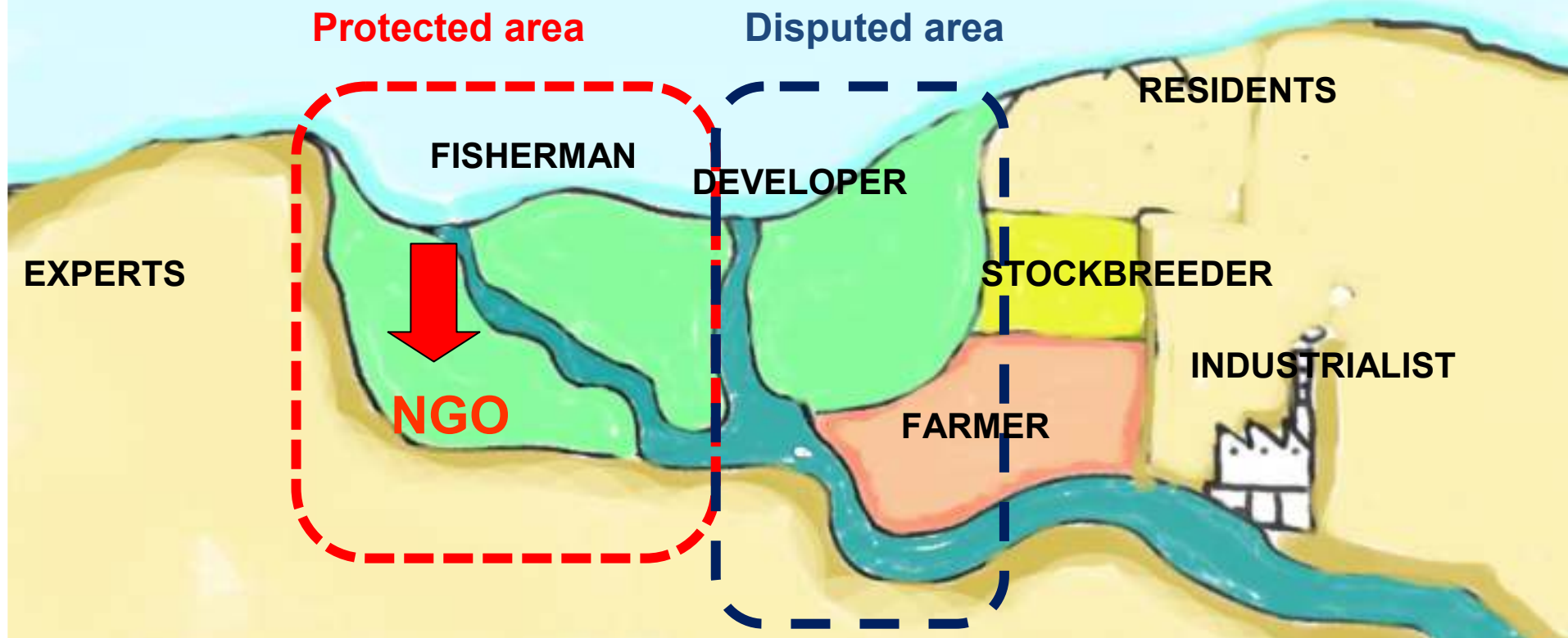
The elections are approaching and the local authorities who manage the wetland have decided to create a management committee composed of all the active stakeholders in order to resolve the use of the disputed part, east of the wetland. The stakeholders invited are representatives of the farmers, the stockbreeders, the fishermen, the industrialists, the developers, the residents and the NGO. Experts were also invited to provide their knowledge. The aim of the management committee is to find the best possible scenarios for the management of the wetland and its resources while assuring that all stakeholders have been heard and have agreed in a common strategy.

Stakeholders: experts



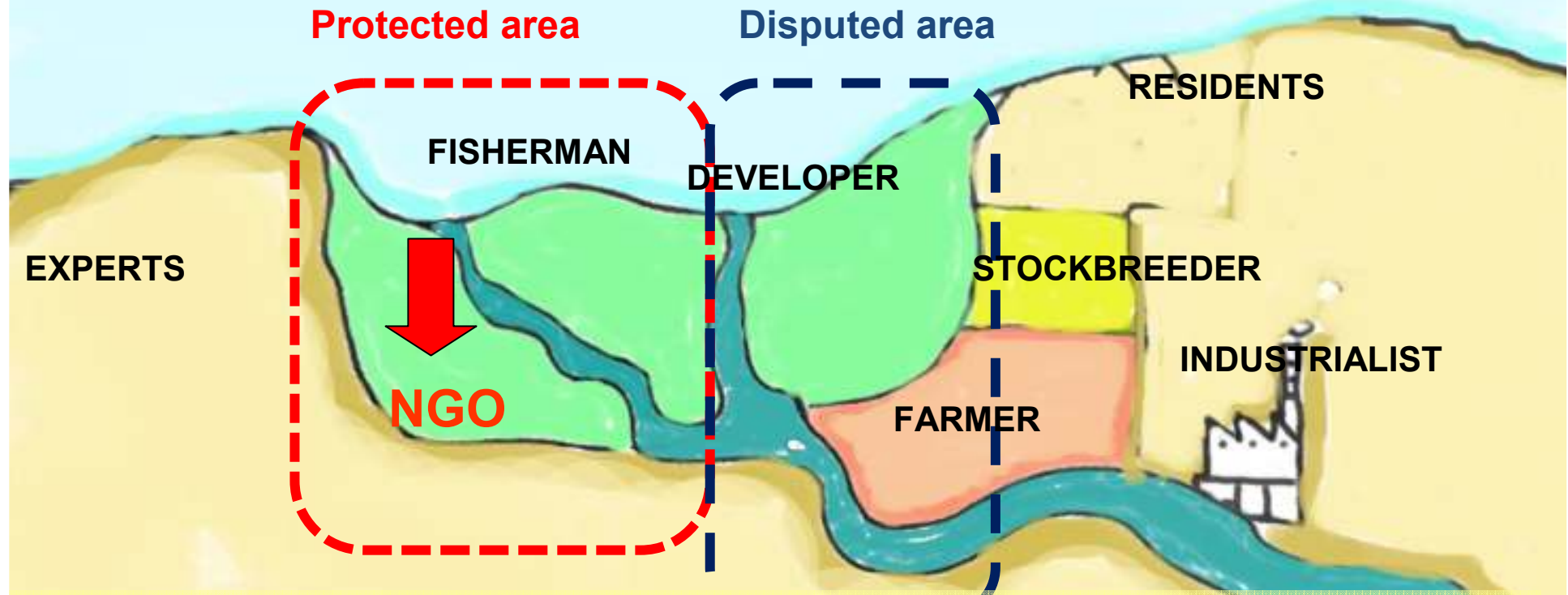
The Local Authorities have invited independent experts to help the dialogues between the stakeholders so that common solutions can be found. They are wetland specialists, sociologists and economists that try to combine environmental, social and economic aspects in their approach. During the management committee meeting they will emphasize the impacts of the activities proposed and will be responsible for facilitating and organising the votes. Since they don't have any claim on the wetland they are the most impartial stakeholder.

Stakeholders: NGO



The NGO has fought and managed to create a Protected Area (PA) east of the wetland. The area is the habitat and breeding ground for two threatened bird species and an endemic wildflower. They have observed a deterioration of the water quality because of the industrial and agricultural pollution. They have also observed a decline in biodiversity in some parts of the wetland. They are worried about the potential sale of land in the disputed area to the developers. They fear the consequences it will have on the ecosystem, the species and their habitat.

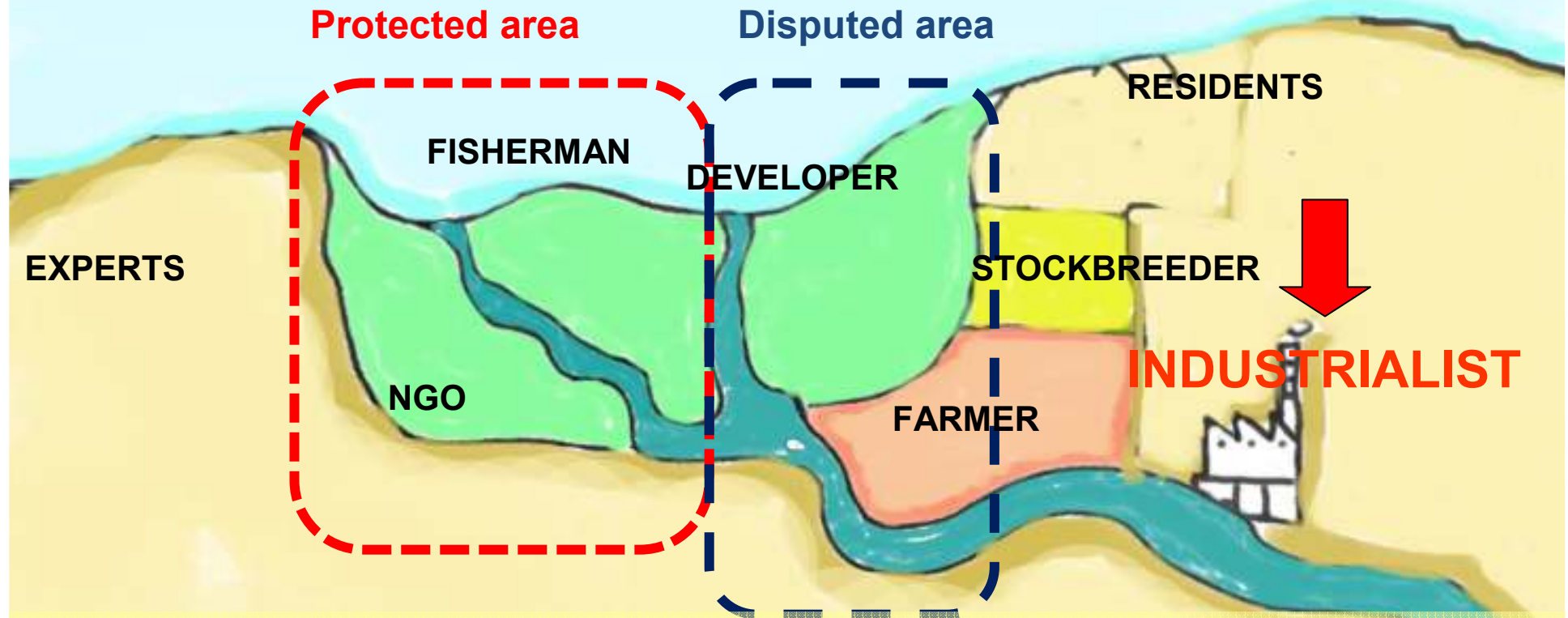
Stakeholders: NGO (continued)



The NGO would like to extend the protected area to the whole wetland in order to ensure the ecological integrity. They also want to see better systems for farming, fishing and stockbreeding. They would like the industrialist and the Local Authorities to create waste water treatment plant.

In their opinion, ecotourism would be a good way to develop the area and they have already started supporting the fisherman who has started a small canoe/pedalo renting. They bring groups of students and visitors for environmental education and reinforce research activities from the local university.

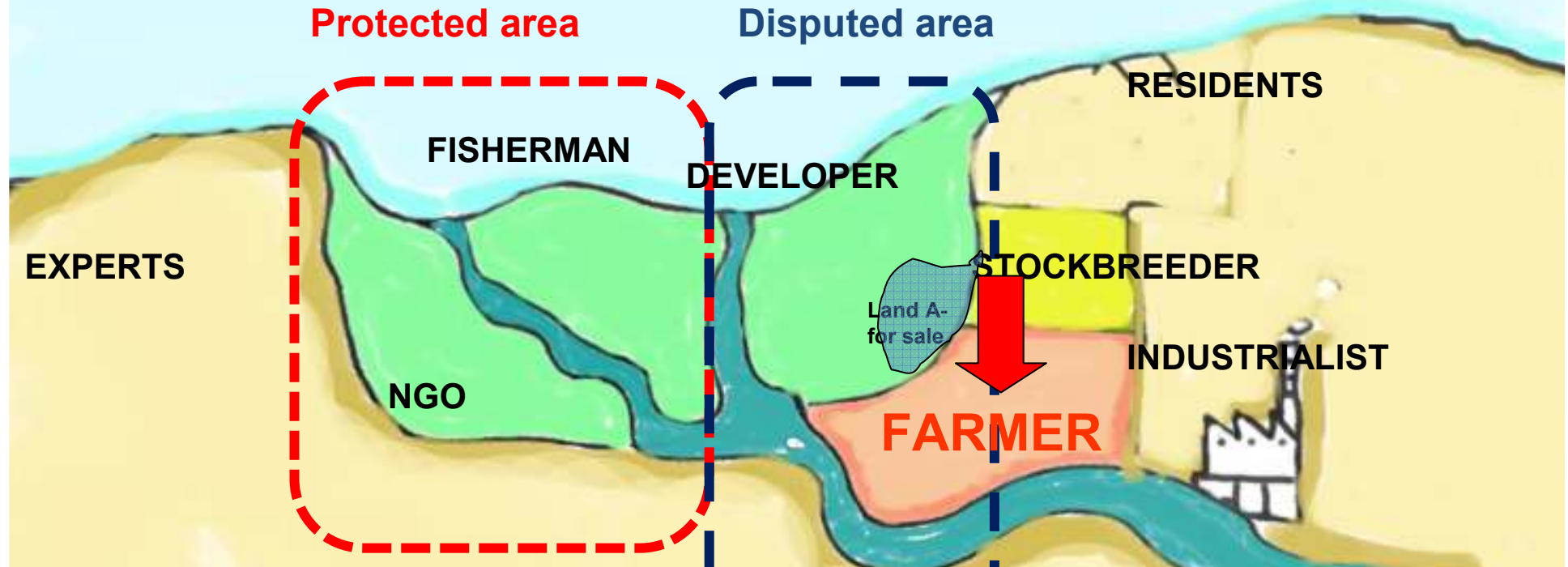
Stakeholders: Industrialist



The industrialist has a traditional unit of packaging milk and is getting part of it from the local stockbreeder. He wants to expand his business and start a packaging unit for other products like beans, vegetables, fish etc. However, he does not have a waste management system for the by-products of his industry which mainly ends up in the wetland. If he expands his factory, he will not be able to put a waste management system immediately due to lack of funds.

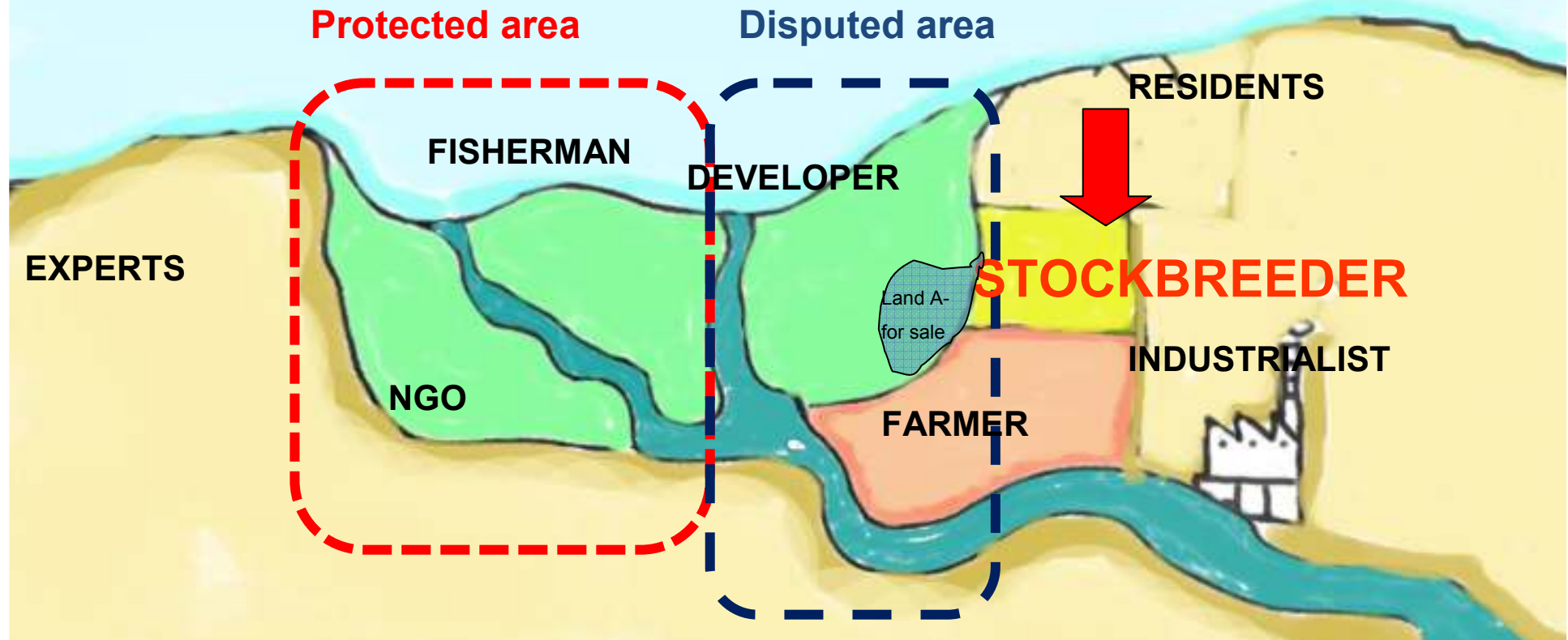
Of course, he is important for the local economy because he creates jobs and promotes local products but because he causes pollution he comes into conflict with the NGO, the fisherman, and the farmer.

Stakeholders: Farmer



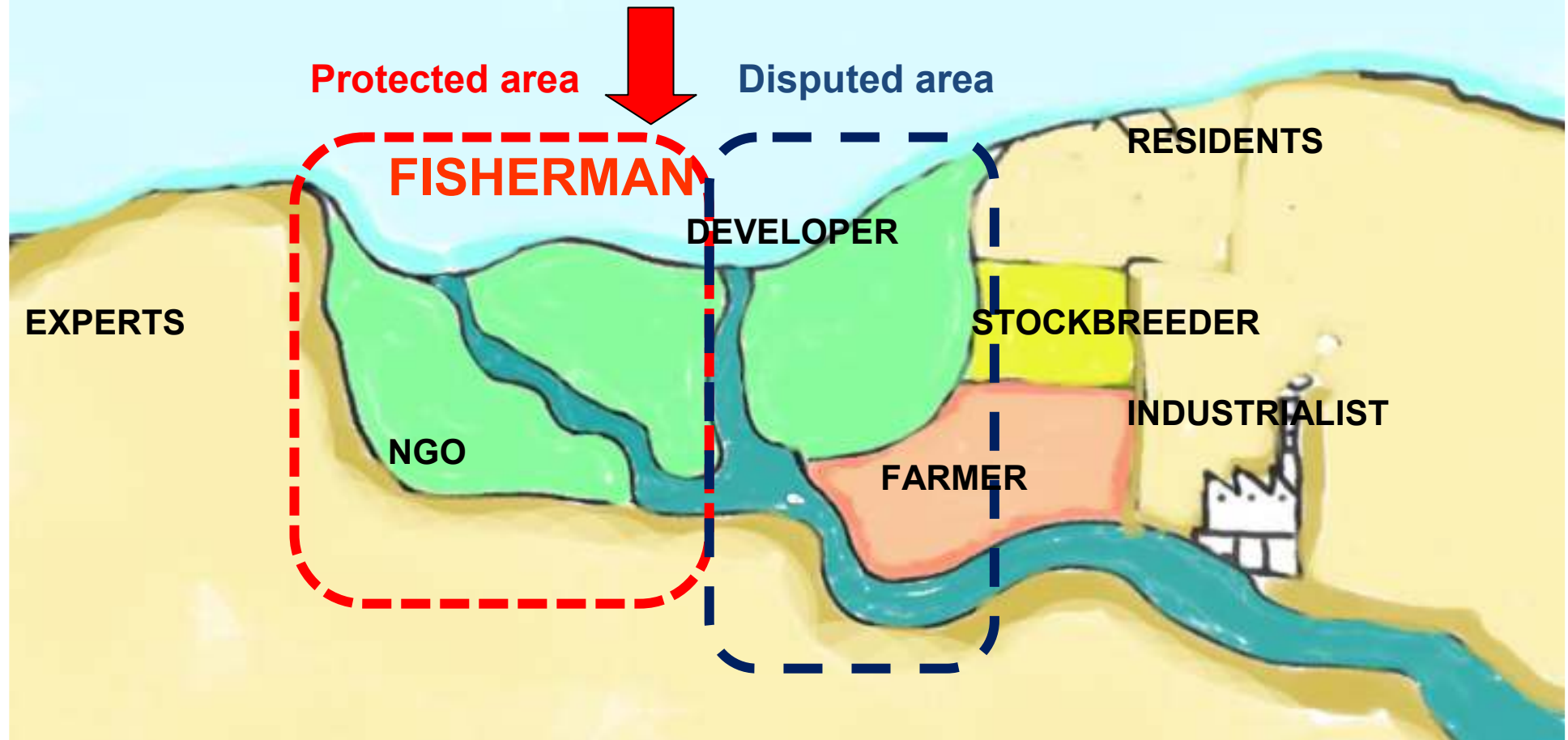
The farmer is cultivating beans and wheat on his plots and he wants to expand by buying Land A from the Local Authorities in order to plant corn which is more water demanding. He has already created small canals to direct some of the water to his farm from the river which feeds the wetland. This means that less water reaches the wetland. The pesticides he uses are strong and end up in the wetland which causes pollution and increases eutrophication. For this reason he has come into conflict with the NGO and the fisherman. He has put a fence around his land because the stockbreeders' animals were trespassing. He is also interested in enforcing the PA in order to support the community of a type of small falcon, which breeds on the wetland and feeds on the pests that live on his crops.

Stakeholders: Stockbreeder



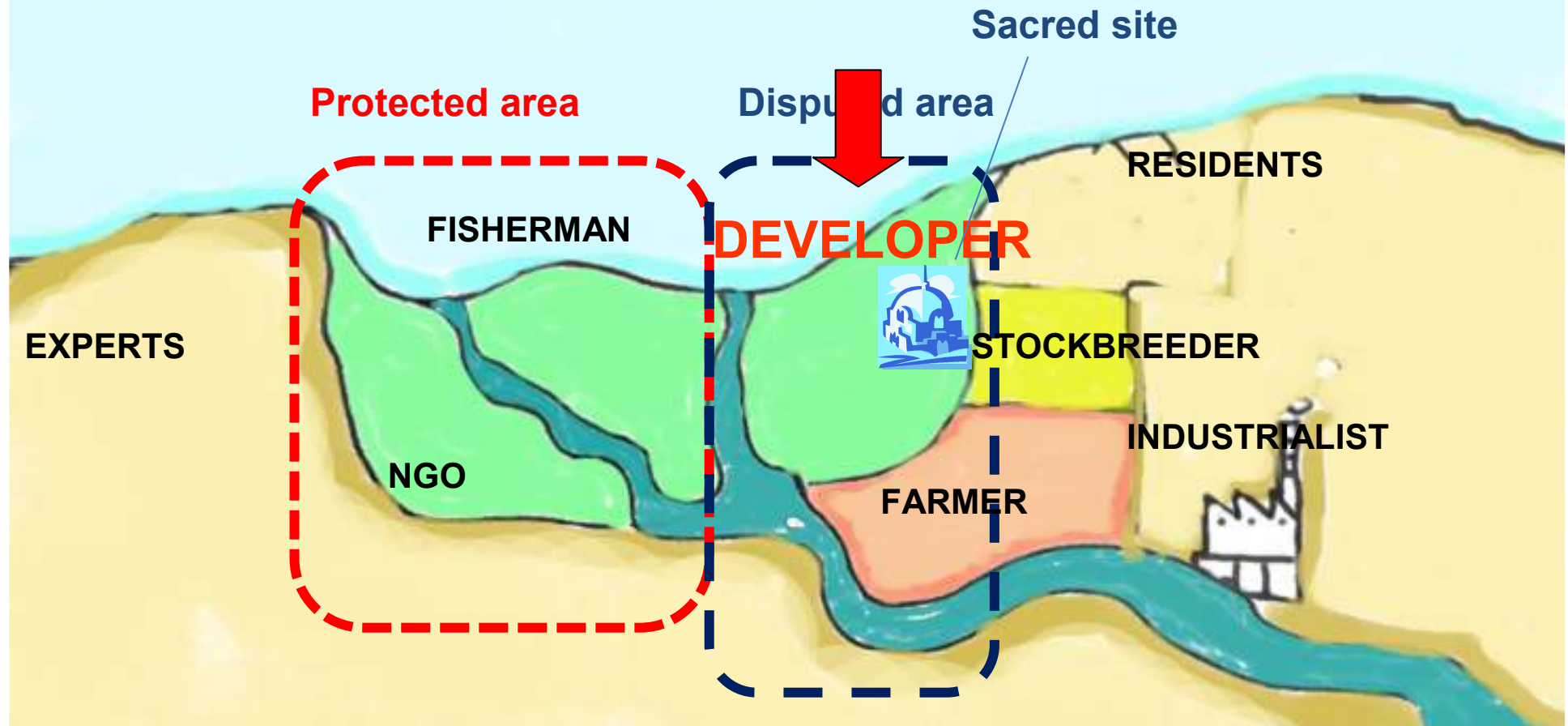
The stockbreeder wants to buy Land A from the Local Authorities so that he can increase the number of animals he owns. At the moment, the animals graze freely and often enter the PA where they eat the wildflower and destroy bird nests. This brings him into conflict with all stakeholders that want to protect the PA. He has no organized system of treating the animal waste which ends up in the wetland and that puts him in conflict with the residents, the fisherman etc. He is collaborating with the industrialist and gives him the milk produced by his animals to be pasteurised and packaged.

Stakeholders: Fisherman



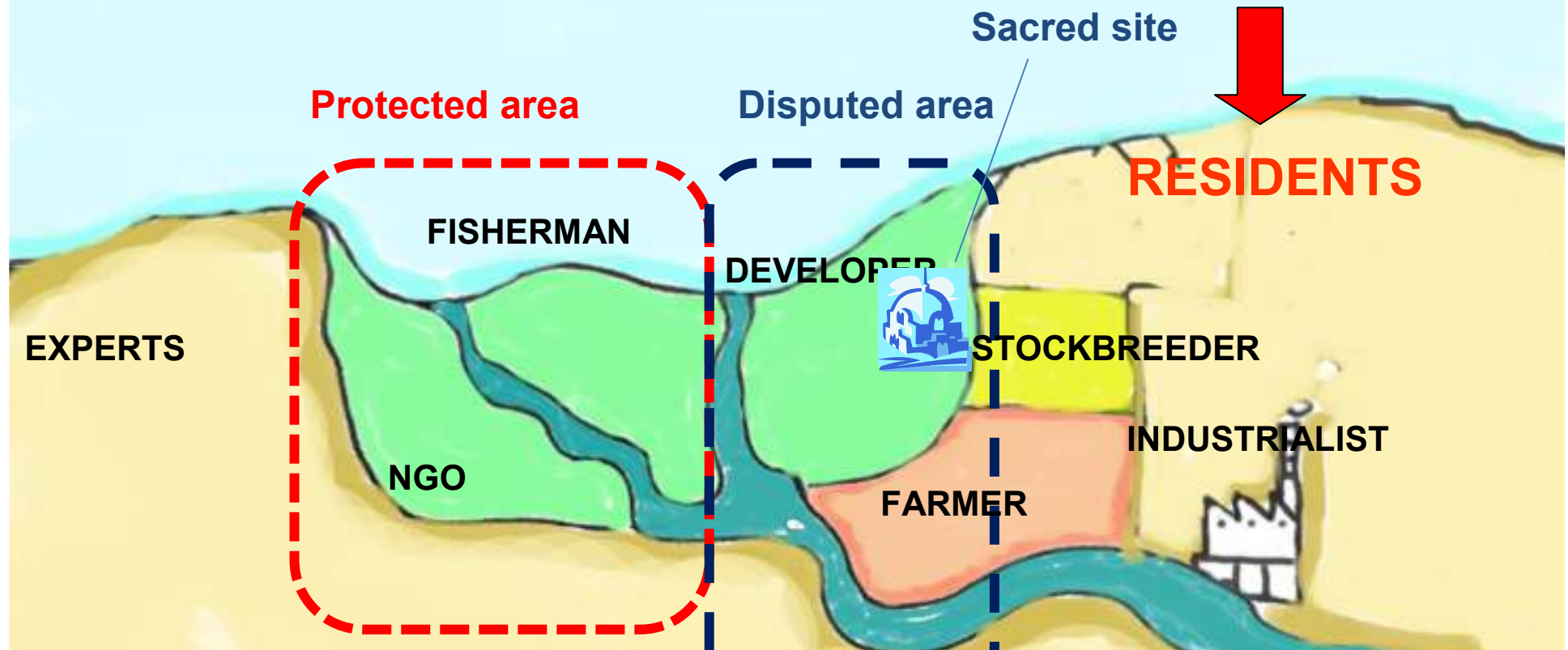
The fisherman has a survival problem because the number of fish in the wetland are decreasing due to the pollution and the unsustainable fishing practices used in the past. He has a very strong interest- stronger than other stakeholders in stopping the pollution in the wetland. With the help of the NGO he is involved in ecotourism (renting canoes, pedalos, guided tours for people wanting to know about traditional fishing practices). He is apprehensive about the touristic development the developers want to make because he fears it will affect his small scale ecotourism venture.

Stakeholders: Developer



Local and national developers, want to invest on the coast and build areas of summer residences and a resort for tourists which will provide activities like golf, jet ski, water ski, quads etc. The farmer is favourable towards this development because he believes he will be able to sell his products but the NGO and the fisherman are against. The residents are worried because there is a sacred site adjacent to the area that would be developed and are torn about the value of this investment. The developers are worried about the odours coming from the stockbreeders animals and the aesthetic degradation of an extension of the industrialists unit.

Stakeholders: Residents



They have a strong interest in many issues like job creation, health issues, environmental protection etc. The majority of residents have some connection with the fishermen, the stockbreeders, the farmers. Also, some work for the NGO and the industrialists factory. They don't want to see the sacred site destroyed and they are particularly concerned with the water quality because recently there has been a high increase in intestinal problems in young children of the community which may potentially be linked to the water. They are worried about pollution in the wetland particularly the stockbreeder not treating the animal waste as the mother's union believes that this might lead to disease. Many residents don't appreciate the wetlands because they think it brings mosquitoes to the area