

Diversification of South Africa's water supplies under conditions of drought



Shafick Adams



The Water Research Commission

- **Created by the Water Research Act, 1971.**
- **Water quantity and quality are critical to South Africa's long-term sustainability.**
- **Research and development have provided for the development of policies and strategies that allow for the sustainability of our water resources.**
- **Emphasises the important role of water-centred knowledge in the past, & its increasingly important role in providing knowledge which will allow us to deal with new challenges that are facing our limited water resources in future.**
- **Unique in that it is funded through a levy on sold water.**

The WRC's mandate

Last amended Oct. 1996; Act highlights:

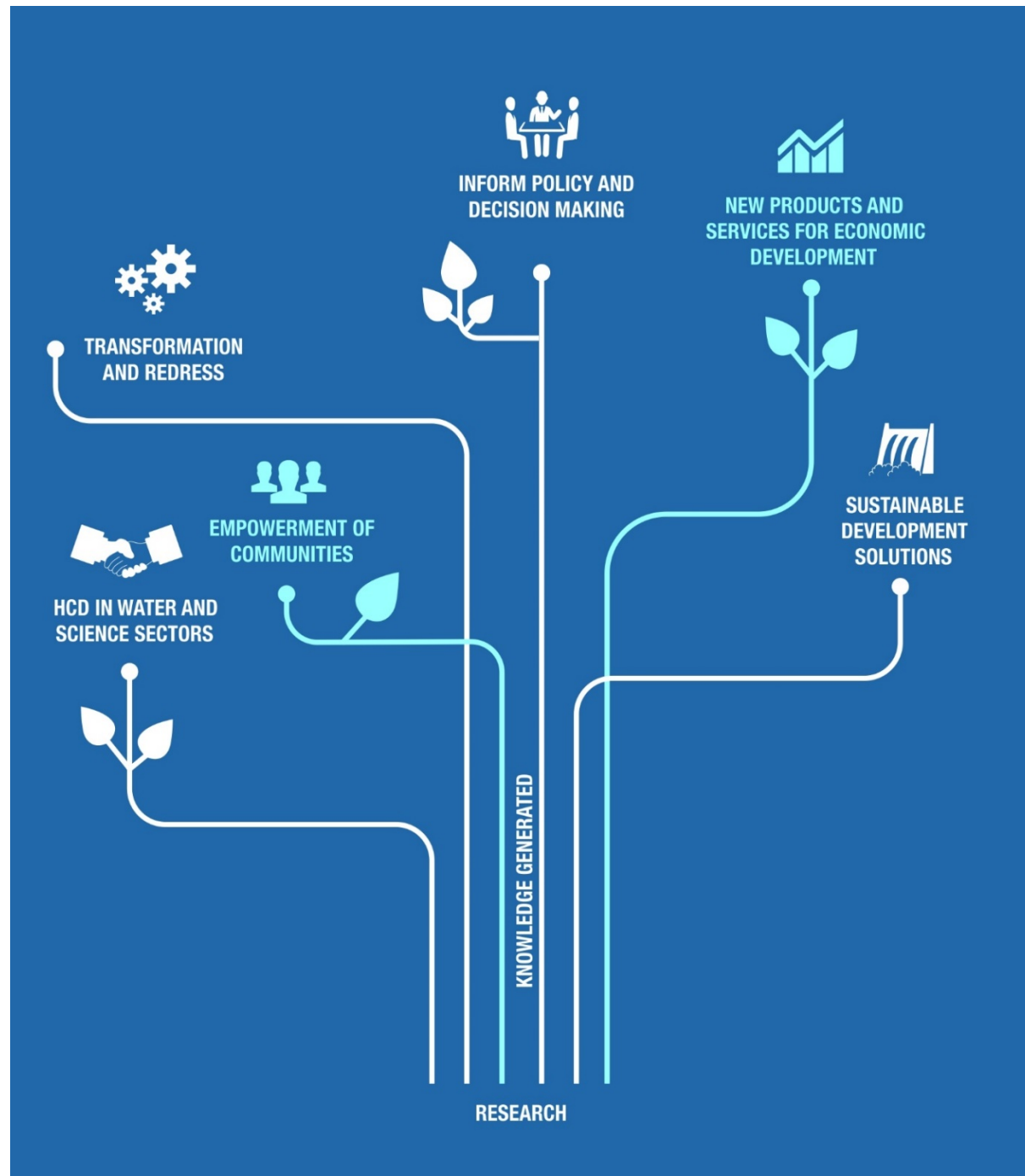
- **Promoting co-ordination, co-operation and communication in the area of water research and development.**
- **Establishing water research needs and priorities.**
- **Stimulating and funding water research according to priority.**
- **Promoting effective transfer of information and technology.**
- **Enhancing knowledge and capacity building within the water sector.**

The Water Research Commission

Strategic priorities

- **To solve water and water-related problems which are critical to South Africa's sustainable development and economic growth, and are committed to promoting a better quality of life for all**
- **Fundamental research – that leads to a solution**
- **Applied research**
- **Innovations and novel solutions**
- **From Research Outputs to Application**

Knowledge Tree



Linked by Stress

WATER STRESS BY COUNTRY

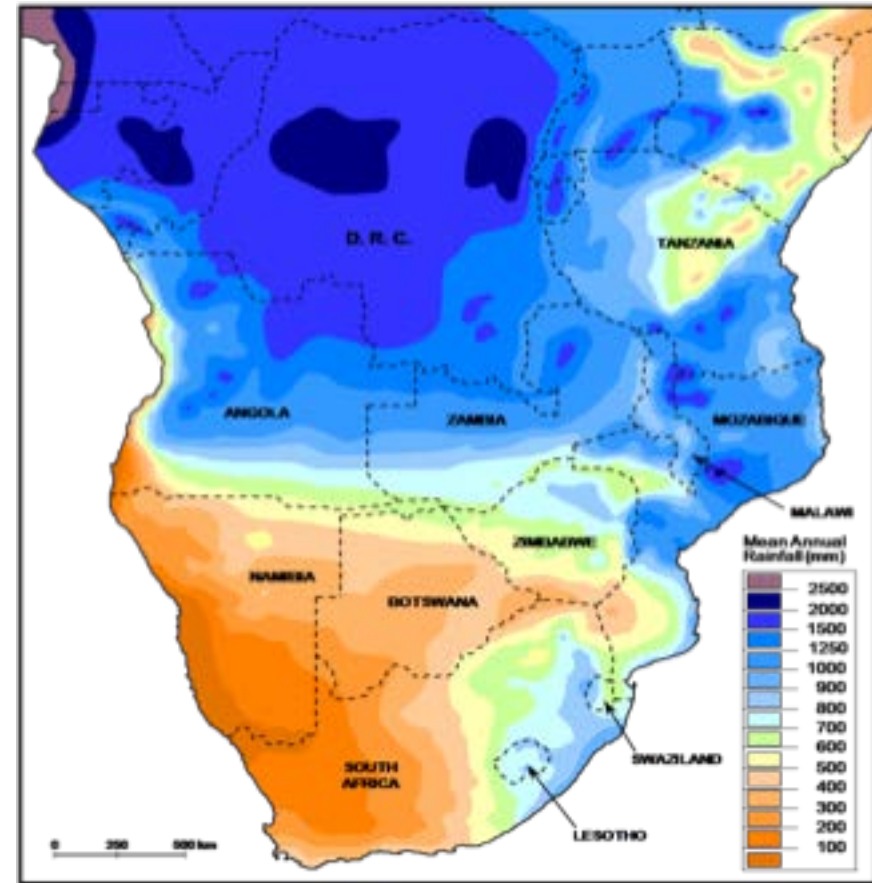
ratio of withdrawals to supply

- Low stress (< 10%)
- Low to medium stress (10-20%)
- Medium to high stress (20-40%)
- High stress (40-80%)
- Extremely high stress (> 80%)

This map shows the average exposure of water users in each country to water stress, the ratio of total withdrawals to total renewable supply in a given area. A higher percentage means more water users are competing for limited supplies. Source: WRI Aqueduct, Gassert et al. 2013

Average Annual Rainfall & Water Resource Situation

- South Africa is characterized by a skewed distribution of rainfall,
- High solar radiation and high evaporation rate
- Rainfall high: 1500mm N & E; reduces towards S & W: 100mm;
- Water availability is accordingly skewed in terms of distribution
- Evaporation rates far exceeds precipitation (relatively higher in areas where it rains less)
- Water is not always fit for use, even under natural conditions
- This translates into water scarcity (even before taking climate change or human induced impacts into account)
- Increased occurrence of extreme climate events.

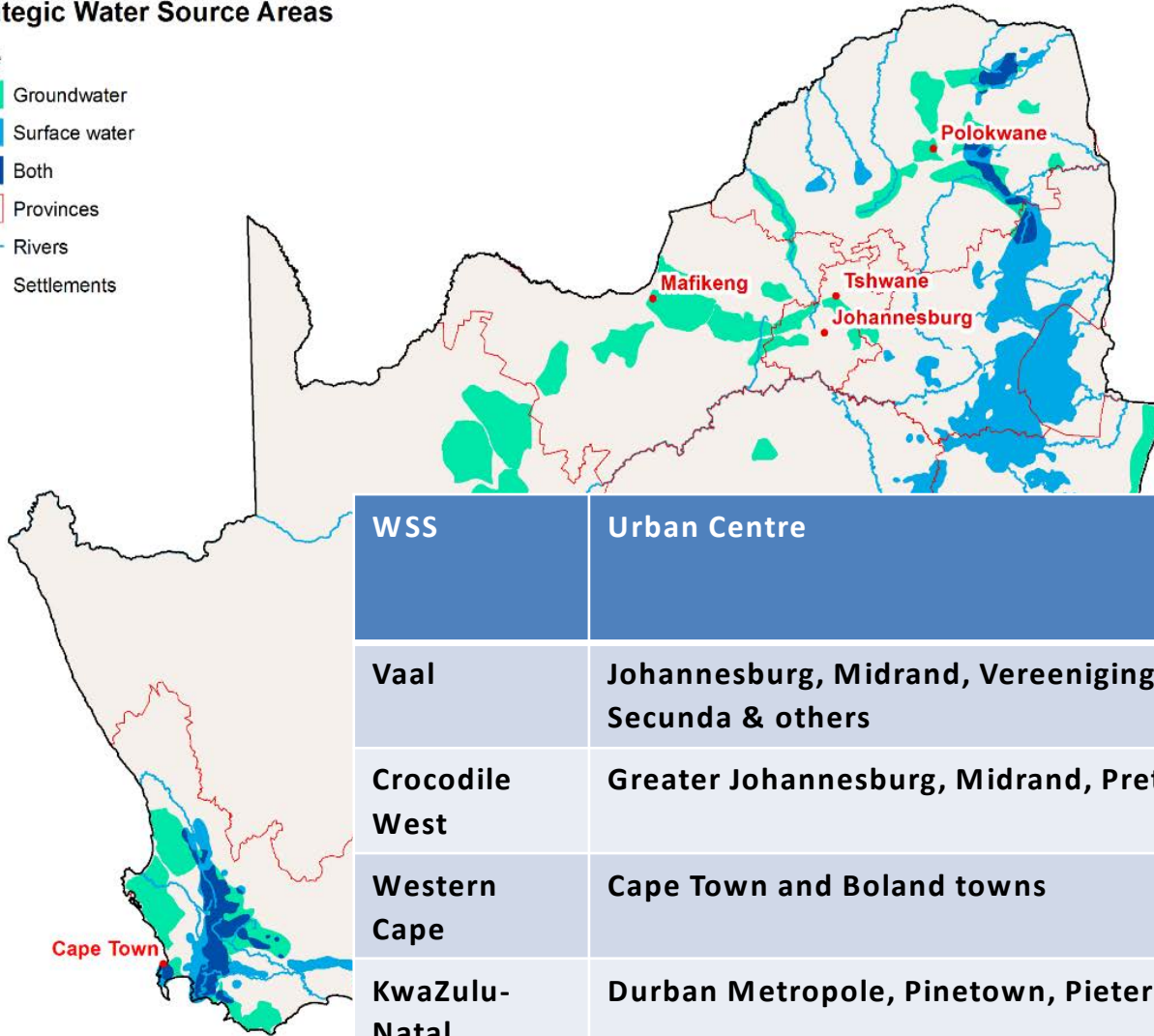


Water Source Areas

Strategic Water Source Areas

Type

- Groundwater
- Surface water
- Both
- Provinces
- Rivers
- Settlements

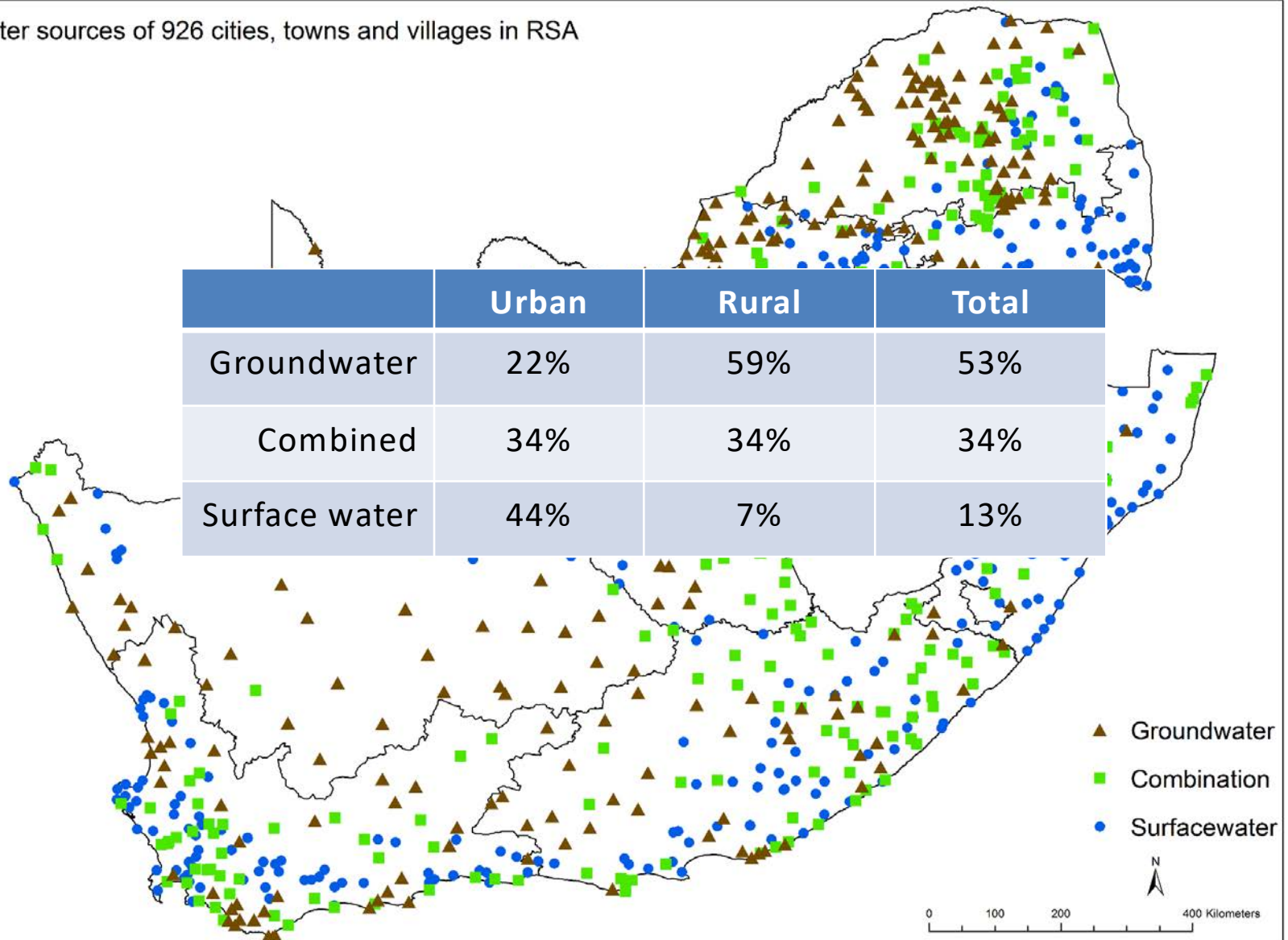


- Need to maintain ecological infrastructure
- Reduce streamflow reduction activities
- Regulate land use planning

WSS	Urban Centre	% linked to SWSA-sw
Vaal	Johannesburg, Midrand, Vereeniging, Rustenburg, Secunda & others	71
Crocodile West	Greater Johannesburg, Midrand, Pretoria (Tshwane)	>50
Western Cape	Cape Town and Boland towns	100
KwaZulu-Natal	Durban Metropole, Pinetown, Pietermaritzburg & others	98
Algoa	Nelson Mandela Metropol	91

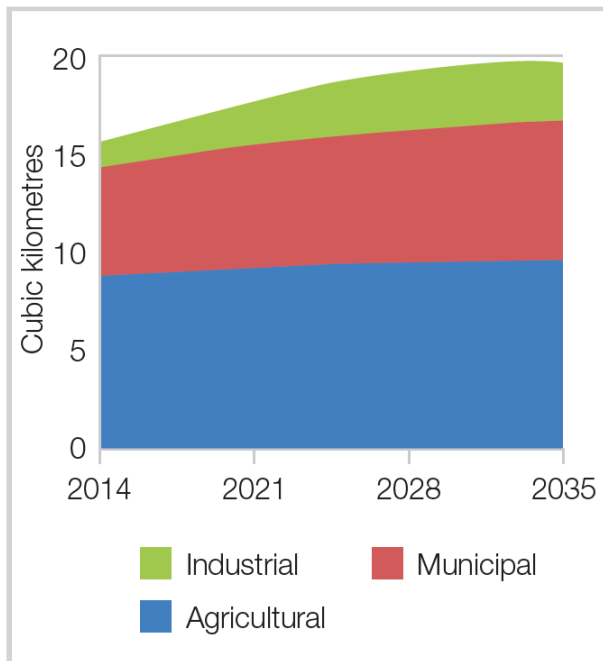
Source Water – Cities, Towns & Villages

Water sources of 926 cities, towns and villages in RSA

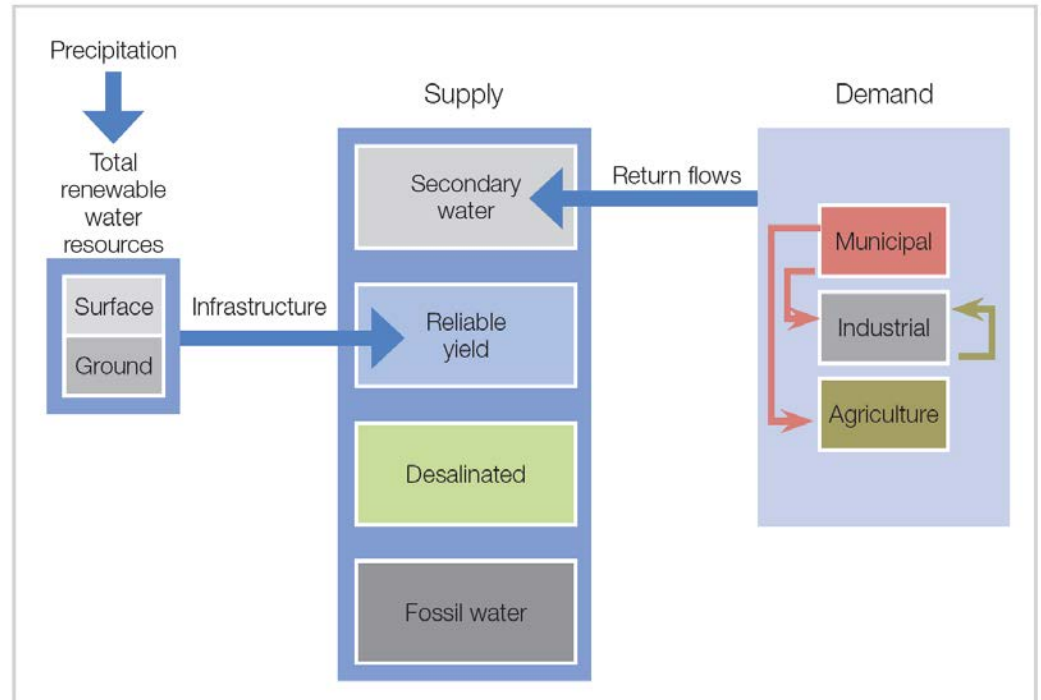


Supply and Demand Forecast

All forecasts indicate an increase in demand – like the International Futures Forecasting System. Data from NWRSS2



Source: International Futures (IFs) version 7.0.



The Need for Water Supply Expansion

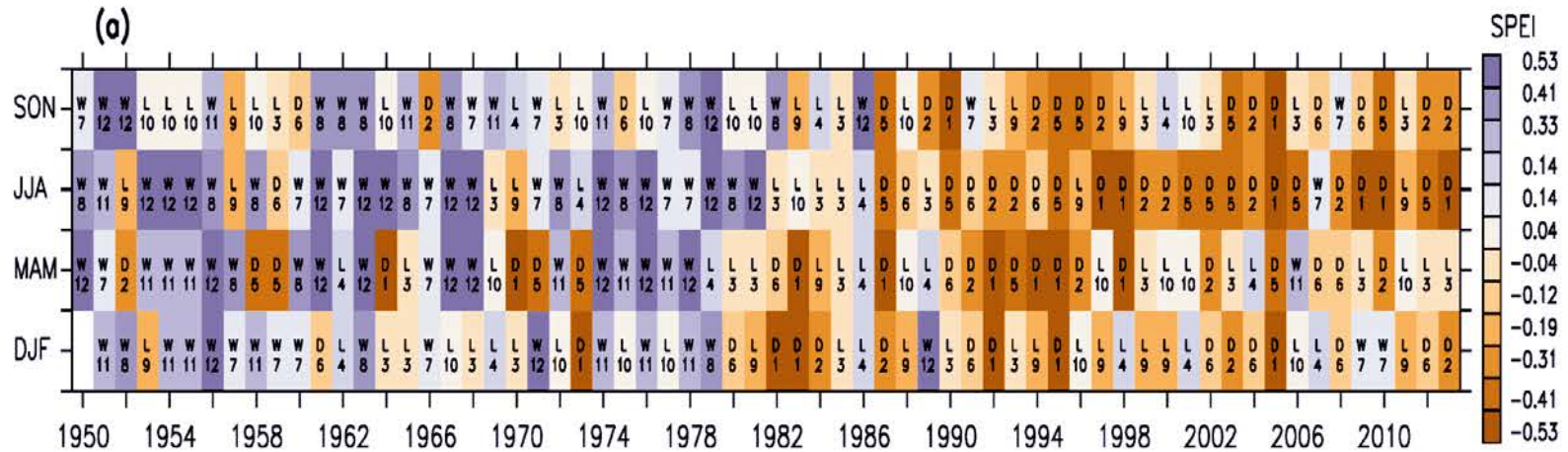
Drivers

- Semi-arid climate with low MAP of approximately 500
- Climate change and variability (frequency and intensity of droughts and floods)
- Limited water budget – 49 000 million cubic metres (WR2012 report)
- Limited storage
- Ever-growing demand for a limited water resource (agriculture, industry, domestic, ...)
- Population growth
- Inefficient use
- Urbanisation [65% of SA population live in urban areas
- Wastewater generation
- Water quality issues
- Siltation of dams
- Optimal sites for dams all developed
- Donor catchment for inter-basin transfer (IBT) experience own demand
- Food and energy security

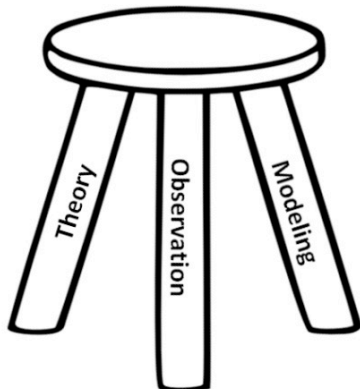
20th Century response

1. Government Water Policy driven by the construction of large dams, inter-basin transfer (IBT) schemes to store water.
2. Augmentation of dam storage (raising the height of existing dam)
3. Unsustainable exploitation of groundwater in some areas

Transition and Persistence of the Drought



- Seasonal transition of the drought patterns from year to year.
- The colours indicate the average SPEI over Southern Africa. The number in each colour shows drought tag number.
- The figure shows that while some drought patterns easily transit to other drought patterns, others can persist and linger for more than two seasons.

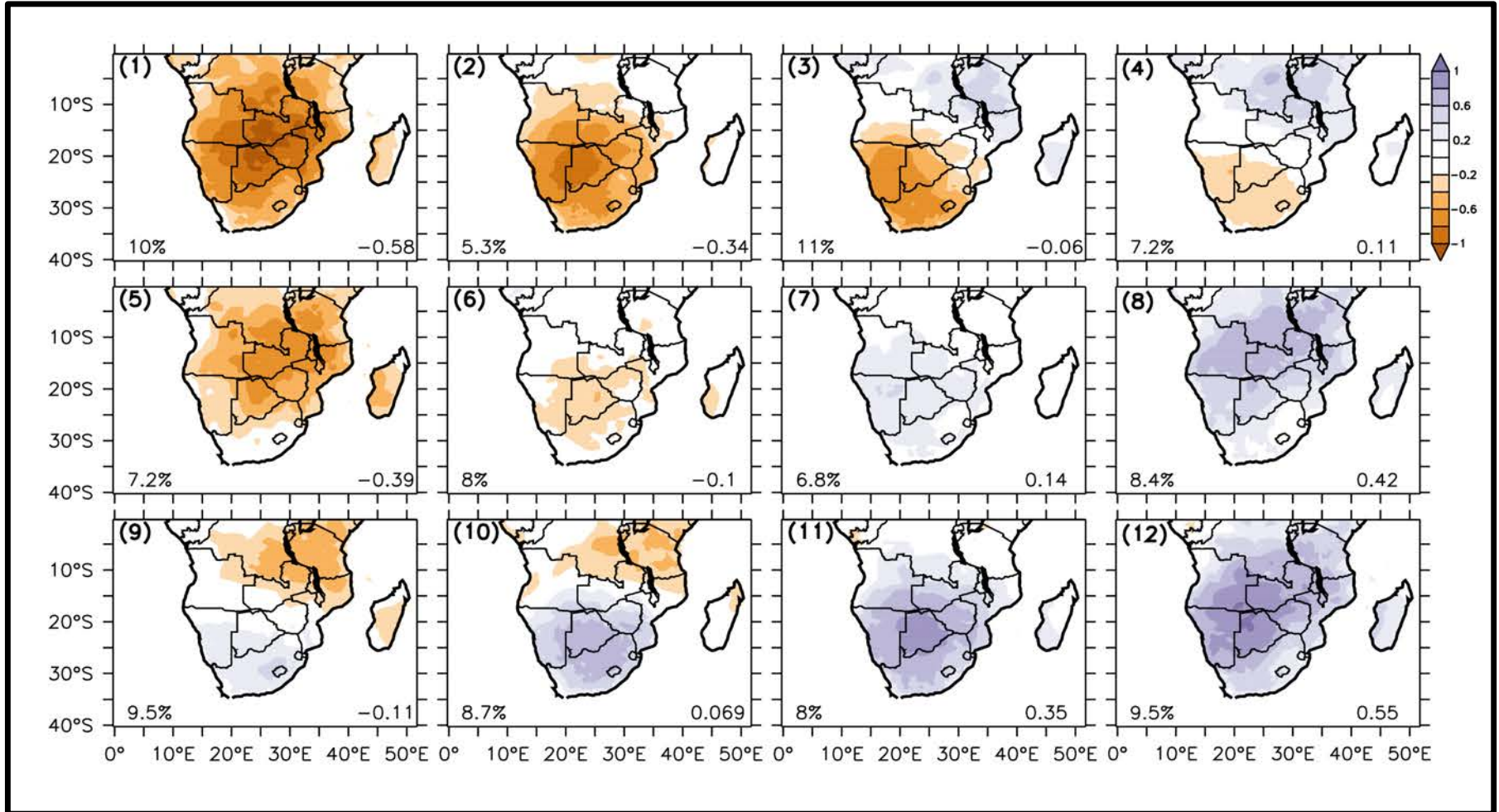


= Indicate that climate and weather is changing AND HAS CHANGED

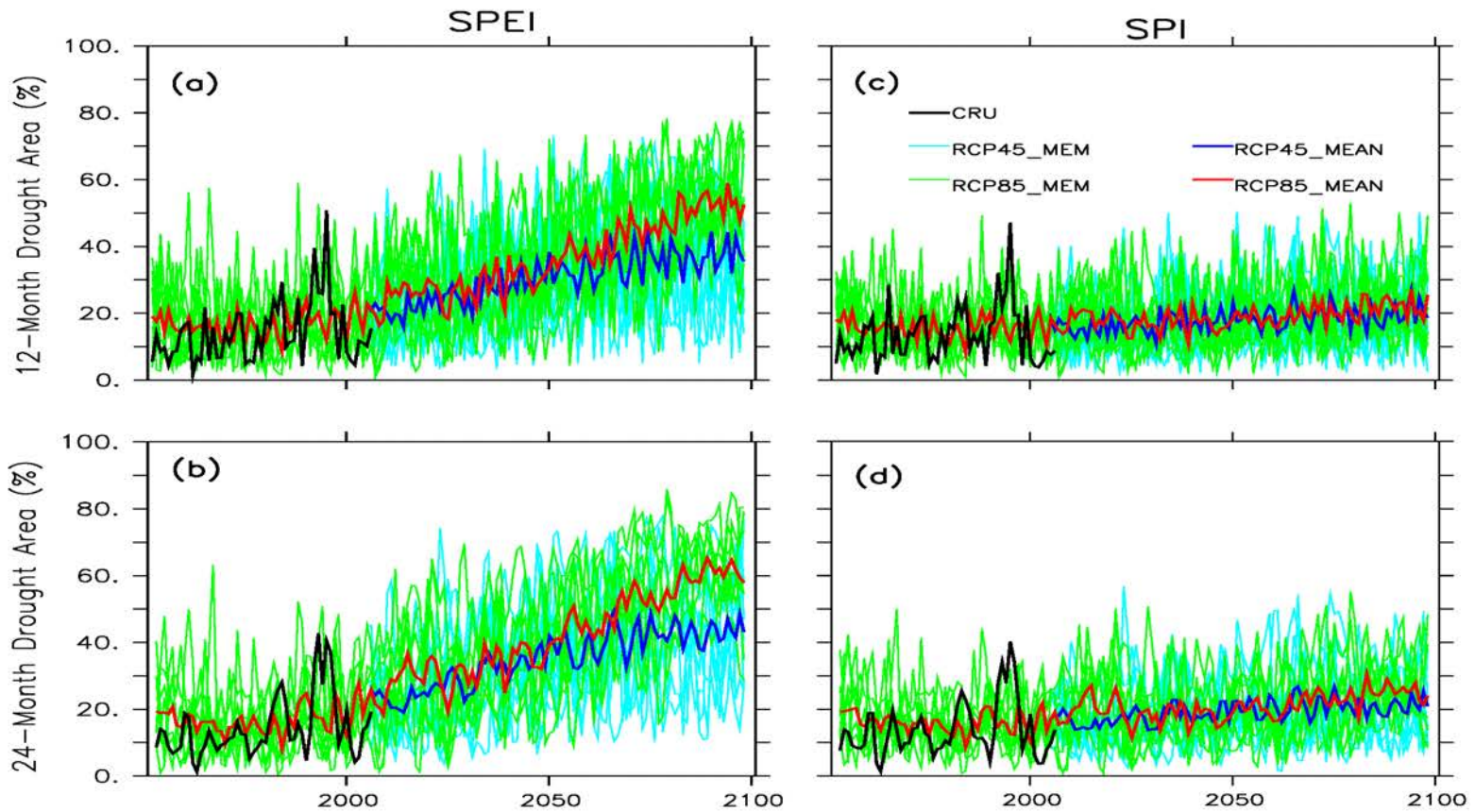
Theory provide a reason to expect a change. Observations confirm that a change is taking place and computational modelling determine whether the observations reconcile with the theory and, if so, to project future changes.

Source: Huber & Gullede (2011)

Major Drought Patterns over Southern Africa



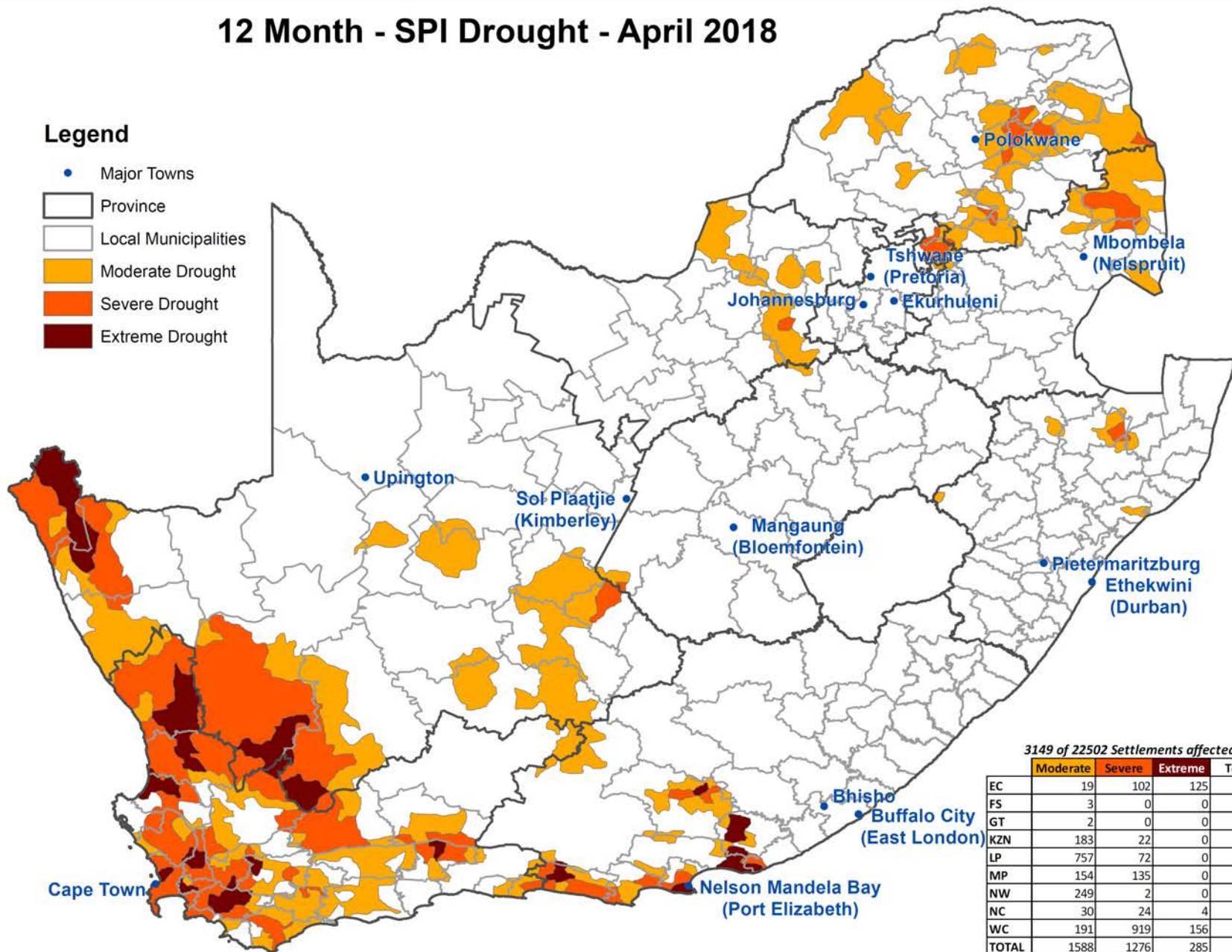
Future projections of percentage of Southern African area covered with drought



12 Month - SPI Drought - April 2018

Legend

- Major Towns
- Province
- Local Municipalities
- Moderate Drought
- Severe Drought
- Extreme Drought



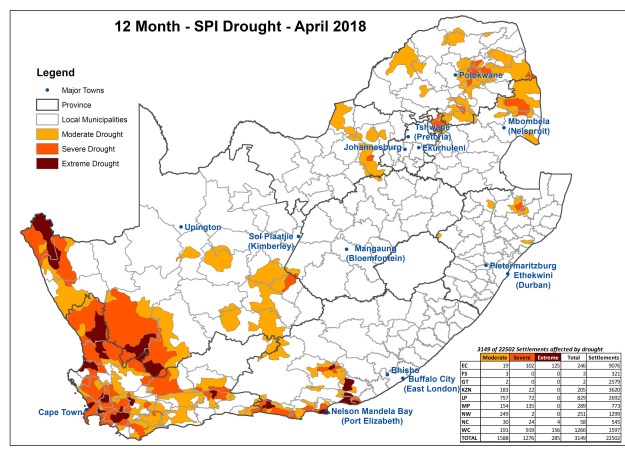
3149 of 22502 Settlements affected by drought

	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	Total	Settlements
EC	19	102	125	246	9076
FS	3	0	0	3	321
GT	2	0	0	2	2579
KZN	183	22	0	205	3620
LP	757	72	0	829	2692
MP	154	135	0	289	773
NW	249	2	0	251	1299
NC	30	24	4	58	545
WC	191	919	156	1266	1597
TOTAL	1588	1276	285	3149	22502

Areas affected by the drought ... not all about Cape Town

3149 of 22502 Settlements affected by drought

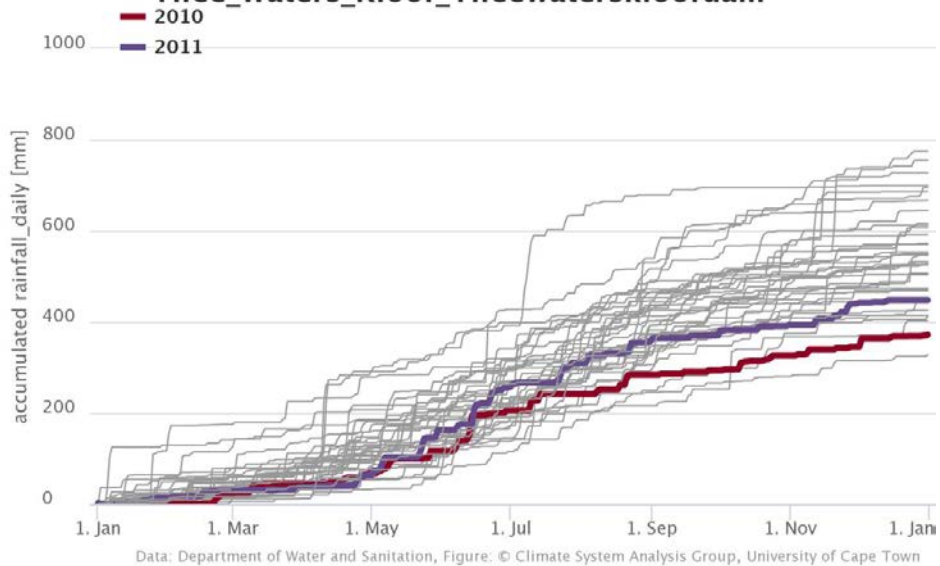
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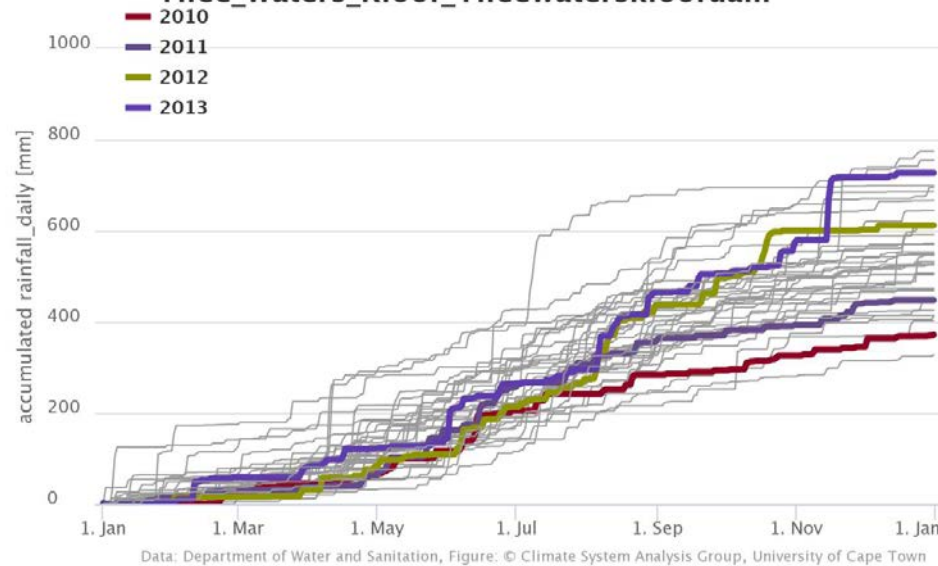
Water insecurity largely persists across rural areas

Source: DWS, NIWIS

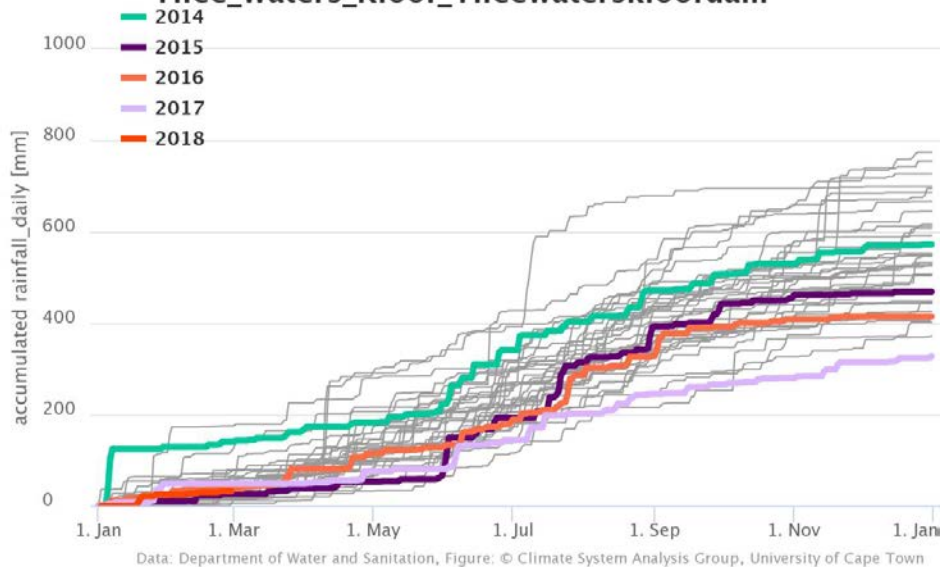
Accumulated daily rainfall at Thee_Waters_Kloof_Theewaterskloofdam



Accumulated daily rainfall at Thee_Waters_Kloof_Theewaterskloofdam



Accumulated daily rainfall at Thee_Waters_Kloof_Theewaterskloofdam

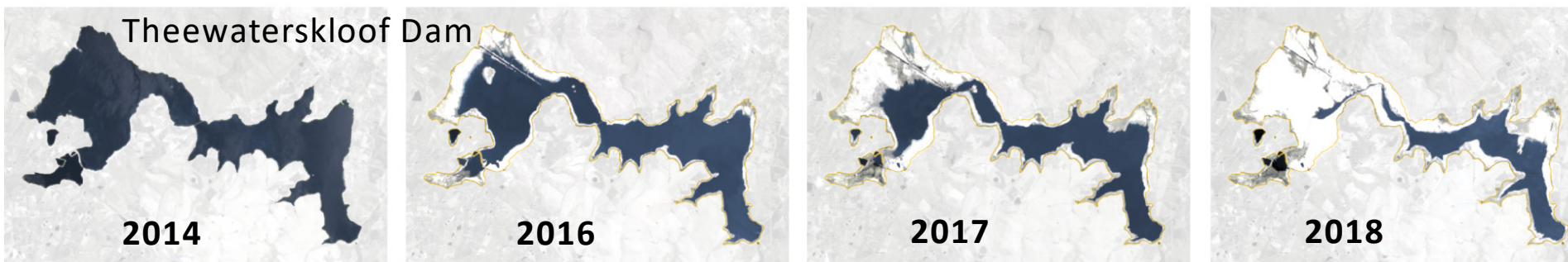
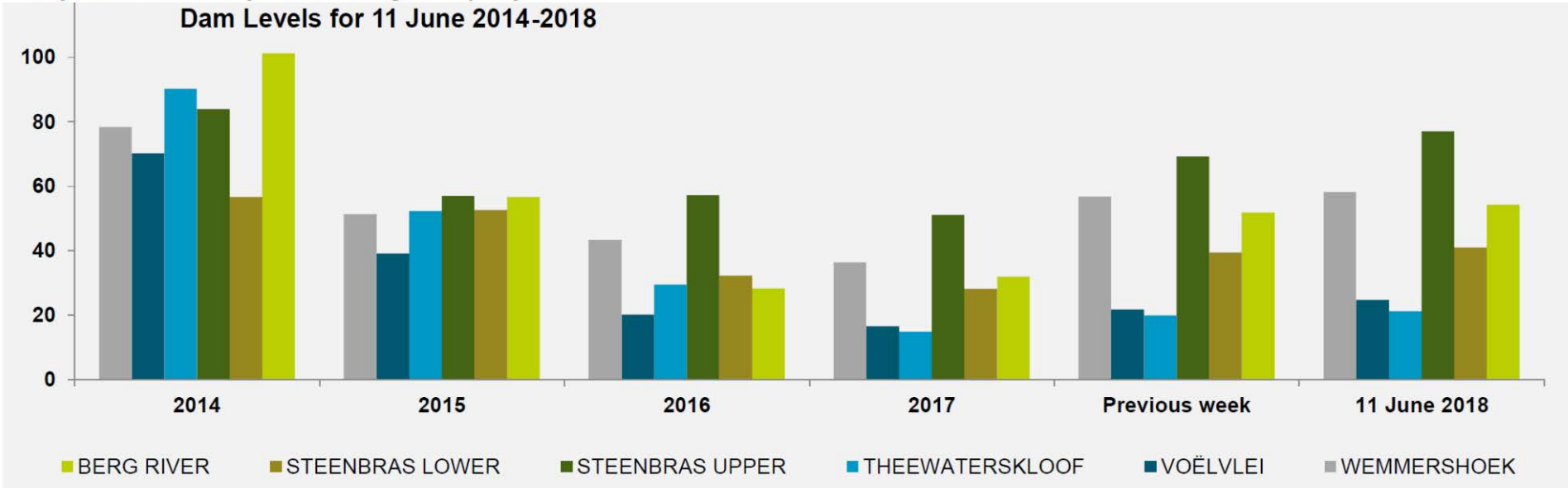


(www.csag.uct.ac.za/current-seasons-rainfall-in-cape-town/)

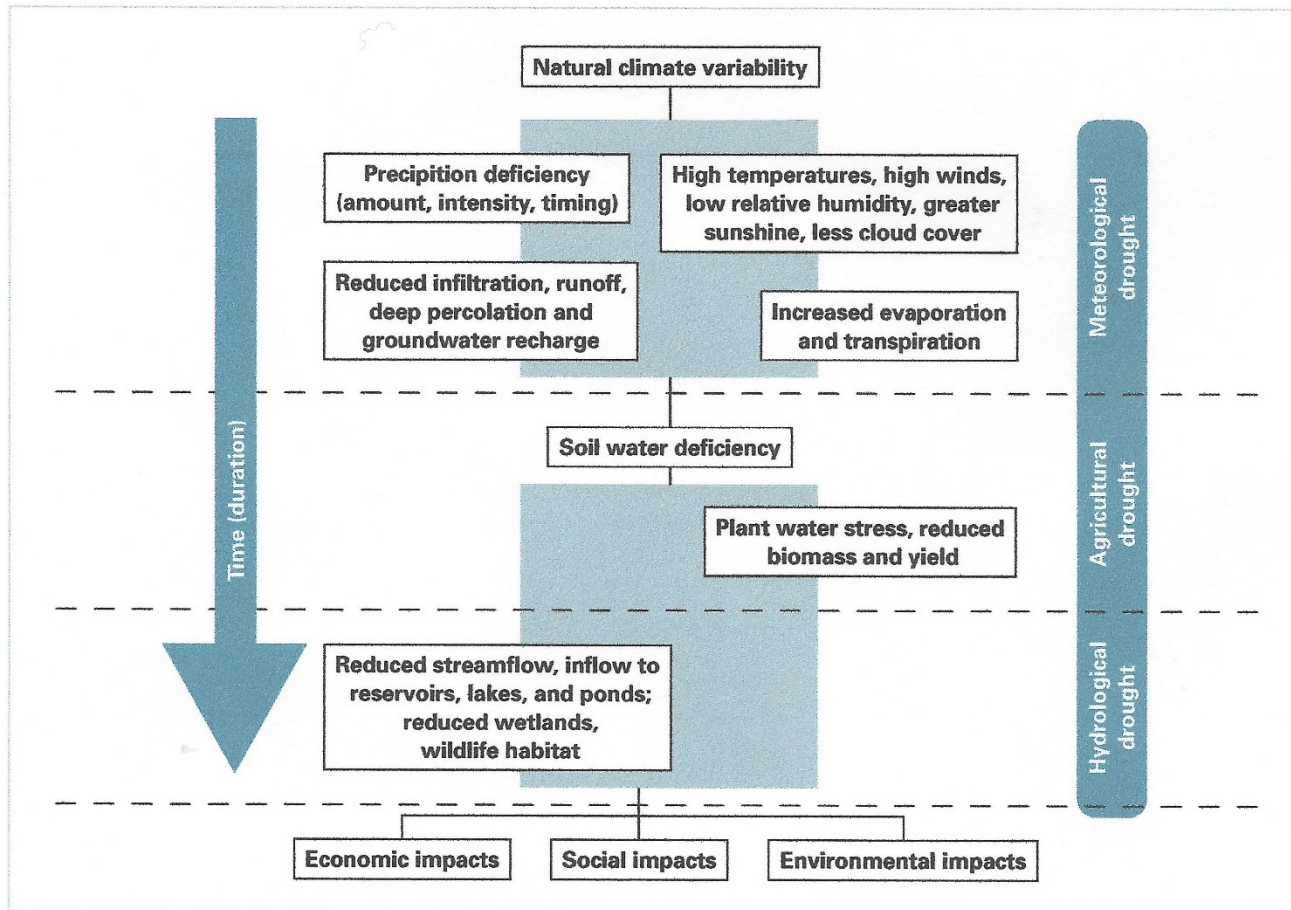
MAJOR DAMS	STORAGE						
	CAPACITY	%	%	%	%	%	%
	MI	11 June 2018	Previous week	2017	2016	2015	2014
BERG RIVER	130 010	54.3	51.8	31.9	28.3	56.6	101.3
STEENBRAS LOWER	33 517	40.9	39.5	28.2	32.3	52.7	56.6
STEENBRAS UPPER	31 767	77.0	69.2	51.2	57.2	57.0	84.0
THEEWATERSKLOOF	480 188	21.3	20.0	14.9	29.5	52.3	90.2
VOËLVLEI	164 095	24.8	21.8	16.7	20.1	39.2	70.2
WEMMERSHOEK	58 644	58.2	56.8	36.4	43.3	51.4	78.4
TOTAL STORED	898 221	285 651	267 501	187 424	265 813	455 038	771 722
% STORAGE		31.8	29.8	20.9	29.6	50.7	85.9

NOTES:

1) Capacity of the major dams of the Western Cape Water Supply System is 99.6% and that of the minor dams 0.4% of the combined capacity of the major and minor dams. Kindly note that all the Major Dams show gross capacity.



Understanding droughts

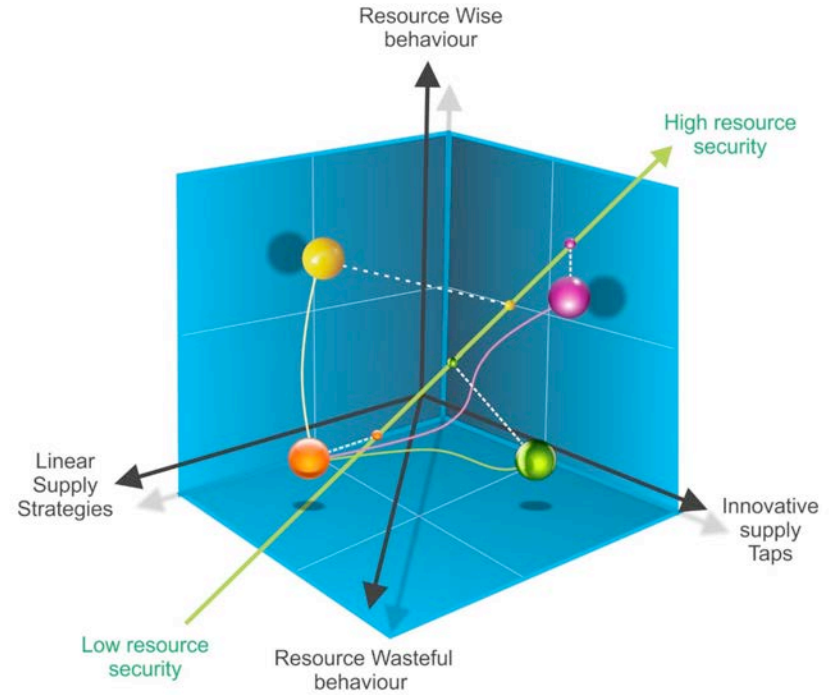
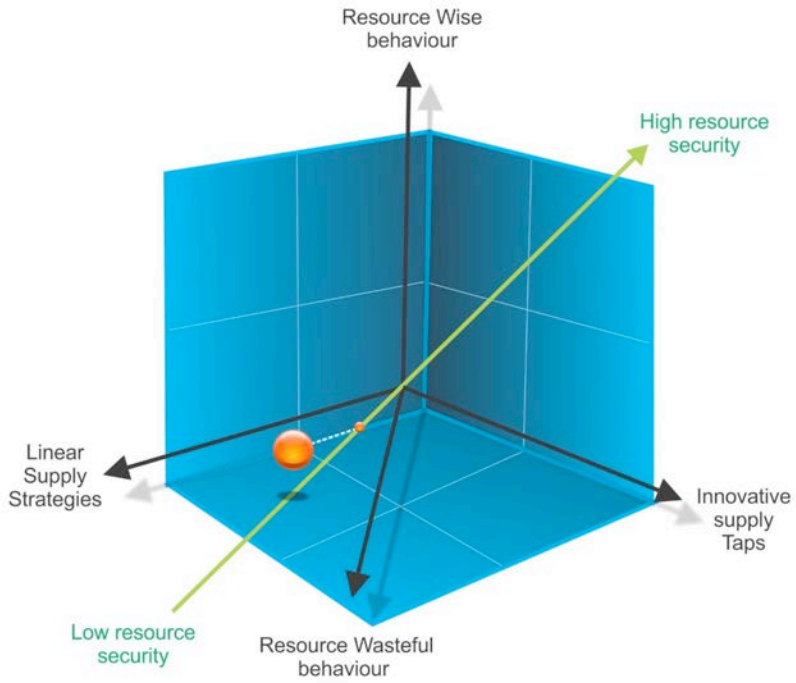


Source: National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, USA, in WMO, 2006



Access to water supply services “drought”

Path to water security



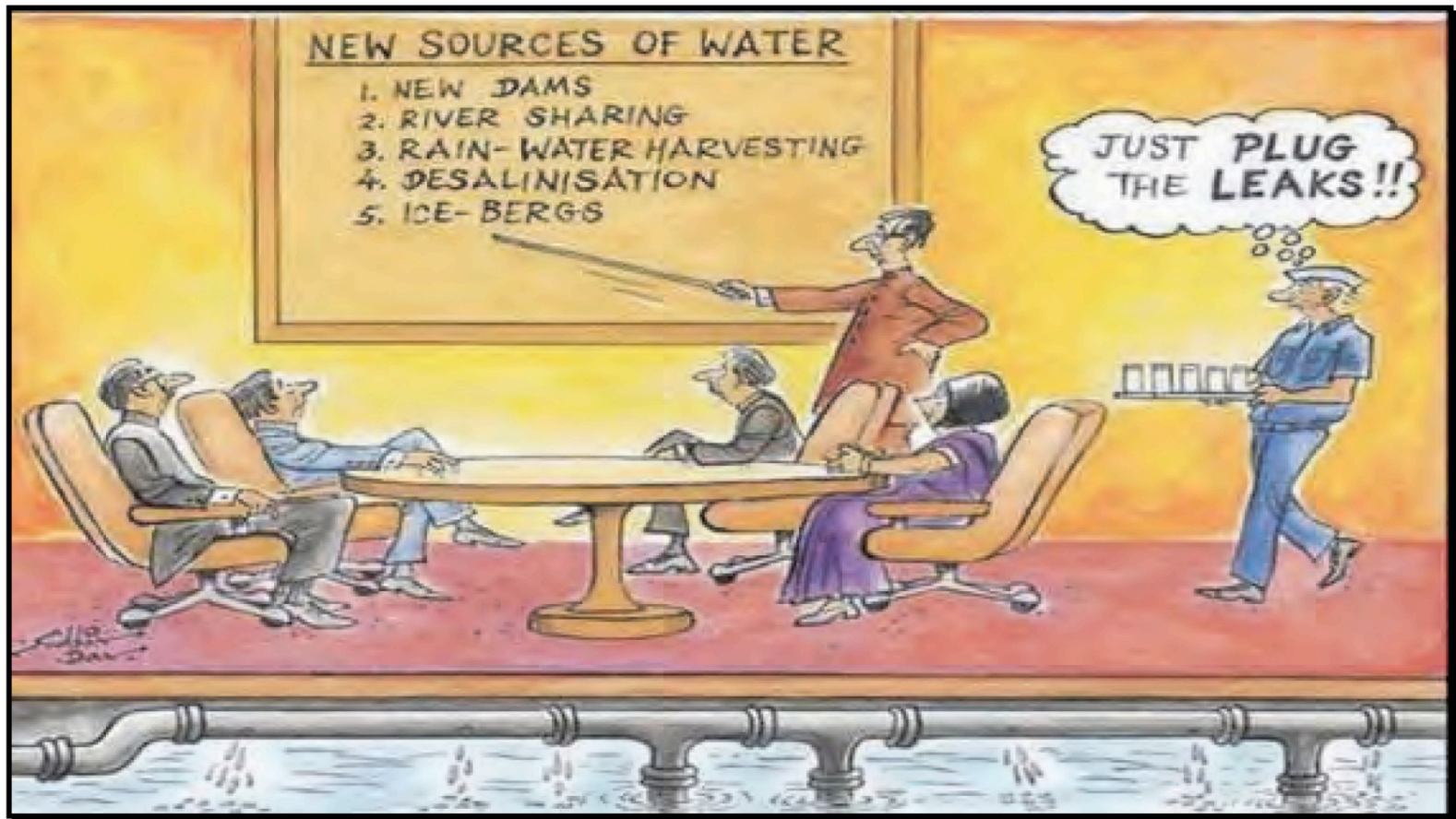


Figure 4: Fix the obvious! (Courtesy World Bank: Water and Sanitation Sector)

Diversifying Supply Mix

Several sources of alternative water resources:

1. Desalination (seawater, brackish groundwater)
2. Rain water (harvested from roofs and in-field for agriculture)
3. Groundwater (enhanced recharge, deep groundwater)
4. Greywater (direct and indirect reuse)
5. Storm water (harvested and stored in detention reservoirs, recharged to aquifers)
6. Mine water (acid mine drainage, non-impacted, decant)
7. Waste water (direct and indirect reuse)
8. Fog (harvested using fog nets)
9. Cloud seeding to enhance rainfall
10. Icebergs



Improved prediction of climate and hydrological responses



- A. Water sensitive design
- B. Water wise use & behaviours
- C. Water Conservation and Demand Management (water saving devices, toilets, etc.)
- D. Efficient agricultural practices
- E. Enforcement of bylaws and regulations
- F. Good land use planning

= Water – Food – Energy – Environmental - Economic Security

Identifying “new” sources

High-Yielding Groundwater Areas Around the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality

Ricky Murray
Marc Goedhart
Jane Baron

Optimising Fog Water Harvesting in South Africa



Direct potable reuse

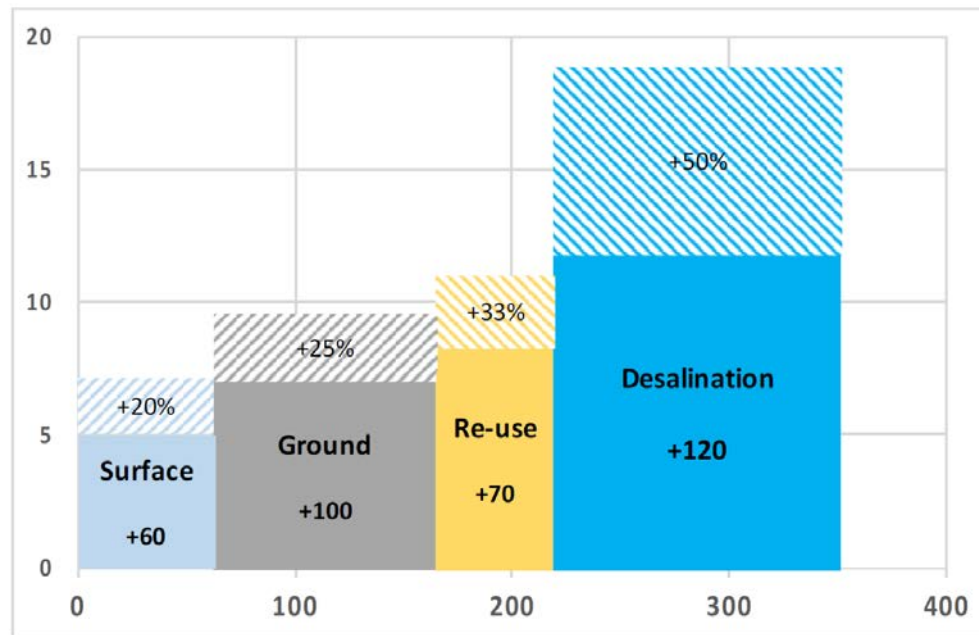


Windhoek, Namibia

Unit Costs – Cape Town

Source	Target yield MLD	Notes
Ground	100	More could be abstracted from ground water sources in dry years.
Re-use	70	One large re-use reclamation plant (economies of scale)
Desalination	120	Optimal scale for desalination is 120-150 MLD
Surface water	60	Lower Berg River Voelviei Augmentation scheme
Total (diverse sources)	350	

Target Unit Costs and uncertainty (Rand per thousand liters)



Additional supply - Million liters per day (MLD)

5 ZAR/1000 litres = USD 0.4/264.2 gallons

Source: City of Cape Town

Overview of Groundwater in South Africa

- 13-15 % of water supplied is from groundwater.
- 60% of communities supplied by groundwater and increases to 90% for some provinces.
- **Total volume of available** renewable groundwater is estimated to be between **10 343 million m³/annum (7 500 million m³/annum under drought conditions)**.
- **Current use** is estimated between **2 000 – 4 000 million m³/annum**.
- Prior to 1998 – Groundwater was considered ‘Private’ and did not feature prominently in any water resources planning.
- Current act – State is the custodian = ‘Public’ water and Prescribes the use of the principles of IWRM.
- Groundwater Strategy > National Water Resources Strategy

Groundwater Status Quo

Groundwater schemes fail because:

- Lack of infrastructure maintenance, lack of monitoring
- Lack of buy-in, institutional support
- Funding models

- Borehole yields conflated with wellfield yields, in turn conflated with aquifer yields
- Poorly defined impacts of use
- Aquifer assessment lags (too far) behind infrastructure development
- Groundwater yields may be under-estimated because of application of the water balance method



Related to
institutional
capacity



Related to
technical
challenges

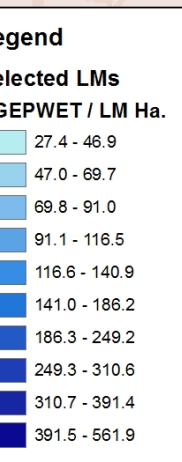
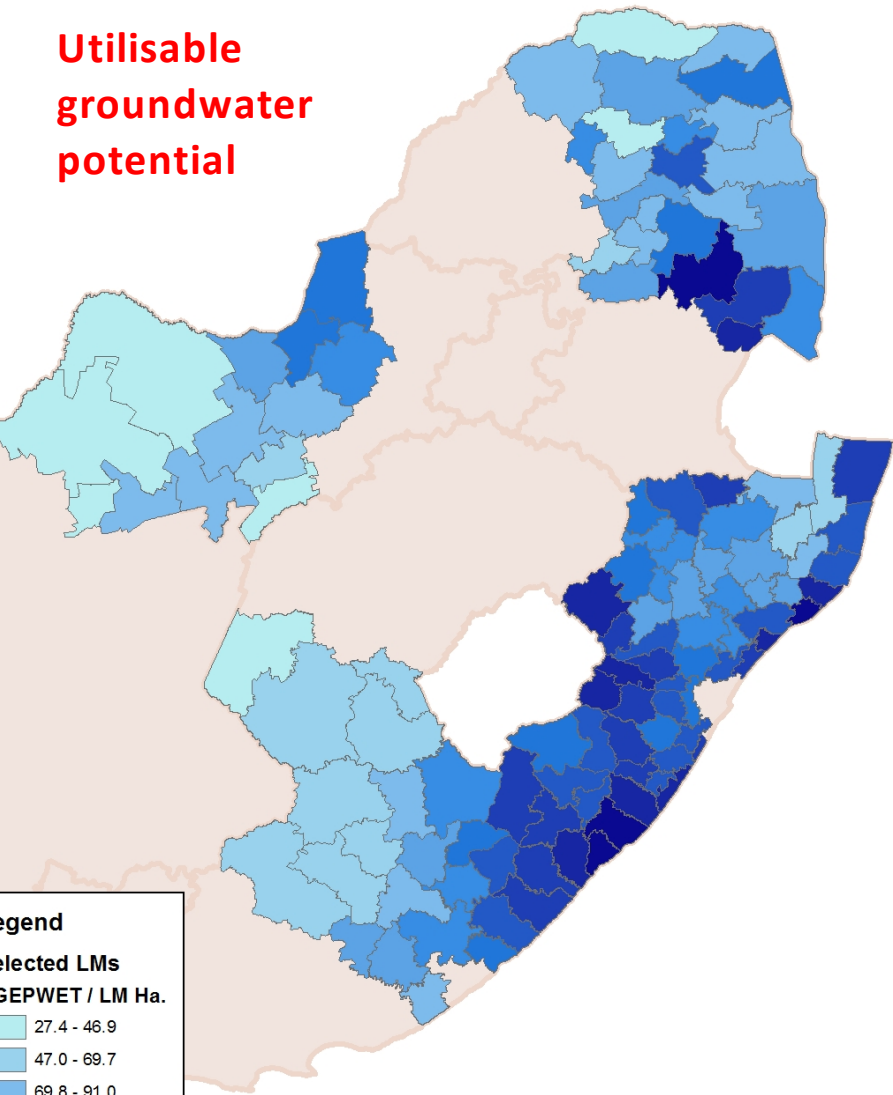
Issues – a Complex Problem



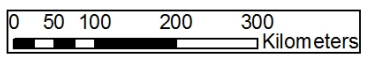
Comfort Zone

- **Technical / hydrogeological dimension** (distribution of K/T, aquifer types, groundwater quality, recharge variability, sustainability of the resource, etc)
- **Technical / engineering dimension** (existing O&M arrangements, engineering challenges, pump selections, protection zones, electricity vs diesel, etc)
- **Organisational, Economic, Social, Political dimensions** (available skills, systems for O&M, compliance monitoring, OPEX v CAPEX, reluctance to use alternative sources, cost recovery, political priorities, theft and vandalism, financial auditing, business models, organisational models, etc)
- **Emerging issues**

Utilisable groundwater potential

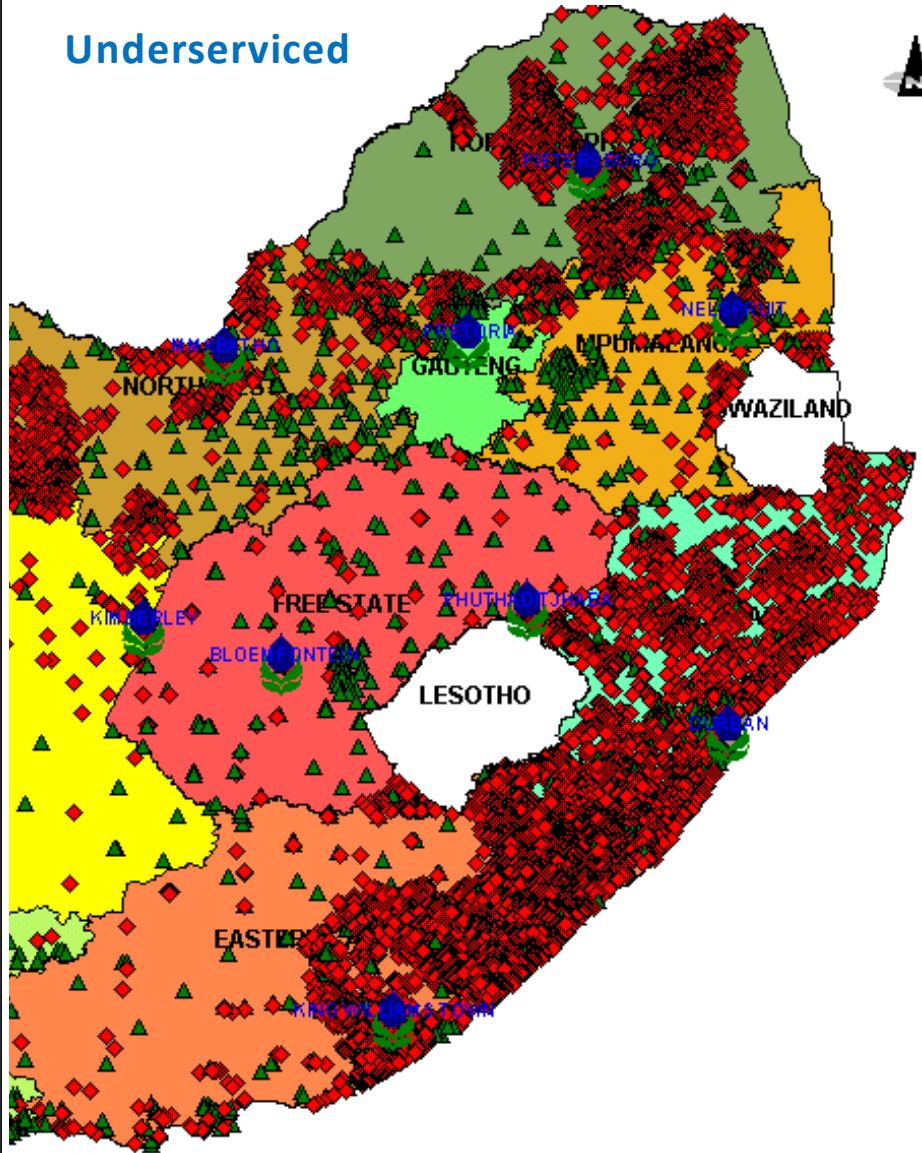


Now



27

Underserved

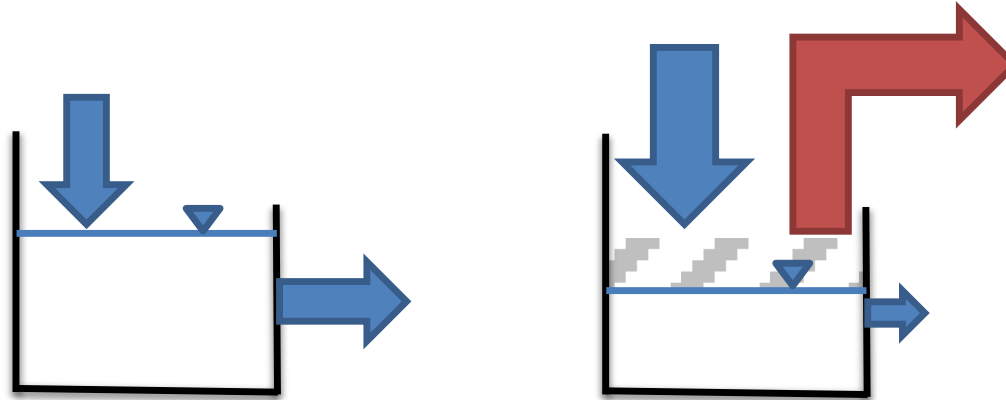


1994



Stretching what we have

Capture Principle



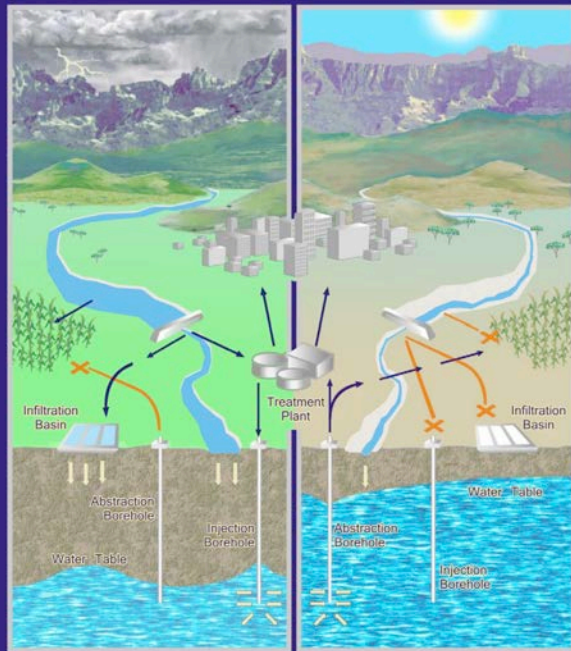
- **Natural state: recharge & discharge dynamic equilibrium**
- **Pumping: abstracted water met by reduced discharge &/ enhanced recharge, & storage is reduced**
- **Maintainable aquifer yield: can be maintained indefinitely without continually depleting storage, met by reduced discharge &/ enhanced recharge, in a new dynamic equilibrium.**
- **Response time: time to new dynamic equilibrium**

Stretching what we have

Managed Aquifer Recharge or Water Banking

ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE STRATEGY

Version 1.3 - June 2007



PILOT ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE SCHEMES:
TESTING SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT IN FRACTURED AQUIFERS

Artificial Groundwater Recharge
**WISE WATER MANAGEMENT
FOR TOWNS AND CITIES**
Ricky Murray



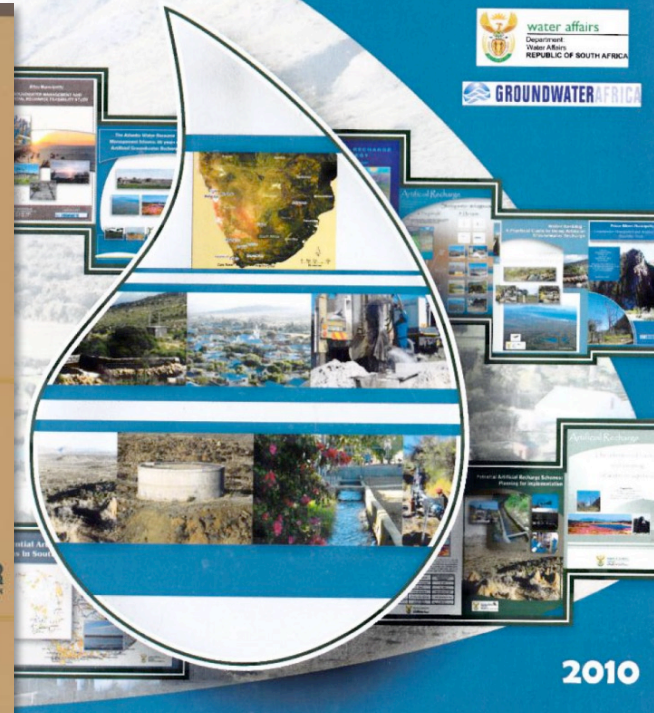
Water Research
Commission

**Artificial Recharge: Developing Sustainable
Water Resources in South Africa**

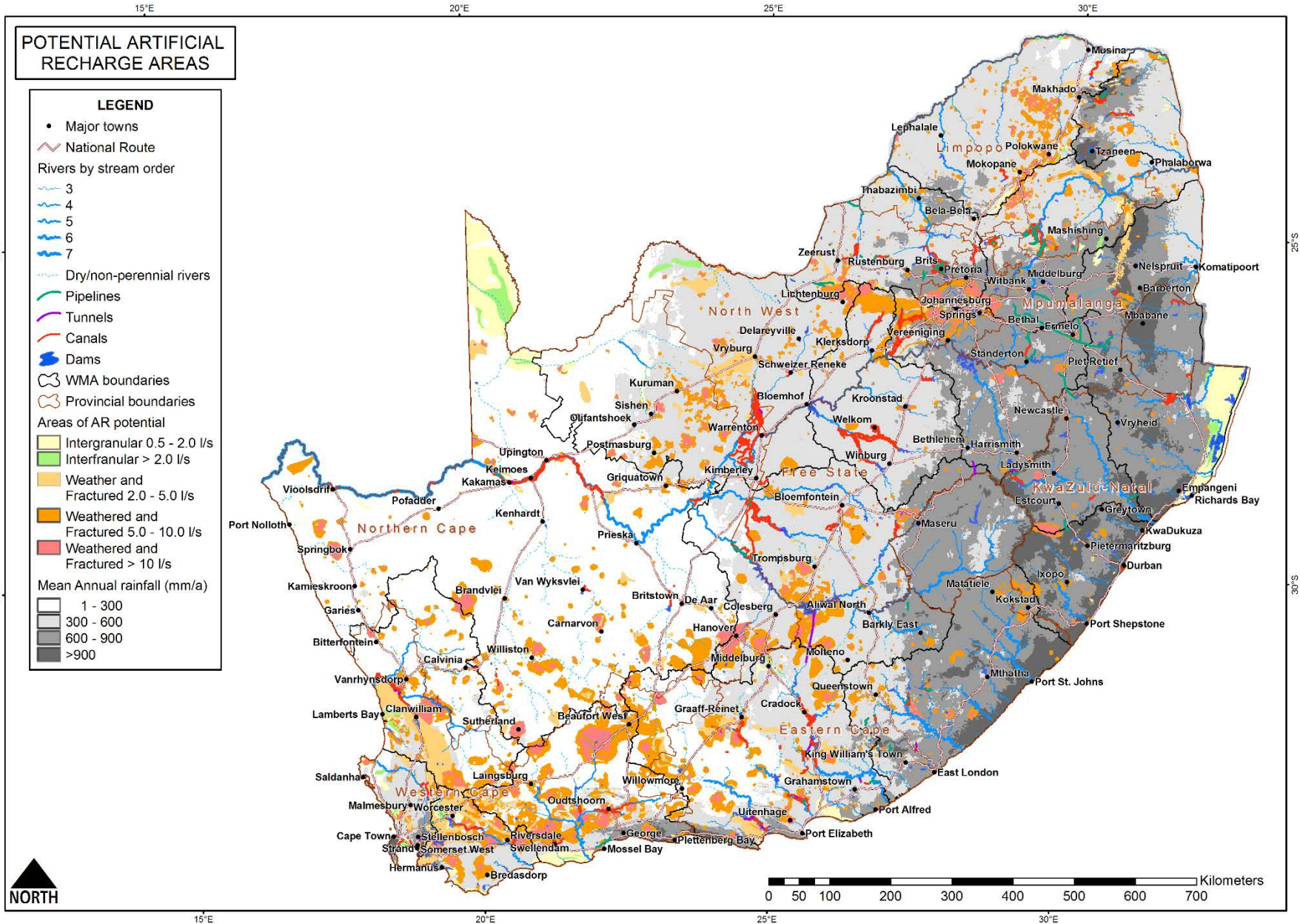
A resource package of reports
and visual materials



GROUNDWATERAFRICA

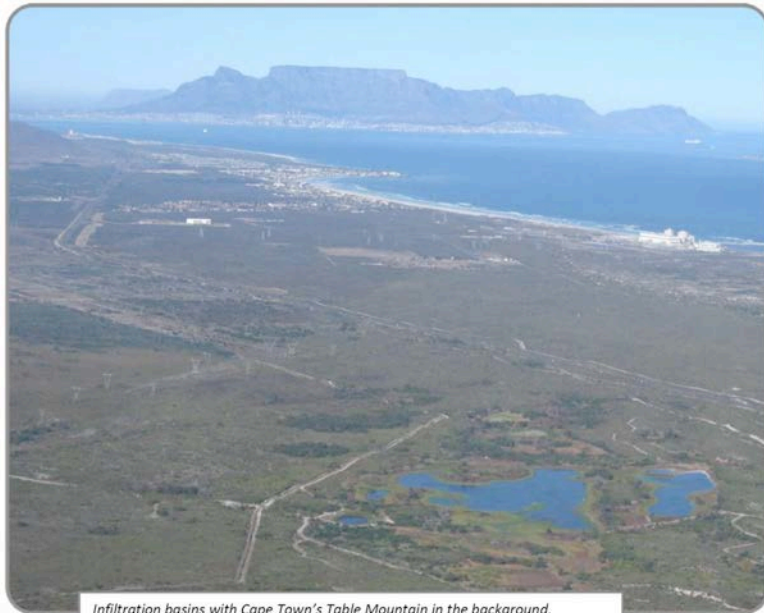


2010

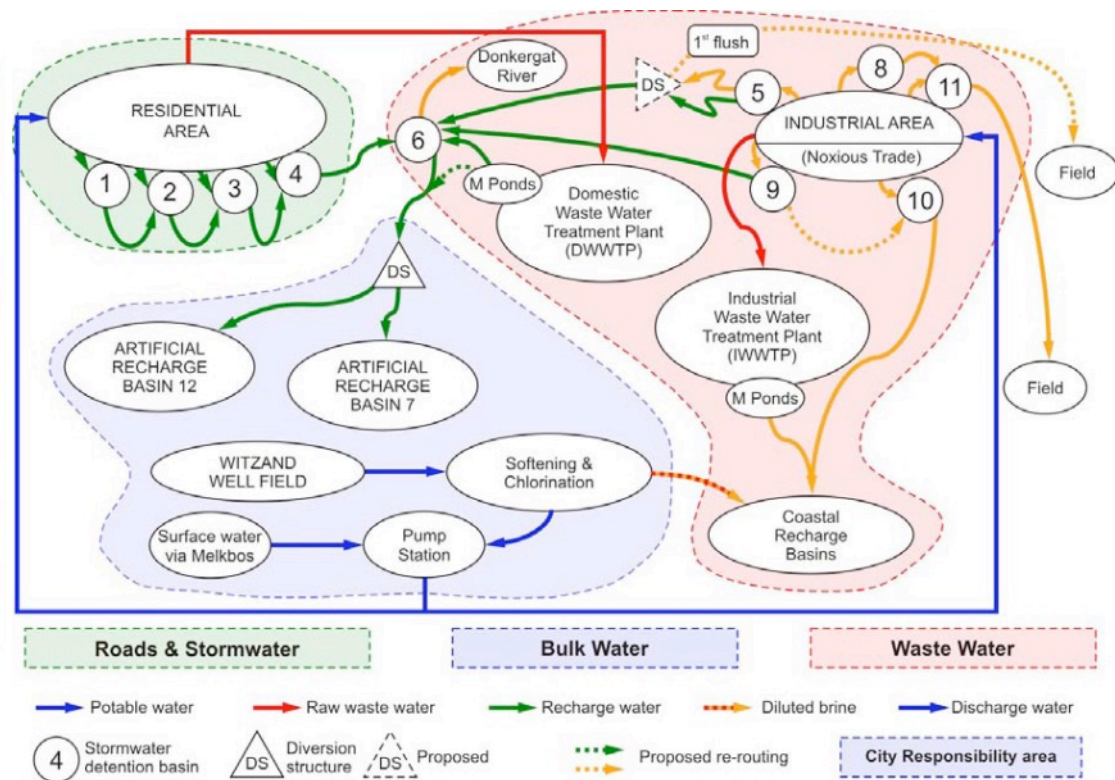


39 Years of Water Banking in Atlantis

Initially prompted by the need to find an alternative to marine wastewater discharge, Atlantis began recharging its storm water and treated wastewater into its sandy soils in 1979. With the recognition that the natural groundwater yield of the aquifer was not sufficient to meet the long-term needs of the town, the focus shifted to *recharging* the aquifer and *recycling* water.



Infiltration basins with Cape Town's Table Mountain in the background.



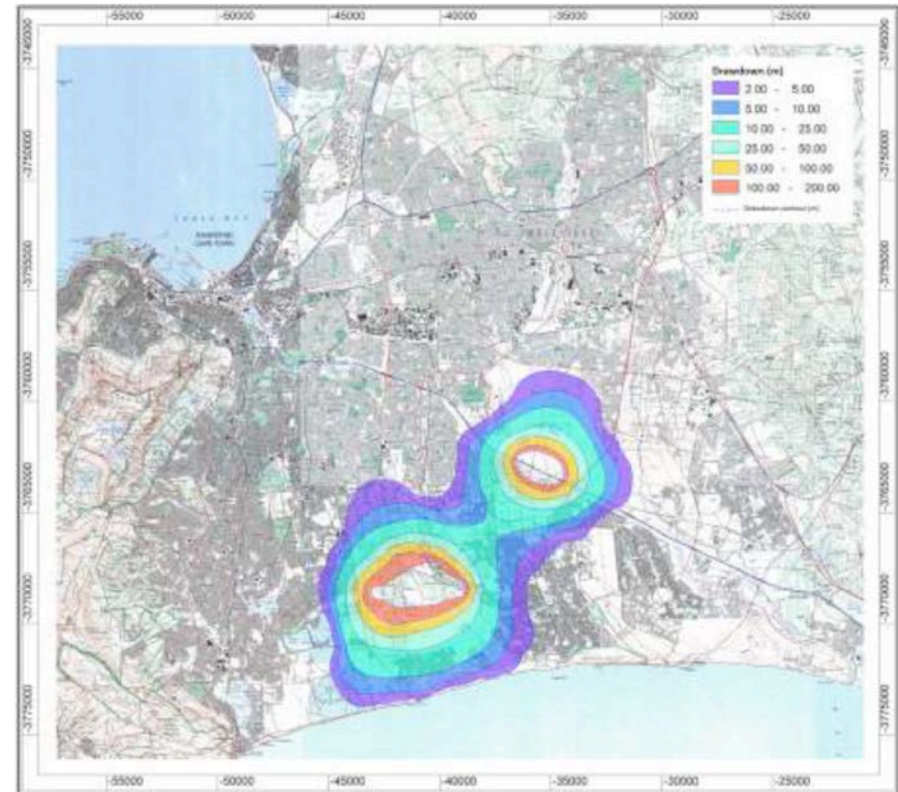
Groundwater Options: Cape Town

- **Current GW use in CoCT 2% of supply; plan is to increase to 20% (Source: CoCT)**
- **Potential Groundwater resources (short term):**
 - Table Mountain Group Aquifer (through springs [4 Mℓ/day] and abstraction points [60 Mℓ/day])
 - Sandy Coastal Aquifers – Cape Flats Aquifer (CFA) [20 Mℓ/day] & Atlantis & Silverstroom [15 Mℓ/day]
 - Deeper Malmesbury Group Aquifer under CFA [unknown]
- **Yields of the Cape Flats Aquifer can be significantly increased through direct and indirect managed aquifer recharge (MAR) as well as using the capture principle instead of sustainable yield where recharge = abstraction.**
 - 10 million m³/a without MAR to >17 million m³/a with MAR
 - MAR sources can be:
 - Treated wastewater effluent
 - Natural runoff
 - Rerouted groundwater from areas prone to groundwater flooding
 - Storm water runoff [done successfully in Atlantis]
- **WRC is investing in research to determine the viability of storing urban storm water in the 737 available storage ponds instead of letting it run off into the sea.**
 - Storage ponds are mainly dry for most of the time and are designed for flood attenuation.
 - 70% detention ponds, 23% retention ponds, and 7% constructed wetlands.

Cape Flats Aquifer: Cape Town



Figure 5-1 Hypothetical abstraction (blue circle) and injection (red square) sites with WWTW shown in white text, groundwater model boundary shown as red line.



Drawdown for scenario 1iv) Abstraction of 10 million m³/a per wellfield

- Yields of the Cape Flats Aquifer can be significantly **increased through direct and indirect managed aquifer recharge (MAR)** as well as using the capture principle instead of sustainable yield where recharge = abstraction.
 - 10 million m³/a without MAR to >17 million m³/a with MAR

Useful lessons for the current crisis: Cape Town

- Model results show aquifer can support >17 million m³/a
- Further increase with MAR
- Drawdown implications?
- **Recommend combination of wellfields & decentralised abstraction**

Short Term million m ³ /a	Long Term million m ³ /a	Short Term MI/d	Long Term MI/d	Groundwater source
5.5	7.3	15	20	Atlantis & Silverstroom
7.3	11.0	20	30	Cape Flats
22	91	60	250	TMGA (Hottentots Holland Mountains, South Peninsula, Somerset West)
0.4	1.5	1	4	Somerset West
1.5	1.5	4	4	Oranjezicht & Albion Springs

Numbers from B. Wood, 18/10/17

Reuse

- **Indirect potable reuse of wastewater: Mossel Bay**
 - Indirect potable use of treated wastewater effluent to augment raw water supply
 - WWTW to provide 5 MI/day of high quality treated effluent
 - Pre-treatment (in-line strainers), UF, RO
- **Direct industrial reuse of wastewater: Durban**
 - Commissioned in 2001; treats 47.5 MI/day of domestic and industrial wastewater to a near potable standard
 - Sales to industrial consumers for direct use in their processes
 - Public Private Partnership: eThekweni Water Services and Durban Water Recycling (Pty) Ltd
- **Direct potable reuse of wastewater: Windhoek, Namibia; Beaufort West, South Africa**
- **Direct potable reuse of mine water: eMalahleni**



Beaufort West - DPR

– Treatment:

- Phosphate removal
- Settling
- Sand filtration
- Ultra filtration
- Reverse osmosis
- Advance oxidation (hydrogen peroxide/UV)
- Final chlorination (residual)



Monitoring (= 17% of opex)

Managing Public Perception of DPR

- Twice project has been on front page of local news paper
- Test results are published in the local newspaper
- School tours through plant (very successful)
- Presentations a professional workshops
- Political buy in
- Naming (Beaufort West NEWater)
- Transparency with municipality
- Handed out water bottles to visitors



Reinventing the toilet



www.arumloo.com



RSA Patent Application No. 2014/07754

Off-the-grid sanitation

- Eliminates pathogens from human waste
- Has modular unit with hygienic interface
- Recovers energy, clean water, and nutrients
- Operates “off the grid”
- Costs less than 5 ZAR cents/user/day
- Systems undergoing Engineering Field Testing to understand performance under field conditions
- Partnership with Gates Foundation, Khanyisa, UKZN and eThekweni



WCDM in industries



Natsurv 10:

Water and Wastewater Management in the Tanning and Leather Finishing Industry

(Edition 2)

No.	Title	Report no.
Natsurv 1	Water and wastewater management in the malt brewing industry	TT 676/16
Natsurv 2	Water and wastewater management in the metal finishing industry	TT 644/15
Natsurv 3	Water and wastewater management in the soft drink industry	TT 640/15
Natsurv 5	Water and wastewater management in the sorghum beer industry	TT 692/16
Natsurv 6	Water and wastewater management in the edible oil industry	TT 702/16
Natsurv 7	Water and wastewater management in the red meat abattoir industry	TT 701/16
Natsurv 8	Water and wastewater management in the laundry industry	TT 703/16
Natsurv 9	Water and wastewater management in the poultry abattoir industry	TT 730/17
Natsurv 10	Water and wastewater management in the tanning and leather finishing industry	TT 713/17
Natsurv 11	Water and wastewater management in the sugar industry	TT 721/17
Natsurv 12	Water and wastewater management in the paper and pulp industry	TT 704/16
Natsurv 13	Water and wastewater management in the textile industry	TT 724/17
Natsurv 17	Water and wastewater management in the iron and steel industry	TT 705/16

Planning and designing our spaces better

Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) for South Africa:

FRAMEWORK AND GUIDELINES

Neil Armitage, Lloyd Fisher-Jeffes,
Kirsty Carden, Kevin Winter,
Vinothan Naidoo, Andrew Spiegel,
Ben Mauck & Daniel Coulson



Understanding unintended consequences

MINISTERIAL BRIEF

March 2018

The WRC operates in terms of the Water Research Act (Act 34 of 1971) and its mandate is to support water research and development as well as the building of a sustainable water research capacity in South Africa.



Effects of reduction of wastewater volumes on sewerage systems and wastewater treatment plants

Minister, the drought being experienced in many parts of South Africa has had adverse impacts on society and the economy. An unintended consequence of the reduction in the availability of water has been the reduced flow of water in the systems that transmit and treat wastewater. A Water Research Commission (WRC) study set out to assess and quantify the extent of impacts on the proper functioning of wastewater collection, conveyance and treatment works that may emanate from reduced water volumes entering sewerage systems on the back of water demand management measures.

Better data for decision-making

POLICY BRIEF

June 2017

The WRC operates in terms of the Water Research Act (Act 34 of 1971) and its mandate is to support water research and development as well as the building of a sustainable water research capacity in South Africa.



WR2012 – Quantifying the water resources of South Africa

The recently-completed Surface Water Resources of South Africa, 2012 Study (WR2012) aims to assist decision-makers at all levels of government to make informed choices about all policies concerning South Africa's water resources. A significant feature of WR2012 is the fact that, for the first time, a publicly-accessible water resources website was created (www.waterresourceswr2012.co.za) which allows for Web-based and interactive reporting on both surface and groundwater.


The State of Non-Revenue Water in South Africa (2012)

R Mckenzie, ZN Siquilaba & WA Wegelin



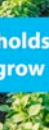
Public & Decision-makers perceptions and awareness creation – MOST IMPORTANT!

Water from Stone

Groundwater in South Africa




6 language versions




THE WATER WHEEL

ISSN 0258-2244 November/December 2015 Volume





DROUGHT

Can we prevent disaster?

Food security: households using water wise backyard gardens to grow vegetables

OCTOBER 2017

POLICY BRIEF

March 2015

the WRC, operates in terms of the Water Research Act (WRA) 1956 (Act 108 of 1956). It is mandated to do research, water research and development as well as, the facilitation of a sustainable water research capacity in South Africa.

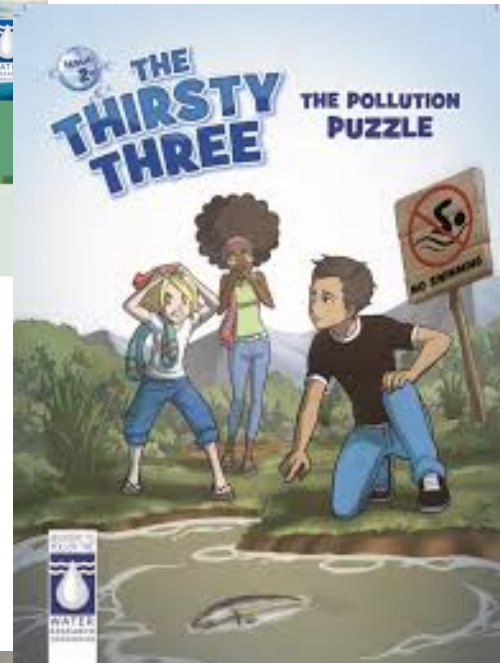


Public acceptance of reclaimed water for potable uses in South Africa – Why communication, education and public participation matters

While water reclamation has been identified as a potential water augmentation alternative to ensure continuous water supply, there is still a need to address social issues relating to the 'yuck' factor and safety concerns, in order to ensure informed acceptance. Previous experience has shown that a failure to adequately address these issues is likely to lead to public resistance. A completed Water Research Commission (WRC) research project investigated and tested the major factors that govern people's decisions towards the acceptance and use of reclaimed water for drinking purposes, and developed strategies and tools to better inform information sharing and public engagement within the institutional decision-making process for introducing reclaimed water.

Background	Study method
<p>Freshwater resources worldwide are limited and threatened by anthropogenic influences, such as overexploitation. As water resources become limited, water authorities are obliged to seek or develop alternative sources of water.</p> <p>As large volumes of potable water are flushed away in urban contexts, reclaiming water is likely to become a more common strategy to supplement water demand deficiencies, while simultaneously addressing environmental concerns about the contamination of rivers and oceans.</p> <p>Water reclamation has proven to be a reliable alternative water resource in meeting the demands of urbanisation, and may constitute a significant component of integrated water resource management. However, implementation is contentious due to social perceptions that pose several challenges relating to the ways in which both institutions and the public respond to issues of water scarcity and alternative choices and to institutions engage with the public on water reuse to facilitate user acceptance of reclaimed water.</p> <p>The intention of this WRC project was to investigate the major factors that influence people's decisions towards the acceptance/rejection of reclaimed water for drinking purposes. Based on these factors, ways of addressing public perceptions through public knowledge acquisition and information flows were developed. In this study, public engagement and participation has been identified as key in addressing resistance and building trust relationships, so as to assist water institutions to effectively introduce and</p>	<p>The research made use of a case study approach, employing qualitative research methods to investigate empirical phenomena within a real-life context.</p> <p>Water reclamation has been implemented in small areas in South Africa, and many more municipalities have attempted to introduce this alternative, for many reasons. The study selected Beaufort West, a Thabane and Ovensland municipalities, for detailed investigations because of their differences in stages of implementation, variability of scale provided by the municipalities, and their topography and geographical position, namely an inland coastal and a metro site.</p> <p>Beaufort West has already implemented water reclamation and is currently monitoring water quality and supplying water to the public. After an unsuccessful initial attempt, Ovensland is at an advanced planning stage.</p> <p>The methodology included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop study literature review of international and local experience; Interviews with respondents (water services and individuals) in selected local case studies; A validation workshop to discuss findings; Comparative analysis to develop a generic guideline. <p>Overall findings</p> <p>For the public perception, factors that are perceived to</p>

THE THIRSTY THREE

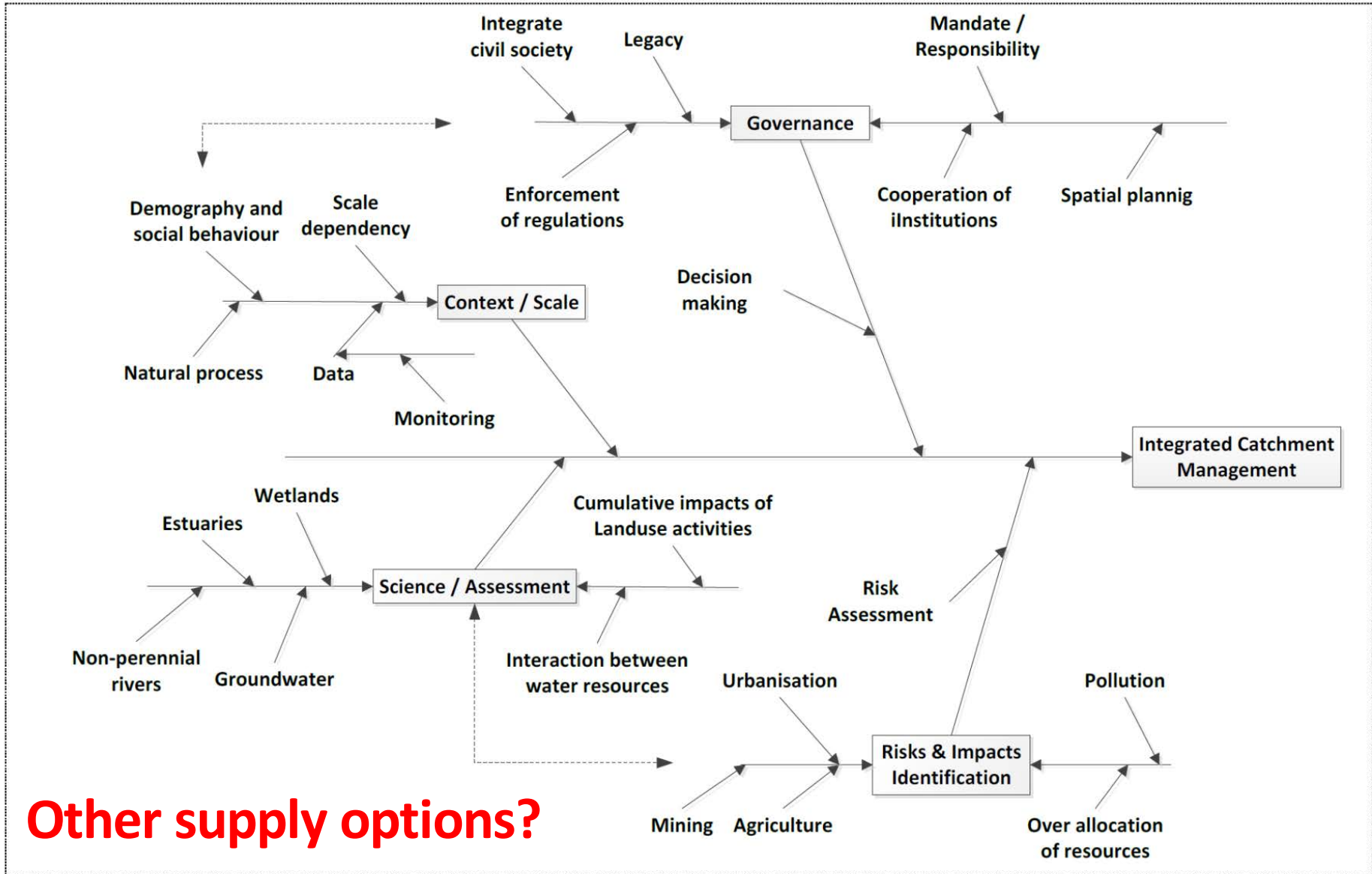
THE POLLUTION PUZZLE

It has been said a number of times that South Africa is categorised as a middle-income country with gross inequities in income distribution. A high proportion of the population has low incomes. Despite their low incomes, most households rely mostly on purchased food for survival. Recent Water Research Commission studies have already confirmed that poor households spend as much as 70% of their total income on food, leaving very little for other household needs. Vegetable gardening at the backyard of our homes could help reduce the financial stress while ensuring household healthy diets.

As the world celebrates World Food Day on 16th October, we are reminded of how fast we need to change our mindset as

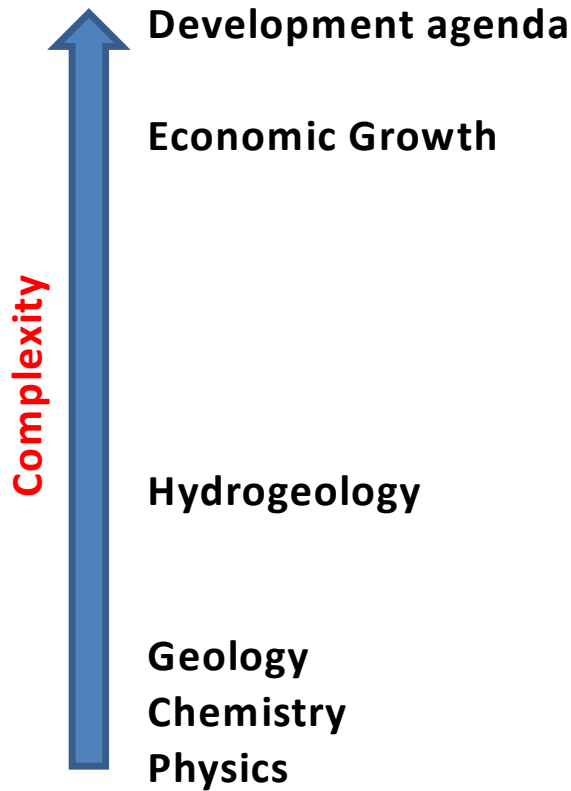




Concluding Remarks

- Climate will always play a significant role in development.
- Cape Town demonstrate an example of vulnerabilities potentially faced by other cities in the country.
- Proactive planning is a prerequisite for risk reduction and operational response.
- Lack of coordination; alignment and synergy across sectors are barriers for implementation
- Existing strategies and plans are still pursuing the sectoral or 'silo' approach.
- Weak appetite for implementation in favour of large and expensive schemes.
- Convert short-term (emergency) interventions into long-term solutions (e.g. groundwater resources)
- Diversification of finance models

Hierarchy of Science



Decision-makers



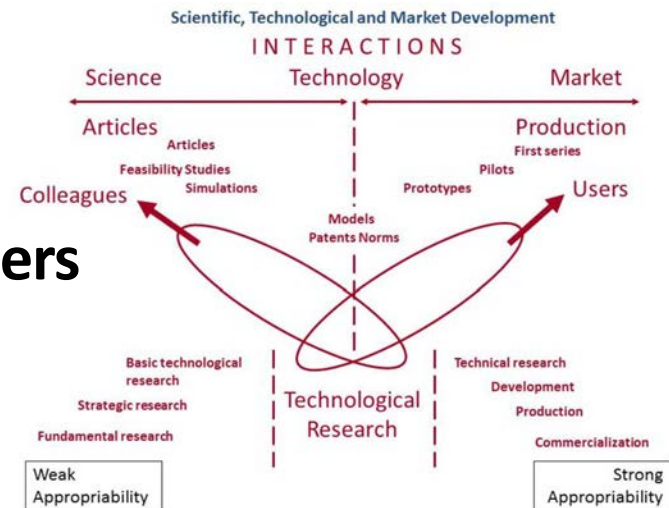
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Barriers



Scientists & Engineers

What do they lose sleep over?



City will run out of water 'in 17 years'

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

WATER supplies for the Cape Town metropolitan area are expected to dry up in 17 years' time, the Water Research Commission (WRC) disclosed yesterday.

"It is estimated that known fresh water supplies for the Cape Town metropolitan area will be fully committed by the year 2007," it said in its annual report tabled in Parliament yesterday.

"Thereafter the reclamation of purified sewage effluent to augment supplies is a distinct possibility."

The commission is also conducting major research into the pollution of water by industry, particularly from pulp effluents.

The report said research and recommendations had been published about pollution problems in industries such as textiles, hides and skins, fish, fruit and vegetables and abattoirs.

A national survey of industrial water and waste water was being

conducted to establish a data base containing information on water intake, raw materials, products, effluent quality and the amount of industrial waste from all types of industries using more than 150 cubic metres of water a day.

On water supplies, the commission reported that a survey was launched by the University of Cape Town's Department of Community Health to establish early baseline data.

"This was done by establishing a data bank consisting primarily of information on mortality rates, morbidity as seen by general practitioners and birth defects."

This research would provide the basis and model for future comparative health studies in other geographic areas.

The commission said effluents from bleaching processes using chlorine and other bleaches were the biggest contributors to environmental pollution caused by pulp factories.

"These types of effluent are be-

coming increasingly unacceptable worldwide for discharge to water intakes, raw materials, products, effluent quality and the amount of industrial waste from all types of industries using more than 150 cubic metres of water a day.

"In South Africa the position is even more critical because no bleaching process effluents may be discharged by inland pulp factories after 1990."

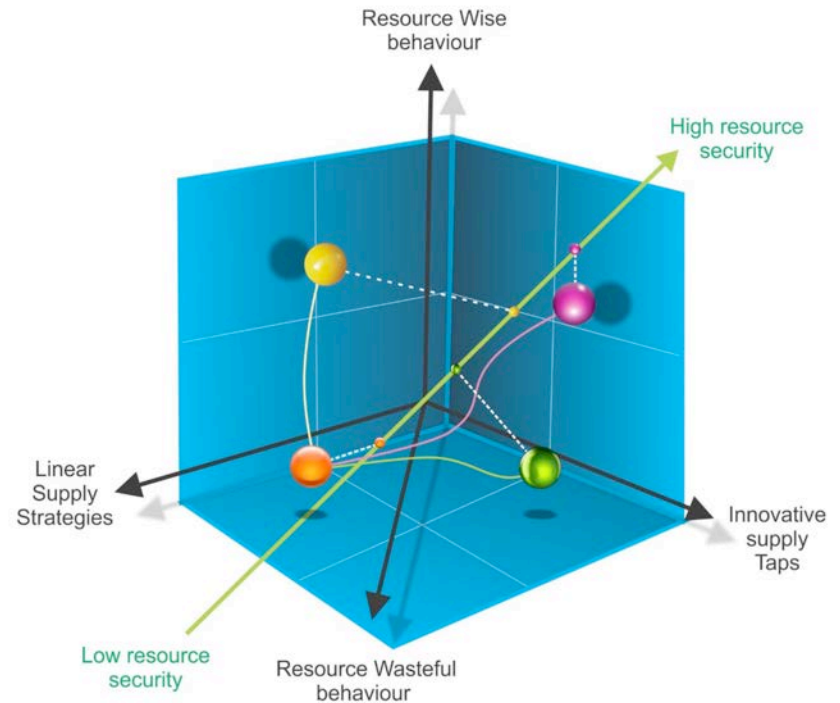
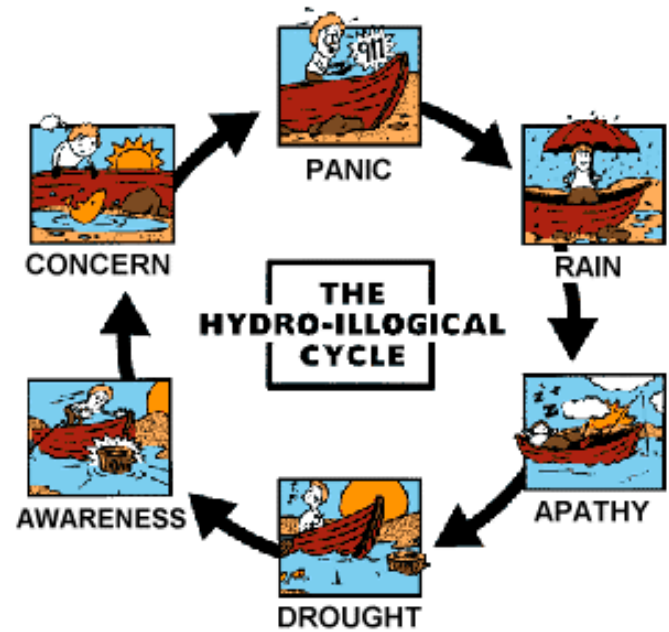
The commission said 12 million animals were slaughtered at almost 300 abattoirs, which resulted in about 90 000 tons of kraal manure and 170 000 tons of stomach contents.

The commonest methods of disposing of the manure were to use it as a soil conditioner, to dump it at disposal sites or even to discharge it into sewers.

"These methods are unsuitable and unacceptable, specially from a hygiene point of view."

"Furthermore, disposal costs are increasing while the number of disposal sites are decreasing."

"More acceptable methods of disposal are urgently required, of which composting looks promising," the commission said.



Thank You

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