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Water Research Commission

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South African

Water-Research-Commission
Supporting sustainable development through research funding, knowledge creation and dissemination











Faeces and urine

The major global environmental pollutant

And possibly.....KILLER

Most cities reaching water



(from WRC Project; K5/2071)



Water Sensitive Settlements (WSS)

New taps'
(New water resources)

- Water demand management and conservation
- Stormwater / rainwater harvesting
- Treated effluent
- Groundwater
- · Desalinated water

2

'Blue-green
infrastructure'
(Water sensitive
management)

- · Planning & design
- Economic value
- Health impacts
- · Ecosystems services
- Social development
- Waterscapes
- Urban rivers
- Urban agriculture

3.

'Adapting to change'
(Building resilience / Governance)

- Resilience
- Strengthening governance
- Learning alliances
- Policy and law
- Communication / Social acceptance
- Management

4

'Maximising value'

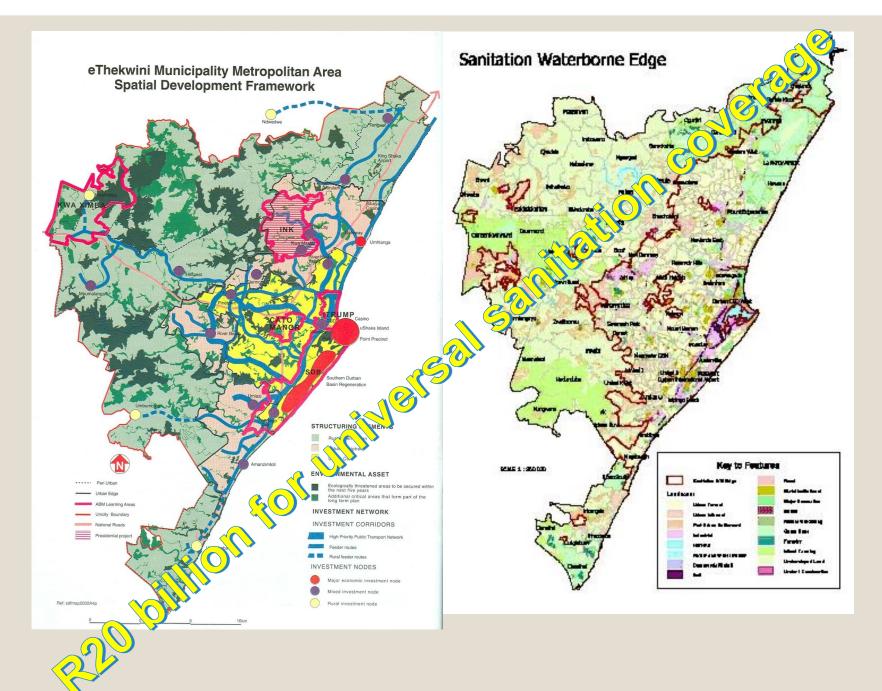
(Maximum value from minimum resource)

- Source separation
- · Centralised vs decentralised
- · Towards zero emissions
- Water treatment for purpose
- AMD treatment vs prevention / value recovery
- Integrated treatment
- · Resource recovery
- · Wastewater biorefineries

WATER RESEARCH COMMISSION

Civil Engineering - Environmental Science - Planning - (Construction) Economics - Biological / Molecular Science - Chemistry

Political Science - Geohydrology - Health Science - Sociology - Chemical Engineering - Public Administration - Anthropology



- The world is running out of its traditional sources of energy, potable water and plant nutrients
 - Water resources are declining
 - Energy costs are rising
 - The climate change issue
- Current sanitation technologies are not

sustainable

 Society is conditioned into view flush

toilet and centralised sewgge treatment works

as the preferred option

• Storm water is seen as a nuisance rather than a resource

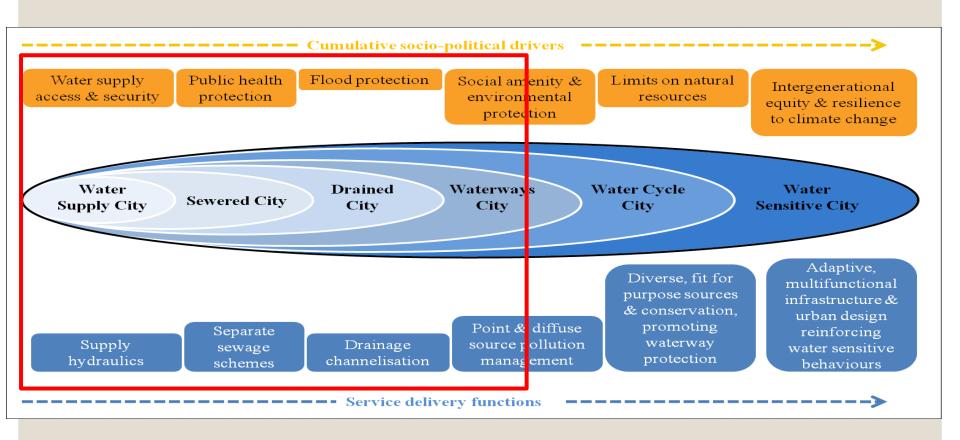








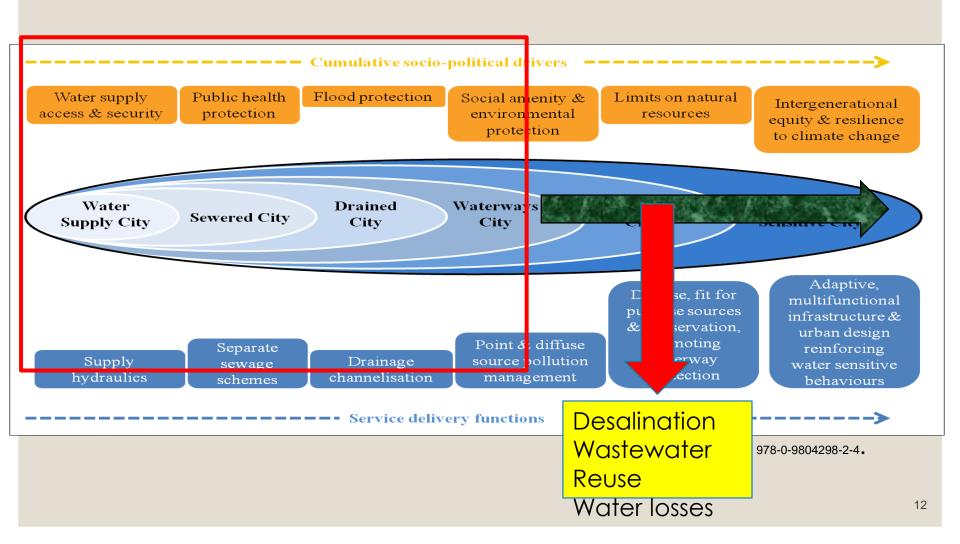
Water Management Transition States



Brown et al., 2007 ISBN: 978-0-9804298-2-4.

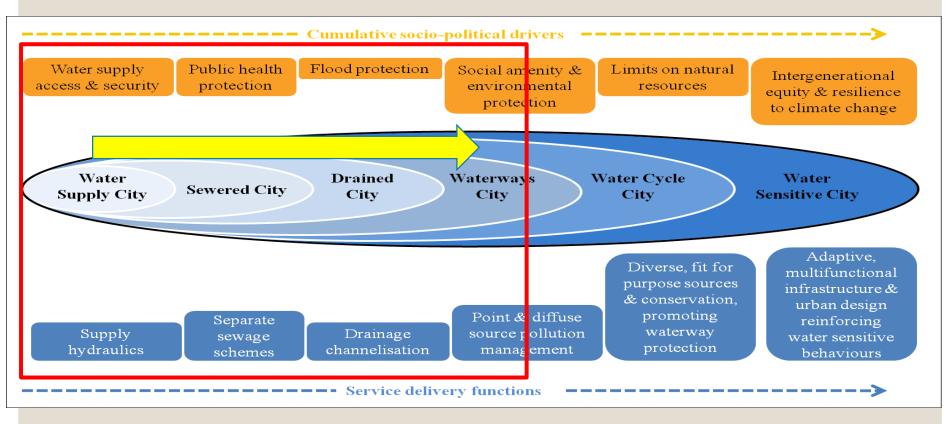


Water Management Transition in Developed Countries





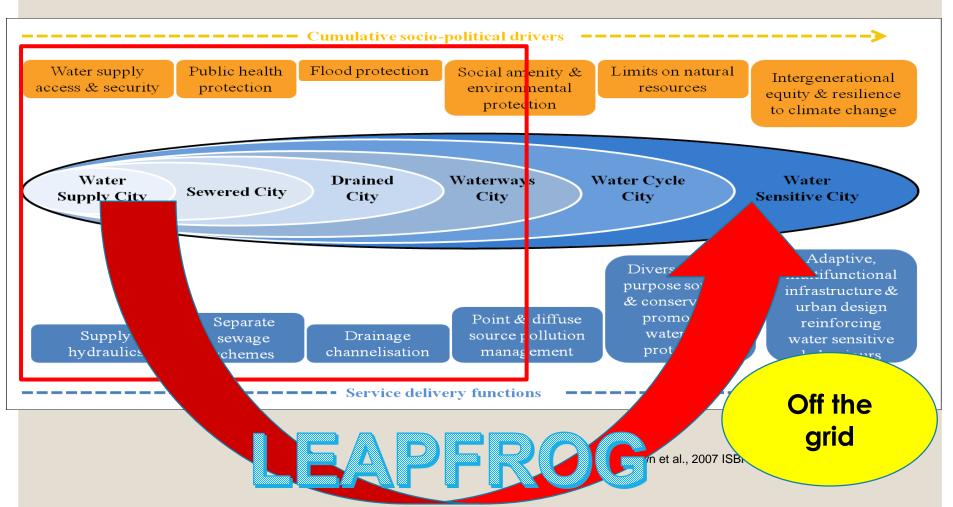
Water Management in the Developing World



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Water Management in the Developing World

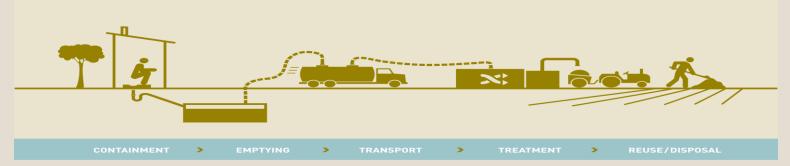


Current issues...

- Current approaches very civil engineering orientated
- Project management compromises community and household based approaches
- Sustainability not a concern :
 - When the pit is full then what?
- No planning ahead and for O&M
 - O&M costs neglected in budget
- LITTLE INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT
- Competency and capacity
- Lack of ownership and accountability, no behavior change

POOR HAVE NO SANITATION MARKET

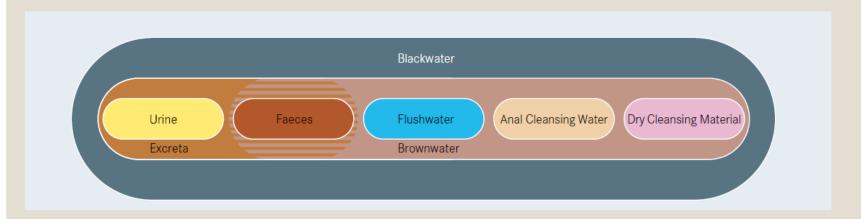
Game Changers



Sanitation Value Chain

Capture Storage Transport Treatment Disposal/Reuse

Game Changer



Sanitation Value Chain





Game Changing



Is about working
Towards

A

World free of

FAECAL SLUDGES

Is this possible?

· NO

• If we continue to do the same

YES

- If we change our paradigm
 - There is no more wastewater and sewerage
 - Biological treatment is not the default
 - Faecal sludge is seen as a resource energy, soil remediator, nutrient etc.
 - Technologies that treat at source
 - No sludges produced
 - Large levels of beneficiation
 - Same user convenience
 - Water saving and environmentally safe.



Processes involved

- Drying
- Dehydrating
- Dessicating
- Catalytic
- Chemical
- Pyrolysis
- Carbonisation
- Combustion
- Solar treatment
- Thermal



Anoxic Process

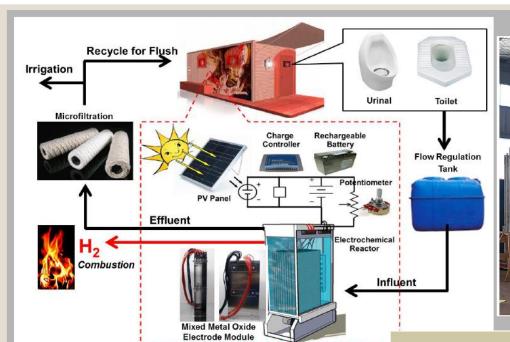




Next generation sanitation solutions



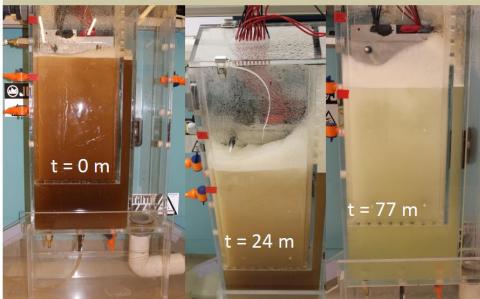


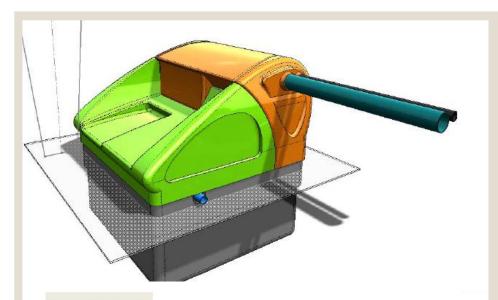


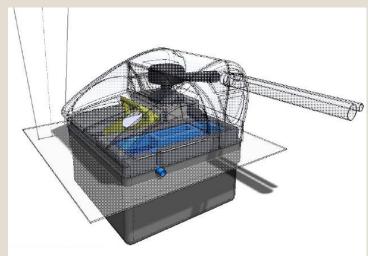


Electrochemical Wastewater Treatment



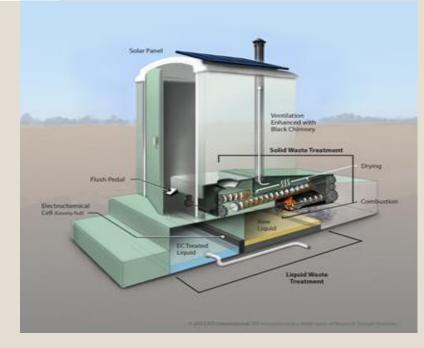






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Conclusions

- There is not <u>one</u> optimal solution for all sanitation situations
- The conventional system is not at all bad for urban areas – but much may be improved
- New technologies cannot solve all challenges but quite some
- The socio-cultural aspects are important



So lets start being radically innovative and think of the future.....

