

# Scenarios for the South African Water Sector in 2025

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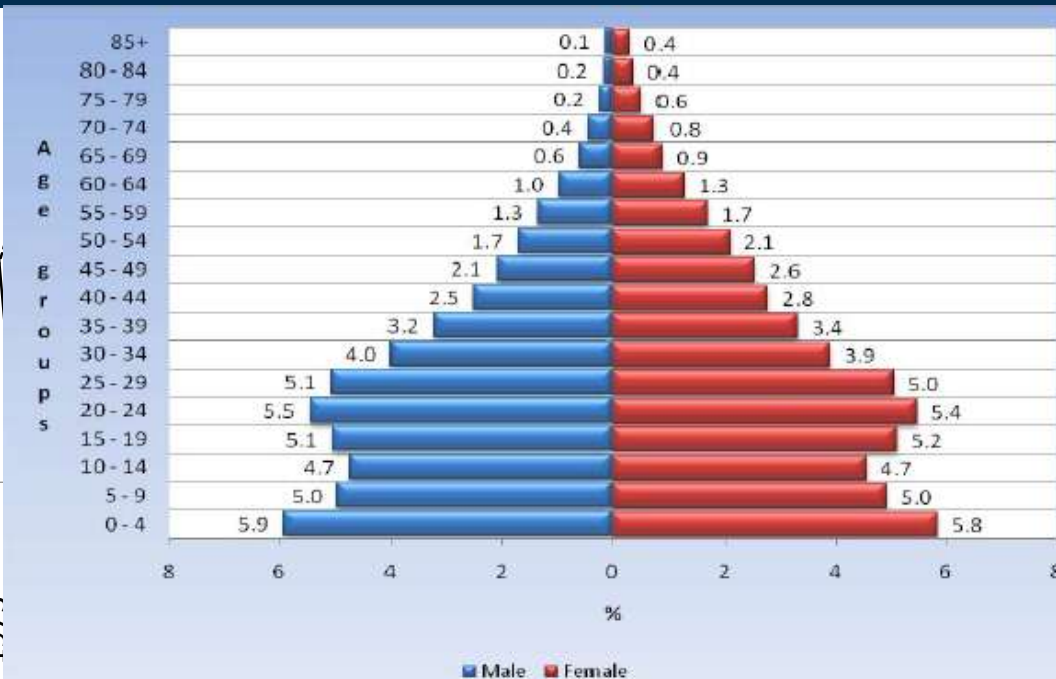
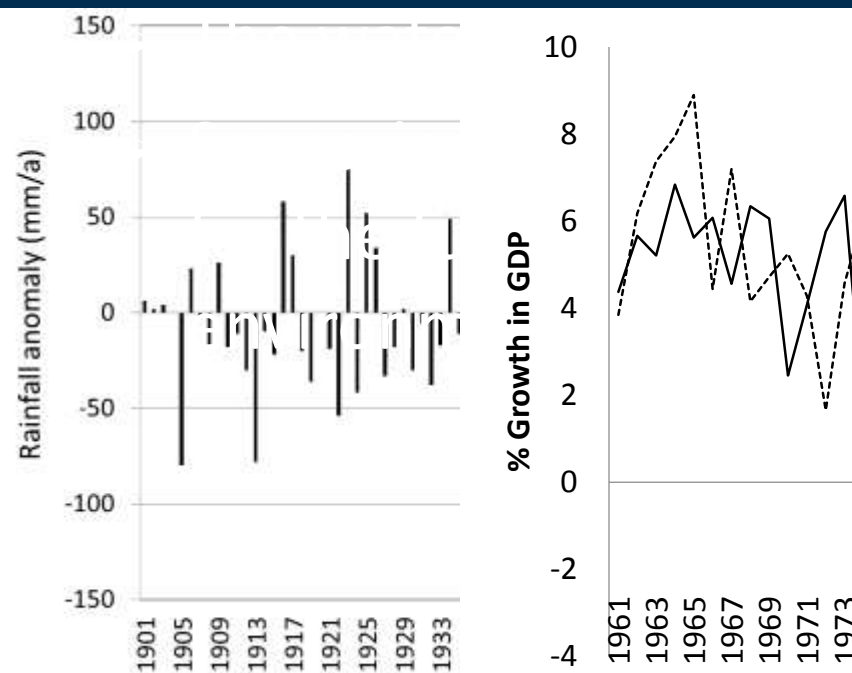
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*6 November 2012*

# The Importance of Scenarios for the South African Water Sector

- The world is uncertain and changing constantly.
- It is characterised by variability and uncertainty in the biophysical,



# What are Scenarios?

- Scenarios are not predictions of the future.



# What are Scenarios?

- Scenarios are one way of attempting to achieve a desired outcome in an uncertain and variable future.
- Scenarios
  - are a narrative description of a possible state of affairs or development over time,
  - are useful to communicate plausible futures to promote discussion and feedback by dramatising trends and alternatives, and
  - can help decision-makers to explore impacts of decisions, choices and policies.



# Water Sector Institutional Landscape by 2025

This presentation will focus on:

the development of scenarios for the water sector institutional landscape by 2025,

and

how scenarios can be successfully disseminated and have impact.

# Water Sector by 2025: Rationale

- WRC commissioned project (2009-2011)
- Developed by authors with Chantell Illbury as facilitator and in consultation with a range of water sector related experts and stakeholders
- Rationale: Build knowledge about key drivers and uncertainties that relate to the future of the South African water sector, and specifically about the context in which water institutions may operate in future



# Water Sector by 2025: Process

- Process that was followed:
  - Structured research process to ensure participation of a wide range of stakeholders
- Methods used:
  - Literature review,
  - Semi-structured expert interviews,
  - HSRC social attitude surveys,
  - Web-based questionnaire,
  - Interactions with urban and rural schools, and
  - Interactive scenario workshops





# Water Sector by 2025: Results



*Decision-making paradigm deals with complex*



*sustainability regardless of sustainability*

*sensitive to sustainability*



*Decision-making paradigm fails to deal with complex*





# Water Sector by 2025: Stories

*Decision-making paradigm deals with complexity*

Resources are running dry

Conflict increases

Little agreement

Specific interests

Control centralised

Unable to implement

Methodical approach

Harmonisation of legislation

Shared vision

Institutional maturity

Strong citizens' voice

Happy & prosperous people

Incapacity to prioritise water

Short-term solutions

Population frustrated

Higher transaction costs

Little water left

Unable to make decisions

Noble intentions

Out of touch with reality

Can't deal with the unexpected

Management operates in silos

Research is poorly directed

No time to reflect

*Decision-making paradigm fails to deal with complexity*

*Exploitation regardless of sustainability*

*Keenly sensitive to sustainability Issues*

# Dissemination and Impact of Scenarios

- How can scenarios be disseminated and have impact?
- What can we learn from other scenario processes?



# Dissemination and Impact of Scenarios

- Three prominent South African scenario processes were considered:
- High Road/Low Road
  - Mont Fleur
  - Dinokeng



# Other Scenarios: High Road/Low Road

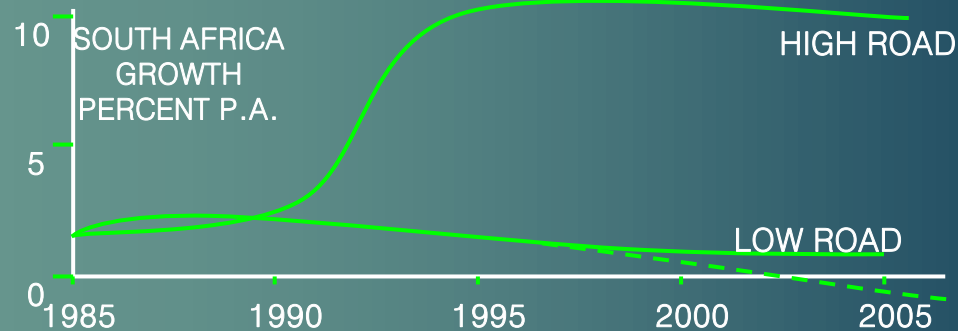
Background

Initiative by Anglo American Corporation

Context of international economic turbulence of 1970s

Slump in commodity markets, poor economic performance of South Africa, increasing isolation, and government resorting to rule of force

Results



Impact

1986 onwards: Clem Sunter presented to 25000-30000 people

Contributed to shift of thinking in government circles, raised the need for change and eventually transition to democracy

'SA and the World in the 1990s' – widely distributed

# Other Scenarios: Mont Fleur

Background	<p>Developed between 1990 and 1994</p> <p>Key events: Release of Nelson Mandela followed by first democratic elections in 1994</p> <p>Focus on housing, education and constitutional reform</p> <p>How to shape first ten years of the new South Africa</p>
Results	
Impact	<p>Scenarios distributed to more than 50 groups of people, short document and video</p> <p>Development of a common language and understanding of challenges</p> <p>Widely cited</p>

# Other Scenarios: Dinokeng

Background

The most prominent challenges facing South Africa in 2009:  
unemployment and poverty, safety and security, education and health  
Self-interested, unethical and unaccountable leadership across all sectors  
Disinterested and overly dependent population

Results



Impact

Media and engagement campaign to disseminate scenarios to a range of audiences  
Widely cited in a range of publications on futures centred research



# Dissemination and Impact

## Lessons for Knowledge Producers

- What can knowledge producers do to ensure that their scenarios are disseminated effectively and have impact?
  - Conduct a robust scenario development process
  - Plan for an effective dissemination process
  - Pay attention to the packaging and communication of scenarios
  - Ensure buy-in to scenario products
  - Recognise the importance of timing



# Dissemination and Impact

## Lessons for Knowledge Users

- What can knowledge users do to ensure they have the scenario information they need to make important decisions at their disposal?
  - Develop scenarios when needed
  - Engage with science councils, research organisations and boundary organisations to access latest relevant research
  - Draw in experts across the water sector in strategic planning exercises and make use of scenarios for planning purposes

# Conclusions

## ➤ Scenarios

- can help decision-makers identify preferred future states and move towards them, and
- can help mitigate risks that uncertain and variable future conditions could bring about.



# Conclusions

- The Water 2025 Scenarios could be used
  - to operationalise the NWRS II and continuing to implement the NWA, and
  - to facilitate decision-making in the water sector with regards to complex issues e.g. AMD and fracking.



# Thank you

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