

Scenarios for the South African Water Sector in 2025

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6 November 2012



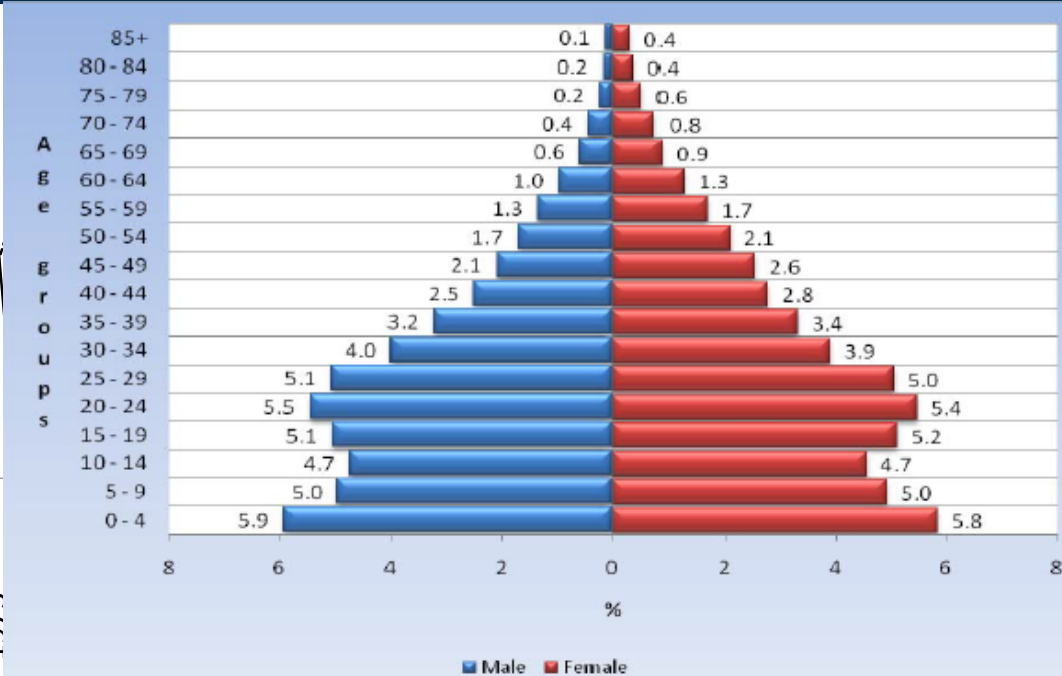
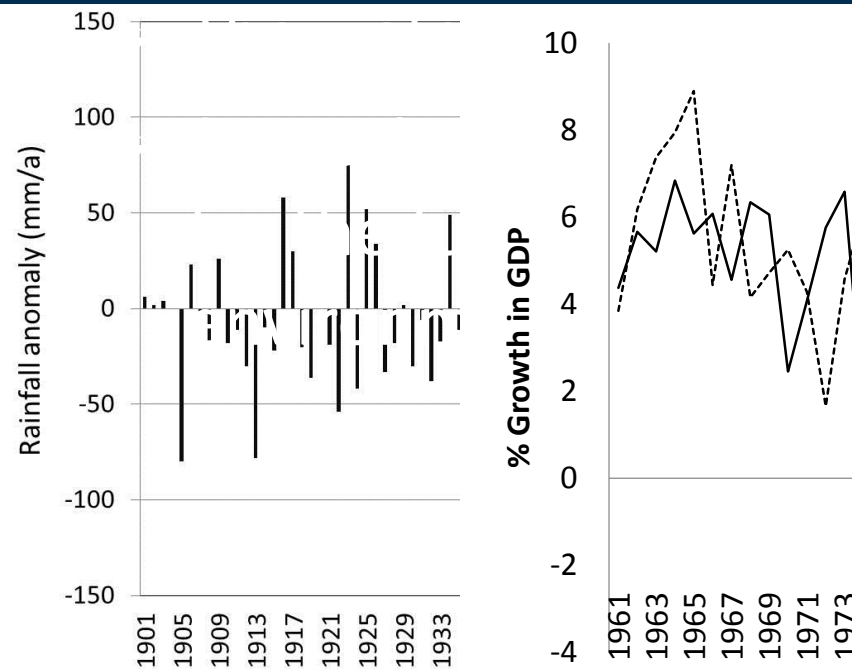
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The Importance of Scenarios for the South African Water Sector

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



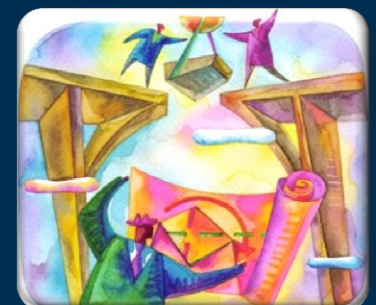
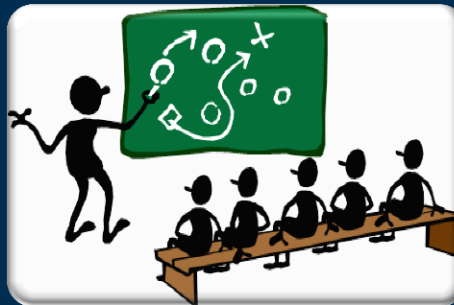
What are Scenarios?

- 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.

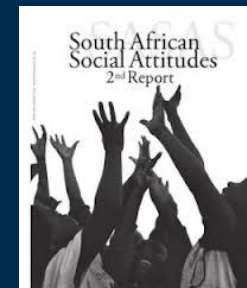
Water Sector by 2025: Rationale

- 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



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ision-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

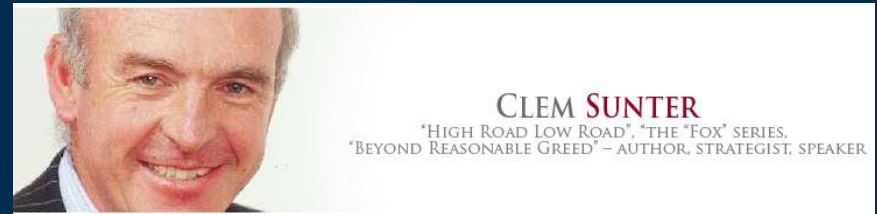
- How can scenarios be disseminated and have impact?
- What can we learn from other scenario processes?



Dissemination and Impact of Scenarios

➤ Three prominent South African scenario processes were considered:

- High Road/Low Road
- Mont Fleur
- Dinokeng

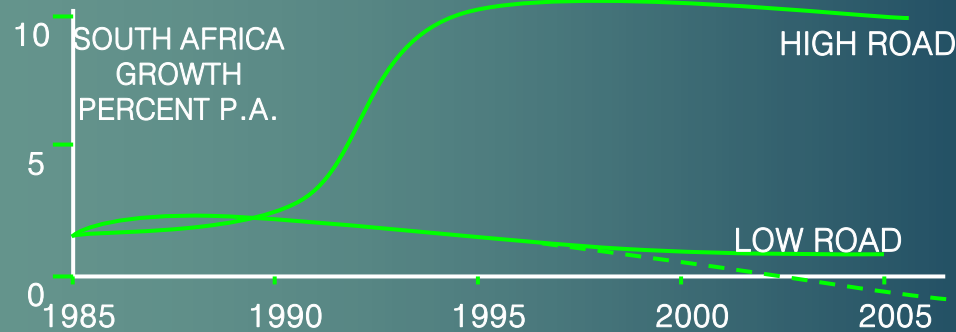


Other Scenarios: High Road/Low Road

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

Developed between 1990 and 1994

Key events: Release of Nelson Mandela followed by first democratic elections in 1994

Focus on housing, education and constitutional reform
How to shape first ten years of the new South Africa

Results



Impact

Scenarios distributed to more than 50 groups of people, short document and video

Development of a common language and understanding of challenges

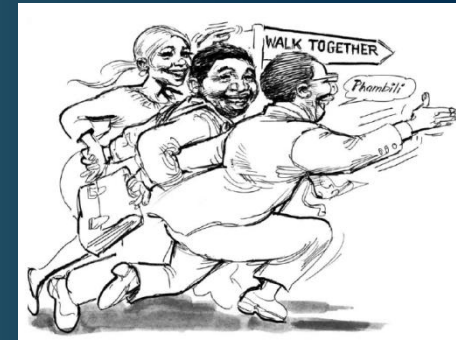
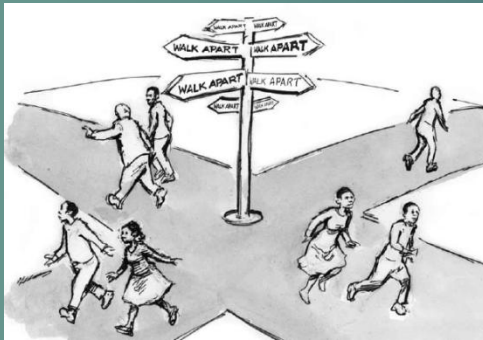
Widely cited

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

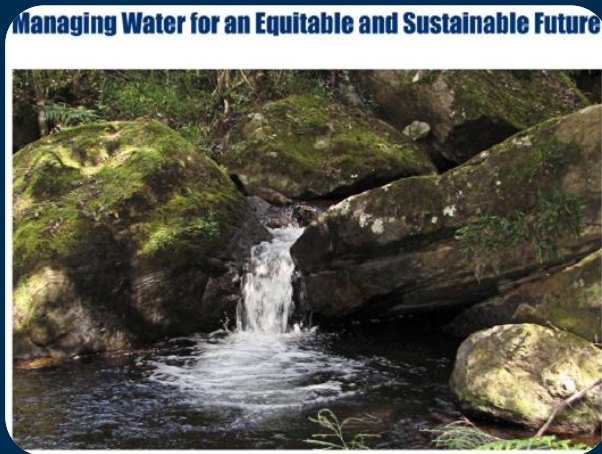
➤ Scenarios

- 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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