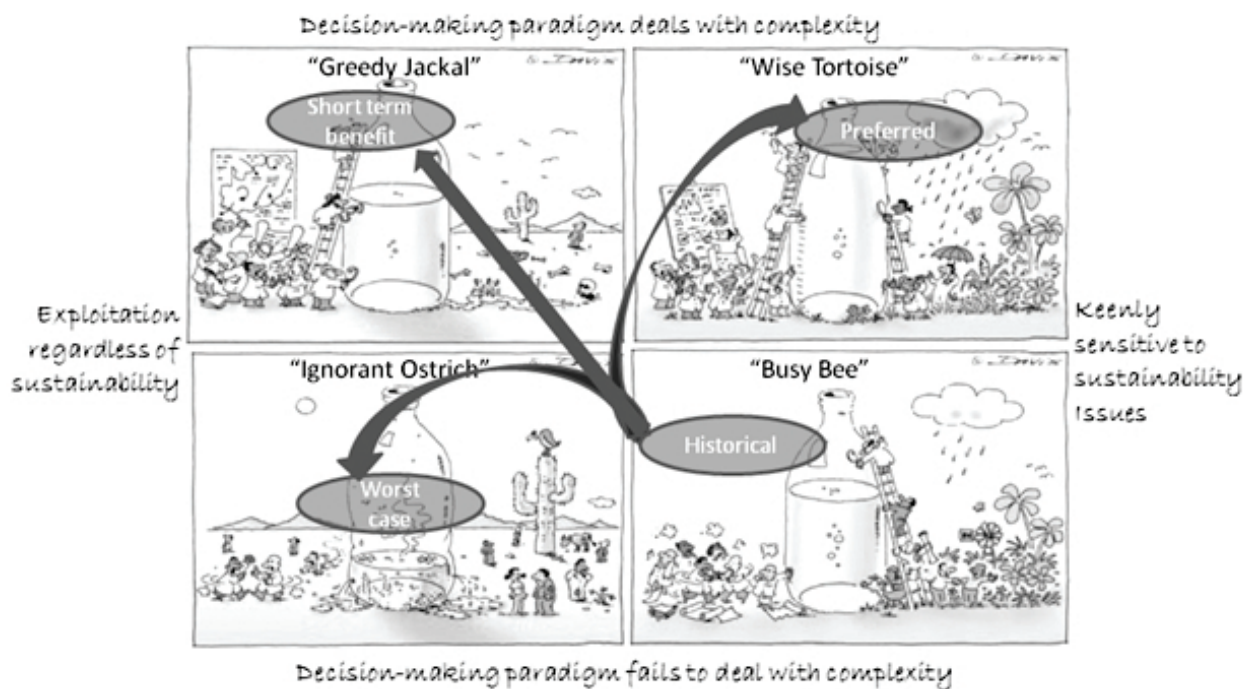


IWRM

The Water Sector Institutional Landscape 2025

A WRC-funded study investigated knowledge about key drivers and uncertainties related to the future of the South African water sector institutional landscape



Water sector institutional landscape

The National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) and National Water Resource Strategy (DWAF, 2004) introduced significant changes to the water sector institutional landscape and reflect the decentralisation of power and the increased opportunities for participation. Forums, utilities and Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs) are being established and are starting to carry out their responsibilities.

The institutional landscape referred to the context in which water institutions would operate in the future, rather than

different operational models or configurations for water institutions.

Knowledge about key drivers and uncertainties related to the future of the South African water sector institutional landscape is not readily available.

Scenarios with potential implications

The report focused on water resource management with relevance to the water services sector and different scenarios (or stories) that hold potential implications for

social and economic development have been developed.

This was based on broad participation of existing and new institutional entities in the process which brought about mutual benefit and provided stakeholders and policymakers with valuable insights to strengthen decision-making and to counter undesirable trajectories of change.

Scenario game board

One of the objectives of scenario development is to identify preferred future outcomes and to navigate towards such outcomes through explicit decisions and actions. Signposts or indicators can be used to assess the current position and trajectory in the scenario game board. The path towards the preferred option requires the most significant interventions, while inadequate action will migrate the sector to the worst case scenario.

Short communication and training report

The shorter glossy report focuses on four different futures for the South African water sector institutional landscape and will be widely distributed to stakeholders to support the overarching objective of strengthening institutional development.

Baseline report to benefit future users

This report compliments the short scenario report on the Water Sector Institutional Landscape by 2015. This report can be used as a baseline document for other scenario development processes. The drivers and scenarios described in the report can also provide useful perspectives on the water sector institutional landscape in 2025.

Extensive communication required

If these scenarios are to be used for strategy development,

planning and management in the water sector, a broad and extensive communication process is a key requirement and needs to take place at many levels.

- Official government need to be aware of these products and could use the scenarios in strategic decision-making processes within the department and in the revised National Water Resources Strategy, as a way of mapping out possible futures for the water institutional landscape. Careful consideration should be given to the contexts in which the scenarios are used and introduced by using people with skills and understanding of scenario building as facilitators for strategic planning sessions.
- Non-government stakeholders and researchers can be exposed to and made aware of future scenarios and possible indicators. Civil society (NGOs, schools, and communities) has 'on the ground' experience and awareness of what is happening in terms of water availability, quality and a potentially good and potentially bad water future and would be aware if the scenarios are moving in a certain direction. Civil society will have an added tool to support its articulation of current and future needs in relation to water.

Implementation process needed

The need for an explicit and comprehensive communication and implementation process became clear towards the end of the project. The research project did not make provision for such a process beyond the development of the scenario documentation.

Further reading:

To obtain the reports, *The Water Sector Institutional Landscape by 2025 Technical Report (WRC Report No. 1811/1/11)* or *The Water Sector Institutional Landscape – 2025 (Report No: TT 514/11)* contact Publications at Tel: (012) 330-0340; Fax: (012) 331-2565; Email: orders@wrc.org.za or Visit: www.wrc.org.za to download a free copy.