



Public Participation and Stakeholder Politics

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Public Participation and Stakeholder Politics

Present situation

Bad quality and
scarcity

Signs of water crisis in poor and developing countries

- Poverty and low sanitation levels result in the death of a child every 10 seconds and 10 million people/year due to untreated water
 - 80% of diseases and 33 % of deaths are due to the potable water crisis
 - 65% of inpatient and 80% of outpatient care are due to water related diseases
- 25% of their population don't have access to potable water and sanitation

Water/development

Availability (m³/inhabitant/year)	
Critic	below 1000
Acceptable, but vulnerable	From 1000 to 2000
good	More than 2000

UN alerts that in 25 years 2.8 Billion people could be living in dry chronic regions

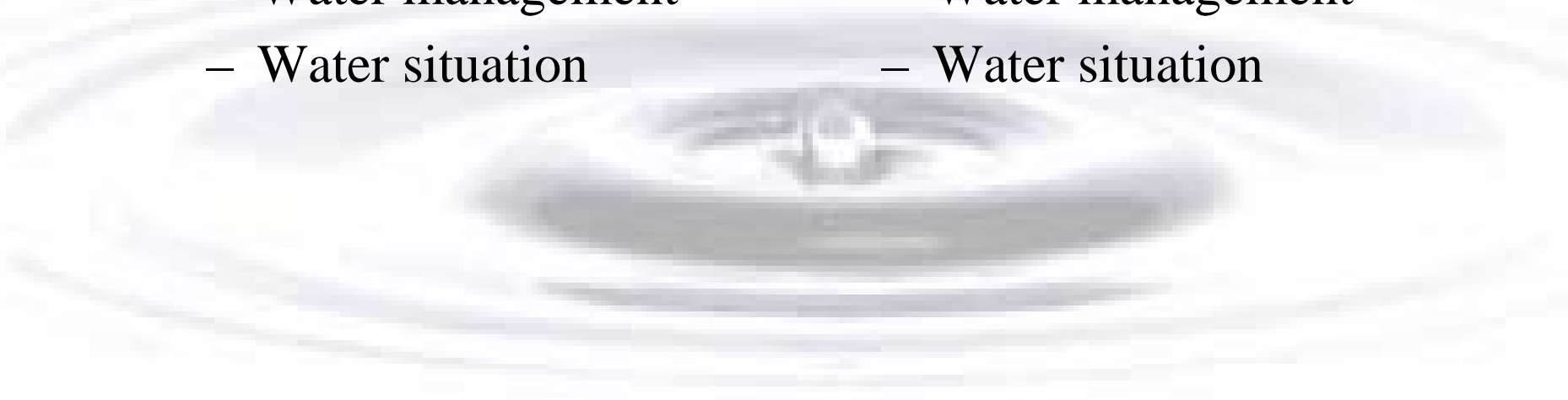
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Desirable situation

**Good Quality and
abundance**

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- Present situation
 - Water management
 - Water situation
- Desirable situation
 - Water management
 - Water situation



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Present situation

- Water management
 - Very centralized decision making
 - Unbalanced power of users on the decision making
 - No approach for multiple uses
 - No integrated projects
 - No integrated management
 - Inefficient use management
 - Low technological processes
 - Low Maintenance efficiency
 - Low control

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Present situation

- Water Social Economics
 - Reduction of economical development perspectives
 - Higher social health expenses
 - Higher mortality (children)
 - New class of people (environmental and social refugees)

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Present situation

- Water Social Economics
 - Vicious circle between poverty and environmental degradation

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Present situation

- Water Culture
 - Remaining influence of “old Culture”
 - Never-ending water renewable processes
 - Non economic value of water
 - The concept of the ownership of water
 - Water as landfill (waste dumping places)
 - No understanding of the reuse of water (acceptance)

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Present situation

- Water Culture
 - Low understanding of the hydrologic cycle
 - Low understanding of environmental processes in general
 - Increased awareness x Little action
 - Psychological pressure / anxiety

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Desirable situation

- Utilize new concepts
- Install democratic management processes
- Implement new legal approaches
- Mobilize people
 - Behavior change

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Democratic water management

- Democratic experience of societies
 - Representative characteristics
- Appropriate new institutional organizations
 - Water Resource councils
 - Water agencies
 - Technical chambers
 - Committees
 - Others
 - » Forums for debates
 - » Environmental law fulfillment specialized services

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Democratic water management

- Committees as basic organizations - “Water Parliaments”
 - Legitimacy
 - Transparency
 - Broaden access to information
 - Continuity of processes

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Democratic water management

- Consult society “public hearings, surveys, etc.”
- Search for balanced possibilities and opportunities
- Recognition of limits
- Sustainability as reference

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New legal approaches

- Improved legislation with:
 - New concepts
 - New structure
 - New instruments

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New legal approaches

Concepts

- Water as a limited resource, with economic value
- Water as a public good
- Multiple use must be considered
- Hydrographic basins as the unit for planning and management
- Decentralized management “decisions” with participation of the government, users and communities

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People mobilization

- Acknowledgment of government efficacy limits in water management
- Government recognition of the importance of people's mobilization
- “Emancipation” of the citizens
- Government should assure conditions for mobilization
- No paternalism
- Empowerment

Conclusion

- Water management should achieve practical results
- Official and formal structures are necessary, but not sufficient
- Citizens initiative must be stimulated
- Social and political compromise are required