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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critic</th>
<th>Below 1000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acceptable, but vulnerable</td>
<td>From 1000 to 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>More than 2000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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