



The South African water context and global water stewardship landscape

Alex McNamara, NBI August 2018







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A quick note on terminology...

Water stewardship:

- Engaging in partnerships with other roleplayers to address shared water challenges

The global water stewardship landscape

The global water crisis – what is it?



Failure to meet basic human needs for water and sanitation

Local water scarcity and resource depletion

Water pollution

Spread of water-related diseases

Ecosystem degradation and destruction

Threats to economic development and national security

Climate change

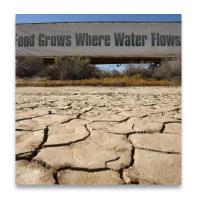
We need to significantly improve water access, while facing growing demand and more variable supply





844 million people lack basic drinking water service (JMP, 2017)

2.3 billion people lack access to basic sanitation (JMP, 2017)



Agriculture in 2050 will need to produce almost 50% more food, feed and biofuel than it did in 2012 (FAO, 2017)



Global water demand in terms of water withdrawals is projected to increase by 55% due to growing demands from manufacturing (400%), thermal electricity generation (140%) and domestic use (130%) (OECD, 2012)



Rainfall and temperatures are projected to become more variable with climate change.

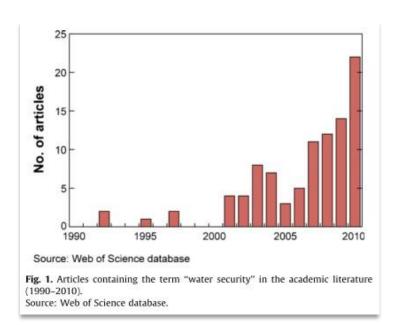
A higher incidence of droughts will have heavy impacts on rainfed smallholder farmers, who produce about 60% of global agricultural output (FAO, 2011b)

Source: Stefan Uhlenbrook – WWAP, UNESCO

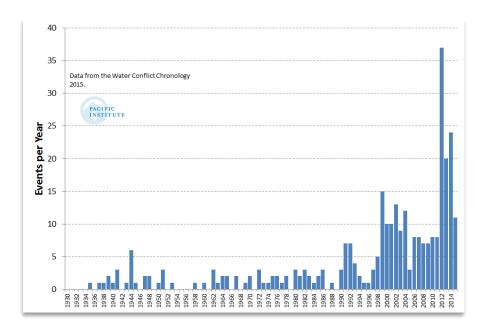
This context has led to an increasing global focus on water security



Use of the term "water security" increased significantly since 1990:



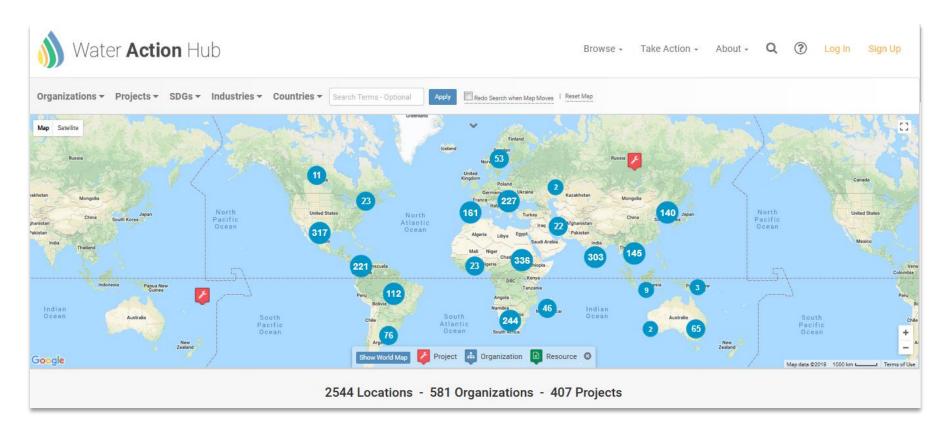
With a sharp increase in recorded water conflict events:



Water conflict events: 1930-2015

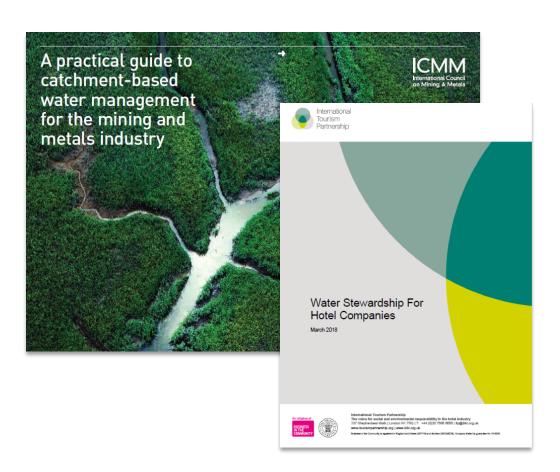
Water stewardship has gained traction as a strategic response to the water crisis





And fostered a number of industry-led water stewardship initiatives:









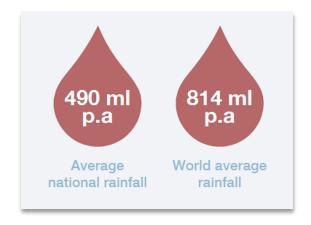
The 'inconvenient truth' with respect to water is that both operational measures and collaborative action are needed

The national water context

South Africa is a water scarce country facing a growing water supply deficit



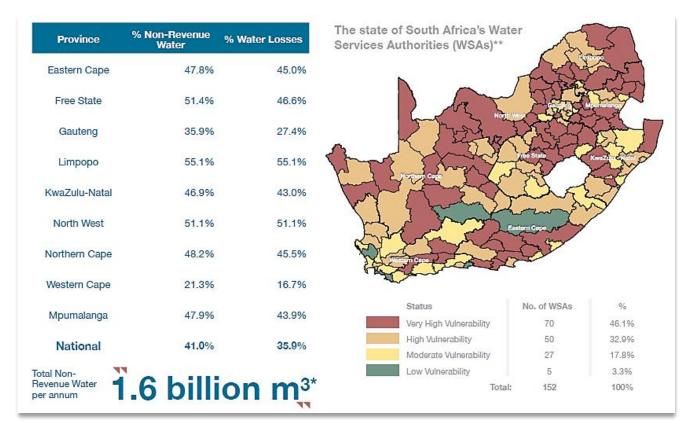
- Our annual rainfall is roughly half the global average
- The water requirement in many Water Management Areas already exceeds availability





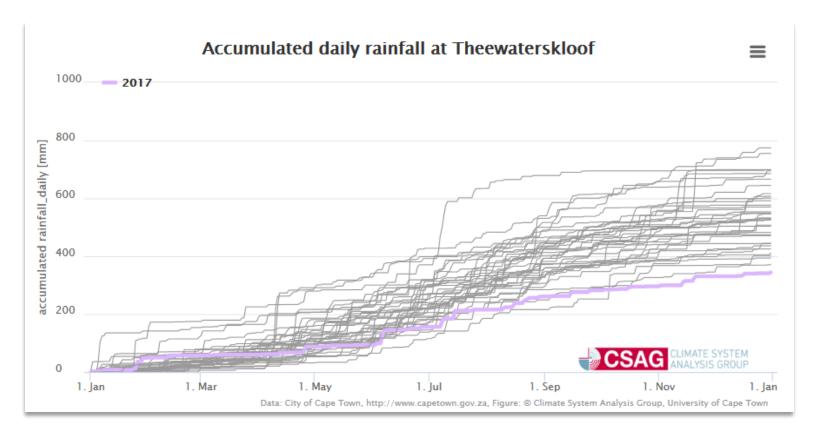
This water scarcity is compounded by stresses on municipal infrastructure and institutions





And by increased drought and weather variability



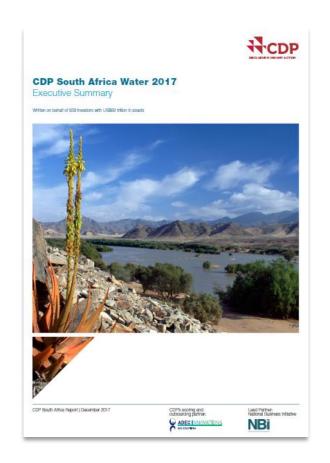


Source: CSAG (2017) http://www.csag.uct.ac.za/current-seasons-rainfall-in-cape-town/

We arguably face a perfect dust storm on water issues, made up of:



- A growing population with growing water needs (increasing demand)
- More frequent drought and weather variability (increasing physical risk)
- The poor performance of many water services authorities (institutional risks)
- An associated culture of indebtedness and non-payment (investment risks)



The water challenge in South Africa isn't simply going to evaporate.

Our collective energies are required.

Water stewardship is a meaningful part of this journey.

The NBI and water stewardship

The NBI has been working closely with corporates on water stewardship since 2014...





The NBI is also a lead partner in 2 major water collaborations in South Africa:

- 1. The uMhlathuze Water Stewardship Partnership (UWASP)
- 2. Western Cape Drought Task Force

Engaging further:

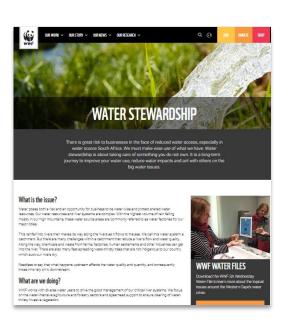




http://www.nbi.org.za/focus-areas/environmentalsustainability/water/water-stewardship/



http://www.iwasp.org/where-we-work/where-we-work/south-africa



http://www.wwf.org.za/our_work/initiatives/water stewardship.cfm

For more information



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The National Business Initiative is a voluntary coalition of South African and multinational companies, working towards sustainable growth and development in South Africa and the shaping of a sustainable future through responsible business action. Since our inception in 1995, the NBI has made a distinct impact in the spheres of housing delivery, crime prevention, local economic development, public sector capacity building, Further Education and Training, schooling, public private partnerships, energy efficiency and climate change.

The NBI is a global network partner of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and an implementation partner of the CEO Water Mandate, We Mean Business and CDP.

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