

Revision of the National Water Act

Portfolio Committee on Water

October 22nd 2008

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CSIR

Overview

- The CSIR's perspective on the National Water Act
- Key challenges for the water sector
 - Capacity and institutions
 - Poverty alleviation
 - Climate change & water availability
 - Pollution
- Do we need a new Act..?

CSIR's perspective

- Carry out directed research in the national interest to improve the quality of life for South Africans.
- Water group of 40 researchers
- Involved in development of regulations and methodologies for DWAF (Classification, Reserve, River Health Programme, Groundwater management)
- New ideas & science into the water sector supporting sustainable development.

NWA, 1998

- The Noble Principles
 - efficiency; equity; sustainability.
 - Some, for all, forever!
 - Ecological resource
 - Integration & cooperative governance.
 - Participation.
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- Is it tried and tested?

1a – Capacity & Institutions

- Achieved – transformation and development of new skills and capacity

Challenges

- Capacity limited in water resource management, water services, DWAF & regional government
- SAICE – loss of engineers
- Continuity – institutional memory

1b - Institutions

- Integrated Water Resource Management
- Watershed focus
- Restructuring – no Geohydrology
- Integration at appropriate levels

1c - Institutions

- Links between Water Resources (CMAs) & Water Services (Local Gov) & Infrastructure Agency
- 19 CMAs – Only 7 proclaimed & 3 established
- Only 25% of Irrig Boards now WUAs
 - Transition
 - Uncertainty

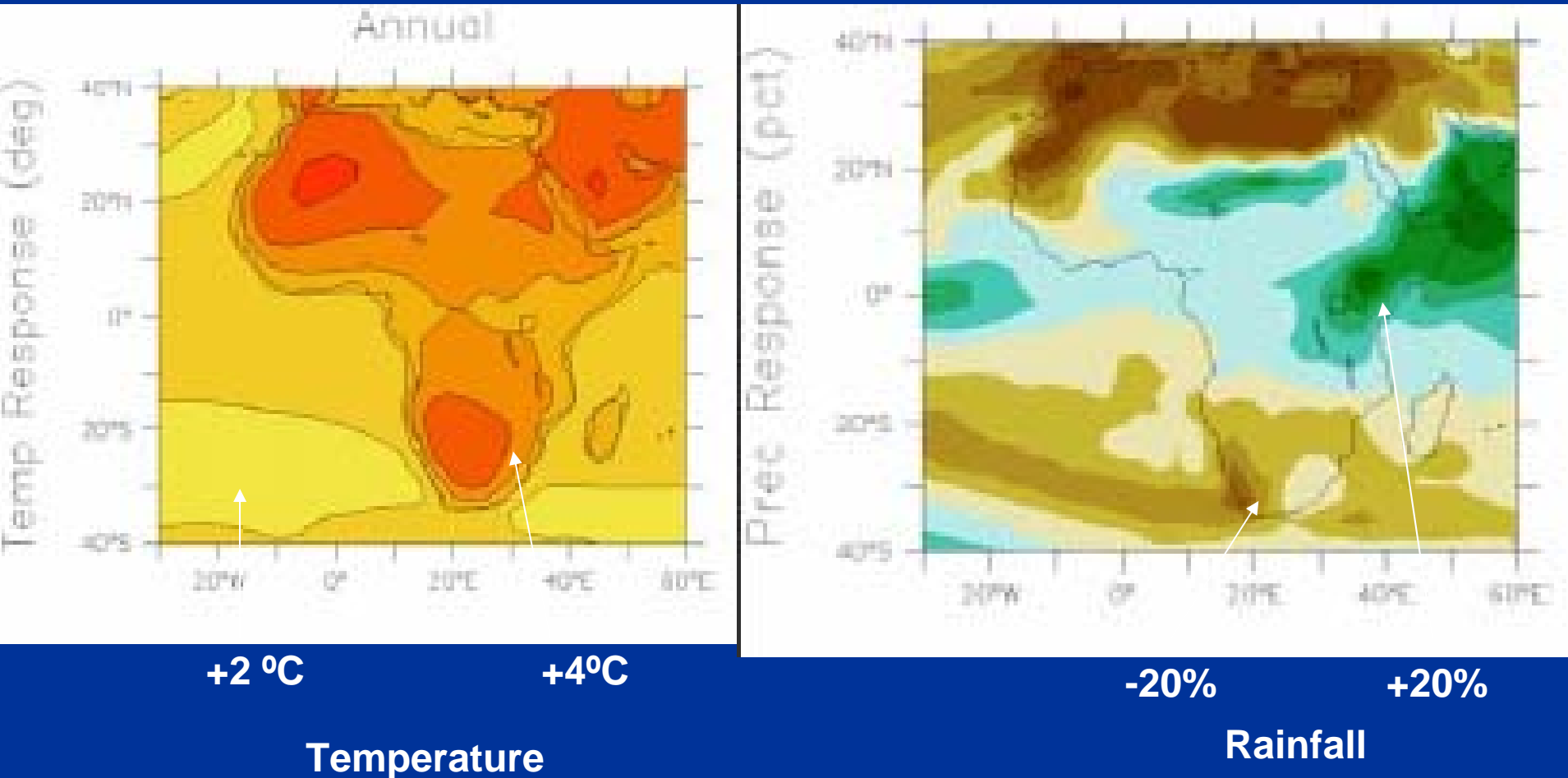
2 - Poverty alleviation

- Achieved – 18 mill. basic water + 11mill. Sanitation since 1994

Challenges

- Rural communities rely on local resources
- Sustainability
- More than ‘taps and toilets’
- Droughts and flood disasters
- 97% allocated (NWRS)
 - Innovate for growth

3 – Climate Change



Africa projections 2080-2099, 21 models, A1B scenario

Source: IPCC AR4 WG1 ch 11

3 – Climate Change

- Strengthen our science – understand ‘tipping points’
- Water is dynamic not a ‘fixed asset’
- Inter – relationships between water, crops and vegetation.

- Adaptation measures

Storage, groundwater

- Mitigation measures,
WCWDM, sequestration

4a - Pollution

- Achieved – Resource Directed Measures, RQOs, Source directed controls.

Challenges

- Cooperation required to deal with Acid Mine Drainage.
- WWTW – local gov.
- Loss of dilution capacity

4b - Pollution

- New contaminants
 - EDC, ARV metabolites
- Analytical capacity
- Cooperation with DoH and others

Summary for NWA review

- Useful principles and approaches.
 - If it ain't broke..
- Legislation Vs Regulations (what Vs how)
 - Giving effect to...
 - Simple, implementable regulations
- Integration should be directed
- NWA should enable planning for key challenges
 - Cooperative governance strengthened
 - Capacity building
 - Allocation revisions & innovation for change
 - SDCs & RQOs implemented

Do we need to get a new Act together?

Or, do we need to get our act together?