

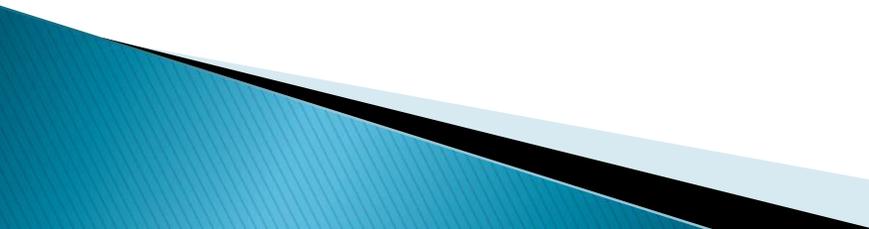
TIPS ANNUAL FORUM: FRAGMENTED SECTORAL APPROACH ON WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD IN SOUTH AFRICA

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Background

- During 2009 South Africa adopted a framework response to the global economic crisis
 - The National framework outlined some of the policy commitments and action plan to be undertaken on which green economy was part and green economy is one of the tools to achieve sustainable development
 - In 2011 the country adopted green accord which is an agreement between government, business and labour committing each to tangible targets
 - Also in the very same year South Africa noted and embraced the water–energy–food (WEF) nexus concept which was first brought to the attention of global leaders at the Davos World Economic Forum through the Global Risks (2011) report, of which South Africa was a part
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Background cont..

- A series of dialogues and in depth research on WEF concept has been increasing
 - However, in South Africa the nexus approach remains mainly paper work due to lack of proper framework
 - Furthermore South Africa have separate ministries for water, energy and food sector. This has therefore led to having separate policy documents and conflicting priority programmes that unintentionally can threaten the security of the other sector/s.
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Problem Statement

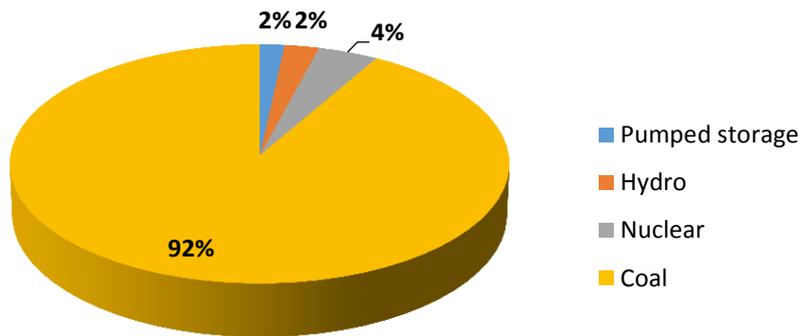
- The key question therefore remains, since adoption of WEF Nexus in 2011 why are there no talks of developing WEF policy document that will guide implementation and deal with complexities of governance structures?

Literature Review

- South Africa is a Constitutional Democracy with a three-tier system of government and an independent judiciary. The national, provincial and local levels of government all have legislative and executive authorities in their own spheres
- The development challenge in South Africa revolves around how to grow the economy in a manner that **creates jobs** for a relatively poorly educated and unskilled workforce

Energy

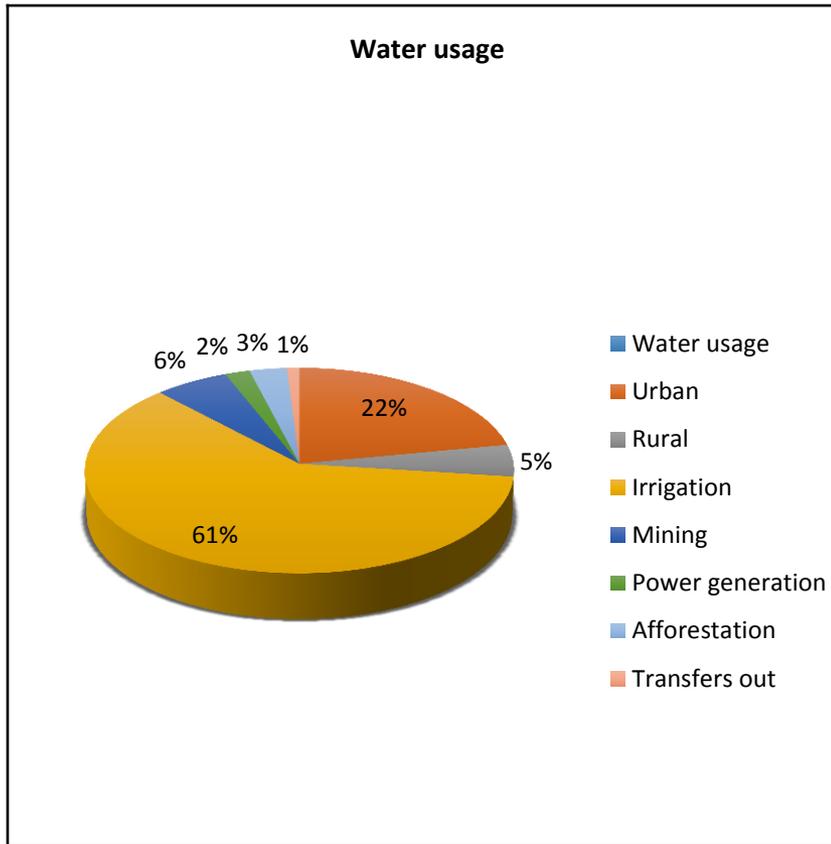
Electricity capacity generation by energy source



WWF, 2014

- About 90% of electricity is generated from coal, followed by just less than 5% from nuclear energy
- Other sources of electricity including hydropower, petroleum products (diesel), natural gas and other renewable energy sources which collectively contribute a very small proportion of the total installed capacity for electricity generation

Water



WWF,2016

- Although South Africa is experiencing water deficits and has major problem with the quality of water, still most of the water used across the different sectors is freshwater.

Food



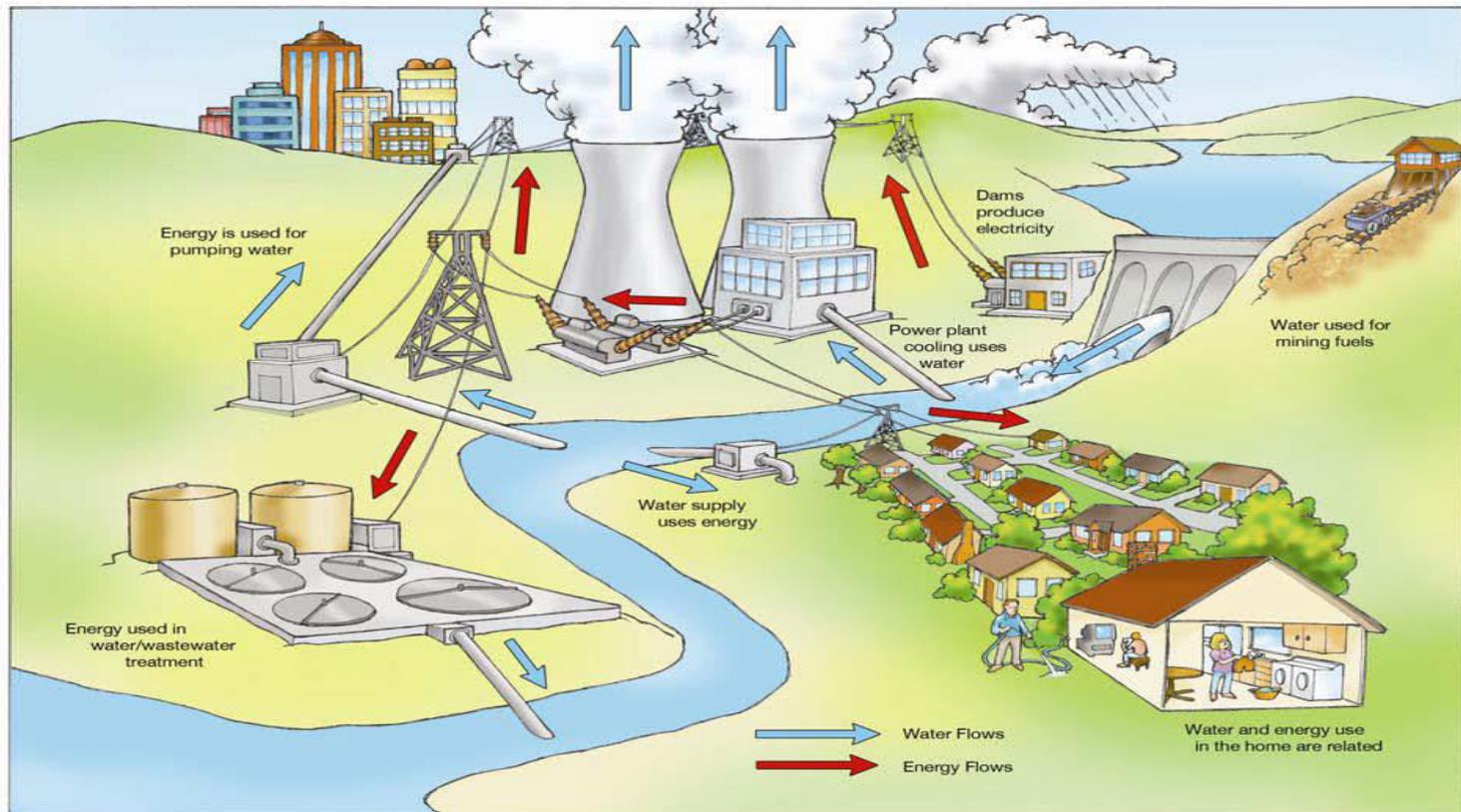
- The department of agriculture, forestry and fisheries has prioritised three focus ***areas which are food security, job creation and contribution to the gross domestic product***
- The National Development Plan (NDP) has identified agriculture as one of the priority sectors that has a potential of creating massive number of jobs due to its nature
- Although the stats shows that agriculture has highest demand for water through irrigation, a need to enhance this sector has been prioritised

Summary

- High level assessment on the sectors above demonstrates conflicting priorities
 - One thing that stands out is that there are dependencies within these sectors and water seems to be at the centre
 - Therefore, in order to ensure security, there is a need for an integrated approach coupled with distinct monitoring and evaluation systems
 - Implementation of policies independently is not the best solution for South Africa as it will lead the country to multiple crises
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WEF in South Africa

- Most of the studies conducted on the WEF nexus concept in South Africa were intended at understanding the linkages, dependencies, and trade-offs associated with the core elements of the



Analysis of the Problem

- South Africa has a triple challenge of poverty, **unemployment** and inequality
 - ***Jobs are not being created at the same rate as the labour market growth rate*** (Nine point plan, 2017).
 - The recent Quarterly Labour survey released by Stats SA highlights that the unemployment rate has increased to 27, 7%, the highest it has been since 2003.
 - **Based on the current situation of the country, who then will entertain WEF nexus approach if it does not necessarily directly respond to the biggest challenge of unemployment.**
 - Being a developing country with limited financial muscle and already experiencing resource difficulties on these three sectors, makes it more complex to take decisions that are future driven.
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Recommendations

- However all is not lost, innovative options on how to ensure integration across the three sectors without even trying to disturb the current government structures need to be explored as follows;
 - There are clusters and forums in place to promote policy integration and effective planning
 - With the department of Water and Sanitation having prioritised the WEF nexus approach makes it possible to ensure that interconnectedness of these sectors are highlighted and incorporated into the future programmes and projects through clusters
 - Department of Water and Sanitation to allocate resources to major programmes approved at cluster.
 - In addition, the department of Water and Sanitation need to work on convincing the Ministry for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation within the presidency which is responsible for monitoring outcomes to assist in monitoring WEF nexus, thus emphasising its importance

Conclusion

If this approach is not seriously considered, honestly, the objectives of NDP or the efforts of trying to alleviate the challenges facing South Africa might not even see the light of day and will lead the country into multiple crises.

Thank you...

