

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP & The ENVIRONMENT



**SAEDI**  
CONSULTING

**no-line**  
communications

# **Thembi Nkadimeng**

COUNCILLOR

**Executive Mayor of  
The City of Polokwane**

**President of  
The South African Local Government Association  
(SALGA)**

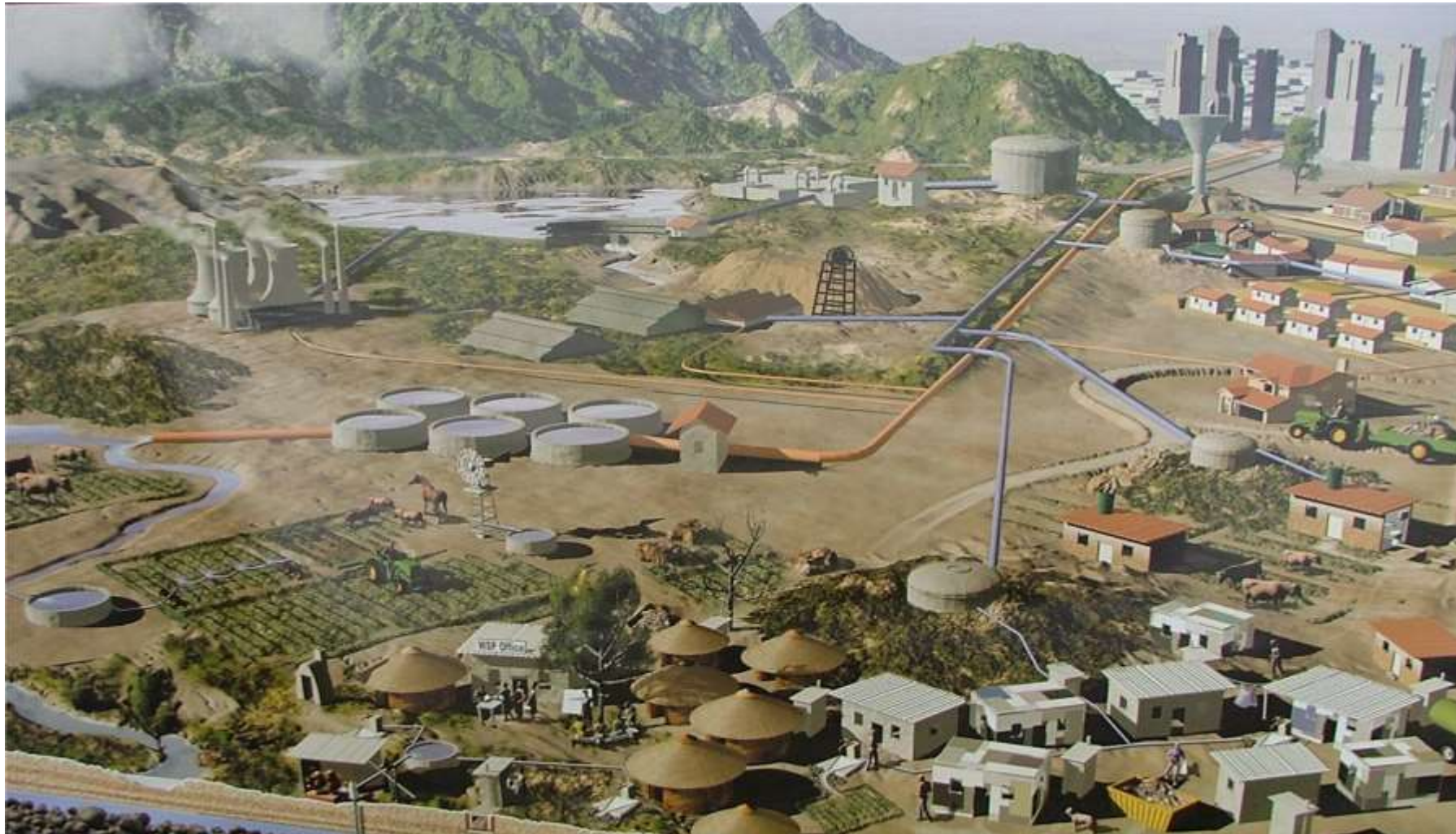
**Co-President of  
United Cities & Local Governments  
(UCLG)**

**Gender, Water & Governance**



# WATER GENDER WEBINAR

## 20 JULY 2021



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE



# Context: The Water Value Chain

**DEPARTMENT  
OF WATER AND  
SANITATION**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tier**  
National security of supply  
Mandated by National Water Act 38  
of 1998



**BULK  
PROVIDERS  
(Water Boards)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tier**  
Regional supply to municipalities  
Mandated by the Water Services  
Act 108 of 1997



**MUNICIPALITIES  
(Water Services  
Authorities)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tier**  
Local service delivery and customer  
management  
Mandated by the Constitution,  
Water Services Act, Municipal  
Systems Act and Municipal  
Structures Act

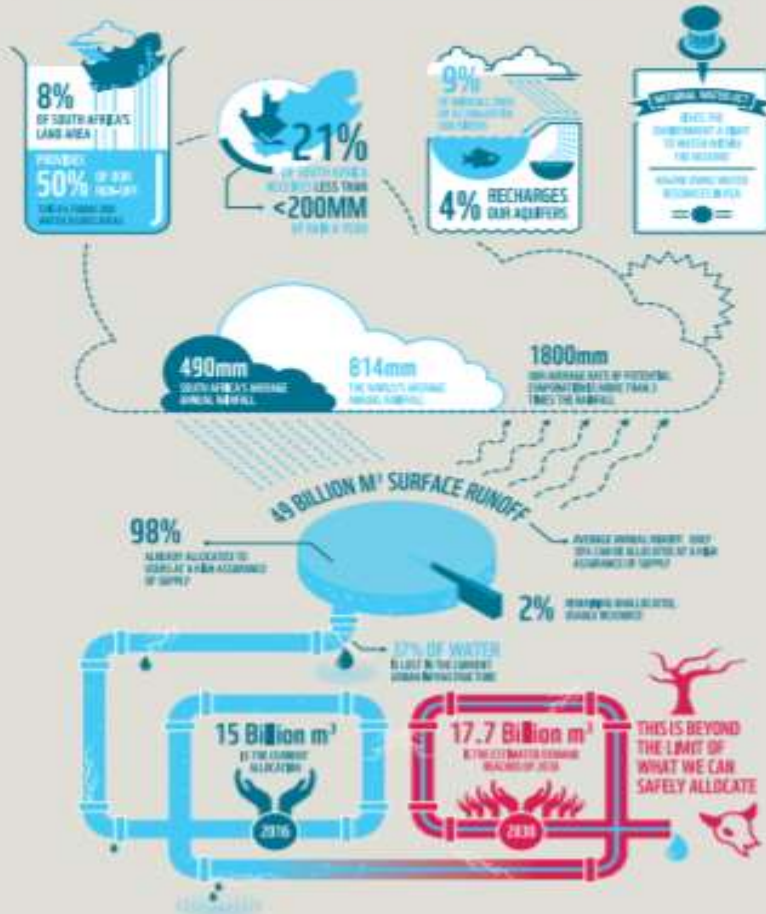




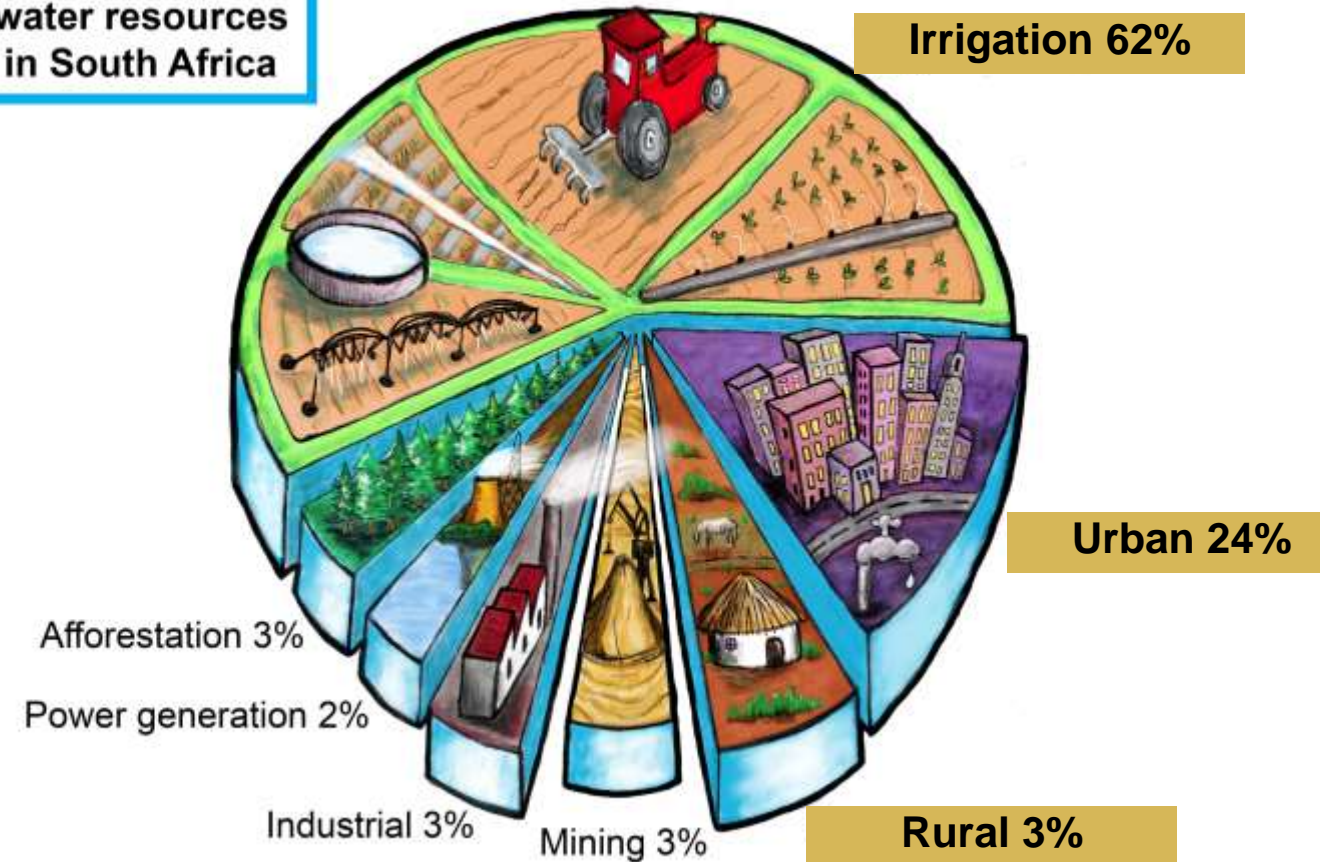
# SOUTH AFRICA'S WATER FACTS

South Africa's waters are governed by the Water Services Act of 1997 and the National Water Act (NWA) of 1998.

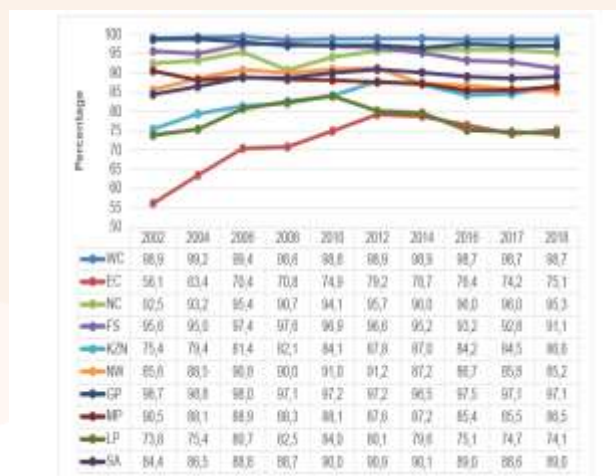
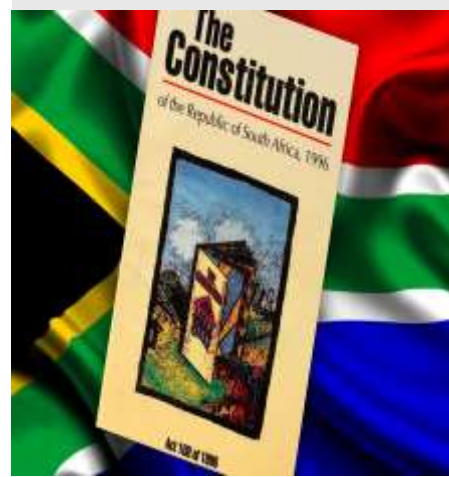
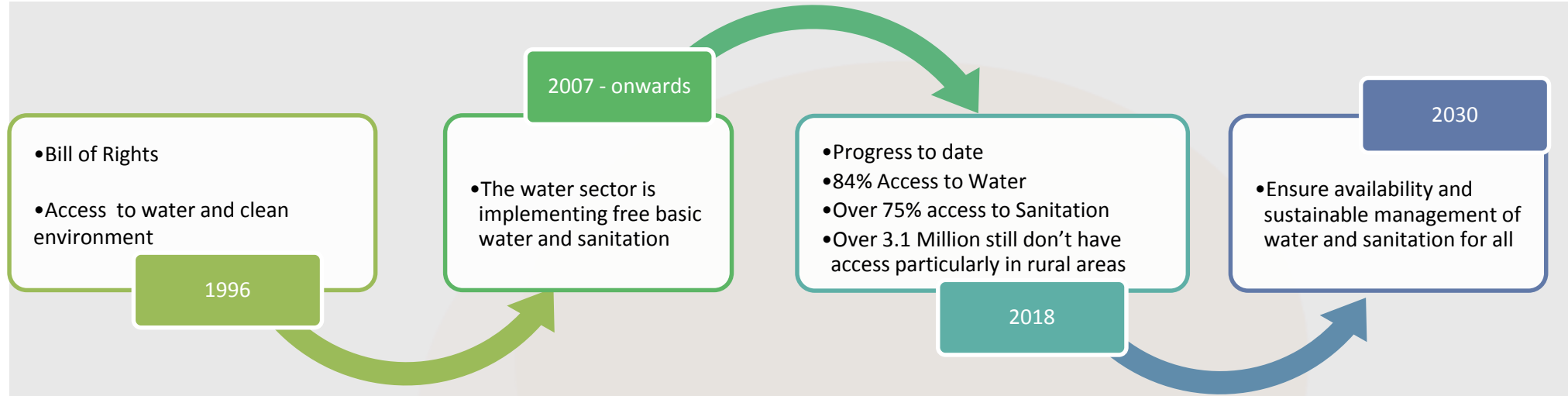
## SOUTH AFRICA'S WATER RESOURCES BY NUMBERS



How we use our water resources in South Africa



# Our Legislative and Water Governance System

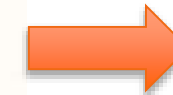


**National Water and Sanitation Master Plan approved by 2019** [www.salga.org.za](http://www.salga.org.za)

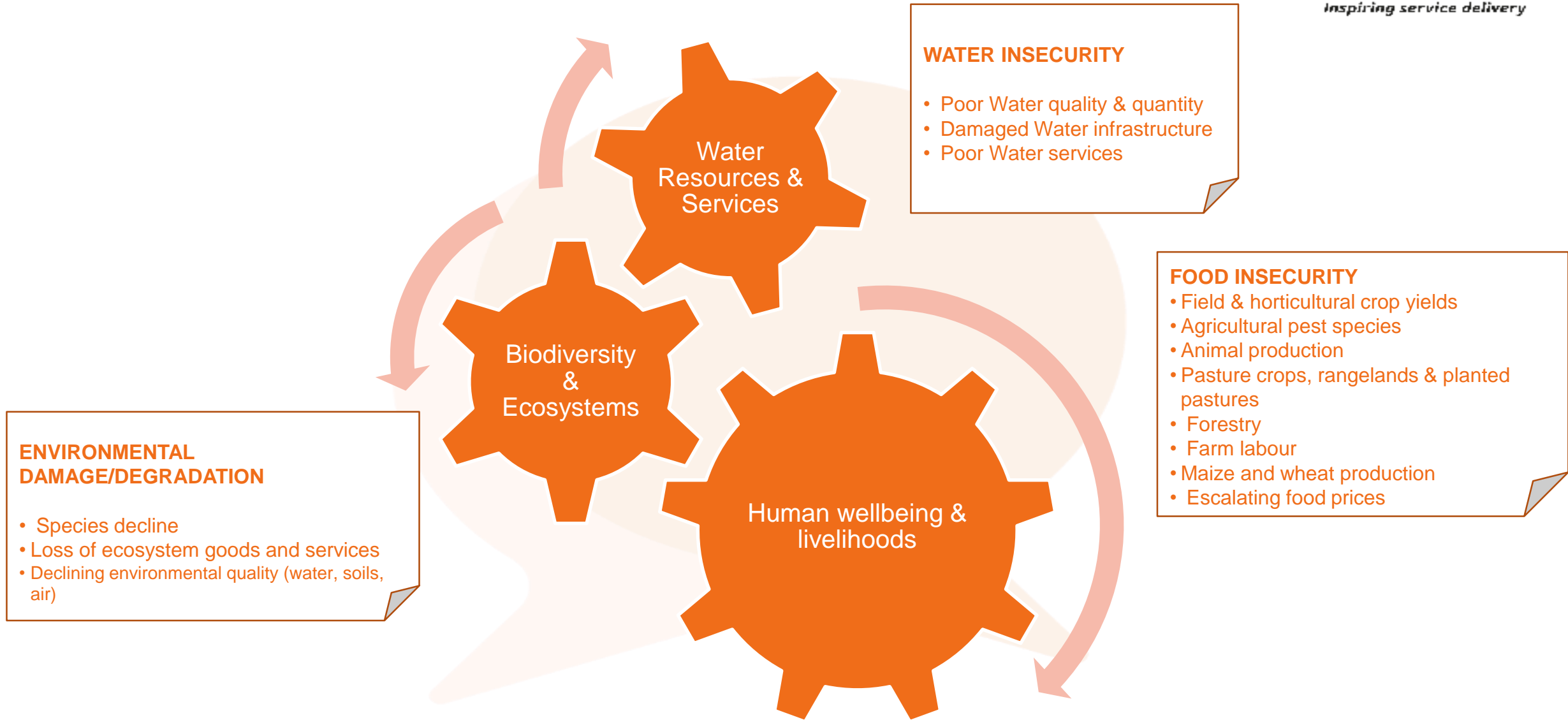


# Improved Water Services Infrastructure Delivery in Rural Areas

- Water Infrastructure Funding Instruments
  - Municipal Infrastructure Grant – this is to subsidise the poor for Capex
  - Equitable Share – this is to subsidise the poor for operations and maintenance
  - Tariffs – to sustain infrastructure

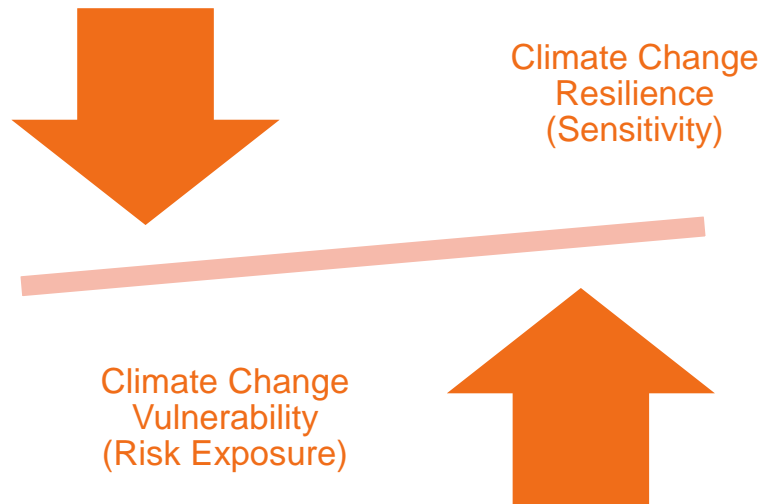


# Climate change impacts on the water sector and vulnerable communities





# THE WATER SECTOR IS ONE OF THE MOST CLIMATE VULNERABLE OF MUNICIPAL SERVICE SECTORS:



Water governance & services must seek to improve resilience & reduce sensitivity by managing the following:



**Storage capacity**

**Resilient infrastructure**

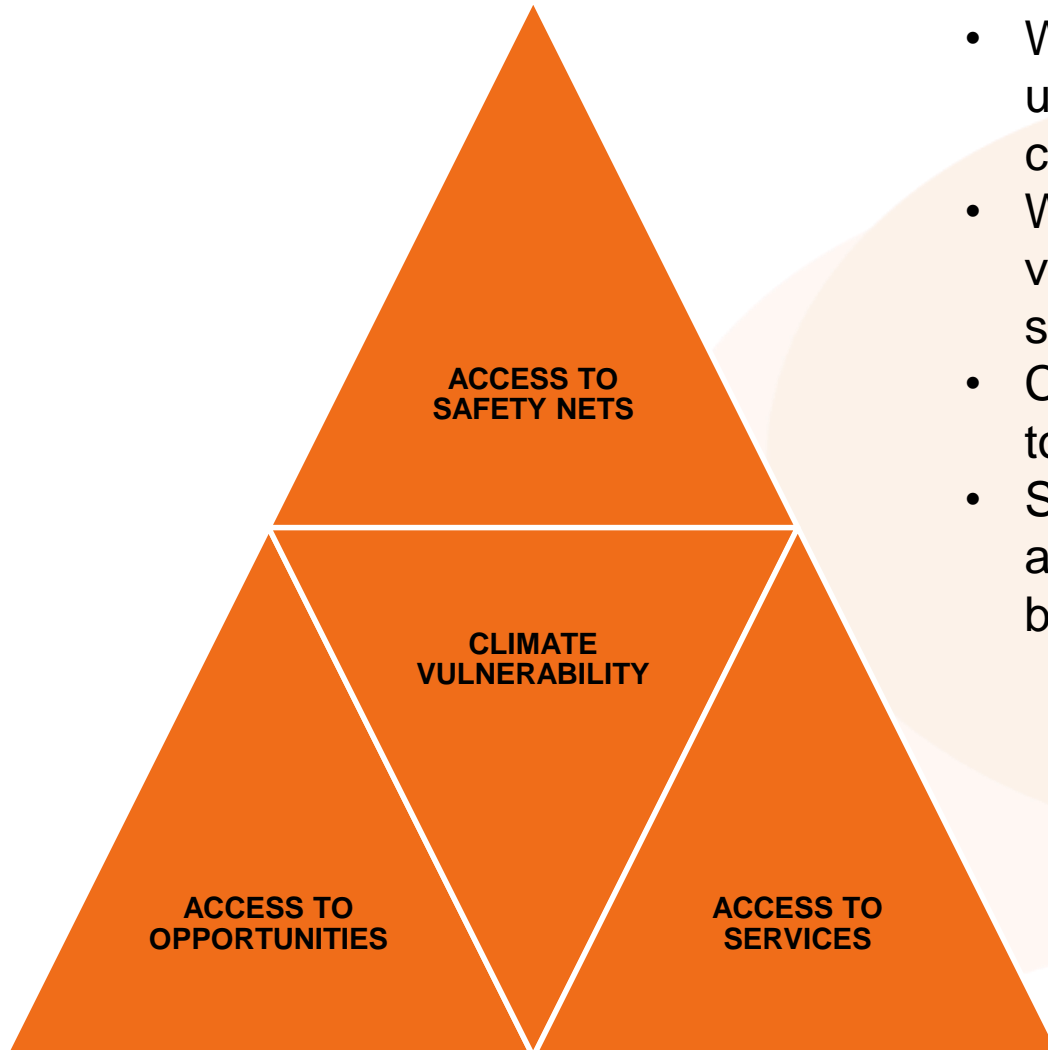
**Universal access**

**Water availability (surface & ground)**

$$\text{Vulnerability} = \frac{\text{Exposure + Sensitivity}}{\text{Capacity (to absorb impacts/cope with impacts)}}$$

- **Climatic threats/hazards (Exposure)**
  - Drought
  - Flooding
  - Ecosystem degradation (biodiversity loss, soil quality)
- **Non-climatic threats/hazards (Sensitivity)**
  - State of infrastructure/assets (renewal/refurbishment/replacement)
  - Extent of infrastructure services (non-serviced areas, inappropriate technology)
  - Institutional (science-based/ evidence based planning, compliance to technical norms & standards)

# WOMEN (AND ALL MARGINALISED GROUPS OF SOCIETY) ARE MOST VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE IMPACTS



- Women and marginalised groups of communities (in both rural and urban areas are increasingly exposed and vulnerable to impacts of climate change:
- Women (especially in rural areas and informal settlements are vulnerable to extreme events floods, wild fires, storms ; as well as slow-onset climatic hazards such as drought
- Climate vulnerability is a function of exposure to risk and sensitivity to the impacts of hazards
- Sensitivity to climate impacts (i.e. how severely impacts will be felt and the magnitude of negative change to livelihoods and well being) is driven by a number of factors:
  - Access to basic services (water, electricity, roads, emergency services, primary health care etc.)
  - Access to safety nets (such as insurance, savings, social services)
  - Access to opportunities (i.e. jobs/work and income, education etc.)

# AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO REDUCING THE VULNERABILITY OF WOMEN TO CLIMATE IMPACTS



Environmental & water governance

Climate protection & low-carbon infrastructure

Disaster Risk Reduction

Legislative Mandate; Fiscal capability; Institutional capability; Knowledge & Skills; Data & systems; Technology



# PARTNERING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

## CLIMATE SMART & RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

### BRIDGE THE SCIENCE-POLICY GAP

- Environmental compliance outcomes – Promote Learning Network & cooperation with science community (research and development for climate smart development)
- Low Carbon and Green Economy – strengthen municipal role
- Review of infrastructure plans for climate integration/prooing
- Climate smart long term-capital investment

## INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### GENDER SENSITIVE SERVICE SOLUTIONS

- Water sector planning that responds to gender parity objectives
- Spatial development that prioritises social and economic infrastructure for:
  - Economic opportunities
  - Reduces sensitivity to climate impacts

## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- The **I**nfrastructure **S**kills **D**evelopment **G**rant:
  - Capacity to delivery water infrastructure:
    - Technical and managerial skills
  - Capacity to produce quality water as a service:
    - Scientific and Engineering knowledge required to produce water that meet specified standards.
- ISDG in the Sector therefore delivers BOTH technical skills & capacity and the requisite knowledge to keep and maintain water quality.



## COVID19 INTERVENTION

- An investment of over R400 Million in the 2019/2020 financial year was realised to deliver water to vulnerable communities
- Indications are that where water is provided during Covid19, the impact for communities who were previously un-served is **enormous**;
  - Access to Water to vulnerable communities
  - Improved Frequency of water supply
  - “Free basic ” Water Services
  - Protection of vulnerable communities during Covid19





## Covid19 lessons

1. Covid19 has exposed our strengths, opportunities, threats and weakness in our intergovernmental relations response.
2. Further unearthed the magnitude of our societal challenges of inequalities, unemployment and poverty amongst.
3. It has also revealed the capability of our infrastructure in addressing the needs of vulnerable communities
4. Key decision can't be made without data analytics
5. Water Sector work force were regarded essential amongst other categories
6. The risks adjusted strategy levels 5 – 1 adopted by Government has been at the centre of managing the spread of Covid19
7. All of these issues has compelled us to collaborate in a quest to fight the spread of the virus.

# Concluding Remarks

1. Our Water Governance is sound in terms of the following
  - Policies and legislative framework
  - Fiscal Framework
  - Collaboration
  - Inclusiveness
2. Access to Water and Sanitation has incrementally improved since the dawn of democracy particularly to vulnerable communities such as women
3. There are still challenges such as lack of access to certain communities
4. Skills development, Research, Development and Innovation is at the centre of our quest to improve management of water
5. Covid19 has taught us some lessons which we need to embrace when responding to similar disasters in the near future

THANK YOU

