



Building sustainable water policy through mapping Mexico City's water sector

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Agenda

- Background on Mexico City's water crisis
- Project scope
- Methodology & project framing
- Key findings:
 - Critical issues
 - Prioritization of solutions
 - Areas of consensus & disagreements
- Deliverables & outcomes
- Acknowledgements



Mexico City's imminent water crisis pushes new administration to develop comprehensive water sustainability plan

Mexico City's Water Crisis

- Overexploitation of the aquifer & resulting subsidence
- Failing infrastructure with significant water losses throughout system
- Increasing dependence on imported water from other watersheds
- Urbanization, lack of protections for Water Forest & other infiltration zones
- Poor data visibility & transparency

Our Scope: Stakeholder Landscape

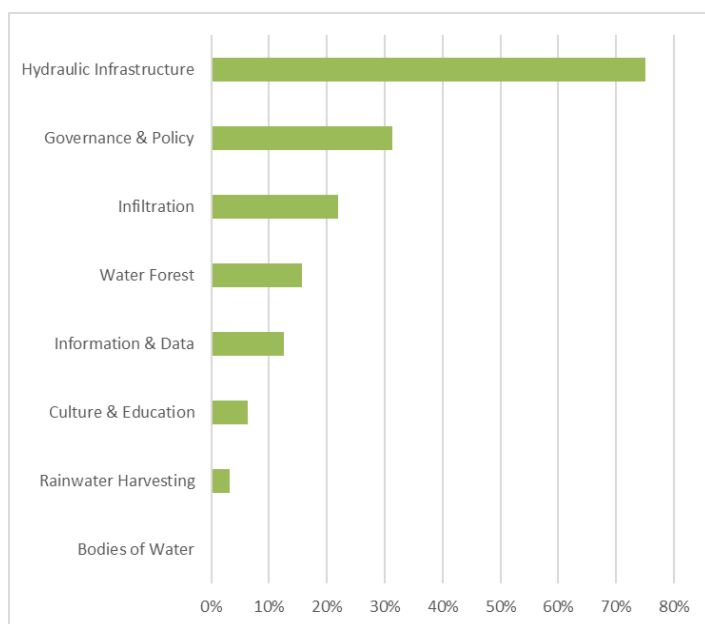
- Understanding the breadth of actors in the water sector, including:
 - Areas of expertise & status of work
 - Opinions on critical issues & viable solutions
 - Areas of consensus & disagreement
 - Allies for the new administration on certain initiatives

Qualitative interviews & case studies informed development of stakeholder landscape across 8 key axes of water sector

- Conducted desk research on Mexico City's water sector and global case studies on relevant best practices and lessons learned
- Developed qualitative interview protocol framed around 8 axes
- Interviewed 32 stakeholders across sectors, professions, and with varying expertise



Hydraulic infrastructure considered most critical issue for the city, followed by issues of governance/policy and infiltration



Percent of respondents who cited axis as critical

Hydraulic Infrastructure

- Inequitable distribution tied to socioeconomic status
- Leaks/losses in distribution pipelines
- Poor water quality
- Linear system rather than circular

Governance & Policy

- Mismanagement of resources, water scarcity
- Disparity between price and true cost
- Reliance on imports from other watersheds

Infiltration

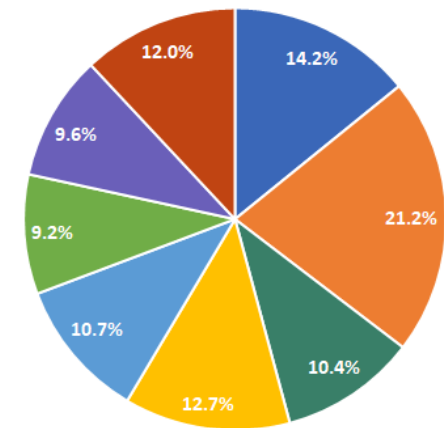
- Subsidence
- Imbalance between infiltration & extraction
- Lack of natural elements in urban design

Prioritization of axis importance shows that stakeholders generally support a holistic approach to water management

- Stakeholders were asked to distribute 30 points across axes to represent relative importance
- Responses ranged from nearly even distributions to all points in a single axis in one extreme case

Takeaways

- *Consensus:* Generally, a holistic approach to water sustainability that integrates decentralized and/or green infrastructure, conservation, and culture change initiatives is widely supported
- *Contention:* A few outliers, primarily engineers affiliated with the water utility, instead propose a sole focus on large-scale hydraulic infrastructure



Percent of points allocated per axis

Varying levels of consensus among stakeholders will impact implementation strategy for proposed solutions

Apparent Consensus

Information & Data:

- Improved documentation platform with increased accessibility
- Collection of spacial data on rainfall and infiltration potential

Culture & Education:

- Awareness campaigns to cultivate 'water culture' by increasing knowledge and trust

Water Forest:

- Enforcement of existing conservation/land protection policies

Potential Consensus

Hydraulic Infrastructure:

- Repairing leaks in distribution network
- Increased water treatment capacity
- Maintenance of existing infrastructure
- *Divergence: Scale of investment*

Governance & Policy:

- Accountability; transparent management
- Improved institutional capacity of water utility
- *Divergence: extent of current issue*

Rainwater Harvesting:

- Mandate for RWH in new construction
- *Divergence: Seasonality and water quality*

Bodies of Water:

- Conservation and smaller-scale regeneration
- *Divergence: Large-scale regeneration*

Potential Conflict

Infiltration:

- *Divergence: Value and effectiveness of man-made infiltration solutions due to impermeable terrain throughout city and space constraints for water retention*

Project deliverables will inform Secretary of Environment's water strategy & public dissemination will spread awareness

Deliverable timeline

August	Draft summary report delivered to client and partners
October	Feedback received and final summary report delivered
November	Final report and presentation delivered to Dow
December	Confidential final report to be delivered to client/stakeholders
Winter 2019	Public-facing final report to be finalized for dissemination



Anticipated outcomes

Receive feedback from clients and partners to inform final summary report
Provide preview of project findings to Secretary of Environment and other stakeholders
Meet Dow Fellowship requirements, receive feedback to inform final client report
Inform development of water sustainability plan by increasing understanding of actor landscape
Increase public awareness of issues facing Mexico City's water sector, both in Mexico and abroad

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Primary Stakeholders Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum
& Secretary of Environment
Marina Robles



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