

Water and sanitation publications & resources

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IDS Bulletin: Some For All? Politics and Pathways in Water and Sanitation

This IDS Bulletin looks back at the legacy of the UN's New Delhi 1990 global consultation and the Dublin Conference that followed, assessing their meaning and significance, and challenging the wider global water and sanitation community to rethink approaches and emphases, shifting from targets and pronouncement to sustainability and local knowledge, in the context of 2015, the 6th World Water Forum and Rio+20 in 2012.

Working Paper: Liquid Dynamics: challenges for sustainability in water and sanitation

Floods, droughts, 6,000 babies dying daily due to water-borne diseases and growing sanitation problems in booming peri-urban and urban centres. No act of terrorism generates devastation on the scale of the crisis in water and sanitation. This paper demonstrates the big disconnect between global rhetoric and the everyday realities of poor and marginalised people.

Working Paper: On the Edge of Sustainability: Perspectives on Peri-urban Dynamics

This paper examines some of the many ways in which the peri-urban has been theorised, considering, in particular, the implications for a normative research agenda towards improved environmental and social justice. The paper discusses the value of different notions of sustainability in the context of the peri-urban, challenging the view that 'sustainability' is not an...

Working Paper: Liquid Dynamics: Accessing Water and Sanitation in an Uncertain Age – Symposium Report

This report summarises the proceedings of the two-day Liquid Dynamics symposium held at the STEPS Centre in Brighton in November 2009. The Water and Sanitation domain of the STEPS Centre uses the notion of Liquid Dynamics refers to capture the complex dynamics and interactions between the social, ecological and technological dimensions of water and sanitation.

Working Paper: Going with the Flow? Directions of Innovation in the Water and Sanitation Domain

Water and sanitation issues are looming large on the international agenda, not least due to the impetus created by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's population who do not have access to clean water and adequate sanitation. Water resources for productive uses have also received increased focus ...

Working Paper: The Dynamics and Discourses of Water Allocation Reform in South Africa

Perceptions of water as an increasingly scarce resource have gained global dominance, and caused many countries to reform their water legislations. South Africa has positioned itself in the vanguard of such reform efforts, as it passed the National Water Act in 1998, four years after the end of apartheid.

Working Paper: The Dynamics and Sustainability of Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS): Mapping Challenges and Pathways

Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) represents a radical alternative to conventional top-down approaches to sanitation and offers hope of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In contrast to state-led initiatives to improve sanitation that tend to focus on hardware and subsidies,

Working Paper: Understanding Peri-urban Sustainability: The role of the resilience approach

Resilience is a term that is widely used by scholars from different disciplines who promote action research between science and policy. This paper is largely concerned with how resilience approaches can be used as a practical tool in helping to understand complex dynamic socio-ecological systems in an urbanising world and, in particular, how resilience approaches...

Working Paper: 'It is our dirty little secret': An ethnographic study of the flying toilets in Kibera slums, Nairobi

Using the case study of the Kibera slums, this paper takes a medical anthropological approach to discuss and explain the untold and common practice among the urban poor in developing countries that is informally known as the 'Flying Toilets'.

More overleaf...

Briefing: Liquid Dynamics

Globally, billions lack access to safe water and sanitation. Despite widespread recognition that the situation is unacceptable, the tragedy of this failure persists. Increasingly, the development world is realising that a long series of pronouncements, declarations of principles and global conferences are as much a part of the problem as the solution: they aid in ...

Briefing: Liquid Dynamics: Challenges for Sustainability in water and sanitation

The effects of recurring floods and droughts, the deaths of 6,000 babies daily from waterborne diseases and growing sanitation problems in booming peri-urban and urban centres. No act of terrorism generates devastation on the scale of the crisis in water and sanitation. A billion people still lack access to safe water and 2.6 people lack

Briefing: Liquid Dynamics: accessing water and sanitation in an uncertain age

The Liquid Dynamics Symposium in November 2009, hosted by the STEPS Centre, brought together people from disciplines including water resources, sanitation, health, and climate change, to address issues of sustainability and social justice in water and sanitation. "Liquid dynamics" is a term used to capture how the social, technological and ecological dimensions of water and ...

Briefing: Contesting sustainabilities in the peri-urban interface

This research report is intended to inform and encourage debate on the management of resources in the peri-urban fringe. In particular it demonstrates how the dominant, mainstream, strategies for water supply and management are failing in terms of social justice and environmental integrity, and the particular opportunities and challenges associated with the peri-urban situation.

Briefing: Peri-urban sustainability

Over the last five years, the ESRC STEPS Centre has explored the management of resources in peri-urban areas, and how sustainability can be defined and sought in this context. We have aimed to unpack the politics of sustainability in peri-urban areas and to highlight alternative visions of sustainability. Our work has focused on how water ...

Briefing: Reforming water rights: dynamics, discourses and risks

The increasing recognition of water as a vital substance for which demand is spiralling has resulted in scarcity scenarios and tales of a 'looming water crisis' becoming staple fare for newspaper headlines and international conferences alike. Widespread perceptions of water scarcity have prompted many countries to reform their water legislation and systems of water use...

FILM:

Water and Justice: Peri-urban pathways in Delhi

This short film from the STEPS Centre brings together an engaging cast of characters including a farmer, a scientist, a regulator and a seed policy analyst. Each has a different view about how best to secure seeds for farmers growing maize – Kenya's key staple crop – in drought-prone regions of the country.

WEBSITE:

Peri-urban sustainability website

A STEPS Centre website featuring academic research, media and images, from various sources, on sustainability in the peri-urban environment. People are encouraged to submit material on the site. Link: www.periurbansustainability.org

About the STEPS Centre

The STEPS Centre (Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability) is an interdisciplinary global research and policy engagement centre uniting development studies with science and technology studies. Our cross-cutting work covers agriculture/food; energy/climate change; health/disease and water/sanitation.

We work with a network of partners in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe and are funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

**All publications are available at
www.steps-centre.org**

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