



# Use of wastewater in Latin America and the Caribbean:

## Status and capacity needs

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RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Water, Land and  
Ecosystems

LED BY  
**IWMI**  
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# The context

Urbanization



Water pollution



Water scarcity



Irrigated agriculture



# Wastewater production and treatment in LAC

Municipal wastewater produced 30 km<sup>3</sup>

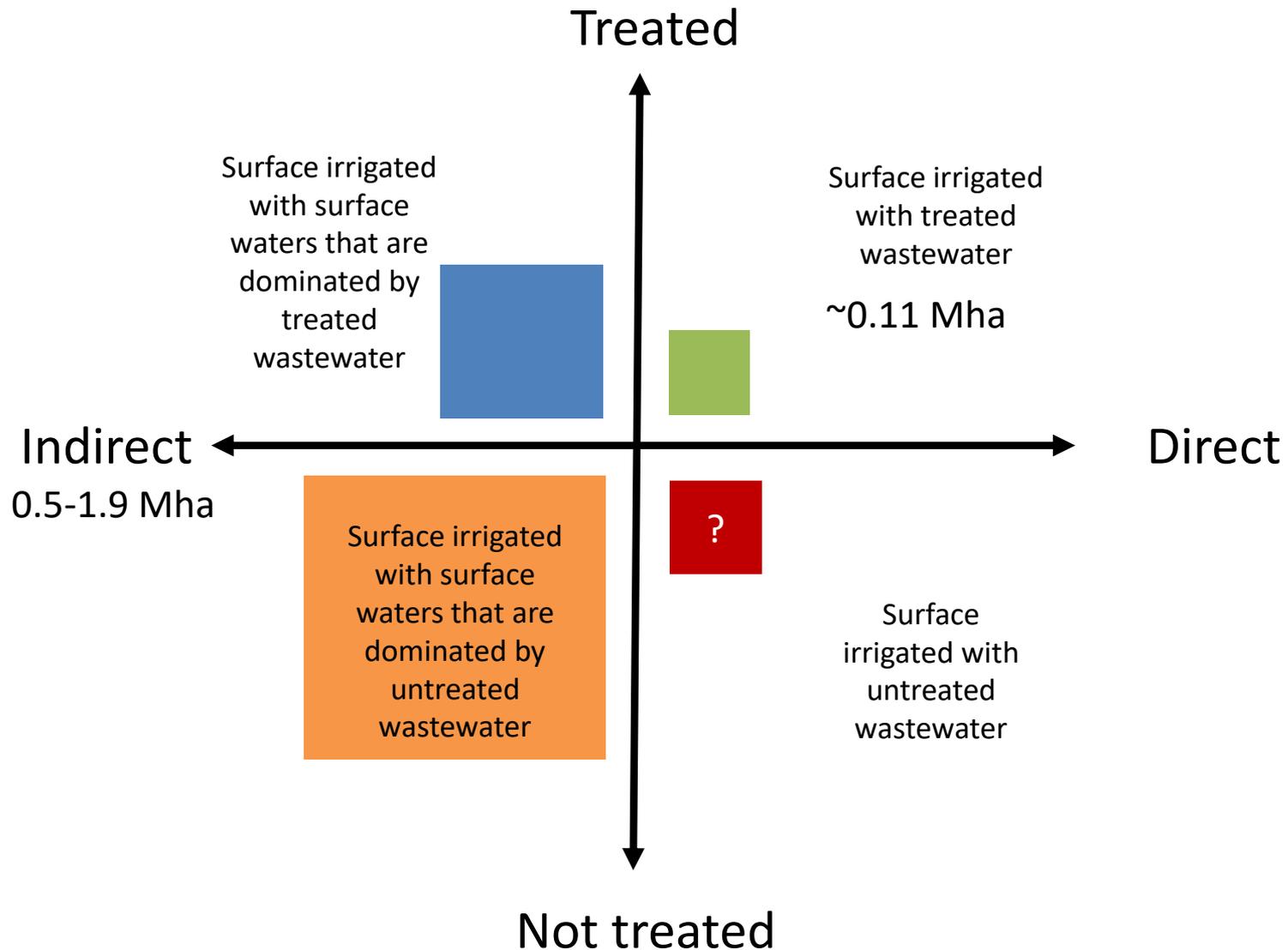
wastewater

Treatment capacity 40%

Actual treatment < 20%??

Planned Reuse

# Extent of different types of reuse in LAC



# The case of Mexico

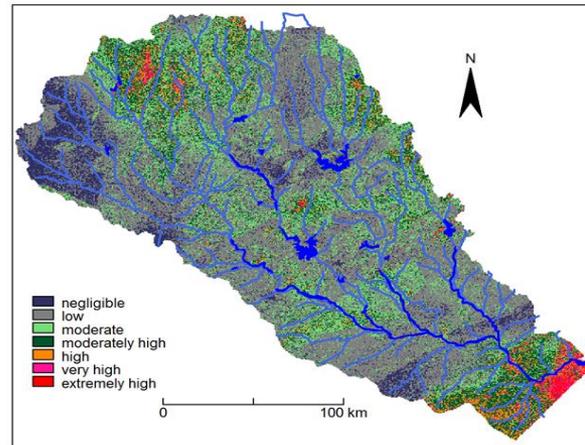
Wastewater treatment capacity  (% of generated wastewater)	Irrigated land downstream urban areas			
		Influenced* by wastewater  (Modelled Thebo et al 2017)	Heavily influenced@ by wastewater  (Modelled Thebo et al 2017)	Irrigated with diluted wastewater  (Literature: multiple sources)
50%	1.8 Mha	1.5 Mha	0.4 Mha	0.2-0.4 Mha

\* >20% of the flow is wastewater

@ >80% of the flow is wastewater

# Capacity needs

## Risk assessment and monitoring



## Risk mitigation and the use of the WHO 2006 guidelines and SSP



# Capacity needs

**Institutional coordination and policy integration**



**Economics of resource recovery and reuse**



**Awareness raising and communication**

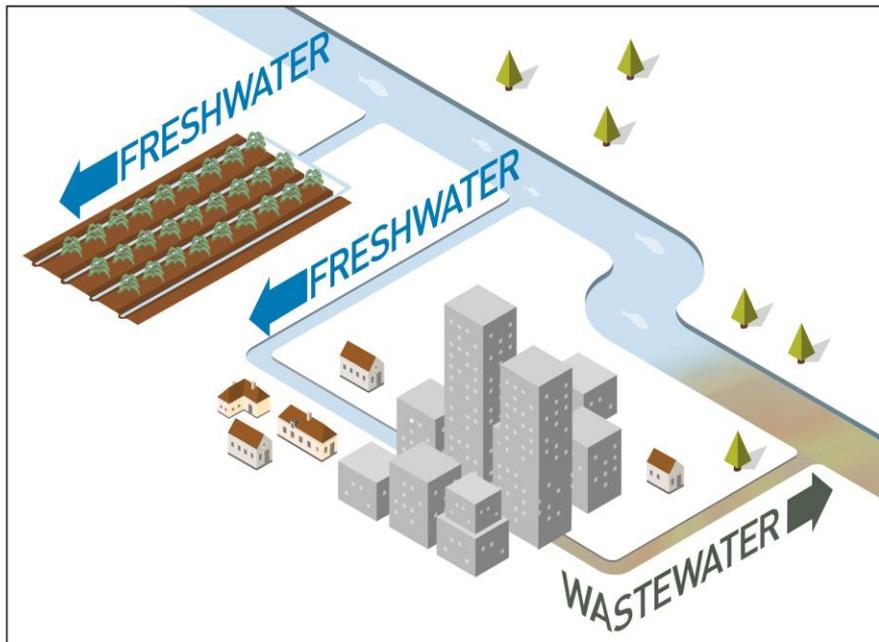


# Bright examples: Mexico

## Win-win with water reuse and exchange in San Luis Potosí, México

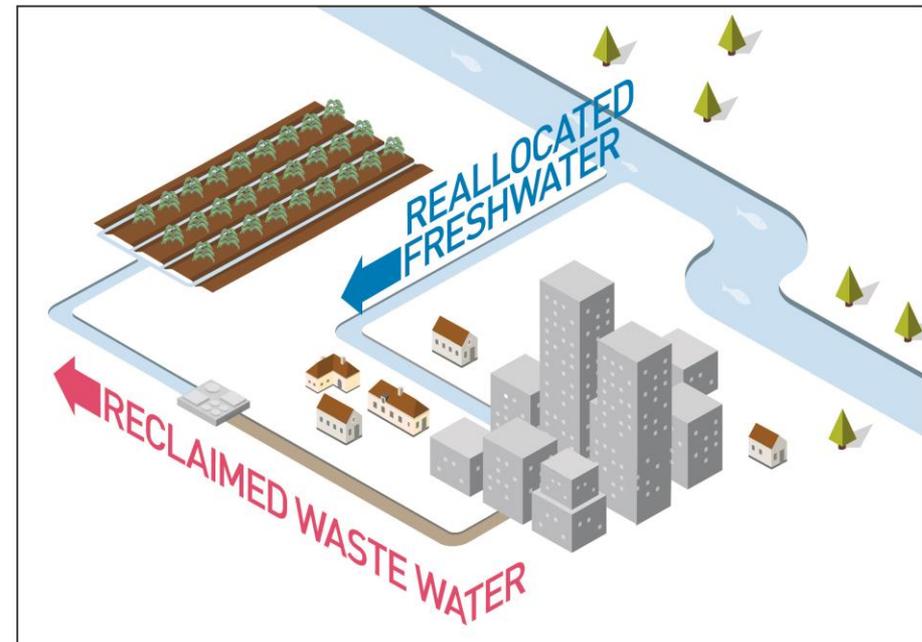
### STANDARD WATER USE.

Enough conventional water resources to meet water demands



### WATER EXCHANGE BETWEEN CITIES AND AGRICULTURE UNDER WATER SCARCITY.

Less conventional water resources and constant demands



# Bright examples: Bolivia

Inter-sectoral platform for water reuse diagnosis and planning in Bolivia



# Bright examples: Peru

Low cost ponds for safe vegetables and aquaculture production in Lima, Peru



# Conclusions

## **Status:**

30Km<sup>3</sup> of municipal wastewater produced in ALC with missed opportunities for resource recovery and planned reuse

Up to 1.9 Mha at potential risk

## **Capacity needs for:**

Better risk assessments at national and local level

Implementation of feasible risk mitigation option from farm to fork

## **Bright examples:**

with potential for replication and with opportunities for cross-learning in the region

# Thank you!



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