

John Seager/Hsrc
10/05/2006 11:45 AM

To Cilna de Kock
cc
bcc
Subject Additions to the Outputs database

Dear Cilna
Please add the following to our outputs database.

Seager JR. Social impacts of Climate Change in Southern Africa. Written input to "Development of a Climate Change Research & Development Strategy for South Africa. Workshop: Towards Finalisation and Implementation." Cape Town, 14-15 September 2006.

Seager, JR. Quality of life, poverty and the environment. Oral presentation to the National Environmental Advisory Forum meeting on "Mainstreaming the environment into Development Issues and Opportunities relating to AsgiSA." Pretoria, 3 Oct 2006.

Regards
John.



Climate Change R&D Strategy SOCIAL ISSUES.doc Poverty and Environment NEAF 031006 Seager HSRC.ppt
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HSRC RESEARCH OUTPUTS
4826



Quality of life, poverty and environment

Prof John Seager

Urban, Rural and Economic Development: Human Development,
Environment & Tourism

National Environmental Advisory Forum, Mainstreaming of the
Environment into Development Issues and Opportunities
Relating to AsgiSA, Pretoria, 3 Oct 2006

Social science that makes a difference



The brief: Improving the Quality of Life through reduction of poverty and unemployments and ‘forecasting’ implications on the environment

- **First, this paper explores aspects of the *relationship* between poverty and environment and how this impacts on QoL**
 - Poverty in this context is defined in terms of lack of basic essentials and restrictions of choice

The brief: Continued

- **Second, the paper takes a look at issues within AsgiSA and some implications for poverty reduction via the tourism sector**

The Millennium Development Goals

MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

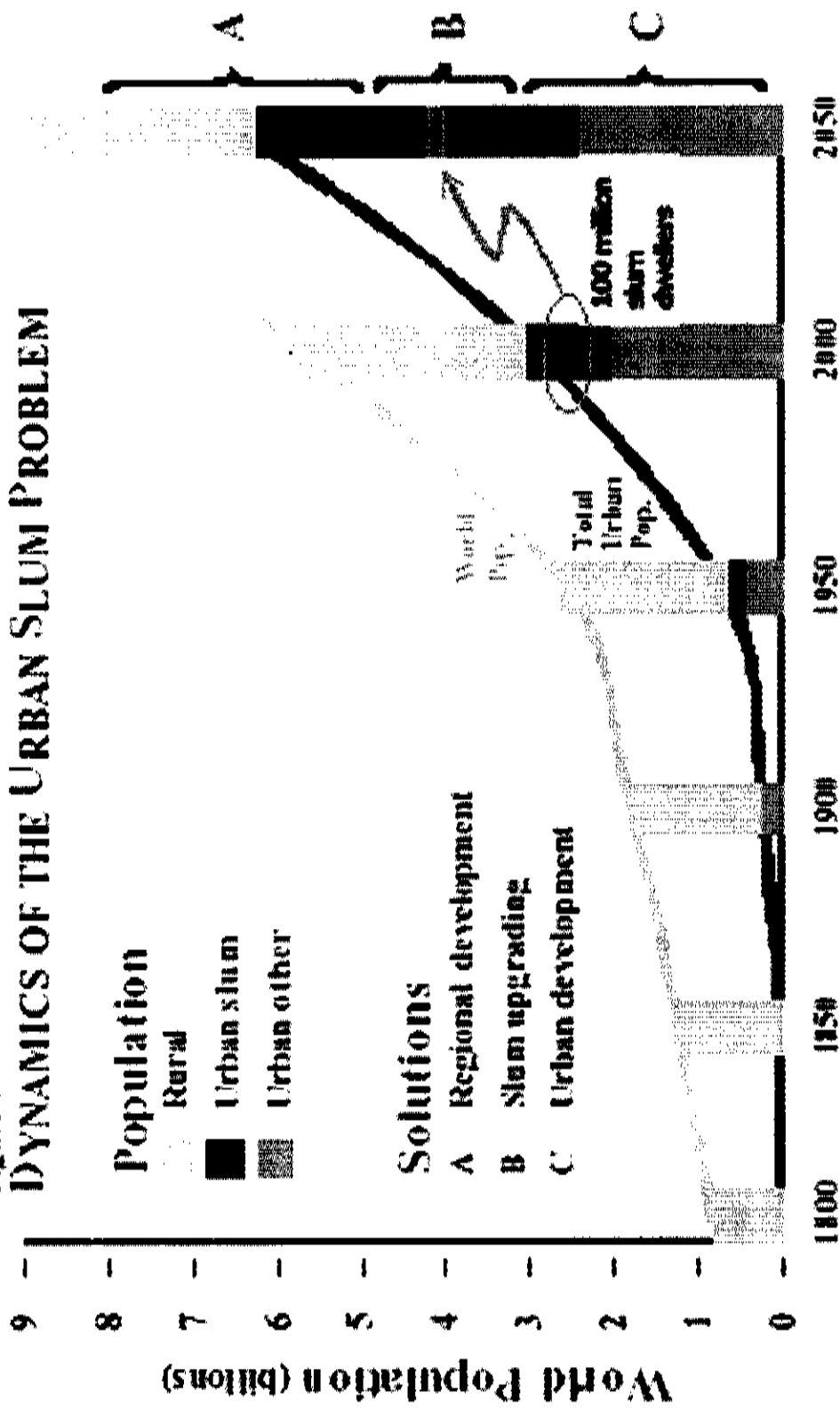
- Target 10: halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
- Target 11: by 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers
 - primarily interpreted as meaning access to improved sanitation and land tenure

Source: Millennium Declaration 2000 <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Why is the urban environment so important?

- Slums are a *life-threatening environment* within urban areas and where *most population growth* is taking place in developing countries.
- The focus on slums seeks to:
 - improve control and prevention of communicable diseases;
 - improve quality of life of slum dwellers;
 - reduce exclusion from attributes of urban life; and
 - enable proactive policy formulation and implementation.
- This calls for innovative partnerships between slum communities, researchers, NGOs, the private sector, landowners, and government.

Figure 1
DYNAMICS OF THE URBAN SLUM PROBLEM

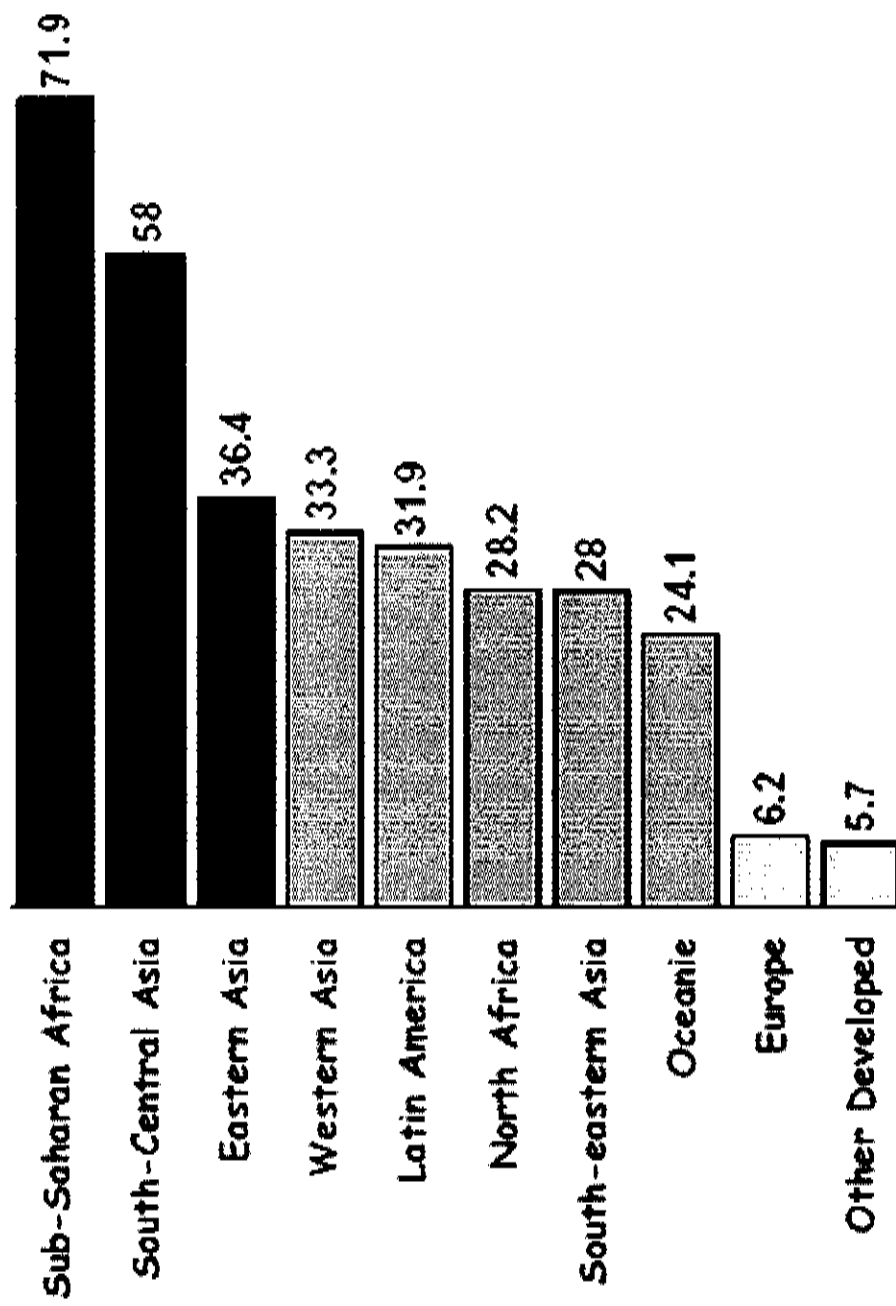


Source: Tipping, Adom & Tibaijuka, 2005

Ecosystems Approaches to Human Health, Wellbeing, or Quality of Life (Ecohealth)

- **Places people in the context of the *environment & systems* where they live**
- **Ascertains interactions of *economic, social, and environmental* factors on health/wellbeing/QoL**
- **Promotes *multi-stakeholder participation* for social learning and responses**
- **Mainstreams *gender and social equity* across all investigations.**

Percentage of slum dwellers in the world (Where is the problem most acute?)



Source: Gora Mboup, 2004. Training workshop on data and indicators to monitoring Progress towards the MDGs and the Habitat Agenda, Bangkok, 1-5 November 2004

Slum Household Indicators from the EGM

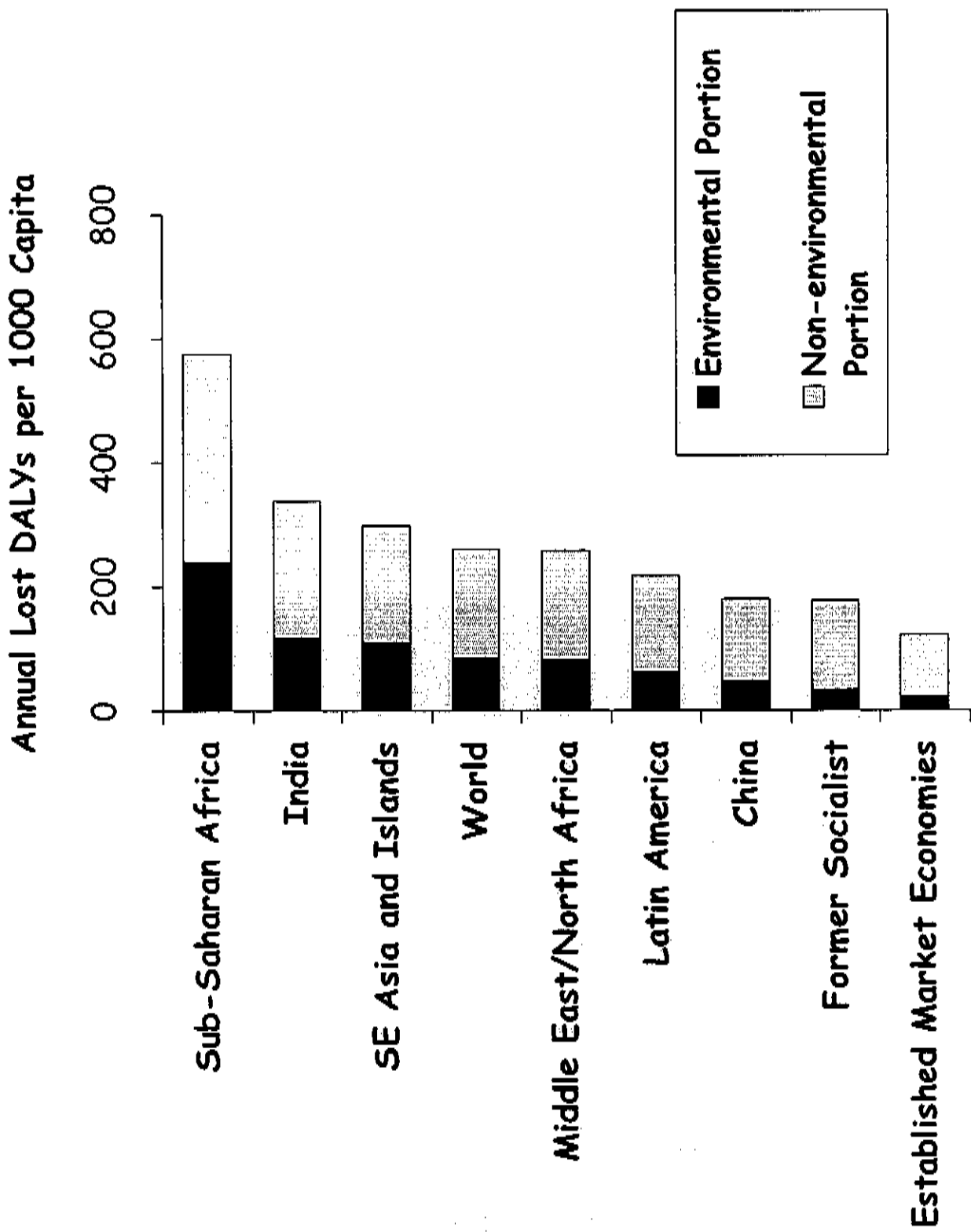
A slum household is considered to be a group of individuals living under the same roof that lack *one or more* of the below conditions:

- Access to improved water
- Access to improved sanitation
- Access to secure tenure
- Durability of housing
- Sufficient living area

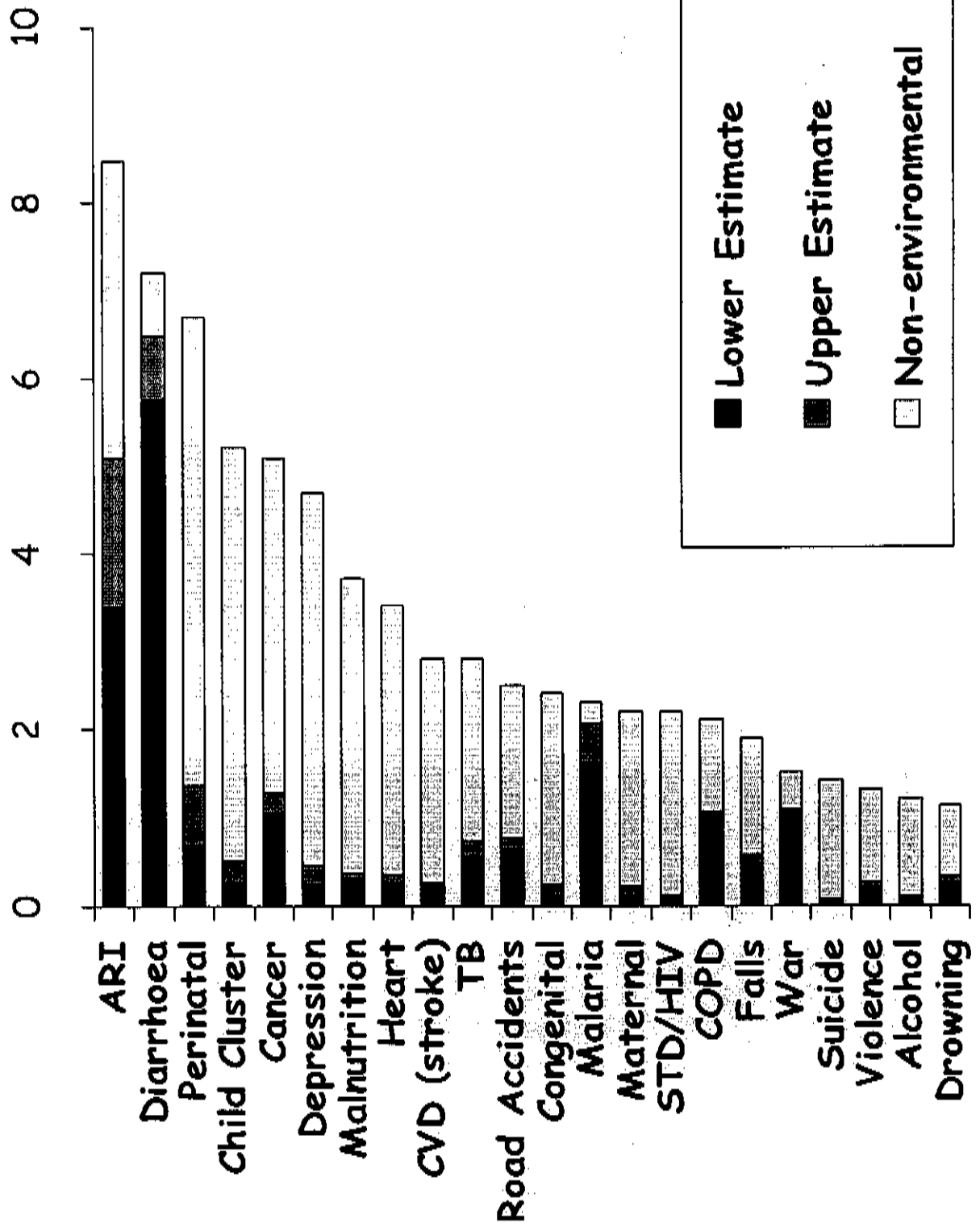


Source: Gora Mboup, 2004. Training workshop on data and indicators to monitoring Progress towards the MDGs and the Habitat Agenda, Bangkok, 1-5 November 2004

Environmentally Determined Disease in Major World Regions (Smith et al. 1999)



Percent Total Lost DALYs



Infant and Child Mortality in Kenya

	Infant Mortality (per 1000 births)	<5 Mortality (per 1000 births)
Rural *	75.9	113.0
Other Urban*	56.6	83.9
Nairobi*	38.7	61.5

* Based on 1998 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey

Source Tipping 2005

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Nairobi Slums**	91.3	150.6

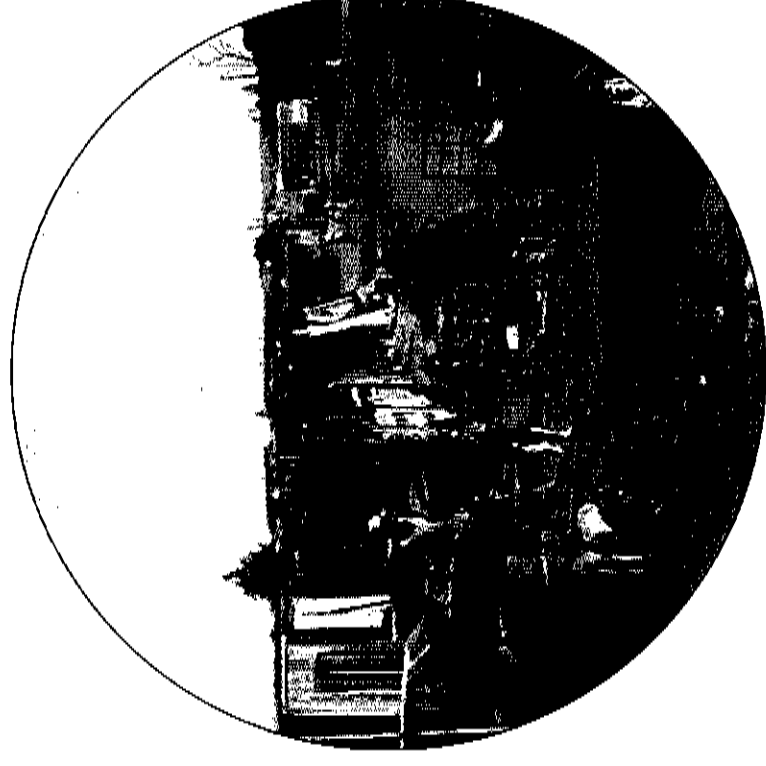
* Based on 1998 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey

** NCSS – National Cross Sectional Slums Survey, 2000

Source Tipping 2005

Investments needed to improve environmental Quality of Life

- **Water and Sanitation**
- **Electricity / Energy**
- **Poverty reduction**



Water & Sanitation

- **Diarrhoeal diseases = 2nd commonest cause of death in children 0-4 yrs (after AIDS)**
 1. Continue providing **clean water**.
Combine **health promotion** with infrastructure investments.
Improve **environmental hygiene** (incl. solid waste).
 2. Improve **health literacy**.
Clean water must *stay* clean, a drop of bleach prevents cholera.
A cup of tea rarely kills anyone, a glass of dirty water might.
 3. **Monitor** effectiveness of implementation
Has water and sanitation made a difference? If so, how much? Where is the system failing?

Electricity & Energy (1)

- **Respiratory Infections = 3rd highest cause of death in children 0-4 yr.**
 1. **Indoor and ambient air pollution.**

Electricity needs to be used for **cooking and heating**, not just lighting.
 2. **What are the social and behavioural factors?**
 - **Why don't people cook with electricity?**

Is just an **affordability** issue? If so, **lifeline tariffs** will help.
 - **Is it practical?** It's harder to heat the house with a **stove** instead of an open fire.
 - **Is it social?** It's hard for the family to gather around a **white box** in the corner!

Electricity & Energy (2)

3. What are the short term solutions?

Behavioural change can help reduce the immediate consequences of biomass fuel use.

Keep babies away from fires, use smoke reduction strategies when lighting fires.

4. What are the medium term solutions?

Strategies include low cost electrical appliances, micro lending schemes, cleaner fuels (LPG, low smoke coal) and... think out of the box - alternative technologies such as solar are getting cheaper.

Poverty reduction

- The **poorest 20%** are 10x more likely to die under 14 yrs than the richest 20%.
- **Poor women** are 500x more likely to die in child birth.
- A very large proportion of this differential burden of disease is **environmentally determined**.
- It is important to **link macro level policy interventions with micro level outcomes**, such as health, wellbeing, and quality of life.
- Improvements here make **SOUND ECONOMIC SENSE**
 - See WHO Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (<http://www.who.int/macrohealth/en/>)

Intersectoral action (1)

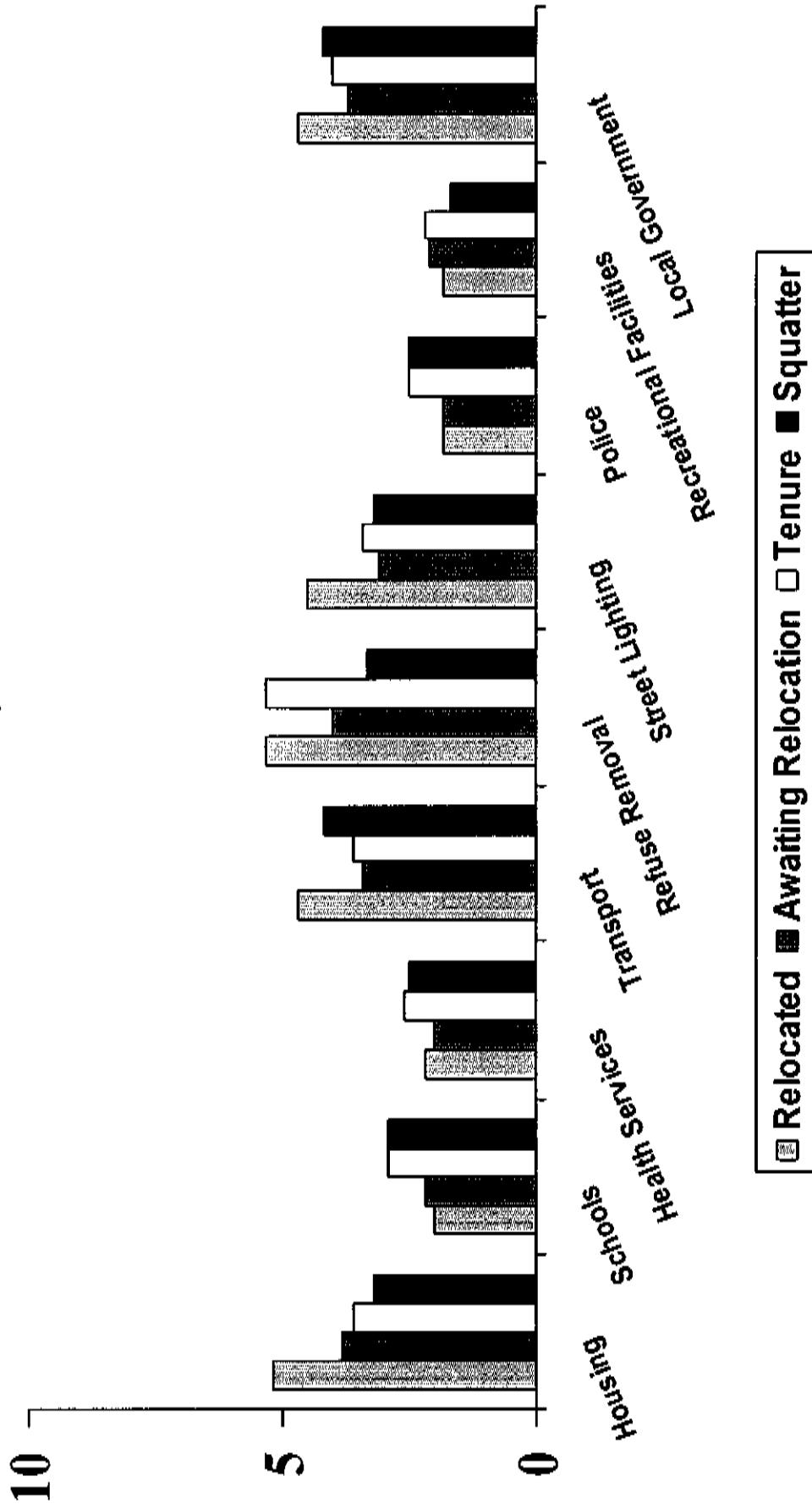
- **All large infrastructure projects require Environmental Impact Assessments**
- **EIA is still seen by some as an impediment to development**
 - **within a sustainable development framework it must be promoted as part of a win-win scenario**
- **Health Impact Assessment should also be mandatory and goes far beyond mere toxicity concerns**

Intersectoral action (2)

- **Health Impact Assessments must emphasise Social Impacts**
 - put crudely, not just “Will it kill us?” but rather “How will it make us *feel* or affect our *quality of life*?”
- **Lessons can be learnt from models that mobilise intersectoral action around health, wellbeing and quality of life.**
 - e.g. IDRC Ecohealth concept, the WHO Healthy Cities Programme, which address ***health and environment together***
 - http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-27266-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html
 - http://www.euro.who.int/healthy-cities/introducing/20050202_1

Satisfaction Scores for Environmental Quality of Life Domains

Soweto, 2001



Source: Westaway MS, Seager JR, 2003

Poverty considerations within State of the Environment Reporting

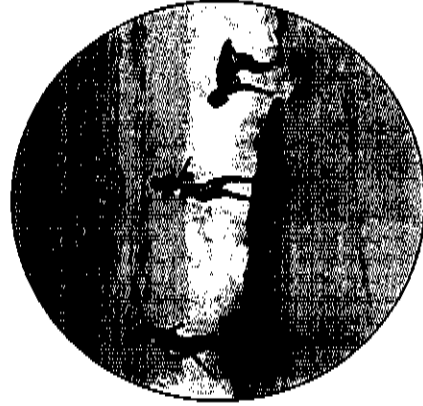
- Poverty usually taken as a 'given' but only referred to indirectly
- Unusual for the poverty/environment relationship to receive specific attention
- Midrand SoE report (1999) – one table

Table 13: Typical differences between affluent and poor communities

Affluent Communities	Poor Communities
Well organised waste management systems	High levels of littering and illegal dumping
High environmental ethics of individuals	Low environmental ethics
Recycling schemes	Little or no recycling schemes for income generation, high levels of waste recovery and scavenging.
High percentage of recoverable waste	Little or no recoverable waste

Improving quality of life through employment - Tourism

- **Tourism is a “high immediate
priority sector”**
- **The natural environment is a critical
resource, and often the only
resource, for the least developed
areas and the people who live there**



AsgiSA – Binding Constraints and Poverty

Volatility and level of the currency

- **Tourism *benefits* from weaker Rand**
- **Those with few other resources, especially in under-developed rural areas, can benefit from *pro-poor tourism* initiatives**
- **Tourism has the potential to *empower the poor***

AsgiSA – Binding Constraints and Poverty

Shortage of skilled labour

- **Many poor people operate within the ‘second economy’**
 - Informal traders
- **Pro-poor tourism can utilise indigenous skills**
 - Traditional buildings are more attractive to tourists than ‘cloned’ huts
 - *Local* arts and crafts should be promoted

AsgiSA – Binding Constraints and Poverty

Barriers to entry

(evidence from a recent DEAT/HSRC study)

- **Despite good intentions of DEAT and others, the poor find entry into the tourism sector very difficult.**
- **DEAT Poverty Relief Projects (under EPWP) offer short term, low level employment.**
- **Better paid jobs are usually reserved for qualified people (and exhibited gender bias)**
- **Scope for greater inclusion of indigenous skills and more appropriate training**
 - Craftspeople, tour guides, hospitality industry and experiential/cultural tourism

AsgiSA – Binding Constraints and Poverty

Regulatory environment (1)

- **Micro enterprises find registration costly and complicated**
- **Access to finance remains difficult**
 - especially very small loans
- **Those that do register need support with marketing**
 - to assess markets, to recoup the costs and ensure ongoing benefits

Regulatory environment (2)

- **Sustainable use of resources requires careful management**
- **Local people should benefit from local land**
 - Game reserves provide jobs but often take people away from their families
 - Access to land may be compromised with very little local benefit

AsgiSA – Eliminating the second economy

- **The second economy is not a distinct entity**
- **The poor move in and out of formal employment all the time**
- **Some second economy participants do quite well**
 - 28% >R1000/month, 8% >R2500/month (DR 2005)
- **Big business should be encouraged to use the smaller local enterprises**
 - the relationship must be mutually beneficial, not exploitative
 - suppliers need training and support

AsgiSA – Eliminating the second economy

- **President Mbeki, 2006:**
 - “Rather than viewing the divide between the two economies as some unbridgeable Chinese Wall, we should consciously work to formalise *the linkages that already exist* and use them as a basis to incorporate the informal sector into the entire formal economy...”
- **Don’t “eliminate” the second economy – strengthen it.**