

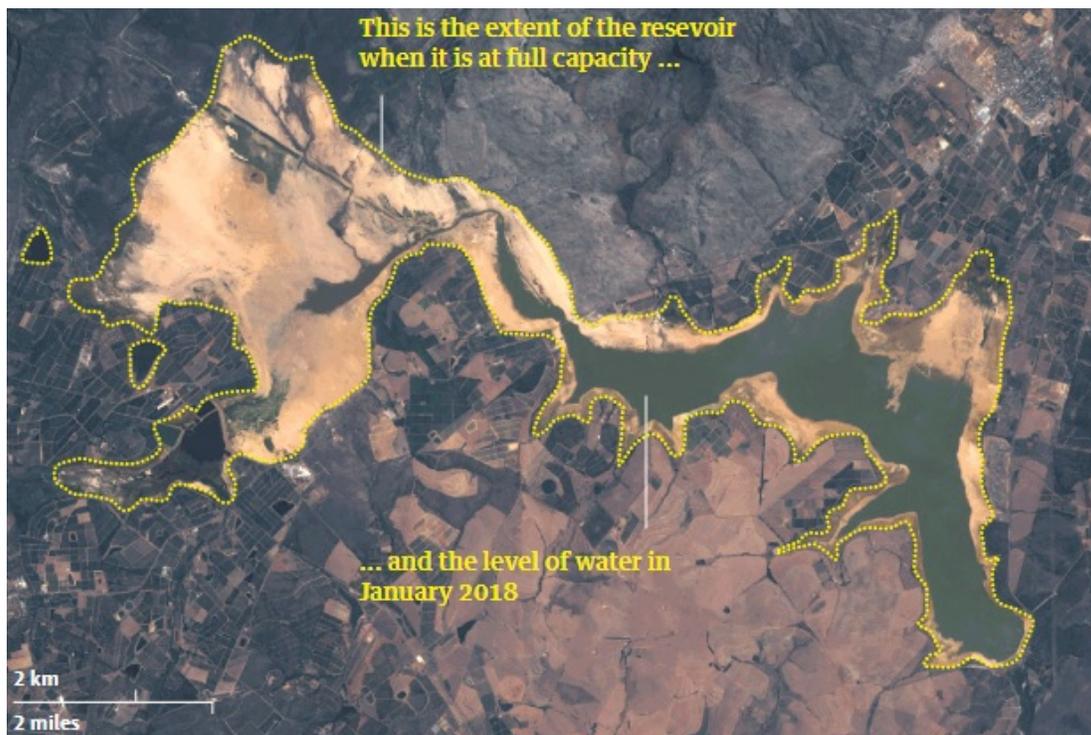


INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Keeping the Taps Running in Cape Town

In 2017, Cape Town, South Africa, was on a countdown to disaster. An unprecedented and wholly unforeseen third consecutive year of drought threatened to cut off water to the city's four million citizens. Faced with the prospect of running dangerously low on potable water, local officials raced against time to avert "Day Zero"—the date on which they would have to shut off drinking water to most businesses and homes in the city. Cape Town's government responded effectively to the fast-worsening and potentially cataclysmic situation. Key to the effort was a broad, multipronged information campaign that overcame skepticism and enlisted the support of a socially and economically diverse citizenry as well as private companies. Combined with other measures such as improving data management and upgrading technology, the strategy averted disaster. By the time the drought eased in 2018, Capetonians had cut their water usage by nearly 60% from 2015 levels. Cape Town achieved one of the lowest per capita water consumption rates of any major city in the world. The success set a benchmark for cities around the world that confront the uncertainties of a shifting global climate.

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Satellite image of the Theewaterskloof dam, showing the impact of the drought on water levels. Guardian graphic. Source: Bristol Water, Ruapehu District Council (NZ). Satellite photos: ESA/Sentinel 2 Reservoir outlines: NASA/Landsat 8, Guardian analysis

Making Government Work in Hard Places: A Free Online Course Offered by ISS

Around the globe, public servants and civic leaders seek to create a better future for their fellow citizens. The challenge many face is how -- how to create new practices, how to build new institutions, how to implement new policies, and how to transform incentives to sustain transformation and achieve sustainability

ISS is re-offering a massive open online course that explores the "hows" of building more effective government in challenging settings. Using ISS case studies, participants will examine a wide range of topics from improving citizen services to cabinet office coordination.

This Princeton University online course is open to all. Participants who complete the coursework will receive a certificate of accomplishment (not for credit). The course is free.

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+1 609-258-5258 | iss@princeton.edu | successfulsocieties.princeton.edu

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