

Bangalore Water Index

Project Proposal



BWSSB and Consumers - Information Issues

The Problem

- ▶ No comprehensive data on Bangalore water (for instance, who tracks groundwater?)
- ▶ Citizens are not adequately informed about city's water situation
- ▶ Citizens unaware of challenges in production, distribution and hence do not act responsibly towards conserving water
- ▶ Lots of inertia/resistance to adoption of water conservation practices like rainwater harvesting

Possible Root Cause

- ▶ Comprehensive water policy may be missing
- ▶ Current information is not available to citizens on a sustained basis.
- ▶ Information is not available in a form that lends itself to analysis and understanding. Possibly because data
 - ▶ May not be digitized
 - ▶ May not be organized
 - ▶ May not have "single versions of truth"
 - ▶ May not be accessible



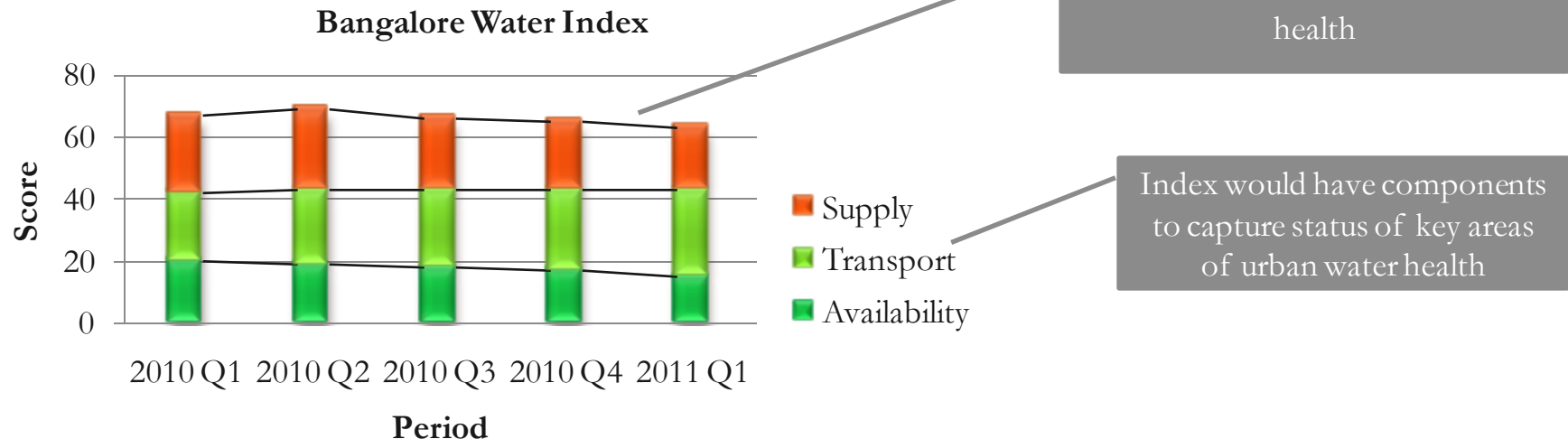
The Objective

To record and collate a comprehensive set of statistics related to the water domain in the city and to derive a summary in the form of a numerical index that can be used for comparative analyses (across time or across areas).



The Water Index – What and Why?

- ▶ An easy to understand, representative number to capture ‘water health’ of the city
 - ▶ Absolute number is meaningless, changes over time convey “progress” or lack thereof
- ▶ Designed by experts and enthusiasts, maintained by citizens
 - ▶ Maximum use of benchmarks prescribed by MoUD, academic institutions
 - ▶ And, space for citizen collected data as well as “perception”.
- ▶ Spread awareness on urban water supply issue by seeding a quality data point for public discourse
- ▶ Spur collection and creation of data points, as well as increased transparency by agencies involved in Water Supply service
- ▶ Identify key areas of concern, reveal impact of programs and policies over a period of time



Note #1 – Focus points

- ▶ Focus: Data
 - ▶ Not into criticism or prescriptions
- ▶ Focus Unit: Ward/Zone
 - ▶ Smallest unit tracked by BWSSB
- ▶ Focus viewpoint: urban consumer of water
- ▶ Not trying to
 - ▶ Establish benchmarks
 - ▶ Though some index calculation may be relative to accepted benchmarks
 - ▶ Track specific governments or agencies
 - ▶ Focus is water health of the city
 - ▶ Redo any expert research
 - ▶ Focus is to consume data produced by various researches

The project doesn't not involve an abstract or wide scope, it has very clear points of focus



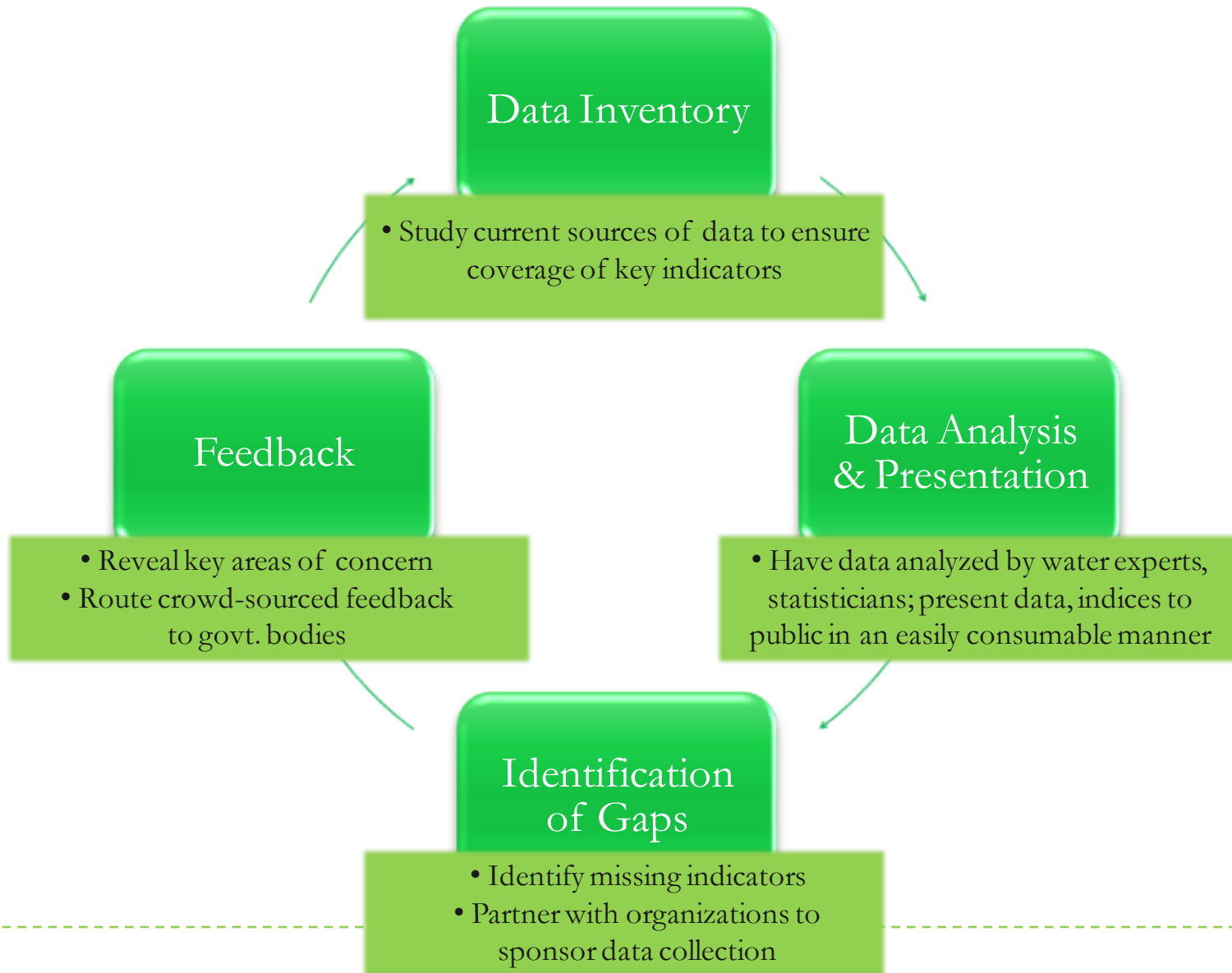
Note #2 – Aggregation, not new research

- ▶ Involves data aggregation
 - ▶ Doesn't include research to create new data points
 - ▶ If a missing data point is critical, will demand those from City government, or look for partners to sponsor data collection
- ▶ Data will be sourced from
 - ▶ Government agencies like the BWSSB
 - ▶ Public Agencies
 - ▶ Academic institutions/Experts
 - ▶ NGOs
 - ▶ Enthusiastic citizens

We are not trying to boil the ocean here!



The Proposition



Benefits

BWSSB

- Comprehensive, integrated, updated information available in easily consumable format
- Possibly - sponsored studies, data collection free of cost
- Clarity; identification of key areas of concern
- Increased citizens awareness and participation – more responsible citizens
- Opportunity to engage with citizens

Public, BWSSB's customers

- Reliable, current, accessible data – that is easy to understand
- Increased government transparency and access
- Increased awareness, and opportunity for participation
- Better water practices -> Increase in water health



BWSSB/Praja.in/ <Sponsor> – Relationship

▶ Expectations from BWSSB

- ▶ Commit to interview time with key staff members
- ▶ Provide access to internal data on its system and operations
- ▶ Provide data on key indicators on a sustained basis

▶ Expectations from Praja.in

- ▶ Planning, management and execution of project
- ▶ Work with experts (including Prof. Mohan Kumar (IISc), Prof Sekhar Muddu (IISc), Ashwin Mahesh (IIMB), Vishwanath Srikantiah) in formulating the index
- ▶ Partner with sponsors if needed
- ▶ Provide an Open Internet Portal for hosting work-plan, discussions, content for the project
- ▶ Present index on Praja.in

▶ Expectations from Possible Sponsor

- ▶ Commit to either paying for or providing Information engineers or Architects required for the project
- ▶ Sponsor data collection drives, studies
- ▶ Cover media costs
- ▶ Don't use the work as a reference without prior consent from BWSSB/ Praja.in
- ▶ Publish progress reports and output from the Project to public exclusively via Praja.in



Looking Ahead

- ▶ BWSSB may choose to integrate index with its own site
- ▶ Campaigns and publicity drives may be organized to focus attention on key issues





Thank you

Look forward to your responses.

Email admin@praja.in

