

Various aspects of Ecosan in El Salvador and several countries in LatinAmerica

Overview of Ecosan projects

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Durban - South Africa

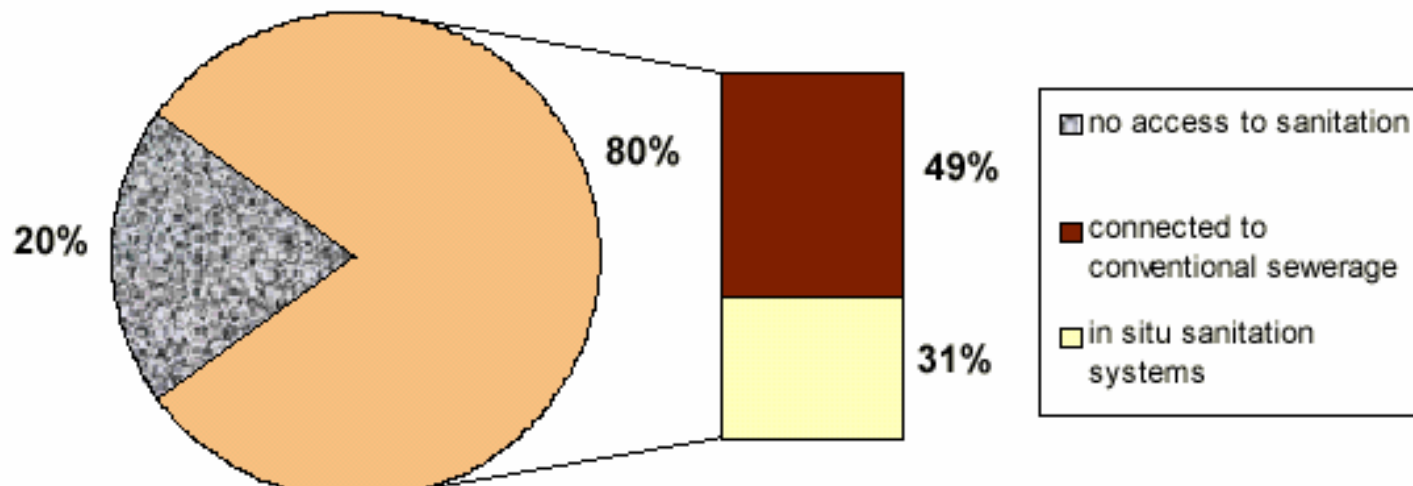
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Some Figures- Population on Latin America

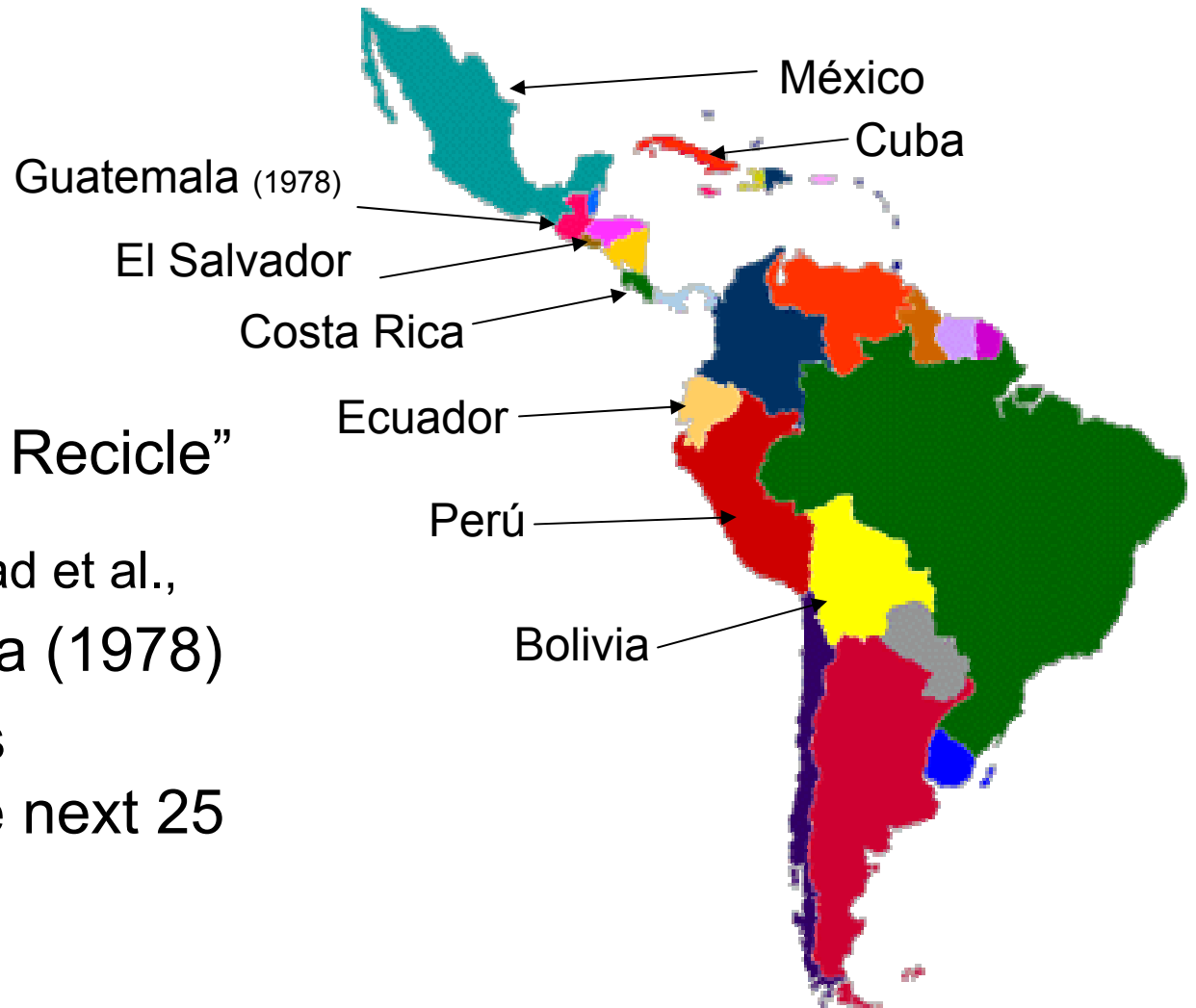
- Latin America & Caribbean countries has 500 M inhabitants aprox.
- Population = 74 % urban areas, 26 % rural areas

Some Figures

- Access to Adequate WS in Latin America & Caribbean countries is 85% (93% urban, 61% rural) 60% HH connections
- Access to Adequate Sanitation is 80% (fig)
 - 10-15 % of collected WW is treated



Ecological Sanitation Projects



- “Sanitize and Recycle”

approach (Winblad et al., 2004) - Guatemala (1978)

- Similar projects implemented the next 25 years

Ecosan in El Salvador

- 1986 – Unicef
- 1992 to 1994 – Min. Health built 50,200 units LASF/DVUD units
- Other type latrines LASF / LHM / LS implemented
- 1998 - Cooperation with Emory University/School of Public Health to carry out research
- 2000 – 2002 Laboratory facilities
- 2003 - Normative for ecosan facilities

Ecosan in El Salvador-some aspects

- Ministry of Health (MH) – National Programme links sanitation to environmental health / supports ecosan research (political-Institutional)
- Normatives are being developed (legal)
- Microbiological Research improves design of toilets and management (technology)

- Many projects have failed to meet sustainable principles (environment)
- Financial support comes from abroad (financial)

Ecosan projects in Latin America

■ Strengths

- Successful interventions implementing the Bano Ecológico or “Ecosan bathroom” as an integral module of the house that separates, treats, reuses wastewater.
- Local manufactured ecosan toilets industry. Toilet or SIRDO is produced in serie.
- Regional and local ecosan meetings. Workshop in El Salvador-2003. Ecosan working group in Perú.
- Institutional Cooperation, government and university – in El Salvador; Government and promoting organization – Costa Rica

Weaknesses

- Operation & Maintenance
 - Biosolids are not recycled
 - Not enough instructions/ capacitation
 - Follow up by promoters.
- Academic education - conventional and centralized approach

Opportunities

- Ecosan projects in Indigenous communities.
- Service provision for collection, emptying and processing of biosolids.
- Incorporation of individual design preferences and requirements for ecosan toilets, ecosan bathroom..
- Performance of conventional sanitation solutions.

Threats

- Lack of guidelines, regulations for Ecosan systems.
- Political corruption
- Subsidized projects
- Privatization of water and sanitation services

Trends...

- Countries have different context (technical, political, legal...) that will driven ecosan practices
 - El Salvador- Political and Institutional
 - México - Technology
 - Decentralization process of sanitation systems – Central America
 - Others (Legal, cultural, environmental)

Challenges ...

- Acceptance and understanding of ecosan principles.
- Not subsidized projects
- Corruption, especially when it interferes with water&sanitation projects.

For a successful and promising work with ecological sanitation...

- There are not perfect projects...
- Positive and negative lessons should be shared...
- Successful strategies should be evaluated and replicated when feasible...
- Institutional, Politic and Legal aspects are should be adressed when feasible from our position



Gracias !
Thank You !