Changing Course
Three Stories about Scale in the Water Challenge

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Story from the Past: PEOPLE
Imago Mundi, 6th Century BC

[Image of ancient artifact with cuneiform script]

[Map showing geographical locations: Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf]

[Text not visible in the image]
BUDRIO, ITALY – PRESENT
PO RIVER DELTA, ITALY

- Venice
- Bologna
- Ferrara
- Bologna
- Budrio
- Ravenna
LA ROTTA DI FICAROLO, 12TH Century

- Bologna
- Ferrara
- Bologna
- Budrio
- Ravena
- Venice
Story from the Present: NATURE
Longitudinal Profile of the Yangtze River upstream

- Wudongde Dam: 950 m
- Baihetan Dam: 820 m
- Xiluodu Dam: 600 m
- Xiangjiaba Dam: 380 m
- Shipeng: 175 m
- Three Gorges Dam: 66 m
- Gezhouba Dam: 0 m

Elevation (m) vs. Distance to the river discharge, (km)
WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME
FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS ARE COLLAPSING

Index Value (1970 = 1)

1970 - 2010

DROP

Source: WWF, Living Planet Index – D, 2014
Story from the Future: CHOICES
DROUGHTS ARE WORSE THAN EVER

Sources: National Climatic Data Center, National Drought Mitigation Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:
STORAGE IS DECLINING IN MAJOR GLOBAL AQUIFERS

WE ARE ON AN UNSUSTAINABLE TRAJECTORY
WATER CRISIS ARE THE WORLD'S BIGGEST RISK

- Major systematic financial failure
- Diffusion of weapons of mass destruction
- Vulnerability to geomagnetic storms
- Proliferation of orbital debris
- Entrenched organized crime
- Chronic fiscal imbalances
- Cyber attacks

Source: WORLD Economic Forum, Risk Assessment, 2013
A scarce resource...
THANK YOU