

NEPTUNUS

and the
**WORLD WITHOUT
WATER**



BY 2030 IT WAS CLEAR WE HAD A BIG PROBLEM. GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESSES AND THE PEOPLE ALL FELT IT.

YES BY THEN, WE KNEW IT TOO.

THERE WERE SIGNS BY THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY. BUT WE THOUGHT BACK THEN THAT WATER IS ETERNAL, AN INEXHAUSTIBLE RESOURCE AND THAT OUR RESERVES WERE ENDLESS.

WE WERE WRONG.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, CIVIL SOCIETY, SCIENTISTS RAISED THEIR VOICES. IT TOOK TIME UNTIL THEY WERE HEARD.

TIME.

WE ALWAYS THINK WE STILL HAVE TIME.

BUT THERE WERE PLANS.

17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WERE ADOPTED IN 2015.

THERE WERE PLANS TO REDUCE POVERTY AND HUNGER, GOALS DEALING WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE INDUSTRY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE OCEANS.

THEY SHOULD HAVE JUST BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

GOAL 6 WAS ABOUT WATER: TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION.

FOR ALL.

AND TO ACHIEVE IT BY 2030.

EUROPE DESERT, ZONE II. 2039

WHY DO YOU THINK
HE IS GOING TO BE
THERE?

EVEN IF WE FIND
HIM WHY WOULD HE
TALK TO US?

QUIT
WHINING! WE NEED
TO FIND SHADE
TILL NOON.



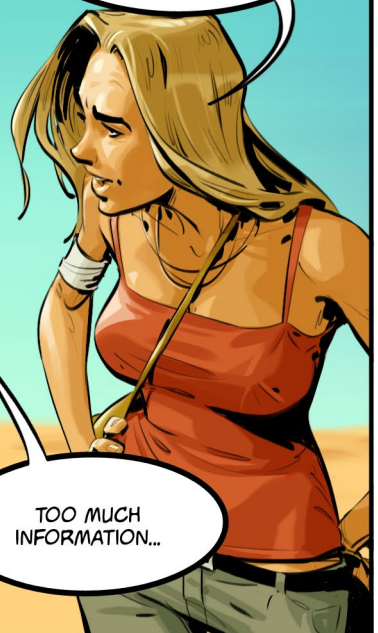
OUR WATER
IS ONLY ENOUGH
FOR A DAY IN THIS HEAT.
I SAVED IT FROM
OUR WEEKLY
RATION.



EASY
FOR YOU TO
SAY, YOU GIRLS ARE
SMALLER AND NEED
LESS WATER FOR
BATHING.



SERIOUSLY?
WHEN WE HAVE OUR PERIOD
WE NEED WAY MORE WATER.
A CLEAN TOILET AND
A SINK WOULD BE
NICE TOO.



TOO MUCH
INFORMATION...



I THINK
WE ARE HERE.



NEPTUNUS?

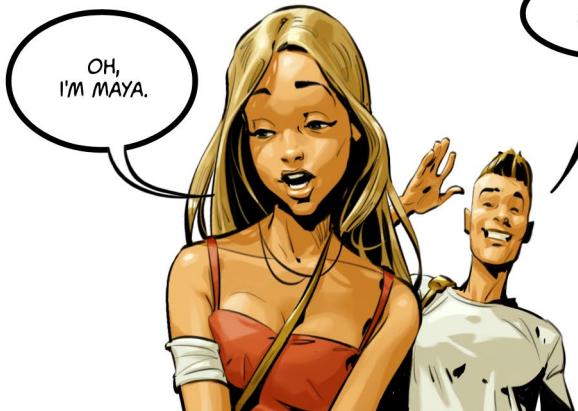
I'VE RETIRED.

NEP,
BY THE WAY.



WE KNOW
BUT WE NEED TO
TALK TO YOU. WE NEED
YOUR HELP. ACTUALLY, YOU
ARE OUR ONLY HOPE.
OUR LAST HOPE!

I'VE TOLD YOU, I'VE RETIRED. IF YOU
ARE DONE WITH YOUR SPEECH
COME IN THE SHADE OR YOU'LL
MELT UNDER THE SUN.



OH,
I'M MAYA.

ARNO.







AGAIN,
WE HAVE A BIG
PROBLEM?

TRUST US, WE
DIDN'T CROSS THIS
LOVELY DESERT FOR
NOTHING.

WE GOT USED TO GETTING DRINK-
ING WATER FOR TICKETS, EVEN
THOUGH BEFORE WE WERE IN
THE LUCKY TWO THIRD OF THE
HUMANITY WHO HAD ACCESS IN
THEIR HOMES.



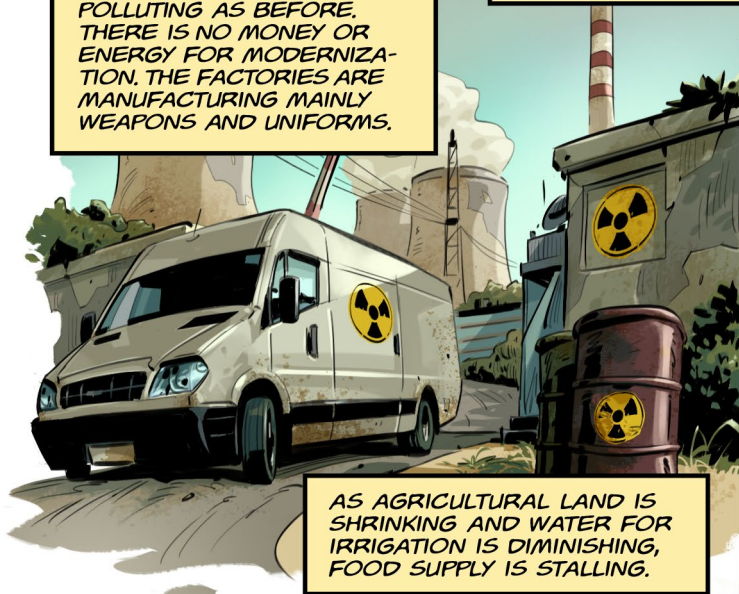
BY NOW THERE IS NO WATER SUPPLY IN
HOMES IN ANY OF THE BIG CITIES.

WITHOUT MUCH SANITATION
SICKNESS IS SPREADING.
DUE TO EPIDEMICS, ZONE
III. HAS BEEN UNDER
QUARANTINE FOR MONTHS.



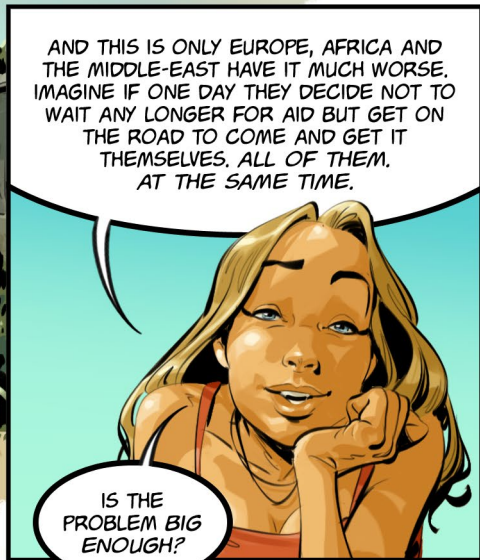
WE DON'T HAVE IT THAT BAD BUT IN THE EASTERN
TERRITORIES THE GOVERNMENT CAN BARELY KEEP
ORDER EVEN BY THE USE OF ARMED FORCES.

THE POWER PLANTS - THAT
ARE STILL WORKING - ARE
POLLUTING AS BEFORE.
THERE IS NO MONEY OR
ENERGY FOR MODERNIZA-
TION. THE FACTORIES ARE
MANUFACTURING MAINLY
WEAPONS AND UNIFORMS.



AS AGRICULTURAL LAND IS
SHRINKING AND WATER FOR
IRRIGATION IS DIMINISHING,
FOOD SUPPLY IS STALLING.

AND THIS IS ONLY EUROPE, AFRICA AND
THE MIDDLE-EAST HAVE IT MUCH WORSE,
IMAGINE IF ONE DAY THEY DECIDE NOT TO
WAIT ANY LONGER FOR AID BUT GET ON
THE ROAD TO COME AND GET IT
THEMSELVES. ALL OF THEM,
AT THE SAME TIME.



IS THE
PROBLEM BIG
ENOUGH?



I WAS OBSERVING FROM AFAR. AT THE BEGINNING I LIKED WHAT I SAW.



I HAD TO GO PLACES WHERE
EVEN THE UN COULDN'T REACH.

I BUILT MOUNTAINS BACK,
RELOCATED FORESTS TO
PROTECT THE SOURCE OF
RIVERS.



DO YOU KNOW
THESE SPRINGS SUPPLY
WATER TO ALL THE CITIES OF
THE VALLEY WHERE YOUR
FAMILIES LIVE?

I BROUGHT TOGETHER LEADERS WHO HAVE
HAD DISPUTES OVER TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS
FOR DECADES.

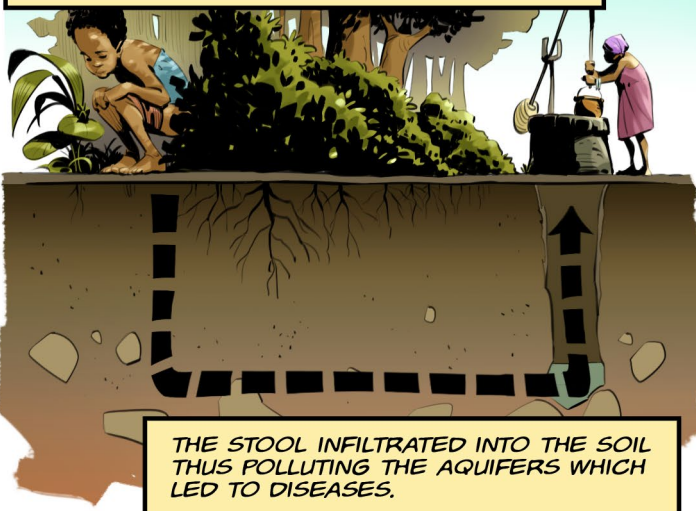
DUE TO THE DAMS
THERE IS BARELY ANY
WATER IN THE RIVER WHEN
IT REACHES US.

MY COUNTRY IS POORER,
WE NEED ALL THE WATER WE CAN
GET FOR IRRIGATION AND TO FEED
THE PEOPLE. OF COURSE IF THEY
WOULD HELP...

FINALLY...



I'VE BEEN TO A LOT OF PLACES WHERE TOI-
LETS WERE UNKNOWN. PEOPLE DEFECCATED
OUTSIDE.



THE STOOL INFILTRATED INTO THE SOIL
THUS POLLUTING THE AQUIFERS WHICH
LED TO DISEASES.

THIS IS
DISGUSTING. WAS IT
THAT BAD ALREADY
THEN?

IN SOME
COUNTRIES HALF
OF THE POPULATION
LIVED LIKE THAT.
MILLIONS.



IT MIGHT NOT BE THAT GLORIOUS BUT THIS WORK ALSO HAD TO BE DONE.

NEPTUNUS, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

IT'S ABOUT MUCH MORE THAN TOILETS AND DRINKING WATER. IF A WOMAN DOESN'T HAVE TO CARRY WATER FROM MILES AWAY, IF THEY HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN BATHROOMS, THEY CAN GO TO SCHOOL AND WORK EVEN WHEN THEY HAVE THEIR PERIOD.

I WASN'T WELCOMED EVERYWHERE. THERE ARE CONTRACTORS WHO WOULD CHOOSE THE CHEAP OPTIONS.

BELIEVE ME, IF YOU DIVERT THE RIVER ABOVE THE DAM IT WILL ERODE THE HILLSIDE AT A FLOOD.

BOSS, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

FEED HIM HIS SPEAR.

I QUENCHED THEIR THIRST INSTEAD.

OF COURSE I COULD NOT BE EVERYWHERE EVERYTIME, IN PARTICULAR, I COULDN'T WITHDRAW BUILDING PERMITS.

INTERESTINGLY WHEN THE CITY WAS FLOODED WITH SLUDGE IN THE SPRING, NOT ONE OF THE GUYS WHO WERE SO TOUGH UP ON THE MOUNTAIN HELPED IN THE RESCUE.

BUT IT WAS ALSO HARD WITH YOU FOLKS TOO.

DID YOU KNOW THAT IT TAKES 10 625 LITERS TO MAKE YOUR CELL PHONE?

BORING.

TWICE AS MUCH WATER IS NEEDED TO MAKE THE PLASTIC BOTTLE THAN THE WATER IT HOLDS. THEREFORE YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR OWN...

THIS AIN'T WATER, GET IT?!

A LOT OF WATER IS WASTED THROUGH DRIPPING TAPS... A DISHWASHER USES MUCH LESS WATER THAN WASHING THE DISHES BY HAND AND WE SAVE WATER BY NOT STARTING THE WASHING MACHINE HALF EMPTY...

COLLECT RAINWATER TO WATER THE PLANTS AND DO THIS EARLY MORNING OR IN THE EVENING TO REDUCE EVAPORATION... AND FOR INSTANCE DON'T POUR OUT THE WATER YOU BOILED THE EGGS IN BUT REUSE IT.

I WAS GETTING TIRED AND LOSING HOPE. STILL, I WASN'T THE ONE TO GIVE UP.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICES, YOUR MISSION IS UP.

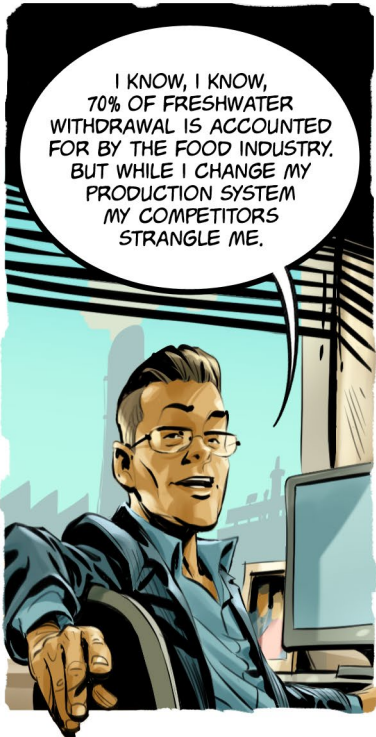
WHAT?! BUT WHY?



EVERYONE HAD AN EXCUSE.



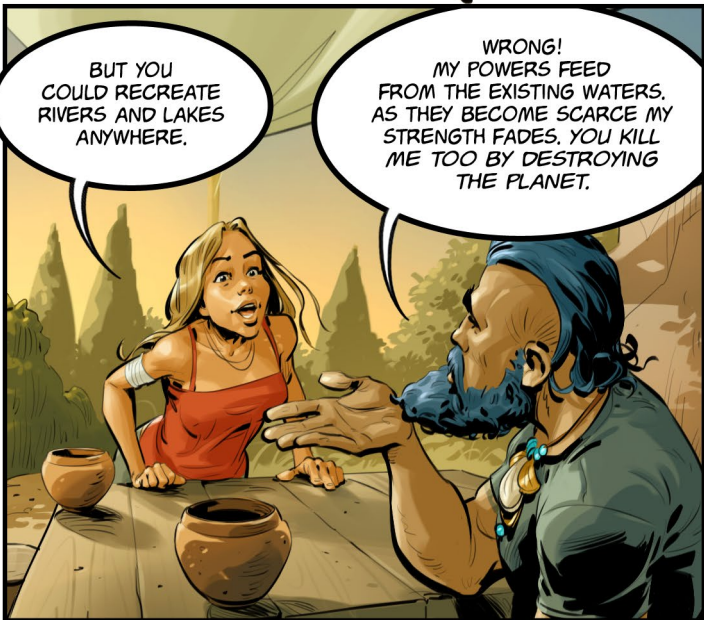
YES SURE, IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IS A COMMON GOAL BUT THERE ARE NO RESERVES IN THE BUDGET TO RETROFIT THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM. I COULDN'T SUPERVISE THE INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTORS ANY MORE, IT WOULD HAVE LED TO LAYOFFS.



I KNOW, I KNOW, 70% OF FRESHWATER WITHDRAWAL IS ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE FOOD INDUSTRY. BUT WHILE I CHANGE MY PRODUCTION SYSTEM MY COMPETITORS STRANGLE ME.

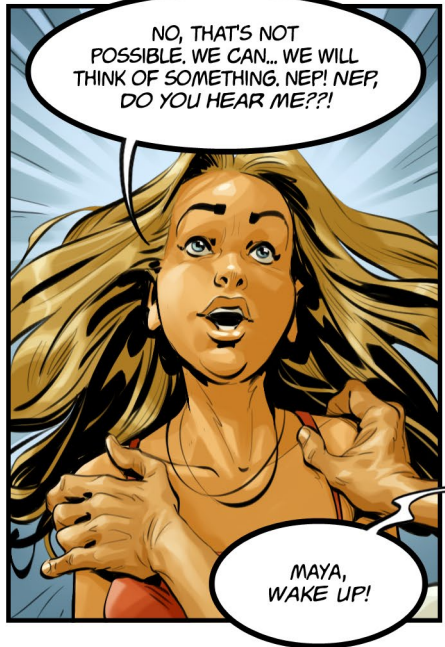


WHAT? THE FAMILY USES 350 LITERS OF WATER PER DAY? WELL YEAH, THE MISSUS LOVES TO TAKE BATHS. AND NOBODY SHOULD TELL ME NOT TO WASH MY CAR ON THE WEEKENDS. I DESERVE THAT MUCH.



BUT YOU COULD RECREATE RIVERS AND LAKES ANYWHERE.

WRONG! MY POWERS FEED FROM THE EXISTING WATERS. AS THEY BECOME SCARCE MY STRENGTH FADES. YOU KILL ME TOO BY DESTROYING THE PLANET.



NO, THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. WE CAN... WE WILL THINK OF SOMETHING. NEP! NEP, DO YOU HEAR ME??!

MAYA, WAKE UP!



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

© **GWP HUNGARY FOUNDATION** All rights reserved.
1119 Budapest, Etele út 59-61. www.gwpmo.hu Responsible for publishing: **Mónika Jetzin**
Story & art: **Dávid Cserkúti** Graphic design: **Viktor Rácz** Project manager: **Zsófia Tomaj**
www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals