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COURSE TITLE: WATER AND WASTEWATER ENGINEERING

1. Wastewater a veritable tool for environmental health and sustainable development.

More sustainable sanitation and wastewater management could yield vast economic as well as social and environmental benefits for societies. Poor sanitation and hygiene is the leading cause of diarrhea, the second largest cause of death in children under age 5 in developing countries (UNICEF 2012). In addition, many of the negative outcomes that follow from unsustainable sanitation and wastewater management overwhelmingly impact the poor, marginalized and vulnerable, and undermine efforts to reduce poverty and discrimination. Improved sanitation and wastewater management systems that prevent exposure of human populations to pathogens and toxic substances can make vast improvements in public health. Preventing environmental damage has become an increasingly recognized and valued function of wastewater treatment, and a component for sustainable development. Promoting environmental sustainability through wastewater management is largely focused on waterborne systems. Less effort has been invested in researching more indirect impacts such as pollutants leaching into soils, for example from poorly sited pit latrines, and being passed on and concentrated through food chains.

In conclusion, Sustainable sanitation and wastewater management can play a key role in limiting the release of damaging pollution, pathogens and nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, into aquatic ecosystems. Resource recovery and reuse can provide incentives and sources of financing for keeping environmentally harmful contaminants out of treated wastes.