

# **International Conference on FRESH WATER GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

**including Panel sessions, Side events, Seminars, Workshops**

**5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2012**

**Champagne Sports Resort, Central Drakensburg  
(KwaZulu-Natal), South Africa**

Organised by the

**Water Research Commission**

and the

**Department of Water Affairs – South Africa**



**water affairs**

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

together with

**Australian National University (ANU) : UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and  
Transboundary Water Governance**

and with the support and co-operation of

**African Forum for Utility Regulators (AFUR)**

**Capacity Building Network of the UNDP (CAP-NET) / WRM**

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**

**Global Water Partnership of Southern Africa (GWPSA)**

**Global Water System Project (GWSP)**

**Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)**

**Instituto de Investigação em Aguas (IIA)**

**Institute of Natural Resources (INR)**

**Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM)**

**Southern African Development Community (SADC)**

**Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA)**

**UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme (IHP)**

**University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)**

**University of Pretoria and the Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique  
pour le Développement (CIRAD)**

**University of South Australia (UniSA): Centre for Comparative Water Policies and Laws  
Water Institute of South Africa (WISA)**



## BACKGROUND / OBJECTIVES

As pressure on freshwater resources increase across the globe, so does our need to govern the use of these resources in a way that is sustainable into the future. This international conference will bring together policy makers, water managers, scientists and civil society, in a forum where new ideas beyond academic exchange for the future can be shared, nurtured and hopefully developed from the water sector and beyond. Therefore, this conference is hosted by a number of local, regional and international partners

## TOPICS

The conference will cover a wide range of topics related to sustainable fresh water governance such as:

- Analysing the **implementation challenges** of policies
- Analysing water governance **research** for **impact** on policy action and decision making
- Effective and sustainable national and **transnational** water governance
- Governing **trade-offs** within the water, energy, food and the environment mega nexus in a changing climate to ensure climate resilient development and water security
- Viable decentralisation options to promote **adaptive** management
- **Financing**, infrastructure development and green economy
- Capacity building for **leadership** at the sub-national scale
- Applicable water regulation for enhanced **accountability**
- Sharing case studies of IWRM **implementation** and lessons learnt
- Managing a common property resources and the emerging regimes in legal **pluralism**
- Adjusting the **laws** and policies for change
- Human beings and how we deal with **change**

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Participants are expected to come from wide and varied disciplines and will include; policy makers, water managers, social scientists, natural scientists, water resource managers, economists, ecologists, hydrologists, legal practitioners, private and public sector specialists, psychologists, etc.

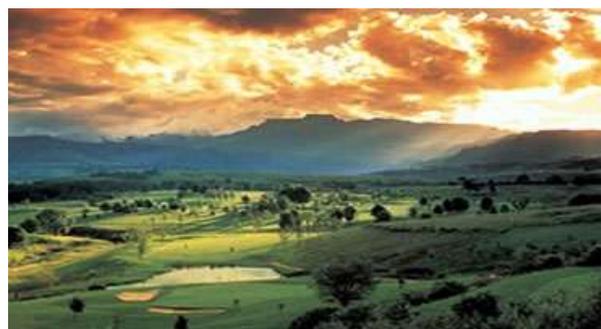
Following on from the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, the WISA biennial conference and the Rio+20 summit on sustainable development, this conference will provide an opportunity to decipher and articulate new identified priority areas and for creating partnerships to formulate plans of action.

Considering the great enthusiasm from the partners and their respective networks for this conference, An attendance of 250 to 350 delegates from around the world is anticipated.

## DATE AND VENUE

The conference will take place from **Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012** with a Meet-and-Greet Reception the preceding evening: **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> November**, at the Champagne Sports Resort situated in the Central Drakensberg mountain range (four hours drive from Johannesburg and two hours drive from Durban).

A conference venue with everything! The conference centre itself is state-of-the art, with 16 conference rooms and up-to-date audio-visual equipment. Leisure activities include an 18-hole golf course, tennis, bowls, basketball, putt-putt, volleyball, horse riding. There are swimming pools and curio / coffee shops, as well as a fully equipped wellness centre and gym. The resort is well placed for mountain walking and helicopter flips over the mountains are possible. Post-conference outings and pastimes could include a performance at the world-renowned Drakensberg Boys' Choir School, battlefield tours, river rafting and canopy tours, as well as visits to a cheese factory, raptor flying demonstration and various arts and crafts centres in the vicinity.



## COACH TRANSPORT TO VENUE

The organisers will arrange buses to and from OR Tambo Airport, Johannesburg during the weekend preceding the conference and returning afterwards.

## 13<sup>th</sup> WATERNET ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM 2012

The 13<sup>th</sup> WaterNET Annual Symposium will take place in South Africa from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012. The Governance Conference has been deliberately scheduled for the following week, to allow delegates visiting South Africa to attend both conferences. A selection of outings, workshops and seminars will be arranged for the intervening weekend. More details will be included in the final announcement.

## CALL FOR PAPERS AND OTHER PROGRAMME PARTICIPATION OPTIONS

The format of the conference aims to share new knowledge on the topic of sustainable fresh water governance through written papers and posters and to allow for multi-stakeholder panel discussions - mainly between researchers and policy makers as well as civil society. It will further support the hosting of special sessions, side events, workshops on related topics, moot court role playing, 'knowledge café' and other activities.

Organisations and relevant bodies with an interest in 'governance' will be given an opportunity to 'showcase' their services during the conference and are invited to submit details of proposed participation along the following lines:

● Oral presentation	● Poster presentation
● Side event	● Moderated panel/discussion session
● Role-playing game	● Knowledge café
● Moot court	● Video showing
● Pre- or post-conference workshop	● Other - please specify

Submissions may only be received on the 'CALL FOR ABSTRACTS TEMPLATE' which accompanies this document and which is also available online on the conference website: [www.wrc.org.za](http://www.wrc.org.za) or available from: [confplan@iafrica.com](mailto:confplan@iafrica.com). The completed template must be submitted to [confplan@iafrica.com](mailto:confplan@iafrica.com) by **10<sup>th</sup> April 2012** at the latest. The following information is requested on the template:

- Author/participant's title, first name, surname – and names of any co-authors.
- Organisation, postal address, telephone, fax and cellphone numbers.
- E-mail address.
- A half-page abstract
- An agenda grid, names of proposed speakers, talk titles, time required, moderator information – if relevant.

The submissions will go through a selection process and will be accepted on the understanding that the main author or a co-author, will personally attend the conference as a fee-paying delegate and present the topic; and that the deadlines indicated below will be strictly adhered to.

### Deadlines

10 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	:	Closing date for electronic submission of the "Call for Abstracts Template".
30 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	:	Authors advised of acceptance of their presentation/concept.
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2012	:	Distribution of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> (final) conference announcement – which will contain provisional titles of accepted presentations and names of presenters.
1 <sup>st</sup> September 2012	:	Revised abstracts to be submitted for publication in the Programme Handbook.
5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2012:		<b>CONFERENCE</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	:	Selected authors advised to start writing their papers for submission to "Water SA". These papers will be subject to a full review procedure.

Abstracts of presentations will be given out to delegates at the conference – certain authors will be approached after the conference and asked to submit full papers for inclusion in a special issue of "Water SA".

**NB:** Some authors may be asked to adapt their papers for presentation for panel sessions or interactive discussion periods.

## **INCOMATI SPECIAL SESSION : weekend 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> November**

This session may possibly be held during the weekend preceding the conference: 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Researchers working in the Incomati Basin are encouraged to submit abstracts on the accompanying ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TEMPLATE. The aim of this session is to provide a platform for integrating knowledge on water governance, operational management and applied water science in the transboundary Incomati catchment, with the following two themes:

1. Incomati catchment transboundary water management, governance, agreements and institutions
2. Applied Water Research Initiatives in the Incomati, at the science-management interface

## **EXHIBITION STAND or KNOWLEDGE BOOTH**

An exhibition relevant to the theme of the conference, will be held concurrently with the conference in the same venue as daily teabreaks. The exhibition offers partners, suppliers and stakeholders an opportunity to showcase their products and services. Space at the venue is limited to 15 stands (3m x 3m) which can be booked on a first-come-first-served basis. Organisations wishing to exhibit are requested to contact the Secretariat for further information: [confplan@iafrica.com](mailto:confplan@iafrica.com).

## **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

The organizers welcome sponsorship participation. A range of sponsorship options have been identified to provide high value opportunities for branding during the conference; and there are sponsorship options to suit every budget. All sponsors will be invited to submit a promotional paragraph for the printed Programme Handbook together with their logo. Please contact the Secretariat: [confplan@iafrica.com](mailto:confplan@iafrica.com) or view the conference website: [www.wrc.org.za](http://www.wrc.org.za) for the sponsorship options and their branding benefits.

## **REGISTRATION FEES / ACCOMMODATION COST**

It is expected that the registration fee will be less than R4 500 (± US \$ 700) for the three-day conference inclusive of lunches, teas and social functions, with a reduced tariff for students and presenting authors. It is possible there may also be a reduction for delegates who attend both the Governance conference and the WaterNET symposium the preceding week. There is a range of guest house/Bed & Breakfast accommodation in the area. A single room at the 4-star Champagne Sports Resort, will cost R1 600 per night inclusive of breakfast and dinner each day.

Registration fees will be confirmed in the next announcement.

## **FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next (final) conference announcement will be available on the conference website: [www.wrc.org.za](http://www.wrc.org.za) on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 and available electronically from: [confplan@iafrica.com](mailto:confplan@iafrica.com). The final announcement will include the provisional programme, special tariffs for accommodation, transport options, fees and details of social functions, as well as all final details on arrangements for the conference and exhibition.

### **CORRESPONDENCE AND ENQUIRIES**

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