

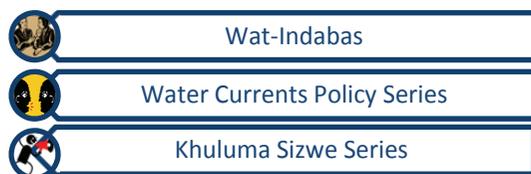
## About the WRC Dialogues

*"Let me explain my understanding of dialogue. The aim of dialogue is not conversion or to reach agreement on core beliefs. The aim of dialogue is to listen to each other, to come to know one another, and hopefully to respect each other.*

*Pope Benedict XVI*

The WRC Dialogues are discussion-based events on topical water issues affecting the South African public, the aim of which is to serve as a platform to exchange ideas and opinions related to water. In this regard, the WRC Dialogues are guided by the principles of transparency, openness and honesty; plurality of perspectives and inclusivity, mutual respect; a commitment to problem-solving and mutual accountability; and in the broader interest of knowledge sharing. The value of the WRC's role as convener of these events lies in its ability to be a neutral knowledge broker as South Africa's premier water knowledge resource.

There are three types of dialogues that are organised in this series:



### WAT-INDABAS

Wat-Indabas are typically closed facilitated sessions held under the Chatham House Rule due to the sensitivity of the subject matter being discussed. The aim is to provide a 'safe and protected space' for knowledge sharing and to further an understanding between stakeholders with unequal relationships, significant conceptual gaps, and perhaps even a degree of mistrust. Wat-Indabas will often span several sessions and involve the progressive unpacking of key issues related to the subject matter, with the outcome decided at the onset. Through this discussion platform, participants remain committed to upholding the confidentiality of the talks and use the information strategically in informing future research and policy decisions. Attendance is by invitation only.

### WATER CURRENTS POLICY SERIES

The Water Currents Policy Series is a range of convened seminars, often held in partnership with a host of collaborating institutions, and comprising of a panel of experts invited to present different authoritative views on a discussion topic. The aim of the Water Currents Policy Series is to create a forum where panellists express multiple and sometimes divergent perspectives on key issues affecting the water sector in South Africa. A key component of this series is that it is outcome-driven with opinion pieces, policy briefs, and other publications generated after each dialogue.

### KHULUMA SIZWE SERIES (The nation speaks)

The Khuluma Sizwe Series is an open lecture platform where high-profile speakers are invited to give talks on very impactful water issues affecting the South African public. These events will be widely broadcasted and are open to the public.

For more information about the WRC Dialogues and the calendar of events visit the WRC website: [www.wrc.org.za](http://www.wrc.org.za)

## New opportunities for water-related jobs and asset creation



## Rationale

This 1<sup>st</sup> Water Currents Policy Series event focuses on water related job and asset creation in community-driven development, infrastructure and employment programs, to enhance access to water for domestic and economic uses in a holistic and sustainable manner.

The WRC and IWMI have been inspired by India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). This government program provides employment to 55 million households. Communities decide how to use the available labour. IWMI research found that communities prioritize water asset creation in over 60 percent of the works. Various other government programs, e.g. watershed management, coordinate with NREGS for integrated public support to holistic bottom-up water management and drought proofing.

The purpose of the event is to draw lessons from the Indian experience and to explore practical ways of enhancing the creation of water-related employment and assets in the South African context. In South Africa, communities may also opt for water assets and water conservation in job creation and infrastructure programs, if given the choice through participatory planning. The importance of water for multiple uses from multiple sources is illustrated, for example, in the Community Work Programme. This participatory employment creation program is found to support 45 000 home food gardens and 5 000 community clinic, crèche or school gardens; potable water and sanitation provision to homes, schools, clinics and communal buildings; maintenance activities such as the repair of leakages; cleaning of irrigation canals; nutrient recycling through composting and waste management; water and land conservation and soil erosion prevention such as gully treatment and managing grazing and watering of livestock; the small businesses that people start with the wages earned; and in road and bridge construction.

## Goal

The goals of this 1<sup>st</sup> Water Currents Policy Series event are, first, to draw lessons from the Indian experience, presented by Dr. Shilp Verma, IWMI India, and, second, to explore practical ways to enhance the creation of water-related employment and assets in the South African context by strengthening synergies between the water sector and participatory rural development programs for job and asset creation, infrastructure development, and sustainable land and water management and conservation.

The workshop will explore opportunities that can be applied in practice, including the presentation of a basket of appropriate, affordable and labour-intensive technologies and measures in rural and peri-urban settings, at the suitable scale from homestead to watershed level:

- water storage and conveyance infrastructure for multiple uses (domestic, livestock watering, irrigation, tree growing, fisheries, small-scale enterprise, ceremonies)
- water quality and sanitation technologies: centralized and point-of-use water treatment technologies (e.g. peace pot); toilets and sanitation options; pollution prevention and waste water treatment (e.g. sludge management; acid mine drainage)
- sustainable integrated land and water resource management: erosion prevention, groundwater recharge; composting; etc.

It will look at the kinds of skills training and capacity building that the water sector can offer, in technical infrastructure design, construction, operation and maintenance; irrigation techniques, agronomic and marketing skills for homestead and small-scale vegetable and crop production; fisheries; institutional capacity building for operation and maintenance, cost-recovery etc; hygiene and health education.

The workshop will explore partnerships for cross-sectoral collaboration and joint resource mobilization for implementation and action-research. Such partnerships integrate, on the one hand, a basket of appropriate, affordable and labour-intensive technological and managerial solutions for water storage,

conveyance, quality, sanitation, and conservation) and, on the other hand, community-owned holistic service delivery and resource management from local to watershed level.

## Who should attend?

The target audience for the workshop is government programmes involved in public employment, such as Community Work Program, water services, Natural Resource Management Programmes, the War on Poverty, agricultural extension programmes where water is a critical issues, as well as NGO's and other interested stakeholders.

## Programme

Programme facilitator: Inga Jacobs (WRC)

8:30 – 9:00	Registration and refreshments	
9:00 – 9:20	Welcome and background	<b>Dhesigen Naidoo</b> , CEO, WRC
9:20 – 9:30	Welcome	<b>Pius Chilonda</b> , Head Southern Africa Regional Program IWMI
9:30 – 9:50	Public employment: new opportunities for socially useful work	<b>Kate Phillip</b> , Advisor to the Presidency on Short-Term Strategies for Employment Creation/Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS)
9:50 – 10:00	Global trends in community driven water development	<b>Barbara van Koppen</b> , Southern Africa Regional Programme International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
10:00 – 10:30	Water asset creation in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGA) of India	<b>Shilp Verma</b> , International Water Management Institute (IWMI), India
10:30 – 11:00	Tea	
11:00 – 12:00	Panel discussion – Experiences: Community work programmes	Facilitator: <b>Dhesigen Naidoo</b> , CEO, WRC  Panellists: <b>Shilp Verma</b> (IWMI, India) <b>Sibusiso Mkhize</b> (Seriti River Cleaning Programme) <b>Arthur Ndlovu</b> : Water works in CWP <b>To be confirmed</b> : Water and livelihoods <b>Stanley Liphadzi</b> (WRC – Working for Water experience) <b>Valerie Naidoo</b> (WRC – Green Village Concept) <b>Kevin Wall</b> (CSIR – Social Franchising)
12:00 – 13:00	Explore a basket of appropriate, labour intensive technologies and institutional approaches for holistic water services delivery	Facilitator: <b>Dhesigen Naidoo</b> , CEO, WRC
13:00 – 13:15	Closure	
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch	