

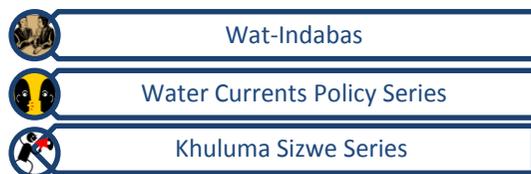
About the WRC Dialogues

"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. This rule refers primarily to the confidentiality of the source of information received at a meeting. The aim is to facilitate free knowledge sharing in an unthreatening environment. It intends to deepen mutual understandings of the different perspectives of stakeholders when there may be significant conceptual gaps, reference points, 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. Under Chatham House rule, participants commit to protecting the identity of other participants and only using the information received strategically to inform actions, research or 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 broadcast 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*



*Our Water:
Our Heritage and our Legacy*



Rationale

In commemoration of South Africa's National Heritage Day, this Khuluma Sizwe Dialogue aims to emphasise water's role in various aspects of our heritage. Water is an essential resource required to sustain life. It has led to the development and generation of significant material culture in the form of urban centres, technology and infrastructure. It has also been the driver and inspiration giving rise to various cultural practices which have generated cultural heritage values. Its role in the development of the arts is also evident in poetry, literature, artistic endeavour such as painting, dance and sculpture. It has spiritual value and has shaped the development of philosophies and religious practice. The heritage of water, therefore relates not only to the historical development of technology and architecture but also to those intangible values that have shaped our beliefs and practices.

But our South African waterscape is also closely linked to our socio-political landscape because the provision of services has mirrored the same kind of inequality. The necessary goal of redressing past racial and gender inequality through the provision of safe and clean water meant that South Africa's water reform in the 1990s was expected to deliver on changes in process (holistic, decentralised, participatory and economically cost effective), social outcomes while simultaneously ensuring higher environmental standards as stipulated in the 1998 National Water Act. However, the prospect of redistribution from existing 'haves' to 'have nots' raises considerably the political risks and expectations attached to the implementation of such reform. The challenge in reconciling process and social outcomes plays itself out in recent service delivery protests. These very real repercussions of a society trying to cope link water to both our heritage and also our legacy.

This Dialogue therefore tries to navigate the space that water has occupied in shaping both our heritage and our legacy. It looks at the artistic, historical, socio-cultural and socio-political heritage of water through the eyes and experiences of notable figures in the fields of Arts and Culture, Politics and History. In so doing, it intertwines the many ways in which water has shaped who we are.

Goal

The objective of this event is to share lived experiences and understandings of water by several leading figures in their respective fields. This includes:

- Reflections on the artistic, cultural, historical and political heritage of water.
- Observations of how people interact with water given its artistic, cultural, and religious value.
- An account of the degree to which the struggle for water is intertwined with the struggle for freedom.

Target Audience

The Dialogue will bring together stakeholders from government, heritage institutions, local communities and academia. The event is also open to the public and confirmation of attendance is required in advance.

Programme

Programme facilitator: Dr. Inga Jacobs (WRC)

Chair: Ms. Dora Ndaba (WRC Board Member)

9:00 – 9:30	Registration and Refreshments	
9:30 – 9:45	Welcome and Background	Mr. Dhesigen Naidoo , CEO, WRC
9:45 – 10:00	Opening Address	Ambassador Thandi Lujabe-Rankoe , Former High Commissioner to Mozambique
10:00 – 10:20	Waterscapes: our heritage in the Arts	Dr Wally Serote , Former Chief Executive Officer and Executive Chair of the Freedom Park, writer and poet
10:20 – 10:40	Water and its socio-political, cultural and spiritual symbolism	Dr Mathole Serofo Motshekga , ANC Chief Whip and Kara Heritage Foundation (TBC)
10:40 – 11:00	"Water's fight is a fight for freedom"?	Professor Johann Tempelhoff , North West University
11:00 – 12:00	Q&A and Discussion	
12:15 – 12:30	Closing	
12:30	Light Snack	
12:45	Media Briefing	

