



KSA 5: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



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KSA 5: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

SCOPE

This KSA supports the achievement of the organisational vision 'To be South Africa's premier steering and funding water research agency with a significant African and Global footprint'. The KSA assists with and coordinates the following strategic drives:

- New partnershipsImproved political profile
- Water technology development
- Stronger research and human capital development profile
- Budget and resource expansion
- International leadership

KSA 5 also addresses the management of water-centred knowledge (created via the support of the WRC as well as other sources) and leads the effective dissemination thereof.

The scope of this KSA includes:

- Facilitating and, where appropriate, formalising new partnerships
- Supporting the continuous improvement of the political profile of the WRC by enhancing the credibility and relevance of the WRC through strategic positioning and strengthening stakeholder relations
- Leading the up-scaling and demonstration of water technologies in partnership with the research KSAs and strategic partners

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- Providing the instruments to track, measure and report on the impact of the WRC in research and human capital development
- Providing support to and, in some cases, leading initiatives aimed at increasing budget and resources
- Coordinating local and international dialogues led by the WRC
- Supporting knowledge creation by providing appropriate research management tools and logistic support
- Sharing and disseminating water-centred knowledge internally and externally
- Providing strategic research advice

The overall scope is further expanded in a number of thrusts:

THRUSTS AND PROGRAMMES

THRUST 1: RESEARCH – WATER-CENTRED KNOWLEDGE

Aim:

- To provide strategic research advice related to the water sector, R&D capacity, knowledge flow and ultimate impact

The WRC is mandated to lead and co-ordinate water research in South Africa. It is also tasked to promote effective knowledge transfer and enhance knowledge and capacity in the sector. It is therefore important that

the WRC understands all of the elements driving the water knowledge cycle in South Africa.

This KSA focuses on researching various elements, drivers and trends affecting the dynamics of the water-centred knowledge cycle, from issues related to research capacity and overall funding of research by the sector to the effectiveness of research and its impact on policy and technology used by the sector. This functional area may also provide advice regarding sector needs and global trends, i.e., foresight and scenario studies.

Examples of research/studies to be carried out under the leadership of this functional area are:

- Assessment of the scope and extent of water research done in South Africa
- Analysis of research capacity, demographics, current and future needs
- Impact of research, including methodology for impact assessments
- Long-term scenario building
- Assessing knowledge uptake and dissemination and establishing new effective mechanisms

THRUST 2: TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND IP MANAGEMENT

Aims:

- To demonstrate technologies and solutions through scale-up and demonstration facilities
- To manage the WRC patent portfolio and intellectual property according to the WRC IP Policy

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This thrust ensures that the WRC promotes the effective transfer of information and technology through up-scaling and demonstration. In the words of the Department of Science and Technology's 10-year innovation plan, it serves as an enabler to address the "innovation chasm" between research results and socioeconomic outcomes. The thrust also includes the management of intellectual property.

THRUST 3: STRATEGIC POSITIONING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Aims:

- To enhance the credibility and relevance of the WRC locally and globally
- To coordinate strategic local, continental and international partnerships and facilitate dialogues which position the WRC as a significant international player and a recognised asset to South Africa

This initiative has in the past been decentralised in the WRC. This caused, to an extent, individuals rather than the organisation to be recognised. This new thrust has been created to coordinate national, continental and global initiatives and to formalise strategic partnerships without compromising the individual efforts of our Research Managers and Executive Managers. It provides the golden thread for key selected dialogues and partnerships in which the WRC wants to play a major leading role.

Another major initiative is the establishment of the Water Knowledge and Capacity Advancement Programme (WaterKCAP), in partnership with the DWA. The aim of the WaterKCAP is to provide a dedicated programme of

support that enables research supervisors to provide higher numbers of high-quality Doctorate and Masters level graduates in priority water-relevant disciplines.

The WRC also continues to establish strategic partnerships with large industry, local government as well as national government departments and their agencies.

Other initiatives addressed in this thrust are:

- Establishing and strengthening of relationships with government departments and a number of portfolio committees
 - » Establish and maintain relationships with the National Planning Commission, portfolio committees, and various departments including Department of Water Affairs, Department of Health, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Department of Human Settlements
 - » Provide interactive information sessions to the portfolio committees and respond to their knowledge requirements
- Supporting national, African and global initiatives
 - » Support national initiatives of key importance to the water and other related sectors where the WRC plays a significant role
 - » Support other KSA initiatives through providing support related to exhibitions, media briefings, events management, etc.

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- » Support African initiatives for building water science and technology in the continent (example: NEPAD)
- » Establish and maintain bilateral relationships
- » Support global initiatives and partnerships, for example, through:
 - » Linking to international associations such as the International Water Association, World Water Forum, etc.
 - » Linking with the global research community through *Water SA*
- Prepare positioning material such as the WRC Annual Report, strategic messages, ministerial and policy briefs

THRUST 4: PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Aims:

- To effectively share and disseminate relevant knowledge in the water sector and within the WRC and to develop knowledge-sharing mechanisms/ instruments to support the objectives of the WRC
- To build and maintain relationships with stakeholders
- To market the WRC effectively

This thrust complements the objectives of Thrust 3 utilising public relations, marketing and communication

mechanisms. The KSA ensures that the WRC leads and participates in knowledge-sharing and knowledge-dissemination activities (e.g. workshops, exhibitions). It strengthens the WRC's ability to exchange information and data on developments around water management issues. It also oversees the flow of water-centred knowledge to and from the WRC by improving access to external information and water-centred knowledge, and acting as a resource centre to meet the information requirements of the WRC and the water sector in general. It includes:

- Driving the implementation of the WRC communication strategy
 - » Improving knowledge uptake with the aim to increase implementation
 - » Enhancing sector involvement in the WRC research processes
 - » Strengthening awareness of the mandate and role of the WRC in the South African water sector
- Establishing working relationships with industry, decision makers and key stakeholders
 - » Strengthening relationships through formal memoranda of understanding
 - » Providing knowledge in a format that is fit-for-use
 - » Delivering multimedia presentations to inform various target groups about the WRC and its accomplishments

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- Supporting water-related youth and learner awareness programmes
- Knowledge sharing (external)
 - » Preparing media briefings, media conferences and networking events in order to create and sustain an awareness and appreciation among the media of the WRC's position of leadership within the water sector
 - » Developing and maintaining an Electronic Water Knowledge Hub for easy access to all WRC publications and resources
 - » Developing mechanisms for effective knowledge sharing and information transfer
 - » Exhibiting at high-profile, water-centred conferences nationally and, if necessary, internationally
- Knowledge sharing (internal)
 - » Organising knowledge-sharing events such as internal open days, guest lectures and regular research managers' meetings
- Enhancing the effectiveness of knowledge dissemination
- Supporting the research community
 - » Improving the relationship and interaction with the research community (during and beyond the project)
- Promoting the WRC at carefully selected opportunities
 - » Contributing to and/or advertising in selected media or periodicals to coincide with events of special significance for water, e.g. Water Week
 - » Engaging with the youth through science festivals, games and competitions to serve the dual purpose of positioning the WRC and stimulating interest in water-centred science, engineering and technology

THRUST 5: BUSINESS SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

Aim: To coordinate the research funding cycle and provide effective tools, systems and procedures to support the core business of the WRC.

This KSA provides support to the 'engine room' of the WRC, i.e., the four key strategic areas mandated to coordinate and fund water research. It supports the management of research projects, enhances innovation and provides the tools and processes for protecting technological developments. It also links the financial processes with the technical fund management. This includes research management:

- Coordinate the annual funding cycle
- Provide the logistics required for the flow of research-related information into and out of the WRC
- Increasing the user-friendliness of the WRC Fund Management System (FMS) for both external and internal users

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- Advance the linkage between financial and technical management of research projects
- Provide support to the research KSAs with regard to proposal cycle and project management on FMS
- Develop the FMS as a management information tool

THRUST 6: PRODUCTION AND KNOWLEDGE PACKAGING

Aims:

- To provide an effective printing and distribution service
- To package water-centred knowledge for different users

This KSA manages the production of WRC-funded research reports, technology transfer reports, *the Water Wheel*, *Water SA*, brochures and briefs. It includes:

- Printing and distribution
 - » Manage the quality-control process of WRC technical and technology transfer final reports
 - » Manage the process of layout and printing of the WRC reports and other publications
 - » Manage the effective distribution of research reports
 - » Manage effective report distribution facilities (manual and electronic)

- Knowledge packaging
 - » Develop and maintain innovative ways to share and disseminate WRC products, e.g. brochures, project briefing notes, Knowledge Review, media briefings.
 - » Support KSAs 1 to 4 with the production of technology transfer documents
- Promote the public understanding of science
 - » Produce and publish *the Water Wheel*
 - » Produce and publish special publications such as books and learning material
- Ensure that scientific knowledge is globally recognised and exchanged
 - » Manage the production and publication of *Water SA*

CORE STRATEGY

Strategic context

Globally, the scientific community is in agreement that knowledge use and uptake is challenging. The path from research to policy formulation is no longer a causal linear process where "research results in a product which is passed from the researcher to the policy maker" (Whitty, 2008). Policy formulation is a complex interaction of actors and includes several advocacy coalitions and networks. Similarly to other science councils and research organisations in the country, the WRC has to try to narrow the institutional gap between

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policy-makers and the scientific research community by improving collaboration and strengthening partnerships.

In the South African water sector, the challenge is compounded by the constant change in the institutional and political environment. The organisations tasked with implementing legal and policy frameworks are constantly faced with a change in leadership, institutional changes and instability, high staff turnover, declining institutional memory and a highly-regulated environment which hinders the testing of developing concepts and technologies.

However, the recent outcome-based strategic approach developed by the South African Government provides a conducive environment for knowledge uptake as the sector gears itself to improve the impact of its efforts. This KSA will support the research KSAs in clearly communicating the link between research outputs and how these can assist Government in achieving the desired outputs. This KSA also coordinates the local and international dialogues aimed at firmly positioning the WRC in carefully selected themes such as adaptation to climate change.

Sector threats

The South African water sector faces challenges that could threaten the sustainability of its water resources. The dominant challenges to the country being able to sustainably supply water to meet its development goals in the future include issues related to water availability, climate change, infrastructure, human resources, compliance and enforcement, raw water quality, financial support and water pricing (Water for Growth and Development Framework, Version 7). Challenges in terms of a knowledgeable, productive water sector include:

- Functioning and pursuing continuous development in a resource-constrained environment
- The desperate and urgent need for solutions in the sector
- Working in a complex and multidisciplinary environment and often across institutions and disciplines
- Human resource capacity in the public sector – often qualified but less experienced people need to acquire a level of competence in a short period of time without the luxury of continuous mentorship
- Limited research capacity in certain of the water-related research areas and reduced ability to deliver on research contracts
- Shortage of South African students studying towards a higher degree in water-related disciplines – a balance is required between the need to continue research (creating knowledge) to ensure a sustainable water sector and the need to build capacity to export to other African states
- Relevance of the WRC; ability to provide South Africa with the knowledge required in the right format to improve service delivery and policy formulation

Relevance and impact

The relevance of the WRC depends in part on the organisation's ability to be the preferred supplier of knowledge to the sector. The absorptive capacity for knowledge generated by WRC-funded research is dependent on the manner in which it is packaged, understanding the complexity of the sector as well as the image of the WRC. The WRC, through this KSA, has started to place more emphasis on understanding and enabling knowledge uptake rather than focusing purely on knowledge dissemination.

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Van Ryneveld and Sproule (2009) defined knowledge uptake as “the **active** acquisition of disseminated information, the **comprehension** of the information and the ability of practitioners to **apply** the information in the field”. While the WRC continues to generate water-related knowledge-based products which contribute to addressing the knowledge gaps in the water sector, it also seeks to understand the mechanisms of knowledge uptake.

The role of KSA 5 is therefore important for the continued relevance of the WRC and for the sustainability of a knowledge-based water sector. The emphasis has now moved to better understanding knowledge flow and developing and applying methodologies to enhance the uptake and application of the water-related knowledge generated by the WRC to solve the water challenges that South Africa faces. KSA 5 therefore aims to lead a consultative knowledge flows programme to create a better understanding of what the knowledge uptake drivers are.

It also strives to assist the research KSAs to enhance and encourage sector involvement from the early stages of appropriate research projects/programmes to:

- Improve knowledge sharing with the aim to increase implementation
- Enhance sector involvement in the WRC research processes

This KSA continues to support the organisation with knowledge creation and sharing through:

- Supporting research management and providing logistic support
- Developing effective internal and external knowledge sharing and dissemination mechanisms/instruments

- Enhancing the credibility and relevance of the WRC, locally, in the rest of the African continent, and globally
- Ensuring the appropriate management of intellectual property
- Supporting the WRC with advice on research contract matters

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

KSA 5 has both internal and external stakeholders. Internal stakeholders include the WRC Executive team and the CEO, who require services such as management reports and coordination of partnerships, agreements and international dialogues, as well as research managers and other staff of the WRC, who require coordination of the annual research cycle, operation of the fund management system (FMS), support related to intellectual property management and contract management, efficient layout, printing and publication stock control, and a dynamic interface with the local and global water sector (events, publications, media, etc.)

The WRC loosely defines its external stakeholders as:

- **Research community:** This includes the researchers working on WRC projects, the reference groups, peer reviewers as well as the primary users of the WRC outputs – technical users which include students, lecturers, consultants, other researchers, etc.
- **Decision makers:** These include managers and policy makers that use information to lead them to the selection of a course of action among several alternatives

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- **Sectoral users:** These include all stakeholders that require new processes, solutions and technologies, e.g. local government, industrial and mining sector, agricultural sector, etc.
- **Strategic partners:** These are enablers and the relationship is mutually beneficial
- **Interest groups:** This includes the media, non-government organisations, general public, schools, etc.

An individual can dynamically move between these stakeholder groupings; for example, a DWA official could require knowledge which effectively informs policy (decision maker), and a while later use WRC research to solve a technical problem (sectoral user) while serving on several WRC reference groups (research community). The ideal is to understand the needs of a stakeholder depending on which role they play at a particular time.

Through regular stakeholder engagement and the stakeholder survey completed in 2010, the needs of the stakeholder groups can be summarised as follows:

Research community

The research community require an effective institution that serves as a catalyst and a knowledge hub to ensure the constant generation of knowledge. Effectiveness, transparency and inclusivity in the WRC processes are important to the research community.

Decision makers

Decision makers need packaged solutions and need to trust the information (credibility). They always need the solutions 'now'. This group cannot wait for long-term research to be completed and need to make decisions based on the best available knowledge. The WRC needs

to be ready to supply the available knowledge and advise on the shortcomings to enable the decision maker to make an informed choice. For this stakeholder group, it is important to communicate the mandate and role of the WRC in the South African water sector as well as the role of the sectoral users as intermediaries. Their needs are complex and it is important to establish a trusting relationship in order to serve this group effectively.

Sectoral users

Sectoral users are primary knowledge users and partners who also play an important role in formulating new knowledge needs. They need to be part of the WRC processes and projects, and require easy access to WRC research products.

Strategic partners

Strategic partners require regular interaction, a clear understanding of the objectives of the partnership as well as the benefits of the relationship. Strategic partners include national government departments (in particular DWA and DST), enablers such as the Technology Innovation Agency and industry, as well as international strategic partners such as the IWA and the World Water Council.

Interest groups

Interest groups require accurate, credible, scientifically-proven information packaged in a manner that is easily understood.

Other stakeholders

This group includes local knowledge partners such WISA and SAICE. These organisations require water-centred knowledge, and the WRC can improve its



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knowledge dissemination by creating appropriate links with them, thus making water-related documents, data and knowledge more accessible to internal and external users.

Other stakeholders also include continental and global stakeholders who work in collaboration with the WRC, and in some cases formal agreements exist. Examples include:

- Water Research Foundation (WRF)
- International Water Association
- Technology Innovation Agency
- NEPAD

KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

The WRC aims to constantly improve its contribution towards knowledge as well as to enhance the sharing and dissemination of WRC-funded research findings. This is also linked to Government Outcomes/Outputs related to building skills, by addressing the building of future research capacity and improving knowledge dissemination. The WRC strives to improve its contribution towards the water-centred knowledge base in South Africa by enhancing the WRC knowledge-sharing activities and positioning.

Enhancing public understanding of water research: *the Water Wheel*

In the year under review, the WRC enhanced public understanding of science through the publication of *the Water Wheel*. The magazine currently serves close to 8 000 subscribers and is published every two months.

The WRC published six issues as well as a special edition of *the Water Wheel* in 2012/13.

Briefs

The WRC technical, policy and ministerial briefs are communication tools that aim to communicate, in a clear and brief format, the outcome of various research studies to the water sector, with special emphasis on non-technical professionals, policy- and decision-makers. For all finalised research projects, one- to two-page briefing notes are produced, which are short communiques highlighting research outcomes and sharing pertinent messages and recommendations. Another 36 technical and policy briefing notes were produced in 2012/13. (For easy reference, the number in brackets refers to the report or project number; all technical and policy briefs and reports are available electronically on the WRC website: www.wrc.org.za).

The following **technical briefs** were published in 2012/13:

1. Evaluating aquatic ecosystem services (1644)
2. Influence of irrigation on groundwater (K8-820)
3. Oestrogen activity in drinking water (1749)
4. Valuation of estuary services (1413)
5. Biobase user manual (K8-906)
6. Brominated flame retardants (K8-850)
7. Biologically enhanced primary settlement (biofloculants) (K8-886)
8. Ecology of the Olifants River (K8-858)
9. Evaluation of clinoptilolite (1658)
10. South African groundwater governance case study (K8-958)

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11. Guidance for toxicity tests (2611)
12. Knowledge Cafés – A template for learning (K8-874)
13. Real-time assessment of ecological Reserve (K8-881)
14. Water sector institutional landscape (2025; 1841)
15. Applicability of water footprints in SA (2099)
16. Development of a South African Guide for the Design and Operation of Waterborne Sewerage Systems (Seweraid) (1744)
17. Guideline for the selection of toxicity tests (1211)
18. Risk-based methodology to assess social vulnerability in the context of water infrastructure (1888)
19. Irrigation guidelines for annual ryegrass pasture irrigation (1744)
20. Towards passive treatment solutions for the oxidation of sulphide and subsequent sulphur removal from acid mine-water (1834)
21. Parasites and related interactions in water resources and rural communities (1910)
22. The provision of FBW to backyard dwellers (1987)
23. Determining the evaporation rate of brine solutions (1895)
24. Ethnographic research to understand household water practices (1990)
25. Agroforestry systems for improved productivity through the efficient use of water (1480)
26. Influence of unpaved access roads on surface runoff, sediment (1807)
27. A manual for rural freshwater aquaculture (TT463)
28. Development of participatory provincial aquaculture programmes (1580)
29. New approach to estuary-based economic empowerment (1705)
30. Development of effective ways of extracting information from research (1978)
31. Fracking for shale gas exploration in South Africa (K8-896)
32. Reducing uncertainties in the estimation of groundwater recharge (1909)
33. The establishment and piloting of the technical assistance centre (1896)
34. The investigation of unsteady flow conditions at dam bottom outlet works (1914)

The following **policy briefs** were published in 2012/13:

- Future strategies for water services (1812)
- Can we manage our water better (1972)

Ministerial briefs are targeted messages aimed at communicating very specific research findings or knowledge generated from WRC research to Governmental ministers, most particularly, the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, the Honourable Ms Edna Molewa. These ministerial briefs have contributed substantially to an improvement in communication between the WRC and the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs and contributed to her interest in the WRC-funded study on non-revenue water, availing herself to be the keynote at a WRC Dialogue on that topic, and emphasising the results at various other

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high-level forums. The following **ministerial briefs** were published in 2012/13:

- Assessment of non-revenue water in South Africa (1996)
- State of the art: Fracking for shale gas exploration in South Africa and the impact on water resources (K8-896)

Distribution of WRC research and technology transfer reports

Table 1 indicates the number of WRC reports distributed to various stakeholder groups in 2012/13 and Table 2 lists the ten most popular reports in 2012/13 in terms of numbers of print copies requested.

Table 1: Cumulative sales of reports for 2012/13

<i>FWR</i>	208
<i>Institutes</i>	5 879
<i>Municipalities</i>	99
<i>Private</i>	10 639
<i>Schools</i>	34
<i>State Library</i>	379
<i>University / University of Technology</i>	1 632
<i>WRC</i>	635
<i>WRC Board</i>	10
<i>TOTAL</i>	19 515

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Table 2: Most popular reports distributed during 2012/13

<i>Report No</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>KSA</i>	<i>Total</i>
TT 129/00	<i>Quality of domestic water supplies, Volume 3: Analysis guide</i>	3	706
TT 491/11	<i>Sustainable use of South Africa's inland waters</i>	2	541
SP 31/12	<i>In the footsteps of giants</i>	5	522
TT 489/11	<i>Quality of domestic water supplies, Volume 2: Sampling guide</i>	3	449
1841/1/12	<i>The water sector institutional landscape by 2025</i>	1	295
TT 429/10	<i>Water related microbial disease guidelines</i>	3	257
TT 502/11	<i>Participatory development of provincial aquaculture programmes</i>	4	238
2099/P/11	<i>Applicability of water footprints in South Africa</i>	3	228
TT 463/09	<i>Manual for rural freshwater aquaculture</i>	4	213
TT 460/11	<i>What we and our children need to know, Volume 5</i>	3	182

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Water SA

Water SA is the WRC's accredited scientific journal which contains original research articles and review articles on all aspects of water science, technology, engineering and policy. *Water SA* has been in publication since 1975 and includes articles by both local and international authors. The journal is issued quarterly (four issues per year). In the year under review, the WRC published five issues (four regular issues and one special edition).

Knowledge-sharing events

The WRC held a number of knowledge-sharing events in the year under review, including technical field visits and technical workshops aimed at enhancing knowledge transfer. Many of these were in collaboration with strategic partners in order to enhance research impact and knowledge uptake. During the year under review the WRC also launched the WRC Dialogues, a series of platforms enabling partners from all spheres of the water sector, including academia, government (all levels), civil society and industry, to come together to share their understanding and experiences of the challenges and problems, in order to build a stronger foundation for developing the solutions and interventions toward a better water scenario for South Africa and its development. The WRC Dialogues are guided by the principles of transparency, openness and honesty; plurality of perspective and inclusivity; mutual respect; a commitment to problem solving and mutual accountability; as well as knowledge sharing. The value of the WRC as convener of these events lies in its ability to be a neutral knowledge broker as South Africa's premier water knowledge resource. Technical workshops, seminars, dialogues and launches held during the year under review included:

1. Technology Innovation Agency/
WRC workshop, 5 April 2012
2. Water Footprint Workshop, 7 April 2012
3. Sanitation stakeholder workshop, 19 April 2012
4. Workshop on Applying a Risk-based Approach
to Secure ACID funding, 19 April 2012
5. WRC/Water Information Network South Africa
(WIN-SA)/South African Institution of Civil
Engineering (SAICE) Workshop to showcase good
practice in wastewater treatment, 19 April 2012
6. Chris Swartz Water Utilisation Engineers/
WRC workshop on Wastewater
Reclamation and Reuse, 8 May 2012
7. Chris Swartz Water Utilization Engineers/
WRC workshop on Energy Efficiency in the
South African Water sector, 9 May 2012
8. University of Johannesburg/WRC
workshop on Organic Compounds
in Drinking Water, 9 May 2012
9. Workshop on Practical Application of Research:
A Tool for Sewer Pump Problems, 9 May 2012
10. NEPAD Workshop, 17 May 2012
11. Workshop to share the draft Strategy Discussion
Document on the Integration of Community
Based Water Services Provision, 17 May 2012
12. Launch of the coffee-table book, *In the
Footsteps of Giants – Exploring the History
of South Africa's Large Dams*, 30 May 2012
13. Energy from Conduits workshop,
30 and 31 May 2012

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14. WRC–Statistics SA water accounts meeting, 4 August 2012
15. WRC Dialogue Series launch, 14 August 2012
16. Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in the State Sector, 17 August 2012
17. Wat-Indaba Dialogue on Eutrophication Management, 28 August 2012
18. DWA/WRC Wetlands Monitoring Workshop, 10 August 2012
19. Department of Education's Regional Coordinators Workshop specialising in Environmental Education, 30 August 2012
20. Visit by Chinese delegation, 31 August 2012
21. Second Regional African Water Leakage Summit, 29–31 August 2012 in Cape Town and 4–5 September 2012 in Johannesburg
22. WRC-TIA Strategic Workshop, 10 September 2013
23. Establishment of the Society for Ecological Restoration for South Africa workshop, 27 September 2012
24. Dialogue titled 'Our Water: Our Heritage and Legacy', 28 September 2012
25. Workshop on Exploring Water Data Coordination for Water Research in South Africa, 1 October 2012
26. WRC/DST Dialogue on 'Point-of-Use Water Treatment Systems and their Efficiency', 2 October 2012
27. Workshop on the Value of Ecosystems to Society, 18 October 2012
28. WRC/DST Reference Group Workshop on establishment of Water Centre, 26 October 2012
29. Workshop on the Green Village Project, 28 November 2012
30. Khuluma Sizwe Dialogue on The Right To Water, 9 November 2012
31. WRC/WISA/DWA and Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority Water Human Capacity Development session, 24 January 2013
32. Workshop on fracking related to groundwater, 6 February 2013
33. Workshop on sanitation technology in partnership with the IWA, University College London, non-governmental organisation, *ifak* (Institut für Automation und Kommunikation) Magdeburg, the University of KwaZulu-Natal and eThekweni Water and Sanitation, 13 February 2013
34. Workshop to prioritise research on sedimentation, 19 February 2013
35. Workshop in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) on Ramsar Wetlands in South Africa, 28 February 2013
36. Workshop on Energy Efficiency in the Water and Wastewater Industry, 13 March 2013
37. Workshop to determine research priorities on agro-forestry, 19 March 2-13

Exhibitions

As part of its knowledge-sharing and dissemination activities the WRC participated in a number of exhibitions at conferences, symposia and workshops,

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using these to disseminate information in the form of reports and other publications. Exhibitions in which the WRC participated included:

- Water Institute of Southern Africa Biennial Conference, Cape Town, 7–9 May 2012.
- The Conference of the Institute of Municipal Engineers of South Africa, Gateway Hotel, Umhlanga, 9–11 October 2012.
- The 13th Waternet/WARFSA/GWP-SA Symposium, Birchwood, Johannesburg, 30 October to 2 November 2012.

Internal Open Day

On 15 March, 2013, staff of the WRC descended on a Gold Reef City Mine Tour as part of a learning excursion especially aimed at internal staff members who may not have the opportunity to engage with WRC research content or project-related work in the field.

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