

## About the WRC Dialogues

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, and 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. The intention is to deepen mutual understanding of the different perspectives of stakeholders when there may be significant conceptual gaps, reference points, and perhaps 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 the Chatham House Rule, participants commit to protecting the identity of other participants, 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 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](http://www.wrc.org.za)



## WAT-INDABA IWRM FLOWS AND PRACTICES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

21 September 2015

VENUE: THE FARM INN, PRETORIA



The research conducted in the Norwegian Research Council funded project “Flows and Practices” focused on: (1) the rise and spread of IWRM as an idea, and how it has become institutionalized within global institutions and networks; (2) the translations, adoptions and transformations of IWRM within national contexts in southern Africa; and (3) how IWRM is implemented on the ground in different local contexts. The national contexts are: Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The research highlights the importance of politics, political economy, gender, history and culture in shaping water management practices and reform in Africa.

## Background

In 2008, an IWRM conference was hosted by the WRC and GWP in South Africa whose aim was to take stock of progress, successes and challenges related to implementation of IWRM in Africa. The main discussant in that conference was the renowned water laureate Prof A Biswas, an avid opponent to IWRM. The conference was of importance to South Africa as it was 10 years into its new water law implementation; to the region and the whole continent, as demands on water resources continue to escalate in the context of global climate change causing current and foreseeable uncertainties. It concluded that the discourse on water resources management has sufficiently moved in recent years from the conceptual into the practical implementation realms. However, shortcomings, limitations and unrealistic expectations poured in from the experiences in developing countries, and the general consensus was that more sharing of experiences was needed to enhance progress in implementation. There was a convergence of conclusions that although the desired outcome might be similar, the approaches can vary tremendously. Whilst most countries in the world are endorsing IWRM as an instrument to cope with these challenges, it was felt that the time was suitable to take stock to assess progress and share lessons that can have bearings on future discourse in the region, continent or maybe in all the developing nations.

The conference key note was delivered by the late Professor Kader Asmal, the first Water Minister in democratic South Africa who was central in the drafting of the National Water Act of 1998. His concluding remarks to the 400 African conference participants were: “I hear talk of implementation fatigue, coupled with capacity constraints, in terms of integrated water resource management. We cannot doubt the political will and determination to succeed in this endeavour. Water resources have to be managed. Period. If this is not done in an integrated manner, then it is obvious that water management will be undermined. Integrated management is indeed difficult. Co-operative governance is indeed difficult. We all know about the complexities of understanding social and opportunity costs, and cumulative and synergistic impacts. But most of humankind’s failings have at their heart a failure to consider options holistically. It must of course be acknowledged that the commitment to implementation, and the critical investment in capacity building, will determine the extent to which policy becomes practice.”

Reflections on, and analyses of, IWRM as a framework continues. In this instance, when IWRM has been proposed and implemented in the last 15-20 years in many African countries, its principles of integration, subsidiarity and hydrological integrity continue to be the focus. However, within the African contexts, IWRM has been differently implemented with variable outcomes. It remains the case despite its spread throughout Africa, IWRM remains to be adequately tested and benchmarked.

This dialogue is hosted in South Africa, supported by the Water Research Commission to assist numerous researchers involved in a project funded by the Norwegian Research Council entitled: ‘*Flows and Practices: The Politics of Integrated Water Resources Management in eastern and southern Africa*’. The project, which started in 2011, covered selected catchments in five African countries (Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa and Zimbabwe). It engaged cross-cutting issues including how the ideas of IWRM travelled back and forth from Europe to Africa, how it was introduced to Africa, its major dimensions and how it is influencing or not influencing current water policies and laws.

The exchange in this dialogue would be between the findings from this project and those studies from other parts of the continent as well as from WRC South Africa-focused projects dealing with IWRM and related issues.

This dialogue is hosted by the WRC together with PLAAS, IWMI, the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and the Institute of Development Studies, UK.

## Workshop purpose and format

The aim of this dialogue is to:

- Share findings from research
- Discuss the main salient aspects that can identify future research needs in this domain
- Encourage participation from research institutions and students interested in this field
- Contribute towards the overall engagements of the Water Equity Forum and the WRC Governance Lighthouse

## Who should attend?

This dialogue is open to all academics, policy makers and water managers and practitioners. Participation is free of charge. Participants can engage local and international researchers in the social dimension of water management. Students are strongly encouraged to participate. Please fill in the attached form and return to [zagrys@wrc.org.za](mailto:zagrys@wrc.org.za) before **11 September 2015**.

## PROGRAMME

09:00	Introduction and welcome: Eiman Karar WRC	
09:10	<b>SESSION ONE:</b> Background and Concepts (15 minutes each and 10 minutes discussion)	
09:10-09:25	Introduction to the Project Flows and Practices: The Politics of IWRM in Africa, Conceptual Issues: <b>Key Presentation: Lyla Mehta (IDS/ Noragric)</b>	
	How IWRM travelled to Africa	<b>Jeremy Allouche (IDS)</b>
	IWRM in the SADC Region	<b>Synne Movik (NIVA), Emmanuel Manzungu (UZ) and Lyla Mehta (IDS/ Noragric)</b>
10:25-10:40	Open discussion	
10:40	<b>SESSION TWO:</b> Country Studies (15 minutes per case and 5 minutes discussion each) <b>Chair and discussant: Leila Harris (UBC)</b>	
	Mozambique	<b>Alex Bolding and Rosella Alba (Wageningen)</b>
	Uganda	<b>Alan Nicol (IWMI)</b>
	Tanzania	<b>Philip Sumuni (SUA), Barbara van Koppen (IWMI), Aurelia Van Eeden (Noragric)</b>
	Zimbabwe	<b>Emmanuel Manzungu (UZ) and Bill Derman (Noragric)</b>
	South Africa	<b>Barbara van Koppen (IWMI), Synne Movik (NIVA), Lyla Mehta IDS/Noragric) and Kristi Denby (Noragric)</b>
12:30-13:00	<b>Discussion</b>	
13:00-13:45	Lunch	
13:45-15:00	<b>SESSION THREE:</b> Cross-Cutting Themes (10 minutes each) and 30 minutes discussion <b>Chair Sabine Stuart-Hill (UKZN)</b>	
	Water and land management in emerging farmers contexts	<b>Bongani Ncube (CPUT)</b>
	The role of traditional leadership in water management	<b>Barbara Tapela (PLAAS)</b>
	Boundary issues; managing natural resources	<b>Dave Cox (INR)</b>

	Gender, Water Policy and IWRM	<b>Bill Derman (Noragric) and Preetha Prabhakaran (IDS)</b>
	Equity and Human Rights in Water Governance	<b>Leila Harris (UBC)</b>
	Critical Issues in Water Governance	<b>Magalie Bourblanc (CIRAD)</b>
15:00-15:30	<b>Discussion</b>	
15:30-15:45	<b>Break</b>	
15:45-16:45	<b>SESSION FOUR: <i>Chair Barbara van Koppen (IWMI)</i></b> Facilitated Panel Discussion – <b>The Future of IWRM in Africa</b> answering the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the 3 most important recommendations that need to feed into IWRM research?</li> <li>• What would be the 3 pieces of advice to policy makers busy implementing IWRM in their countries?</li> <li>• What must SADC do differently?</li> </ul> Panellists: 2 project members, Barbara Schreiner (Pegasus), Eiman Karar (WRC), Sabine Stuart-Hill (UKZN)	