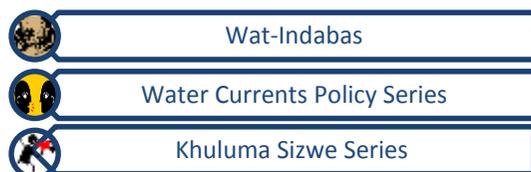


About the WRC Dialogues

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, 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



WRC Khuluma Sizwe Series

From Durban COP17 to Paris COP21: Flagship Workshop on Water Science Cooperation for Human Capital Development

Date: 11 – 12 June 2015
Venue: UNITE Building, Howard College, UKZN, Durban



Rationale

The Republic of South Africa through the Department of Science and Technology (DST) promotes and facilitates national and international cooperation in science and technology to enable the exchange of knowledge and to develop capacity specifically in research and development. The efficacy of such international cooperation is reflected through a longstanding bilateral agreement between France and South Africa in which French researchers are deployed to work in South Africa with local researchers to advance science and enhance human capital development. The success of these partnerships is embodied in the area of water research in which researchers from the French Institute for Research and Development (IRD) were seconded to the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) to contribute to ongoing soil water studies, most notably the jointly led Water Research Commission (WRC) funded research project titled **Water, Sediment, Nutrient and Organic Carbon Fluxes in Small-scale Agriculture Landscapes**. This and other related projects built on and strengthened ongoing research at UKZN by investigating a new and important research question on the role of water movements on the global carbon cycle with implications for water scarcity, water quality, food security and climate change.

These WRC-funded projects are conducted in the Potshini experimental catchment near Bergville (KwaZulu-Natal Province) which was set up under the SSI project with funding from DGIS, SIDA and IWMI. In extending the soil water studies, the principal investigator, Dr Vincent Chaplot (IRD) recruited BSc (Hons), MSc and PhD students from diverse backgrounds, and trained them under a co-supervision arrangement with UKZN.

The resulting strong scientific grounding of the students, prolific publication records and the investigation of new scientific questions within the context of South Africa, highlight the importance of sharing local and international expertise and promoting international cooperation in advancing science and human capital development in developing countries. Issues of water management, natural resources and the environment are global challenges highlighted by climate change impacts. Basic research on climate change, water resources, the development of new technologies on water supply and sanitation, as well as innovation in the field of water use are crucial to tackle global changes. Consequently, academics, research institutes and the private sector are focused on more and more international and integrated cooperation.

H2020 European Research programmes, as well as the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (CoP 21) in Paris are opportunities to highlight and enhance the cooperation between France and South Africa in this regard. Opportunities within H2020 and EUREKA – a key European driven-market programme, will be presented by ESASTAP Plus partners. This dialogue has been approved as an official side event to the UNESCO conference “Our Common Future under Climate Change”.

The main objectives of this dialogue are to:

- share experiences in best management and HCD practices for water-related (WRC) research projects
- explore opportunities to strengthen the international cooperation in science research to be developed particularly through H2020 and EUREKA
- discuss cooperation between South Africa and France in water research within the COP21 framework

Programme

Date	Time	Description	Speaker	
11 June	07:30 – 18:00	Site visit to the Potshini Experimental Catchment. Pick up & drop off points: Hotel 64, 64 Gordon Road, Berea, 4001	Dr Vincent Chaplot/Dr Pauline Chivenge/Prof Graham Jewitt	
	19:00 -	Cocktail dinner with evening screening* and exhibition, « <i>Tana Delta: a wetland in the balance</i> » - Alliance Française, Durban, 22 Sutton Crescent Morningside Durban 4001	Everyone is invited	
Facilitator: Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, Executive Manager, Water Research Commission				
12 June	09:00	Welcome and Introduction	Prof Jonathon Blackledge (DVC – Research): University of KwaZulu-Natal	
	09:05	Welcome remarks	Her Excellency Elisabeth Barbier, French Ambassador in Pretoria	
	09:10	Science Development/Advancement and International Cooperation in SA	Dr Henry Roman, Director: Environmental Services and Technologies, DST	
	09:20	Water Resources and Human Capital Development in SA	Mr Dhesigen Naidoo, CEO, Water Research Commission	
	09:30	French-SA cooperation in science	Dr Pierre Lemonde, Attaché for Science & Technology, French Embassy in South Africa	
	09:40	Keynote speaker (plus Questions & Discussions)	Prof Thierry Lebel, IRD	
	10:10	Keynote speaker (plus Questions & Discussions)	Prof Graham Jewitt, UKZN	
	10:40	TEA BREAK		
	11:00	Best management practices for WRC-funded research and human capacity development: lessons from the Potshini research projects	Dr Vincent Chaplot, IRD	
	11:30	Students presentations: sharing experiences and lessons	Students	
	12:00	DISCUSSIONS	ALL	
	12:30	GROUP PHOTO AND LUNCH		

Date	Time	Description	Speaker
12 June	13:30	French-SA cooperation in science & Knowledge Generation and HCD in water science	Dr Jean Albergel, IRD/CNRS Representative in South Africa
	13:45	HCD in water science with reference to FETWater	Mrs Eiman Karar/Wandile Nomqophu, Water Research Commission
	14:00	SA-EU in water and collaborative opportunities in European programmes: Horizon 2020	Mr Stéphane Hogan, EU Science Counsellor to the African Union
	14:15	ESASTAP Plus, Eureka & South African funding opportunities	Ms Tugela Matubatuba, Deputy- Director: Strategic Partnerships, DST
	14:30	SA-EU collaboration in water sciences: synergies and opportunities	Round table: European researchers presentation and discussions facilitate by Dr Henry Roman
	15:00	Water research within the COP21 framework	Round table: Dr Agathe Maupin, Prof Thierry Lebel, Prof Graham Jewitt & Dr Pascal Podwojewski
	15:30	Way forward and Closure	Dr Jean Albergel, Prof Graham Jewitt & Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata

Organising committee: Aude Zuliani (French embassy) - aude.zuliani@gmail.com ; Wandile Nomqophu (WRC) - wandilen@wrc.org.za; Ludovic Mollier (IRD) - ludovic.mollier@ird.fr;

*Evening screening:

An evening side-event to this Workshop is organised in collaboration with the Alliance Française of Durban around a 25 minute documentary by the filmmaker Khamis Ramadhan «Tana Delta: a wetland in the balance » featuring water management issues in the Tana Delta. This evening event will provide an interesting platform to further interact on Climate Changes issues with other stakeholders from the South African civil societies.