

Dialogue: Developing a Hydrology Research Strategy to Enhance Water Security in South Africa

Date: 26 August 2021

Time: 09:00 – 12:30

Venue: Virtual (Zoom)

Introduction

Hydrology in South Africa faces an uncertain future as it grapples with challenges of declining capacity, dwindling hydrological data and unreliable funding. In March 2014, the Water Research Commission in collaboration with DST organised a high-level dialogue titled ‘The State of Hydrology (Research) in South Africa: Towards a 10-year Science Plan’ that included representatives from universities, governments departments and science councils. The meeting was timely as the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) was launching its current scientific decade (2013–2022), entitled “Panta Rhei – Everything Flows”, dedicated to research activities that target issues in hydrology and society.

At the IAHS Scientific Assembly in Port Elizabeth in July 2017 a new vision to harmonise hydrology research efforts that solve real societal problems, was outlined. Thus, the international hydrology community identified twenty-three major unsolved scientific problems in hydrology. As we develop the South African hydrology research agenda, we explore the relevance of these problems to South Africa’s hydrology and water security.

Therefore, you are cordially invited to participate in a 4-hour workshop to examine and contribute to the strategy document that will shape hydrology research in the country.

Target Audience

DWS, DSI, DEFF, DALRRD, , SANCIAHS (Hydrology CoP), GWD, SAEON, SANCOLD, SANSA, SAWS, CSIR, ARC, NFSP (National Floods Studies Programme), Universities, etc.

Draft Programme Chair: Dr Shafick Adams		
09:00 – 9:10	Introductions and Welcome Remarks	Dr Stanley Liphadzi (WRC)
09:10 – 09:25	Advancing Hydrology Research to Support Water Resource Management	Ms Ndileka Mohapi (DWS)
09:25 – 09:40	DSI’s EFTEON and its role in the Hydrological Space	Dr Gregor Feig (SAEON)
09:40 - 09:55	International Hydrological Advances and Local Practice	Prof Graham Jewitt (IHE, Delft)
09:55 – 10:30	The Draft Hydrology Research Strategy	Dr Jean-Marc Mwenge Kahinda (CSIR)
10:30 – 12:00	Discussions (key research priorities)	Dr Beason Mwaka (DWS) - facilitator
12:00 – 12:10	BREAK	
12:10 – 12:20	Progress with re-organising the Hydrology Community of Practice	Dr Michele Toucher (SAEON/UKZN)
12:20 – 12:30	Way Forward and Closure	WRC

