

International Conference Held to Aid Environment


The 2009 International Conference on the Implementation of Environmental Water Allocations (IEWA) was successfully concluded in Port Elizabeth in February. The conference drew more than 400 delegates from 30 countries, including China, Thailand, the USA, Australia and Canada.

Research has shown that the demand on South Africa's scarce water resources (including rivers, wetlands, estuaries and groundwater) is increasing. At the

same time, there is an overall deterioration of the quality of the country's water resources. Sustainable aquatic ecosystems rely on the availability of water of adequate quantity and quality.

The conference aimed to identify and critique present global trends in the implementation of environmental water allocations in the fields of policy and legislation, integrating aquatic ecosystem protection with socio-economic growth and development, defining and

involving stakeholders; decision-making for sustainable use; operational management of water allocations; and sharing knowledge and skills.

IEWA was organised jointly by the Water Research Commission and the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry with the support of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Association of Hydrological Sciences and Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management. 



Conference chair Dr Stanley Liphadzi welcomes delegates at the opening of the conference.

(All pictures credit: Lani van Vuuren)



Above: Dr Jackie King, principal research officer in the Freshwater Research Unit at the University of Cape Town, was one of the key speakers at the conference.

Left: The friendly sound of the xylophone greeted delegates at the start of the conference.

Right: One of the star attractions at the conference was the model of the twin-channel vertical-slot fishway developed by Dr Anton Bok and others with funding from the WRC.



The WRC exhibition stand proved to be popular.

