

*Welcome Address
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State of water in SA



- Water Crisis → Not-too-bad

We need to talk more, about the right things

- Water is the current, sometimes under, most times visible, always influential on all aspects of development and society.
- From economic to social to environmental to cultural and spiritual.
- It is also an important marker of the health of a country. Water and water availability is a critical success factor for Growth, Development and Well-Being.

Talking about the right things

- The WRC is today launching the **WRC Dialogues** as a series of platforms to get South Africa talking about water. We intend in the dialogues to be
 - ❖ **Inclusive** (Government, Communities, the Water Practitioners and Academia; Local and International),
 - ❖ Based on **research** (decision making with the best information and with a longer term view),
 - ❖ **Critical** (there more informed the problematique is the better the chances for the solutions that matter to emerge, and,
 - ❖ **Candid** (The WRC Dialogues will provide a series of safe platforms to ensure that no punches are pulled – without being insensitive).

Talking about the right things

- And where-ever possible **DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS** and Partnerships for change.

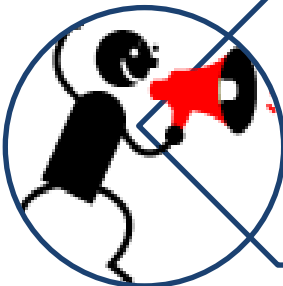
Three types of discussion-based events



Wat-Indabas

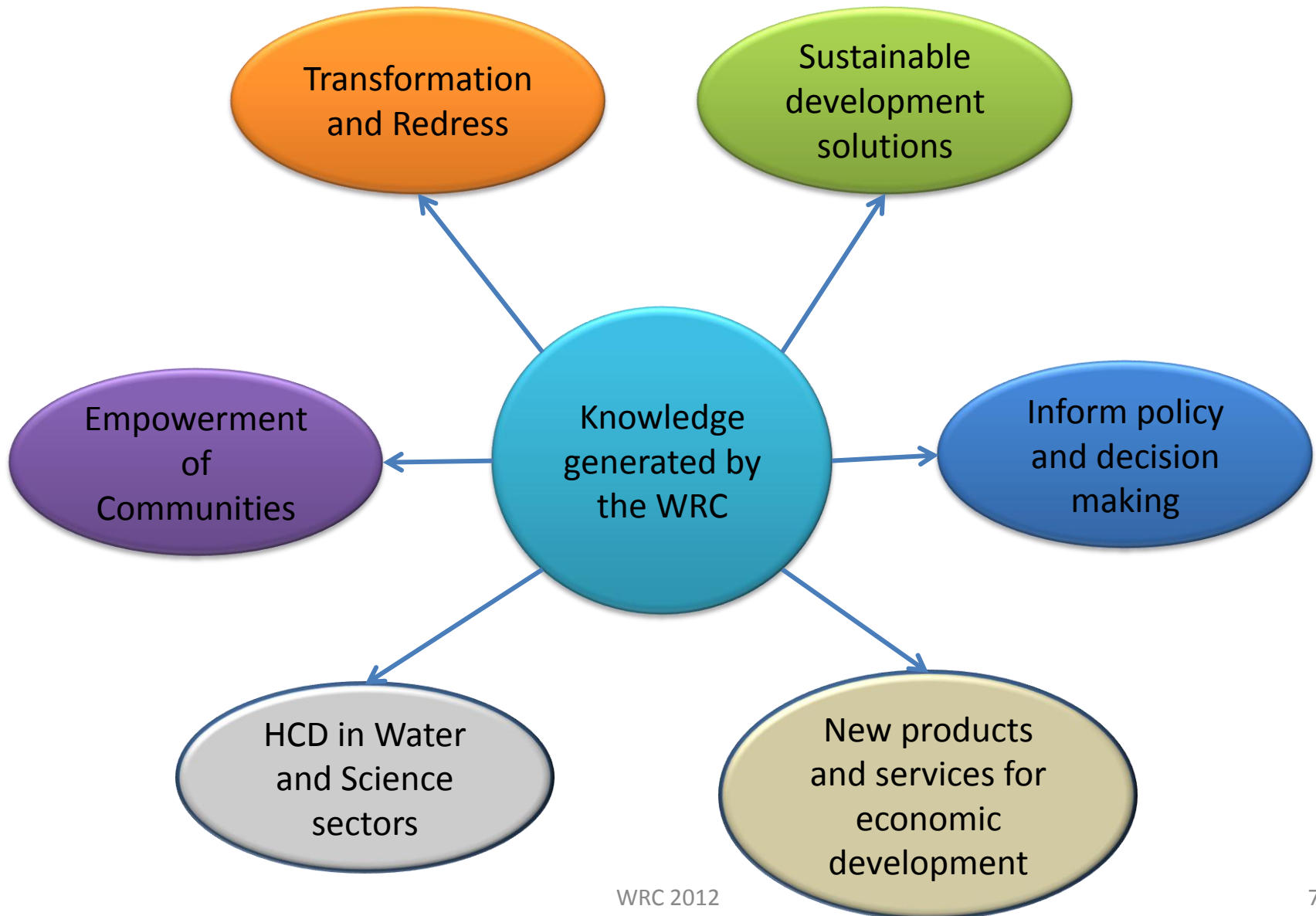


Water Currents
Policy Series



Khuluma Sizwe
Series

The WRC Knowledge Tree



Researchers
not being
heard

Economy and
Society not
Being served



The Knowledge Chasm

Water Jobs and Sustainable Livelihoods

- This is a critical issue of our time.
- The global economic crisis has highlighted that this is a worldwide challenge.
- In recent times there has been revisits to old discussions on the choice of economic paradigm and role of the Washington Consensus, the neo-liberal model and labour market stagnation.

Water Jobs and Sustainable Livelihoods

- Contraction of the beneficiary base has become a feature even where there is economic growth. E.g. Between 1976 and 2007, 1% of American earners captured 58% of the USA's economic growth.
- The South African tapestry is one we are familiar with where a similar scenario plays out more acutely with the SA Gini Coefficient now at 0.67.
- The challenge of South Africa's 'two economies' – the Disraeli thesis.

Assisting a Water Sector Response

- The current strategic environment – NDP, NGP, IPAPx, the National Infrastructure Plan and the SIPS, and the KPI of Job Creations and Enterprise Development.
- The WRC's Bottom of the Pyramid interventions (BOPIs), valorisation and human capital development.
- Our partners in this inaugural dialogue – TIPS and IMWI will also share their local and international experiences.

Seeking the *WeiJi* Response

- Unbundling the *WeiJi*.
- The dual crises of stagnated growth prospects, dire economic straights for the bottom of the pyramid communities and the serious suites of challenges that come with climate change.
- Can we find opportunity in the crisis?
- We must bring to bear our collective intellectual capital and know-how and the Dialogue is the forum to engage.



Thank You