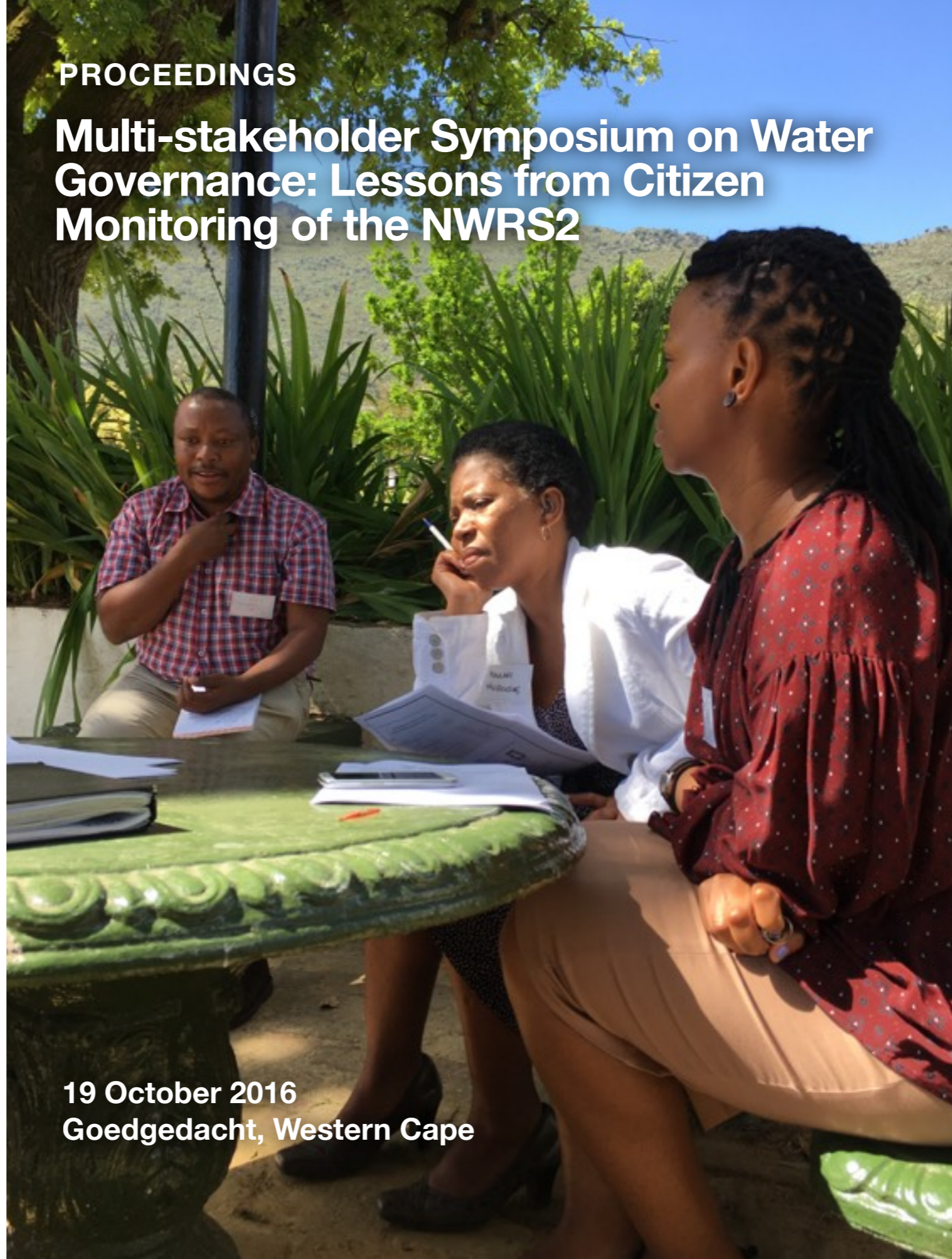


PROCEEDINGS

Multi-stakeholder Symposium on Water Governance: Lessons from Citizen Monitoring of the NWRS2



**19 October 2016
Goedgedacht, Western Cape**

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Multi-stakeholder Symposium on Water Governance: Lessons from Citizen Monitoring of the NWRS2

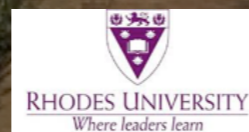
This symposium was held on the 19th of October 2016 at Goedgedacht Farm, in the Western Cape. It was an opportunity to share activist perspectives on participatory water governance, emerging from a process and practice of citizen monitoring of the second South African National Water Resources Strategy (NWRS2).

The symposium was hosted by Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG), in partnership with the South African Water Caucus (SAWC), WRC (Water Research Commission), the Environmental Learning Research Centre at UCKAR (University currently known as Rhodes) and the University of British Columbia's (UBC) School of Water Governance.

Present at the symposium were civil society activists, officials from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), researchers from Wits University, UCKAR and UBC, NGO practitioners, and representatives from the WRC reference group for WRC project 2313.

The symposium was facilitated by Theresa Edelman and Themba Lonzi.

Proceedings written by Taryn Pereira (EMG).



Background

A strong and engaged citizenry is essential for effective water governance in South Africa. With eyes and ears on the ground, and a public-interest ethic, organised civil society is able to observe and make sense of what is happening to water in ways that can support government fulfil its mandate as custodian of our water. Furthermore, it is legally required that civil society is included in decision making about water and the environment. However for many reasons, participation and citizen-monitoring doesn't happen well – citizens don't know how to get involved, government doesn't know how to consult and integrate multiple perspectives, there is mistrust on both sides, and even the role of citizens as monitors is questioned.

With this in mind, the South African Water Caucus (SAWC), a civil society network of water activists, embarked on a social learning and action research journey in 2014, to deepen its monitoring of South Africa's second national water resources strategy (NWRS2) through a focus on four issues in four cases study areas (WRC Project 2313). This built on its analysis of, and participation in, the development of the NWRS2 since 2012. Learners / researchers participated in a 'Changing Practice' course accredited by Rhodes University under their short course policy to develop case studies which were used to strengthen community organisations in the case study areas and to embark on a dialogue with the national Department of Water and Sanitation.

This symposium was designed to:

1. present and reflect on the case studies generated through this research, namely:
 - a. water demand management and in Dunoon, Cape Town,
 - b. timber plantations and ecosystem functioning in Mpumalanga,
 - c. water quality and the inclusion of spiritual water users in the Vaal
2. explore the role, form and dynamics of civil society and its contribution to protecting rivers and advancing water justice,
3. discuss participatory research and training methods with a view to realising cognitive justice – so that knowledge is generated by and for those who need it to transform society and protect ecosystems
4. discuss and provide recommendations for how to strengthen engagement between civil society and government.

Special attention was given to understanding issues of power dynamics (such as gender, language, rank, education and tradition), as well as different knowledge systems and worldviews, and how they affect inclusion at all levels from designing and executing research to participating in national forums.

Multi-stakeholder symposium on water governance: Lessons from citizen monitoring of the NWRS2

Welcome and opening

The meeting was opened at 9am with the beating of drums and a happy birthday song and dance for one of the participants, Busi Peter.

Stephen Law, EMG's director, then welcomed us all, saying: "In South Africa, we jealously guard the right to participate; it's not easy, it's messy, but it is fundamentally important. In this context, we undertook this project, looking at citizen monitoring of water policy". The aims of this meeting were: to share some background to the 'Citizen Monitoring of the NWRS2' project and lessons learned; to have a conversation (s); together gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of civil society engagement with water policy; and to generate preliminary ideas



Stephen Law welcomed us all and opened the meeting

about next steps with regards to research and engagement.

Stephen then handed over to

Themba Lonzi and Theresa Edelman, our facilitators. They explained that Themba would be the guardian of the spirit and the rhythm of the process using drums and music, while Theresa would be looking after the practical process, time keeping, making sure everyone had enough time to speak.



Themba Lonzi and Theresa Edelman, our compassionate facilitators

We had a brief round of introductions, saying our names and where we work.

Overview of the 'Citizen Monitoring of the NWRS2' project

Jessica Wilson (EMG, SAWC) presented an overview of the 'Citizen Monitoring of the NWRS2' project (WRC project 2313). To view this presentation, click [here](#).

In summary, this project was an in situ "experiment" of knowledge-generation, learning, action and reflection by (and with) the active citizens and organisations who can use it to strengthen the implementation of the NWRS2 and other water policy, in particular public interest aspects such as:

- Equitable access to water
- Protection of ecosystems, including rivers
- Transformation of society

The project team consisted of learners from four case study areas, supported by an 'anchor organisation' in each province, namely: Thabo Lusithi and Manelisi James from the Western Cape, supported by EMG; Samson Mokoena, Thandi Ngcanga and Mduduzi Tshabalala from the Vaal, supported by VEJA (Vaal Environmental Justice Alliance); December Ndhlovu, Patricia Mdluli and Alex Mashile from Mpumalanga, supported by Geasphere; and Soso Mjacu and Sithembele Tempa from the Eastern Cape, supported by Zingisa. In addition to the learners, the core team consisted of Jessica Wilson (EMG), Jane Burt (independent), Victor Munnik (independent), Taryn Pereira (EMG),

Thabang Ngcozela (EMG) and Heila Lotz-Sisitka (Rhodes Environmental Learning Research Centre/ELRC).

The learners took part in a 'Changing Practice' course over two years, accredited by Rhodes University's ELRC and facilitated by Jane Burt. As part of this course, they developed case studies and action plans related to the monitoring of different aspects of the NWRS2. All of this was situated within the SA Water Caucus (SAWC), and it was intended that there be a flow of knowledge from the learners, to the anchor organisations, to the provincial



water caucuses, and ultimately to the national SAWC, and back again. The diagram below illustrates the ‘spiral form’ of learning and action in this project:

The three case studies that were completed can be summarised as follows:

THEME	PLACE	KEY QUESTIONS
Water demand management and conservation in the context of climate change	<i>Dunoon, Cape Town, Western Cape</i>	What is the state of installation of devices in Dunoon and what are the impacts emerging as a result?
Plantations, ecosystems and water	<i>Moholoholo (Mariepskop), Mpumalanga</i>	What is the impact of large scale plantations on downstream flow, ecosystem services* and land claims in the Moholoholo catchment? * Ecosystem services focus on plants and sacred pools used by traditional healers
Civil society monitoring of water quality	<i>Vaal, Gauteng</i>	How do we enable spiritual water users to participate in the CMFs in the Vaal? What are the river access problems, and where are the sites that the spiritual and traditional water users are using?

The learnings from this project took place at multiple levels:

- Role and form of civil society
- Participatory democracy in the water sector

- Learning in practice and cognitive justice
- NWRS2 implementation and policy cycle
- Building a common humanity and solidarity

Following Jessica’s presentation, there was a round of questions.

December Ndhlovu (EMG, SAWC) asked “What is the DWS strategy to respond to the drought and empty dams in Bushbuckridge?”

Mahadi Mofokeng (DWS) responded “The current water problems are not just the normal issues, the drought has exacerbated them, and it is a disaster. It is difficult to isolate which are the ‘normal’ problems and which are the extreme issues as a result of the drought”.

Thabang Ngcozela (EMG, SAWC) then spoke, “I would like to say something about the recruitment of

participants; it was the first time we have done this kind of project, and it was a bit challenging to identify the right



Thabang Ngcozela

participants. We need to think about it more carefully next time, because some of the participants dropped out. The conversation around gender yesterday pertains to this project also, because only two women completed the project, and others dropped out. In the beginning of the project we started with fewer women, so we need to address this. I also want to comment on the anchor organisations, many struggled to understand their roles and how they could contribute to the project”.

Jane Burt (SAWC) added that “The gender conversation yesterday in the SAWC meeting hit home for me, that when we speak about gender, it opens up conversations about all the other power imbalances in our society. SAWC is able to deal with these difficult conversations, because of how it sees water as a living organism. How do we develop social learning processes that build not only individual capacity but also organisational capacity?”



December Ndhlovu and an official from DWS Free State

Samson Mokoena (VEJA, SAWC) put a question to the DWS officials present: “Our engagement started nearly a year ago, how far are you in terms of responding to our case studies? In Gauteng, when we look at water quality management, it often falls under the Free State municipal offices, who are represented here today. Since we have presented this case, how is the DWS looking at responding? What has been the discussion internally?”

Victor Munnik (SAWC) spoke: “I really appreciated and enjoyed how most importance was given in this project, and in our interactions with DWS, to the real situation on the ground. The SAWC does this automatically; but compared to some other projects/ processes in academia or civil society, it was really remarkable. Everything was tested against what actually happens in reality on the ground. People would say in meetings with the DWS ‘the policy says this but this does not happen in reality’ or ‘the policy needs to change to take this reality into account’”.

Moji Kumang (DWS Free State), asked “Who were you interacting with in DWS? Which directorate? Because I was not aware of these case studies. Which of your issues that you raised were included in the final draft of the NWRS2?”

Jessica responded that “Some things that we said about CMFs got into the final draft. But we were trying to change or raise awareness more about the processes around policy , i.e. the entire policy cycle. We try to raise issues that are important to civil society; we don’t see that the contradictions always exist at the

level of the actual written policy, we don't disagree with the DWS at the level of their written policies, but in terms of implementation and process we find contradictions”.

Victor said “We raised issues in nine areas of concern – compliance, water reallocation and reform, green drop, etc. – we agree with DWS on the principles, but it is not happening, and we are trying to figure out if we can help make them happen”.

Jessica added that “we were trying to show with this project that we can agree between us that its important to save and conserve water, but we don't agree with the way in which it is done. So we were trying to understand in really great detail how these things are actually carried out”.

Heila Lotz-Sisitka (ELRC) said “In terms of the capacity we need for compliance, it is a very critical issue, not just in water but in terms of all environmental sectors – how do we actually work with putting pressure on compliance, to make sure it happens properly?”

Nyamande Tovhowani (DWS Pretoria): “From the national office point of view, we have an ‘integrated regional water monitoring committee’ in different regions. We are so used to working in silos, but we are trying to work towards integration. We try to invite all institutions doing water monitoring to share their information, we store their data in our national databases – our main function is regulation, we can't regulate what we don't know. We are developing a water monitoring framework”.

Avashoni Nefale (Chief directorate compliance monitoring, DWS) then spoke: “we have people dealing with mines, plantations, water services regulation, etc. In terms of implementation of the NWRS2, there are various chapters, each chapter has chapter leaders, I fall under chapter 9. I deal with irrigators countrywide. In terms of water reallocation and reform, I am not working in that area but there is a lot of work being done. There is a policy position to say ‘Use it or Lose it’ – our existing lawful use, mostly within agriculture, is mostly allocated, but many are not using the water that they have a license for. We have more than 85 000 irrigators so it is not easy. We have a drought and are trying to implement water restrictions, trying to achieve a 20% reduction along the Vaal River. We are monitoring. We have to manage our water resources otherwise we will not be accountable”.

Victor: “Maybe rather than managing water you are managing the water users?!”.

At this point we broke for tea, and had another energising drumming session.



Presentation of the Vaal case study

Samson Mokoena, Thandiwe Ngcanga and Mduduzi Tshabalala spoke about their 'Changing Practice' project in the Vaal. (Read their full case study [here](#)).

“This project grew out of our participation in water management forums where we saw that ordinary people’s voices are not included. We focussed on Spiritual Water User’s exclusion from water management platforms. The area we looked at was the Upper Vaal, specifically the Vaal Barrage catchment. We identified Spiritual Water Users (SWUs). The main purpose was to build water governance and networks specifically with SWU’s. Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs) and SWU’s are absent from forums, which means the moral value of SWU’s are not included in decision making processes. We argue that CMAs and CMFs need to engage with THPs and SWUs. Traditional Health Organisations are already very organised; but they had not heard of CMFs or CMAs.

The traditional health act is there, but if you look at it, the National Water Act does not recognise or define spiritual practitioners as water users. We cannot move forward unless THPs are included; the NWA and the NWRS2/3 must recognise them.

Our practical interventions were: we got involved with ‘Adopt a Dam’ at Sharpeville Dam; we had workshops with SWUs; we built knowledge and resource networks; we engaged with Mfuleni Municipality, and with Bhekabezayo Traditional Health

Organisation. It was challenging to meet with DWS, we could not meet with them. It was also quite difficult to approach and meet with the traditional healers. We managed to meet with Metsi-Maholo Municipality. We had an exchange with Mpumalanga Water Caucus, and held a workshop in Mpumalanga.

When we were in Mpumalanga we sat outside in the sun to talk about our spiritual and traditional practices. While we were there, we heard that two spiritual water users had drowned, because they were using the river at night. We spoke about how we need to have confidence in our spiritual practices, we do not have to be ashamed in the dark. It was a confidence building and emotional process. We are left with the question: How do we protect spiritual water users? Because they are very vulnerable as a group”.



The Vaal team celebrating with their *Changing Practice* certificates

Comments and questions

Avashoni Nefale (DWS): I found this presentation fascinating, and it is very helpful for us that civil society is coming up with these

suggestions themselves. I think that SWUs are included in the Water Act as Recreational Water Users.

Stephen (EMG): as much as it is important to get traditional healers into the CMFs, there will also be a need for a lot of education for the ‘mainstream’ members of CMFs to understand how SWUs see and relate to water.

Presentation of the Western Cape case study

Thabo Lusithi and Manelisi James spoke about their ‘Changing Practice’ project, looking at the impact of water management devices (WMDs) on household and livelihoods in Dunoon. (Read



Manelisi James presenting his case study

their full case study [here](#)).

Manelisi James began: “Lets get to know Dunoon: it was developed in 1995, for domestic and farm workers. In 2013, the

City of Cape Town

decided to install WMDs in Tableview (a rich suburb) and in Dunoon. We discovered this fact because people were coming to the advice office to complain about problems related to the devices. We sent two guys to the Municipality in Blouberg, and found that there was no one there who was willing to come and

talk to us. We decided to do some research in the community – Londeka Mahlanza (a UCT Masters student) and myself decided to go to households to interview them. I (James) am included in the households that are affected. Before the installers came to my house everything was fine, I had no leaks, but after they installed the device I had endless problems. Doing the interviews we discovered many painful stories including a mother who stopped sending her kids to school because she could not wash them, she had no water. We also discovered that even though the WMDs were installed in Table View, they were left on ‘free-flow’, meaning they did not cut off supply after 350 litres was used, like in Dunoon”.

Thabo gave some context: “The device is portrayed as a saviour – you will have your debt scrapped, have your leaks fixed, will not go into debt again. So people accept it, but then quickly find that they are sitting without water. Private contractors are hired to do the installation, and are paid per meter.

When we sit with no water, we are forced to bypass the meter – this is illegal, but we have to fix the problem somehow. You can call it bypassing, we call it fixing the problem!

We experienced many challenges with community organising. For example, the advice office (where James volunteers) is seen as a threat to the councillor. So any meeting called at the advice office is poorly attended. There was a lack of public consultation and participation when the devices were installed. People don’t know

why they have the devices. The installation and education is all outsourced.

When communities talk to each other, more things are possible; when you have outsiders coming in to talk things can take longer and we can miss each other. But we found the knowledge network building so helpful and powerful in this social learning project – to bring in people from other communities to build the confidence and boost morale for those in Dunoon”.

Presentation of the Mpumalanga case study

December Ndhlovu and Alex Mashile spoke about their ‘Changing Practice’ project, looking at the impact of large scale industrial timber plantations on stream flow, ecosystem services and land redistribution in Mariepskop/ Moholoholo - focussed on the Sand catchment in Lower Bushbuckridge. (Read their full case study [here](#)).

“When you really know and think about how much water gum trees consume every day, when I look at the mountain and see all those trees, I always get a headache.

We spoke to some very knowledgeable people who know about the rivers and ecosystems in Bushbuckridge.

When we spoke to the traditional healers, we learnt also that they need the plants that grow close to the river, they need the water to flow, they need the waterfalls.

We learnt that the strong root systems can be up to 50 m long and they can pierce the water table and steal the water.

Sacred places and sites have been destroyed by the establishment of the gum tree plantations.

Gum trees are invasive. They don’t stay where you plant them. They have not been properly managed. Even the Working For Water programme does not work properly, they do not even consider the plantations, they focus on guavas, prickly pear, lantanas”.



Alex Mashile reading the printed version of his case study

Alex Mashile spoke about the impact of plantations on the land claim at Moholoholo, and land restoration: “I would like to acknowledge Mr.

Ndhlovu for bringing me into this massive intervention, bringing me into the Mpumalanga Provincial Water Caucus so that I can see these things. Mariepskop is Moholoholo – I am part of the indigenous leadership of Moholoholo, and after learning what I have learnt, I am determined to turn Moholoholo into an eco-village. When we look at our history, we see that they have

removed us from our land so they can plant these timber plantations. I wish to see Goedgedacht [where the symposium is taking place] in Moholoholo.

We must take pride in our issues. When we started putting our land claims, there was a division in the community between those who want the plantations to stay and those who want the plantations removed. The Community Property Association (CPA) wants the plantations; The Trust (which I am a part of) wants to have the plantations removed, we see the value in the indigenous knowledge and traditional practices of the area. We see that plantations are not forests. We are for Saving Moholoholo.

Our recommendations are to integrate the traditional ways of living into the present day. We have been able to set up these volunteer teams in several communities to adopt and clean rivers”.

Comments and questions

Matome Mahasha (DWS Pretoria): “Is there not some social responsibility from the timber plantations?”

December responded: “Maybe it is there on paper but it is not done in reality, and it is getting worse day by day”

Thelma Nkosi (EMG, SAWC): “The issue of the split in the community is very serious – the CPA wants the plantations and the Trust does not, but the government is listening more to the

CPA. There needs to be some better way for the two groups to meet each other, to be able to work together”

Alex Mashile: “How old is the exit strategy? Over ten years old.. but nothing has been done”.

Mashile Phalane (SAWC): “In Komati-Land, the people say they want plantations; the companies have social responsibility, but they just do what they want when they want to; and they do not pay any money to the community”.

Busi Peter (Amanzi for Food): “I also work as a journalist for a newspaper (Nyanga), and I would like to know whether I can write these stories for the newspaper (it is agreed that this is a discussion for outside of this meeting)”.

Mahadi Mofokeng (DWS Pretoria): “I would like to get your names, because we do have problems with plantations – we

would like to get more information, we could use your case study in our own work!”



December Ndhlovu and Thabo Lusithi drumming

Graduation ceremony

Heila Lotz-Sisitka and Jane Burt presented all of the the social learners with their certificates accredited by Rhodes University. This was accompanied by much joyful drumming and celebration!



Mduzuzi and Thandi receiving their certificates from Heila and Jane



Changing Practice course graduates with Jessica, Heila and Jane

Afternoon session

Presentations to spark some conversations

Victor Munnik gave a brief presentation on ‘Participatory Democracy and the role of Civil Society’.

“The People shall govern! The doors of learning shall be opened! These phrase stem back to the Freedom Charter. A participatory democracy was what was struggled for. The principles of participatory democracy are enshrined in the Constitution.

What is the role of the state? To keep the peace? To deliver services? Or to transform society into the kind of world we want to see?

Public opinion arises and gets formed when people discuss things in the public interest.

In Europe, Kings used to rule alone, but when business people started getting stronger and able to read newspapers, they started to see that the King and his advisers didn’t know what they were doing – starting from this kind of elite space, public opinion became a more important and influential force.

Civil society is the whole public space between households and the state; civil society can also be seen as those asking questions about whether society is civil. There are many definitions of civil society – we have to decide which definition works best for us.

SAWC clearly sees itself as civil society. How do we understand and explain what our context is to each other? What tactics do we use and how do we decide about it? Methods that we use are determined by our values.

Some important concepts:

Dialogue means ‘what you say can change my mind’.

Cognitive Justice: ‘Dialogues between knowledges where all are equally respected and valid’.

Colonised knowledge: ‘uses the knowledge and thinking patterns of the coloniser’ – we need to be critical about whether we continue to use this kind of knowledge.



Victor Munnik and Mary Galvin

SAWC does not have a hierarchy, it does not have a single authority, and it does not put certain forms of knowledge above others.

We live in a participatory democracy, not a representative democracy. A representative democracy means a politician will say every 5 years ‘give me a blank cheque, and I’ll see you in 5 years to ask for another blank cheque’, but we live in a participatory democracy, where we are allowed and in fact encouraged to participate in many forums, to have our voices heard, to engage with policies at all scales. We should use this space, and participate in our democracy!”.

Victor handed over to Jane Burt, who gave a brief presentation on ‘Education for liberation and cognitive justice’.

“The changing practice course was developed on top of more than 15 years of work and research in social learning. The case studies speak for themselves in terms of the strength and quality of the social learning approach.

Social learning is ‘research for the people by the people’ (this was expressed by December Ndhlovu during a reflection session). Social learning is an emancipatory pedagogy. The learner activists are the most valuable researchers in their own contexts. The social learning course is not expert driven, it is a dialogic space. It also acknowledges that learning exists in place, in landscapes.

The first aspect of the course is ‘Investigating context and practice’ (what is really happening here?).

The second aspect is ‘Identifying the challenges’ (How has this come to be?).

The third step is ‘Identifying a knowledge network’ – recognising that knowledge is not held just in me, or just in you, but it exists between us. We do not have to know everything, or believe that someone else knows everything – it exists when we draw on each other.

After that, we look at ‘Identifying new possibilities’ – How and at what level can we bring about change?

Next, it is time for ‘Implementing change’ – how do we work with others to bring about change?

Finally, we spend time reflecting, reviewing and consolidating.

What was really special about this course was working with an existing network, the SAWC. Previously, we have run the course with people from many different places, and it was challenging to hold the threads of what had been learnt and done by participants after the structured course was finished. So, in this course, we really were able to explore networked social learning in depth. It was a learning process within an existing movement with the express intention to strengthen it – we learnt how knowledge exists in networks and moves through it.

Through the research project, social learning has become an identity, an activist activity – we don’t just do social learning to learn, we do it to be activists!

Some questions we are left with:

- How can people who are doing this kind of work be acknowledged, be supported to embark on careers?
- Can we break down academic elitism, so that we are not writing about activists but with activists?”

Open Space Technology



Matome Mahasha volunteering to lead a discussion

Theresa introduced an open space approach to discussion. There were three themes for discussion: Education for Liberation; Participatory Democracy and Cognitive Justice.

Anyone wanting to lead a discussion was invited to come forward with their specific discussion topic. The rest of us could then choose if we would like to participate in one discussion, or if we would like to be a ‘butterfly’, going from group to group. After 45 minutes, we were asked to distil our discussion to 6 words. These

would be stuck up on the wall, and then all of us would move through the gallery, adding ideas, to create a big word picture. Seven people came forward to lead discussions along the following themes:

- Mashile Phalane: How can communities and government work together?
- Mary Galvin: sharing experiences and challenges in engaging government
- Matome Mahasha: Strengthening CS and CSOs participation/ role in IWRM and LG
- Matthew Weaver: The Water caucus role in CMFs
- Victor Munnik: citizen science
- Jessica Wilson: How do we learn from water and ecology to do all these good things?
- Jane Burt: How do we take issues of gender forward in the water caucus?

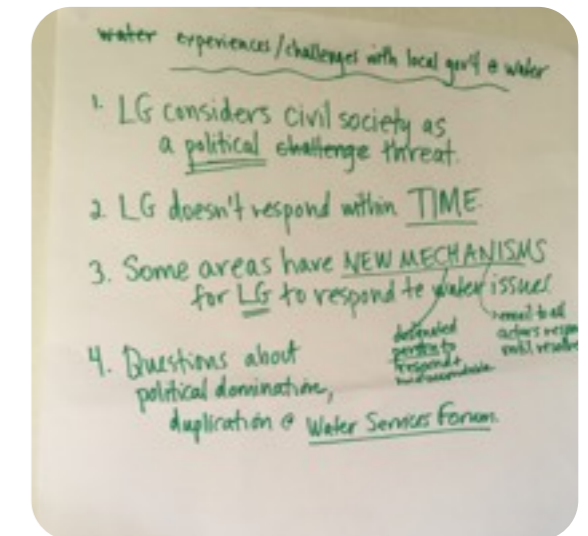
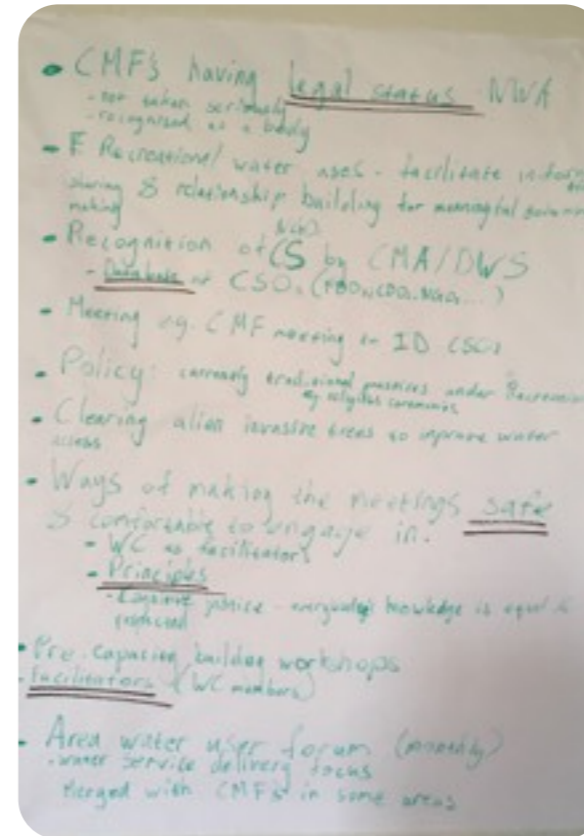
We split up into our groups for in-depth discussion of these themes.



Group discussions outdoors



The gallery of words that emerged from these discussions can be seen below:



Finally, we agreed upon some practical steps:

1. Mashile Phalane: we would like to undertake a social learning process in Limpopo, near Tzaneen, following this model (action research in Limpopo)
2. Matome Mahasha: there will soon be a new DWS water and sanitation bill – we want SAWC to make strong contributions to this, particularly around CMFs and spiritual water use
3. Mary Galvin: maybe we can propose to the WRC a pilot on the role of civil society in CMFs?
4. Samson Mokoena: we must strengthen civil society involvement in IDP monitoring in terms of climate change mitigation (there are some opportunities available in terms of monitoring IDPs)
5. Leila Harris: we should expand the WRC literature on citizen science
6. Stephen Law: we should explore using existing tools and apps for citizen monitoring
7. Jessica Wilson: the next meeting between SAWC and DWS will take place on the 9th of November.
8. Jane Burt: we should take forward the gender questions in SAWC through the River of Life methodology

9. Thabang Ngcozela: there will be a meeting of the SAWC CC members over dinner tonight

10. Taryn Pereira: there are many interesting products coming out of this project, to be shared/ disseminated to all who participated here today.

The symposium was then closed by Themba Lonzi, who shared that he had been deeply inspired and converted into a water activist through the course of this meeting. To close the meeting, we were given an opportunity to express our gratitude for one another.

Victor: “I would like to thank the ELRC at UCKAR for sharing what they have developed over many years, and bringing it into the SAWC – it now feels part of the SAWC”.

Heila: “Thank you to everybody involved in this project, it has been very inspirational, the case studies are so impressive”.

Busi Peter: “Thank you for including me, I did not know about the SAWC but now I am part of it. I also want to say do not be harsh on the Eastern Cape learners, I know both of them personally and they are both very dedicated. I loved meeting you all, you are all water activists! Amanzi! Awethu!”.

Jessica Wilson: “I would like to express my gratitude to all the learners. I would like to invite a round of applause to Jane for holding the learning process; and say thanks to Victor, Heila,

Thabo, Taryn. And to Themba and Theresa for being such wonderful facilitators”.

Amanda Mkhonza (CER): “I feel gratitude to the government officials for coming and being passionate”.

Jane Burt: “I feel deep gratitude to Jessica for holding this whole project, in all its complexities”.

DRUMMING AND CLOSURE.

