

International Conference on FRESH WATER GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

5-7th November, 2012

Champagne Sports Resort, Drakensberg,
South Africa

Organised by the

Water Research Commission

and the

Department of Water Affairs – South Africa



together with

**Australian National University : UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and
Transboundary Water Governance**

**WISA : Water Institute of Southern Africa
Institute of Natural Resources
University of KwaZulu-Natal**

GWPSA : Global Water Partnership of Southern Africa

CAP-NET : Capacity Building Network of the UNDP / IWRM

ORASECOM : the Orange-Senqu River Commission

TCTA : Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority

ICLEI : Local Governments for Sustainability

AFUR : African Forum for Utility Regulators

**University of Pretoria and CIRAD : Coopération Internationale en Recherche
Agronomique pour le Développement**

Main purpose and brief background of the conference - and issues that the conference should tackle

As pressure on freshwater resources increase across the globe, so does our need to govern the use of these resources in a way that is sustainable into the future. This international conference will bring together policy makers, water managers, scientists and civil society, in a forum where new ideas beyond academic exchange for the future can be shared, nurtured and hopefully developed.

This conference is hosted by a large number of local, regional and international partners. It is aimed to share new knowledge on the topic of sustainable fresh water governance through written papers and posters as well as to allow for multi-stakeholder panel discussions mainly between researchers and policy makers as well as civil society. It will further support the hosting of special sessions, side events/workshops on related topics, moot courts role playing, knowledge café' and other activities.

The conference will cover a wide range of topics related to sustainable fresh water governance such as;

- Analysing water governance research for impact on policy, action and decision making.
- Analysing the implementation gap
- Effective and sustainable national and transnational water governance
- Governing trade-offs between water for energy, food and the environment in a changing climate to ensure climate resilient development
- Viable decentralisation options to promote adaptive management
- Financing and infrastructure development
- Capacity building for leadership at the sub-national scale
- Applicable water regulation for enhanced accountability
- Sharing case studies of IWRM implementation and lessons learnt
- Managing a common property resource and the legally pluralistic emerging regimes
- Adjusting the laws and policies for change
- Human beings and how we deal with change

Participants are expected to come from wide and varied disciplines including; policy makers, water managers, social scientists, natural scientists, water resource managers, economists, ecologists, hydrologists, legal practitioners, private and public sector specialists, psychologists, etc.

Considering the great enthusiasm from the partners and their respective networks for this conference, we would expect a turn up of no less than 350 participants from around the world.

This notification is mainly for you to diarise the date and location and be informed that this event will be back-to-back with the WaterNet Annual Symposium which is scheduled for the last week in October (31st October to 2nd November 2012). A detailed CALL FOR PAPERS will be issued in February, 2012. Please note that preceding this conference, there will be organised tours during the weekend 3 and 4th November 2012.

Please contact the Secretariat if you wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive future information on the conference: confplan@iafrica.com or to Eiman Karar; eimank@wrc.org.za