

WISA CONFERENCE: ALL HANDS-ON DECK
7 – 11 DECEMBER 2020

BLUE DEAL & WETSKILLS:
EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
ON WATER GOVERNANCE, CAPACITY BUILDING &
YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

INTERACTIVE DIGITAL WORKSHOP:

FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER

PART 1: 09:15 – 11:15

PART 2: 14:00 – 16:00

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Introduction

In recent years the effects of climate change became more and more noticed in everyday life. After years of severe drought, the City of Cape Town feared to meet with 'Day Zero'. And flash floods occurred several times in the last years with a lot of damages and even casualties. Scientists predict that the effects of climate change will increase in the coming years, especially in the region of Southern Africa. Especially in the water resource management there is a need for international cooperation to face the challenges of the future together, to learn from each other and to bring in the innovative strengths of the young professionals. Particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic it is necessary to combine all forces to secure a reliable water and sanitation services.

To establish such cooperation the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Infrastructure & Water Management together with the Dutch Regional Water Authorities started a worldwide program: 'Blue Deal'. The Blue Deal is a program to establish long lasting partnerships between the Dutch Water Authorities and water professionals in different countries to provide 20 million people in 40 water management areas with improved flood prevention, water availability and sanitation by the year 2030.

Such Blue Deal Partnerships are established between the Dutch Water Authorities and the water professionals in South Africa, in eSwatini and in Mozambique. They will present themselves and the challenges for the coming years.

Wetskills Foundation plays an important role in the combination of intergenerational forces in this South Africa – The Netherlands cooperation on water. Since 2012 Wetskills Foundation organizes its biannual Wetskills Water Challenge in South Africa, always aligned and in cooperation with the WISA Conference. The Wetskills Challenge is a two week period where young talents with various background come together, work in mixed teams on water challenges formulated by sector partners.

This year Wetskills Foundation and partners prepared the fifth Wetskills Challenges in South Africa. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this live event is postponed to February-March 2021.

In recent years the Department of Water and Sanitation of South Africa partnered Wetskills foundation to bring-in and support young talents from South Africa in Wetskills Challenges worldwide. Many other partners in South Africa, Southern Africa and The Netherlands are supporting the Wetskills Challenge programmes in the region.

Aim of the workshop

During the workshop the first lessons learned will be exchanged between the different partnerships of Mozambique, eSwatini and South Africa. Special attention will be given to the youth involvement in these partnerships and their contribution in the different challenges. Another goal of the workshop is to bring the international cooperation between South Africa, eSwatini and Mozambique to the next level. The future challenges of climate change need a combined development of innovative ideas regarding water resource management, water supply and sanitation and flood protection.

A wrap-up of the impact and added value of Wetskills in South Africa will be presented at the last part of the day. This is aligned to the various celebrations (live and online) of #Wetskills10 Years Jubilee. During the day, young professionals will contribute in the programme parts.

Target audience

All water professionals from national, provincial and local government, all water users and water boards, scientists and entrepreneurs from eSwatini, Mozambique and South Africa and all the members of the different Blue Deal partnerships and Wetskills challenges are invited to join this interactive workshop. By the use of different digital tools everyone will be invited to be active and creative to develop possible solutions for the challenges of the future. A special invitation is for the young professionals to come forward with the newest knowledge and innovative ideas.

Preliminary Program

Contributions of distinguished speakers from South Africa, Mozambique, eSwatini and the Netherlands, like the Dutch ambassador and the Dutch Envoy on Water, Mr Henk Ovink.

- 09:15 – 10:10: Welcome for Part 1
Introduction on the future effects of climate change in Southern Africa
Short introductions in
- the Blue Deal Mozambique Partnership
 - the Blue Deal eSwatini Partnership
 - the Blue Deal South Africa Partnership
- Interactive panel discussion between the audience and the presenters.
- 10:10 – 10:20: *Short break with a Blue Deal video*
- 10:20 – 11:15: Interactive session on youth involvement in the different Blue Deal Partnerships
Involvement of the Young Expert Program and trainees
Innovative ways to find solutions under COVID-19 restrictions
Short closing statement of Part 1
- 11:15 – 14:00: *Lunch break*

- 14:00 – 14:45: Welcome for Part 2
International Cooperation in River Basin Management
- A Dutch example
 - PRIMA: a cooperation of eSwatini, South Africa and Mozambique
- Interactive workshop to bring the international cooperation to the next level.
- 14:45 – 14:55: *Short break with a Blue Deal video*
- 14:55 – 15:55: 10 years Wetskills South Africa Challenges
Introduction on the impact of Wetskills in Southern Africa
Looking back by some Alumni and case owners of former challenges
Looking forward with WetsNext and the programme of February 2021
- Detailed programme:
- 2 min: Word of Welcome
 - 4 min: Movie about the events in South Africa
 - 6 min: Presentation about the Impact of Wetskills in Southern Africa
 - 10 min: Keynote from one of our ambassadors
 - 15 min: Interview with 3 Alumni
 - 15 min: Interview with 3 case owners / partners
 - 5 min: WetsNext project (follow-up project of one of the ideas) in Lesotho
 - 5 min: Announcement of programme in Feb 2021 and the cases
 - End of Programme
- 15:55 – 16:00 Closing remarks and (virtual) farewell drinks