

WEF NEXUS, MULTI-ACTOR GOVERNANCE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SOUTH AFRICA

3 November 2022

Alpine Attitude 522 Atterbury Rd, Menlo Park, Pretoria, 0102

The one-day workshop is organized by Utrecht University, North-West University, University of Fort Hare and University of Groningen, in collaboration with WRC and CSIR, in the scope of the NWO-NRF funded project 'Water-Energy-Food communities in South Africa: multi-actor nexus governance for social justice?'



COOPERATION SOUTH AFRICA (NRF) – THE NETHERLANDS (NWO)
PROJECT: Water-Energy-Food communities in South Africa: multi-actor nexus governance for social justice? Reference: FWO190903474498 / UID: 129352

BACKGROUND

The Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus is gaining traction internationally as an integrated approach to accelerate transitions toward sustainable development. Agenda 2030 with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognizes the importance of nexus (or integrated) approaches to facilitate synergies and address trade-offs between the 17 goals. However, countries' governance frameworks have not yet fully integrated knowledge about the WEF nexus and SDG interlinkages into whole-of-government or whole-of-society approaches. Moreover, although Agenda 2030 portrays the nexus approach as one of its holy grails, it is not clear what pursuing the approach means for social justice on the ground.

Such issues are particularly pertinent in South Africa, where 14 million people experience inadequate access to food, 30 million lack access to basic water supply, and more than 15% has no access to energy. These problems are rooted in long-standing inequalities related to South Africa's Apartheid that are exacerbated by climate change. Furthermore, despite the fact that South Africa is one of the leading countries in researching the WEF nexus, South African policies do not yet incorporate its principles.

The NWO-NRF funded project on WEF communities aims to provide the necessary knowledge to support poor communities in improving their access to water, energy and food in South Africa. To do so, it is imperative to clarify who is involved in such decisions related to the WEF nexus, at what levels, and with what consequences for social justice.

With the aim of stimulating effective discussions, we will provide input into the workshop including: i) preliminary analysis of the South African legal framework concerning water, energy and food; ii) results from a household survey conducted in two rural areas in South Africa (Matatiele, Eastern Cape; and Vaalharts, North-West and Northern Cape) looking at WEF nexus security at the household level.



OBJECTIVES

The workshop has the following objectives:

- i) To provide preliminary feedback on household surveys undertaken in Matatiele local municipality, Taung local municipality and Majeng in the Magareng Local Municipal area.
- ii) Exchange views on the meaning of social justice in the scope of the WEF nexus in South Africa.
- iii) Discuss how to operationalize the WEF nexus to improve poor communities access to water, energy and food.
- iv) Increase knowledge regarding national agencies and departments interactions, intradepartmental dynamics and vertical coordination in the decision-making process on matters relating to water, energy and food.
- v) Identify intra and inter-agency trade-offs and discuss whether and where more cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration are needed.

The workshop will be a joint learning activity, in which academics and practitioners work together to better define challenges and identify solutions.

You can find the agenda of the workshop below.

Please register here: <https://forms.gle/N2Rkg26yqwdqjfaV7>



AGENDA		
08h30 – 09h00	Arrival/Coffee	
09h00 – 09h10	Prof. Willemien du Plessis (NWU)	Welcome remarks and introduction to the NRF-NWO funded project 'Water-Energy-Food communities in South Africa: multi actor nexus governance for social justice?'
09h10 – 09h20	Dr. Michele Dalla Fontana (UU)	Presentation of the objectives and activities of the workshop
09h20 – 09h40	Dr. Jennifer Molwantwa (WRC)	Setting the scene+ Q&A
09h40 – 10h00	Prof. Oliver Fuo (NWU)	What is social justice and constitutional imperatives for WEF-nexus + Q&A
10h00 – 10h15	Coffee break	
Session 1. WEF nexus for social justice in South Africa.		
10h15 – 10h45	Dr. Saul Ngarava (UFH)	WEF nexus security at the household level. Results from two case studies: Matatiele (Eastern Cape), Vaalharts (North-West).
10h45 – 11h45	Break out session	
11h45 – 12h15	Feedback and discussion	
12h15 – 13h00	Lunch	
Session 2. Multi-actor governance and the WEF nexus.		
13h00 – 13h30	Dr. Romain Mauger (UG) Dr. John Rantlo (NWU) Dr. Germarié Viljoen (NWU)	WEF nexus legal and policy framework in South Africa.
13:30 – 14:30	Break out session	
14:30 – 14:45	Coffee break	
14h45 – 15h15	Feedback and discussion	
15h15 – 15h30	Prof. Willemien du Plessis (NWU) Dr. Michele Dalla Fontana (UU)	Reflections on the day and closing remarks.





WATER ENERGY FOOD NEXUS

TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE

