



CITIZEN SCIENCE

Tuesday, 21 September 2021 | 11:00-13:00 (CAT)

South Africa is a dry country, therefore cannot afford to waste a drop of water! Every drop counts and care of water is everyone's business. Citizen science is a form of community participation in scientific investigations, varying from assisting by collecting data or analysing results; to bottom-up practices that design and build new devices and knowledge processes that respond to local needs. It is this latter understanding of citizen science that a range of organisations, including the WRC, have sought to support and take to scale through a range of initiatives. This session provides an opportunity to examine current work supported by the WRC that is aimed at building the network of empowered citizen scientists able to collect data on water quality and quantity, in support of better management of water resources. The session will highlight how citizen science is not just a technical activity but can also be seen as a developmental practice with strong potential as a force for good — building democracy and empowering communities.

Chair: Ms Nolusindiso Jafta, DWS

11:00	Welcome and introductions	Ms Nolusindiso Jafta, DWS
11:05	Extracting further value from existing datasets on water resources: Text mining using citizen science and advanced data analytics	Prof Hlanganani Tutu, Wits
11:25	Citizen science for monitoring groundwater in the Hout River catchment, Limpopo	Prof Jacqueline Goldin, UWC
11:45	Citizens taking charge of their resilience	Dr Joel Botai, South African Weather Service
12:05	Alignment, scaling and resourcing of citizen-based water quality monitoring initiatives	Prof Heila Lotz-Sisitka, Rhodes
12:25	Community returning the glory of the Hennops River	Ms Tarryn Johnston, Hennops Revival
12:45-13:00	Closure and way forward	Ms Nolusindiso Jafta, DWS