

THE

WATER WHEEL

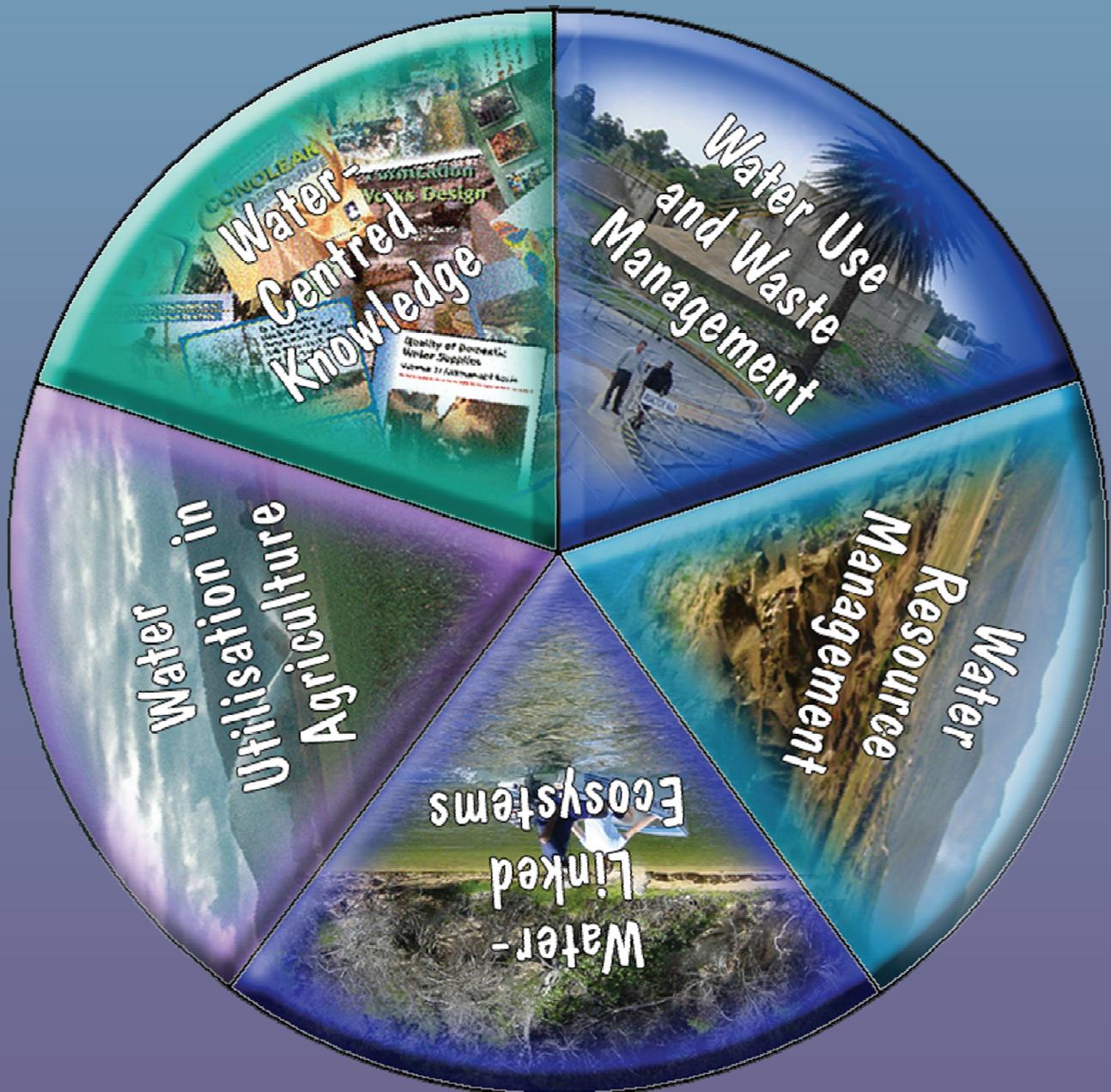


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South Africa's
water
Knowledge hub

Special Edition: National Water Week 2005





Message from the CEO

Water is an essential element in the world. Without this precious liquid, we would not be able to work, run machines, produce goods, keep clean and healthy and, above all, survive! South Africa is a water-stressed country and the need to conserve water becomes even greater in this context. The talk of water restrictions, dam levels being low, a lack of rainfall are typical symptoms of such a chronic syndrome.

The Water Research Commission (WRC) engages stakeholders in solving water-related problems which are critical to South Africa's sustainable development and economic growth and is committed to promoting a better quality of life for ALL South Africans.

In the South African context water is seen as a common and social resource. Water is recognized as being essential for sustaining life. However, water is also recognized as an economic good which has a major impact on wealth creation, poverty alleviation and the well-being of people.

People working in the field of water make a major contribution to the quality of life of individuals as well as the long-term sustainability of the country. You, the learner, have a distinct role to play in ensuring the sustainability of water resources in South Africa. The WRC recognizes this and has produced a booklet on career opportunities in the water sector: *Water@Work*. This invaluable guide was distributed to every high school in the country.

We need more skilled people in the water sector, particularly people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Hence, this guide is an avenue to meeting this critical goal. There are many opportunities for people who would like to pursue a career in the water sector, be it in central, provincial, or local government, the water industry, other related services or academia.

It is important that you, the learners, make the correct subject choice for your future so that you enjoy job satisfaction and, more importantly, so that you are a valuable asset to your country's machinery. This guide has been specially designed for you, should you be interested in becoming part of South Africa's vibrant water sector. Use it wisely.

This special edition of *The Water Wheel* complements *Water@Work* by presenting you with case studies of people who have made waves (no pun intended!) in the water sector; people who have made a difference (and found it stimulating!) in South Africa's dynamic water sector.

Finally, I trust that you have enjoyed reading the articles that we have selected especially for you, the learner. If you are interested in pursuing a career in the field of water, the career guide will be of great assistance to you. I want to take this opportunity of wishing you well for this academic year.

Our Mission

A WRC is a dynamic hub of water - centred knowledge, innovation and intervention and intellectual capital. We provide leadership for research and development through the support of knowledge creation, transfer and application. We engage stakeholders and partners in solving water-related problems which are critical to South Africa's sustainable development and economic growth, and are committed to promoting a better quality of life for all.

Our Vision

To be a globally recognised leader in providing innovative solutions for sustainable water management to meet the changing needs of society and of the environment.



*Life in groundwater
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*Food from used
water - p 10*



*Hartbeespoort Dam
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*Musa Nzimakwe - cholera survivor
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