



SAAFWUA CONFERENCE 2025

WATER SECURITY IN ACTION: RESILIENCE THROUGH COLLECTIVE EFFORT

DATE: 13 MARCH 2025 10:30 – 16:15

LOCATION: DIEMERSFONTEIN WINE&COUNTRY ESTATE, WELLINGTON, SOUTH AFRICA

AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
10:30 – 11:00	Registration
11:00 – 11:15	Opening and Welcome - Chairperson of SAAFWUA
11:15 – 11:50	Keynote Address – Speaker to be confirmed <i>"Resilience Through Collective Effort"</i> Setting the scene for the day, this talk will highlight the importance of collaboration between Water User Associations, government agencies, and other stakeholders to build resilience in water management. Q&A: 5 minutes included
11:50 – 12:25	Climate Change and Water Resilience by Prof. Stephanie Midgley, Department of Agriculture, Western Cape. Surface water resources in South Africa are highly constrained and the gap between supply and demand is growing, particularly given the current and projected future climate changes. The frequency, intensity and duration of extreme rainfall (droughts and floods) are expected to increase, and damages to catchment ecosystem services and the economy are already evident. The presentation will share scientific evidence and policy that inform practical response strategies towards sustainable resource management relevant to water user associations and agricultural stakeholders in this region. Q&A: 5 minutes included
12:25 – 13:00	The Impact of Invasive Alien Species on Water Resilience: Implementation of sustainable resource management solutions by Rudolph Roscher, Department of Agriculture, Western Cape. This session will address how invasive alien plants reduce water availability and compromise ecological resilience. Rudolph will propose a shift from a user-centred perspective to a broader water resource management approach, emphasizing community involvement and regional coordination. Q&A: 5 minutes included
13:00 – 13:45	Lunch Break
13:45 – 14:00	Sponsor Presentation: Techla – Christiaan Olivier will introduce Techla's innovative water and river management systems, showcasing tools and technologies that can support WUAs in achieving operational efficiency and environmental resilience.

<p>14:00 – 14:35</p>	<p>Managing Floods and Riparian Zones: Strategies for control and rehabilitation: by Dana Grobler, BlueScience. Practical mechanisms for mitigating flood risks and rehabilitating riparian zones will be shared. The session will underline the role of comprehensive river management plans in reducing flood damage and enhancing water system resilience. Q&A: 5 minutes included</p>
<p>14:35 – 15:10</p>	<p>Collaboration in Water Resilience by Eurica Scholtz, CEO of BRWUA. Case studies and practical examples of how WUA’s can collaborate with government and private stakeholders to promote water security and collective resilience will be presented. Q&A: 5 minutes included</p>
<p>15:10 – 15:25</p>	<p>Sponsor presentation</p>
<p>15:25 – 16:00</p>	<p>Exploring Hydropower Opportunities for WUAs: An interactive session on the potential for small-scale hydropower projects within WUAs. Eurica Scholtz, Dr Johann Boonzaaier, Willie Enright.</p>
<p>16:00 – 16:15</p>	<p>Synopsis, Closing Remarks, and Word of Thanks by Gregory Smith, CEO of SAAFWUA</p>