

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

1 November 2022

[Protea at Marriot Hotel, Mahikeng](#)

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

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## **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 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.

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. Being the closest level of government to the communities, provincial and local governments are considered to be key players in such challenges.

With the aim of stimulating effective discussions, we will provide input into the workshop including: i) results from a household survey conducted in Taung local municipality (North West) and Majeng in the Magareng Local Municipal area (Northern Cape) looking at WEF nexus security at the household level, ii) preliminary analysis of the South African legal framework concerning water, energy and food.



## OBJECTIVES

The workshop has the following objectives:

- Exchange views on the meaning of social justice in the scope of the WEF nexus in South Africa and the North West province.
- Discuss how to operationalize the WEF nexus to improve service delivery and increase access to water, energy and food by poor communities.
- Increase knowledge regarding departments interactions, intradepartmental dynamics and vertical coordination in the decision-making process on matters relating to water, energy and food, particularly focusing on the role of provincial and local governments.
- Identify intra and inter-agency trade-offs and discuss whether and where more cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination are needed.

There is **no fee** for attending the workshop, but **registration is compulsory**. Please use the following link for registration: <https://forms.gle/4rengiRfJBQ4fTiu9>

You can find the agenda of the workshop below.



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 John Rantlo (NWU) Dr. Michele Dalla Fontana (UU)	Presentation of the objectives and activities of the workshop
09h20 – 09h50	Dr. Saul Ngarava (UFH)	WEF nexus security at the household level. Results from the case study in Taung and Magareng
09:50-10:20	Dr. Romain Mauger (UG) Dr. John Rantlo (NWU)	WEF nexus legal and policy framework in South Africa.
10h20 – 10h40	Coffee break	
10h40 – 12h00	Break out session	
13:00 – 12:30	Feedback and discussion	
12:30 – 12h45	Prof. Willemien du Plessis (NWU) Dr. Michele Dalla Fontana (UU)	Reflections on the day and closing remarks.
<i>Lunch</i>		





# WATER ENERGY FOOD NEXUS

TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE

