



## INVITATION

TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN THE OLIFANTS RIVER CATCHMENT

### CSO INDABA

#### Cycle 2

### *BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE OLIFANTS CATCHMENT*

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August,  
Middle Olifants Catchment**

Dear Fellow CSO

Following on from our first gathering on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016, we would like to invite you to the second cycle of Indabas for Civil Society Organisations operative in the Olifants Catchment.

We would like to invite you to a day to deliberate on how CSOs can better organise for collective action and be better prepared for situations that might arise in the coming years. These could include water crises and climate change.

**Please join us for a day of thinking, networking, planning and skill sharing.**

### The purpose of the Indabas

We would like to address the following questions in the Indabas Programme

1. How can we assist each other to become prepared and responsive to the changes in the Olifants Catchment?
2. How can we remain relevant and effective as CSOs?
3. How can we build capacity of CSOs to tackle systemic issues?
4. How is climate change going to impact us?
5. Do we know our rights? Can we use our rights?

**DATE:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016

**VENUE:** Loskop Valley Lodge, R25 to Bronkhorstspuit (3km outside Groblersdal)

**TIMES:** 8:30 for 9:00 - 16:30

Morning tea and lunch will be served. Please advise any special dietary needs.

Please approach us if you have special needs regarding transport.

We would appreciate your response regarding your availability on those dates.

Please RSVP to [stella@zingelaulwazi.org.za](mailto:stella@zingelaulwazi.org.za)

Please see this as a closed invitation for 1 -2 people from your organisation.

Please feel free to nominate other organisations this discussion may be relevant to by forwarding their contact details to Stella Horgan: [stella@zingelaulwazi.org.za](mailto:stella@zingelaulwazi.org.za)

Tel. 076 885 8168

## CSO Indaba - CYCLE 2

In Cycle 2 we would like to provide a platform to enable a context for:

- *Who are we?:* Who attended the first cycle of Indabas? What was their focus area? Can we create a collective vision?
- *Planning:* Can we share skills, information, strategies? Self organisation and networking.
- *Collective Action:* How can we be most effective?
- *Catchment Action Tools - CAT:* Technologies and tools that can help us achieve our goals together

**Non-profit organisations that attended the last Indaba and that have been invited to this one are:**

- Afrika Leadership Development Institute
- AWARD
- Action Aid: Women Affected by Mining United in Action
- Affected Communities Justice Network
- Baitsusi Agricultural Project
- Bakone Bamaanakane Community Development Trust
- Basadi ba Bapedi
- CULISA
- Ephraim Mogale Umbrella
- Freedom of Expression Institute
- Ga-Mampa Community
- Khulumani
- Land Access Movement of SA
- Legal Resources Centre
- Limpopo Water Caucus
- Metsimadiba Goal Civic Organisation
- Moutse Youth Development
- Mpumalanga Water Caucus
- My Sister's Keeper
- Retsogile Trust
- Sekhukhune Combined Mining Affected Communities
- South African Green Revolutionary Council

*The RESILIM O project aims to strengthen and mobilise the Civil Society sector in the Olifants Catchment by building resilience through training, communications and supportive, enabling networking.*

The **Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD)** under a grant from USAID is exploring ways of building resilience in the Limpopo Basin. Resilience in the Limpopo Basin (RESILIM) is a project that involves the four countries of Mozambique, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa that share the Limpopo River Basin. This particular grant to AWARD looks specifically at the Olifants River that is shared between South Africa and Mozambique. The Olifants River contributes nearly half of all the water that flows in the Limpopo Basin.

As you might be aware the Olifants River stopped flowing for a number of days in 2005 and continues to do so nearly every year since then. This is of major concern for South Africa and Mozambique as our local economies and livelihoods depend on a healthy Olifants River.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) represent many vulnerable people and often have to deal with situations as people experience them on the ground. The Civil Society Support Initiative is a project of the RESILIM-O programme aimed at supporting civil society organisations so that they can be prepared for and better respond to various scenarios regarding climate change and natural resource availability.

## Background to Resilience



### Resilience: what is it?

Resilience - the ability to cope with change and bounce back from a disaster. But what does that mean in the context of the Olifants River Catchment? How does one build resilience? These and other questions will be tackled at the Cycle 2 CSO Indaba to be held in August 2016.

Here is a brief extract to give you a sense of the challenges we need to address:

*Our planet is deeply marked and influenced by our presence. Scientists argue we have entered an era where there are now so many of us, using so many resources that we are disrupting the whole planet's nutrient and energy flows leaving almost all the planet's ecosystems with marks of our presence. The systems that are shaped by the interactions between people and ecosystems are the essence of what we call a social-ecological system.*

*A resilience thinking approach investigates how these interacting systems of people and nature can best be managed in the face of disturbances, surprises and uncertainty. We define resilience as the capacity of a system, be it an individual, a forest, a city or an economy, to deal with change and continue to develop.*

*Taken from: CGIAR's Agriculture and Ecosystems Blog entitled*

### *Seven principles to guide a resilience approach*

The RESILIM O project aims to strengthen and mobilise the Civil Society sector in the Olifants Catchment by building resilience through training, communications and a supportive, enabling networking. Phase 1 research shows that a large portion of the CSO sector is currently reactive rather than proactive - we aim to contribute to transforming a core of CSO in the sector to be proactive and resilient in the face of climate change, resource degradation and growing livelihood insecurity.

## RESILIM-O

### Resilience in the Limpopo Basin – Olifants catchment

[www.award.org.za](http://www.award.org.za)

[www.ourolifants.org](http://www.ourolifants.org)

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