



INVITATION

TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN THE OLIFANTS RIVER CATCHMENT

CSO INDABA Cycle 2: *BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE OLIFANTS CATCHMENT*

Thursday 25th August,
Upper Olifants Catchment : Middelburg

Dear Fellow CSO

Following on from our first meeting at the CSO Indaba on 30th March 2016, we would like to invite you to the Second Cycle of the CSO Indaba.

The [Association for Water and Rural Development \(AWARD\)](#) under a grant from USAID is exploring ways of building resilience in the Limpopo Basin. This 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.

We would like to invite you to a day to deliberate on how CSOs can better self-organise 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 and planning

DATE: Thursday 25th August 2016

VENUE: Nkangala District Municipal Office Building, Board Room, 24 Walter Sisulu Street, Middelburg

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.horgan@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

Tel. 076 885 8168

The purpose of the day includes the following:

We would like to provide a platform to enable a context for:

- Discussion and meeting each other
- Assessment: who is working where and what are they focusing on? How are they doing?
- Planning: can we share skills, information, strategies? Self organisation and networking.
- Powerful collective actions: how can we be most effective? Presentation by Shirami Shirinda of Legal Resources Centre
- Catchment Action Tools: a discussion of tools and technologies that support collective action

And we would like to address the following questions:

1. How can we assist each other to become prepared and responsive to the changes in the Olifants Basin?
2. How can we remain relevant and effective?
3. How can we build capacity of CSO organisations to tackle systemic issues?
5. How is climate change going to impact us?

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.

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

- Abundance
- Action Aid: Women Affected by Mining United in Action
- Action Voices: Community Monitors Project
- Community Initiative for Social Enrichment
- Doornkop CPA
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Friends of Loskop
- Highveld Environmental Justice Network
- Ihawu Lemvelo
- Khulumani Support Group
- Legal Resources Centre
- Middelburg Environmental Justice Network
- Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA)
- Mining and Environmental Justice Community Network of SA
- Limpopo Water Caucus
- Mpumalanga Water Caucus
- Mpumalanga Youth Against Climate Change
- One Million Climate Jobs
- SA Faith Communities Environmental Initiative
- SA Food Sovereignty Campaign
- SA Green Revolutionary Council
- South African Water Caucus
- United Front
- WAMUA

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

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