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## THE 19th SANCIAHS Symposium – 2018

The 19<sup>th</sup> SANCIAHS symposium was hosted by the home of the Big Five, the Kruger National Park, Skukuza Camp. The theme of the conference was “*The hydro-illogical cycle: predicting and managing droughts*”. SANCIAHS (South African National Committee of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences) is constituted by industry experts and outstanding academics & students. The 2018 symposium was put together by the South African National Parks (SANParks), Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA), the South African Water Research Commission (WRC) and the IWR Water Resources through their collaborative efforts.

The 3-day long conference saw robust engagements among a plethora of highly esteemed water experts and students who demonstrated their expertise throughout the duration of the event. Packed with international and national delegates across the water sector, the event started with a casual meet and greet cocktail dinner at the *Nombolo Mdlulifoyer*. This was a great networking opportunity for the newcomers in the sector. Tuesday, September the 18<sup>th</sup> was the official conference opening day. This day kickstarted with a ground-breaking Des Midley Memorial Lecture presented by Prof. M. Muller under the topic: Three challenges to keep hydrologists and planners busy for another decade.

Professors Scholes and Hewitt also presented on the topics ‘Towards a South African Freshwater Ecosystem Research structure’ and ‘the role of ecological infrastructure in achieving water security’ respectively. This was followed by parallel sessions on droughts; ecohydrology and uncertainty; & modeling. Chairing these sessions were Mr. Stephen Mallory (IWR Water Resources Pty Ltd), Dr. S Gokool (University of KwaZulu Natal Centre for Water Resources Research, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa) and Dr. Tendai Sawunyama (IUCMA, Water Resource Planning & Operations) respectively. The day concluded with a Game Drive.

The second day started with sessions on Droughts, Water Resource Planning, Remote Sensing & Ecohydrology. This was followed by the second part of the day which was a plenary workshop also dealing with droughts with a presentation from the National Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) by M. B. Mukhawana. His presentation was about the drought status and management dashboard. This project, which is still at its introductory phase, is aimed at providing drought status in a timely manner viz. rainfall, river runoff, dam levels, groundwater, and Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) which provide an overview and the outlook of drought status – amongst others. A distinguishing feature of this project is the incorporation of multivariable into the determination of the real-time data which gives an enhanced outlook and overview across the land. The 2020 SANCIAHS Symposium will take place in Tshwane, Hosted by the WRC.

The conference was officially closed by handing over the prizes to the best students’ presentations which were as follows:

**First Prize** : Thomas Rowe (University of Kwazulu Natal)  
**Second Prize** : Tasmiyah Peerbhai (University of Kwazulu Natal)  
**Third Prize** : Keanu Reeve Sing (University of Kwazulu Natal)

In conclusion, the symposium local organizing committee would like to congratulate you all for your tireless effort and participation. Special shout out to the University of Kwazulu-Natal for leading up the prize’ ranks. Everyone is a winner! Looking forward to seeing you in 2020, keep up ‘hydro-illogical cycle’