

SESSION 1:

THE CRITICAL ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Chair: Claudia Sadoff (IWMI) | Venue: Ballroom 2

The science and technology community have typically spoken of the triple helix partnership of academia, public institutions and industry when driving a knowledge economy. Civil society was very much just a recipient of knowledge and solutions. However, civil society is at the heart of the enablement of a knowledge economy and forms co-equal partner in the co-creation and implementation of solutions. This is currently referred to as the 'quadruple helix' and drives a knowledge society and the democratisation of information and knowledge. It is only through active citizen participation in research, development and innovation that we can develop appropriate solutions which, in turn, foster ingenuity, creativity and entrepreneurship. This model calls for active collaboration with civil society. The quadruple helix innovation model goes further and premises that societal transformation and the gearing towards global change for the significant challenges of our time like access, poverty, climate change and sustainability requires an active and knowledgeable civil society to enable socio-ecological transformations.

Citizen science (CS) is a movement that is growing in prominence worldwide. It has been defined as the partnership between scientists and non-scientists where data is collected, shared and analysed. One of the most effective outcomes of citizen science is the movement beyond awareness raising, to actively mobilising and empowering people to take action and solve the environmental issues surrounding them. The latter model is a call to action of society and WRC research has supported the role of civil society in fostering citizen voice (advocacy role), citizen science and citizen action demonstrating the opportunities for local entrepreneurship to contribute to the change that is required through social franchising, social implementation models and social entrepreneurship initiatives.

PROGRAMME

11:00 – 11:10	Welcome and introduction	Claudia Sadoff (IWMI)
11:05 – 11:20	Keynote address	Lindiwe Sisulu (Minister of HSWS)
11:20 – 11:30	Discussion	All participants
11:30 – 11:40	MUS Handover of materials	Wambui Gichuri (AfDB) & Florence Tshilidzi Negondeni
11:40 – 12:00	Social franchising	Phil
12:00 – 12:20	The use and application of citizen science tools in water governance	Mark Graham/ Ayanda Lipheyana (GroundTruth)
12:20 – 12:40	Social entrepreneurship	Green Youth Network
12:40-13:00	Panel discussion	