

Call for Applications

WATER-ENERGY-FOOD (WEF) NEXUS TRAINING 2026

Water-Energy-Food (WEF)

Achieving water, energy and food (WEF) security is a priority for southern Africa, especially under unfavourable climate changes, increasing urbanisation, population growth, and rapid ecosystem degradation. The operationalisation of the WEF nexus approach will require a collaborative and inclusive approach, which considers the interconnections and interdependencies between the three sectors. Since 2011, when the WEF nexus first came to prominence, various actors have been championing it at various levels. There has been progress in building a shared understanding of the WEF nexus concept, the development of frameworks, analytical models and tools and the application of these to facilitate discourse.



ONLINE
MASTERCLASS

11 - 13

MAY 2026

IN-PERSON ADVANCED
SCHOOL FOR SADC
REGION

17 - 21

AUGUST 2026

DOCTORAL
TRAINING
PROGRAMME (DTP)

17 - 21

AUGUST 2026





The WEF Nexus Masterclass and in-person Advanced School are capacity-building initiatives to support early career researchers, postgraduate students, managers, and practitioners in understanding nexus thinking, particularly the WEF nexus, as a transformative approach to sustainable natural resources management and socio-economic development. As the field of nexus research is relatively recent, participants will be exposed to rapidly developing and critically important way of thinking. Participants will become more acquainted with the concepts, learn to apply frameworks, tools and methods for analysing the WEF nexus and how to use these to facilitate discourse and influence policy development and decision-making. The online WEF Nexus Masterclass is a feeder and preparation for the in-person Advanced School. The in-person Advanced school will be attended by a maximum of 30 participants. There is, however, no limit to the number of participants for the online Masterclass.

What to expect?

WEF Nexus Masterclass

The Masterclass is an introductory course to the WEF Nexus. It is a 12-hour class run over 3 consecutive days. The objectives of the WEF Nexus Masterclass are to:

- provide an introduction and foundation to the WEF nexus concept,
- introduce analytical tools and their application in facilitating discourse, with a focus on exposing participants to systemstinking and some of the approaches that underpin the WEF nexus, and
- serve as a foundational course and prerequisite for the in-person Advanced School.

There are no costs associated with the attendance of the WEF Nexus online Masterclass.

Upon completing the Masterclass, participants will be issued Certificates of Completion.

WEF Nexus Masterclass

The WEF Nexus in-person Advanced School builds on the understanding of the WEF nexus (gained in the Masterclass) to improve evidence-based decision- making capacities of current masters students, early career researchers (< 5 years post PhD), postgraduates (Master and PhD), managers and practitioners. Topics include:





1. achieving simultaneous WEF security,
2. sustainable natural resources management,
3. socio-economic developments,
4. understanding WEF trade-offs and synergies,
5. innovating through the WEF nexus for job and wealth creation, and
6. linking science to inform policy and decision- making in participants' respective countries. Particular emphasis is set on developing transdisciplinary professional competencies to prepare participants to address complex grand challenges through transformative approaches.

Therefore, the advanced school will focus on:

- Improving the ability to conceptualise the WEF Nexus linkages and potential impact on resource management and regional policies.
- Strengthening skills and knowledge, tools and methods for WEF Nexus assessments, planning,
- monitoring and evaluation.
- Networking and mentoring, i.e., improving international communication between practitioners, postgraduates, early career researchers, senior researchers, and experts to build and consolidate a WEF network in the Southern African region.

Upon completing the in-person Advanced School, participants will be issued Certificates of Completion

Who should apply?

- Early career researchers (< 5 years post PhD),
- Postgraduate students from any discipline working on WEF nexus issues. Preference will be given to PhD and Masters students in their 2nd year of study,
- Managers, practitioners (NGOs, Government, River Basin Organisations), and
- Stakeholders conducting research and development related to the WEF nexus and related fields such as agriculture, forestry, water, energy, engineering, climate change, ecosystems, and the environment.

Applicants must demonstrate an advanced (C1) English level (please see the application form).





Where?

- The WEF Nexus Masterclass will be delivered online from 11 - 13 May 2026.
- The WEF Nexus in-person Advanced School for Southern Africa will be held at Future Africa, University of Pretoria, Hillcrest Campus, Pretoria, South Africa, from 17 - 21 August 2026. There is no opportunity for online participation.
- All participants are encouraged to book their accommodation at the venue (check-in 16 August & check out 22 August 2026).

However, participants should only make bookings after they have received the confirmation of their attendance at the in-person event. This confirmation will be sent 3 weeks after the end of the Masterclass. The confirmation will be sent only to the participants selected for the in-person Advanced School.

Programme Costs

There is no fee associated with participation in the online WEF Nexus Masterclass. However, a fee is associated with the WEF Nexus in-person Advanced School. The following are the prescribed fees:

The fee for participation in the in-person Advanced school is €100.00. The fee includes registration, lunches and teas during the in-person Advanced School and the field trip. Participants are responsible for their accommodation, flights, airport transfers and meals outside the in-person Advanced School hours.

A limited number of full and partial sponsorships are available to financially needy candidates who meet the criteria to participate in the WEF Nexus in-person Advanced School (see application form for details). More details on the sponsorship are found on the application form.

To apply

Visit this [link](#) to fill in the application form for the WEF Nexus Masterclass and in-person Advanced School for Southern Africa. When applying, participants should indicate whether they wish to be considered for the Masterclass or in-person Advanced School or both.

Applicants should participate in the Masterclass to be accepted for the in-person Advanced School. This can be waived if participants previously attended the Masterclass in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.



All enquiries should be emailed to:

WRC: Luxon Nhamo luxonn@wrc.org.za

ICID: Sylvester Mpandeli sylvesterm@wrc.org.za

UKZN/LSHTM: Tafadzwanashe Mabhaudhi Tafadzwanashe.Mabhaudhi@lshtm.ac.uk

WaterNet: Krasposy Kujinga kkujinga@waternetonline.org / Ferzhaan Moses fmoses@waternetonline.org

IHE Delft: Seleshi Yalew s.yalew@un-ihe.org

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 13 APRIL 2026.

(Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.)

Collection of personal information:

Kindly note that the University of KwaZulu-Natal ("the University") is required to process any Personal Information (as defined by the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 "POPIA") submitted by candidates when applying for positions at the University. The provision of Personal Information is a requirement in terms of the University's recruitment and selection process. The retention of any personal information is a consequence of the University being bound by legislative requirements and/or good governance practices and record-keeping for statistical purposes. The University will endeavour to ensure that the appropriate security measures are in place and implemented for electronic and paper-based formats used to process the personal information recorded through this recruitment and selection process.

