



## Water Resources Management

# Operationalizing community-driven multiple use water services (MUS) in South Africa: Self-governance of water supply systems



Fig 2 Community's 'water wisdom'  
Considerable own investments for self-supply



Adopt a spring program



Vhembe first demonstration village:  
Tshakhuma

Self supply: 24/7 gravity storage  
117 households



Operationalizing Community-Driven Multiple-Use Water Services in South Africa

### Short project description.

The action-research project 'Operationalizing community-driven water services for multiple uses in South Africa' aims at three goals: demonstrating community-driven planning of water services in six communities in Limpopo Province, generating a knowledge base, and upscaling the lessons learnt at district, provincial, and national levels. The project is funded by the African Development Bank, and managed by the Water Research Commission. The NGO Tsogang and the International Water Management Institute are the implementers.

After one year of implementing the first participatory planning steps of this 2.5 year project, the plans have crystallized for the technical interventions that provide more water to homesteads to also enable small-scale productive uses by those who are interested. New institutional arrangements have to be forged for the management of the future construction/installations. This includes the structure of water users' organizations (membership, committee, operation), as well as the rule setting and enforcement. Rules should enable equitable productive uses. There are two types of collective systems in the six communities: first, independent self-supply systems or systems constructed by NGOs and handed-over to communities (which require regular contributions for operation and maintenance), or municipal systems (in which water is provided for free, but dependence on distant districts strong). The proposed study focuses on the first type in selected communities, and seeks to understand how water users organize as members and committees; which leadership exists since the initiative; how rules are set and enforced to ensure the sustainability of the system; and which external support, if any, is needed. The study differentiates by gender, class and age.

We look for candidates, preferably from South Africa, or the global South, specialized in water supply systems management (for multiple uses) and interested in field work.

Host institute(s): Barbara van Koppen [b.vankoppen@cgiar.org](mailto:b.vankoppen@cgiar.org) (principal researcher poverty, gender and water, based in IWMI office in Pretoria; co-supervision; provision of office space for periods in Pretoria; contacts/literature; assistance in installation of field office; €300/month to compensate research costs). The student/intern is expected to give a seminar for IWMI staff in the Pretoria office.

Country: South Africa Starting date: asap, Feb 2018

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