

# Second Order Water Scarcity in Southern Africa

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- **What is second order water scarcity? It is the lack of social and political adaptive capacity to manage water successfully to the satisfaction of all stakeholders**

## The partners:

- University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
- University of KwaZulu Natal,
- DfID



- **The participants:** Local community members, community health workers, community based organisations, traditional leaders, community leaders, water project teams, local development committees, water committees, councillors, local engineers, NGOs, Government ministry agencies and departments, donor agencies, project financiers, local businesses, regulatory organisations



- **Outcomes :** Hydropolitical maps, methodology for carrying out hydropolitical impact assessment.

## Time line

Participatory research training (Jun 2003)

Preliminary data analysis- Zambia (Oct 2003 –Mar 2004)

Critical data analysis- Zambia (Mar 2005 – Dec 2005)

Preliminary data analysis – South Africa (Jun –Oct 2005)

Critical data analysis – South Africa (May-Aug 2006)

Hydropolitical maps (Feb 2007)

Literature review (Jan 2003)  
Site selection (May 2003)

Data collection in Zambia- Phase 1 (Jul-Oct 2003)

Data collection in Zambia- Phase 2 (April 2004- Feb 2005)

Data collection in South Africa – Phase 1 (Jan-May 2005)

Data collection in South Africa – Phase 2 (Mar– Jun 2006)

## The project:

### In South Africa

After the end of Apartheid, South Africa was left with severe backlogs in access to basic water and sanitation. The country's many different social landscapes - from rural and traditional African settlements, to high-density urban slums - complicate this challenge.

Today, South Africa has one of the most progressive water policy frameworks in the world. But the ways in which formal and customary institutions interact to shape water access are still not well understood.

Through this project, we are working to produce a hydropolitical map of the complex and shifting relationships of cooperation, competition and conflict. By illuminating the field, the map is being designed to help various stakeholders downgrade conflicts and competitions to relationships of cooperation.

### In Zambia:

The classification of ground water as private water and surface water as public water in the current Water Act results in fragmented use of ground water and regulation targeted at surface water.

The National Water Policy recognises water as a scarce economic good and presents a cost recovery strategy for the urban water sector which often results in the urban poor being excluded from services and the use of shallow wells for domestic water

The external dependency of the rural water sector is only partially and temporarily addressed through the community managed water schemes

Water users use kinship, clienteles, social status, payments, participation in projects, neighbourly relations as strategies to ensure access to water

