

Dialogue on “COVID-19 and beyond: Building resilience through transformative and nexus approaches”

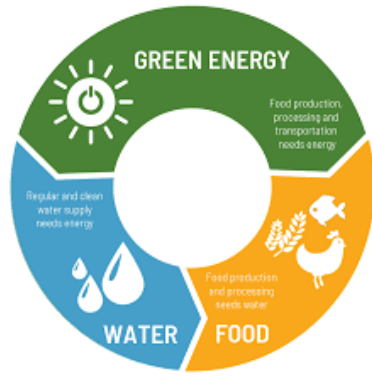
Venue: Water Research Commission

Date: Thursday, 30 April 2020

Time: 09h00 – 12h30

Background for the dialogue

Climate change and population increase are some of the greatest challenges facing humankind today, as they are modifying environments (both built and ecological), creating novel socio-ecological interactions, which have caused some of the worst pandemics in living memory. Novel human-wildlife interactions have accelerated the emergence of new pathogens in the human ecosystem like Ebola, HIV/AIDS and the recent SARS-CoV-2 (which causes the Covid-19 disease). As these interactions could be irreversible due to socio-ecological dynamics, and the risk of deadly novel infectious diseases, there is a need to direct our efforts and focus on enhancing adaptation and resilience. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) (2018), only 10% of the world's pathogens are documented presently, leaving a huge gap for research to study the rest, including the host animals. This dialogue aims to provide adaptation options through the water-health-ecosystem-nutrition (WHEN) nexus or “nexus thinking”. The purpose is to open a research platform on developing epidemic preparedness, and enhance preparedness against novel pathogens that they may not end as pandemics like what happened with the SARS-COVID-2 virus in 2020. The essence is to provide a systematic review of literature, showing what research has done and can do to reduce the risk on human health, focusing on available opportunities to improve sanitation, enhance human nutrition and immunity, and build resilience in the advent of environmental and climate change. Considering the experiences from the HIV/AIDS and the COVID-19 pandemics, there is a great need to develop transformative and nexus thinking conceptual and analytical frameworks to guide policy and decision-making to formulate strategies to build resilience and achieve SDGs 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and wellbeing), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 13 (climate action), 14 (life under water) and 15 (life on land). The dialogue provides pathways towards healthy and sustainable socio-ecological interactions, and



achieve the 2030 global agenda on ensuring a healthy lives and sustainable livelihoods for all and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Aim of discussion

The purpose of the dialogue is to (a) provides adaptation options through the water-health-ecosystem-nutrition (WHEN) nexus or “nexus thinking, (b) to open a research platform on developing an epidemic preparedness index, and (c) enhance preparedness against novel pathogens that they may not end as pandemics like what happened with the SARS-COVID-2 virus in 2020.

Programme:

Facilitator: Luxon Nhamo/Sylvester Mpandeli

Speaker	Title	Time
	Logging-in and preparation	09:00 – 09:30
Dhesigen Naidoo	Welcome	09:30 – 09:45
Sylvester Mpandeli	Aims of the dialogue	09:45 – 10:00
Tafadzwanashe Mabhaudhi	COVID-19 and beyond: Building resilience through transformative and nexus approaches	10:00-10:30
Gareth Simpson	Linking Covid-19 with WEF nexus	10:30 – 11:00
Sylvester Mpandeli	Discussion and questions	11:00 – 11:25
Stanley Liphadzi	Closing remarks	12:25 – 12:30

Who should attend?

All stakeholders in the Water, Health, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Environment and local government sectors including members of community of practice, government departments, academics, water catchment management agencies, non-governmental organisations representatives and business should attend.