

Title: Deutsch-Südafrikanischer Workshop für nachhaltige ressourcenorientierte Siedlungswasserwirtschaft und Bioabfallnutzung
Workshop on Sustainable Resource Based Sanitation and Organic Waste Utilisation

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Event: **Preparatory workshop**, Germany, October 2012
Workshop, Potchefstroom, South Africa, 4-14 March 2013

Brief description:

Wherever people live, sewage and organic refuse is generated. But how can this problem be solved as efficiently and sustainably as possible? This is the issue young scientists from Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and North-West University, Potchefstroom, will be tackling at a ten-day workshop held between 4 and 14 March 2013 in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

The aim of the workshop is to develop a concept for sustainable residential water and waste management for South Africa using organic resources. In parallel to the exchange of knowledge at an international level, the workshop is intended to generate new ideas and to provide the participants with information on the latest scientific developments in research as well as in the field. As it is of great importance for the subsequent implementation of the concept that local decision-makers are aware of the importance of sustainable residential water management and the use of organic waste and that they are won over as multipliers, ten South African representatives from the fields of industry, public administration and politics took part in addition to three professors and nine young scientists each from Germany and South Africa. A preparatory workshop to strategically prepare the participants for this public relations work took place in Weimar, Germany, back in October 2012.

The results of the workshop in South Africa will be compiled in a strategy paper for the implementation of *Sure Sow* in South Africa. The paper will place particular focus on the importance of the legal and administrative framework conditions and the question as to how they can be adapted to the situation in South Africa.

The working groups and plenary sessions are complimented by excursions, meaning the results of the workshop are strongly related to practice. For example, a visit to a waste water treatment centre with sludge decomposition and an informal settlement means that the participants can analyse the current situation in the field. Based on the impressions gathered,

the participants will discuss the possibilities for collecting, transporting and treating organic materials such as faecal matter and waste and will work together to develop proposals for new solutions. An excursion to a local gold mine should help the participants recognise the potential for the products of organic waste treatment, for example in the recultivation of land.

Initial activities in the area show that residential water management and the utilisation of organic waste is already an important issue: as early as 2011, the *Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management* at the North-West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa, opened a free information centre that helps the communities in the *North-West Province* with any questions relating to the disposal of waste and waste water. The workshop in March supports these developments: it will focus not only on academic discussions, but also on specific proposals for the local administrations.