



Media Release

Call to the citizens of Cape Town and other communities in water-stressed parts of South Africa

Advance water sovereignty and build people's power:
Let's work towards a people's water charter for South Africa

The Co-operative and Policy Alternative Centre (COPAC), an alliance partner of the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign (SAFSC), has developed a citizens activist tool to democratise water resources in South Africa. We understand that the drought facing the city of Cape Town is the result of corporate induced climate change and carbon criminal states, like South Africa, which are addicted to fossil fuels.

This is going to be our new normal and the ruling classes expect poorer communities to carry the cost of this climate shock.

We are already witnessing water stress in various poor communities in South Africa on a daily basis.

We note the following:

- South Africa is a water stressed country, almost 98% of our water is already allocated, which means that we only have 2% available for emergencies or future allocations;
- Industrial agriculture uses 62% of the country's water;
- 54% of South Africans do not have access to clean water through a tap in their home;
- Of the 223 river ecosystem types, 60% are threatened with 25% of these critically endangered due to pollution;
- There are 5 000 private dams on farms and this water isn't being shared with affected communities in different parts of the country;
- It is estimated that 37% of South Africa's clean, potable water is being lost and wasted through poor infrastructure such as leaking pipes;
- Gauteng is experiencing ongoing acid mine drainage within the West and East Rand of Johannesburg as well as serious pollution of the Hartebeespoort Dam and the Vaal river barrage through sewerage and multiple other pollutants.

As COPAC and SAFSC we are saying that we have to ensure peoples power prevails over water resources. In this regard we have designed a water sovereignty activist tool available on our website at this [link](#).

Let's work together to claim our rights, advance people's science, agroecology and water sovereignty.

Use our water sovereignty tool to learn more about these people's solutions and engage your community. Let's take this conversation to a national process in 2018 to put together a People's Water Charter for South Africa to advance water sovereignty.

For more information, contact:

Vishwas Satgar: 082 775 3420

Ferrial Adam: 074 181 3197

Xolisa Bangani: 081 414 8411

Jane Cherry: 084 236 3649

Link to activist guide: http://www.safsc.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Water-Guide-Final-Web_colour.pdf