



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

04 June 2013

UCT researcher develops index to improve sustainability of urban water supply

Kirsty Carden's PhD research at the University of Cape Town focuses on creating an understanding of sustainability in a South African urban water context using a systems approach. A framework for sustainability in the SA water sector was developed and used to identify suitable indicators for the assessment process – preferably linked to existing measurement initiatives in the SA water sector.

This led to the development of a composite index, the "Sustainability Index for Integrated Urban Water Management" (SIUWM), which provides a summary analysis of the factors that make for sustainability within the urban water sector. The index can be used as an advocacy tool to encourage institutional and political support for improved delivery. It was used to measure the current situation pertaining to the nine member cities of the South African Cities Network.

Carden is one of a group of PhD students graduating this week at UCT. She has a BSc and an MSc (Applied Science in Civil Engineering) from UCT. Carden has been a member of the Urban Water Management group in the Civil Engineering Department at UCT since 2004, when she commenced her MSc studies. While completing her postgraduate studies she has contributed to, and helped to manage, a number of research projects. This included assistance with the supervision of several BSc (Eng) and MSc students. Her PhD supervisor is Associate Professor Neil Armitage.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Kemantha Govender

Media Liaison Officer
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Welgelegen, Upper Chapel Road Extension
Rosebank
Tel: (021) 650 5672 Fax: (021) 650 3780
Cell: (084) 737 6522
E-mail: kemantha.govender@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za