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## **UCT statement on the impact of the water crisis**

The University of Cape Town is at this stage not facing the risk of any research activities having to be curtailed as a result of the water crisis in Cape Town.

The university has set up a Water Task Team to address and manage the impact of the drought on UCT. The team has implemented a number of initiatives, including an awareness campaign, water use reduction measures, securing water sources for UCT and location of water meters for accurate data gathering.

The dedicated Water Task Team is represented by senior academics as well as technical and maintenance staff who are actively involved in water projects on the various UCT campuses. In addition, the university has a health and safety risk management plan in place.

Discussions on planning for UCT's preparedness for the potential day zero and some of the contingency plans needed to deal with water shortages have taken place in order to mitigate the threats of water shortage.

Following three successive years of below average winter rainfall, there is a potential risk that Cape Town could run out of water by mid-April 2018 if water conservation targets are not achieved; if new water schemes are unable to provide sufficient volumes of water to meet the demand; and if no significant rains fall prior to the winter rainfall season mid-year.

The crisis is being managed by a competent authority that is also drawing on local and international expertise and experience. Thus far, progress is encouraging in efforts to avoid a large city running dry.

UCT is highly dependent on the City of Cape Town's water supply. While the university is actively engaging in its own plans to conserve water and augment supplies, it will not be able to operate without the assurance of the current bulk water supply to its premises.

UCT acknowledges the uncertainty and potential anxiety over the coming months, but the university is also increasingly encouraged and optimistic about progress.

Read more about how UCT has responded to the water crisis [here](#).

***ENDS***

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