

**Subject line:** Invitation: Science and Disaster Management for Social Justice, 5-6 December 2022

## Science and disaster management for social justice

NSTF Discussion Forum at the 2022 World  
Science Forum

5-6 December 2022, Cape Town



The [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) Discussion Forum on [Science and disaster management for social justice](#) is a hybrid side event at the [World Science Forum \(WSF\)](#) on 5-6 December 2022 in Cape Town. The WSF is proudly hosted by the South African Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). The main topic, subtopics and speakers were planned by the NSTF representatives of the [Science Councils and Statutory Bodies sector](#).



**Background:** During disasters, work based on science helps to guide decision making, from evacuation planning, search and rescue, health and safety monitoring, to basic resource provision and environmental restoration. Science is also used in systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters to reduce the risk of (re)occurrence. It is important to communicate clearly and promote awareness among the population, including rural, remote and township communities. Making sure that everyone is included in communication, emergency measures, and prevention of disasters is critical for the success of disaster management. Without preventing, managing and mitigating disasters, there can be no social justice for the marginalised.

**Science for Social Justice:** The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) of South Africa (SA) is the host of the prestigious 2022 WSF organised in partnership with leading global science organisations, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the International Science Council (ISC), and the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), amongst others. The WSF is one of the most influential global platforms to interrogate the role science should play in society. In 2022, this event will take place for the first time in Africa, convened under the theme of 'Science for Social Justice'. NSTF is proud of its ongoing collaboration with the DSI.

**Purpose :** The [NSTF](#) in SA brings together various stakeholders in science, engineering and technology (SET). For the past two years the representatives in the Forum addressed issues relating to the pandemic. To continue the NSTF conversations around the [SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and the lessons learnt](#) from this disaster in a broader context, it was decided to address disasters as a subject and to host this event on the side lines of the WSF. This discussion forum provides a platform to share knowledge and insights on the connections between disaster management, science and related issues of social justice.

**Themes:** Scientists and related professionals from various disciplines and stakeholders are invited to participate in discussing the following questions:

- How does/can SET and innovation contribute to early warning systems?
- How can disaster awareness be promoted among the public based on evidence and science?
- How can science be applied to maintain and restore environmental balance?
- How can science be used to improve the livelihoods of survivors in affected areas?
- How should disaster management and social justice be taught at school?
- How can science contribute to the reduction of specific types of disasters, such as water-, fire-, built environment and health-related disasters?

**Outcomes:** We aim to answer the question: *How can science support the reduction of disaster impacts in terms of management, precautionary measures, social justice and public awareness?*

We aim to formulate recommendations:

- On how to promote public awareness on disasters
- On how to recover from the effects of disasters
- On how to prepare for disasters

**Outputs:** As is usual for [NSTF Discussion Forums](#), a media release will be issued which summarizes the most important issues and conclusions. The following outputs will also be made available through social media platforms ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#)); and on the [event page](#) on the NSTF website:

- Presentation slides (depending on permission from the speakers)
- Speakers' biographies
- Video recordings on the [NSTF YouTube channel](#)

NSTF will engage the media on possible interviews and/or articles, and post on social media before, during and after the event.

**Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points:** CPD points will be awarded to attendees who are registered with [SACNASP](#) (South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions). For other affiliations, please contact the NSTF office at [enquiries@nstf.org.za](mailto:enquiries@nstf.org.za).

### **NSTF Discussion Forum: Science and disaster management for social justice**

**Date:** 5-6 December 2022

**Time:** 09:00-12:00

**Register (hybrid event):** You have the option to participate in-person at the venue in Cape Town

or online via the NSTF Zoom platform. You will receive an email confirming the details of the event (venue details or Zoom link). Click here to [register](#).

### **#WSF2022 #disastermanagement #socialjustice**

*Attendance and participation in this NSTF Discussion Forum is FREE to all those interested – both for the in-person and online events. Space at the in-person event is limited and on a first come, first serve basis. (Note: Accommodation and travel for in-person attendance are for your own expense.)*

*Please note that if you do not RSVP, the NSTF cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen changes or cancellations of programmes. Communications are sent only via e-mail or through notifications on the NSTF website.*

**The WSF:** The World Science Forum is an international event that South Africa is honoured to host this year. It is an opportunity for learning, exploring and discussing the science-society interface, and how social justice relates to it. For the WSF event as a whole, there will be a host of exhibitors (which includes the NSTF) and a variety of sessions, see the [programme](#).

**About the NSTF:** The NSTF is a non-profit [stakeholder forum](#) representing the SET and innovation community in South Africa. The [membership](#) consists of more than 120 organisations, and ranges from research institutions, universities and state entities to business, [professional societies \(proSET\)](#) and civil society. The NSTF promotes collaboration and critical thinking among a broad range of stakeholders. [NSTF Discussion Forums](#) gather stakeholders together, across the public and private sectors, to exchange knowledge and ideas, and give feedback to government and relevant authorities.