

Interactive comment on “Why a regional approach to postgraduate water education makes sense – the WaterNet experience in Southern Africa” by L. Jonker et al.

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Response by the authors to referee #3

We thank the reviewer for valuable comments and insightful suggestions. Here is our response to all specific issues raised:

1. RC: Paragraph 2 on the scope of the article and the scope of HESS. AC: This is a special issue on education and so the article is appropriate.
2. RC: Paragraph 3 on the issue of research question and new concepts. AC: This

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concern we address by changing lines 12 to 21 on page 3583. The first objective (lines 12 -18) was changed to the conceptual framework of the study, and it was explicitly stated that the paper reports on a first attempt at evaluating the success of WaterNet. We also replaced the second and third objective with three objectives that more accurately reflect our aim with the paper namely, describe WaterNet, assess the contribution of WaterNet to the capacity needs in the region and the contribution to research output.

3. RC: Paragraph 4 on an elaboration of the ‘sharing issues’. AC: An elaboration of the sharing issues will be included in section 2 “Water Resources Management in Southern and Eastern Africa”.

4. RC: Paragraph 5 on more information on other networks, further information on historical patterns of management. AC: To address the concern regarding other water networks in Southern Africa and elsewhere (Saci-Water in South East Asia) we will insert a paragraph in section 3 after line 8 on p. 3585. On the historical patterns of management the following: We do not have the data or access to data on the historical patterns of management, distribution and access to water in the region. Furthermore, the region comprises 14 countries, each with its peculiar history that it would take too long to collect data.

5. RC: Paragraph 6 on the contest of the three lessons and the wish to read more on the South African water problems. AC: The three lessons will be incorporated in a discussion on the structure of WaterNet, the successes achieved in capacity building and the successes in facilitating research. In this way they should be better contextualised than is currently the case.

WaterNet does not focus on South Africa but on Southern Africa (14 countries) and 2 Eastern African (Kenya and Uganda) countries. Each of these countries has its own peculiar water problems. In addressing water questions within the context of WaterNet, we cannot focus on South Africa only but have to focus on 16 Southern and Eastern Africa countries.

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