

# Winning team of the Wetskills Challenge SA

**NELSPRUIT** - Nearly 20 students from the Netherlands, Mozambique and South Africa had been working on different case studies since May 19, when they started their Wetskills Challenge South Africa with a brain hurricane on four specific water issues in southern Africa. On May 27 they presented their innovative concepts and plans at the WISA conference in Mbombela Stadium.

At the gala dinner the winner was announced: team no. 3, whose case name was 'Businesswise training and development and delivery'. Four young water professionals climbed the stage to collect their award: Erin Parenzee, Nthabiseng Masehla, and Mashudu Tharanga, all from South Africa, and Maarten van der Meer from the Netherlands.

The participants had been divided into four teams and were challenged to come up with out-of-the-box solutions. They were asked to come up with innovative ideas on four different topics: Efficient and cost effective solutions to address water and sanitation challenges; Transforming waste from a waste water treatment plant into business; the winning case, Business-wise training and development and delivery; and Designing a Smart Water App for farmers, citizens, water managers and perhaps even Kruger National Park.

The winning case addressed capacity development, and how vocational training can be a bridge between academic training and the responsibilities 'on-the-job'. The challenge was

to make a business model for development and delivery of practical training with the self-supportiveness of the model as a key element.

Waterskills Water Challenge is organised by Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP), in cooperation with Royal Netherlands Water Network and other partners within the water sector. This Wetskills Water Challenge SA 2014 is supported by Rand Water Board, NWP, WISA, SA Young Water Professionals, Waterschap Groot Salland & Hydrologic, H2Oost, the Centre of Expertise in Durban (a cooperation of Vitens-Evides and eThekweni Water & Sanitation) and the World Water Academy.

For more info go to [www.wetskills.com](http://www.wetskills.com).

