

# Biography: Dr Peter J Ashton

## 1. Employer

CSIR – Natural Resources and the Environment  
[www.csir.co.za](http://www.csir.co.za)

*Function in Organisation:* Principal Researcher and Divisional Fellow (Water Ecosystems Research Group).

## 2. Contact details

CSIR Natural Resources and Environment  
PO Box 395  
Pretoria  
0001  
South Africa

**Tel:** +27 12 841 3293  
**Fax:** +27 12 841 3594  
**Email:** [pashton@csir.co.za](mailto:pashton@csir.co.za)



## 3. Experience

Peter Ashton has worked in CSIR's contract R&D environment for the past thirty-two years. His scientific experience covers the fields of limnology, water quality, aquatic ecology, environmental monitoring and reporting, aquatic biodiversity assessment, transboundary river systems and integrated water resource management.

## 4. Principal research interests

- The incorporation of water quality and aquatic biodiversity information into decision-making processes in the management of transboundary water resources.
- Conservation and management of freshwater ecosystems
- The development of good governance approaches for effective decision-making in water resource management.
- The vulnerability, resilience and adaptability of complex social-ecological systems

## 5. Selected recent publications

Smakhtin V, Ashton PJ, Batchelor A, Meyer R, Maree JP, Murray R, Barta B, Bauer N, Terblanche D and Olivier J (2001). Unconventional water supply options in South Africa: possible solutions or intractable problems? *Water International*, 26(3): 314-334.

MacKay HM and Ashton PJ (2004). A model for co-operative governance in the implementation of cross-sectoral policy: water policy as an example. *Water SA*, 30(1): 1-8.

Ashton PJ, Patrick MJ, MacKay HM and Weaver AvB (2005). Integrating biodiversity concepts with good governance to support water resources management in South Africa. *Water SA*, 31(4): 449-456.

Roux, D.J., Rogers, K.H., Biggs, H.C., Ashton, P.J., and Sergeant, A. 2006. Bridging the science-management divide: Moving from unidirectional knowledge transfer to knowledge interfacing and sharing. *Ecology and Society* 11(1): 4. Available (online) at URL: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol11/iss1/art4/>

Ashton PJ, Turton AR and Roux DJ (2006). Exploring the government, society and science interfaces in integrated water resources management (IWRM) in South Africa. *Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education* (In press).

Ashton PJ and Neal, MJ (2005). Public involvement in water resource management within the Okavango River basin. In: C Bruch, L Jansky, M Nakayama & KA Salewicz, (Eds.), *Public Participation in the Governance of International Freshwater Resources*. Tokyo: United Nations University. Pages 169-195. [ISBN: 92-808-1106-1].

Ashton PJ (2006). The role of good governance in sustainable development. Chapter 5, in: AR Turton, DR Roux, M Claassen and J Hattingh (Eds.) *Governance as a Trialogue: Government-Society-Science in Transition*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag. Pages 80-100. (In press).

Ashton PJ and Turton AR (2006). Water and Security in Sub-Saharan Africa: Emerging Concepts and their Implications for Effective Water Resource Management in the Southern African Region. Chapter 55, in: (HG Brauch, J Grin, C Mesjasz, NC Behera, B Chourou, UO Spring, PH Liotta & P Kameri-Mbote, Eds), *Globalisation and Environmental Challenges*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag (In press).

Turton AR, Earle A, Malzbender D, and Ashton PJ (2006). Hydropolitical vulnerability and resilience along Africa's international waters. Chapter 3, in: AT Wolf (Ed.), *Hydropolitical Resilience and Vulnerability along International Waters*. Nairobi: United Nations Environment Program. Report No. UNEP/DEWA. 58 pages.