

A Quick Guide to the WaterCAN Citizen Science Platform

The WaterCAN Citizen Science Portal is an initiative by WaterCAN aimed at empowering South African citizens to actively participate in monitoring and safeguarding the country's water resources. Through this platform, individuals can engage in water quality testing, data sharing, and advocacy to ensure clean and safe water for all.

Key Features of the WaterCAN Citizen Science Testing Portal:

- **Water Quality Heat Map (WQHM):** An online tool where **Citizen Scientists** can upload water testing results, providing a visual representation of water quality across different regions.
- **Map My Water:** A feature that allows **Citizen Scientists** to report and view water quality data, enhancing transparency and community awareness.
- **No Water / Leaks Map:** An interactive map enabling **Citizen Scientists** to report water outages and leaks, aiding in the identification and resolution of water infrastructure issues.
- **Citizen Science Training:** WaterCAN offers training to equip individuals with the necessary skills to conduct accurate water testing and data collection.
- **Advocacy and Accountability:** The platform facilitates holding relevant authorities accountable by providing credible data and fostering community engagement in water governance.

A Snapshot of the Portal

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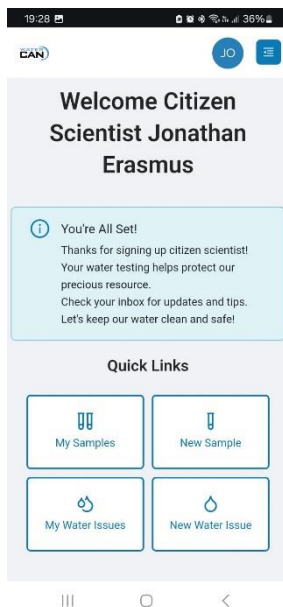
A Citizen Scientist can access the WaterCAN Citizen Science Portal via the **Map My Water** link at www.watercan.org.za. Below is a visual guide to key portal functions as seen on a mobile device.



Map My Water Page: This is the platform's landing page and demonstrates the power of the Map My Water feature. The data is completely transparent—no registration is needed to view the high-level results submitted by Citizen Scientists across South Africa.

Users can also quickly upload new data via a *Quick Capture* feature.

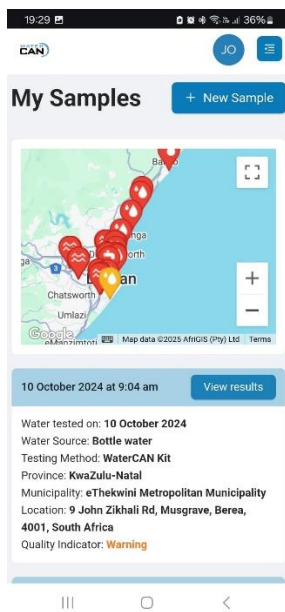
Creating an account is encouraged to enhance participation and gain access to more features.



Citizen Scientist Dashboard

After completing a two-step verification process, registered users are presented with four core functions:

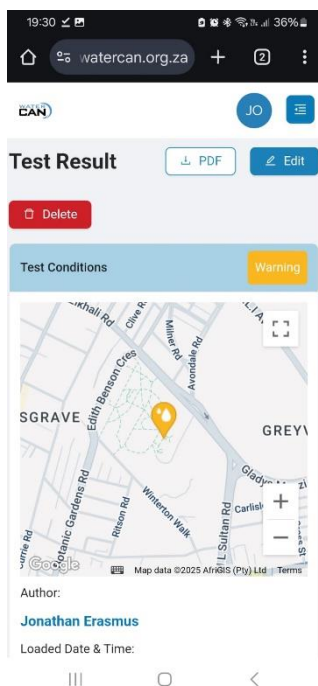
- **My Samples:** View a personal log of all submitted test results.
- **New Sample:** Upload a new water quality test.
- **My Water Issues:** Access previously reported issues such as leaks or outages.
- **New Water Issue:** Submit a new issue report.



My Samples

Every recorded test is stored and displayed in a visually interactive map format. The overview includes the test date, location, and a colour-coded water quality status.

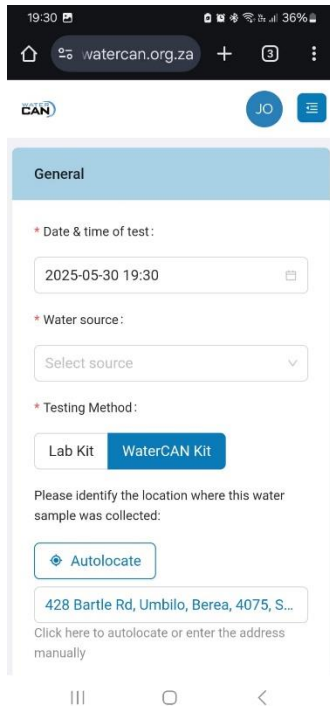
Clicking "View Results" allows the Citizen Scientist to access detailed results and associated photos.



Sample Detail View

Users can view all previous sample details, including any images uploaded during the test.

Each entry can be downloaded as a PDF report, suitable for submission to a municipality, the SAPS, or a Water Services Provider.

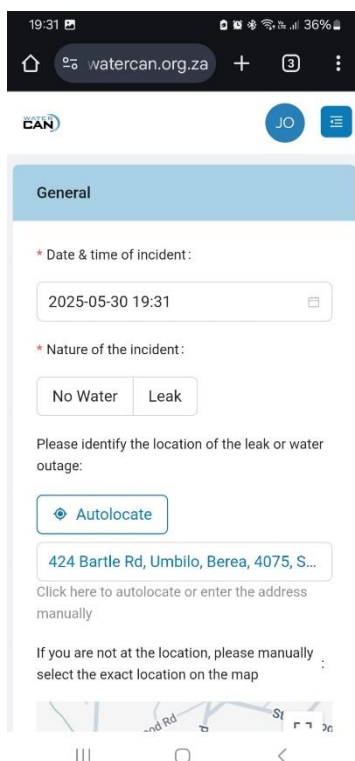


New Sample Upload

When uploading a new test result, the platform uses automatic geo-location to record the site.

Manual entry is also supported, allowing users without mobile signal or data access to complete the upload later.

Lab-certified test results can also be uploaded as official supporting documentation.



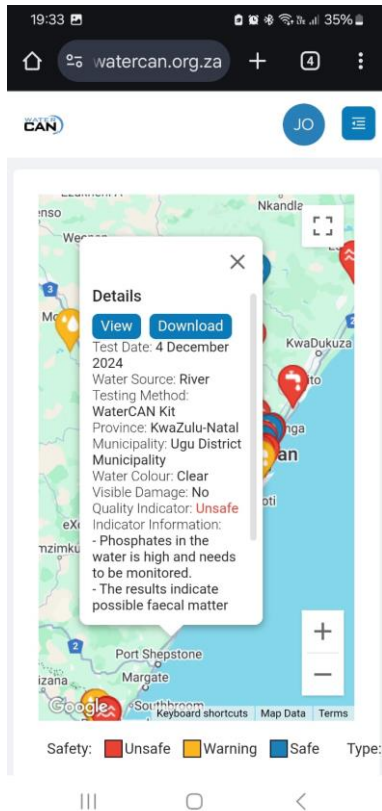
Water Issues: Tracking and Reporting

My Water Issue functions similarly to My Samples. It logs every water issue (like leaks or outages) that the Citizen Scientist has reported.

New Water Issue allows the submission of new reports, which are classified into two categories:

- **No Water**
- **Leaks**

Geo-location is again used to pinpoint the issue accurately.



Navigating the Menu

From the top-right **Menu Button**, registered users can explore all tests conducted across the country.

While basic data is visible to the public, registered Citizen Scientists can:

- Access detailed site-specific reports.
- View photos from the testing locations.
- Download comprehensive PDFs for advocacy and official reporting.

These reports are admissible for use in correspondence with local government, service providers, and law enforcement.