

# South African wins Stockholm junior water prize

Gauteng's Claire Reid was awarded the prestigious Stockholm junior water prize during World Water Week in Stockholm.

The St. Teresa's Mercy School pupil received the prize – a USD \$5,000 scholarship and a crystal sculpture – from HRH Crown Princess Victoria on behalf of the Stockholm Water Foundation.

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize is presented to a high-school student for outstanding water-related projects of environmental, scientific, social or technological importance each year.

Reid's project was selected from 26 entrants who had won national competitions.

The nominating committee described Reid's Water wise reel gardening system as "an innovative, practical, easily applicable technique for planting and successfully germinating seeds in water-scarce areas to improve rural and peri-urban livelihoods."

Reid developed the system to assist farmers use water for crops more efficiently. This simple and effective seed-planting system cuts water usage down by as much as 80 % by reducing water leakage into the soil. The system keeps seeds moist, in order for them to germinate, without wasting water.

"The Stockholm Junior Water Prize has established itself as the 'world championship' for water research among the youth," says committee chairman Dr Johan Rockström of the University of Zimbabwe.

"This is a great achievement, but more importantly it is filling an

enormous gap. There are simply far too few arenas where young people are recognised for excellence in managing our finite and precious natural resources, such as water."



Claire Reid receives her prize from HRH Crown Princess Victoria.