

Songs of Dust and Water: Organisation Information Sheet

The book

Songs of Dust and Water by M.J. Hydera. Independently published, 2026. English. Literary fiction.

- **Paperback:** ISBN 9798162251088, 252 pages. Published 16 October 2026.
- **Kindle edition:** published 15 October 2026.
- **Length:** about 60,000 words; 28 chapters and a Coda, in two parts.

What it is about

Two development projects in the dry country of West Africa, ten years and six hundred kilometres apart. In the first, a foreign-funded plant of glass and steel is built beside a village that is never allowed to touch it. In the second, a village with a bitter well takes help on its own terms: it keeps its accounts on a wall and writes rules that hold. Then a company offers to buy everything the villages have made, and they must vote.

Why it suits organisations

The novel gives a group a shared story to think with, set in countries of its own, so nobody has to defend a real project. The group is free to question how either village does things: it is a story to think with, not a model to copy. Suggested themes for discussion:

- Who owns a project, and who is allowed to mend it
- How a community makes rules for shared money, and tests them
- What an open ledger protects, and what it exposes
- Unpaid work, and who counts it
- What a choice costs, and who pays

It may suit charities and development organisations, cooperatives, water and environmental groups, community groups, libraries and workplace reading groups.

Free support on the website

- A **self-guided discussion session** of 60 to 90 minutes that the group runs itself, built on Part One (chapters 1–9), with an optional second session on Part Two: **the session**.
- A reading-group guide in three meetings, a glossary and guide to the names, and a quotation bank.
- Permission to print, copy and adapt the materials for discussion within your organisation, with credit (**full terms**).

Ordering copies

- **Paperback** from [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) or [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). A Kindle copy belongs to the Amazon account that bought it, so for a group the paperback is usually the practical choice.
- Bookshops and libraries can ask their usual supplier to check ISBN 9798162251088. Wider distribution may take a few weeks to appear in catalogues.

Free resources: songsofdustandwater.com/universities-and-groups · Checked against the novel, October 2026.