



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SOLICITED WRC PROJECT

KEY STRATEGIC AREA: 26

PROGRAMME: INTERNATIONAL AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

TITLE: A DESKTOP STUDY - MAPPING OF THE STRATEGIC AGENDAS OF THE WATER, SANITATION AND RELATED RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION (RDI) NETWORKS OPERATING IN AFRICA

1. General Objectives

To gather information on the existing African water, sanitation and related RDI networks, associations, forums etc. and their strategic agendas, short and long-term plans and business models. The results of the study will further inform the strategy of the Water Institute Alliance (WIA) currently established under the leadership of the Water Research Commission (WRC) and support of water sector partners operating in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Economic Regions. The intention of WIA is to cover all Economic Regions in the African continent in the long-term.

2. Specific Objectives

- Identify and develop an inventory of the existing water, sanitation and related RDI institutional groups, associations, partnerships, forums and networks operating in Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the rest of Africa.
- Analyse each network's institutional mandate, geographical scope, strategic objectives, and alignment with the broader African water and sanitation policy agendas such as the Agenda 2063, the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with special focus on SDG6.
- Identify synergies, duplications or conflicts of interest between the continental and regional strategies and plans.

- Identify systemic gaps (continental and regional level) relating to the priorities in the agendas and existing enabling support instruments.
- Establish if there is alignment between the existing water, sanitation and related RDI agendas and the continental and or regional challenges and needs.
- Establish if the existing institutions/networks are able to provide the knowledge and solutions required to address the challenges and bridge the gaps.
- Conduct an analysis to see if the institutions are able to implement all activities that they are mandated to implement effectively.
- Provide recommendations on the strategic gaps that can be addressed by a multi-institutional, multi-stakeholder partnership mechanism such as WIA.

3. Rationale

Many of the region's water resources are overused, polluted and degraded. And yet Southern Africa has enormous untapped irrigation potential: only 7% of the region's 50 million hectares of arable land is irrigated. These growing water challenges facing the SADC water and sanitation sector are multi-faceted, and all stakeholders are affected and accountable. In addition, it is possible that the region's current physical infrastructure and institutional systems will not be able to cope with the pace and severity of the change, indefinitely. The multitude and complexity of threats to the region's water security include planning and urban development, water supply and sanitation, wastewater and solid waste management, public health, environmental regulation, economic planning and responsible water use. Water security in Southern Africa can only be achieved through effective multi-sector collaboration and partnerships and water stewardship. The region and Africa as a whole need to improve on the fragmented silo-driven approach that the water and sanitation sector is known for and facilitate processes to improve water security.

In view of the above, WIA is being established to proactively respond to the aforementioned complex and systematic water-related problems in various countries in Africa and her economic regional blocs in terms of Africa's prosperity and infrastructure investment models. The Water Institute Alliance (WIA) is a multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary collaboration mechanism that is strategically, tactically and operationally housed in the WRC. Under the auspices of the WRC, the Alliance will champion water security, and good water governance by tapping on existing RDI water initiatives aligned to African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and various Integrated Rural and Urban Infrastructure Investment Water and Sanitation Programmes and projects to drive Africa's Resolutions and Reconstruction Recovery Plans (RRRP).

The WIA constituency includes representatives from the water and sanitation sector such as public, private and civil society. The desktop report must identify current and future game-changers that could result in greater financial models for adaptation and resilience in rapid urbanisation:

- Enhanced private and public water and sanitation infrastructure management and planning including operation and maintenance of waterworks in various Water Services Institutions (WSIs), water drainage systems and roads and incorporating climate change. Rebuilding Africa's WSIs to respond to the range of rural and urban water security complex challenges may be critical for achieving regional economic block water security targets and related water nexus such as alternative energy and food security.
- Climate mainstreaming including artificial water business warming systems to deal with the consequences of climate change in both rural and urban Africa.
- Private sector financial instruments and tools to deal with higher emission scenarios especially after the devastating negative impact of climate change characterised by natural disasters and global pandemic like Ebola and Coronavirus (COVID-19). In other words, exploring demand-side water and sanitation policies, strategies and plans. For example, the Carbon Offsets bill could include project types that focus primarily on adaptation and vulnerability taking into consideration the Carbon Tax.
- Tracking urban water adaptation and resilience finance and institutional capacity, accountability and responsiveness (CAR) trends and game-changers per regional economic bloc to allow scenario mapping and planning of water security.
- Exploring strategies for using water as a catalytic resource for unlocking youthful Africa economic opportunities and potentials by providing a comprehensive insight into the key issues of political, economic, social, technical, legal and environmental factors from a demographic urbanisation perspective.
- Having interest in the coordination of research, development and innovation (RDI) programmes, projects and facilitation of knowledge, data and resource sharing to improve water sector efficiency and decision making. The Alliance was born out of a multitude of inputs, starting with stakeholder consultations in 2019 during the WRC symposium followed by several bilateral discussions with partners and guidance from the South African Water Research Commission (WRC) and other key partners in Africa. The WRC further appointed a Task Team to develop the concept note of the WIA which will further be presented to the broader network in 2021. The results of this study will be used to finalise the concept note and the medium-term strategy of the WIA.

4. Expected Key Outcomes

The outcome of the desktop study will be a mapping of the water, sanitation and related networks and institutions operating in the African continent and provide a better understanding of their activities, funding, strategic drivers, priorities, business models and alignment with the continental, regional and global agenda. The study will assist with the mapping of the stakeholder ecosystem in the continent and the taxonomies associated with institutional hierarchies. It will also provide the contact details of the organisation operating in SADC and the African continent and the packaging of these details will be discussed with the WRC project manager. The study will further point out the systemic gaps and propose enabling instruments, actions and shifts required to facilitate uptake and promote investment in water and sanitation RDI knowledge and solutions by the decision-makers in the water sector.

The appointed service provider will be required to organise and provide a report of the focus group discussions with representatives from a sample of key institutions to get in-depth understanding of their strategies, plans, priorities, establish what they consider as systemic gaps preventing effective and efficient support, coordination, implementation and uptake of water RDI activities and knowledge products in the continent. There will be a representative of the Task Team participating in each of the focus group engagements.

The appointed service provider will be expected to deliver a presentation to share the draft study findings at the launch of WIA during the WRC Symposium and submit a report of the launch proceeding.

5. Deliverables and timelines

Deliverables	Timelines
Launch of the ToR	26- March to 16 April 2021
Proposal review process	19-30 April 2021
Desktop study duration	1 May to 31 October 2021 (6 months)
Inception report outlining the methodology, plan of action on how the study will be conducted, clear activities, timelines and total proposed budget presented to the WIA Task Team	3 May 2021
Advance payment	Upon approval of the inception report
Progress report (including a summary of the focus group engagements) presented to the Task Team	31 August 2021
Deliver a presentation to share the draft study findings at the launch of WIA during the WRC Symposium and provide a report of the launch proceeding.	20-22 September 2021 (Exact date of the launch to be confirmed at a later stage)
Final report to be presented to the Task Team	18 October 2021

- A PowerPoint presentation summarising the overall results of the study. A draft report and supporting documents shared with the WRC 3 days before the meeting.	
Submission of the final report to the WRC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A final ready to print report incorporating input from the Task Team meeting and launch event - PowerPoint presentation summarising the overall results of the study. - Provision of data – share the information and data collected during the study in a user-friendly, searchable format. 	31 October 2021

6. Expected Impact Area

The expected impact of the desktop study:

- Identification of policy and research gaps in the Africa water sector;
- New value-adding activities to facilitate and support improved water sector decision making through STI;
- New models and partnership to improve investment in water RDI programmes;
- Targeted, high impact and improved coordination of activities by the sector;
- Increased multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships;
- Acceleration and uptake of knowledge products through different stakeholder groups in the African continent; and
- New immediate business and water STI opportunities identified for the SADC region and for the rest of the African continent in the medium to long term.

7. Estimated budget: R500 000,00

8. Application process

All proposals must be submitted through the WRC BMS portal <https://wrc.microsoftcrmportals.com/> by the deadline of 16 April 2021 at 15h00 South African time. Applicants will be required to register first before they can upload their proposal if using the system for the first time. The WRC will further enter into a contract with the awarded service provider and manage the project through BMS portal.

Portal link to register and apply: <https://wrc.microsoftcrmportals.com/>

System Support Requests should be directed to: bms-support@wrc.org.za

Call related questions and requests should be addressed to Mr Tiyani Chauke, E-mail: tiyanic@wrc.org.za