



Research, Development, & Innovation Strategy & Thematic Areas

Stanley Liphadzi



INTRODUCTION

- The WRC **coordinates, promotes, & funds** water **RDI** in South Africa.
 - This is done by **prioritizing water research** that is informed by the needs of water sector and stakeholders.
- The RDI agenda and projects of the WRC must make meaningful contributions in **addressing water security** and **socio-economic challenges** in South Africa
 - and also enable South Africa to have the **Innovation-driven** water sector.



The WRC has organized its RDI activities around **5 (five) thematic areas**, which are,

- **Water Availability,**
- **Water Use,**
- **Water Quality & Health,**
- **Advisory Support, and**
- **Knowledge Dissemination.**

The different thematic areas are detailed in **annexures (ppt by theme leaders) indicating priority areas** that this Call will focus on in this cycle (time period).



THE 2023 CALL aim

- To **respond to national challenges** in the light of climate change where research contributes to **resilience** and **adaptation**.



WRC Investment in the RDI Call

- **Seasoned researchers** linked to institutions of high learning (e.g. Universities) [allocated 10% of the total budget]*
- **Emerging researchers:** longer term funding for PhD student on existing projects + post/DocS + WRC funded project: 5-year window [allocated 20% of total budget].
- **Students in postgrad** seeking funding in our thematic areas of research [allocated 20% of total budget].
- **Women, youth, Cooperatives, environmental groups, and people living with disabilities** [allocated 25% of total budget].
- **Indigenous** people & knowledge systems/ non-tech researchers [allocated 5% of the total].
- **Innovation and tech companies-** SMME and commercial partners [10%]
- **Consulting companies** [allocated 5% of the total].

**NOTE: Budget allocation supporting each category of targeted group here above.*



Your Response to the Call Response

- a) The WRC will first require a **submission of a Concept Note**, that briefly present the research project you seek funding for. The **Concept Note template will be provided** with this call for proposals.
- b) Send your Concept Note only to the **email address [conceptnotes2023@wrc.org.za]** (in this Call) and dedicated to Concept Note Submission.
 - Concept Notes submitted to other email addresses or systems will not be considered. Similarly, submissions done after the due date (and time) will not be considered too.
- c) The WRC will review all the Concept Notes submitted and **decide on the most relevant ones** that address the issues presented in the *WRC's Call for Proposal* documents.
- d) **Only the proposers or Researchers of the selected Concept Notes** will **be invited to submit full proposals** to the WRC. The invitation letter will provide all due details regarding the due date and the channel to USE to submit the full proposal.



Action	Date
Videos	23 August 2023
Start of Advertisement: WRC Strategy & RDI Theme Roll-out Workshops	31 August 2023
Call Announcement	8 September 2023
Concept Notes Due Date	29 September 2023
Concept Notes Review	01 October – 13 October
Announcement & Invitation of Successful Concept Notes	18 October 2023
Due date for full proposal submission	30 November 2023
Proposal Review	01 December 2023 – 29 February 2024
Offer Letters	15 March 2024
Contract Start	01 April 2024



Thematic Areas By Theme leaders



Thank you

