



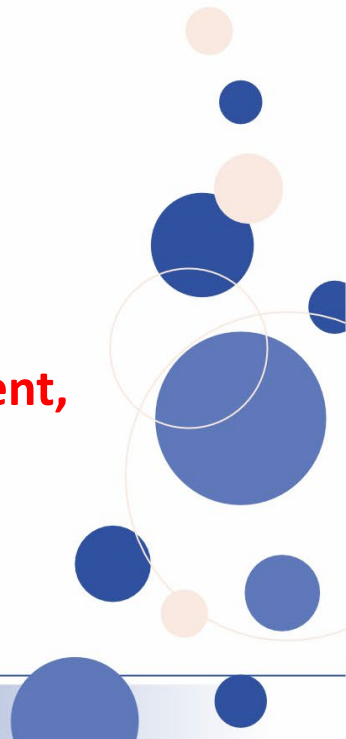
2025 Call for Proposals Research, Development, and Innovation

Overview



- The WRC fulfils its mandate by prioritising water research that addresses the needs of the water sector and its stakeholders.
- The RDI agenda tackles water security and socio-economic challenges in South Africa while driving an innovation-led water and sanitation sector.
- Five thematic areas guide the generation of new knowledge, the development of innovations, and capacity building:
 1. Water availability
 2. Water use
 3. Water quality and health
 4. Water advisory support
 5. Knowledge services

This call for research proposals aims to address national challenges through research, development, and innovation, enabling the WRC to enhance water security while promoting adaptation and resilience to climate change.



Strategic priorities

- The WRC's strategy is anchored on the following priority outcomes:
 1. **An innovative water sector** that leverages research, technology, and innovation to address challenges.
 2. **An informed and engaged society** that is empowered with knowledge and actively takes part in water-related decision-making.
 3. **A transformed water sector** that is inclusive, equitable, and reflective of South Africa's developmental goals.
 4. **An agile and adaptive organisation** that effectively responds to emerging challenges and opportunities in the water sector.

- These priorities are aligned to DWS and GNU priorities

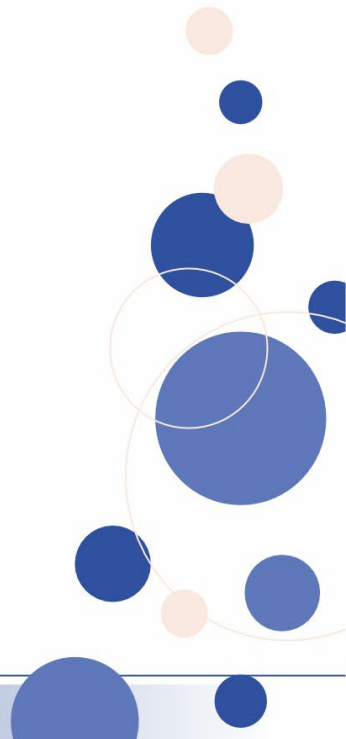
Medium Term Development Plan 2024 2029

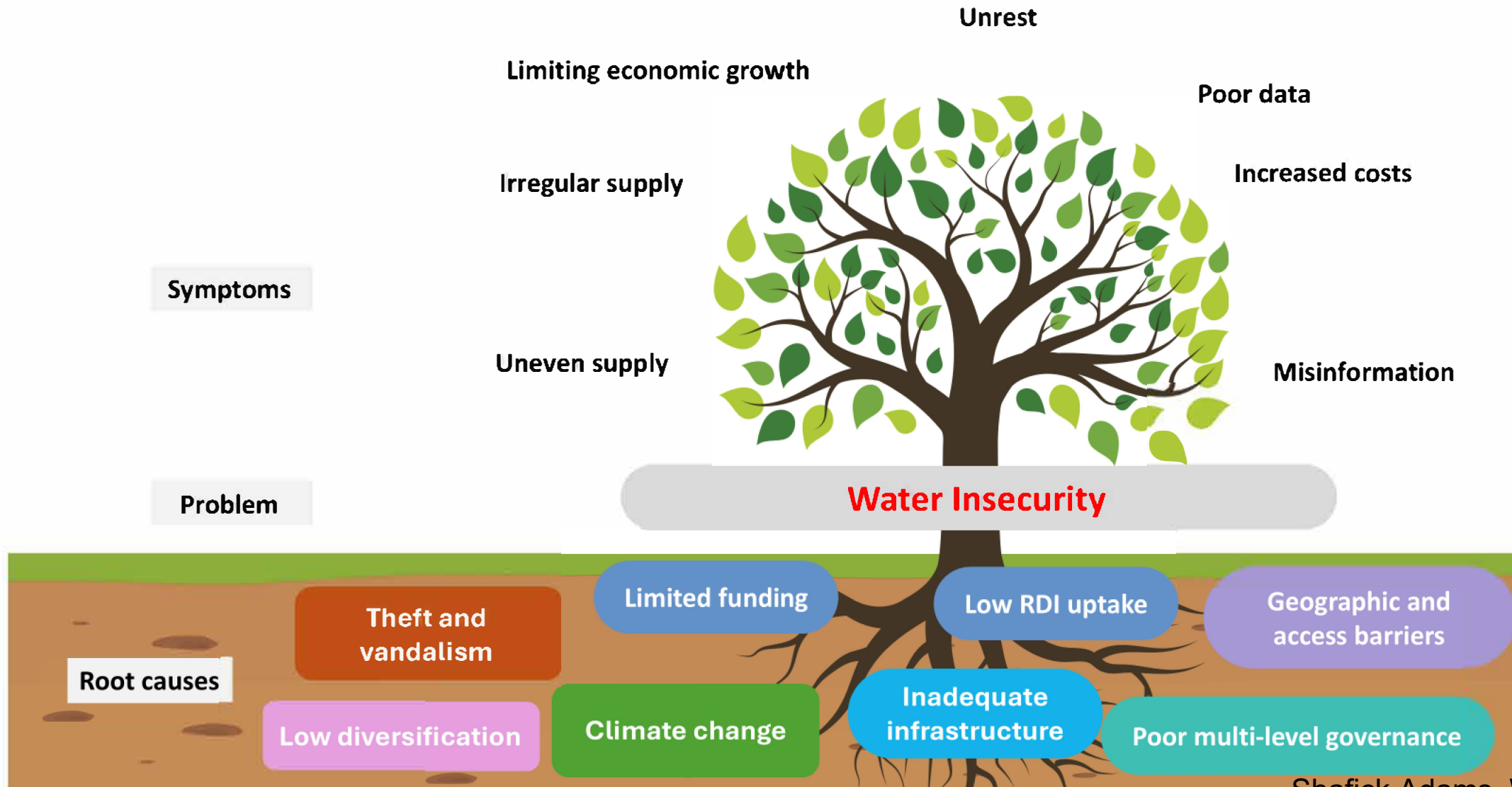
Three priorities of the government of national unity:

- To drive inclusive growth and job creation;
- To reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living; and
- To build a capable, ethical and developmental state.

Challenges

- Failing water service delivery at the local level.
- Inefficient water use across all users.
- Poor resilience to global changes
- Weaknesses in the institutional landscape or governance of water and sanitation
- Slow digital transition for improved water and sanitation management
- Deterioration of water resources and increase of associated health risks.
- Neglecting of new, emerging, and fundamental RDI





Shafick Adams, WRC

INPUTS

Who and what you
need for a successful
project (skills,
infrastructure,
equipment, ...)

ACTIVITIES

How will you be doing it?

OUTPUTS

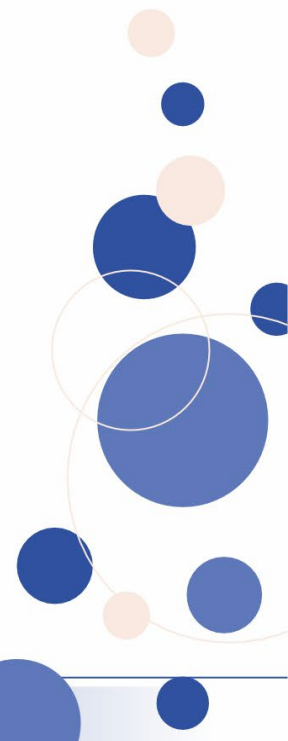
What are the outputs
that will enable the
outcomes?

OUTCOMES

What do we want
to change or
improve?

IMPACTS

Societal benefit
Environmental
benefit



Type of call areas

1. Open Research Call

- Knowledge Reviews
- Blue Sky RDI
- Impact Studies of WRC RDI
- Innovation Development
- Economics of Water

2. Open Targeted Research Call

- Youth Researcher Development
- Female Researcher Development
- Artificial Intelligence (& Internet of Things)

3. Open Directed Call (Project titles only)

4. Directed Research Call (with Terms Of References)

Study the call document

Important dates

START OF CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS	
22 January – 07 February 2025	- Launch and advertise the Call on various platforms - WRC 101 workshops
07 – 28 February 2025	BMS enabled to receive concept notes
SCREENING AND PRE-SELECTION OF SUBMITTED PROJECT PROPOSALS/CONCEPT NOTES	
01 March – 20 March 2025	- Initial screening of concept notes - Recommend concept notes to EXCO for approval.
24 -30 March 2025	Project leaders / institutions informed of the successful (approved) Concept Notes.
01 – 20 April 2025	BMS enabled to receive full proposal of Approved Concept Notes only.
EVALUATION , SELECTION AND MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT	
21 April to 15 May 2025	- Proposal review - BMS enabled to invite and receive reviewer comments
16 – 31 May 2025	Completion of Processes and meetings supporting WRC's meetings and decision making to result in proposals recommendation to EXCO for Approval
20 June 2025	Executive Approval for funding
21 June – 20 July 2025	Outcome of Exco decision to proposers BMS is enabled to receive proposal amendments
July 2025	Preparation of MoAs to start directly after proposal amendment is approved