



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SOLICITED WRC PROJECT

THEME:	Water Availability
TITLE:	Exploring rationalisation and optimisation mechanisms for monitoring the water resource to support CMAs

1. Rationale for the Study

The National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) provides for the management of Resource Directed Measures aimed at setting goals and objectives towards protecting water resources. These are:

- Classifying the Resource
- Setting the Resource Quality Objectives (RQOs)
- Determination of the Reserve

The RQOs, i.e. the quality and quantity of the water resource, require constant monitoring in order to inform decision-making within Water Management Areas (WMAs). However, challenges with capacity, infrastructure, and equipment continue to stifle the required monitoring as Catchment Management Agencies are tasked with monitoring water resources across these large areas. In many instances this is already done by other institutions like Water Boards, Water User Associations, NGOs, and even Universities, which all have the capacity to provide significant support to CMA efforts. Additionally, the proliferation of catchment partnerships provides a further opportunity for better collaboration and coordination between institutions.

Following the re-delineation of South Africa's WMAs through the third National Water Resources Strategy (NWRSIII) and the establishment of all six CMAs, there is an opportunity to streamline and better coordinate monitoring activities within WMAs in a manner that considers all the relevant mechanisms through which sampling is done and analysed, data is collected, stored, shared, and used. With the new WMA boundaries, there is also a need to map out important stakeholders and their activities within these geographical delineations. This ToR seeks a suitable service provider to assist in the mapping out of monitoring activities and networks within WMAs and identify how CMAs can better benefit from these.

2. Main Objective

Identify and map the existing and potential water resource monitoring networks, activities, and opportunities for collaboration with CMAs towards more effective data management and more efficient use of resources

3. Specific objectives

- Map out relevant data collection activities and networks within the WMAs
- Identify current and future opportunities for alignment, rationalisation, and optimisation of processes related to data collection and data management, including exploring potentially beneficial partnerships
- Explore, alongside all relevant stakeholders, potential data management practices, processes, and systems. Consider the resource requirements associated with these.
- Identify policy implications of project outcomes and communicate with stakeholders

4. Recommended deliverables:

1. Inception report and situation assessment, including a legislation and policy review guiding data management
2. Stakeholder analyses and maps for each WMA depicting individual active stakeholders/institutions and their activities and infrastructure, and exploring active information sharing platforms and processes
3. Gaps and opportunities report
4. Draft final report: Mechanisms for monitoring the water resource to support CMAs
5. Final print-ready report: Mechanisms for monitoring the water resource to support CMAs

Time frame : 18 Months

Total funds available: R800 000

***Notes:**

- This is intended to be a collaborative project with iterative and intense stakeholder engagement and requires a team that can demonstrate facilitation experience
- The WRC is working with CMAs through a growing Community of Practice. The project team may be requested to participate periodically in these discussions. The Community of Practice presents a potential mechanism for the project to engage with all CMAs and some other important institutions. This should be kept in mind during the development of proposals.