TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SOLICITED WRC PROJECT

Theme: Water Availability

Title: Securing South Africa's water future: Integrated assessment of sectoral competition and socio-economic vulnerability for equitable resource planning

ToR:

1. Rationale for the Study

South Africa faces growing water scarcity driven by climate change, population growth, and increasing sectoral demand. As water-intensive industries, agriculture, and urban centres compete for limited resources, equitable and sustainable water planning becomes essential to prevent socio-economic vulnerability and environmental degradation.

An integrated assessment of sectoral competition and water allocation strategies is important for equitable water allocation and resource planning. By analysing hydrological patterns, socio-economic impacts and governance frameworks, this work will identify vulnerabilities and optimise resource distribution. This will mitigate risks associated with droughts, water shortages and competing sectoral demands.

2. Main Objective

To develop an integrated assessment framework that evaluates sectoral competition and socio-economic vulnerability in South Africa.

Specific Objectives

- To identify sectoral water demands and assess competition between sectors.
- To evaluate the socio-economic impacts linked to water scarcity, especially among vulnerable communities.
- To develop policy recommendations to ensure sustainable and equitable water allocation.
- To evaluate the application of this framework within the context of compulsory licensing, as provided for in sections 43–48 of the National Water Act.

3. Deliverables

1. Report on sectoral water demand and competition across key sectors.
2. Assessment report on socio-economic vulnerability caused by water scarcity.
3. Integrated policy framework with actionable strategies for equitable and sustainable water allocation and management.
4. Interactive maps to visualise water availability and distribution.
5. Final print-ready report.

Total Funds Available: R 2 500 000

Year 1: R 200 000

Duration: 3 years