

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A DIRECTED WRC PROJECT

KEY STRATEGIC AREA	KSA8
THRUST	Strategic Planning
PROGRAMME	Research and Development
TITLE	Valuation of Research, Development and Innovation by WRC's stakeholders

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Background

The WRC is a member of the Global Water Research Coalition (GWRC). The GWRC members discuss, engage, and initiate projects that advance Research, Development and Innovation in water and sanitation which address common challenges or interests. In the previous meetings of the GWRC, members agreed to initiate several research projects. The project about "Valuation of water research and Innovation" is one the projects that the WRC expressed interest to participate in. Our participation as the WRC requires us to initiate a case study focusing on South Africa (involving our key stakeholders).

Motivation

In some cases, research and innovation are conducted to produce new knowledge and innovations that are poorly or not taken up by the water and sanitation sector or industries. One of the cause factors for this is the poor participation by the stakeholders (industries and public) in defining and expressing their needs with regard to RDI knowledge and innovation. This has resulted in the failure or lack of appreciation of the important roles that are played by water and sanitation research institutions. In some cases, opportunities and benefits from research are overlooked and never used to address challenges faced by communities in need or by the water sector. It is for the above-stated reasons why the WRC intends (through this project) to engage and understand stakeholders' views and expectations, especially about what our stakeholders recognise as value in the WRC's RDI programmes. The WRC will use this project outcomes to reshape or enhance its RDI programmes for its stakeholders to see and get value for their investment or support. We expect this study to enable the WRC and its stakeholders in the water research and innovation and the Water sector to have a solid, shared understanding, and appreciation of role of the water and sanitation research and innovation. The study will assist in establishing enablers to accelerate the uptake of knowledge and innovation produced by the WRC and its RDI partners.

Overall objectives

- (1) Review and understand WRC's stakeholders views and perception about value of WRC's research products and services;
- (2) Understand what WRC's stakeholders perceive as "value" - coming from research, development and innovation.



- (3) Investigate if funders and the public (taxpayer) perceive to be getting value from water and sanitation research and innovation.
- (4) Identify how and where investments in water research and innovation provide value, as perceived and recognized by the primary users and funders of the research and innovation activities,
- (5) Work with other GWRC members to develop a range of metrics that can be used to guide WRC and its stakeholders' assessment of the value of water and innovation research activities within our respective contexts.

Deliverables:

The deliverables will have to address the following:

1. Report of the approaches and methodologies for this study. Take into consideration of the functions, mandates, and needs of various WRC's key stakeholders. These approaches or methodologies should be discussed and agreed upon in the workshop with key stakeholders of the WRC before implementation.
2. Report about how water and sanitation RDI valuation is done in South Africa and world-wide?
3. Report the perceptions and views of the value of RDI by various key stakeholders (users, funders, national and local government, industries, farmers, etc.).
4. Report about what are identified being **valuable** from water and sanitation research and innovation. State the criteria and method used in the making of a particular judgment or valuation.
5. Report about the acceptable methods and approaches to evaluate RDI which are relevant to various key stakeholders.
 - a. Which metrics to use for various stakeholders?
 - b. How the intangible benefits be recognised?
6. What are the gaps and how to address them?

Time Frame: July 2020 – July 2021

Total Funds Required: R 1 000 000