



## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SOLICITED WRC PROJECT

<b>KEY STRATEGIC AREA</b>	<b>1&amp;2 (Water resources and ecosystems)</b>
<b>THRUST</b>	<b>1 (Governance and institutional arrangements)</b>
<b>PROGRAMME</b>	<b>2 (Policy, science and implementation)</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Evaluation of selected South African targets, indicators and reporting methodologies for Sustainable Development Goal 6</b>
<b>ToR NUMBER</b>	<b>1009887</b>

### **Objectives:**

#### **General:**

To review and further develop selected current South African targets, indicators and methodologies that have been developed for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.

#### **Specific:**

1. To review the methodologies that have been developed for selected indicators for Targets 6.6 and 6.b.
2. To take stock of, and evaluate the management targets and indicators that have been set for water quality (point and non-point sources and instream / resources water quality) and water-related ecosystems (estuaries, groundwater, wetlands, rivers, artificial ecosystems and lakes) in South Africa
3. To review the list of domesticated and proposed additional targets and indicators for SDG 6.6 and make recommendations for meaningful country level targets and indicators.
4. To develop the methodology for the additional indicators for Target 6.3
5. To review the indicator for 6.b.1 and assess the DWS approach towards compliance with the method of computations and indicator requirements
6. To develop a new indicator 6.b.2 and method of computation, which will measure the performance of community involvement related to 6.b.1. This will culminate in a realistic target towards 2030.

#### **Rationale:**

On 25 September 2015 South Africa was one of the 193 countries that committed to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Goal 6 aims to ensure clean water and sanitation for all by 2030. To achieve this, SDG 6 has 8 targets and progress is monitored through 11 indicators.

In South Africa the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is responsible for the implementation of SDG 6. A core responsibility of DWS is to ensure monitoring and reporting of the correct indicators at the correct scales in a manner that effects real change through informing policy formulation and decision-making.

Whilst some of the SDG 6 targets and indicators are well established (being carried over from the Millennium Development Goals in 2000), a number of the targets and indicators are new. At a global level, specialists in the various international agencies responsible for the SDGs have been working on methodologies for these new targets and their indicators. In May 2017 the UN released the first round of the Step-by-step Methodology Reports for each of the indicators. Revisions of these methods have subsequently been published through updated methodology reports and captured in the 2018 Synthesis Reports for each indicator.

At a national level, to truly influence decision making, countries are encouraged to domesticate these methods and set targets that are relevant to their context and resources, while maintaining consistency with the aspirational targets determined in the SDGs.

### **Specifics Related to SDG 6.6 and 6.3:**

#### ***Background:***

In the ideal situation, the methodology proposed for global reporting is perfectly suited to informing a specific country's water and sanitation management processes and requires no domestication. In South Africa, for Indicators 6.3.1, 6.3.2 and, to some degree 6.6.1, this has not been the case and methods for these indicators have been refined by DWS. Whilst the methodology for SDG 6.3.1D and 6.3.2D have undergone extensive review through other initiatives, the methodology for SDG 6.6 requires further reviews to be undertaken as part of this project.

In terms of SDG 6.3 however, in order to fully meet the requirements for reporting on Target 6.3 three new indicators have been proposed, namely:

- i. 6.3.3A. Proportion of water containing waste recycled or reused
- ii. 6.3.4A. Proportion of waste lawfully disposed of
- iii. 6.3.5A. Proportion of waste recycled or reused

Methodologies for these additional indicators require development and if possible, testing, using available data. Such methodology reports will need to be in line with the structure that has been used for SDG 6.3.1D and 6.3.2D (DWS, 2020, Methodology Report for SDG 6.3, available [here](#)) and must take cognizance of the possible linkages with other SDGs relating to waste management and recycling to avoid any duplication of reporting by the country.

The existing methodology for Target 6.6 requires critical review. The current Methodology Report for Target 6.6 can be accessed [here](#). There is a need to consider developing a methodology for at least one of the high priority additional indicators identified for SDG 6.6. Where data exists, testing will be crucial.

Part of the review undertaken by this project will be to determine the value of the current SDG 6.6 indicators for influencing national decision making i.e. will the method proposed be both useful for global reporting and at the same time have a real influence nationally? Where appropriate, the statistical correctness and scientific validity of the methods should be evaluated. Recommendations for amendments and improvements should be made, and where appropriate, alternative methodologies can be recommended.

In addition to the need for peer review and finalization of the methodology report for SDG 6.6, the DWS need to:

1. Set management targets for SDG 6.6; and
2. Select and develop methods for additional, country level indicators for SDG 6.6 and 6.3.

In doing so it is imperative that efforts of other initiatives (where targets and indicators have been developed) are not duplicated. Where there are gaps (i.e. where new targets and indicators are required), the DWS should propose potential priorities for method development and incorporation of recommended targets into the various sector strategies.

The question here is essentially, what indicators should South Africa (as a country) be reporting on and what type of targets should the country have? Is what we are currently reporting on regarding water quality and water-related ecosystems sufficient? What should be used for frequent reporting at a global level (i.e. in the next SDG Voluntary National Review) to show the true “sustainability status”? In order to do this a comprehensive stock taking exercise of all the targets and indicators relating to water quality and water-related ecosystems is required. The relevant strategies that would need to be interrogated include:

1. Agenda 2063
2. UNCCD: South Africa: Final country report of the LDN Target Setting Programme (October 2018)
3. National Development Plan
4. Medium Term Strategic Framework: Outcome 10 Phase 2 (draft)
5. National Water Resource Strategy 2
6. National Water and Sanitation Master Plan (Volume 1-3)
7. Strategic Framework and Overarching Implementation Plan for Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in South Africa
8. National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES)
9. South Africa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
10. National Biodiversity Assessment 2018
11. Peat Management Protocol (Draft)

## **Specifics Related to SDG6.b**

### ***Background:***

The indicator and method of computation provided by the United Nations is quite clear for 6.b.1. The indicator considers the percentage of local administrative units within a country that has established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management.

The DWS has considered Water Service Authorities as the local administrative units, which are required to have such policies in place to unlock funding to implement their business. All Water Service Authorities include policies and procedures in terms of the inclusion of communities throughout the project cycle and therefore South Africa scores 100% in terms of the criteria provided by the United Nations.

However, the current indicator does not measure performance in terms of the application of such policies and guidelines. There is no way of measuring whether communities are being included as per the policy/guideline intentions nor what the impact of their participation is towards a particular project – perhaps measured in terms of cost/benefit, sustainability, numbers of community members employed etc. As a result, DWS requires a new indicator (6.b.2) and a

method of computation which will assist in measuring performance linked to 6.b.1

The following critical reviews will be required:

1. Report: Target 6.b and specifically:
  - a. Indicator 6.b.1: Review of “Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management”. The scope is to review the current approach and confirm its suitability.
  - b. Indicator 6.b.2: New indicator and method of computation including a proposed Target for 2030

Part of the review undertaken for 6.b.1 will be to consider the methodology given by the UN and to assess if we are applying it in the most useful way. Should we be considering additional administrative units to gain a more accurate picture of the current progress against this indicator? Are the outputs in line with the global methods, i.e. are they producing results that can be used for global reporting? In addition, their value for influencing national decision making should be evaluated, i.e. is the methodology and results having a real influence nationally? Recommendations for amendments and improvements should be made.

The methodology for 6.b.2 will fall in the “additional indicator” category. A new indicator must be recommended that is aligned with 6.b.1, including a method of computation that can provide a quantitative measurement of performance regarding community involvement. Consideration must be given to data that is currently accessible and with recommendations for additional information in future. There is also a requirement to set management targets for 6.b.2.

The relevant strategies that would need to be interrogated include:

1. Agenda 2063
2. National Development Plan
3. Medium Term Strategic Framework: Outcome 10 Phase 2 (draft)
4. National Water Resource Strategy 2
5. National Water and Sanitation Master Plan (Volume 1-3)

### **Deliverables:**

The following deliverables are indicative and may be tailored to suit the proposed research approach:

1. Reviewed methodology report for SDG 6.6.
2. Situation Assessment Report on water quality and water-related ecosystem targets and indicators that are used in South Africa, including recommendations for additional indicators to be used for national reporting, and where possible, proposals for management targets.
3. Methodology reports for the 3 proposed additional Water Quality indicators.
4. Methodology report for at least one of the high priority additional indicators identified for SDG 6.6.
5. Reviewed methodology / approach report for SDG 6.b.1
6. Situation Assessment Report on Community participations and performance.
7. 6.b.2 Indicator, method of computation and management Target
8. At least one workshop with DWS and relevant experts, covering work to be done under 6.3, 6.6 and 6.b
9. Draft final project report for peer review, covering aspects researched as per specific objectives
10. Final project report and policy support documents

**Impact Areas (WRC Knowledge Tree):**

Inform Policy and Decision-making  
Sustainable Development Solutions  
Human Capital Development

**Time Frame:**

12 months (anticipated start date 1 January 2022)

**Total Funds Available:**

R400 000 including VAT

Year 1 (Jan – Mar 2022): R200,000

Year 2 (Apr – Dec 2022): R200,000

Further details on these ToR can be accessed [here](#) and information on submission of proposals can be accessed [here](#).