



Terms of Reference

KEY STRATEGIC AREA	30 (Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security)
PROGRAMME	Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security
TITLE	Convenor: Strengthening the community of practice working on the integration of water-related ecological infrastructure and built infrastructure in the South Africa's Water Management Areas

Background

The Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security Project (EI4WS) is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), and executed by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), in partnership with the department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Water Research Commission (WRC), and other implementing partners. This project focuses on improving water security by integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services into planning, finance, and development in the water sector. The project is organised into three interdependent components:

- 1. Systemic changes to better enable biodiversity and ecosystem services to contribute to improved water security,*
- 2. Demonstration of proposed approaches in the Berg-Breede and uMngeni River catchments, and*
- 3. Improving the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into the water value chain through social learning, credible evidence, and knowledge management.*

The Water Research Commission (WRC) is responsible for implementation of the third component, which seeks to change the way targeted public and private sector stakeholders and decision-makers engage with, think about, and integrate ecological infrastructure into water sector development planning and finance. This component draws from the knowledge generated through the other components, as well as experience external to the project, in order to support and enable the effectiveness of project interventions through social learning.

The component is an essential part of the sustainability of the project, working to deepen capacity in existing organisations and networks in the water and biodiversity sectors. According to the project's Strategic Results Framework, the WRC is required to undertake activities that inform calls for proposals and/or support research and generation of evidence of the impact of project interventions of the EI4WS.

This component of work also seeks to strengthen institutional capacity and operational governance in Water Management Areas (WMAs) to support evidence-based implementation of ecological infrastructure interventions. As such, the WRC seeks to invite applicants to support the implementation this aspect of the EI4WS project through enabling collaboration, co-learning and co-creation at the nexus of built and ecological infrastructure for water security across South Africa's WMAs.

Note

The project team is expected to cover operational costs related to the learning events, including venue hire, catering, facilitation, reporting, etc. but excluding delegates' travel and accommodation expenses.

Objectives

- Design, with the involvement of the relevant actors, appropriate mechanisms and approaches to support, grow and maintain the emerging community of practice focused on the integration of water-related ecological infrastructure and built infrastructure in South Africa's WMAs.
- By convening at least two (2) in-person learning events, work with the community of practice to facilitate co-learning between key stakeholder institutions and individuals both within and across WMAs
- Document and report on learnings, challenges, and opportunities emerging through the CoP engagements
- Establish, along with the WRC and partners, a working model for the continued existence of the CoP after the conclusion of the EI4WS project (With the aim to making these structures sustainable at the end of the project, through partnership and collaboration).

Proposed deliverables

1. Situation assessment and conceptual design of proposed mechanisms and approaches
2. Event report 1
3. Event report 2
4. Draft final report: Consolidated meeting report of the convened learning platforms, as well as additional stakeholder engagements, lessons learnt, challenges, successes, opportunities, and threats
5. Revised final report: Close-out report capturing lessons learnt, challenges, successes, and barriers and opportunities for sustaining the CoP beyond the lifespan of the EIWS project

Project duration: 12 months
Amount available: R 700,000.00