

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A DIRECTED WRC PROJECT

THEME: Water Availability

TITLE: Post-project cross-sectional project implementation review: Operationalising Community-Led Multiple Use Water Services (MUS) in South Africa

TOR NUMBER: 1010012

Rationale

This 1-year post-project cross-sectional project implementation review should evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the completed project, *"Operationalizing Community-Led Multiple Use Water Services (MUS) in South Africa."* Implemented by the Water Research Commission, Tsogang Water and Sanitation, and the International Water Management Institute, the project aimed to test a community-led model for water service delivery to improve access and sustainability in rural South Africa. A cross-sectional project implementation review is an evaluative study conducted at a single point in time (or over a short period) to assess the performance, outcomes, and impacts of a project after its implementation. It provides a snapshot of how well the project has achieved its objectives and offers insights into its effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, and sustainability.

The MUS project focused on enabling communities to take an active role in planning, designing, and implementing water services that cater to multiple needs, including domestic, agricultural, and livestock uses. It sought to test the viability of a participatory and holistic approach to water service delivery, emphasizing the co-management of infrastructure by communities and government partners. A central aspect of this approach was the involvement of local government, which is crucial for ensuring the sustainability and scalability of solutions.

This review will assess the extent to which project outcomes were maintained by the stakeholders, the impacts on communities, and the lessons learned for broader implementation and upscaling. The focus will include examining community engagement, infrastructure sustainability, and the long-term benefits of livelihoods. Also, investigate the functionality of the established community structures, opportunities and hindrances for their functionality.

Main Objective

To conduct a comprehensive assessment of the outcomes and impacts of the MUS project, focusing on its contributions to sustainable water service delivery and enhanced livelihoods in the targeted communities.

Specific Objectives

1. Assess the extent to which the project achieved its stated goals, including improved water access, infrastructure sustainability, and community capacity development.
2. Examine the socio-economic and environmental impacts of the project on beneficiary communities.
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the community-led planning, design, and implementation approach employed in the project.
4. Explore co-management and co-ownership arrangements, opportunities and hindrances.
5. Identify key challenges, successes, and lessons learned for potential replication and scaling up of the MUS model in other contexts.
6. Provide actionable recommendations to enhance the sustainability and scalability of similar interventions in the future.

Expected Deliverables

1. Inception Report
2. Community Assessment Report
3. Stakeholder Feedback Report
4. Assessment of the sustainability and scalability of the MUS model
5. Recommendations for policy and practice
6. Final Evaluation Report

Total Budget: R 600 000.00

Duration: 1 year