



## **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SOLICITED WRC PROJECT**

**THEME:** **Water Availability**

**TITLE:** **Review, develop and test comprehensive training material focused on RDM determination methods.**

**TOR NUMBER:**

### **1. Rationale for the Study**

The DWS, Chief Directorate: Water Ecosystems Management in consultation with the WRC agreed on the urgent need for an immediate review of the resource directed measures, develop intensive training material, user friendly, with particular focus on building capacity inside the department and junior upcoming practitioners. This must remove the reliance on individuals, but entirely be conducted through accepted methods, procedures and manuals that any trained member can pick up and use. The case in place are the shortfalls that showed up during the review of the 2014 PES/EIS project finishing soon. The PES/EIS studies underway proved there is a need for consolidation and standardisation of the resource directed measures (RDM) determination methods in such a way that there is one source of reference. Currently, experts draw from different manuals of their choice, which carries a huge risk should the DWS be challenged through litigation. It is critical that a trained junior expert can use the material and reach the same conclusion as established experts. Therefore, the training material would focus on the RDM processes and procedures. The target audience is the ecologists, DWS staff and the interested stakeholders in the protection of the ecological ecosystems.

### **2. Main Objective**

The overall aim of the call is to produce trained experts using the standardised RDM gazetted/or approved methods. Over the last two decades of the RDM processes for the water allocation, balancing the human, environmental flow needs in the light of water required for economic development, the execution has been around same individuals, which excludes youth and new recruits. An expanded pool of experts is required if the licensing for economic development backlog is to be avoided. The RDM is dominantly anchored in Chapter 3 of the National Water Act.

### **3 Specific Objectives**



- Conduct analysis of all the RDM existing methods and procedures through national and international literature review, the state of environmental flows requirement knowledge
- Review and develop RDM training materials, robust, reliable and user-friendly, less or independent of expert knowledge while keeping the indigenous/or local knowledge
- Conduct detailed and focused training dedicated to the DWS staff managing the RDM processes, practitioners, and other interested stakeholders, ideally with a certificate of competence issued by the trainers
- Training must cover all stages of the RDM processes from start to finish and be based on theory and practical application work in the field

#### **4. Deliverables**

The following are some of the deliverables expected from the project:

1. State of knowledge regarding the RDM determination methods in SA and abroad
2. A compendium of the RDM determination material approved for application by the DWS across the country and transboundary, equally applicable in Africa and beyond
3. Trained DWS experts staff managing the RDM processes, practitioners, and other interested stakeholders, issued with a certificate of competence
4. Print-ready final report

**Budget:** R1 500 000

**Year 1:** R400 000

**Duration:** 2 years