



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A SOLICITED WRC PROJECT

THEME:	Water Availability
TITLE:	Securing South Africa's water future: Integrated Assessment of sectoral competition and socioeconomic vulnerability for equitable resource planning
TOR NUMBER:	

1. Rationale for the Study

South Africa faces growing water scarcity driven by climate change, population growth, and increasing sectoral demand. As water-intensive industries, agriculture, and urban centres compete for limited resources. Equitable and sustainable water planning becomes essential to prevent socioeconomic vulnerability and environmental degradation.

An integrated assessment of sectoral competition and water allocation strategies is important for equitable water allocation. By analysing hydrological patterns, socioeconomic impacts, and governance frameworks, this work will identify vulnerabilities and optimize resource distribution. This will mitigate risks associated with droughts, water shortages, and conflicting sectoral demands.

2. Main Objective

To develop an integrated assessment framework that evaluates sectoral competition and socioeconomic vulnerability in South Africa.

Specific Objectives

- To identify sectorial water demands and assess competition between sectors.
- To evaluate socioeconomic impacts linked to water scarcity especially among vulnerable communities.
- To develop policy recommendations to ensure sustainability and equitable water allocations.

3. Deliverables

1. Report on sectorial water demand and competition across key sectors.



2. Assessment report on socioeconomic vulnerability caused water scarcity.
3. Integrated policy framework with actionable strategies for equitable and sustainable water allocation and management.
4. Interactive maps to visualise water availability and distribution.
5. Final print-ready report.

Budget: R2 500 000

Year 1: R500 000

Duration: 3 years