

WaterNet Phase III

2012 to 2016

Achieving
Sustainability by
Increasing Impact



A SADC subsidiary institution for building capacity in Integrated Water Resources Management



Funded by:



Government of
the Netherlands



Mauritius



Adverse impacts of climate change are already evident across Africa and the world over. As climate change gathers pace, destruction caused by extreme weather is becoming more common. In sub-Saharan Africa, poor harvests caused by devastating droughts have serious consequences on rural livelihoods and especially impact the most vulnerable. To further compound the situation, Africa's bid to develop has seen an alarming rise in urban pollution and destruction of ecosystems. Thus the need for a co-ordinated development and management of water, land and related resources cannot be understated.

In response to the water resources management challenges afflicting the Sub-Saharan region, WaterNet, a regional capacity building network for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) was created in 1999. The network was born out of the desire of 18 knowledge institutes to strengthen their collaboration in order to address the capacity challenges faced in managing the water resources of Southern and East Africa. Since then, WaterNet has grown into an independent network organisation with 75 members (7 supporting members, 2 associate

members 66 general members) in 15 Southern and Eastern African countries. In 2011, the SADC Ministers of Water reviewed the success of the WaterNet capacity building programme and awarded WaterNet SADC subsidiary status in 2012.

The network continues to be instrumental in building careers of water sector professionals in the Southern and Eastern African Regions. Key to our mission is applying knowledge to solve water management challenges in the Southern and Eastern African regions.

The regional network approach means the region moves away from concentrated expertise to distributed expertise; from competition between centres of excellence to cooperation, and from conformity to a diversity of ideas...

L. Jonker¹, P. van der Zaag, B. Gumbo, J. Rockström, D. Love, and H. H. G. Savenije (2012)



Regional Master's Degree Programme in Integrated Water Resources Management

A central activity of WaterNet is the regional Master's Degree Programme in Integrated Water Resources Management. This is the first time that universities of the Southern African Development Community have jointly offered an educational programme in water resources. The main goal of the programme is to train the next generation of Southern African water managers as IWRM practitioners.

The programme empowers them to effectively comprehend and communicate with water related experts from other disciplines. The programme also aims to build a critical mass of water managers who, when faced with a regional problem are able to cooperate and advance the regional interests guided by the principles of 'Environmental Integrity, Equity, and Economic Efficiency'.

Phase III Focus

As a direct result of the Regional Masters programme, human resources in IWRM have been significantly developed during the last decade. This is an opportunity which allows for the establishment, and further strengthening of educational water programmes at the national level. WaterNet will support member institutions that have the ambition to develop IWRM educational programmes at graduate and postgraduate levels that address the specific country demands and needs. The aim is to transform the regional IWRM Masters programme into a coherent and coordinated system of national postgraduate educational programmes offered by member institutions, each providing specialised courses during the second semester, which students enrolled in other programmes can attend. Students will be funded through a range of fellowships offered by national governments from the SADC region, and the private and corporate sectors, complemented with available international fellowships for Master degrees.



WaterNet PhD Programme

Building on experience from the two major research projects in Phase IIb (Challenge Program on Water and the Food and Smallholder System Innovations in Integrated Water Resources Management projects), WaterNet will be offering PhD fellowships through research during Phase III. PhD fellows will be registered at universities in the region and supervised by SADC-WaterNet Professorial Chairs and other senior scientists. This will build regional high-level capacity by producing PhD graduates, but will also build capacity at registering universities as their PhD programmes are developed and expanded.

Phase III Focus

WaterNet PhD fellows shall be incorporated into all research projects. The feasibility of a WaterNet PhD programme will also be studied and, if positive, a proposal will be developed and submitted to an independent Cooperating Partner. The Chairs will be expected to play a major role in the development, planning and implementation of the PhD programme. One option is a joint PhD programme, where PhDs are registered at one of the Universities with a Chair and then co-supervised by a staff member of another WaterNet member, or supporting members such as UNESCO-IHE or University of Twente - ITC. Another option is to start small, by identifying philanthropists to 'adopt' specific PhD students or specific PhD research topics.

“You have become the conduit of knowledge for history and the generations will reflect your dedication in the quality of life you impact”

Michael Freed

IWRM Research – for Uptake and Impact

WaterNet supports and facilitates transdisciplinary research initiatives among WaterNet member institutions. To date, WaterNet has launched eleven collaborative research projects in diverse fields ranging from:

- Agricultural land and water management for poverty alleviation
- Smallholder System Innovation Watershed management
- Hydrological processes
- Socio-economic aspects of water allocation at river basin scale
- Improved Drought Early Warning and Forecasting
- Efficient allocation policies in a dynamic and uncertain hydrologic environment
- Balancing ecosystem health with hydropower

generation in hydro-power dominated basins

- Integration of social & natural systems in enhancing environmental sustainability
- Impact of mining and mineral processing on the environment and human health and
- Climate change adaptation.

The projects were carried out in the Limpopo, Incomati, Zambezi, Pangani, Thukela, Niger, Eastern Nile and the Oum-er-Rbia River Basins. A total of 24 PhDs and 76 Masters Students were involved in the projects.

Phase III Focus

The WaterNet research programme aims to increase the impact of the new knowledge it generates. This will be done by acquiring new action-oriented and applied research projects that aim at scientific excellence whilst simultaneously makes development impacts on the ground. WaterNet will thus prioritise collaborative research among the consortia of members that respond to development challenges and will engage with knowledge management networks, development agents, government and non-government, so as to ensure 'uptake and impact' of research results.





“Water symbolises such values as opportunity, security and self-determination....Communities that lose control over water probably will fail in trying to control much else of importance”

Helen Ingram

Professional Training and Mentoring

The network is playing a leading role in the professional training domain by complementing academic training with short professional courses. This is meeting the capacity building demands of River Basin Organisations, Country Water Partnerships, Government ministries, and practicing water

professionals in key related sectors. In Phase IIb (2008-2012) more than 390 participants attended 21 short courses in IWRM hosted in nine countries in the SADC and EAC regions. To a larger extent the courses aimed at strengthening the participants' capacity to deliver the mandate of their respective organisations. The courses were run in close collaboration with the SADC Water Division, Cap-Net, UNEP and the Global Water Partnership.

One of the flagships of the programme is the Regional Capacity Building Programme on Promoting Integrity and Accountability in the water sector in Sub-Saharan Africa. The overall objective of the programme is to develop capacities of different stakeholder groups and government levels to improve transparency and accountability practices in the water sector in Africa. It is envisaged that improving integrity, accountability and transparency leads to equitable and efficient provision of water and ancillary services. To date 116 participants have been trained in the SADC region of the 175 targeted over the three year programme.

Phase III Focus

- The programme will continue to contribute to achieving the SADC Regional Strategic Action Plan on Integrated Water Resources Management (2011-2015).
- The vision is that the Professional Training Programme should become largely self-financing, with courses funded through SADC and AMCOW initiatives, and some places on courses offered on a commercial basis. The training courses can consist of module(s) made for the MSc course or a tailor-made course.
- WaterNet will strengthen existing and create new partnerships for improved and increased short course delivery for continuous professional development. The aim is to develop integrated training courses that cut across different sectors (e.g. agriculture, energy, finance, fisheries,

environment, development and spatial planning) and different levels (local – national – regional/transboundary basins). Some selected courses will be delivered in French and Portuguese. A special focus will be on rolling out training courses and mentorship programmes targeting young water professionals.

- WaterNet will also retain the element of innovative training topics, developed in part from on-going research, to ensure that the latest developments in IWRM can rapidly be provided to water professionals.

Priority planned programmes:

1. The SADC and EAC Capacity Building Programme on Sustainable Major Water Infrastructure (Part of RSAP III).
2. Southern African Development Community (SADC) Economic Accounting of Water Use Project (Part of RSAP III).
3. Capacity Building in Save, Buzi and Ruvuma (Part of RSAP III). The project aims to provide technical assistance to executing and project implementation agencies.

“Water binds us as a people. It is one of the few absolutes in our human condition”

Richard A. Meganck

Outreach for Impact

The network continues to play a central role in information dissemination and enhancing knowledge exchange. This has been achieved to a greater extent through the Annual WaterNet/ WARFSA/ GWP-SA symposium. To date thirteen symposia have been organised successfully attracting on average 400 water sector professionals. Proceedings from the symposium are published in the Physics and Chemistry of the Earth Journal (JPCE). Since 2002, eleven issues of the JPCE containing more than 400 articles have been published. The articles had an average citation index of 1.5. In 2007 the symposium proceedings and JPCE articles accounted for 16% of published articles in Integrated Water Resources Management in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Phase III Focus

WaterNet will continue to carry out outreach and advocacy based upon the research programmes and IWRM agenda mainly through reporting to SADC and through liaison with key strategic partners such as GWP-SA, AgWA and FANRPAN. The results of work by the members and the SADC-WaterNet Professorial Chairs will be captured into research briefs and other information products and communicated through these channels. The WaterNet Management Board, Executive Management, WaterNet members and the SADC-WaterNet Professorial Chairs will participate in outreach events at regional and global level.

WaterNet's successful contribution to building capacity in Integrated Water Resources Management in the SADC and EAC regions is a clear demonstration that the regional network approach works and is an effective instrument for improved delivery of capacity development activities. Working in partnership increases the outreach of capacity development organisations.



WaterNet Governance Structure

Functions

SADC Member States

Provide and facilitate financial support to the WaterNet activities especially trainings and educational programmes

Supporting Members

Provide an advisory and consultative role in terms of governance and within activities.

Management Board

The Board of Trustees and Supporting Members together constitute the Management Board.

Cooperating Partners

Provide the financial resources for WaterNet's activities.

Executive Management

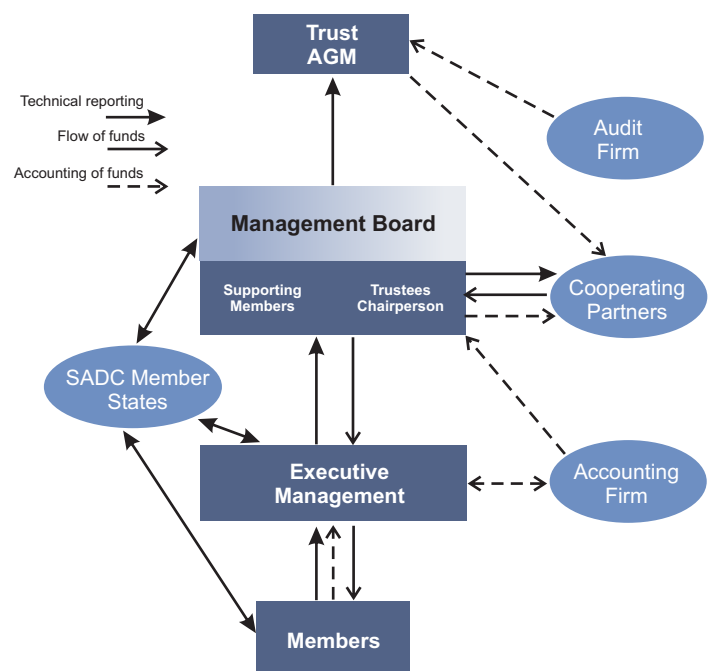
Executes and coordinates WaterNet activities through the members, employed by the Trust, headed by a Manager with full-time support staff in liaison with the Accounting firm carries out financial management services.

WaterNet Trust

Overall governing body consisting of members who are represented in the AGM, elects the Board of Trustees, approves work plans and budgets, approves progress reports, appoints an Audit firm accountable to the Trust and the Trust in turn to the Cooperating Partners, and employs staff of the Executive Management.

Board of Trustees

Accountable to the AGM,
has fiduciary responsibilities, represents the
Trust in all legal matters e.g. grant agreements
and service contracts and also invites Supporting
members to the Board meetings.





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