



Project 518066

## **AFRICAN WATER**

Supporting African involvement in the EU Framework Programme

Instrument: Specific Support Action

Thematic priority: Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area

### **D5.2.2**

## **Report on the use and dissemination of the knowledge gained**

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Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, UK

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<b>Dissemination Level</b>		
<b>PU</b>	Public	X
<b>PP</b>	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
<b>RE</b>	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
<b>CO</b>	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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## 1. Exploitable knowledge and its use

Exploitable results from the African Water SAA are presented in the following overview table. In the context of African Water, the exploitable results are defined as knowledge having a potential for creating or providing a service.

### Overview table

Exploitable knowledge (description)	Exploitable product(s) or measure(s)	Sector(s) of application	Timetable for commercial use	Patents or other IPR protection	Owner and other partner(s) involved
1. Data	D2.1.1 Database of African water researchers	Water research	Not relevant	none	All partners
2. Data	List of complementary initiatives	Water research	Not relevant	none	All partners
3. Data	List of African water research priorities	Water research	Not relevant	none	All partners

The *database of African water researchers* (D2.1.1) currently contains of two lists of email addresses, one composed of addresses provided by African Water partners from their networks of contacts, and an expanding one composed of people who have been in contact via the project website and/or subscribed to the African Water Newsletter. The database contacts have been informed about the end of the African Water project, and pointed towards the website of the EUWI ERA-net called SPLASH.

SPLASH aims to improve water research for poverty reduction and, thus, contribute to achieving the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), through coordinating Member State research programmes, designing new collaborative programmes which address identified needs, and speeding up knowledge transfer between researchers and practitioners. SPLASH is initially focusing efforts in Africa and in the Mekong Basin.

The *report on complementary initiatives* (D2.2.1) identifies ongoing activities, electronic discussion lists and information channels relevant to African Water researchers. The African Water website has included the links to many of these initiatives since the start of the project, to help identify programmes and projects with relevance for enhanced coordination of the African water research community. The list of complementary initiatives has been forwarded to the SPLASH ERA-net.

The *report on African water research priorities* (D3.1.2) has benefitted from the strong synergies between African Water and the African Ministerial Conferences on Science and Technology (AMCOST) and on Water (AMCOW), facilitated by the project partner, the Water Research Commission (WRC). Water scarcity and related insecurity have been identified as one of the sources of the continent's under-development and increasing economic decline and, therefore, issues associated with the development, supply and management of water are high on the agenda. The list of research priorities has been forwarded to the SPLASH ERA-net.

The links developed with African researchers and complementary initiatives, and the knowledge gained about their water research priorities, will provide an important resource to SPLASH.

African Water was just one of many actions contributing to a larger vision for African, and indeed wider developing country, involvement in the FP, coinciding with a number of quite independent actions which have all been working towards improving African continental and regional coordination of research and water related development. These African-wide initiatives, driven by a wide range of organisations, enabled African Water to link in with these efforts and, hence, have a far greater impact. For example, primarily through the WRC and its role in the NEPAD AMCOST process, African Water was able to input at ministerial level, even affecting AU-EU dialogues on water research.

## 2. Dissemination of knowledge

Information about the African Water SAA has been disseminated at a variety of different events and vehicles, as detailed in the following overview table.

### Overview table

Planned/ actual dates	Type	Type of audience	Countries addressed	Size of audience	Partner responsible/ involved
04/2008	African Water side event at WEDC international conference on “Access to Sanitation and Safe Water: Global Partnerships and Local Actions”	All	Worldwide	Many	WEDC
04/2008	African Water paper presented at WEDC international conference on “Access to Sanitation and Safe Water: Global Partnerships and Local Actions” (see Appendix)	All	Worldwide	Many	WEDC
12/2007	Final African Water Newsletter 6 (D5.2.3)	All	Worldwide	Many	All
28-30/11/2007	Third African Water training workshop in Nairobi, Kenya	Research (all)	Southern Africa	19	WRC/CEH/UKRO
15-16/11/2007	Second African Water training workshop in Dakar, Senegal	Research (all)	Southern Africa	16	WRC/CEH
11/2007	HELP (Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy ) symposium	Research (all)	Worldwide	150	WRC
10/2007	Euro-Africa ICT (START)	Research	Worldwide	50	WRC
09/2007	UNESCO IHP meeting	Research	Africa	15	WRC
09/2007	Fifth African Water Newsletter (D5.2.3)	All	Worldwide	Many	All
13-17/08/2007	Stockholm World Water Week conference, Sweden	All	Worldwide	Many	CEH/WEDC/Hydrophil
07/2007	UKRO Annual Conference	Research	UK/EC	200+	CEH/UKRO
06/2007	International Water History Association conference	All	Worldwide		WEDC
06/2007	Streams of Knowledge workshop on “Rural finance of water and sanitation”	Research (all)	Africa		WRC
06/2007	First All Africa Technology Diffusion Conference	Research	Africa		WRC
06/2007	North-South Centre at Swiss Federal Institute of Technology	Research	Worldwide	25	WRC
01/06/2007	South Africa FRIEND Steering Committee Meeting	Research	Southern Africa	21	CEH

05/2007	UNESCO Science Sector Meeting	Research (all)	South Africa		WRC
05/2007	South African Academy of Science workshop on “Capacity Building for Water Resource Management in Africa”	Research (all)	Africa		WRC
02-04/05/2007	African Science Academy Development Initiative meeting	Research	Africa	70	WRC
04/2007	UNESCO IHP Organising Committee meeting for 2008 Africa IHP meeting	Research (all)	Africa		WRC
03/2007	Fourth African Water Newsletter (D5.2.3)	All	Worldwide	Many	All
03/2007	Workshop on “Development of future R&D scenarios for Africa”	Research	Worldwide		WRC
03/2007	EuroAfrica-ICT Awareness Workshop	Research	South Africa		WRC
31/01-02/02/2007	First African Water training workshop in Pretoria, South Africa	Research (all)	Southern Africa	31	WRC/CEH/UKRO
31/01/2007	Project flyers – Portuguese version	Research (all)	Worldwide	Many	CEH
01/2007	WRC/International Development Law Association workshop on Law and Water Governance”	Research (all)	Africa	20	WRC
01/2007	African Union Heads of State Meeting	Ministers	Africa		WRC
12/2006	Third African Water Newsletter (D5.2.3)	All	Worldwide	Many	All
04-08/12/2006	East Africa Water Association workshop on “Bridging Research, Technology and Development: Sustainable Water Resource Management in Eastern Africa”	Research	East Africa+		Hydrophil
11/2006	HELP Symposium on “HELP in action: Local solutions to global problems, lessons from the South”	Research (all)	Worldwide		WRC
22/11/2006	Inter-ministerial dialogue meeting in Cairo, Egypt	Ministers	Africa	15	WRC
19/11/2006	NEPAD Water Task Team on Water Sciences and Technology Development in Cairo, Egypt	All	Africa	15	WRC
01-03/11/2006	WaterNET/WARFSA/GWP-SA Symposium	All	Southern Africa	200	WRC
06/10/2006	Water Research Showcase Day	Research	South Africa		WRC
26/09/2006	European-South Africa Science and Technology Advancement Programme workshop	Research	South Africa	80	WRC
09/2006	Second African Water Newsletter (D5.2.3)	All	Worldwide	Many	All



09/2006	IRC Symposium on “Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation”	Research (all)	Worldwide		WEDC
09/2006	International Conference on “Sustainable Irrigation”	Research (all)	Worldwide		WEDC
21-25/08/2006	Stockholm World Water Week conference, Sweden	All	Worldwide	Many	CEH/WRC/Hydrophil
16-18/08/2006	Academy of Science of South Africa/global Inter Academy Panel Global Water Programme workshop	Research	Africa	20	WRC
07/2006	UKRO Annual Conference	Research	UK/EC	200+	CEH/UKRO
29/06/2006	Official visit to WRC by delegation from Mali, South Africa	All	Mali	12	WRC
22/06/2006	Press release by Research Management Briefing <a href="mailto:res-man@acu.ac.uk">res-man@acu.ac.uk</a>	All	Worldwide	Many	CEH
21-22/06/2006	Workshop on “Science communication in IWRM”, Brussels	Research	INCO partners	50	Hydrophil
12/06/2006	Press release by <a href="http://scidev.net">scidev.net</a>	All	Worldwide	23,500	CEH
12/06/2006	Project website	All	Worldwide	Worldwide	Hydrophil
12/06/2006	Direct emailing of African Water Newsletter 1 (D5.2.3)	Research (all)	Worldwide	750+	CEH
3-5/05/2006	Workshop on “The assessment of the vulnerability of environmental change”, Kenya	Research	Africa	40	WRC
04/2006	FP6 SWITCH project partners meeting, Netherlands	Research	Ghana	Partners	WEDC
04/2006	Workshop on “Towards FP7: a South African perspective of INCO participation”, Brussels	Research	South Africa	Many	UKRO
03/2006	World Water Forum, Mexico	All	Worldwide	Many	CEH/WRC/WEDC
02/2006	DFID workshop on “Water stakeholders”, UK	All	Worldwide	Many	CEH
11/2005	WEDC conference on “Maximising the benefits form water and environmental sanitation”, Uganda	All	Worldwide	Many	WEDC
22-26/08/2005	Stockholm World Water Week conference, Sweden	All	Worldwide	Many	CEH
31/07/2005	Project posters	Research (all)	Worldwide	Many	CEH
31/07/2005	Project flyers – English and French versions	Research (all)	Worldwide	Many	CEH

### **3. Publishable results**

None.

**Appendix 1**  
**African Water paper, WEDC conference 2008**

**33rd WEDC International Conference, Accra, Ghana, 2008**

**ACCESS TO SANITATION AND SAFE WATER:  
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND LOCAL ACTIONS**

**African Water: Supporting African involvement  
in the EU Framework Programme**

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*Water researchers in developing countries have yet to take full advantage of the funding and collaborative research opportunities presented by the EU Framework Programme. There are a variety of reasons for this, such as insufficient information and a lack of previous experience. The African Water initiative aims to increase the involvement of African water researchers through a range of activities including communication and dissemination, capacity building and development, and complementary initiatives. The project has demonstrated that there is a demand for such sector-specific support activities. However, African Water is a small component of a much larger process of partnership between the developed and the less-developed countries of the world, involving many different European and African organisations working across political, institutional and technical domains, and complementing the wide range of actions already being undertaken.*

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## **Introduction**

The Commission for Africa report (2005) recommends a doubling of arable land under irrigation by 2015, and the World Bank water resources strategy (2004) calls for increased investment in water infrastructure in Africa. The NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) environment initiative (2003) states that addressing environmental issues is necessary for achieving goals of sustainable growth and development and a lasting solution to the eradication of poverty. However, it is recognised at the highest level that the water-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs; water supply, sanitation and resource management) will not be achieved unless new and improved approaches, methods, technologies and knowledge management systems are developed. Therefore, as part of its European Research Area (ERA) concept and its commitment to delivery of the MDGs, the EU started opening up the thematic research elements of its Framework Programme (FP) to partners from developing countries. However, participation by African partners, has been less than hoped. A number of factors are thought to have contributed to this, including:

- Lack of awareness of FP opportunities and access to information (e.g. Calls) among African researchers;
- Lack of knowledge/experience of the administrative procedures for participation in the FP;
- Lack of awareness by European water researchers of African research capacity;
- The disinclination of European consortia to involve African partners;
- The weak position of African partners with respect to the consortium building process;
- The disadvantages for African partners of participating "remotely" in the FP;
- Off-putting experiences when tendering for projects under other EC programmes (e.g. DG Development).

The African Water Specific Support Action (SSA) aims to increase the capacity of African water researchers to contribute to achieving the water-related MDGs. With relatively modest funding of €230,000 over 2.5 years, the project endeavours to increase the involvement of African water researchers, specifically in FP7, and generally in their partnership with European researchers in identifying and tackling the major challenges facing Africa. In addition, African Water will hope to catalyse the successful participation of African water

researchers in other collaborative research initiatives i.e. research funded by EU Member States, non-EU donors, international agencies, charitable foundations, etc. The scope of African Water includes all issues related to water science, research, technology and management in Africa. The increased involvement of the African water research community will mean that outputs from the EU FP will become more applicable to, and be seen to have a real impact upon, the water management challenges facing Africa. It will also be recognised by, and have an influential impact upon, both African and EU policymakers in international development cooperation i.e. development and projection of the ERA; meeting the MDGs; adaptation and mitigation of climate change; and foreign policy. African Water supports the delivery of water-specific commitments made to Africa by the EU at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) and reiterated at the UN 12th Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 2004).

### **Political context and research priorities**

The African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) provides the overall governance structure for setting continental priorities and policies pertaining to the development and application of science and technology for Africa's socio-economic transformation. A ministerial conference in November 2003, organised by NEPAD, with the support of the South African Department of Science and Technology and UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), stressed the urgency of building the continent's capacities to harness, apply and develop science and technology in order to eradicate poverty, fight diseases, stem environmental degradation, and improve economic competitiveness. The main outcome from the conference of a 'Consolidated Science and Technology Plan of Action' containing twelve flagship programme areas and specific policy issues for the continent was adopted by AMCOST. The Plan articulates Africa's common objectives and commitment to collective actions to develop and use science and technology for the socio-economic transformation of the continent and its integration into the world economy. The identified water-related flagship programmes in the Plan focus on water quality, sanitation and water resources management, with emphasis on promoting increased use and production of scientific knowledge and technological innovations. Research priorities include:

- Scientific assessment of Africa's water resources and systems, their improved conservation and utilisation;
- Research/technologies to monitor and reduce the impact of water-related disasters (floods and droughts);
- Knowledge/technologies to improve the quality and quantity of water available to rural/urban households;
- Exchange of scientific information on the causes and extent of drought and desertification in Africa.

Hence, African Water complements the wide range of actions such as this already being undertaken by NEPAD (where issues associated with the development, supply and management of water are high on the agenda) and the African Union (e.g. network of Centres of Excellence for Water Science and Technology), and the EU (e.g. EU Member State research coordination efforts). African leaders have clearly identified water scarcity and related insecurity as a source of the continent's underdevelopment and increasing economic decline, and recognised that the challenge for sustained economic growth and poverty alleviation is closely associated with sustainable use of natural resources and better management of the environment. Predictions of the likely impacts of climate change across Africa emphasise the need for a collaborative approach to water resource management across regions, and the continent. The regular opportunities for communication and face-to-face interaction with counterparts from other countries provided through research projects under the FP, promotes this cooperation between water researchers and managers (end-users), and the free exchange of data, information, expertise and ideas.

### **Communications and dissemination tools**

African Water has made use of a variety of appropriate and efficient tools to communicate information about the project and disseminate relevant material. The most high-profile tool has been the project website [www.africanwater.net](http://www.africanwater.net) which has provided a focal point for reporting project activities and establishing a communication-enabling environment. The website presents information about the project, about EC funding mechanisms for research relevant to the water sector in Africa, and about water related research in Africa with an emphasis on coordinating activities. In designing the website, attention was paid to the available resources for development, implementation and maintenance, as well as the interests and resources of

the target audience. Initially, it was hoped that the site would also provide access to a community environment for sharing information, intended for groups active in coordinating African research but lacking suitable infrastructure and tools, but this feature was not fully implemented due to lack of demand.

Other tools include publicity brochures and posters, newsletters, and working through existing networks (e.g. past and present students from Africa at Loughborough University). They have all been useful, though some (e.g. the newsletter) have probably been more effective than others (e.g. posters) in reaching as wide an audience as possible. The quarterly African Water newsletter, which can be subscribed to via the website, has been well-received; despite the immense number of existing newsletters, this still seems to be an attractive medium for quite narrowly targeted issues. Also available is *European RTD Insight*, a monthly publication produced by UKRO on behalf of the British Council. *Insight* is available without charge, and provides a succinct and accessible overview of developments in European and international research programmes and policy. It also includes sections on education, training and culture, external collaboration, events and awards, new publications and on-line resources, and a glossary of EU acronyms and terms.

## Capacity building and development

African Water organised three regional training workshops in 2007 to inform interested researchers of the FP and other funding opportunities, and the administrative procedures for participation in the FP, in order to improve the relatively weak position of African partners with respect to the consortium building process and overcome the disadvantages of participating “remotely” in the FP. The training workshops in Southern Africa (South Africa), West Africa (Ghana) and East Africa (Kenya) were well attended providing an indication of the considerable interest in the collaborative research opportunities presented by FP7.

African Water also sponsored three African delegates to attend the 2007 UKRO conference in London, UK. The annual conference is targeted primarily at European research and liaison officers from universities and research institutes i.e. those responsible for promoting and supporting their institution's European activity. Nineteen African Water subscribers applied for sponsorship to attend the conference. The successful applicants, from South Africa, Mauritius and Ethiopia, were selected based on how their own organisations would benefit from their attendance at the conference, and also on how they would use their networks of contacts to disseminate the information gained to others in their region. African Water was publicised at the conference, to raise awareness amongst UK research administrators of African research capacity. As well as the networking opportunities presented, there was time for discussions with the three African delegates regarding how their specific research challenges mapped onto European research programmes.

## Complementary initiatives

There are a range of complementary initiatives relevant to African Water. These are initiatives which either focus specifically on African regions or include them within their remit, which reach potential and active African researchers, or which are relevant to the water and sanitation sector. Many are well-established, reliable, sector-specific projects, that have appropriate mechanisms through which they can usefully disseminate information about African Water and the funding opportunities it seeks to promote, including:

- Water/sanitation research programmes: FRIEND (Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data) [[ne-friend.bafg.de](http://ne-friend.bafg.de)]; AWIRU (African Water Issues Research Unit) [[www.awiru.co.za](http://www.awiru.co.za)]
- relevant sector organisations involved in research: AMREF [[www.amref.org](http://www.amref.org)]; National Water Resources Institute (Nigeria) [[www.oieau.fr/anglais/international/Nigeria.htm](http://www.oieau.fr/anglais/international/Nigeria.htm)]
- networks/partnerships of sector professionals: Scidev Net [[www.scidev.net/index.cfm](http://www.scidev.net/index.cfm)]; Rural Water Supply Network [[www.rwsn.ch](http://www.rwsn.ch)]; Gender Water Alliance [[www.genderandwater.org](http://www.genderandwater.org)]
- Listservs: WATER-L [[www.iisd.ca/email/water-L.htm](http://www.iisd.ca/email/water-L.htm)]; GARNET (Global Applied Research Network) [[www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/WATER-AND-SAN-APPLIED-RESEARCH.html](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/WATER-AND-SAN-APPLIED-RESEARCH.html)]
- organisation directories: Directory of Development Organisations [[www.devidir.org/Africa.htm](http://www.devidir.org/Africa.htm)]
- water/sanitation-related information providers: id21 [[www.id21.org/id21-media/index.html](http://www.id21.org/id21-media/index.html)]; National Academies Water Information Center [[water.nationalacademies.org](http://water.nationalacademies.org)]
- European Research Area Networks (ERA-Nets): SPLASH, the EUWI ERA-net [[splash-era.net](http://splash-era.net)]

- sector events: WEDC International Conference [[wedc.lboro.ac.uk/conferences](http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/conferences)]

Also relevant are Africa-based organisations that have had involvement in DFID-funded research projects between 2000 to 2007 and in EU-INCO research projects between 2000 to 2006. These represent countries including Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. As they have experience of research collaboration with European agencies, it is worthwhile to disseminate information about further research funding opportunities through the FP. The development of synergies with these networks and initiatives will support African Water's objective of increasing the involvement of Africans in European-funded water research, by disseminating information about the project, its concepts and outputs, and the opportunities offered under FP7, both during and beyond the lifetime of the project. There are also significant cost saving and communication efficiencies to be achieved in this way.

## The way forward

African Water has been largely successful in assisting Africans to define and communicate their research priorities to the EC and into the FP, and raising awareness, in both Africa and Europe, of the opportunities for participation in research partnerships, thereby helping to deliver major EU commitments to strengthen African water research capacity. The intensive training activities have been focused on those Africans who are most likely to pass on the knowledge they acquire to other water researchers, and to researchers working in many other fields as well. The increased involvement of African water researchers specifically in FP7, and generally in their partnership with European water researchers, can help them to identify and tackle the major challenges facing the continent, which will in turn increase their capacity to contribute to achieving the water-related MDGs through the development of new approaches, methods and technologies and improved knowledge management systems. It is hoped there will also be a catalytic effect of increasing the successful participation of African water researchers in other collaborative initiatives outside the EU FP.

Although the effectiveness of African Water activities has yet to be fully evaluated, the project has identified a demand amongst African researchers for increased information about, interaction with and participation in, the FP, and it is important that the process of supporting African involvement continues in 2008 and beyond. While countries like South Africa have the motivation and capacity to support, from their own resources, action to increase national access to European research programmes, this is not the case for many other countries. It is necessary for the EU to promote regional initiatives, comparable to the existing FP contact points/information nodes that exist across the EU, to deliver this type of service. The increased involvement of the African research community will mean that outputs from the EU FP will become more applicable to, and be seen to have a real impact upon, the water supply, sanitation and resource management challenges facing Africa. It will also be recognised by, and have an influential impact upon, both African and EU policymakers in international development cooperation.

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## Keywords

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