

RE-IMAGINE

RE-BUILD

REPEAT

FUTURE  
PROOFING  
WATER



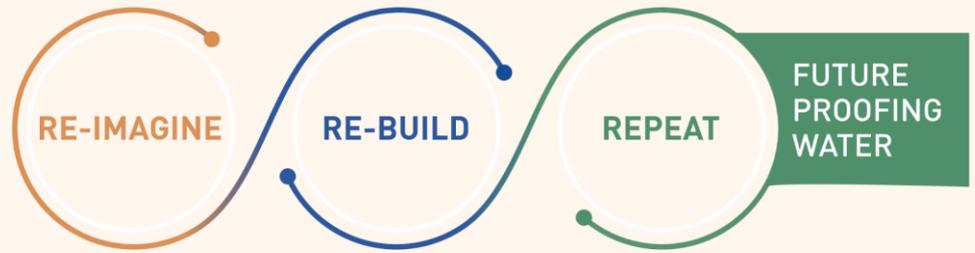
## PARTNER LED WORKSHOPS: INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH OF WATER INSTITUTES ALLIANCE (WIA)

**Tuesday, 21 September 2021 | 14:00-15:00 (CAT)**

*Building a network of networks facilitating complementary water RDI agendas for knowledge-based decision-making throughout the water value chain in the SADC Region*

The Water Institutes Alliance (WIA) was established by participants during a session entitled “Water institutions, organising water management for the future” at the WRC’s 4<sup>th</sup> Symposium in 2019. The purpose of the WIA is to provide a platform to promote interdisciplinary and intersectoral cooperation to facilitate the flow of information, exchange of data, joint learning, and systemic planning in the water sector. The purpose is to improve the overall efficiency, coordination and decision-making in terms of integrated water resources, management, scientific planning processes and systems with the pilot phase focusing on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. The Alliance met for the first time post the 2019 Symposium on 30 June 2020, where consensus was reached regarding the need for a network of networks to support existing water-related associations, networks and institutions, with the aim of promoting and improving coordination among the stakeholders and facilitate complementary water Research Development Innovation (RDI) agendas. Subsequently, a Task Team comprising of representatives from WRC, International Water Management Institute, Water Institute of Southern Africa, Black Business Council, WaterNet, Cape Peninsula University of Technology and International Science Council) was established by the WRC to guide the conceptualisation of the value-add, governance structure and operational modalities of the proposed Alliance. The existence of the Alliance is envisaged to galvanise actors and catalyse multi-stakeholder processes to improve water security in the SADC region expanding to the rest of African continent in the medium to long term.

The aim of this session is to formally launch WIA, share preliminary findings of the Africa mapping study commissioned to gather intelligence for WIA, and further solicit expression of interest from potential partners in the public and private sector, civil society, inter-governmental organisations, associations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and international organisations. The session also aims to mobilise WIA partners to engage in dialogue, analysis and knowledge generation, advocacy and awareness raising, project development and resource mobilisation benefiting the SADC region.



**Chair: Dr Mandla Msibi, WRC Group Executive - Innovation and Impact**

14:00	Opening and aim of the session	Dr Mandla Msibi, WRC
14:05	Opening address	Mr Dhesigen Naidoo, WRC CEO
14:15	WIA intro  Preliminary findings of the mapping study	Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, Chair of the WIA Interim Task Team, IWMI  Dr Nico Elema, Stellenbosch University
14:35	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
14:45	Sharing of elements of the MoU and announcement of the WRC CEO signing of the MoU  Partner institutions expressions of interest, commitments and next steps	Ms Hlengiwe Cele, WRC Stakeholder Manager
14:55-15:00	Closing remarks	Dr Mamohloding Tlhagale, WRC Head of International and Stakeholder Engagement