

RE-IMAGINE

RE-BUILD

REPEAT

FUTURE  
PROOFING  
WATER



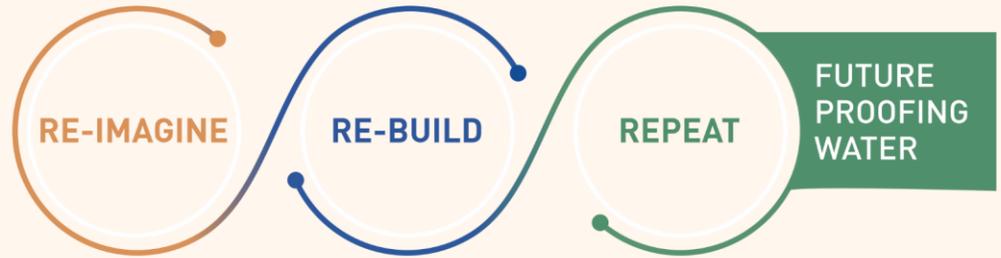
**EARLY FINDINGS ON THE “IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE EU AND SADC WATER RESEARCH AGENDAS AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES - PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED RESILIENCE AND EFFECTIVE POST-COVID-19 RECOVERY” DIALOGUE FACILITY PROJECT**

**Wednesday, 22 September 2021 | 11:10-13:00 (CAT)**

Cooperation between South Africa (SA) and the European Union (EU) was formally established through the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement that came into force in May 2004. In 2007, the EU\_SA Strategic Partnership established a Dialogue Facility aimed at strengthening policy dialogue between SA and the EU member states. The Department of Water and Sanitation, the Water Research Commission, WaterNet together with their EU partners (French Embassy in South Africa, the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science and the French National Research Agency (ANR) operate as the Water Joint Programming Initiative (Water JPI). South Africa joined the Water JPI in 2014 for some specific activities and became a full member in November 2017. In 2020, the Water JPI and the Danish partners responded to the COVID-19 call launched by the Dialogue Facility, which was further approved for funding.

The project aims to get a better understanding of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the planning and implementation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and EU member states' Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Research Development and Innovation (RDI) and capacity building activities. The activities include a desktop study, individual interviews of selected sample of key SADC and EU stakeholders, three consultative workshops with the SADC and EU member states, including the launch of the SADC Water RDI and capacity building position paper. The project partners will also develop a policy brief highlighting key policy recommendations from the study, in addition to the SADC position paper, which will present identified interventions and means of implementing solutions, products, and services, to attenuate the negative impact of COVID 19 on the research agenda of South Africa and the SADC. The project will gather information and facilitate the exchange of knowledge, solutions, best practice on how the EU and SADC WASH RDI sector stakeholders have organised themselves to contribute to the national response to curb the pandemic. The project will also reflect on mechanisms adapted to continue with the implementation of the research and capacity building activities in the respective regions.

The session, the first of three consultative workshops with SADC and EU stakeholders aims to share the baseline assessment report prepared by the two experts appointed to conduct the desktop study in the two regions. The workshop also seeks to validate the findings of the report, as well as gain more insights from the participants as part of the study. Two additional consultative workshops are planned for October 2021, with the final one to be held during the WaterNet Symposium.



**Target Audience:** Knowledge Generators Policy Makers, Research and Innovation Funding Institutions, Innovators, Capacity Building Programme Owners and Implementers

**Conveners:** SA-EU DIALOGUE FACILITY, WRC, WATERNET and DWS

**Chair:** Mamohloding Tlhagale

11:00	Welcome	Mamohloding Tlhagale
11:05	Opening remarks	Ms Lindiwe Lusenga, DWS, TBC Ms Lidia Afonso, EUD Delegation
11:15	Partners' remarks	Prof Jean-Marie Kileshye Onema, WaterNet Dr Véronique BRIQUET-LAUGIER, Water JPI
11:25	Presentation 1: SADC project findings	Prof Nnnesi Kgabi, North-West University
11:45	Presentation 2: EU project findings	Dr David Smith, Water, Environment and Business for Development
12:05	Q&A	Mamohloding Tlhagale
12:15	Facilitated discussion with participants to validate the report and get more information	Prof Jean-Marie Kileshye Onema, WaterNet or procured facilitator if we can get one
12:55-13:00	Closure and update on the next activities	Mr Tiyani Chauke, WRC