Template Final Narrative Report

Project Title: The Framework Programme for Research Education and Training in

Water (FETWater) Phase II

Target Country or Region: South Africa / SADC

Budget code : 513SAF2000

Contract number

Funding sources: Flemish Funds in Trust, FUST

Total Budget approved: 1,041,000 USD

Reporting Period: July 2012 – October 2013

Executing Agency: UNESCO Windhoek and UNESCO Addis Ababa

Implementing partners: DWAF South Africa

Project starting date: 1 September 2006

Project completion date: 7 October 2013

Responsible Sector : SC/HYD

Name of Person completing Report: Alexandros Makarigakis

Youssef Filali-Meknassi

1. Summary and Background (1 page)

The Framework Programme for Research, Education and Training in Water (FETWater) is a programme for effective cooperation in research, education, training and capacity building initiatives to achieve integrated water resource management in South Africa. FETWater provides institutional support and financing in the form of seed funding to encourage the creation of training networks as a method for effective co-operation between universities, research institutions, and the public and private sectors in South Africa.

During Phase I & II of the project 3 networks[[1]](#footnote-1) were established and a total of 391 professionals and DWAF staff, including two scientists from Namibia, along with 23 students were trained throughout the nine provinces in South Africa. All the training contributed to the transformation process in the water sector by building the capacity of previously disadvantaged groups and individuals (Phase I).

1. Description of project activities undertaken during the contract period

During Phase II of the project 7 networks[[2]](#footnote-2) were established and the following were achieved:

1. During the second phase of the project 820 people have received training, a third of which (32%) are DWAF personnel; 35% of the total trainees are women. Approximately 65% of the trained scientists are previously disadvantaged individuals.
2. Two groundwater tests sites were developed (at the Universities of Pretoria and of KwaZulu-Natal) which will be helping the long term capacity building at the tertiary institutes and work in mainstreaming groundwater at secondary school level was finalized.
3. Two Catchment Management Agencies have been trained to develop their strategies and an information system for water related disasters based on the straw dog systems of Department Water and Environmental Affairs was developed.
4. One Masters Programme on Wetlands was developed and is being used by the University of Johannesburg.
5. The Guideline document and record of decisions were amended to include the decisions reached by all the FETWater partners on how Phase II would be managed.
6. Twelve network coordinators were trained in Belgium.
7. Two students from South Africa attended the River 21 training programme in Belgium and three students from Ghent University visited South Africa to collect information for their final year studies as civil engineers.
8. A training workshop was organized in partnership with Nairobi regional office on Water conflict and cooperation for the SADC. The specific objectives of the programme were to create, cooperatively, and use a technically sound knowledge base in support of promoting informed and peaceful conflict management with the view of promoting sustainable water management in river basins in Africa and Enhance the capacity of high level decision makers in Africa on water conflict management and cooperation, while learning from case study basins activities. The main objective of the workshop was to capacitate high level water decision makers on water conflict management and cooperation. Indeed the workshop focused on training senior water managers, decision makers (total of 18 participants from Fourteen countries from the SADC region) as trainers on water conflict management and cooperation and made in place a sub-regional platform on water conflict management and cooperation.

FETWATER Phase II network activities ended in May 2011. The final reports were submitted in August 2011 and an Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place in early September 2011. The AGM was the most successful one since the commencement of the Programme, bringing together the majority of relevant Directorates and Chief Directorates, discussing priorities and setting a roadmap.

The proceedings of the 7th FETWater annual general meeting held in September 2011 confirmed the value of the programme and the challenges for phase III. Phase I had established the IWRM agenda and addressed effective cooperation and the transfer of knowledge. Phase II supported the evolution of training networks and demonstrated the potential of network the mechanism in knowledge transfer. The challenge outlined for phase III related to addressing the relevance, viability and sustainability of the programme to ensure continued support beyond donor funding. It was suggested that the FETWater Phase III proposal focuses on improved alignment with sector skills requirements, certification of training outputs, and the marketing of services and products.

In order to pave the way for Phase III, it was decided that new research on the sector’s needs would be made. After consultations it was decided that the following items will be pursued and are being implemented during the reporting period:

1. Establishing a baseline information on the capacity needs of the sector to support Phase III activities:
   1. Via a contractual agreement with WISA
   2. By participating at the Advisory Board of a related project funded by DWA and implemented by WRC
2. Establishing the basis for staffing Norms and Standards for the organization of municipalities and water users associations
3. Prepare guidelines on the inclusion of FETWATER courses into sector qualification framework and funding framework

*WISA demand side-audit*

Selected Institutional focus groups were set up to establish occupational profiles and related information for Water User Associations, and Catchment Management Agencies. This information was then used to develop a web -based survey for WISA members. The results were then validated at WISA and DWA/WSSLG stakeholder workshop (given the funding constraints).

*FETWater Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) Framework.*

With the establishment of the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) and the focus on occupationally directed courses, a key challenge for the FETWater Programme from an uptake point of view, is the extent to which the offerings are linked to occupational profiles in the water sector. The CB&T framework for FETWater should include demand side linkages based on specific occupational requirements at paraprofessional, professional and management levels in water sector institutions.

In this regard knowledge of Water Resources Management WRM career ladders and related occupations/specializations and of the foundation of the CB&T framework Mechanisms for registering existing FETWater courses will be established with the Energy Water Sector Education and Training Authority (EWSETA).

For existing FETWater courses to be registered, accredited and funded within the EWSETA/QCTO framework, linkages with occupational profiles/specializations in the Organizing Framework for Occupations (OFO) will have to be made more specific.

Registration of awards and certificates will require the matching - demand side requirements (sector Institutions/occupational clusters /level) to and skills supply (courses/awards) in the FETWater programme. Existing FETWater courses will have to be reviewed and linked to specific occupational profiles prior to registration.

*Guideline for course planning and registration*

FETWater course offerings have thus far been largely driven by a supply-side, academic knowledge transfer agenda. To improve currency and sustainability in the Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) environment, an occupationally directed focus is required. This will require the following:

* Linking course planning to sector skills planning (determining occupational priorities with regard to critical skills)
* Outlining occupational cluster and specifying targets
* Matching curriculum to occupation/specialization target
* Developing value proposition of offering to IWRM critical skills and career/ professional development in the sector for registration with QCTO and taking on DQP status

A step by step user guide towards signing a service level agreement for the development of an occupational qualification has been annexed in the report.

*Participating at the Advisory Board of the Water Sector Skills Gap Analysis*

During the preliminary investigation for establishing a new baseline upon which Phase III could be established, it was realised that the DWA with the WRC had already embarked on an initiative titled Water Sector Skills Gap Analysis, with a significant budget. Following this and after holding discussions with DWA and WRC, UNESCO was requested to be part of the Advisory Board and help steer the project to the desired results. The project is due to end in December 2013. The up to date results of these efforts have been annexed in this report.

*Establishing the basis for staffing Norms and Standards for the organization of municipalities and water users associations*

UNESCO cooperated with the DWA in order to support this work, which gives the basis upon which the expertise required at Governmental level will be defined and thus the requirement for training in order to respond to possible knowledge gaps. The work implemented includes:

* An integration of the 'Norms and Standards' process with the essential process of promoting Ring-Fencing of Water Services (with the associated need for cost recovery and integrated asset management),
* A comprehensive internal consultation process within the Department of Water Affairs which has included the Head Office as well as Regional (provincial) "roadshows" at all DWA Regional offices, and

It is the intention of DWA to take the Reports and Tools to external consultation with Role-players in the near future. This will include the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) as well as the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA). Once this process has been concluded, any inputs from that process that are relevant to the completion of the process will be incorporated into finalizing a tool that will be accessible to all role-players and that will be integrated within the broader (multi-sectorial) municipal institutional framework.

1. Difficulties and Problems encountered and measures taken, changes in implementation.

The process of contracts with WRC (both UNESCO and DWA) needs to be rethought so that there are no gaps in accessing of the funds by the networks and this way to ensure a smooth operation of the project. Direct contracts with the networks will result in fewer budgets spent on the coordination and UNESCO taking a more active role in it.

DWA took serious steps in mainstream the project within all the Directorates involved and raise awareness but has not yet responded to multiple calls and e-mails to move the process forward.

1. Project Results achieved and indicators in accordance with the log frame
2. During the second phase of the project 820 people have received training, a third of which (32%) are DWAF personnel; 35% of the total trainees are women. Approximately 65% of the trained scientists are previously disadvantaged individuals.
3. Two groundwater tests sites were developed (at the Universities of Pretoria and of KwaZulu-Natal) which will be helping the long term capacity building at the tertiary institutes and work in mainstreaming groundwater at secondary school level was finalized.
4. Two Catchment Management Agencies have been trained to develop their strategies and an information system for water related disasters based on the straw dog systems of Department Water and Environmental Affairs was developed.
5. One Masters Programme on Wetlands was developed and is being used by the University of Johannesburg.
6. The Guideline document and record of decisions were amended to include the decisions reached by all the FETWater partners on how Phase II would be managed.
7. Twelve network coordinators were trained in Belgium.
8. Two students from South Africa attended the River 21 training programme in Belgium and three students from Ghent University visited South Africa to collect information for their final year studies as civil engineers
9. Guidelines for Guideline for course planning and registration were drafted
10. A report and roadmap for establishing the basis for staffing Norms and Standards for the organization of municipalities and water users associations were drafted.
11. Lessons learned and Sustainability

Some of the lessons learned during the implementation of the Phase II, can be summarized as follows:

* Avoid very optimistic deliverable due dates while planning and execute deliverables as per plan within the time frame.
* Continuous communication among network partners is vital for successful outcomes.
* The inclusion of DWA officials to participate in the resource water quality objectives training capacitate these officials to provide on-going training in future.
* During the external evaluation (March 2008- March 2013), several respondents highlighted the opportunity and desirability to upscale the FETWater programme from a South-African focus to a more regional focus, especially towards those countries that are part of the South African Development Community (SADC).

A number of the products developed by the networks are on their way to medium term sustainability. In particular:

* Estuary Management course has been registered as a short-learning programme at NMMU. FETWater is acknowledged for establishing this course and the demand has ensured that it will be sustainable into the future.
* The initiative of StatsSA to form the reference group with assistance from the BUW network ensures that this group will still meet in the long term, even when FETWater is not active.
* Inclusion of some of the course material developed for the water economic course in the existing material used by the University of Pretoria (and possibly by Rhodes University) also ensures that these approaches will form part of the training of students.
* The envisaged accreditation of the UCT modules developed by the Wetlands and rivers network will allow students to complete similar modules either through UCT or UJ and get credits that are recognized at either institution allowing for a wider geographical spread for the teaching and capacity building.
* A Masters Programme in Water Related Disaster Management is being developed and will be taught at the University of Free State
* Walking Together for Water (WTfW) initiative

FETWater course offerings have thus far been largely driven by a supply-side, academic knowledge transfer agenda. To improve currency and sustainability in the Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) environment, an occupationally directed focus is required. The implementation of the guidelines produced within the framework of FETWater Phase II will be instrumental in ensuring the sustainability of all the material produced.

1. Evaluation recommendations when applicable

An External Evaluation was conducted within the overall framework of the evaluation of the Flanders UNESCO Science Trust Fund (FUST) for the work implemented from March 2008 to March 2013, by Ms Savithri Narayanan and Mr Wouter Buytaert.

The evaluation praises the FETwater programme highlighting its relevance and the fact that the training fills a void in South Africa. The evaluation though remarks that the long-term sustainability of the project may be affected by the lack of continuity between the different phases of the project, which has had a detrimental impact on the delivery of project outputs, especially with regard to course material and training course attendees. Furthermore, it notes that the website of the project is currently unavailable, and the risk exists that some project outputs may be lost.

The opportunity and desirability to upscale the FETwater programme from a South-African focus to a more regional focus, especially towards those countries that are part of the South African Development Community (SADC) is also highlighted.

1. Visibility: describe the visibility actions implemented during the contract period in order to disseminate the project activities and results as well as the cooperation between UNESCO and the Donor(s) *(logo in the publications, display the donor support, participation of the donor to the events, joint press conference, Internet)*

During the second phase of the projects, FETWater banners were displayed during numerous activities of the networks themselves along with International Conferences that the Secretariat participated in by having an information kiosk. A number of articles have been written in publications like the Water Wheel and a dvd was produced to raise awareness on the project and its results thus far. Thematic booklets have been developed and published. Finally, the Walking Together for Water initiative has allowed for visibility at high ranks within the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

1. Annexes
   * 1. Publications , evaluation reports and other outputs , when applicable
     2. List of national and international staff; fellowships awarded
     3. List of major equipment provided under the project and status after termination contract period
     4. List of progress reports prepared during the contract period

1. Resource Directed Measures Network; Groundwater Network; Beneficial Use of Water Network. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Resource Directed Measures Network; Groundwater Network; Beneficial Use of Water Network; Wetlands and Rivers Network; CMA Expertise Development Network; Catchment Management Strategy Development Network; [↑](#footnote-ref-2)