

Africa Regional Centres of Excellence (ArcX) related to green transition Programme

WATER COMPONENT AUDA NEPAD Centers of Excellence (ACEWATER III)



Location

Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Target group

AUDA NEPAD Networks of Water Centres of Excellence

Final beneficiaries

Decision makers, institutional managers, service providers, young professionals and end-users of improved access to water and WASH resources. Institutions at continental, regional and transboundary river basin level.



Abstract

The Specific Objective of the Work Package 5 “Thematic: Water” focuses on climate, surface water and groundwater hydrology, water management, the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) nexus, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH).

The activities leverage the experience and achievements from previous phases of the ACEWATER (African Centers of Excellence in WATER) programme, specifically Phase I (2009-2014) and Phase II (2016-2020).

These phases resulted in the establishment of a network of 20 Water Regional Centres of Excellence (RCoEs) across Western, Central-Eastern, and Southern Africa. They also identified key scientific and human capacity development (HCD) priorities at continental, regional, and Transboundary River Basin (TRB) scales. Furthermore, they designed and implemented relevant scientific and HCD activities, including projects in the Senegal and Gambia, Niger, Blue Nile, Lake Victoria, and Zambezi TRBs.

Expected outputs

- Innovative research and recommendations for decision-making on water resources management, environmental degradation and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) at national and transboundary levels,
- Skills and Capacity Building,
- Response programs at all levels for better management and equitable access to water and WASH resources,
- Responses to environmental degradation and DRR.

Stakeholders

Main

- AUDA NEPAD Networks of Water Centres of Excellence (CoEs)
- African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW)
- Regional Economic Communities (SADC, ECOWAS, IGAD)
- River Basin Organisations (RBOs)

Secondary

- Institutional managers
- Decision-makers
- Service providers
- Young professionals
- End-users of improved water and WASH resources

List of AUDA-NEPAD Centres of Excellence in Water Sciences – ACEWATER III

Implementing Partners

Southern African Network of Water Centres of Excellence (SANWATCE)

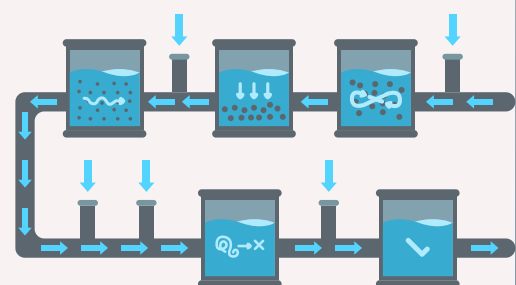
- South Africa:
 - **Stellenbosch University – Project lead and Science - Node**
 - Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) – Node
 - University of Western Cape – Node
 - University of KwaZulu-Natal – Node
- Mozambique: International Centre for Water Economics and Governance in Africa at Eduardo Mondlane University – Node
- Malawi: University of Malawi – Node
- Zambia: University of Zambia – Node
- Botswana: University of Botswana – Node
- Namibia: Namibia University of Science and Technology – Node
- Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe National University of Science and Technology – Node
- Mauritius: University of Mauritius – Node

Western African Network of Water Centres of Excellence (WANWATCE)

- Senegal: University Cheick Anta Diop (UCAD) – EDEQUE
- Ghana: Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)
- Nigeria:
 - University of Benin
 - National Water Resource Institute (NWRI), Kaduna
- Burkina Faso: ZiE (Burkina Faso)

Central/East African Network of Water Centres of Excellence (CEANWATCE)

- Sudan: Water Research Centre at the University of Khartoum
- Ethiopia: Ethiopian Institute of Water Resources at Addis Ababa University
- Uganda: Geography Geo-Informatics and Climatic Sciences Department at Makerere University
- Kenya (IGAD): IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre (ICPAC) in Nairobi



Background:

Following the signing of the project contract between Stellenbosch University (SU) and the EU Delegation in South Africa in December 2023, preparation activities included the JRC drafting a survey aimed at identifying and ranking key continental and regional water-related priorities and the RCoEs preliminarily expressing their areas of scientific interest.

A Validation Workshop and KoM, organized by SU and hosted at ICPAC facilities (IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre in Nairobi, Kenya), was held from 15 to 19 April 2024. The event brought together key stakeholders from across the continent, including representatives of 19 (out of 20) RCoEs, spanning Western, Central-Eastern and Southern Africa, European Commission (DG-INTPA, JRC, EU Del), EC Technical Assistance, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and some African River Basin Organizations (RBOs). The primary objective was to identify synergies, promote cross-fertilization of ideas, and ensure alignment with the priorities and challenges facing stakeholders in Africa, with a focus on scientific research and HCD proposals.

The submission of preliminary RCoEs' proposals on scientific research, mobility plans and HCD activities by mid-June was the object of a detailed JRC assessment, leading to the identification of a series of issues. These issues were subsequently targeted through Inception Reports, which are currently under analysis. The World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden (25-29 August) and the 9th Africa Water Week in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt (13-17 October) were among the most prominent events that gave the opportunity to present the project and further interact with key stakeholders in the water sector.

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