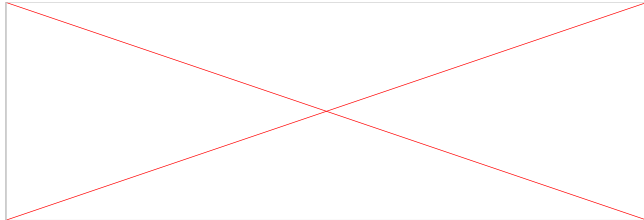


AUDA-NEPAD Water CoEs



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ACEWATER III Project 2024-2027

Project Aims, Achievements,
Lessons Learned and Next Steps

April 2025

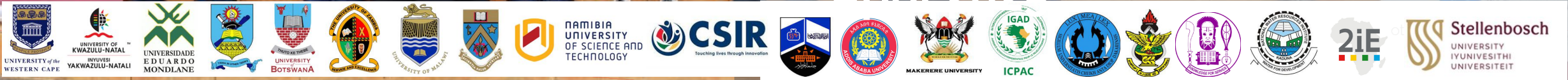


Photo by Stefan Els



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Project Background

- Phase III of ACEWATER (Africa Centres of Excellence on Water)
- Builds on ACEWATER I and II
- 20 implementing partners (AUDA-NEPAD Water Centres of Excellence)
 - First established in 2006
 - Mandated by AMCOW (African Ministers' Council on Water) and AMCOST (African Ministers for Science and Technology)
- Three regions in Africa (Southern, West, East)
- Stellenbosch University, South Africa – Coordinator



NAMIBIA
UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY



CSIR
Touching lives through innovation



Stellenbosch
UNIVERSITY
IYUNIVESITHI
UNIVERSITEIT

ACEWATER III Partners



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Western African CoE Network

1. University of Cheikh Anta Diop (Senegal)- Coordinator
2. International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering (Burkina Faso)
3. University of Benin (Nigeria)
4. National Water Resources Institute (Nigeria)
5. Kwame Nkrumah University for Sciences and Technology (Ghana)

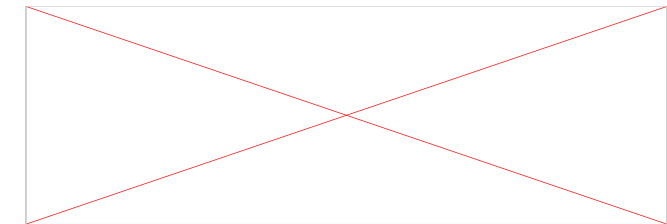
Southern African CoE Network

6. Stellenbosch University (South Africa) – Coordinator
7. International Centre for Water Economics and Governance in Africa (Mozambique)
8. University of KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa)
9. University of Western Cape (South Africa)
10. University of Malawi
11. University of Zambia
12. University of Botswana
13. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR (South Africa)
14. Namibia University of S&T
15. National University of S&T (Zimbabwe)
16. University of Mauritius

Eastern and Central Africa CoE Network (since aug.2017)

17. Makerere University (Uganda)
18. Water Research Center, University of Khartoum (Sudan)
19. Ethiopian Institute of Water Resources, Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia)
20. IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (Kenya)

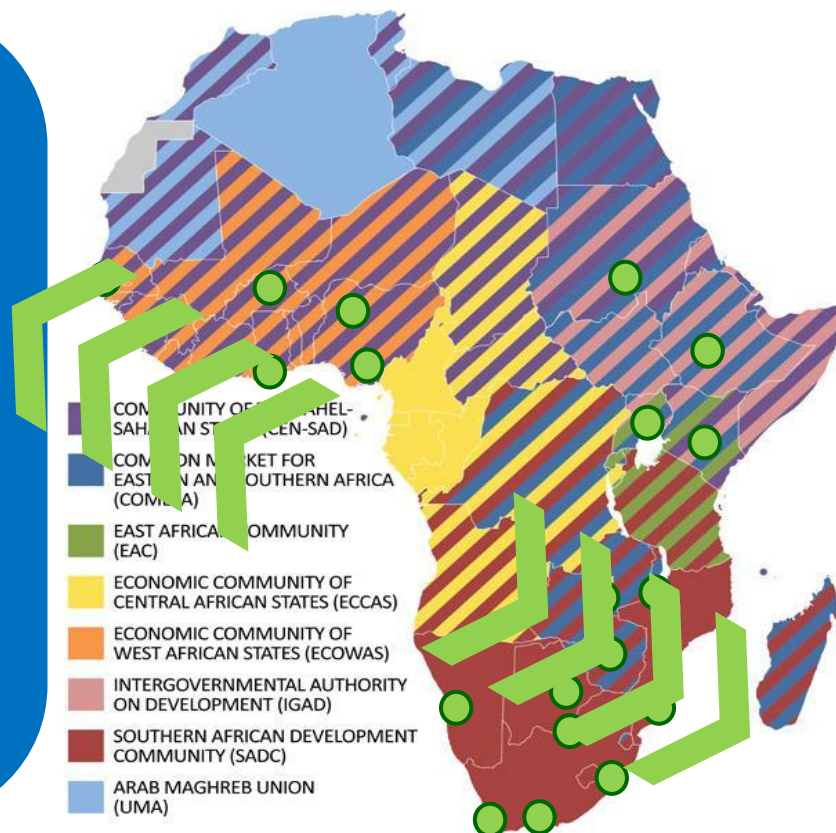




Scientific level

Centers of Excellence

1. Development of Scientific knowledge, expertise and (demand-driven) tools
2. Support to capacity building and skills development in the water sector



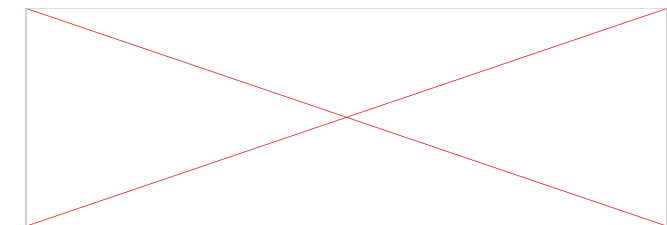
Centers of Excellence Network is a platform for regional dialogue and collaboration with policy representatives

Policy level

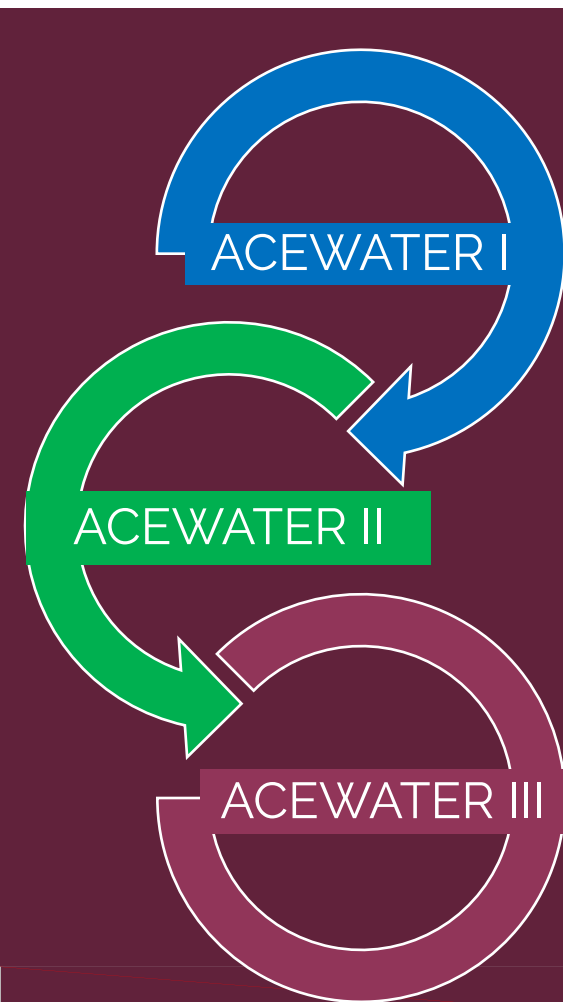
RECs
RBOs
Nationals

Identification of needs and priorities

2. Development of (sustainable) strategies and policies
3. Regional Exchange



But how did we get to ACEWATER III?



~2009-2014

1. Joint Learning

Joint design and delivery of seminar

2. Knowledge management

Educational material, Aquaknow, international workshop, e-conference

~2016-2020

1. Expand the networks to also include Central/East Africa (CEANWATCE)

2. Research in IWRM at RBOs (include research 141 outputs)

3. Human Capacity Development Definition of needs, priorities and gap analysis, through multi-stakeholders participative approach for all NEPAD CoE Networks; HCD National Frameworks on the water sector, including M&E for WANWATCE, SANWATCE and CEANWATCE Networks. 22 pilot trainings implemented

2024-2027

1. Research for STI

2. Human Capacity Development for STI

3. Short-term staff and post-graduate research exchange

4. Cross-cutting: Performance Monitoring, Evaluation (M&E) and Learning

5. Publication, communication and dissemination

AUDA-NEPAD Water CoEs- ACEWATER III Project

◆ Project duration 2024 to 2028

◆ 20 Partners across Africa

◆ Activities:

I. Research for Science, Technology and Innovation

- *For improved Transboundary Water Resources Management and decision-making.*

II. Human Capacity Development

- *To undertake at least two short-course trainings per member institution in year two and three of the ACEWATER III project (40 short-courses in total)*

III. Short term Mobility opportunities between partners

- *To create opportunities for 79 staff and 120 emerging scholars to undertake short-term research- and skills exchanges between member institutions of the AUDA-NEPAD Water CoEs.*

IV. Performance Monitoring, Evaluation (M&E) and Learning

- *To submit 20 (per each CoE) detailed, disaggregated and accurate annual M, E & Learning*

V. Communication and engagement with Policy stakeholders

- *To provide 152 opportunities for staff and 48 opportunities for post-graduate students to attend regional conferences, and attend the biennial AMCOW General Assembly and AfricaSAN conference.*

Addressing key transboundary water resources management challenges



- **Strengthening research collaboration –**
Transboundary Water Resources Management
 - Between implementing partners, relevant local, regional and continental stakeholders, European Commission (Team Europe Initiative)
- **Human Capacity Development**
- Sustainable socioeconomic development and equitable management of water resources in Africa
- Activities that are **demand/needs driven**

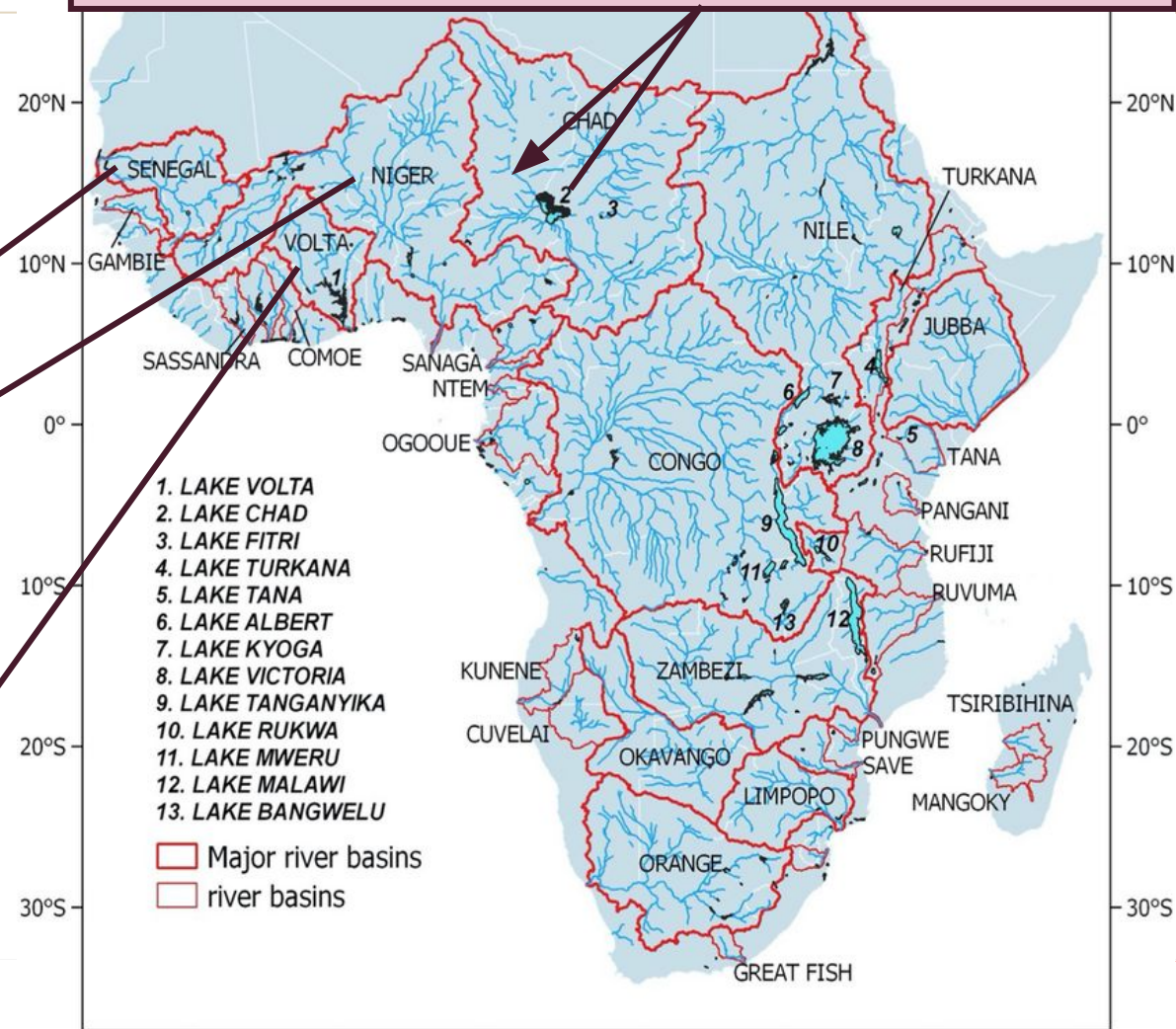
Research Topics: West-Africa

Towards transboundary river eco-socio-system resilience and status of WEF E Nexus implementation. Example of the Senegal River basin (UCAD-Senegal)

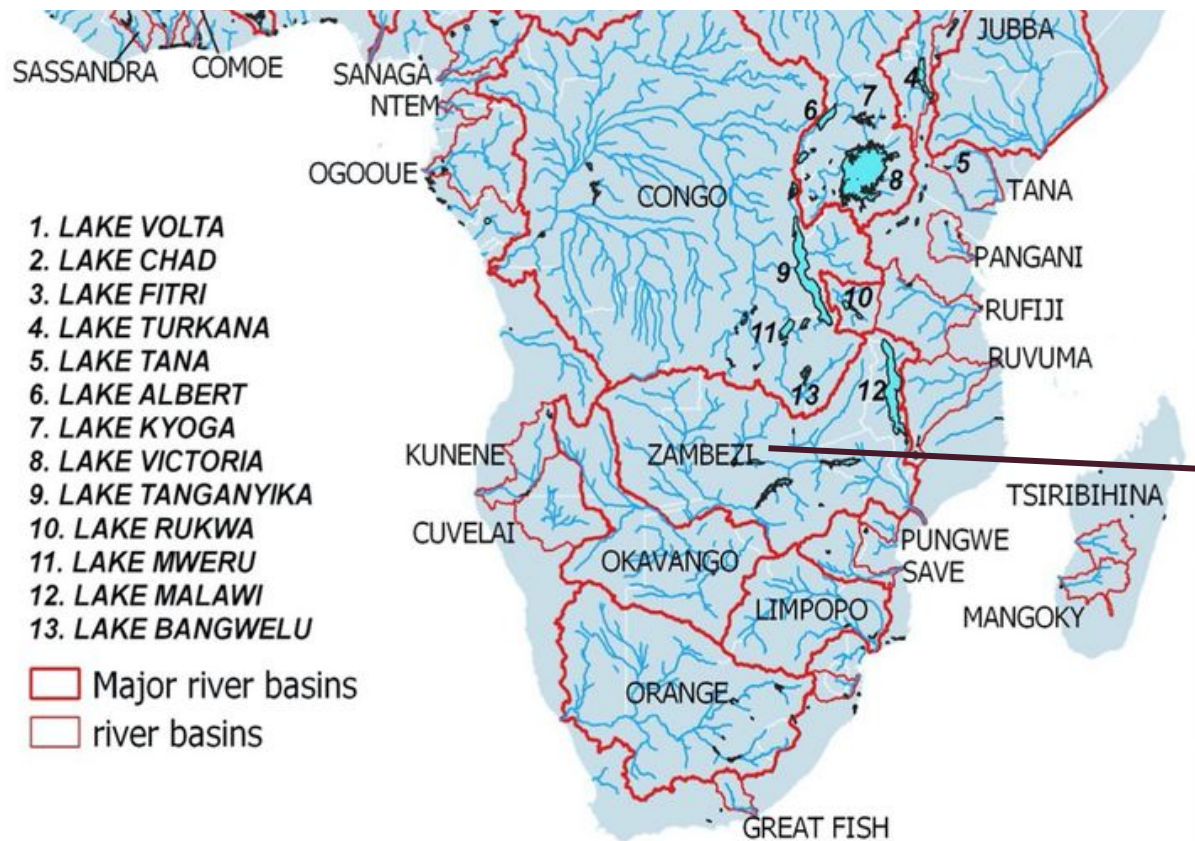
Climate Amelioration and Water Resources Conservation, Environmental Management Including Extreme Events in Local Communities within the Lower Niger River Basin. (UNIBEN-Benin, Nigeria)

1. Climate Change Footprint on Hydro-Ecological Systems of the Volta River Basin" (KNUST-Ghana)
2. Groundwater for Sustainable Development: a transboundary approach in the Volta River Basin (2iE-Burkina Faso)

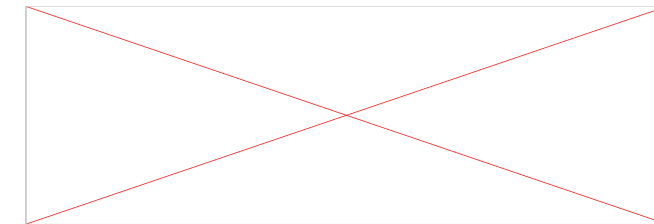
Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Development and Management in Northern Nigeria (NWRI-Nigeria)



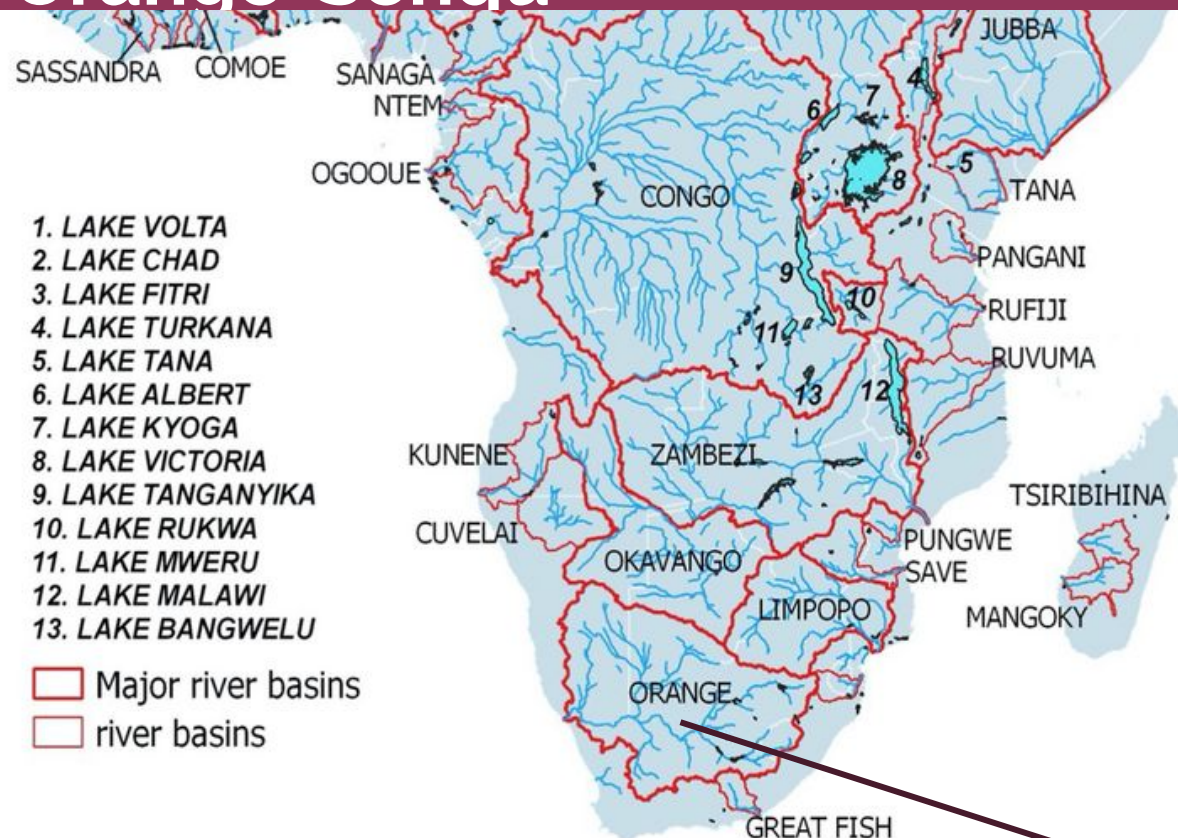
Research Topics: Southern Africa- Zambezi



1. Flood Impact Assessment in Lower Zambezi Basin, Mozambique (UEM-Mozambique)
2. Improved groundwater management for the Upper Zambezi Basin (UnZam-Zambia)
3. Africa Water Data Observatory (CSIR-South Africa)
4. Modelling Ethical Frameworks for Transboundary Water Resources Management within Africa: A dialogue between the African Union, National Governments and ACEWATER III (SUWI-South Africa)
5. Assessment of groundwater resources to generate scientific recommendations, Zambezi, Southern Africa (UWC-South Africa)
6. Examining the impacts of human activities on water resources management in the Zambezi basin-Deka River (NUST-Zimbabwe)

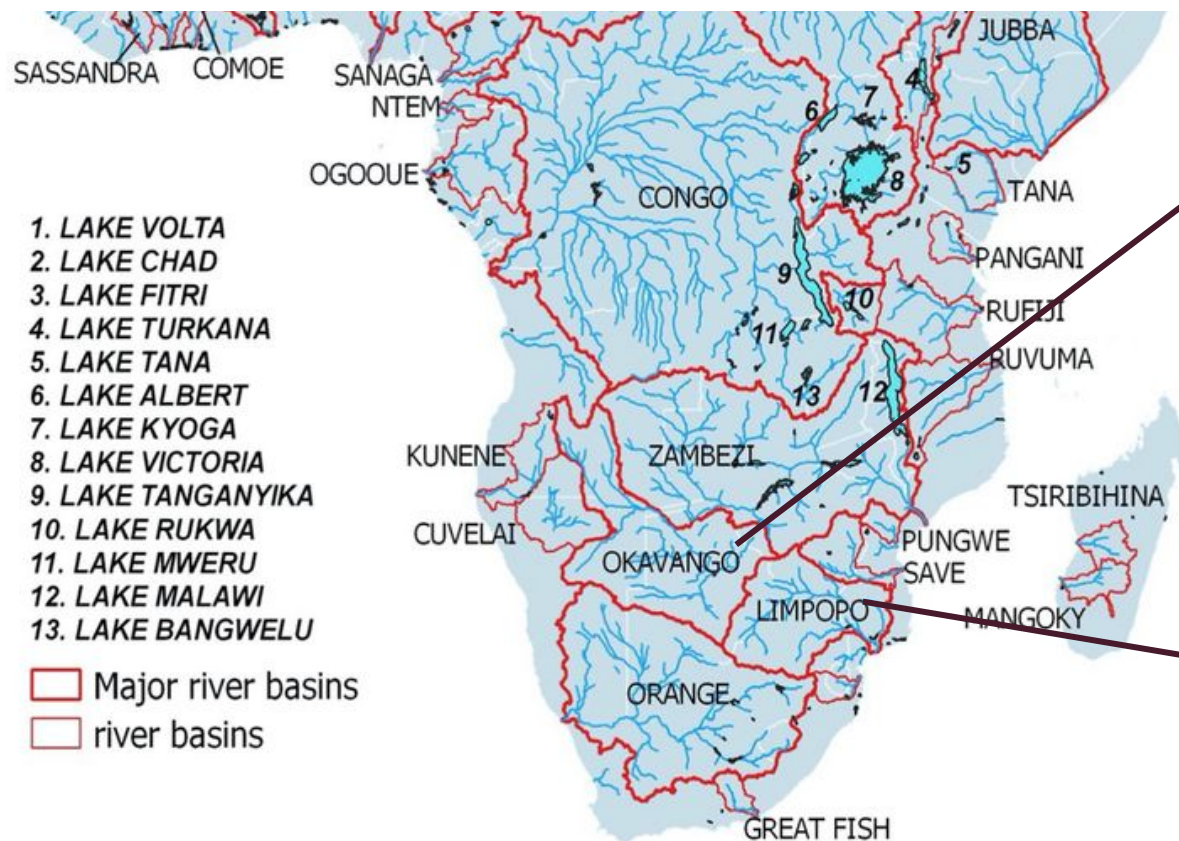


Research Topics: Southern Africa - Orange-Senqu



1. Africa Water Data Observatory (CSIR-South Africa)
2. Water IP and Technology Transfer Hub (CSIR-South Africa)
3. Water Resources Efficiency and Integrated Programs (Water Security, WEFN Nexus, Circular Economy, Eco-Industrial Parks)-(CSIR-South Africa)
4. Assessment of groundwater resources to generate scientific recommendations Orange-Senqu, Southern Africa (UWC, South Africa)
5. Modelling Ethical Frameworks for Transboundary Water Resources Management within Africa: A dialogue between the African Union, National Governments and ACEWATER III (SUWI)
6. Smart WEFN Innovation Model (SWIM): advancing circular economy and climate resilience (NUST-Namibia)

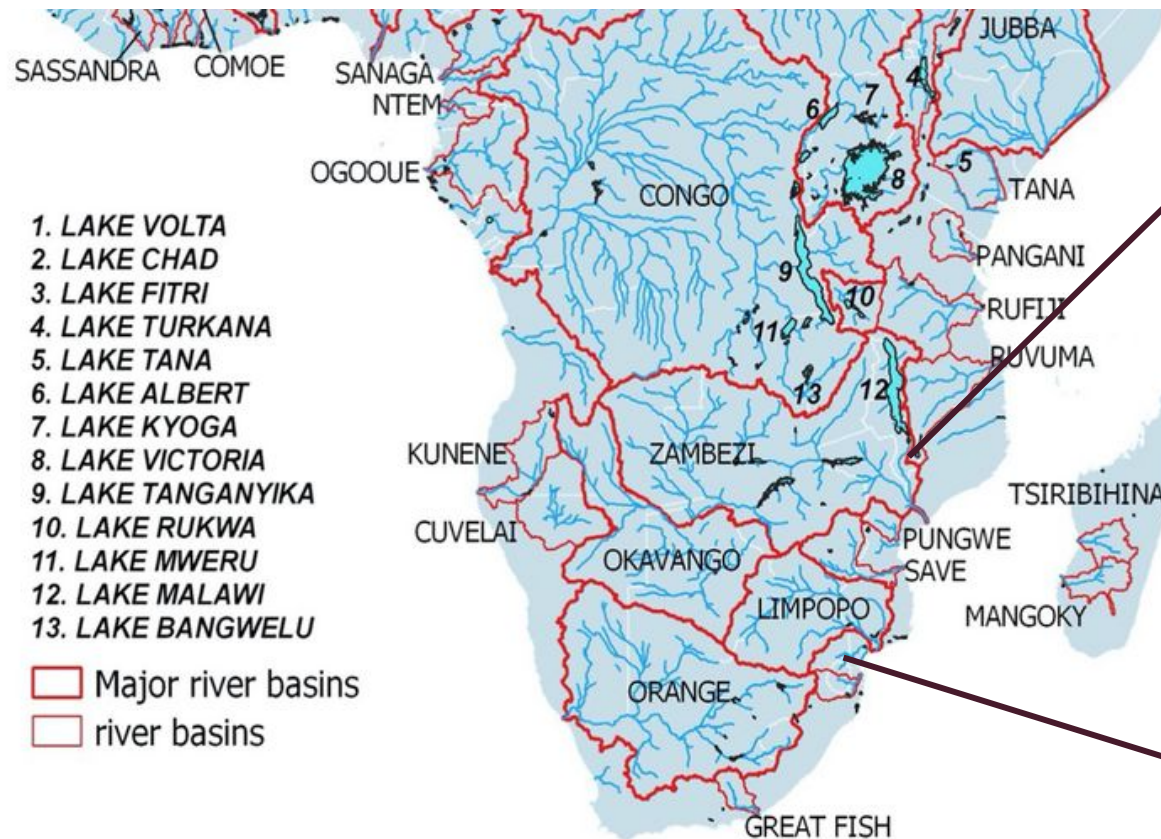
ACEWATER III - STI Topics: Southern Africa



1. Africa Water Data Observatory (CSIR)
2. Smart WEF E Innovation Model (SWIM): advancing circular economy and climate resilience (NUST-Namibia)

1. Water security in the context of climate change and disaster risk reduction: The Case of Limpopo River Basin (UB-Botswana)
2. Assessment of groundwater resources to generate scientific recommendations, Limpopo (SUWI-South Africa)

Research Topics: Southern Africa



Environmental monitoring system for Lake Chilwa (UniMa, Malawi)

Adaptation to climate change impacts, Floods, with Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Cities (UoM-Mauritius).

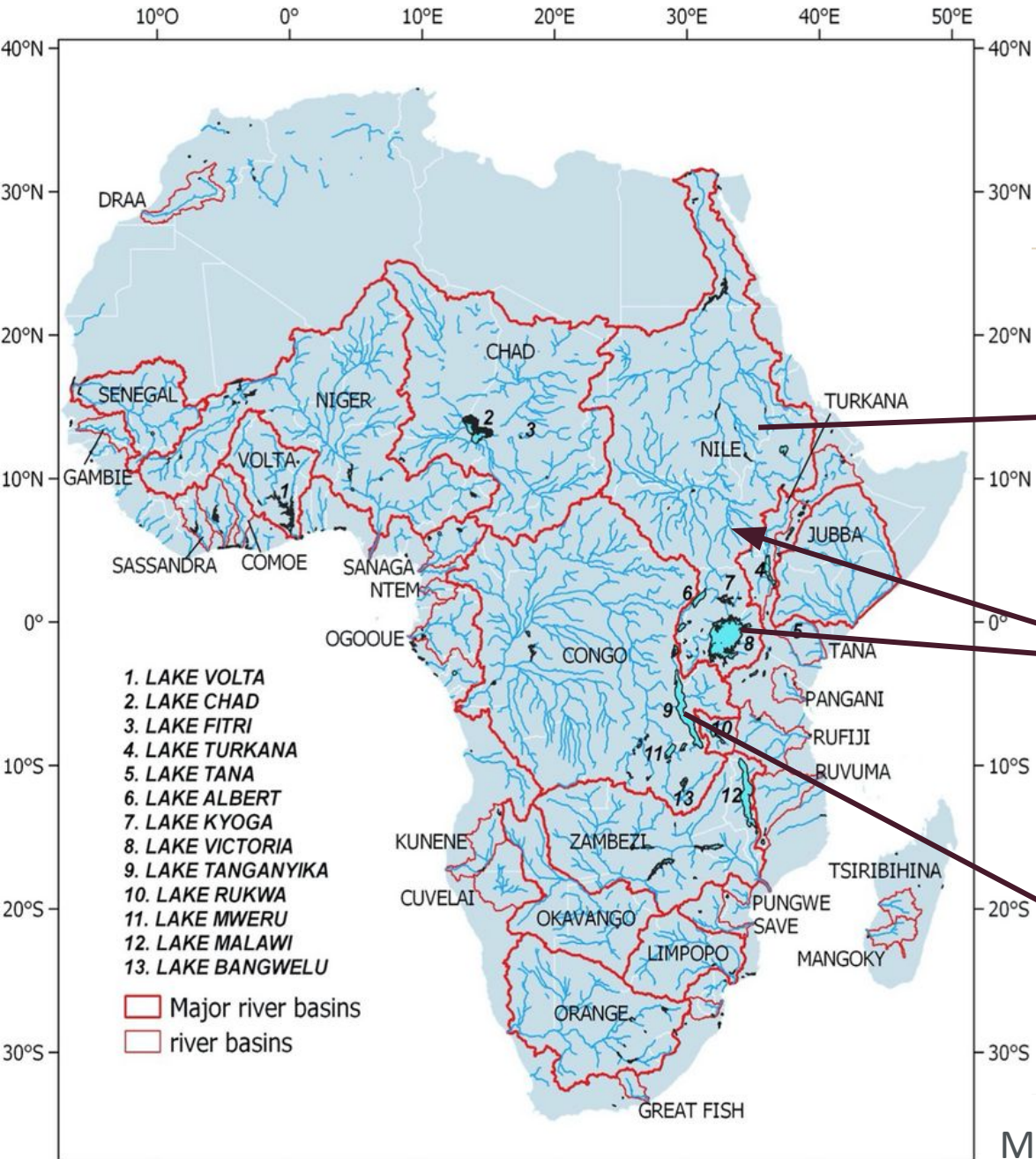
Developing a Framework for Strengthening of the Institutional, Technical and Operational Capacity of the Incomati – Maputo River Basin for Effective Transboundary Water Resources Management (UKZN, South Africa)

Research Topics: Central/East Africa

Synergies and trade-offs in the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem (WFE) (EIWR-AAU -Ethiopia)

Optimizing Nature Based Solutions for socioecological resilience to hydrometeorological hazards in the Eastern Africa high altitude landscapes of the Nile Basin (Makerere-Uganda).

Lake Tanganyika (Kivu) Basin Water Balance Study (ICPAC-Kenya)

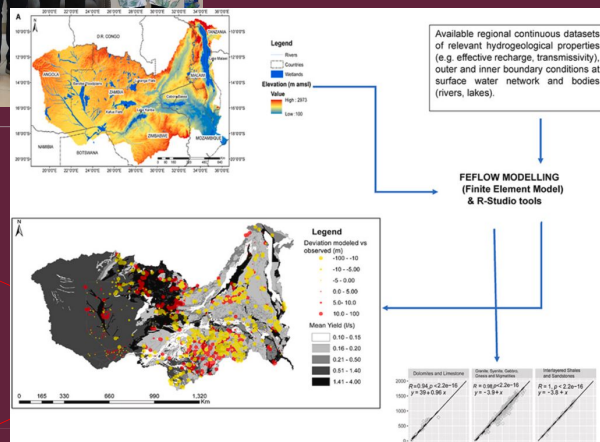


Map available from Surveys in Geophysics: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

Planned Outcomes and Impacts

- **Outcome 1** – Promoting STI capacity development at various levels
- **Outcome 2** – Focus on:
 - Research
 - Human Capacity Development
 - Short-term exchange mobilities
 - Publication, communication and dissemination

Impact – Knowledge and Strategies for political, sociocultural, sectoral & institutional contexts
& alignment of STI activities with country strategies and programmes



ACEWATER III



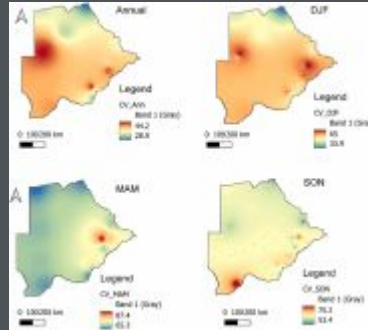
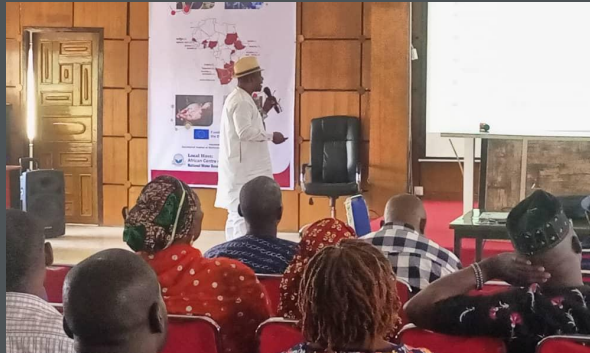
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Thank you
Enkosi
Dankie

Dr. Katiana Ramsamy



Achievements so far



Project Administration:

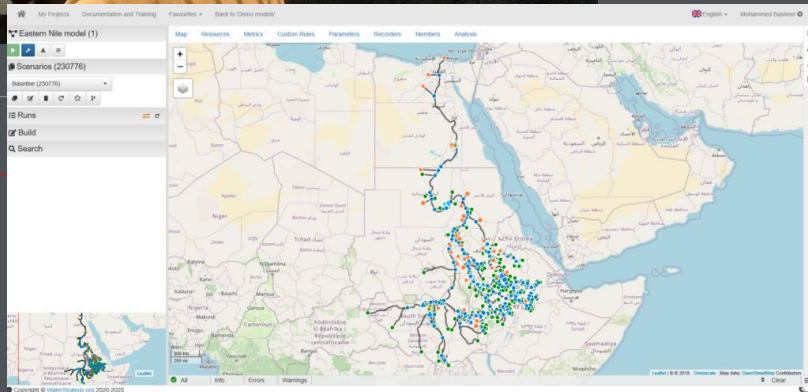
- Monthly Partner Meetings held
- Steering Committee Meetings
- 2024 annual report submitted to EU delegation

Project activities:

- Initiated research activities
- Initiated training activities (short-courses)
- 53 staff and emerging scholars participated in regional and continental conferences in 2024
- Establishing/strengthening relationships with stakeholders e.g. ministries (e.g. NUST Zimbabwe at African Water Week in Cairo)
- Contributed to **AMCOW Regional Consultations** (Africa Water Vision Post 2025)
 - East Africa – Dar es Salaam (4-6 March)
 - West Africa – Abuja (15-17 March)
 - Southern Africa – Harare (25 – 27 March)



Next steps



- **Next steps:**
 - Accelerate research and short course activities
 - Planned Science-Policy engagements
 - EU training - OKACOM
 - IGAD 4th Water Forum (May/June)
 - PANAFCON (27-29 May, 2025) – Lusaka
 - “South Africa Water Summit G20” – Nov '25
 - AfricaSAN (Ghana – October)?
 - WaterNet Symposium (Nov)
 - Implement and monitor activities
 - Enhance communication and publication initiatives

Lessons Learned / Key messages

- Established network with a mandate from the African ministers of Water and Ministers of Science (AMCOW and AMCOST- 2006)
- Activities have been supported by the EC since 2009
- These universities linked to their member states and relevant River Basin Organisation
- Contexts differ –Southern, Easter, Western Africa...
- Important to maintain cohesion between partners – power of the network and joint learning
- Partners have ownership of the agenda (research and capacity development needs) – they know best considering *their* context



ACEWATER III



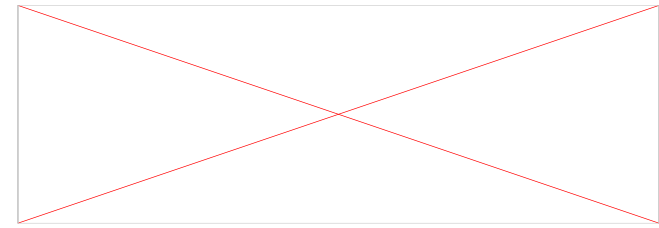
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- Addition slides on research topics and also short-courses (backup)





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3. Human Capacity Development (HCD)

Short courses

Current Status and Next Steps

Current Status:

- Implementation Planned for 2025:

Next Steps:

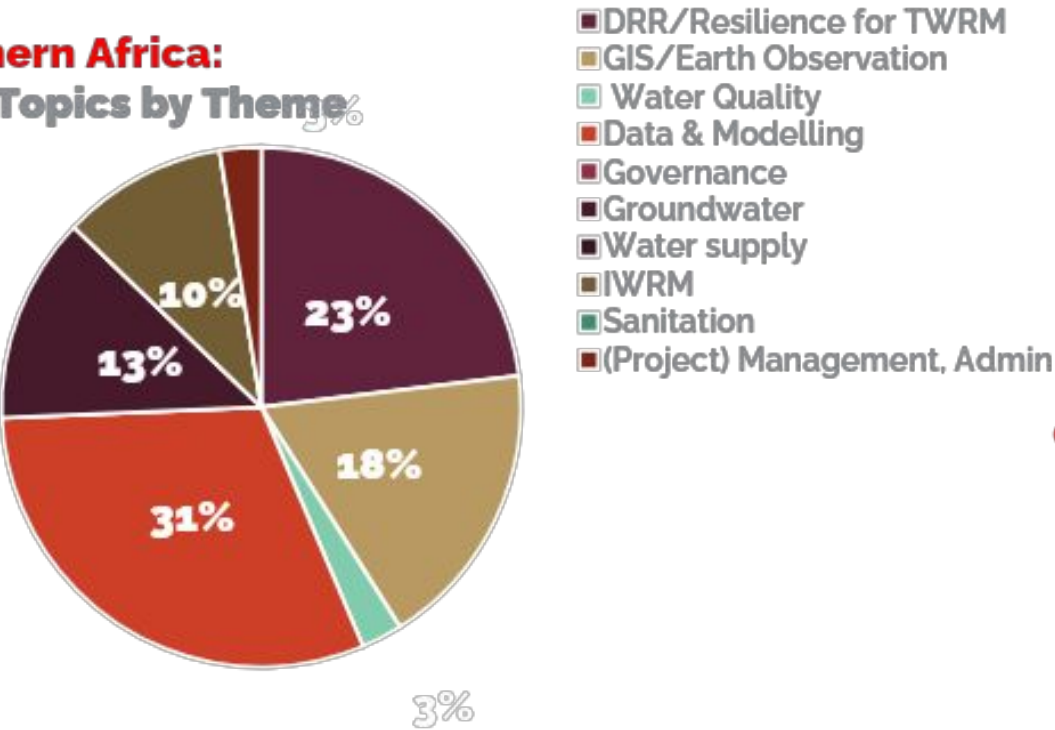
- Prepare short course detail descriptions



ACEWATER III Status Update

HCD (Human Capacity Development)

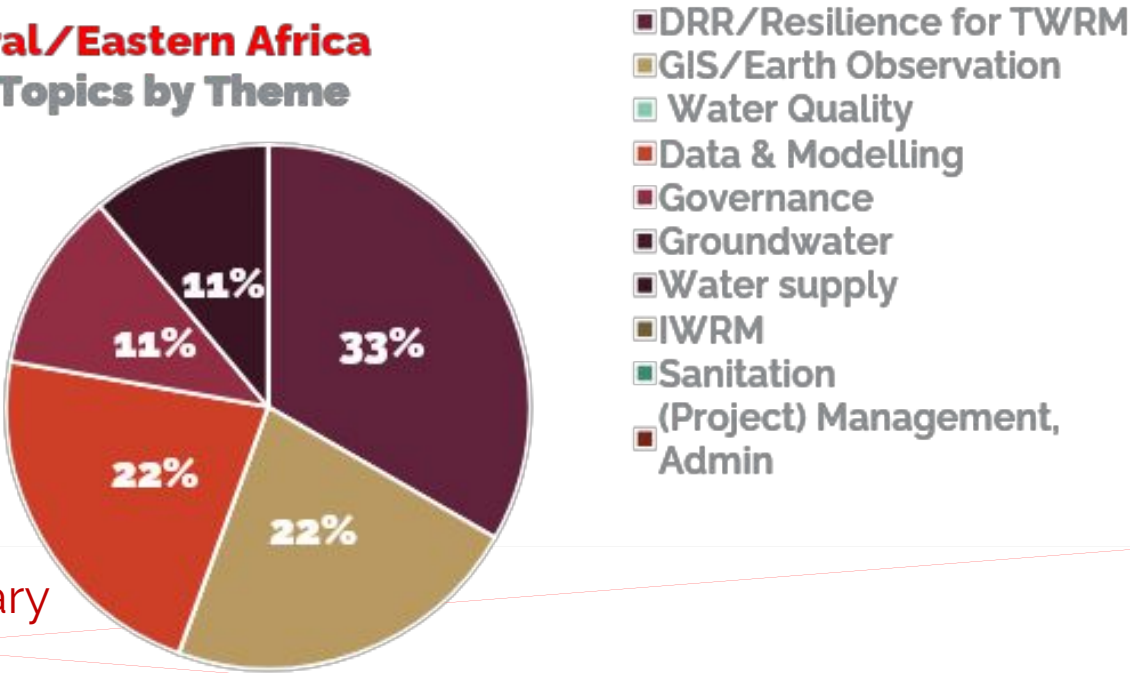
Southern Africa:
HCD Topics by Theme



Data/Modelling

- ❖ 17/19 Proposals Submitted
- ❖ 53 courses
- ❖ 985+ beneficiaries targeted
- ❖ Wide range of audiences
- ❖ Significant collaboration

Central/Eastern Africa
HCD Topics by Theme



DRR/Resilience for TWRM (Transboundary
Water Resources Management)

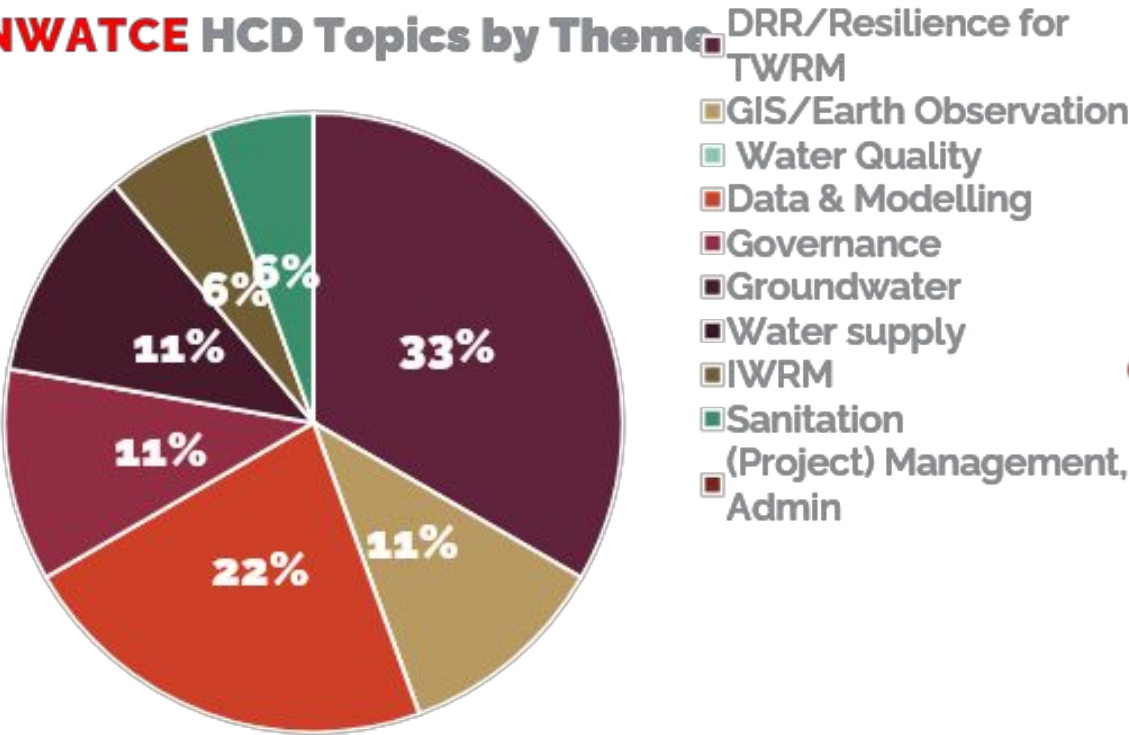
ACEWATER III Status Update

HCD (Human Capacity Development)



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WANWATCE HCD Topics by Theme



DRR/Resilience for TWRM (Transboundary Water Resources Management)

- Alignment with Priority Basis
- Topics reflect past and changing thematic priorities over time

Overall HCD Topics by Theme

