

Motivation for a GWSP Regional Node for Africa

to be hosted by

University of KwaZulu-Natal

School of Bioresources Engineering and Environmental Hydrology

Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

A Little Background...



UNESCO Category II Centre

The African Centre for Global Change & Water Resources Research

to be hosted by

University of KwaZulu-Natal

School of Bioresources Engineering and Environmental Hydrology

Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

on behalf of

SA National IHP Committee



Rationale for ACGCWRR

Africa's Water Sector

- highly vulnerable to climate change
- highly vulnerable to land use change & degradation
- potential source of food/fibre/fodder
- for sustainability, requires science to inform policy
- requires sound governance
- often reliant on “external experts”

hence the African Centre

Objectives

To contribute to sustainable land, soil and water management through thematic research and linked capacity-building at individual and institutional levels in the context of Global Environmental Change and its impacts on Water Resources in Africa

Activities Envisaged

- * Theoretical, experimental and applied research in climate/land/water interactions**
- * Development of tools and systems for sustainable management**
- * Applied research on information and knowledge management**
- * Advanced post-graduate training**
- * Exchange of knowledge**
- * Technical cooperation and exchange among African countries**

Thus, the core philosophy of ACGCWRR is to train African scientists on African water resource priorities, on African soil

Governance & Related Issues

Legal Status

Hosted by University of KwaZulu-Natal (a juristic person i.t.o. SA Higher Education Act 101 of 1997) with physical & in-kind contributions

Governing Board

Steering and Academic Advisory Committee

Financing

- a. Core admin and salary funding: UKZN
- b. Institutional support and guidance
 - DWA (strategic directions)
 - WRC (water related research coordination & funding)
 - DST Chair in Land and Water Systems (under consideration)
- c. Research project based funding
 - incl. competitive grants, short courses

Operation

Centre will operate on a “hub and spoke” model

- * **Hub** – University of KwaZulu-Natal
- * **Axle** – Department of Water Affairs; Water Research Commission
- * **Spokes**
 - a. Networks
 - WaterNet
 - NEPAD Water Network Centres of Excellence
 - b. National & Regional
 - Institute for Water Research, Rhodes University
 - Water Institute, University of Pretoria
 - Soil Water Management Research Group, Univ/Tanzania
 - c. International
 - IRD, France
 - UNESCO-IHE, Netherlands
 - Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden

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