

## Establishment of the WAHARA website

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WP7: Project and consortium management

## D7.1 WAHARA website

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## **1. Introduction**

The general objective of WP7 is the overall coordination of project activities and project meetings, to ensure a timely project progress and to carry out the financial and administrative management of the project. For that purpose a project management structure has been established that will facilitate and organize effective and efficient collaboration and communication among project partners, in order to timely achieve the project deliverables and milestones. This WP constitutes the link to the European Commission and is responsible for the project administration, including the consortium agreement, the management of the budget, financial transactions within the project and the financial reporting to the commission. To ensure efficient internal and external communication of project matters it is important to establish a project website early in the project. The project website constitutes deliverable 7.1, due for month 3 of the WAHARA project.

## **2. Method and result**

The WAHARA website was created in April 2011, in month 2 of WAHARA. Joomla freeware was used to create the site. The website can be found at: [www.wahara.eu](http://www.wahara.eu).

Information from the Description of Work was added at an early stage. The website contains a menu that provides access to information about: water harvesting, the WAHARA project, project partners and contact persons.

The site also contains a search function and a download section. A closed section was created to house intermediate results, and to share these with project partners. Finalised project results will be made available through the download section. The website also contains links to relevant websites and news items. The site is updated regularly. The figures below show a few screenshots.

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This project is financed through the EC FP7 ENVIRONMENT program

## WAHARA - Water Harvesting for Rainfed Africa

Introduction to the WAHARA project

In the variety of contexts in Africa – from arid to humid – the availability of water has become increasingly important, making an improved capture and usage of water essential. To ensure a continuous water supply for agricultural crops, water harvesting has been carried out in the earliest agricultural practices; however the environment has changed, as well as the number of people depending on it.

This is where the WAHARA project will make a difference: four countries, four pilot projects, one goal: increasing the potential of water harvesting.

### Home

Stakeholder Analysis Reporting Guidelines posted

Published Date

Working Package 1 has released Reporting Guidelines for the first stakeholder workshops that all countries have organised. The guidelines are available as download in the 'restricted' user Download section.

18 month plan available

Published Date



The latest version of the 18 month plan is available for download to registered users. Please login to the website and download the pdf file from the [DOWNLOAD](#) pages.

WAHARA Flyer available

Published Date



The new WAHARA project flyer is available as from today. Both English and French versions can be downloaded using the links below. The flyer gives an overview of the purpose and methods of the WAHARA project.

Kickoff meeting WAHARA project



Published Date



From May 9th until May 12th 2011, the

Homepage of WAHARA website, picture at the top varies

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ENV.2010.3.1.1-4 Water harvesting technologies in Africa. Project reference: 265570.

## Project information

Published Date

Concept and project objectives

Water productivity in Africa is the lowest in the world, and is further stressed by a rapidly growing population and the challenges posed by climate change. Africa contains about nine percent of global freshwater, and is characterised by large disparities in rainfall distribution and water availability across the continent (Joto Africa, 2009). Considering that Africa currently hosts almost 15% of the world's population which is projected to increase to 17.5% by 2025 (UN, 2008), it is clear that relative water scarcity is on the increase. Africa is moreover the only continent where growth of food production has not kept pace with population growth in recent decades; yet performance of the agricultural sector is crucial for long-term growth prospects (UNECA, AU and AfDB, 2000), not least because 80% of Africans rely on agriculture for their livelihoods (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, 2009).

The vast majority of African farmers rely on rainfall for food production: 95% of agricultural production in Africa comes from rainfed areas (UNEP, 2009). Productivity levels are low and grain yields oscillate typically around 1 ton per hectare. There is an important yield gap between experimental results and farmers' reality (Rockström et al., in press). The key to closing the gap lies in improved water management. African countries on average only store 4% of annual flow (WWDR3, 2009), and a low water buffer means high vulnerability to both droughts and floods. Risk of climatic anomalies in Africa will even increase as a result of climate change (Conway, 2009). By 2020, 75-250 million people may be exposed to increased water stress due to the combined effects of climate change and increased demand (IPCC, 2008).

Project Challenges

Two key challenges concerning agriculture converge: how will Africa feed its growing population? And how will African agriculture cope with climate change? These challenges are recognized by Africa's Leaders, and overcoming them is the key to food security. The Africa Water Vision calls for investment in water resources management. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP, www.caadp.net) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (www.agra-alliance.org) call for a boost in agricultural productivity. The CAADP's first pillar rests on improvements in land and water management. The scope for a boost in agricultural productivity is greatest in rainfed agriculture: a recent extensive review of opportunities shows that yield improvements of rainfed crops of about 100% can be attained, against 10% for irrigated crops (Pretty and Hine, 2001). Food security would improve as a result of increased productivity of rainfed agriculture, but will especially benefit from increased resilience brought about by improved buffering of water.

In addition to the agricultural challenges, a third key challenge is: how to improve water security of rural Africans? Less than half of rural Africans currently have access to secure water (e.g. improved boreholes, wells or treated surface water) (MacDonald et al., 2009). Yet, the wider socio-economic benefits of safe water and adequate sanitation (improved health, livelihood security and poverty reduction) have been estimated at US\$3-4 per US\$ invested, with the highest returns in Africa (WHO, 2004). Again, buffering of water resources is the answer to the challenge.

Questions that Remain

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## Project partners

Published Date

The WAHARA project is composed of the following partners:

- Partner 1 - Alterra
- Partner 2 - Leeds University
- Partner 3 - MetaMeta
- Partner 4 - Institut des Régions Arides
- Partner 5 - INERA
- Partner 6 - Mekelle University (MU)
- Partner 7 - GART
- Partner 8 - Wageningen University - LDD (WU-LDD)

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### The WAHARA consortium

The WAHARA consortium is composed of 8 partners from 6 countries, including 4 partners from EU member countries, and 4 partners from Africa. The objectives of the proposal demand an international and multidisciplinary approach and could not be carried out by one country. The consortium consists of Universities, Research Institutes, Government branches and SMEs and is thus truly multidisciplinary. The international partnership forms the critical mass necessary to realise WAHARA's successful implementation and to reach the objectives and goals as described in the previous chapters. The mix of organisations will ensure maximum synergy, complementarities and innovation. Many of the partners have already successfully worked together for various occasions and projects, such as within the currently on-going project DESIRE (GOCE-037046). Disciplines embedded in WAHARA range from hydrology, agronomy, extension and communication, learning and action, land use planning, geography, ecology, soil science, to economy, sociology and political science. WAHARA will work in a truly interdisciplinary and integrative manner and with the aim of developing tools and methods for wider application by planners and decision makers. Additionally, this will be achieved by using a transdisciplinary approach, i.e. working in close cooperation with land users and other related stakeholders using advanced participatory, monitoring and analysis techniques.

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Partner information on the WAHARA website

### 3. Conclusions

The WAHARA website was developed according to plan, and is being kept up to date.