



Project 518066

AFRICAN WATER

Supporting African involvement in the EU Framework Programme

Instrument: Specific Support Action

Thematic priority: Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area

D2.1.1

Database of African water researchers

D2.3.1

Training sessions in EU Member States

D2.4.1

Dissemination of UKRO information services

D2.4.2

Selection of African delegates to 2007 UKRO Annual Conference

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Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, UK & UK Research Office, Belgium

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Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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1. Introduction

In WP2, the African Water consortium utilised its available knowledge of, and contacts with, the African water sector and the EU and Member State research programmes as a starting point to promote the project and its objectives, and to encourage cooperation and collaboration between the EU and African institutes, and between different African institutes.

Activities have included collation and extension of lists of contact points across the EU and Africa to contribute to the database of African water researchers (D2.1.1, section 2 of this report), and distribution of the UKRO European RTD Insight newsletters and Information Services to some of these researchers (D2.4.1, section 4 of this report). In addition, African Water has attempted to raise the profile of FP7 within EU Member State training organisations (D2.3.1, section 3 of this report). Finally, three representatives from African water research organisations were sponsored by African Water to attend the 2007 UKRO Annual Conference in London, UK to increase African awareness of Brussels institutions, meet key EC staff and increase knowledge about framework processes (D2.4.2, section 5 of this report). This report combines the four deliverables from WP2 “Working through existing networks” relating to these activities.

A separate report on complementary initiatives (D2.2.1) identifies ongoing activities, electronic discussion lists and information channels relevant to African Water researchers.

2. Database of African water researchers

The database of African water researchers contains of two lists of email addresses. The first is a static one composed of 493 addresses provided by African Water partners from their networks of contacts points across the EU and Africa, including senior research policymakers within the NEPAD process, senior ministry personnel and researchers with previous EC FP experience. The second is an expanding one, at the time of writing composed of 348 people who have been in contact via the project website and/or subscribed to the African Water Newsletter.

The database contacts have been informed about the end of the African Water project, and pointed towards the website of the SPLASH EUWI ERA-net.

3. Training sessions in EU Member States

In parallel with the FP7 regional training workshops in Africa, African Water has attempted to raise the profile of FP7, and developing country participation, within EU Member State training organisations, particularly those with a high percentage of African students. The benefits of this approach are that these African students will already have close personal contacts with their EU training organisation and, therefore, a solid base for future collaboration, and that there is potential for longer term sustainability of the achievements of African Water if such an FP7 module can be taken up by these organisations.

It was hoped that FP7 sessions could be incorporated into curricula at at least three Member State training organisations. African Water project partner WEDC, at Loughborough University in the UK, have a large number of developing country students and have included information about the aims of the African Water project and FP7 participation. However, this has not been extended elsewhere.

Activities have instead focused on publicising SICA aspects of FP7, in parallel with procedural changes and publicity by the EC, to the European water research community through networks such as EurAqua (the leading water research organisations from 20 European member states), PEER (the network of European environmental research organisations), the Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform (WSSTP), and the SPLASH EUWI ERA-net (the consortium of member state ministries supporting water research for development). Organisations involved in these networks are now more aware and responsive to the demand for more participation by developing country partners.

This change is unlikely to have been the result of explicit actions by the African Water consortium, but African Water publicity has made the need for African partners more relevant, achievable and inevitable for many European water research organisations. In this way the involvement of African (and developing country partners), in the Framework Programme has a greater long-term sustainability.

4. Dissemination of UKRO information services

UKRO (the UK Research Office) is a Brussels-based service provider to UK, other European Mediterranean and Middle Eastern research organisations with information on European funding opportunities. Its services included provision of highly topic-focused information on Calls and EU research news, and UKRO is the UK National Contact Point for the Marie Curie Programme. UKRO also runs training courses to assist researchers and research administrators to work more effectively with EU institutions. In African Water, UKRO was subcontracted to supply both general and specialist subscription information services for African water research organisations:

- The free **UKRO European RTD Insight newsletter** has been distributed to subscribing African researchers, though the way the figures are collated makes it difficult to assess how many new African subscribers there are.
- Bespoke subscription agreements for **UKRO Information Services** have been made available for one year to the University of Pretoria in South Africa and Kenyatta University in Kenya. These two African research organisations were identified during the African Water training workshops as having exceptional potential for making optimum use of the information within their organisation, and for disseminating general information about the funding opportunities presented by the EU FP more widely. Both these organisations have strong interests in FP collaboration, and were judged the most likely to have a strong catalytic effect in encouraging greater interest in FP participation among other organisations in their respective regions. Both organisations also have strong political connections with their respective governments and are most likely to lobby for greater support from their respective national science and technology ministries for national support schemes.

UKRO also contributed to and promoted the training and information material prepared during the project to the other Member State research support offices in the IGLO (Informal Group of Liaison Offices) Network in Brussels for EU research and development.

5. Selection of African delegates to 2007 UKRO Annual Conference

Each year UKRO (the UK Research Office) organises a 2-day Annual Conference aimed primarily at European research liaison officers. The Conference provides an excellent forum for discussion and networking with key speakers from the European Institutions on a wide range of EU policies and funding opportunities. The 2007 conference was held at Imperial College, London on 5th and 6th July 2007 and had a strong focus on FP7 (Appendix 1).

African Water intended to sponsor two representatives from African research organisations to attend the 2007 conference, covering travel and subsistence costs (economy airfares and train travel, and UK government subsistence rates), plus registration fees for the conference.

Interested parties were asked to complete and submit an application form (Appendix 2). It was advised that nominated representatives should not be researchers, but should be European research liaison officers, research managers or administrators, fundraising or policy support personnel.

From a very strong field of 19 applicants, three (rather than two) representatives were sponsored by African Water to attend the 2007 conference in London. The delegates were:

- Dr Semu Moges, Arba Minch University, Ethiopia. National Coordinator for the Nile Basin Initiative training project with well-established networks of research organisations in the basin countries.
- Dr Manta Nowbuth, University of Mauritius, Mauritius. Interest in collaborative research in the region (member of Steering Committee and Scientific Coordinating Group for UNESCO IHP Southern Africa FRIEND project) and internationally.
- Mr Piet van der Westhuizen, University of Pretoria Research Office, South Africa (also attended the first training workshop) with the particular brief within the university to enhance participation of the university in FP6 and FP7.

The representatives were chosen based primarily on their reasons for wanting to attend the conference and their plans for disseminating the information gained both within and outside their organisation.

Unsuccessful candidates were thanked for their applications and advised to register with the partner search databases offered by the CORDIS website of the EC, and the database of UKRO (who would distribute their details through counterpart offices to many researchers across the EU), and make use of existing European research contacts. CORDIS could also be used to peruse the list of researchers who have been successful in FP5 and FP6, and may be promising contacts for future collaborative research opportunities.

Appendix 1 Agenda for 2007 UKRO Annual Conference

Thursday 5th July 2007		
10:00 – 10:45		Registration and Coffee
10:45	Plenary Session	Conference Opening
10:55 - 11:50	Key Note Address	Review of European Research Area Mr. Isi Saragossi, Director, Directorate C : European Research Area, DG Research,
11:50 – 12:45	Plenary Session 1	European Institute of Technology, EIT Mr. David White, Director Directorate A – Lifelong Learning :Education and Training Policies DG Education and Culture
12:45 – 13:15	Key Note Speech	Malcolm Wicks, Minister for Science and Innovation
13:15 – 14:30		Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	Parallel Session A	Intellectual Property Rights in FP7 Ms. Alicia Blaya, Senior Legal Advisor, IPR-Helpdesk Project
14:30 – 16:00	Parallel Session A	Ethics and Ethical Review in FP7 Ms. Mary FitzGerald, Policy and Project Officer, Directorate L, DG Research
16:00 – 16:30		Coffee Break
16:30 – 18:00	Parallel Session B	International Co-operation across FP7 Mr. Alessandro Damiani Head of Unit, International Scientific Cooperation Policy, Directorate D, DG Research
16:30 – 18:00	Parallel Session B	Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (2007-2013) Mr. Patrick Lambert, Director, Intelligent Energy Executive Agency (IEEA)
19:00		Drinks Reception Sponsored by Imperial College London Guest Speaker Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Deputy Rector, Imperial College London
20:00		Conference Dinner
Friday 6 th July 2007		
08:30 – 09:00		Registration
09:00 – 10:30	Plenary Session 2	Financial provisions of FP7 Grant Agreement Ms. Myriam Gomez-Martelo, Legal Officer, Directorate A, DG Research,
10:30 – 11:00	Plenary Session 3	FP7 Indirect Costs – Panel Discussion
11:00 – 11:30		Coffee Break
11:30 – 13:00	Parallel Session C	EuropeAid – New External Programmes 2007-2013 Mr. Jacobus Richelle, Director General, DG AIDCO -EuropeAid Cooperation Office,
11:30 – 13:00	Parallel Session C	FP7 Joint Technology Initiatives – Innovative Medicines Initiative Dr Octavi Quintana-Trias, Director, Directorate F DG Research
13:00 – 14:15		Lunch
14.15 – 14.45	Plenary Session 4	UKRO Achievements 2006/2007 and Priorities 2007/2008 Ms. Amanda Crowfoot, Director of UKRO
14.45 – 15:45	Plenary Session 5	European Research Council Update Mr. William Cannell, Head of Unit, Directorate S1, DG Research
15:45		Closing Remarks
15:45		Coffee Available

Appendix 2 Application form for 2007 UKRO conference sponsorship

2007 UKRO Annual Conference

Each year the UK Research Office organises a two-day Annual Conference aimed primarily at European Research Liaison Officers. This year, the conference will be held at Imperial College, London on 5th and 6th July 2007. The conference will have a strong focus on FP7.

African Water will sponsor two representatives from African research organisations to attend the 2007 conference. African Water will cover travel and subsistence costs (economy airfares and train travel, and UK government subsistence rates), plus registration fees for the conference.

Nominated representatives should not be researchers, but should be European Research Liaison Officers, Research Managers or Administrators, Fundraising or Policy Support personnel. The Conference provides an excellent forum for discussion and networking with key speakers from the European Institutions on a wide range of EU policies and funding opportunities.

To apply please complete the attached form and submit by email to African Water. The closing date for applications is 30 April 2007. The two successful applicants will be informed by 11 May 2007 and asked to confirm in writing that they will attend.

For more information, there is an article about the 2006 conference in African Water Newsletter 2 (September 2006). Copies of presentations from that and previous conferences can be found at: http://www.ukro.ac.uk/annual_conference/index.htm.

Please note that failing to secure sponsorship from African Water does not preclude you from attending the conference with your own funding. Details of the conference programme and registration facility will be added to the African Water website as soon as they are available.

Application Form for sponsorship to attend UKRO Conference, Imperial College, London 5-6 July 2007
Title, First name, Surname
Organisation/company/institution name
Position/role within organisation
Gender i.e. male, female.
Country
Full postal address
Telephone number(s)
Fax number
Email address
Please outline your organisation's research interests?
Any previous organisational/personal experience of applying for EU FP funding e.g. no experience, failed bid, successful bid, in consortium for first call of FP7?
Why do you wish to attend the conference?

Please outline how you plan to disseminate the knowledge you would gain at the conference within and outside your organisation?
Please give details of contacts in European research organisations e.g. current/previous/possible consortium partners?
Please add any other information you feel is relevant to your application.

Please email completed form to info-africanwater@ceh.ac.uk with subject header UKRO conference application by 30th April 2007.