



WATER RESEARCH COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE REFERENCE GROUP IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT ENTITLED: KUKIMBIA: THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REFUGEES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (K5/2768/2), HELD ON 21 JUNE 2017 AT 10:00am

PRESENT:

Name	Organisation
<i>Dr Brilliant Petja (Chairperson)</i>	<i>WRC</i>
<i>Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata (project Leader)</i>	<i>CSIR</i>
<i>Dr Richard Meissner</i>	<i>CSIR</i>
<i>Ms Nikki Funke</i>	<i>CSIR</i>
<i>Mr Elliot Moyo</i>	<i>CSIR</i>

APOLOGIES:

Name	Organisation
<i>Dr Chris Nshimbi</i>	<i>UP</i>

1 CONSTITUTION OF THE MEETING

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed all those present at the meeting.
- 1.2 After the apologies had been noted and sustained, the Chairman declared the meeting properly constituted.
- 1.3 The Chairman said that the main functions of the Reference Group (RG) are:
 - To assist and guide the Project Team in achieving the objectives of the project as embodied in the Memorandum of Agreement and to recommend and authorize a change of emphasis in respect of the methodology to be followed where considered necessary,
 - To meet at least once a year in order to evaluate Progress Reports and Proposed Work Programmes, bearing in mind the objectives as listed in Annexure A and the duration of the project.
 - To evaluate the draft Final Report and draft Executive Summary at the conclusion of the project period and to make a recommendation to the WRC regarding the acceptance thereof.
 - To co-opt additional members onto the RG, if found necessary.
 - To consider requests for project extensions relating to time and funding and make appropriate recommendations to the WRC.

- Although the RG cannot alter the aims of the project, changes in approach can be recommended. However, group members should be sensitive to the budgetary implications of any recommended changes to the project.

1.4 The constitution of the WRC RG: The PL emphasised the need to ensure representation from different institutions, but also reported on the difficulty to get traction with particular institutions given the novelty of the topic and the lack of attention given to it by different institutions (e.g. no designated contact person, lack of expertise etc).

Additional RG members were suggested. The CSIR should provide this list to the WRC (Bennie) for a new set of invitations to be sent out before the next RG meeting in 2018.

These include the following:

Dr	Magalie	Bourblanc	UP	magalie.bourblanc@cirad.fr	072-5375011
Dr	Christopher	Nshimbi	UP	Christopher.Nshimbi@up.ac.za or CSNZED@gmail.com	012-4204152
Mr	Samuel	Cardy	DIRCO	cardys@dirco.gov.za	082-4001710
Ms	Lindi	Mminele	DIRCO	Mminele@dirco.gov.za	012-3510920
Mr	Thlou	Ramaru	DEA		
Dr	Nelson	Odume	Rhodes	odume.nelson@gmail.com	
Ms	Marija	Nikolovska	IOM	mnikolovska@iom.int	012-3422789
Ms	Michele	Kilbourn Louw	MKL & Associates	michelekl@mweb.co.za	082-4557601
Ms	Nora	Hanke-Louw	EWSETA	norah@eseta.org.za	011-2744700
Prof	Johann	Tempelhoff	NWU	johann.tempelhoff@nwu.ac.za	082-5629510
Mr	Thabang	Molefi	CSIR	tmolefi@csir.co.za	073-1382693
Dr	Joyce	Shirinde	CSIR	jshirinde@csir.co.za	084-6315051
Mr	Donovan	Pietersen	CSIR	dpietersen@csir.co.za	073-2105328

ACTION: IJM

2 ANNEXURE A - THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL, PROGRESS MADE AND WORK PROGRAMME

- 2.1 The PL presented the research proposal, the work programme and the progress made to date in a singular powerpoint presentation.
- 2.2 Selection of case studies: Initial discussions highlighted Maputoland (RSA), Gaza Province (Mozambique) and North West Province (RSA, Botswana) as possible case studies. Gaza Province is a confirmed case study as displacement statistics as a result of flooding were easily accessible. The other two case studies have been more problematic given the difficulty in finding displacement data as a result of drought. Dr Francois Engelbrecht (CSIR) suggested that the Project Team identify areas in which large communities of subsistence farmers reside. The Project Team then needs to assess if these communities are vulnerable and if they move, or if they are not moving, what is their adaptive capacity or resilience? The Project Team also needs to identify a cross-border example of displacement/migration. It was recommended that the Project Team continue with researching the potential case study areas, and do reconnaissance visits to the three previously identified areas (dependent on funding). Also, it

was suggested that the Project Team review StatsSA's population statistics and socio-economic statistics on the border as well as SARS statistics. Finally, it was suggested that the Project Team compile a timeline that maps the time of disasters (floods and droughts) and the UNHCR/IOM databases on refugee/migrant movements.

ACTION: PROJECT TEAM

2.3 20 June Dialogue: The dialogue held on 20 June was very positively received. Participants found the discussion to be vibrant and engaging. It incorporated a range of different perspectives: governance and law, climate change, land-use, as well as national disaster response and international aid perspectives - to explore the climate change-environmental degradation-migration nexus. It was also encouraging to get the support for this new area of research for the Southern African region, and South Africa in particular. It's clear that context-specific evidence needs to be improved to better inform policies related to environmental migration. More efforts should be made to strengthen local research capacity and expertise to improve data at the local level. Understanding the impacts of migration on migrants, on communities of origin and on communities of destination must be improved to better assess whether and how migration can contribute to reducing vulnerability or, on the other hand, to fuelling increased risks. Policies need to be designed accordingly. Given climate change, demographic, economic and geopolitical trends, different factors of migration are likely to become increasingly interrelated, defying traditional interpretations and categorisations of migration and making existing migration governance systems obsolete. The key to addressing such challenges effectively is to design comprehensive responses based on thorough and reliable information and evidence. Additionally, responding adequately and effectively to environmental migration requires stronger dialogue, coordination and co-operation between institutions and actors working on the environmental, sustainability and climate tracks and those working on the migration and humanitarian tracks – whether in the intergovernmental, public, academic or private sectors. In parallel, improved dialogue between research and policy communities will be essential to ensure that action meets real needs. The Environmental Migration Community of Practice of Southern Africa (EMiCoPSA) was established.

2.4 Second national dialogue: The Project Team will work with the WRC to decide on the date/nature of the second national dialogue planned for 2018. Some suggestions included possibly hosting it in one of the case study areas e.g. Mozambique, or as part of Africa Week.

ACTION: PROJECT TEAM

2.5 Policy-oriented knowledge products: The Project Team will develop several policy briefs targeted at different audiences at the regional, national and sub-national levels. In addition, it was decided that the policy guidelines should be separated from the final report i.e. final report as volume 1 and policy guidelines as volume 2. The nature of the policy guideline will be decided at a later stage following the identification of case study areas, key findings and analysis thereof.

ACTION: PROJECT TEAM

2.6 Knowledge dissemination: At the dialogue, the WRC CEO indicated the need to submit a policy brief to the ANC policy conference in an effort to raise the topic on the ruling party's agenda, and as a way to unlock further funding. He also requested that the PL draft a concept note for the WRC to engage donor institutions to solicit co-funding.

ACTION: IJM

- 2.7 Knowledge dissemination: The Chairperson emphasised the importance of the Project Team publishing popular articles as well as academic articles to raise awareness about the project and the topic. It is important that the Project Team not wait until the project has been finalised to disseminate findings, but that it disseminate as the project develops.

ACTION: PROJECT TEAM

- 2.8 Strategic partnerships: The Project Team have set up several strategic partnerships including: UNHCR (implementation partner), and GovInn (UP) (HCD partner). The PL will attempt to engage with IOM given its mandate and global work on environmental migration.

ACTION: IJM

3 SOFTWARE PRODUCTS ENVISAGED

- 3.1 No software products are envisaged but a documentary will be developed as well as other knowledge dissemination tools and products.

4 CAPACITY BUILDING : PROGRESS REPORT

- 4.1 The PL requested an alteration of the proposal from 1 PhD and 3 Masters' students, to 2 PhDs and 2 Masters. The chairperson agreed to this change and confirmed that no contract amendment would be required at this stage. The selection of students will be strategically aligned to the levels of scale at which the project is targeted i.e. international/regional, national and sub-national. The first PhD student will register by August 2017. The second PhD student and two Masters' students will register by January 2018. GovInn, UP is the HCD partner for this project and all students will be registered through this Centre.

ACTION: IJM

- 4.2 Challenges: The PL reported that the current funding is insufficient to cover two full-time masters, one full/part-time PhD and one part-time PhD. A co-funding strategy has been developed comprising of CSIR internal funding (PG), and NRF funding. The PL is to approach EWSETA for extra funding in this regard. The Project Team should also look out for WRC student support funding.

ACTION: IJM

- 4.3 Funding: The Chairperson agreed to ear-mark this project for additional co-funding. The WRC and CSIR should also explore synergies between different CSIR projects to co-develop a proposal for a bigger platform i.e. SASSCAL.

ACTION: Chairperson/ IJM

5 GENERAL

- 5.1 The Project Team will work to obtain ethical clearance and risk approval before fieldwork commences.

ACTION: IJM

5.2 The project leader should also submit to the WRC an Innovation Report highlighting the novelty of the project and what its impact could be i.e. new classification of refugees in regional legislative frameworks.

ACTION: IJM

5.3 The Attendance Register was recorded by the WRC.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6.1 The date of the next meeting is confirmed for Wednesday, 11 July 2018.

7 CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked the Project Team for their efforts to date, participations and input, and declared the meeting closed at 13:00.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE

