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**MAINSTREAMING OF HIV/AIDS IN THE WATER SECTOR**  
**Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) Project**

**DRAFT PROJECT PLAN FOR OCTOBER 2008 – MARCH 2009**

**Draft 2**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This document presents a draft research plan for CSIR to deliver research and technical support to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) on mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into the water sector in South Africa. The research plan is developed within the context of an overarching contract between DWAF and the CSIR to support the management and coordination of cross-cutting issues for DWAF, including HIV/AIDS. Although some work has been done to date under this contract, the current research plan focuses on CSIR inputs between October 2008 and March 2009 on HIV/AIDS mainstreaming. The research plan has been developed following discussions with DWAF representatives and will be finalised following their inputs and approval.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

DWAF has long recognised the importance of HIV/AIDS to the water sector as well as the potential role that the water sector can play in the fight against HIV/AIDS. A business plan was previously developed by the CSIR for DWAF under the banner of the Masibambane: National HIV/AIDS Programme to support DWAF efforts to address HIV/AIDS. A flexible scope of work was suggested which included:

- Planning and coordination support
- Input into the Strategic Framework for Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in the Water Sector
- Research on HIV/AIDS and water and sanitation
- Capacity building and implementation support

The current research plan is being developed to define specific actions that are worthwhile contributions to DWAF that can be undertaken within this financial year (until March 2009). The actions laid out in this plan are aligned with the mainstreaming process in DWAF. To date, a draft Strategic Framework has been developed by the DWAF Policy and Strategy directorate. This Strategic Framework will guide the implementation of HIV/AIDS initiatives within the water sector. The draft Strategic Framework is currently being finalised and will be submitted for approval. Within this calendar year, CSIR may be required to make some inputs to the Policy and Strategy team developing the Strategic Framework. In addition, the CSIR team will continue to provide planning and coordination support as well as capacity building support should it be required during the year. The core focus of

CSIR work will however be to undertake relevant research that support the implementation of the Strategic Framework and provides recommendations to improve water service delivery to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

### **3. FOCAL AREAS FOR DELIVERY**

In order to meet DWAF's needs for technical support in mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into the water sector, the CSIR will focus on three main areas up until March 2009, namely, strategic planning and coordination support to DWAF; policy support in communicating and implementing the Strategic Framework; and research on water and sanitation challenges for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The primary focus will be on the research work but resources will be set aside for ad hoc support on the first two areas. A brief description of the work to be undertaken is as follows:

#### **3.1 Strategic planning and coordination support to DWAF**

The CSIR and its sub-consultants will assist DWAF in planning and coordination activities. This will include coordination and integration with the other cross-cutting issues, stakeholder interaction, review of policies to include HIV and AIDS information and inputs into the HIV and AIDS Core Group. DWAF may also request the CSIR project team's involvement on other activities which may arise.

#### **3.2 Communication and implementation of the Strategic Framework**

At present, the finalisation of the Strategic Framework is being undertaken by DWAF P&R with the support of NEMAI Consulting. Once the Strategic Framework has been approved, DWAF will begin the process of rolling out the document to stakeholders and developing implementation guidelines and monitoring and evaluation tools. CSIR may be involved in tasks related to this process at DWAF's discretion. A budget will be set aside for tasks that will be determined by DWAF at a later date.

Specific tasks that can be undertaken currently include:

- Review the indigent policy and make recommendations on mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into water sector indigent policy (11)
- Develop a policy for dealing with HIV and AIDS on major water and sanitation construction projects for workers and nearby communities (19)

### **3.3 Research project on improving water and sanitation service delivery to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS**

Both the Strategic Framework and the literature survey of the socio-ecological role of water in relation to HIV/AIDS and governance in the Water Sector (CSIR, 2008) identified a need to investigate improved service delivery options for high prevalence and low service delivery areas in South Africa. The CSIR will carry out an investigation in the North West Province and make recommendations to the municipality and water sector institutions in improving service delivery in high prevalence areas.

The research will focus on the Willow Park Community under Ramotshabe Moilwa Local Municipality and Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality. The community has received negative media attention as a result of high HIV/AIDS prevalence, lack of basic services, including water and sanitation and severe poverty.

A pilot project will be carried out in the Willow park community, researching and recommending resolutions in terms of interventions that DWAF/ Water Sector can implement, collaborating with Ramotshabe LM, Ngaka Modiri Molema DM (WSA), Willow Park community and other stakeholders within the community like the Civil Society Organizations. In addition, the project will address the applicability of appropriate technology, which has already been identified through research, within these contexts will be investigated through the involvement of water sector institutions and civil society, the opportunity for gender mainstreaming and investigate the role of water to support growth and development of communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

Given the fact that the Strategic Framework will be guiding mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS in the water sector, the research will be linked to actions identified in the draft document. In particular the research will provide outputs that:

- Investigate the health and hygiene education in the study area and make recommendations for its improvement through the inclusion of HIV/AIDS information (7)
- Ensure gender is considered in the opportunities and constraints to service delivery and mainstream gender issues in all recommendations of the study (8)

- Identify the financial constraints of indigent communities to acquisition of services and make recommendations for support to such communities (11)
- Provide recommendations for HIV/AIDS sensitive implementation strategies by water sector institutions and municipalities in the study areas (18)

It is suggested that the following key tasks will be required to deliver the research:

1. Collect baseline data on socio-economic indicators the community
2. Undertake a baseline survey of the water and sanitation services in the area
3. Carry out interviews with stakeholders in the area including the municipality, water, health and economic sector institutions
4. Interviews with community members
5. Prepare a baseline document on the “Challenges to water sector service delivery in the Willow Park Community”
6. Workshop with stakeholders challenges identified and opportunities for improvement
7. Prepare an action plan for improving service delivery in the Willow Park Community including prioritisation of actions, description of tasks and outputs, resources required for delivery and partnership opportunities

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

This document presents a suggested structure for CSIR’s inputs into the mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS in the water sector by DWAF within this financial year. The document is being circulated to obtain comments and approval before the CSIR initiates any research. Your inputs will be greatly appreciated.