

MEDIA RELEASE

SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT RESEARCH, A KEY AREA OF FOCUS FOR THE NCRST

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Windhoek, Namibia – The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) recently attended the 3rd Biennial Symposium by the Water Research Commission (WRC), in Johannesburg, South Africa. This year’s symposium was organised under the theme “Adaptation to the New Normal”. During the symposium, the NCRST and WRC closed another land mark deal, by entering an agreement that establishes an overarching framework for strategic collaboration.

The agreement between the two national institutions would focus on the exchange of knowledge, disseminating research products amongst the two countries, share platforms (both physical and virtual), build capacity and collaborate on mutually agreed research, development and innovation solutions for the benefit of Namibia and South Africa. The NCRST entered this agreement with the aim of later forming the Namibian Water Consortium, which would consist out of key institutions such as the NCRST, University of Namibia (UNAM), the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), the Namibia Water Corporation (NamWater) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF.)

“The NCRST remain cognizant of the fact that water management in the country is still a challenge. As the national competent authority for RSTI, we endeavour to align our activities and projects to national outlooks such as Vision 2030, which in the water sector, aims to achieve efficient supply and allocation of water to ensure equitable access, as well as to contribute to long-term social and economic development of the country”, stated Enid Keramen, acting Chief Executive Officer of NCRST.

Within the agreement signed with WRC recently, further emphasis where placed on the following priority areas:

Capacity building: at individual and institutional level including exchanges and training of students,

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researchers and experts on the mutual areas of priority as highlighted in Annexure A.

Collaborative projects: where agreed, the WRC and NCRST are open to collaborating on and addressing jointly funded water related research, development and innovation projects. The Parties will also explore opportunities of external funding through joint project proposals.

Technology transfer: to demonstrate the technologies, test social innovation models and non-technological solutions of mutual interest to South Africa and Namibia sharing costs and risks on a case by case basis where applicable.

Keramen further stated that sustainable water resource management is crucial for Namibia, especially in times where Namibia had unpredictable rainfall and even drought. She says that “national efforts in water management should be complemented with engineering and science knowledge related to water infrastructure and resource conservation”.

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About NCRST: (www.ncrst.na/about-us/background)

The NCRST was established through the Research, Science and Technology Act, 2004 (Act no 23 of 2004). The NCRST fosters excellence through knowledge and innovation by ensuring adequate coordination, monitoring and supervision of research, science and technology in Namibia. Our strategic themes are centered around 1. Operational Excellence, 2. Organizational Sustainability, 3. Strategic Partnerships and 4. Innovation Excellence. The NCRST further strives to provide direction and policy guidance to the research, science and technology innovation systems in Namibia.