



Newsletter

With funding from the:



Federal Ministry
of Research, Technology
and Space



12 | 2025

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

We are pleased to present the fourth edition of the Water Security in Africa (WASA) programme newsletter.

In recent months, WASA projects have continued to make strong progress across research, capacity development and stakeholder engagement. This issue highlights the range of activities that reflect the diversity of approaches within the initiative, first tangible results and the close collaboration between African and German partners.

Co-HYDIM-SA has further advanced the co-design of early warning information systems in close cooperation with stakeholders in Botswana and Namibia. NEU-Water strengthened practice-oriented exchange through a study visit in Hamburg, where South African municipal partners explored water-sensitive urban development and nature-based solutions. At the same time, SeeKaqua expanded its field investigations in the Cuvelai–Etosha Basin, combining hydrogeological sampling with innovative drone-based geophysical methods to improve understanding of groundwater resources. In parallel, MAMDIWAS has reached important milestones in technology testing, governance analysis and knowledge exchange as it moves toward pilot demonstrations.

Capacity development and networking also remained central. Fostering exchange among early-career researchers from across the region, WASANet successfully hosted the WASA Summer School in Lusaka which was merged with the 4th WaterNet Summer School and aligned with the 26th WaterNet Symposium. The Summer School was complemented by a dedicated WASA Special Session at the WaterNet/WARFSA/GWP-SA Symposium, where all WASA projects were represented through at least one presentation.

At programme level, coordination and exchange activities continued to take shape. Initial alignment meetings among early-career scientists helped clarify formats for future thematic

exchanges, with regular sessions planned as from early 2026. Also starting in 2026, preparations are underway for a WASA-related webinar series led by partner institutions and aiming at further strengthening dialogue and knowledge exchange across the network.

We thank all project teams and partners for their continued engagement and commitment in 2025. The strong progress across the WASA initiative was also reaffirmed at the 3rd WASA Governing Board Meeting in October 2025, where representatives from the ministries of South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Germany, as well as the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), confirmed that the programme is well on track. The meeting acknowledged excellent scientific results, strong stakeholder engagement, and clear pathways for future value creation. As we look ahead to 2026, we encourage the WASA community to remain actively involved and to continue sharing experiences across projects and institutions. We look forward to engage more with the WASA community – especially at the WASA Booth at IFAT Munich from 4th to 7th of May 2026.

Please feel free to reach out.

Kind regards,

The WASANet Team

Project Updates



SeeKaqua performed major field campaign with drone-based geophysical measurement and hydrogeological sampling

Cutting-edge fieldwork in northern Namibia: The SeeKaqua project carried out drone-based surveys and groundwater sampling to map hidden aquifers and unlock new knowledge about the Cuvelai–Etosha Basin.

[Read more](#)



WaMiSAR: Establishing Meteorological Station and Soil Moisture Sensors at Mine Residue Deposits

From 11 to 23 March 2025, the WaMiSAR team conducted its second field campaign at two contrasting mining sites in Namibia. The team - led by Dr. Karl Richter and Phillip Rinkel (Aquantec), together with Prof. Dr. Stefan Norra, Rosa Sengl, and Sanja Russ (University of Potsdam) - was supported by Paulina Nangombe and Kamundu Kamuiiua, partners from local mining industries at Rosh Pinah and Tsumeb.

[Read more](#)



WaRisCo: Achieving Impact through Science, Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement

WaRisCo is advancing climate-smart disaster risk management in South Africa through cutting-edge research, high-level conference contributions, and hands-on capacity building. Recent findings linking the 2022 Durban floods to climate change gained national attention, while intensive training programmes and stakeholder workshops strengthened regional modelling expertise and decision-making. With significant progress in climate and hydrological modelling and renewed engagement with government and community partners, WaRisCo continues to deliver impactful knowledge for a more resilient, water-secure future.

[Read more](#)



WaReNam: Driving National Impact by Moving Namibia's Water Reuse Agenda Forward

Over two weeks in October, WaReNam partners engaged ministries, municipalities, utilities, and researchers across Namibia to drive forward pilot projects, training initiatives, and policy development for a national water reuse strategy. The mission marked a major step in strengthening cross-sector collaboration and building momentum for sustainable water management.

[Read more](#)



Co-HYDIM-SA holds stakeholder engagements to co-develop early warning information systems

The Co-HYDIM-SA project is co-developing two new early warning information systems for the Cuvelai-Cunene Basin and the Gaborone Dam. Recent stakeholder workshops in Botswana and Namibia provided key insights and marked an important step toward sustainable water-resource management in southern Africa.

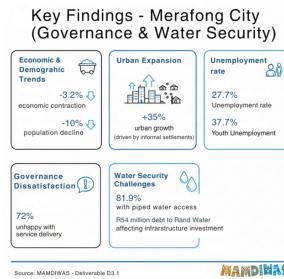
[Read more](#)



NEU-Water: Strengthening Water-Sensitive Urban Development Through International Exchange

Strengthening international learning: During a study visit to Hamburg, municipal representatives from South Africa engaged with HAMBURG WASSER and HafenCity University to explore practical WSUD solutions. The exchange deepened partnerships and opened new pathways for shared innovation.

[Read more](#)



MAMDIWAS: Mine Water Reuse Pilot Plant Successfully Constructed and Commissioned

The MAMDIWAS project has entered an exciting new phase with the construction and commissioning of its pilot systems, marking major progress toward innovative treatment and reuse of mine-influenced water in Germany and South Africa. From cutting-edge membrane technology to international conference engagements and a first governance report, the project is building strong momentum across scientific, technical and socio-institutional dimensions—while preparing for several high-profile events in 2026.

[Read more](#)

Publications

MAMDIWAS

Futterlieb, M., & Panglisch, S., 2025: Early detection and control of CaCO_3 scaling in closed-circuit reverse osmosis under antiscalant-free conditions. Desalination, In-Press, Journal pre-proof. Available via <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.desal.2025.119622>

[View all WASA publications](#)

WASA Programme News



WASA Projects Reach Important Milestones and Strengthen Capacity Building in Africa

The WASA programme continues to gain momentum, reaching important scientific milestones while strengthening its political visibility across Southern Africa. At the WASA Summer School and the WaterNet Symposium in Lusaka, early-career researchers, project teams and high-level representatives from African ministries came together to exchange knowledge, showcase first results and discuss pathways for long-term impact beyond 2028.

[Read more](#)



WASA Programme at the 6th GWOPA Congress: Strengthening Links Between Science, Utilities and Finance

At the 6th GWOPA Congress in Bonn, WASA engaged with water utilities, development banks and international partners to strengthen links between research, operations and financing.

Featuring contributions from NEU-Water and WASANet, the event highlighted how Water Operators' Partnerships can help translate scientific innovation into practical, scalable solutions for water security and climate resilience across Africa.

[Read more](#)



Ask The Experts! WASA Projects interact with Utilities and the private Sector

During the October edition of the German–African “Ask the Experts” webinar series, WASA projects engaged directly with water utilities, authorities, and private-sector professionals from across Africa. The session showcased innovative approaches in groundwater exploration, early warning systems, and mine-water reuse, highlighting how African–German research partnerships are driving practical solutions for regional water security. The webinar reached nearly 500 experts through AfWASA’s knowledge platform, strengthening pathways for collaboration, upscaling, and impact.

[Read more](#)

Stakeholder Engagement

17-19 March 2026 | MAMDIWAS and MESSA Plan Their First Public Event

In the framework of MAMDIWAS project, the University of South Africa (UNISA) and the newly established Membrane Society of South Africa (MESSA) are organizing the first joint public event, a workshop on water treatment and reuse that will take place along the South African Water Week, March 17-19, 2026.

[View event](#)

IFAT Munich 2026 | Call for Content

.In May 2026, over 3,000 exhibitors from more than 60 countries will present their strategies and innovations. Discover pioneering solutions for water, recycling, and circularity.

WASA will be present at the Booth of the Federal Ministry for Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) and will have it's own booth at the Joint Pavillon of German Water Partnership (GWP)

Call for Content

WASA Projects and Partners are invited to join in the Conference Programme, and to present their projects at the GWP “Speakers Corner” . Please contact us, if you would like to present your project, innovation or team.

[View event](#)

Ask the Experts | German-African Exchange | Online

An upcoming edition of the Ask the Experts webinar series will spotlight WASA projects and their contribution to cross-continental cooperation in the water and sanitation sector.

Call for Content: WASA projects and partners are invited to contribute with project insights, innovative approaches or practical experiences.

Further details will follow – **more information coming soon**, stay tuned.

Event Calendar

[02-06 February 2026 | AfWASA Congress & Exhibition | Yaoundé, Cameroon](#)

[25 February 2026 | 48th Session of the GWP Regional Forum Africa | 4th Session of the Working Group Urban Water Resilience | Berlin Germany | Hybrid](#)

[17-19 March 2026 | MAMDIWAS and MESSA Plan Their First Public Event](#)

[04-07 May 2026 | IFAT Munich 2026 | Munich, Germany](#)

[24 June 2026 | German Water Partnership Annual Conference | Berlin, Germany](#)

[30 September 2026 | 49th Session GWP Regional Forum Africa | Gütersloh Germany | Hybrid](#)

[02-04 December 2026 | United Nations Water Conference 2026 | UAE](#)

Follow us!

Get in touch with WASANet!

- Coordinator: Dr. Joerg Helmschrot, +264 81 141 4182 · joerg.helmschrot@kit.edu
- African Speaker: Dr. Nico Elema, +27 21 808 9381 · ne@sun.ac.za

WASANet Communications

c/o German Water Partnership e. V.

Invalidenstraße 91, 10117 Berlin DE

koenig@germanwaterpartnership.de

Website: www.watersecurityafrica.org

