



With funding from the:



Federal Ministry
of Research, Technology
and Space



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION



08 | 2026

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

We are pleased to present the latest updates on the research projects in the sixth edition of the Water Security in Africa (WASA) programme newsletter.

The past months have once again highlighted one of the greatest strengths of the WASA programme: bringing together research, innovation, and partnership to advance water security in Southern Africa. Across projects, institutions, and countries, researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders continue to develop innovative solutions, strengthen collaboration, and build the foundations for lasting impact.

This collaborative spirit has been reflected in many activities. At [IFAT Munich 2026](#), WASA reached an international audience through technical programme sessions, a presence at the German Water Partnership joint booth, and numerous opportunities to engage with stakeholders from research, industry, and practice. At the programme level, the seven WASA projects submitted their annual progress reports, providing an overview of scientific achievements, implementation activities and priorities for the year ahead. In parallel, [strategic discussions with KfW](#) explored pathways for scaling promising innovations emerging from the WASA programme and strengthen the long-term impact in Southern Africa.

To further support knowledge exchange across the programme, WASANet launched a new [WASA Webinar Series](#). The series provides a regular forum for researchers and practitioners from across the WASA community to present their work, discuss emerging topics and connect expertise across projects and disciplines. From groundwater exploration and innovative water treatment technologies to the Water-Energy-Food Nexus and smart aquifer characterisation: A summary linked below provides insights from the first webinars of the series. Upcoming webinar editions will be announced in the event calendar of the WASA website.

A joint [exchange meeting of WaReNam, WaMiSAR, and MAMDIWAS](#) in Frankfurt demonstrated how sharing experiences, identifying synergies and developing ideas for future collaboration creates added value across projects and fosters the WASA community as a whole. One tangible outcome of this exchange is the [WASA Summer School 2026](#), which will be organised by WASANet in collaboration with WaReNam, WaMiSAR, and MAMDIWAS. Taking place in October 2026 in Windhoek, Namibia, it will bring together early-career researchers and experts across the WASA programme for interdisciplinary learning, networking, and scientific exchange.

We hope that by publishing scientific achievements and highlighting opportunities to connect and share knowledge, this newsletter will inspire further exchange and collaboration across the WASA community. Thank you to all project partners for your continued commitment and valuable contributions. We look forward to keeping you up to date with the latest WASA news and achievements through the WASA website, our LinkedIn channel, and future editions of this newsletter.

Kind regards,

The WASANet Team

Project Updates



SeeKaquA Announces Successful Completion of Second Major Measurement Campaign in Machile-Zambesi Basin

The project reached several milestones in advancing geoscientific methods for deep groundwater exploration during its second field campaign in Southern Africa. By combining scientific surveys with hydrochemical analyses and close collaboration with local partners, the team generated valuable new insights into the complex groundwater systems of the Mwandia region.

[Read more](#)

WaRisCo Advances Climate-Resilient Water Security Through Strategic Partnerships and Public Engagement

In June 2026, the WaRisCo team visited the Kingdom of Lesotho as well as South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Province to engage with key stakeholders on climate-resilient water security. The engagements combined discussions involving government institutions, municipalities and community organisations with a national media outreach effort in South Africa.

[Read more](#)

Co-HYDIM-SA Holds Participatory Workshops in Namibia and Angola

Co-HYDIM-SA conducted two stakeholder workshops in Namibia and Angola in collaboration with the Cuvelai Watercourse Commission. 45 local experts, practitioners, and community representatives assessed drought and flood risks in the Cuvelai and Cunene River Basins.

[Read more](#)



NEU-Water Conducts Second Co-Researcher Workshop Series in South Africa

During the workshops, the co-researchers received training on water management and undertook community-based data collection on local water use practices, challenges, and priorities.

[Read more](#)

WaMiSAR Shares New Findings at International Conferences and Strengthens Collaboration

The WaMiSAR project team presented new research findings at two international scientific conferences, highlighting innovative approaches to mine rehabilitation in Namibia's arid and semi-arid landscapes.

[Read more](#)

WaReNam Advances Water Reuse Efforts in Namibia Through Stakeholder Engagement and Training Week

During a trip to Namibia, WaReNam project partners advanced the establishment of a Multi-Scale Water Reuse Strategy. In a one-week training in Okahandja, with practical training sessions in Windhoek, participants from seven Namibian municipalities gained knowledge on wastewater treatment and water reuse.

[Read more](#)



Strengthening Collaboration Across WASA: Three Projects Join Forces on Water Reuse

Partners from WaReNam, WaMiSAR, and MAMDIWAS came together in Frankfurt for a joint exchange meeting to strengthen collaboration, share experiences, and identify opportunities for closer cooperation across the WASA programme.

[Read more](#)

Publications

MAMDIWAS

Futterlieb, M., & Panglisch, S., 2026: Early detection and control of CaCO_3 scaling in closed-circuit reverse osmosis under antiscalant-free conditions. *Desalination*, 622, 119622, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.desal.2025.119622>.

NEU-Water

Maraj, K., Nicklin, E., Edmonds-Smith, C. & Winter, K., 2025: Detection of active pharmaceutical ingredients in surface water polluted by an informal settlement. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*, 197(11), 1-16, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10661-025-14636-9>.

Hlongwa, N., Parry, V., Makhahlela, B., Kibirige, D., & Carden, K., 2026: From global north to south: governing contaminants of emerging concern in water systems. *Environmental Research Letters*, 21(3), 33001, <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ae3782>.

SeeKaqua

Banda, K., Crestaz, E., Seliger, R., Mengistu, H., Sauramba, J., & Saraiva, M., 2025: Zambezi River Basin aquifer systems: opportunities and challenges in using freely available data sources and groundwater flow modelling for spatial exploratory analysis. *Groundwater for Sustainable Development*, 29, 101421, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gsd.2025.101421>.

Banda, K. Jakobsen, R., Nyambe, I. & Larsen, F., 2025: Potential for saline groundwater freshening in a semi-arid environment: Insights from the Machile-Zambezi River Basin. *Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies*, 59, 102440, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejrh.2025.102440>.

Weiss, M., Rochlitz, R., & Günther, T., 2025: Evaluation of an iterative framework for geophysical electromagnetic forward and inverse modelling problems. *Geophysical Journal International*, 243(1), ggaf290, <https://doi.org/10.1093/gji/ggaf290>. <https://www.watersecurityafrica.org/event/wasa-summer-school-2026/>

WaReNam

Frick, F., Keller, S., Kerber, H., Zimmermann, M., 2025: Transformation von Wasserinfrastrukturen - Beispiele aus einer schnellwachsenden städtischen Region in Namibia. *Geographische Rundschau*, 12, 38-43.

[View all WASA publications](#)

WASA Programme News



Scaling Innovations: Financing Opportunities for R&D projects by KfW

An interview with Dr. Bernd Wiebusch, Senior Technical Expert and Technical Coordinator for Water and Waste, KfW

At the end of April, project coordinators and private sector partners from the WASA research programme met with KfW experts, and representatives of German Federal Ministries to discuss opportunities for financing and upscaling their innovative solutions. In the interview, Dr. Bernd Wiebusch provides insights into KfW's financing instruments and the potential for financing WASA projects.

[Read more](#)



WASA at IFAT Munich 2026: Building Bridges Between Science, Industry and International Partnerships

With its participation at IFAT Munich 2026, the WASA programme engaged in a large-scale networking presence at the world's leading trade fair for water, recycling, and circularity. Hosted at the German Water Partnership Joint Pavilion, WASA and its seven research projects showcased how German-African research collaboration is contributing to innovative solutions for water security while strengthening dialogue with industry, policymakers, and international partners.

[Read more](#)



WASA Webinar Series Launched with a Focus on Water Security and Innovation in Southern Africa

From freshwater solutions and treatment technologies to smart aquifer characterisation: WASANet launched a new webinar series to unite academia, industry, and policy through a dynamic two-part format including a technical or academic presentation, followed by a public or private sector perspective on its relevance and application within Sub-Saharan Africa's water sector.

[Read more](#)

Faces Behind WASA



Meet Dr. Josefina Hamutoko, Consortium Speaker in Africa for SeeKaquA

Dr. Josefina Hamutoko shares her personal motivation for contributing to the SeeKaquA project, discusses opportunities for collaboration within the WASA programme, and highlights its significance for the water future in Southern Africa.

[Read more](#)

Stakeholder Engagement

9-11 June 2027 | 3rd Workshop on Soil Degradation Control, Remediation and Reclamation

Deadline for registration and abstracts: 31 January 2027

Organised by the Commissions 3.5 and 3.7 of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), Chair of Soil Science and Geoecology, Potsdam University, the workshop will bring together scientists in the field of soil degradation control, remediation, reclamation and technogenic soils from all over the world. The purpose is to discuss ongoing research in these fields and jointly to develop new concepts, methods and technologies to protect and to revitalise soils. With respect to this aim, the workshop is also open to policy and decision makers in the field of soil management, to engineers and planners, environmentalists and students.

An excursion on the third day will take the participants to the post mining landscape of Lusatia, southeast of Berlin.

[View event](#)

Event Calendar

[2 September 2026 | WASA Webinar hosted by NEU-Water | Online](#)

[30 September 2026 | 50th Session GWP Regional Forum Africa | Gütersloh, Germany | Hybrid](#)

[7 October 2026 | WASA Webinar hosted by WaReNam | Online](#)

[12-16 October 2026 | WASA Summer School | Windhoek, Namibia](#)

[4 November 2026 | WASA Webinar hosted by Co-HYDIM-SA | Online](#)

[2 December 2026 | WASA Webinar hosted by WaRisCo | Online](#)

[2-4 December 2026 | United Nations Water Conference 2026 | United Arab Emirates](#)

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

burkardt@germanwaterpartnership.de

koenig@germanwaterpartnership.de

Website: www.watersecurityafrica.org