

**MINUTES OF THE 35TH MEETING OF THE
AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (AFRWG)**

04 September 2024, 08:30-10:00 hours (Session I) and 10:30-12:00 hours (Session II)
Sydney, Australia

Presented by the Chair

Year of Establishment: 1994

Mandate: To promote links and networking among the African countries as well as regional and international institutions for enhancing cooperation and coordination, and to support integrated river basin development, training and research issues, and information systems for African needs.

Members present: (1) Vice President Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli, Vice Chair (South Africa); (2) Engr. (Mrs.) Esther Oyeronke Oluniyi (Nigeria); (3) Engr. Sani Bala (Nigeria).

Observers: (i) Engr. Haiwa Sadique (Nigeria); (ii) Engr. Peter Sule (Nigeria); (iii) Dr. Calvin Sambo (South Africa); (iv) Dr. Khumbulani Dhavu (South Africa); (v) Dr. Luxon Nhamo (South Africa); (vi) Dr. Michael van der Laan (South Africa).

Website: <https://icid-ciid.org/wbody/AFRWG>

AFRWG Minutes Item 1: Action taken report by Chair

1. In the absence of Chair VPH Dr. Mohamed Wahba, Vice Chair Dr. Sylvester Mpandeli acted as Chair of the meeting. The Chair welcomed the participants and presented a brief report on the actions taken on the decisions of the working group. The group noted that the ICID Central Office contacted the Mauritania, Togo, and Mozambique for the country membership. The purpose of this engagement is to assist these three countries to reactivate their ICID memberships. The group noted that Zimbabwe and Malawi have cleared their arrears and their accounts are up to date. A representative from the Moroccan National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (ANAFIDE) committed to engage with francophone countries on the African continent to join ICID. The group noted that this is a long-term recruitment drive strategy from AFRWG. Membership status is given in **Annex 3** (page 27).

AFRWG Minutes Item 2: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Status of activities in the African region

2. The Chair of the AFRWG updated the group with regards to all the activities of the AFRWG related to the ICID Vision 2030 and the Vice Chair of the AFRWG informed the participants that the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 will be updated (refer to **Annex**). Actions taken on the road map are as follows:

- (a) **Goal B:** to be a catalyst for change policies and practices (the final draft position paper on green evolution in Africa was presented and circulated to the AFRWG members for review)
- (b) **Goal C:** Facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge, and technology (share and circulate all available documents, reports, news updates, and other documents to all using the ICID website, LinkedIn, and WhatsApp groups)
- (c) **Goal F:** Facilitate Capacity Development (webinar, 6th Af-YWP Forum, online courses, webinars, training workshops, and study tours upon request of NCs)

3. During the Sydney meeting, the AFRWG group members agreed to update the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030. The Vice Chair suggested that AFRWG participants keep on monitoring their activities by making sure to achieve the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030.

AFRWG Minutes Item 3: Progress on Position paper on Green Revolution in Africa

4. During the Sydney meeting, the Vice Chair informed the AFRWG group members that the paper has already been published in the WWP Journal and a copy of the paper is available on the AFRWG webpage at https://icid-ciid.org/icid_data_web/Researcharticle2023.pdf. Members can access the link and download the paper. Vice Chair encouraged the group members to go through the paper and if they have any queries they are well welcome to contact the Chair/Vice Chair of the group.

AFRWG Minutes Item 4: Updates on Regional Irrigation Associations- SARIA, ARID-RAID

5. During the Sydney meeting, the Vice Chair of the AFRWG Prof. Sylvester Mpandeli highlighted that SARIA organized a virtual meeting on 09 April 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the SARIA Symposium which is planned for November 2024. The Vice Chair of SARIA further provided a brief report of the workshop held on 9th October 2023 wherein seven member countries participated (*South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, and DRC*). According to the Deputy Chair of SARIA, several activities are planned from 2024 onwards. The Deputy Chair of SARIA also outlined that SARIA activities were seriously affected by COVID-19. SARIA members are trying to regroup after COVID-19.

AFRWG Minutes Item 5: Progress for the proposed third node for IRPID for the African region

6. The Vice Chair Prof. Mpandeli highlighted that the South African National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (SANCID) was awarded rights to establish, coordinate, and facilitate the International Research Program for Irrigation and Drainage (IRPID) focusing on Southern Africa, after receiving approval to host the IRPID - Southern African note from the International Executive Council meeting in Adelaide, Australia in 2022. The Water Research Commission (WRC) of South Africa is the Secretariat of the IRPID. Since November 2022, four research projects have been initiated by WRC of South Africa in partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), South Africa Weather Service, University of Zimbabwe, Water Research Council of Kenya. In 2023, SANCID organized an IRPID workshop in Pretoria, South Africa. The purpose of the workshop was to develop a ten-year framework plan based on the IRPID activities in Southern Africa. Since then there have been several activities organized by Vice President Prof. Sylvester Mpandeli in Southern Africa. All 15 Southern African countries were invited to attend the launch of the Southern Africa IRPID node. A 10-year capacity-building programme has been developed by Vice President Prof. Sylvester Mpandeli and Prof. Dr. Tafadzwa Mabhaudhi together with other key strategic partners. The 10-year program was shared with ICID colleagues at the WRC – IWMI side event during the 25th ICID Congress in November 2023 in Vizag, India. Currently, there are four research projects under the IRPID node. The titles of the projects are as follows:

- (a) The development of the WEF Nexus Index, and its application to the SADC region,
- (b) Water WEF Nexus narratives and resources securities,
- (c) From theory to practice: developing case studies and guidelines for the WEF Nexus implementation in Southern Africa,
- (d) From theory to practice: developing case studies and guidelines for the WEF Nexus implementation in Africa.

This work is in progress and the second workshop is proposed to be held before the end of 2024.

7. All four projects have a total number of 15 postgraduate students and the majority of them are Master and doctoral students. Since 2022, several numbers of research-outs (scientific papers, book chapters, books, and conference/workshop proceedings) have been generated or published based on the four listed projects. A second IRPID – Southern Africa Regional Note Workshop is planned in February 2025 in Pretoria, South Africa.

AFRWG Minutes Item 6: Af-YWPeF - Program and future activities

8. During the meeting, the Vice Chair of the AFRWG suggested that the following activities need to be carried out as part of knowledge dissemination and information sharing:

- (a) At least two webinars will be organized during next year
- (b) To organize the 7th African Young Professional Forum
- (c) More MoUs will be signed with different international institutions and partners to support the activities of Capacity Development and Building of young professionals and the exchange and dissemination of advanced technologies in the field of water, irrigation, drainage, and all related fields.
- (d) Daily communications with YPs for technical support and advice, recommendation letters, sharing news updates, bulletin, reports, announcements, available reports, online activities, opportunities, and others.

AFRWG Minutes Item 7: 7th African Young Professional Forum and Cairo Water Week 2024, 13-17 October 2024, Egypt

9. As discussed in Vizag, India in 2023, the Cairo Water Week will be organized from 13–17 October 2024 on the theme "Water and Climate: Building Resilient Communities" with the following sub-themes - (1) Transboundary Water Governance for Sustainable Development; (2) Strategic Water Resources Management in Enhancing Community Resilience; (3) Innovation and Financing Resilient Solutions for Water Security; (4) Actions for Water

and Climate Adaptations and Resilience; and (5) Climate-Smart Communities Planning and Legislation. 7th African Young Professional Forum will be organised during Cairo Water Week in October 2024.

AFRWG Minutes Item 8: 6th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage, 14-18 April 2025, Nigeria

10. As reported in Vizag in 2023, the Vice Chair Prof. Mpandeli reported that the 6th African Regional Conference with the main theme “Tackling Irrigation Development and Water Management Crisis in Africa” will be held from 14-18 April 2025 in Abuja, Nigeria. In addition to the three-day African Regional Conference, NINCID is organizing a one-day National Irrigation and Drainage Symposium with the theme: “Participatory Irrigation Management for Sustainable Rural Development, Economic Growth and Food Security” with a possible partnership with World Bank (TRIMMING PROJECT); and a half-day High-level Policy Dialogue to bring together key political actors, business leaders, NGOs, donors, and top water managers to dialogue on “Achieving SDGs in the context of prevailing Transboundary water resources governance in Africa”.

11. The Nigerian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (NINCID) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation (FMWR&S) through the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) organized a 5-Day Workshop and Annual General Meeting of NINCID from 3-8 December 2023 at Kano City, Kano State wherein 265 participants attended the Workshop. The main focus of the Workshop was for the Stakeholders to discuss progress, and emerging issues and extend the way forward in the Irrigation and Drainage Subsector as well as to deliberate on hosting the 6th African Regional Conference.

AFRWG Minutes Item 9: Any other business (with permission of Chair)

12. The Vice Chair Prof. Mpandeli reported that he was contacted by the Asian Regional Working Group (ASRWG) and both Working Groups are planning to collaborate on several activities including data sharing, writing scientific papers, book chapters, and books together. Detailed information will be provided in due course.



ROAD MAP TO ICID VISION 2030 – ACTIVITIES OF WORK BODIES

Goals/ Strategies	Activities	Outcomes/ Outputs	Milestone for 2017	Milestone for 2018	Milestone for 2019	Milestone for 2020	Milestone for 2021	Milestone for 2022	Milestone for 2023	Milestone for 2024
Goal B: Be a Catalyst for Change in Policies and Practices										
B1. Strategy: Supporting the Development of Appropriate Policies	1.15 Position Paper on Green Revolution in Africa	Position paper	Prepare the draft paper	Finalize the paper	Data collection	Data collection	Data analysis Draft paper	Final paper publishing process	Dissemination of the paper	
GOAL C: Facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge, and technology										
C3. Strategy: Promoting Regional Cooperation	3.4 Activate or Establish Regional/sub-regional WGs	Regional WGs	Collaboration with Af-YWP-Forum		Establishment of more WG-YP's WhatsApp Groups NC-wise for E-discussion and knowledge exchanges Encouraging cooperation with partners	Establishment of more WG-YP's WhatsApp Groups NC-wise for E-discussion and knowledge exchanges Encouraging cooperation with partners	Establishment of more WG-YP's WhatsApp Groups NC-wise for E-discussion and knowledge exchanges Encouraging cooperation with partners	Selections of NC's YP's coordinators Organizing NC's YP's group meeting and starting their activities Contributing to AfYP Forum activities Webinar Workshop Discussions Exchanging experiences. Technologies and information Activating their Country membership in ICID-(non-member)	Organizing NC'S YP's group meeting and starting their activities Contributing to AfYP Forum activities Webinar Workshop Discussions Exchanging experiences. Technologies and information Activating their Country membership in ICID (non-member)	Organizing NC'S YP's group meeting and starting their activities Contributing to AfYP Forum activities Webinar Workshop Discussions Exchanging experiences. Technologies and information Activating their Country membership in ICID (non-member)
Goal F: Facilitate capacity development										
F2. Strategy: Support Capacity Development Activities of Member Countries	2.4 Strategy for capacity building in Africa	Strategy/ Policy	Identify new themes and revise the strategy	Update the strategy	2 nd Af-YWP-Forum (CWW2019-YP training program before 5 th AfRC on I&D 16-23 November 2021 at Marrakesh, Morocco	3 rd Af-YWP-Forum (CWW2020 virtually	4 th Af-YWP-Forum (CWW2021-virtually YP Preparing questioner for TNA Circulation of TNA Data analysis	Organizing webinars/Discussions Organizing yearly African Young Professional forum Upon request from NCs to organize tailor-made training and study tours	Organizing webinars/ Discussions Organizing yearly African Young Professional forum Upon request from NCs to organize tailor-made training and study tours	Organizing webinars/Discussions Organizing yearly African Young Professional forum Upon request from NCs to organize tailor-made training and study tours

(Source: Consultative Group (CG) Report: A Water Secure World Free of Poverty & Hunger: A Road Map to ICID Vision 2030)

