

# Snows



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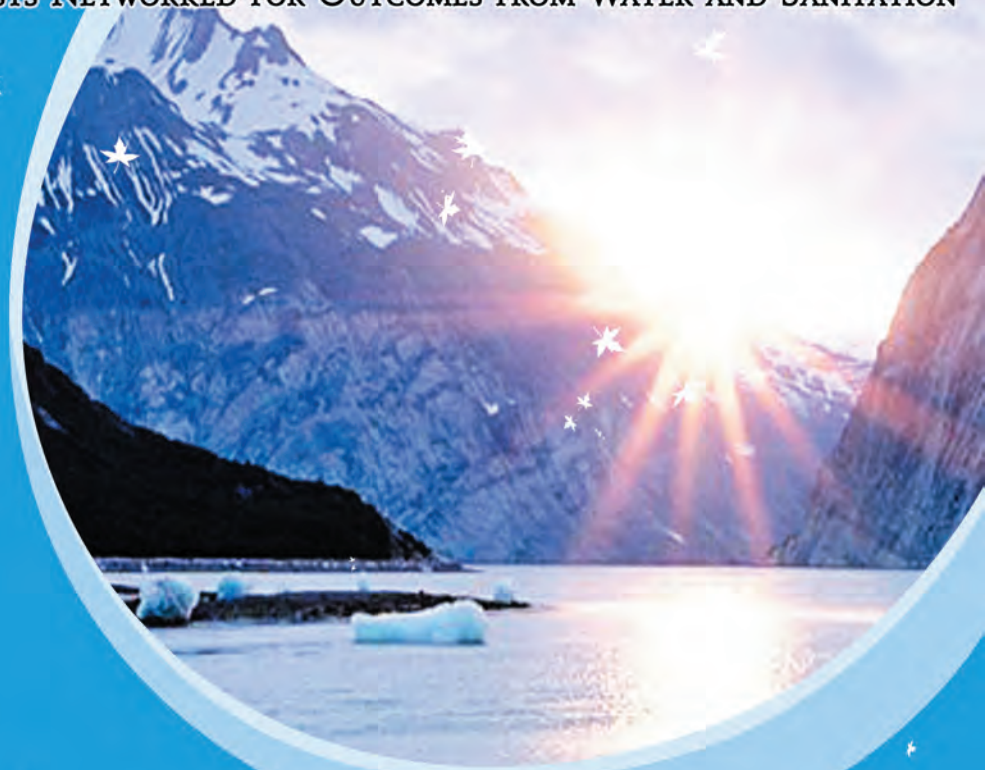
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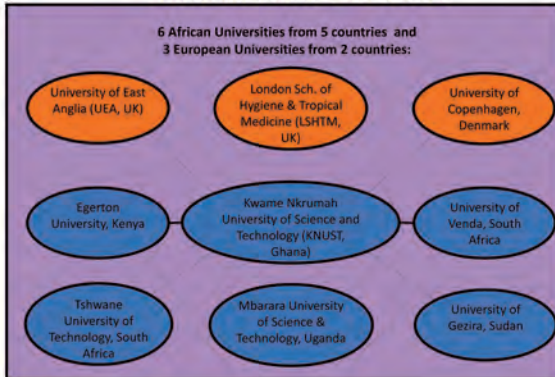


### SCIENTISTS NETWORKED FOR OUTCOMES FROM WATER AND SANITATION



Building a critical mass of sustainable local research and capacity in water supply, sanitation and environmental health across Africa, through strengthening African Universities and Research Institutions

## Consortium Partners



## GOAL

The African SNOWS (Scientists Networked for Outcomes from Water and Sanitation) Consortium aims to build African capacity for interdisciplinary research in water supply, sanitation and environmental health, bringing together universities from across the continent, with research active universities in the North. The long term objective of the consortium is to build sustainable capacity in research that leads to improved public health by improving water supply, sanitation and hygiene. We aim to enable African researchers to conduct policy-relevant research on the health impact of environmental interventions, and on how these interventions can be implemented most effectively and taken to scale.

## Research Vision:

Providing internally excellent Africa-based research that will enable all African children to realize their maximum potential through sustainable water supply, sanitation and hygiene delivery.

## Work Packages:

- WP1: Managing the Consortium
- WP2: Needs Assessment for Capacity Building
- WP3: Training in Research Practice and Methods
- WP4. Strengthening Research Management Capacity of Institutions
- WP5. Strengthening Research Capacity of Individuals
- WP6. Networking and Communication

Currently SNOWS is focusing on work packages 1 – 4 (WP1 – WP4) because of the cut in the budget.

## WP1: Managing the consortium

This work package relates to the establishment and maintenance of the consortium's institutions and procedures for management and governance.

## WP2: Needs assessment for capacity building

The needs assessment will include the four key dimensions to capacity building:

- Human capital covers scientific, technical, and administrative staff, students and trainees.
- Tangible capital includes buildings, teaching, library, laboratory and administrative support facilities as well as computers and software, vehicles and research equipment.
- Managerial capital will cover support staff and procedures for financial management, maintenance of equipment and purchasing.
- Social capital includes the mission, statutes and objectives of the institution



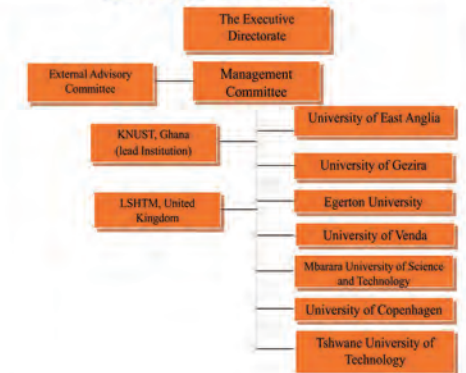
## WP3: Training in research practice and methods

This part of the work will be to share examples of the best courses and, where no such courses are relevant to the African setting, to develop new courses.

It is not a primary objective of African SNOWS to develop new MSc courses in its partner universities, but we are supportive of such developments and especially keen to improve existing Master's courses as a foundation for research. Some of these short courses would be about personal development, management of research and research tools. These may include but would not be restricted to the following topics:

- Research methods
- Statistics
- Field epidemiology methods
- Data management and sharing
- PhD supervision
- Research governance
- Research ethics
- Health and safety in research
- Scientific writing
- Applying for research funding

## Governance Structure



## WP4. Strengthening research management capacity of institutions

### Personnel Development

One of the key issues is strengthening the capability of senior staff within Universities, not only potentially active researchers, but also non-scientists involved in the financial and academic administration of research. Relevant short courses will be offered on topics such as:

- Negotiation skills
- Chairing meetings
- Time management
- Interview selection skills
- Proactive project management
- Leadership and management for administrators

### Policies, strategies and procedures

Partner institutions will be helped to develop their own policies and procedures to support good research governance

### Activities:

We shall build research capacity within the interdisciplinary areas between engineering, epidemiology, environmental microbiology and behavioural sciences, rather than in water resources or sanitary engineering only. Key factors (culture, gender, age, perception of disease risk etc.) that motivate or inhibit the sustainable use of water supply and sanitary services will also be studied. The sphere of interest will also include situations of stress; floods, droughts and refugee settings.

We will create a sustainable community of active African researchers in durable and supportive institutions by:

- Carrying out a participatory needs assessment for individual and institutional capacity-building for research.
- Establishing staff exchange schemes among partner universities
- Strengthening the research dimension of Master's courses, and the capacity to offer relevant short courses, at a number of leading universities.
- Supporting linked interdisciplinary multi-centre practically-oriented research projects
- Maintaining a close link to policy and intervention programmes, exploiting wherever possible the opportunities they present for operational research and impact evaluation
- Establishing common field platforms for interdisciplinary research.
- Building and sustaining institutional capacity over the long term.