

RINaWa Science Café Concept Document

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1. Introduction and Context

The Research and Innovation in Natural Resource and Waste Management (RINaWa) programme is about **‘Strengthening Research and Innovation (R&I) in Natural Resources Management (NRM) and Waste Management (WM)’**. It is being implemented in four target countries: Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia.

“It is in response to the Southern African Development Community’s (SADC’s) Regional Development Agenda and the 2020-2030 SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP). The project, thus, seeks to address challenges confronting SADC as it strives to support the region in attaining sustainable natural resource management and waste management through the respective frameworks. The Research and Innovation outputs aim to facilitate effective implementation of the RISDP actions on NRM and WM. It is therefore relevant to both the government needs and the citizens of the SADC region at large, including the local communities who are the primary beneficiaries. The project targets the research and tertiary education Institutions, government entities, local and national groupings, value chain actors and the public-private sector linkage.

The main objective of the project is to strengthen sustainable WM and NRM in the targeted countries of the Southern African region. Its specific Strategic Objectives (SOs) (outcomes) are as follows:

- **SO1:** Research and tertiary education institutes applying up-to-date research and training in waste management WM and NRM.
- **SO2:** Government entities drafting, implementing, and monitoring WM and NRM policies based on scientifically developed evidence.
- **SO3:** Strengthened and effective participation of local and national groupings from society (IPLCs, CBOs, CSOs) in evidence-based decision-making in WM and NRM.
- **SO4:** Effective WM and NRM practices applied by value chain actors from the formal and informal sectors and
- **SO5:** Improved collaboration between experts from the public and private sectors on WM and NRM R&I issues (science-policy-practice interface).

To realize these NRM-WM specific objectives, the project adopts a wider (ecosystem-based) approach that seeks to innovatively strengthen capacity through Science, Action, Policy and Engagement. The specific activities of the project are as follows:

- i. **Capacity strengthening of research and tertiary education institutes** in delivering research and training in WM and NRM.
- ii. **Capacity strengthening of government entities** in drafting, implementing, and monitoring WM and NRM policies.

- iii. **Capacity enhancement of local and national groupings from society** in effective participation and decision making in sustainable WM and NRM based on scientifically driven evidence.
- iv. **Demonstration of innovative operational and management solutions to value chain actors** in the WM+NRM sectors.
- v. **Effective collaboration of Actors** from the science-policy-practice on WM and NRM issues.

The project is coordinated by the SADC Secretariat, implemented jointly by The College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM)-Mweka, Tanzania and The World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – Mozambique and supported on the ground by four local multipliers operating within the target countries. These are Sky berry Botswana Proprietary Limited (Botswana), Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) (South Africa), Community Wildlife Management Areas Consortium (CWMAC) (Tanzania) and Repensar (Mozambique).

The **Southern African Wildlife College is the responsible for a part of the deliverable 1.12: Hosting Science Cafes in Maputo, Mozambique and Lilongwe, in Malawi.** These are part of Work Package 1. Other RINAWA Project partners are responsible for the roll-out of the Science Cafes in the other target countries: Tanzania and Zambia.

There have been various programme delays along the way and now the SAWC contract is about to end 28 March 2025. At this stage it is not likely that the RINAWA programme will get a no cost extension, **therefore it was necessary to expedite the SAWC part of the science café deliverable 1.12.** This has meant that envisaged collaborative pre planning discussions with RINAWA Partners has not been able to happen in the desired format. Nevertheless, the success of the Science Cafes is hugely reliant on the programme partners in Malawi e.g. Malawi CBNRM and WWF Mozambique in Mozambique.

2. Purpose of the Concept Note

The **purpose of this concept note is to outline the ideas and plan for the implementation of the Science Cafes.** It is specifically for the Malawi and Mozambique science cafes; however, the intention is that it will also provide guidance for the Tanzania and Zambia cafes. It is likely that the concept note will need to be customized for the respective countries, but the principles will remain the same.

3. Proposed Concept for the Science Cafés:

3.1. What is a Science Café and format for RINAWA?

The Science Café concept can be described as: *“live—and lively—events that take place in casual settings such as pubs and coffeehouses, are open to everyone, and feature an engaging conversation with a scientist about a particular topic.*

The Science Café format has spread across the globe, adapting to different cultures and audiences. Whether it's in a bar in Somerville, MA, an Indian restaurant in New Rochelle, NY, or a coffeehouse in San Francisco, CA, each café:

- *Encourages conversation, debate, interaction, and dialogue between scientists and the public.*

Successful Science Cafés create a comfortable atmosphere where everyone joins in. They are not long lectures with a passive audience listening to an expert.

- *Reaches out to all audiences.*

Science Cafés welcome people who may or may not typically get involved with scientific discussions. They are not exclusive club meetings for scientists and science majors”¹.

However, for the RINAWA Programme, the cafes will not be open to the general public, but **specific RINAWA stakeholders** identified during the course of the programme.

Initially it was thought that there may be two science cafes offered per a country at different time slots, however after discussions with Malawi partners it was understood that it was better to have just **one for a longer period of time**, because participants have to come further afield.

The nature of a science café is that it aims to be very engaging and that it is an in-person event. However, for the purposes of the SADC RINAWA science cafes they will be **hybrid events**. This is for various reasons, including 1. A very tight time constraint under which they needed to be arranged (as explained in the introduction), and 2. Because some of the RINAWA project partners and presenters live in other SADC countries and it was not practical for them to come to the host countries for simply a few hours.

The aim of the RINAWA Science Cafes is to share the outcomes of some aspects of the RINAWA programme in an informal, interactive and non-scientific manner. The emphasis is on **creating an opportunity for sharing information, and networking**. This will be done through a series of short, focused presentations of 10 min each, followed by open discussions.

3.2. Where will the Science Cafés be held?

The science cafes will be held in:

- **Maputo**, Mozambique – in an appropriate venue (to be confirmed), which has ‘conference’ facilities to allow for the hybrid format, and
- The outskirts of **Lilongwe**, Malawi, in a similar, slightly more rural and relaxed venue (to Maputo). Exact venue to be confirmed.

If there is **any RINAWA and SADC brand material for display** e.g. banners or similar, it would be good to be able to have this on display at the venues.

3.3. Who will host and who will participate?

- **Maputo:**
 - Co-hosted between SAWC and Malawi CBNRM
 - 35 in-person participants identified during the RINAWA Projects, which includes but is not limited to entities involved in NRM and WM in Malawi (close to Lilongwe preferably) e.g., community-based organizations, research and tertiary institutions and government entities / policy makers.

¹ <https://www.sciencecafes.org/>

- Other SADC / RINAWA partners, particularly from the target countries, who can join online. This is especially those who have been involved in previous RINAWA interventions.
- **Lilongwe:**
 - Co-hosted between SAWC and WWF Mozambique and Repenser
 - 35 in-person participants identified during the RINAWA Projects, which includes but is not limited to entities involved in NRM and WM in Mozambique (close to Maputo preferably) e.g., community-based organizations, research and tertiary institutions and government entities / policy makers.
 - Other SADC / RINAWA partners, particularly from the target countries, who can join online. This is especially those who have been involved in previous RINAWA interventions.

3.4. When will the Science Cafés be held?

Due to the very tight timeline and short notice in rolling out the science cafes for Malawi and Mozambique, there was no option to collaboratively identify the most preferable dates. Therefore, the dates are:

- **Maputo:** 18 March 2025 times to be finalized and shared in the invitation and programme
- **Lilongwe:** 20 March 2025: 08h30 – 13h30

3.5. Draft Programme:

Draft Programme for the Science Cafés in Maputo & Lilongwe [Will be refined for each venue]			
Time	Programme Item	Responsible Person / People	Additional Notes
08h30 – 09h00	Registration	All those attending in person	
09h00 – 09h05	Welcome, Context and Purpose of Science Café	Jen Newenham (SAWC) / Co-host from Malawi / Mozambique	Online participants to join the session
09h05 – 09h10	Brief Overview of RINAWA Project & Welcome	e.g. Dr. George Wambura ?	
09h10 – 09h20	Introductions	All	In-person & participants online: Name organisation & sector representing (waste / NRM)
09h20 – 10h30	Session 1: New curricula Developed	Dr Kwaslema Malle /? Of CAWM	Sessions a suggestion – TBC. And order of sessions not final. Each session 10 min
	Session 2: Action Research	Ms Koziba, Skyberry / ?	
	Session 3: Guidelines for Research & Innovation at tertiary institutions	SAWC	

	Discussion, Questions & Comments, for Sessions 1, 2 & 3	All	30 min
10h30 – 10h50	Tea & body break		
11h00 – 12h00	Session 4: Indigenous Knowledge & Information Dissemination	CWMAC	
	Session 5: Awareness Programme	Repenser	
	Discussion, Questions & Comments, for Sessions 4 & 5	All	30 min
12h00 – 13h00	Session 6: Gaps associated with RINAWA related Policy	WWF Mozambique	
	Session 7: CBNRM Lessons learnt	Malawi CBNRM	
	Session 8: A South African perspective on WM research	e.g. Prof Rini Schenk	
	Discussion, Questions & Comments, for Sessions 6, 7 & 8.	All	30 min
13h00 – 13h15	Wrap up comments	All	
13h15 – 13h20	Closure and thank you	Jen Newenham	Wrap up and say thank you and goodbye to our online participants
13h20 – 13h30	Final Logistics & photo	All	Online Group photo too – all cameras on – if possible before they leave
		Jen Newenham, & all in-person participants	To be confirmed on the day.
13h30 -14h30	Lunch & Networking for in-person		

3.5.1. Suggestions for Presentations

The aim is that the presentations are short and to the point. They should be presented in layman terms not in high-level technical language.

The point is for presenters to share the basic information and provide a contact / platform for the matters / information to be discussed in more detail should any participants want to continue the dialogue at a later stage.

Presentations can be done online (i.e. the presenters do not need to be present at the venue/s in-person)

Suggest 5 slides maximum (1 title slide + 4 content slides) and answer / address the following questions – in 10 minutes:

- **Who you are** / name of your Organisation / Institution
- **What work has been done / or is being done** – in whatever format it takes?
- What is **the purpose of this work** that is being done (in whatever form it takes)
- How does **this work link** to the main aim of RINAWA (even if it is not specifically a RINAWA deliverable): ***“Strengthening Research and Innovation in sustainable NRM and WM in the targeted countries of the Southern African region”***?
- **Which sectors** is the work being done targeting (NRM / WM / both)
- **Contact details** for the person / entity for any future discussions / collaboration with interested participants of the science cafe.