**Annex 5**

**Templates for Mid-Term Evaluation Report**

**(Individual and Consensus)**

**Water Joint Programming Initiative**

**2018 Joint Call**

*Closing the water cycle gap - Sustainable management of water resources*

These Project Management Guidelines will be effective from the date of the National funding decisions and shall remain in force until the last final project report is approved in 2022.

**The Mid-Term Consensus Report will be made available to the Consortium as well as CSC and JPI Water GB.**

**MID-TERM INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION REPORT**

**PROJECT TITLE AND ACRONYM**

Name of Coordinator: Jasper de Vries

Project code: WaterWorks2017-Entrugo

Duration of project: 30 months

Start date:  **Sept 19** End date: **Mar 22**

**DETAILS OF THE EVALUATOR**

Name: Jessica Budds

Organisation: University of East Anglia

Date of review: 10 April 2021

### **Scientific and technological progress** (*Maximum 250 words)*

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| *Please describe the work performed and the results obtained during the lifetime of the project, and the conformity of work progress within the initial schedule. Take into account the following aspects:** *Has progress been achieved towards reaching the project objectives according to the original description and milestones?*
* *Detailed update on methodology & results*
* *How has the progress of the project promoted a multi-disciplinary work?*
* *Dissemination of the results (publications, patents, other)*

The project seems to have made good progress on the first work package, with a literature review that is being developed into a journal article, despite some partners starting later than others (e.g. South Africa) and being less involved in this work. That said, more detail on the literature review and its key findings and significance, as well as the journal article arising e.g. target journal, could have been provided in the progress report. The project has also made acceptable progress on the design of the survey and key informant interviews. The survey has been applied with 2000 respondents in the Netherlands, the results of which are being written up for publication in a journal. Again, as above, more detail on these findings and their contribution to the literature, as well as details about the target journal, could have been provided in the progress report. The survey has also been applied among Sámi groups in Sweden using stakeholder networks. The survey has been delayed in South Africa, as that partner started later, but the survey is being reviewed by the Water Research Commission of South Africa and other water governance experts. Some key informant interviews have been carried out online, which is positive, although progress in the contexts where face-to-face interaction is important - especially Sweden and South Africa - has been limited by the Covid-19 situation. More detail could have been provided regarding additional outputs, such as policy briefs.  |

### **Collaboration, coordination and mobility within the Consortium** (*Maximum 250 words)*

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| *Please evaluate the collaboration, coordination and mobility within the Consortium* *Take into account the following aspects:** *Efficiency on the coordination and organization of the projects*
* *Collaboration effective between the partners*
* *Mobility of the research between the consortia*
* *Does the project meet the transnational nature and its added value?*

The coordination has been affected to some extent by the Covid-19 situation, but not entirely, since most activities could be replicated online. The project held its inception workshop in October 2019, before the pandemic. Since then, meetings have been conducted online; the table shows a good number of consortium-wide meetings, which are complemented with other meetings between the country-based postdoctoral research fellows and also other meetings that are either ad-hoc in response to specific issues or to collaborations between two of the four partners directly. The progress report notes that contact and momentum is somewhat hampered by the lack of richness of in-person contact due to the pandemic, and especially of longer events, such as mobility between partners, and this is legitimate. Here, the coordinators are doing what they can in the light of the situation. This situation has been compensated to some extent by different types of collaboration arising, such as Master's students working across different partners ad/or sites. The progress report also notes that the country coordinators have a large degree of autonomy to develop the country work, which means that they are less dependent on each other’s work and progress than with a more centralised structure. This also means, however, that there is a risk of the comparative value of the four-site being reduced, which is already exacerbated by the different start dates of the partners, and the progress report could have been clearer on how this will be mitigated.  |

### **Coordination with other international project funded by WaterWorks2017, or other instruments** (*Maximum 250 words)*

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| *Please evaluate the external collaboration of the Consortium,* *Take into account the following aspects:** *Collaboration effective with other projects funded by WaterWorks2017*
* *Collaboration effective with other projects or consortia*

The project has had some contact with other funded projects that are either working on some of the same research sites, or being coordinated by the same institution, which is entirely acceptable. There is also some good evidence of connections with other funded projects being carried out by the project partners, which is also acceptable. These interconnections could also be fostered by joint events promoted by Water JPI.  |

### **Coverage of the themes and sub-themes of the call** (Maximum *250 words)*

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| *Please evaluate the relation within the project results and the themes and the sub-themes of the call.**Theme 1. Enabling sustainable management of water resources.*The overall aim for this theme is to develop new governance and knowledge management approaches.* *Sub-theme 1.1. Promoting adaptive water management for global change:*

The aim of sub-theme 1.1 is to increase knowledge and to develop evidence-based methodologies and technologies for monitoring the cumulative impacts of human activities and climate change on the water cycle, but also to develop management options on the water cycle (considering all cycle compartments) and water / ecosystem services. This knowledge must be applicable for the adaptive management of water resources on a regional scale, while enabling downscaling to address local or catchment situations.* *Sub-theme 1.2. Integrative management by implementing Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM) such as Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR):*

The aim is to increase the knowledge and develop NWRMs such as MAR in a multidisciplinary way, to protect, prolong, sustain and augment freshwater supplies. Evidence of their effectiveness and on the multiple benefits they deliver should be demonstrated.* *Sub-theme 1.3. Mitigating water stress in coastal zones and urbanized areas:*

The aim is to develop and demonstrate a comprehensive coastal zone management system based on monitoring and modelling to ensure the provision of freshwater security under a range of conditions including saline intrusion, sediment management, storms, floods and droughts, but also specific coastal water uses. Please, refer to H2020 calls on nature-based solutions to propose complementary actions.*Theme 2. Strengthening socio-economic approaches to water management.*The overall aim of this theme is envisaging education and communication initiatives to raise social awareness of consumption habits and water scarcity and to increase the levels of social acceptance and use of recycled water.* *Sub-theme 2.1. Integrating economic and social analyses into decision-making processes:*

The aim is to increase the knowledge the effectiveness and efficiency of existing economic mechanisms and policy instruments related to water management, with a special emphasis on implementation of water policies (such as the EU Water Framework Directive) and development of a circular and green economy. The approach should aim to break boundaries between services valuation including more flexible pricing and charging mechanisms, management tools and institutions, and the employment of economic and social sciences to develop best practice management guidelines for efficient water uses, including under extreme events such as droughts and floods.* *Sub-theme 2.2. The reuse of water:*

The aim is to develop integrative methods and cost-effective technologies for the implementation of acceptable and sustainable solutions on a large scale for different reuse cycles, spanning from irrigation, via livestock drinking water, to human consumption. Furthermore, goals include assessments of social acceptance for the use of recycled water and the development of integrated approaches combining technological solutions with social-psychological acceptability, economic viability and appropriate governance approaches. Research into the removal of emerging contaminants must consider the cost of the technology vs yield and realistic options for reuse of the recovered water. Please refer to projects funded under previous Water JPI Joint Calls (2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017) to avoid any duplication. See Joint Calls on Water JPI website.* *Sub-theme 2.3. Connecting science to society:*

The aim is to increase understanding of the role of socio-economic approaches to water uses in hydrological cycles. Knowledge building should address stakeholders' and public awareness of water challenges and values, and how perception of policy measures and technological solutions are formed and how stakeholders can be steered towards desirable behaviour. Local and/or regional context (attitude, social norms, cultural context, etc.) should be taken into consideration. The value of improved water stewardship overall should be considered by developing sustainable business models.* *Sub-theme 2.4. Promoting new governance and knowledge management approaches:*

The aim is to develop innovative water management tools and approaches suitable for decision-making based on an analysis of the limitations of current practices. These approaches should involve the broad participation of stakeholders (including public monitoring, communication and education), multidisciplinary research, and short and long-term water cycle scenarios to support decision-making and the integration of water policy into other policy fields. In effect, governance capacities for implementation of water policies at the local and regional levels should be enhanced.*Theme 3. Supporting tools for sustainable integrative management of water resources.*This theme aims to complement the actions developed under the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) and other European initiatives. Emphasis should be on establishing networks and information sharing among existing research facilities/field labs, analytical methods, monitoring tools and programmes, access to databases and platforms, exploring the use of big data solutions and establishing reliable hydrological standards. Across the globe, there is a large body of knowledge, methodology and data related to hydrology and the water cycle that has the potential of being beneficial for a wide range of the world's regions. The alignment of water-related research and sharing of data and results will serve to avoid duplication of research, support progress based on previous finding, and thus facilitate the establishment of water management policies addressing rapid climatic changes.At this stage of the project, I think that the project is well aligned with the themes of the JPI programme as per the original proposal. As noted above, good progress has been made with the literature review, and some significant findings have emerged that will guide the field data collection and also shape the project's eventual contributions(s) to the literature and to practice.  |

1. **Stakeholder/industry engagement** (*Maximum 250 words)*

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| *Please evaluate the participation of stakeholder/industry on the project and the added value of this participation.*Due to the nature of the project, stakeholder participation has been high in relation to the four country contexts, with water governance stakeholders being engaged in all instances. Although stakeholder engagement has been lower than expected due to the Covid-19 situations, all of the country teams have made some connections. In the next phase of the project, the team could perhaps seek to engage with higher-level water governance institutions.  |

### **Recommendations for improvements/amendments of the report** (Please complete Table below)

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| **Page** | **Modification** | **Rationale for change** |
| 25 | Provide a clearer idea of how the project will accommodate a different type of and/or schedule for comparative work, and what this will mean for the contributions to knowledge  | The delays regarding partner start dates and Covid-19 were unavoidable, but a greater sense could be given about how they could be further mitigated in the final stages of the project.  |
| 25 | Sámi youth workshops - give more detail on how these will be organised and implmented, especially if the Covid-19 situation does not improve imminently  | These workshops are a key part of the research, and potentially less viable via online techniques than other activities, so it is important to have a Plan B in place.  |
| 27 | It would be useful to know how often the consortium and postdoc meetings are held, and, if they are not regular, to consider making them regular in order to maintain contact and momentum during these times.  | Increased difficulty of maintaining contact with online-only mechanisms.  |
| 33 | Present a more detailed and systematic list of the outputs - this section seems to mention a paper by a master’s student but not the literature review paper and the NL survey paper that were mentioned earlier, nor the policy brief that was also referred to.  | More detail needed on outputs, content, contribution, and planned outlet.  |

1. **Recommendations/ problems and risks** (Maximum *250 words)*

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| *Please include problems identified or specific risks to the projects, deviations in relation to the planned work or budget, as well specific recommendations/feedback with could be relevant to the Consortium.*The project has overall performed well during the first half, despite some obstacles, and I have no major concerns at this stage, although I would like to see a clearer description of the emerging findings and contributions, as well as a plan to mitigate the obstacles that have arisen, especially as the coming months continue to be uncertain in regard to the pandemic. A literature review has been conducted and is ready for publication, and a survey has been designed and applied in some of the contexts. Field work, which is not so easily covered to online techniques in all of the locations, has been disrupted across the project. The project has been affected by administrative delays that have resulted in different start dates among the different partners, and therefore a lower contribution of some partners to key tasks (namely the literature review), as well as the empirical work progressing at different paces in the four locations. These delays have been compounded by the Covid-19 situation, which has reduced mobility and fieldwork across the team, and has potentially also made contact and momentum more difficult (recognising also the situation of individual researchers, who may for instance be less available due to home-schooling). These conditions are outside the control of the partners and researchers, and but the team could produce a clearer idea and plan of how they will be mitigated as the project continues into its final stages.  |

**MID-TERM EVALUATION CONSENSUS REPORT**

**This Consensus Report will be made available to the Consortium as well as CSC and JPI Water GB.**

**PROJECT TITLE AND ACRONYM**

Name of Coordinator:

Project code: WaterWorks2017-CONSORTIUM ACRONYM

Duration of project:

Start date: End date:

**FOLLOW-UP GROUP**

Please include the data of the FG members reviewing the report

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| Name | Organisation |
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| *Please evaluate the participation of stakeholders/industry on the project and the added value of this participation.* |

### **Recommendations for improvements/amendments of the report** (Please complete Table below)

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1. **General Assessment Comments** (*Maximum 250 words)*

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| *Please include a summary of the key points of this evaluation.* *Problems identified or specific risks to the projects. As well recommendations/feedback, which could be relevant to the Consortium.*  |