

# **Terms of Reference for the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) of SPLASH**

## **1. Background**

SPLASH is the name of the European Water Initiative European Research Area Network (EU-WI ERA-NET). SPLASH comprises fifteen partners from eleven European countries. The ERA-NET scheme is financed within the sixth framework programme of the European Community, for coordination of national and regional activities.

The strategic objectives of SPLASH are:

- to improve the effectiveness of EU member state research on water for development in Africa and the Mekong;
- deliver innovations which make a real improvement to the lives of the poor; and
- speed up the transfer of knowledge from research through to practical use.

This will be achieved through joint working on a series of 'work package' activities. Activities include:

- compilation and analysis of previous member state funded research in the water sector for developing countries;
- the development of good practice and lessons learned - for capacity development, identification of research needs, and how best to put research into use, leading to
- joint development, programming and funding of future research in water for development, avoiding duplication and aligned to a commonly agreed research agenda.

## **2. Objective, and Purpose of the SAC**

In order for SPLASH to achieve its strategic objectives an important element within the structure of the programme will be to establish a mechanism by which the programme will engage and dialogue with the scientific, practitioner and stakeholder communities within both Europe and the developing world.

This is the purpose and objective of the SPLASH Scientific Advisory Council.

## **3. Assumptions and Risks**

We assume that given the strategic importance of the SAC, those nominated and appointed will be able to prioritise its work within the context of their professional activities, through attendance and support of planned meetings. If this is not the case there is a risk that SPLASH will not achieve its objectives.

## **4. Scope of Work**

There will be two 'colleges' within the full SAC.

One will comprise 10 members (of whom 5 are from developing countries) from the scientific community, meeting each six month, but also providing comments by email periodically.

It is expected that the scientific college will validate the work of the SPLASH work packages.

The second college will comprise 15 members from the practitioner and stakeholder communities (of whom 5 are from developing countries), meeting annually with the scientific college, but also providing comments by email periodically. The stakeholder/practitioner college will assist in the identification of research needs, and support implementation of possible pilot actions.

The Technical Committee will present the activities and orientations of the SPLASH work programme at the beginning of each six monthly meeting. Once constituted the SAC will advise the SPLASH Strategic Management Board on the visionary development of SPLASH as well as guidance on scientific and policy issues at each six monthly meeting in the form of a report.

## **5. Logistics and Timing**

SPLASH is a 4 year initiative which started in January 2007.

It is anticipated that the first meeting of the full SAC comprising both colleges will take place during the Stockholm Water week in August 2007. Subsequent meetings will be programmed a minimum of 6 months, but normally a year in advance:

- whenever possible to take place during international water sector events attended by the SAC members.
- as agreed and decided between SAC members, to incorporate effectiveness and efficiency in terms of time, financial resources and professional interests of members, taking particular account of the interests of developing country participants.

## **6. Inputs**

### **Management**

France (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Institute of research for development) will plan, organise, convene and report the SAC meetings with support provided by the SPLASH Project Manager. France will propose and confirm a suitable chairperson for the SAC.

### **Membership**

The membership of the SAC is expected to be drawn from senior persons of relevant geographic representation of SPLASH (that is with an interest and or understanding of the needs water research for development of Africa or the Mekong regions):

1. The scientist college: comprising 10 people representing the technical scope of SPLASH – for example hydrology, health, irrigation-agriculture, urban/rural.
2. The stakeholder/practitioner college: comprising 15 people, including NGO's (4 people), international organisations (2 people), European Institutions (1 person), end users (5 people) eg River basin authorities, developing country government representatives, private sector (1), Funding agencies who implement (2 people) eg WSP, UNICEF. Note: not including European donors who are represented within SPLASH).

Work package leaders will nominate members having established the interest of members to take part in SAC. France will propose a membership which will be agreed by the SPLASH SMB.

### **Meetings**

Meetings will take place as outlined above.

The agenda and expected inputs to the meeting will be prepared and circulated to members at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.  
SAC members will attend the meetings as programmed and will cover the costs in terms of time and expenses to attend those meetings.  
DFID UK will make funding available to France towards the cost of attendance of developing country participants. As a maximum this may include economy class air travel and subsistence in accordance with European Commission subsistence rates, and due to budgetary constraints may cover only developing country participants.

## **7. Reports**

France will prepare the reports as outlined in 4 above in advance of the Strategic Management Board meetings.

## **8. Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation activities will be conducted as agreed and developed within SPLASH task 1.3.