



## Dialogues

### Introduction

Dialogue is a process of discussing issues and sometimes-differing viewpoints with the aim of creating understanding and arriving at a decision. Dialogue helps break apart issues to gain an agreement or arrive at a solution through persuasive conversations.

### Aim

In the context of the Water Resources Institute, dialogues shall aim at supporting effective policy-making that strengthens water resources management and development, while predicting and preventing emerging risks. Hence, the flow of information and knowledge from the dialogues on innovative approaches and practices will be a critical element in understanding the Water and Environment sector, and agreeing how to improve the sector.

### Objectives

WRI will enable such dialogues with the following objectives:

- To contribute to better use of resources in the wake of shrinking sector investments.
- Provide a platform for continuous multi-stakeholder analysis of achievements, identifying areas for improvements, and highlighting success factors or what needs to be done differently.
- Provide a structured mechanism to include those outside of the mainstream sector, such as the private sector, academic institutions, religious and cultural institutions, retired professionals, civil society, and other stakeholders, to contribute to sector developments.
- Provide mechanisms for regular multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral policy dialogue to inform sector processes, and provide regular review of and input to updating of the National Water Policy or Water Act and regulations.

### Benefits of Dialogue

Effective and respectful dialogue leads to providing accessible and actionable information for policy makers and water and environment practitioners through channels such as publications, briefing notes, invited presentations and workshops.

The multi-stakeholder dialogue processes involve bringing together individuals and institutions from diverse disciplines and sectors, and enabling them to work together to find solutions that contribute to:

- Generating and agreeing on evidence needed to make changes in policies, strategies, approaches, methodologies, technologies and practices.
- Developing and validating harmonised approaches, methodologies and technologies
- Facilitating use of knowledge from all stakeholders, including traditional and/or marginalized groups.
- Organising time and space for reflection to draw out lessons from research, experience and use these lessons to improve sustainability of water and environment resources.

- Developing capacities for taking innovations (technologies, approaches and practices) to scale.
- Ensuring that research influences practice by using the findings to develop innovative solutions.

### **Approach to dialogue**

The institute shall provide a neutral platform for dialogue and exchange of knowledge related to water and environment resources, through the following dialogue approaches:

**A Community of Practice (COP)** on water resources and environment management. The COP shall hold regular discussions on different issues based on defined themes, and consolidate and package different information products to inform different sector processes.

**Space for multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral sharing and learning:** The Institute will provide the Water and Environment sector space for sharing and learning. Linked to adaptive research and capacity building, the Institute will engage the various stakeholders to share experiences and agree on measures and steps that address system wide challenges in water and environment resources management, at the district, regional and national levels.

**Promoting integration** and mutual engagement across Ministries that use and rely on water and environment resources, such as Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries; Ministry of Energy & Mineral Development; Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives; and Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.

**Facilitation of processes** to narrow the gap between practitioners (practice) and the policy makers (policy/strategy and guidelines) through appropriate platforms for feedback and engagement.

**Annual Uganda Water and Environment Week:** During this annual event that brings together stakeholders in the Sector, the Institute shall organise platforms to facilitate interface and dialogue on pertinent issues affecting the sector. This will result in stronger water and environment resources planning, management, development and governance.

The dialogues will feed into policy processes and review of relevant strategies, standards, regulation and guidelines.

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