



# WATER INSTITUTE



## Internal Call for Research Proposals-2026

The Water Institute invites academic staff, researchers, and technical experts to submit innovative and impactful research proposals for internal competitive funding.

This call aims to support fresh ideas, strengthen collaborative work, and encourage projects that contribute to advancing knowledge and practical solutions in the water sector.



### Thematic Research Areas

- ▶ Integrated Freshwater Resources Management for People and Nature
- ▶ Building Resilient and Efficient Water Infrastructure

### Scope

- ✓ Ecosystem Health and Nature-based Solutions
- ✓ Climate Change Adaptation and Water Security
- ✓ Tackling Non-Revenue Water (NRW)
- ✓ Infrastructure for the National Water Grid

### IMPORTANT DATES

May, 15  
Call Announcement

August, 15  
Submission Deadline

August, 20  
Committee Screening

September, 01  
Announcement of Winners


### Who Can Apply :

- Full-time academic staff
- Researchers and technical staff
- Multidisciplinary teams within the Institute



Online Submission To:  
[internal.research@waterinstitute.ac.tz](mailto:internal.research@waterinstitute.ac.tz)

More Information view guideline @  
[www.waterinstitute.ac.tz](http://www.waterinstitute.ac.tz)

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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF WATER  
**WATER INSTITUTE**



## Internal Call for Research Proposals

Water Institute Research Funds Awards for 2026

From 15 May to 15 August 2026, Dar es Salaam.

### 1.0 Introduction and Rationale

The Water Institute, through its Research, Consultancy, and Publication Unit, is committed to becoming a center of excellence for water education and research in Tanzania and beyond. In line with our core values of professionalism, innovation, and integrity, we are pleased to announce the **1<sup>st</sup> Internal Call for Research Proposal Awards**.

This fund is designed to cultivate a vibrant research culture among our staff. It aims to enhance research capacities, foster multi-disciplinary and multi-level teamwork, and generate evidence-based solutions that directly address the critical challenges facing Tanzania's water sector. The research outputs from this window will contribute to the national body of knowledge, inform policy, and support Tanzania's commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). Furthermore, it will help build a strong portfolio of research to be showcased at the upcoming **21<sup>st</sup> World Lake Conference (WLC-21)**, which Tanzania will proudly host in 2027.

### 2.0 Thematic Research Areas

Proposals must align with one of the two main themes below. We strongly encourage projects that incorporate innovative, cross-cutting approaches such as **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)**, the **Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem (WFEE) Nexus**, and climate change adaptation.

#### **THEME 1: Integrated Freshwater Resources Management for People and Nature**

This theme recognizes that water security is inseparable from the health of our ecosystems. Proposals should investigate holistic approaches to managing freshwater resources (rivers, lakes, aquifers) that balance human needs with environmental sustainability.

Sub-themes (Theme 1)	Description / Focus Areas
Ecosystem Health and Nature-based Solutions (NbS)	Assessing the ecological status of critical water bodies (e.g., lakes, wetlands, rivers). Developing NbS for water quality improvement, erosion control, and biodiversity conservation.
Climate Change Adaptation and Water Security	Evaluating the impacts of climate variability and change on water resources. Developing adaptive strategies for communities and ecosystems.
Source Water Protection and Pollution Control	Investigating sources of pollution (industrial, agricultural, domestic). Developing innovative, low-cost mitigation and remediation measures.
Groundwater Management	Assessing groundwater potential, quality, and sustainable use. Studies on aquifer recharge, saltwater intrusion, and contamination risks.

## THEME 2: Building Resilient and Efficient Water Infrastructure

This theme focuses on the challenges of providing reliable and safe water services in a rapidly changing world. Proposals should address the technical, social, and economic dimensions of water supply infrastructure, from the source to the tap.

Sub-themes (Theme 2)	Description / Focus Areas
<b>Tackling Non-Revenue Water (NRW)</b>	Developing and testing innovative strategies for leak detection, pressure management, and water loss reduction. Investigating the use of smart water meters and advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) for real-time monitoring and consumer engagement.
<b>Infrastructure for the National Water Grid</b>	Investigating challenges and opportunities related to the National Water Grid. Focus areas include resilient infrastructure design, pumping efficiency, energy-efficient operations, corrosion control, environmental sustainability, governance frameworks and ensuring equitable access in interconnected systems.
<b>Water Infrastructure Resilience</b>	Assessing the vulnerability of water systems to natural disasters (floods, droughts), climate change, and other hazards (e.g., cyber threats). Developing tools and frameworks for risk assessment and infrastructure investment prioritization.
<b>Decentralized and Smart Water Systems</b>	Exploring the potential of decentralized systems (e.g., rainwater harvesting, solar-powered mini-grids, community-managed systems) and smart technologies (IoT sensors, digital twins, SCADA upgrades) to enhance efficiency, security, and service delivery in both urban and rural contexts.

### 3.0 Proposal Guidelines and Submission Attributes

#### 3.1 Team Composition and Eligibility

- **Teamwork:**

Proposals must be submitted by a multi-disciplinary team.

- **Principal Investigator (PI):**

Each team must designate a Principal Investigator who will be the primary contact and responsible for the project's management. The PI **must hold a PhD**.

- **Team Composition:**

The team must include a mix of qualifications and roles. At a minimum, each team should consist of:

- One (1) PhD holder as Principal Investigator (No team may have more than one PhD holder).
- At least one (1) Master degree holder.
- At least one (1) staff member with a bachelor's degree
- At least one (1) Technician/Assistant level staff.

- **Submission Limit:**

A PhD holder may only serve as the Principal Investigator (PI) on **one (1) proposal**.

- **Originality:**

Submissions must represent original work and not have been submitted for funding elsewhere.

#### 3.2 Proposal Structure and Formatting

- **Language:** English.
- **Font:** Times New Roman, size 12, 1.5-line spacing.
- **Length:** Maximum **25 pages** (including references).
- **File Name:** Save your proposal as: ThemeNumber\_PISurname\_Year.docx/pdf (e.g., Theme1\_Chillo\_2026.docx).

### 3.3 Budget Guidelines

Category	Guidelines
<b>Maximum Budget</b>	TZS 10,000,000 per winning proposal (or as determined by the Institute's Management).
<b>Eligible Costs</b>	Consumables, minor equipment (< 1,000,000 TZS), fieldwork travel, data collection costs, and publication fees.
<b>Ineligible Costs</b>	Large capital equipment, international travel, PI stipends, and conference fees (unless part of deliverable and pre-approved).
<b>Justification</b>	All budget items must be clearly justified in relation to project activities. A detailed budget breakdown table is required as an appendix.

### 4.0 Evaluation Process and Criteria

All eligible proposals will be evaluated by a Research Review Committee using a transparent scoring system. The evaluation criteria are as follows:

Criterion	Weight	Description
<b>Scientific Merit &amp; Innovation</b>	25%	Soundness of methodology, clarity of objectives, originality of the idea, and contribution to knowledge.
<b>Relevance &amp; Impact</b>	30%	Direct relevance to the call's themes, alignment with national water sector priorities, and potential for tangible impact.
<b>Feasibility &amp; Planning</b>	20%	Realistic work plan, achievable objectives within the timeframe, and appropriate budget.
<b>Team Composition</b>	15%	Relevant expertise of the team, multi-disciplinary nature, and inclusion of members from different levels (PhD, MSc, Bachelor, Technician).
<b>Dissemination Plan</b>	10%	Clear plan for delivering the required outputs (reports, publications) and sharing findings with stakeholders.

## 5.0 Deliverables for Awarded Proposals

Successful teams will be required to sign a research agreement and must deliver the following upon project completion:

Deliverable	Requirement
<b>1. Final Research Report</b>	A comprehensive report in the Institute's approved format, to be deposited in the Institute's library and digital repository.
<b>2. Publications</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One (1) paper submitted to a peer-reviewed, internationally recognized journal. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One (1) publication in a local journal, Institute newsletter, or as a policy brief.
<b>3. Dissemination</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present findings at an internal Institute seminar. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present at one (1) external event (e.g., national conference, workshop, or a session at the World Lake Conference (WLC-21) ).

## 6.0 Online Submission

- **Submission Email:**

Proposals must be submitted electronically as a single PDF file to [internal.research@waterinstitute.ac.tz](mailto:internal.research@waterinstitute.ac.tz)

**Deadline:**

Submissions must be received by **23:59 hrs on 15 August 2026**. Late submissions will not be considered.

- **Confirmation:**

You will receive an automated acknowledgment email upon submission. Multiple submissions by the same team are not permitted.

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- ➔ For any inquiries or further information, please contact the Research, Consultancy, and Publication Unit via email [internal.research@waterinstitute.ac.tz](mailto:internal.research@waterinstitute.ac.tz) or mobile or visit our office at the Dar es Salaam Campus before the call deadline.

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**By The Office of:  
Deputy Rector Academic, Research and Consultancy  
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