**REPORT ON KNOWLEDGE SHARING SESSION**

**CURRENT TRENDS IN NON-CONVENTIONAL WATER SOURCES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY**

**Summary**

This report presents the proceedings of a Knowledge Sharing Session on the topic *“Exploring current trends in non-conventional water sources locally and globally”*, held in July 2020. The session was designed to discuss and share understandings of the influence and current trends of non-conventional water sources. The evaluation looked at both global trends and local trends.

As conventional water sources are stretched locally and globally, there is growing interest in non-conventional water sources to meet growing needs. The session attracted interest from more than twenty employees, with participants drawn from all the organisation’s Divisions. The session enjoyed several highlights summarized below.

The session learnt that South Africa faces the challenge that conventional water is almost fully allocated. Sites for new dams are few. The session also observed that the market size for non-conventional water sources is growing (totalling US$34 billion) across the globe, with all three options of seawater desalination, water reclamation, and water harvesting gaining momentum and growing at between 6.5% and 13% per year.

The session highlighted that South Africa is adapting to non-conventional water sources. It has strategies for desalination and water reuseas detailed in the recently launched National Water and Sanitation Master Plan. It was, however, noted that implementation is slow. Notably, interest in rainwater harvesting is growing, driven by rising tariffs and climate change impacts. The session revealed that rainwater harvesting has been targeted at rural poor communities.

To highlight the utility of rainwater harvesting, the session looked at the successful Atlantis Aquifer Recharge Project that uses stormwater and reclaimed water. This has been operational since 1976. The session identified four areas that TCTA could add value. The areas include engendering thought leadership on water use, advocacy on water source diversification, and advancing social development, partnering with the Department and local municipalities. TCTA can also provide project advisory on bringing on-stream, non-conventional water.