

SPARKE Impact Overview

Scotland's Global Partnership for Knowledge and Expertise in Water and Climate (SPARKE) is a peer-to-peer partnership with Malawi. The project aims to work in partnership to share knowledge and experience of science-policy exchange (SPE) in the water environment to support evidence-based decision-making.



Strengthening Water Governance through Co-Designed Policy Tools

SPARKE facilitated the co-creation of a six-stage Science-Policy Exchange (SPE) roadmap for Malawi's water sector. SPARKE has engaged with **71 stakeholders from 31 cross-sectoral organisations**—laying the foundation for smarter, more collaborative water governance.

Direct Benefits

- Structured policy-making using scientific evidence
- Enhanced institutional capacity for science-policy dialogue
- Improved trust and cooperation across government, academia, and civil society

Indirect Benefits

- Long-term cross-sectoral coordination in Malawi's water sector
- Prevention of fragmented policymaking and siloed action
- Resilient systems for climate-related water challenges

Alignment with National and Global Agendas

SPARKE contributes to **Malawi's Vision 2063**, the National Research Agenda, and **Sustainable Development Goals**.



Direct Benefits

- Speeds progress on national development targets
- Strengthens SDG commitments and global profile
- Attracts international support and investment

Indirect Benefits

- Positions Malawi as a regional water governance leader
- Stimulates global partnerships and innovation exchanges
- Promotes inter-ministerial policy coherence



Knowledge Sharing for Sustainable Development

SPARKE has cultivated vibrant peer-to-peer learning networks through webinars, workshops, and shared resources.

Direct Benefits

- Enhanced local expertise in data and science-policy exchange
- Dissemination of best practices across regions
- Reflective learning culture through case-based engagement

Indirect Benefits

- Inclusive policymaking with diverse stakeholder input
- Continuous learning culture
- Supports long-term transformation in public-scientific collaboration

Enhancing Water Infrastructure Data for Informed Decision-Making



With **2,753 additional water points mapped across four districts**, the handover of the Malawi Water Asset Management Information System (MWaMIS) to the Ministry of Water and Sanitation has significantly expanded Malawi's water infrastructure database.

Direct Benefits

- Real-time, accurate data for government planners
- Smarter investments in water assets based on actual needs
- Avoids duplication by unifying data systems across the water sector

Indirect Benefits

- Better clean water access for underserved areas
- Stronger public accountability and transparency
- Support for climate adaptation via trend monitoring



71

Participants engaged across the SPARKE project in interviews, workshops & webinars



31

Cross-sectoral organisations involved in co-creation activities



2,753

Additional water points mapped in MWaMIS across four districts

Further Reading

All SPARKE project outputs can be found on the Hydro Nation International Centre website. If you would like more information about SPARKE please contact the Hydro Nation International Team: hnic.scotland@hutton.ac.uk

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