

Leonard John Abrams

Independent Consultant

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal information:

Born: 19 November 1954, Kitale, Kenya
Nationality: British and South African, resident in United Kingdom
Status: Married, 2 adult children

Education:

University: MSc Civil Engineering (Water Resources Management), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 1988
B.Sc. Civil Engineering, Natal University, Durban 1974-1977
School: Hilton College, Natal, South Africa, Matriculation 1972

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Countries of work experience:

South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Namibia, Angola, Zambia, Djibouti, Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, DRC, Burundi, Eritrea, Sudan, Egypt, China, Thailand, United States, United Kingdom

Career phases:

WR* development, policy, international waters: *Independent consultant* - 2009 to present
WR development and financing, policy: *World Bank* - 2003 to 2009; 6 ½ years
WR policy, institutional development, legislation: *Independent consultant* - 1995 to 2003; 8 years
National WR policy, institutional support: *Ministerial Advisor* - 1994 to 1995; 2 years
Local rural services provision: *NGO Director* - 1987 to 1993; 6 years
Initial technical experience: *Project engineer* - 1978 to 1987; 9 years
(* Water Resources)

Ecclesiastical background:

Ordination in Diocese of Southwark, Church of England – 2014
Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church, South Nutfield, England

Professional career summary:

Period:	Sept 2009 to present
Organisation:	Independent Consultant
Position:	Consultant
Place:	Surrey, England

Function and responsibility: Independent international consultant. Assignments include water resources development, international river basin management, political economy analysis, policy development, water & rural livelihoods, evaluation, strategic advice and institutional development.

Assignments include Lead or Key Expert on the following projects:

- Political Economy Analysis Advisor to AIP-WACDEP-G – GWP Africa
- Social Contracts Advisor on Establishment of Multi-Billion \$ Nigerian WASH Fund – MDY, World Bank
- Provide Global Support for Water Platforms – World Bank
- Advisor: Southern Africa Drought Resilience Program – World Bank
- External Evaluator of the International Centre for Water Cooperation (ICWC) – UNESCO, SIWI
- International Reviewer – Zimbabwe National Water Resources Master Plan – World Bank
- Review and advise DFID on support to Zimbabwe water sector – DFID
- Transforming Investments in African Rainfed Agriculture (TIARA) – Green Water – SIWI
 - Programme establishment advisor
 - Author of key conceptual documents:-

- “African Smallholder Farmers and Food Imports – Virtual Jobs”
- “Unlocking the potential of enhanced rainfed agriculture”
- Advisor to the establishment of the GWP Africa Investment Program – GWP Africa
- Political Economy Analysis support to CRIDF II, Southern Africa – WYG - DFID
- Zambezi River Basin Strategic Development Plan – Key international expert – ZAMSec - WB
- ICED – Global Water for Growth Advisory Programme – ICED - DFID
- Okavango River Basin Multi-Sector Investment Options Analysis (MSIOA) – World Bank - ECA
- DFID – Review Zimbabwe Country Engagement Programme – ICED - DFID
- Water security and climate resilience in the Horn of Africa – IGAD Key international expert – CDKN - SIWI
- CRIDF I: Programme establishment support, Review of SADC water infrastructure strategy, Matabeleland Small Dams Programme, Alternative water supply to Bulawayo, CRIDF Small Dams Programme, CRIDF + Rural Livelihoods – CRIDF - ASI
- Political Economy Analysis Framework for International Waters – World Bank - SIWI
- Zimbabwe on National Water Policy - Lead International Expert – World Bank
- Zimbabwe Water Sector Investment Strategy - Lead International Expert – World Bank
- Nile River Basin – Mid-term Review, Independent Evaluator – World Bank
- Zambezi Basin Political Economy Study – World Bank

Period: January 2003 to Sept 2009
Organisation: World Bank
Position: Senior Water Resources Management Specialist
Place: Washington DC, USA

Function and responsibility: Mr. Abrams was recruited to the World Bank in Washington DC to set up a programme comprising a portfolio of water resource projects in Southern Africa, working with the governments of Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. He was responsible for leading the programme including analytical and operational aspects which involve both undertaking detailed economic, social and hydrological studies, and the preparation and supervision of lending operations for the construction of infrastructure, the development of public sector institutional structures, policy development and capacity building. Skills applied include strategic analysis, establishing and leading multi-sectoral teams of World Bank staff and consultants, close liaison with and support for client governments, and collaboration with bi-lateral donors and international financing agencies. Programme activities included procurement of goods and services; the management of budgets and Trust Funds; application of social, environmental and other Safeguards; Risk Analysis; and monitoring and evaluation on the basis of established Results Frameworks. In addition to the country level programmes, Mr. Abrams was responsible for the World Bank’s Disaster Risk Reduction programmes in Malawi and Mozambique, and for the Bank’s international rivers programme in the Zambezi River Basin in collaboration with 8 riparian states and a number of bi-lateral partners.

Period: Nov. 1995-January 2003
Organisation: Self Employed
Position: Independent Consultant
Place: South Africa to Jan 2000; From Jan 2000 in the UK

Function and responsibility: Consultant in private practice to United Nations (FAO, UNDP and UNICEF), World Bank, Department for International Development of the British Government, South African Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, European Commission, and other clients. Mr Abrams undertook a wide range of projects primarily for national governments, mainly in the water resources / environment sectors including policy development, strategic advice, public sector institution reform and stakeholder engagement. This was in 22 countries in Africa including supporting the development of national water policies in Sudan, Rwanda, DRC, Ethiopia, Namibia and Kenya.

Period: Sept. 1993-Oct 1995
Organisation: Ministry of Water Affairs and Forestry
Position: Ministerial Adviser
Place: Pretoria & Cape Town, South Africa

Function and responsibility: After an initial brief period of secondment to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry of the South African Government, Mr. Abrams was appointed Special Technical and Political Adviser to the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Prof. Kader Asmal, in the new South African government after the elections in April 1994. He was responsible as part of the core strategic leadership team for policy formulation, technical and strategic advice, and for leading a number of initiatives and teams to implement transformation and restructuring activities in the new civil service. Regular ministerial briefings, answering constituents’ and MPs’ questions whilst also dealing with internal Departmental politics in the midst of a fundamental transition

process were all part of daily responsibilities.

Period: Oct. 1987-Aug. 1993
Organisation: Rural Advice Centre, NGO
Position: Executive Director
Place: Johannesburg, South Africa

Function and responsibility: Mr Abrams founded the Rural Advice Centre and built the organisation from one staff member (himself) to a staff of 80 (50 professional and technical staff including 23 engineers) with 6 branches around the country and a National Office. The main activities of the organization were rural public health services (based mainly on community water supply), building local governance structures and developing community participation processes. The work included rural township projects with Civic Associations as clients. Mr Abrams' responsibilities as Executive Director (accountable to a Board) evolved as the organization grew and key responsibilities were able to be delegated to a developing management team. Overall responsibility for running the organisation including strategic oversight, establishment and leadership of management team, public representation of the organisation, fund raising, and networking with related organisations, all within the complex political environment of South Africa at the time.

Engaged in post-apartheid water and development policy preparation as a member of the African National Congress.

Period: Jan. 1978- Oct. 1987
Organisation: South African Railways and private Consultants
Position: Project / site engineer
Place: Durban and Johannesburg, South Africa

Function and responsibility: General site engineering and construction supervision of large civil contracts with South African Railways. Highway and roads design; rural water supply and sanitation; groundwater computer modelling research and rural groundwater projects. Headed a team of technicians and draftspersons as Project Engineer.

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