

Follow-Up Impact Evaluation of Pilot Projects Implemented Under the Sustainable Groundwater and Drought Management Project in the Limpopo Basin

Project Objectives

The key objectives of the current project are to undertake a follow up field visit to undertake a follow-up study of the seven pilot interventions in the Limpopo River basin implemented under the SADC Groundwater and Drought Management project undertaken with World Bank funding in 2007 to 2011 to determine the reasons for the project failing, as well as to recommend specific activities to be undertaken in order to operationalise the projects.

To achieve these objectives, SADC-GMI is contracting Wellfield Consulting Services Pty LTD (WCS) to visit 7 pilot projects communities in Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe and engage with key stakeholders and undertake technical inspections in order to examine the intervention structures in some detail and assess their status as well as determine whether any lessons can be learnt from any post-intervention community operational

Project Background

During the period 2007 – 2011 Wellfield Consulting Services Pty Ltd (WCS) was engaged by SADC Secretariat to undertake a significant component of the Groundwater and Drought Management Project (GDMP), executed as part of the SADC Groundwater Management Programme under a grant (TF 055090 SADC) from the World Bank and Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The project, entitled **Development and Testing of Groundwater Drought Management Strategies in the Limpopo Basin Pilot Areas**, addressed Component 1 of the GDMP project, namely '*Testing of practical local groundwater drought management strategies at pilot level*', and was scoped into five phases over a period of three years. These phases are noted below:

Phase 1- Inception. A review of groundwater related information in the Pilot Areas

Phase 2 - Pilot programme definition, which included

- Stakeholder analysis and engagement within the Pilot Areas
- Delineation of Pilot Areas
- Institutional and regulatory analysis of groundwater management in Pilot Areas
- Selection of representative pilot 'Nodes'.

experiences and challenges. The following questions are being ask during the assessment:

- Did the schemes ever work or when were they were abandoned?
- Why were the schemes abandoned?
- Who is considered the owner of the scheme?
- Why are the schemes in Botswana not in use but still in a good condition?
- Is a restart possible from a community point of view and how should this be organized?
- Who will own the scheme, who will operate the scheme, who will be responsible for Operation and Maintenance (O&M)?
- What are the rehabilitation costs to bring the schemes back into operation?
- What happened to the monitoring (groundwater and rainfall) equipment and where are the instruments (dip meters and rainfall gauges) that were distributed in the 2011 programme

Phase 3 - Drought mitigation planning

- Drought intervention and groundwater management plans for Pilot Areas.
- Prepare design for drought interventions structures and develop TORs for construction contractors

Phase 4 – Physical drought intervention construction, including supervision of drought intervention activities.

Phase 5 - Monitoring and evaluation

- Monitoring and evaluation of pilot 'Nodes'
- Strategy for sustainability of drought intervention measures
- Lessons learnt



The ultimate aim of the programme was to better inform SADC Member States of the potential of community-managed water supplies and drought-proofing schemes to sustain rural livelihoods and essential community food production during periods of drought, and from the experience gained in this Pilot Project design a major upscaling roll-out of similar low tech, low cost, community-based interventions across the SADC Region. The anticipation was that SADC Member States would adopt the overall approach and scheme of work determined by the Pilot Project in order to select cost-effective drought-proofing interventions appropriate to and owned by their rural communities. Hence it has been reported that some of these pilot projects are not performing, SADC-GMI has been given the Mandate to investigate the reasons of disfunctioning and come up with recommendations to operationalize the projects as the results, Wellfield Consulting Services Pty Ltd has been contracted to undertake the project on behalf of SADC-GMI. The duration of the project is from 7 February 2018 to 23 May 2018.

Nodal Point Intervention Localities

