

# 1<sup>st</sup> SADC-GMI / IWMI-SA GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE

THEME: Adapting to Climate Change in the  
SADC Region through Water Security –  
A Focus on Groundwater

## CONFERENCE INFORMATION NOTE:

### Introduction:

This document provides basic information that might help you in preparation for the 1<sup>st</sup> SADC Groundwater conference scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2018, Birchwood Hotel & Conference Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.

### Venue:

Birchwood Hotel & O R Tambo Conference Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

### Date:

26 – 28 September 2018

### Hotels/ Accommodation:

Delegates are encouraged to book their accommodation at Birchwood hotel and other hotels available in the vicinity. A discounted rate has been negotiated with the Birchwood hotel, to qualify for the discount, quote the following code **SADC-GMI 1728736** when making booking. No discount has been negotiated with other hotels in the vicinity:

### Hotels:

Birchwood hotel & O R Tambo International Conference Centre

Tel: +27118970000

E-Mail [reservations@birchwoodhotel.co.za](mailto:reservations@birchwoodhotel.co.za)

Europrime Hotel

Tel: +27 11 894 8266/7

E-Mail: [reservations@europrime.co.za](mailto:reservations@europrime.co.za)

Tsogo Sun

Tel: +27 11 461 9744

E-mail: [tsogosunhotels.contactus@tsogosun](mailto:tsogosunhotels.contactus@tsogosun)

Holiday Inn

Tel: +27 11 823 1843/ 0861 444435



O R Tambo City Lodge  
Tel: +27 11552 7600  
E-mail: [clort.reserv@clhq.com](mailto:clort.reserv@clhq.com)

## Meals

Sponsored delegates will be provided with return air tickets, all meals during the conference (breakfast, morning/afternoon tea/coffee, lunch and dinner). Unsponsored delegates will be provided with morning and afternoon tea/coffee and lunch, while travelling expenses, accommodation, breakfast and Dinner will be on their own account or sponsored by their institutions.

## Transportation

Delegates need to make sure that they include shuttle services when making the booking at the hotel of their choice. If this arrangement has been made, shuttles will be available at the airport at the time the delegate and the hotel agreed upon.

Delegates that are not booked at Birchwood hotel where the conference will be hosted, need to ensure that they arrange shuttle services from their respective hotels to Birchwood for the duration of the conference. Most hotels do provide shuttle services provided, it was included in the bookings.

## Important steps to note:

- In order to guarantee your participation at the conference, we would advise that you complete the following steps to fully secure your space:
- If you have not already done so, pay the appropriate registration fee into the Bank Account indicated on the Conference website and send the proof of payment through the email address also indicated on the website;
- Book your own return air tickets to and from the conference venue in good time;
- Secure your accommodation at Birchwood Hotel & O R Tambo Conference or any other venue in the vicinity.

## Visa

- Delegates are also advised to investigate their visa requirements for South Africa and, if necessary, to apply for a visa well in advance through the South African embassy or consulate nearest to them.
- If necessary, the SADC-GMI may issue letters of support for visa application purposes.

## Local transport

### Shared Taxi

Shared minibus taxis run almost everywhere – around city, and to the suburbs, townships and neighbouring towns. Riding them offers an insight into local life but be aware that there are safety issues.

- They leave when full – though ‘full’ in South Africa isn’t as packed as in many African countries.
- Most accommodate 14 to 16 people. Slightly larger ‘sprinters’ accommodate about 20.
- Away from train and bus routes, shared taxis may be the only choice of public transport.
- At weekends they generally have reduced services or no departures.



- Visit TaxiMap (<http://taximap.co.za>) for a useful database of minibus-taxi routes, fares and other information.
- Car taxis are sometimes shared. In some towns, and on some longer routes, a shared car taxi may be the only transport option.
- Shared car taxis are more expensive than minibus taxis and similar in terms of safety.

### Shared Taxi Etiquette

- Passengers with luggage should sit in the first row behind the driver.
- Move along the seat to the window to give others easy access.
- Pass the money forward (your fare and those of the people around you) to the driver's assistant.
- If you sit on the folding seat by the sliding door, it's your job to open and close the door when passengers get out. You'll have to get out of the taxi each time.
- Some shared taxis, for example in Cape Town, have a conductor who calls out to potential passengers and handles the minibus door.
- Say: 'Thank you, driver!', when you want to get out, rather than just: 'Stop!'

### Private Taxi

- Larger cities like Johannesburg have private taxi services, sometimes these taxis are found parked on the side of the road or you call them if you have their contact numbers. Phoning them is much safer.
- Phoning for a cab is often safer; you will have to wait for the taxi to arrive, but the vehicle will likely be better quality than those at the stands.
- Uber services are also available in Johannesburg for safer and quicker transportation.
- If you are travelling between the airport, Sandton, Pretoria and Park station, you can also use the Gautrain services. Gautrain is one of the quickest and safest mode of transport in South Africa.

### Internet

- Free Wi-Fi will be available at the Birchwood hotel for the duration of the conference. Normally most hotels in South Africa have free Wi-Fi available to their guests, unless stated otherwise.

### Country information

- Currency: ZAR • Local Time: GMT +2 hours • Country Code: 27

### Weather

The average maximum daytime temperature in South Africa in September is a comfortable 18°C (64°F). The average night-time temperature is usually a cool 9°C (48°F). There are usually 7 hours of bright sunshine each day, which represents 62% of the 12 hours of daylight. Packing warm clothes will be advisable especially night and morning time.

### Safety Tips:

As always, personal safety is a matter of shared responsibility between authorities and the individual visitor. To ensure that your visit is special and safe, we offer a few suggestions based on international guidelines – for your assistance.

- Avoid an ostentatious display of expensive jewellery, cameras, mobile phones and other valuables.
- Keep your handbag with you, keep it closed or zipped, and do not leave it unattended.
- Keep your mobile phone with you and do not leave it unattended.
- Do not carry large sums of money with you.
- Exchange your currency at a bank or at the hotel – never exchange it on the street.
- Carry your wallet in an inside pocket – never in the rear pocket of your trousers.
- Credit card transactions must be processed in your presence.
- At night, stay away from dark, isolated areas.



- It is always better to explore in groups and to stick to well-lit, busy streets.
- Plan your route beforehand and, as far as possible, do not ask directions from strangers.
- A police officer or traffic officer will be happy to direct you if you get lost.
- Should you want to call a taxi, your hotel or the

**Plug type:**

3 pins, grounded, 15 A, 220 – 240 V

**Contact details:**

Contact person Should you require any assistance please contact Thokozani Dlamini at:

Tel: +27 51 4017722

Mobile: +27 82 990 4308

E-mail: [conference2018@sadc-gmi.org](mailto:conference2018@sadc-gmi.org)

