

BACKGROUND

SADC-GMI's mandate is to promote sustainable groundwater management and solutions to groundwater challenges in the SADC region through building capacity, providing training, advancing research, supporting infrastructure development, and enabling dialogue and exchange of groundwater information. SADC-GMI is implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management project in SADC Member States which comprises four main components. Relevant to the Groundwater DataCoM project are Component B: Enhancing institutional capacity of governments in SADC Member States and transboundary organizations and Component C: Improving availability of and access to knowledge, scientific research and data on groundwater. Component B includes delivering training on groundwater data collection, management and sharing with the project stakeholder groups.

In line with the two Components (A & B) of the Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States, SADC-GMI-GMI contracted the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) and the Institute for Groundwater Studies, based at the University of the Free State to implement the Capacity Building for Groundwater Data Collection and Management in SADC Member States project. The project was launched in mid-September 2017 and is expected to run until January 2019.



photo by GWP-SA



Implementing the: Capacity Building on Groundwater Data Collection and Management in SADC Member States (SADC-Groundwater DataCoM) Project



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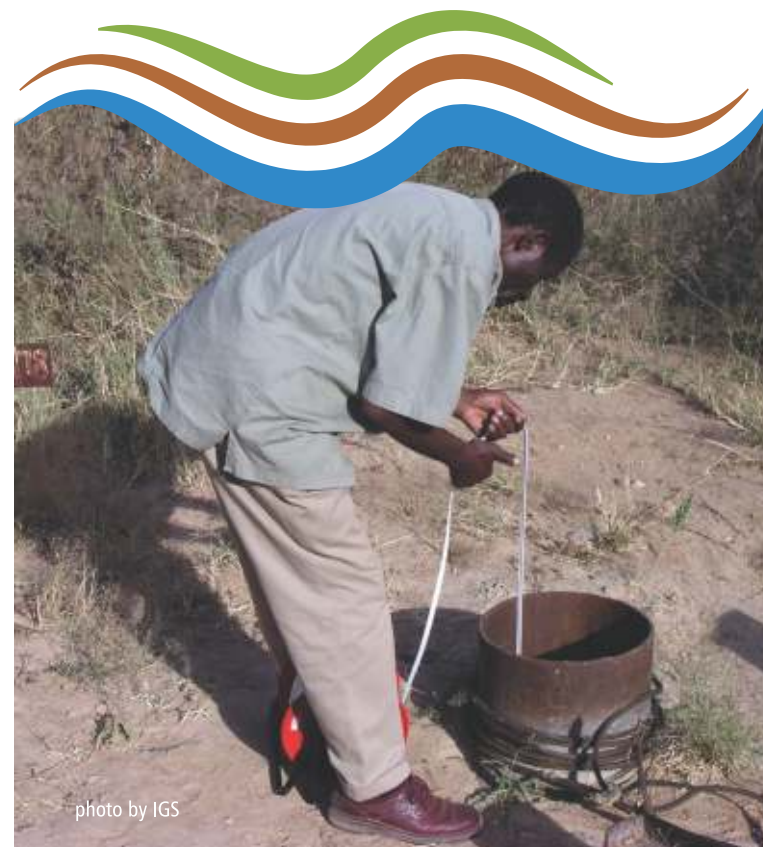


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OVERALL OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The project focuses on capacity building and training in data collection and management, including widespread sharing of the data and training in the use of available instruments. The target groups for the project are the ministries, departments and agencies responsible for groundwater in the respective Member States. The project addresses the glaring disparities for data collection and management that exist across the Member States.

CAPACITATING YOUNG PROFESSIONALS THROUGH AN INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The project includes an internship programme where two young professionals from each Member State and two students from the Institute for Groundwater Studies (University of the Free State) will be engaged. Through the engagement, the young professionals and students will be capacitated on relevant aspects of data and information management, whilst simultaneously exposing them to international cooperation and allowing them to build networks within the groundwater fraternity. The young professionals will complete small assignments under the supervision and guidance of the project team and the National Focal Persons who (the latter) already serve as the interface between SADC-GMI and the Member States.

“The project includes an internship programme where two young professionals from each Member State and two students from the Institute for Groundwater Studies (University of the Free State) will be engaged.”

APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

THE PROJECT WILL BE ROLLED OUT IN TWO PHASES PHASE 1:

- Literature review/Desk study – this aspect will include reviewing of the Position Paper on Groundwater Management in SADC (Pietersen and Beekman, 2016), results from the predecessor SADC Groundwater and Drought Management in SADC project (2007 – 2011), the SADC Groundwater Grey Literature archive <http://sadc-gmi.org/grey-literature/>, reports available in the public domain like national strategic water plans, hydrogeological maps, and peer-reviewed literature.
- Capacitating young professionals through an internship programme - two interns from each of the 15 Member States and two from the Institute for Groundwater Studies (UFS),
- Country visits to each one of the 15 SADC Member States,
- Gap analysis from the desk study and country visits will be conducted
- Knowledge Management Workshops that will include SADC Member States, SADC-GMI, SADC Secretariat, UFS and other selected stakeholders (including River Basins Organizations)

PHASE2:

In phase2, two training workshops will be conducted with the aim of training participants on various aspects ranging from data collection to data management, analysis, interpretation and communication of the results in a manner that is meaningful to decision makers.

The target audience for the workshops will be determined by the outcome of the findings from phase 1. Also in phase 2 opportunities for small activities to demonstrate the value of enhanced groundwater data collection and management will be identified.

“Improving availability of and access to knowledge, scientific research and data on groundwater.”

