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Promoting sustainable groundwater management and providing solutions to groundwater challenges across the SADC region

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PHASE 2 OF THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT IN SADC MEMBER STATES

The project commenced in November 2021 and is closely aligned with the SADC Regional Strategic Action Plans (RSAPs) on Integrated Water Resources Development and Management, Phases IV (2016-2020) and V (2021-2025).

The project builds on the achievements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States Project that was implemented from 2015 to 2021. The project addresses the findings of the regional Policy, Legal, and Institutional Gap Analysis conducted by SADC-GMI in 2019 which revealed gaps that exist in Capacity development, Knowledge management, and the use of groundwater to build resilient livelihoods across the region.

Several initiatives are at various stages of implementation and and are all earmarked for completion before the end of the project contract in November 2025.

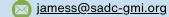


THREE MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

PROJECT COORDINATOR



James Sauramba







The SADC-Groundwater Information Portal enhancement project is aimed at augmenting the SADC Groundwater Information Portal that was first revived in 2019/2020 with more features, for example incorporating time series data, ability to generate graphs, maps and where data is missing, applying big data analytics and machine learning to generate useful information for stakeholders.

The project aims to harmonize and enhance the sharing of hydrogeological data among Member States, and it follows up on the (SADC-GW-DataCoM project) which was implemented during phase 1.

The SADC Groundwater Information Portal (SADC-GIP) is a state-of-the-art online data and information system, which contains all the results from the SADC Hydrogeological Mapping Project. The system is designed to provide easy access to this information for all those who are involved in groundwater management, groundwater development, and research in groundwater or related fields.

The SADC-GIP is a map-based public viewer that is available to anyone with access to the internet using a standard web browser. The user interface is intuitive, allowing users to browse through all available thematic maps and associated data and documents without the need for training.

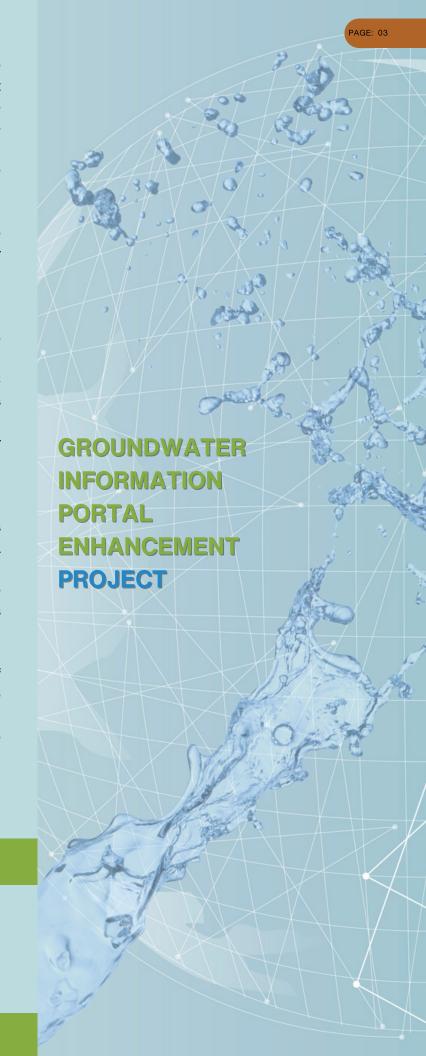
Users can create new insights by making overlays of maps and the data behind the maps (feature information) is available at the push of a button, on request. The maps and data can also be made available in digital format (GIS shapefiles and Excel) for further offline analysis.



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GMI POLICY, LEGAL & INSTITUTIONAL (PLI) ENABLING ENVIRONMENT ROADMAPS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PLI QUICK-WIN INTERVENTIONS IN SELECTED SADC MEMBER STATES AND AT SADC REGIONAL LEVEL

Since the beginning of its operation in 2016, the SADC Groundwater Management Institute has been actively implementing a range of measures to establish a conducive policy, legal, and institutional framework for the sustainable management and development of groundwater resources across the Southern African Development Community region.

The first phase of the PLI project yielded 16 Gap Analysis Reports, one for each SADC Member State, and developed 2 PLI Roadmaps, leaving 14 SADC Member States without Roadmaps. Progressing with the PLI project's implementation, an additional 6 PLI Roadmaps were crafted, totalling 8 roadmaps for the Member states of Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. Furthermore, two Concept Notes were devised, targeting the swift implementation of PLI Quick-win interventions.

Under the framework of Component 1 of the second phase of the Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States project, SADC-GMI is currently developing nine further Roadmaps for Member States that have yet to develop them. as well as identifying and piloting the implementation of quick-win PLI interventions at country and SADC Regional levels.

This project, which began in 2023, is anticipated to reach its conclusion in 2024.

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PHASE 2 OF THE GREY LITERATURE ARCHIVE **PROJECT**

In 2020, the SADC-GMI Groundwater Management Institute initiated a project to update the SADC Groundwater Literature Archive to make it a fully functional online archive of groundwater literature for the SADC region.

Following the initial update, the platform consisted of 4530 records available to users.

As part of the Sustainable Groundwater Management in the SADC Member States Project phase 2, SADC-GMI is currently undertaking further enhancement of the Groundwater Literature Archive platform to add more records and provide comprehensive and easily accessible resources for users in the SADC region.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE **LIMPOPO GROUNDWATER** STRATEGY

The Limpopo Watercourse Commission (LIMCOM) Groundwater Committee resolved that a groundwater strategy for the basin is required to promote the recognition of the strategic value, equitable access, sustainable use of groundwater.

As a result, SADC-GMI in collaboration with the Limpopo River basin riparian Member States (Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe) is working on developing the strategy. The strategy will encompass aspects such as joint groundwater development and management, aligning ongoing and future groundwater projects across the basin, and endorsing a holistic, multi-sectoral approach to groundwater management.

The blueprint of the strategy represents a collaborative effort from SADC-GMI, the LIMCOM Secretariat, and the LIMCOM Groundwater Committee.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF GROUNDWATER MONITORING SYSTEMS IN STRATEGIC AQUIFERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Challenges to sustainable management and utilization of aquifers emanate from a limited understanding of the aquifers due to limited or inadequate groundwater monitoring data within the Member States. To increase understanding of the aquifers, and their sustainability and promote their effective management and utilisation, it is critical to develop groundwater monitoring systems in these aquifers.

The current project aims to identify aquifers from three typologies that can be used as "pilot" projects to develop groundwater monitoring systems in southern African countries. These monitoring systems will enable a review of the success and challenges encountered and draw lessons learned that can be used to improve groundwater monitoring data collection and better understanding and management of aquifers in southern African countries.



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL GROUPS (NFGS) IN MEMBER STATES

During the implementation of phase 1 of the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) in SADC Member States Project, 5 National Focal Groups were established in the following countries: Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. The primary objective of the National Focal Groups is to serve as an advocacy group that has a collective voice in the country to increase the profile of groundwater. Component 1.1 of phase 2 of the Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States project has made provision for the establishment of 3 additional National Focal Groups and for the intensive capacity building of the accumulated 8 National Focal Groups.

SADC-GMI contracted OneWorld Sustainable Investments to facilitate the establishment of 3 additional Focal Groups in Lesotho, South Africa, and Zambia, and intensify the capacity development of the 8 accumulative NFGs. Using its internal resources, SADC-GMI is also establishing further National Focal Groups in the remaining 8 Member States. This will ensure that all 16 SADC Member States have NFGs structures established and operational.

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SUB-GRANT PROJECTS

Component 3 of the Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States project Phase 2 speaks to Building Resilient Livelihoods and Inclusive Groundwater Management. Under this component, SADC-GMI awarded small grants to Member States to implement pilot projects that can be scaled up in the future. To date, the following Member States have submitted concept notes and proposals for project implementation.



South Africa

Review and Update of Hydrogeological Map Series and Information Brochure Polokwane Area, South Africa

Zambia



Groundwater Mapping and Development at Sihumbwa Basic School in Kazungula District Southern Province

PROJECT MANAGER



Kasonde Mulenga



Mauritius



Groundwater Monitorina through installation of automatic data logging, transmissions, and acquisition Systems for representative boreholes in the main aquifers of the Mauritius project.

Mozambique



Tanzania



Groundwater Assessment of Machangulo Region, Matutuine District Project

Groundwater Development and Management of Nzunguni Aquifer

Malawi





Rehabilitation existing monitoring wells

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Democratic Republic of Congo





knowledge of groundwater available groundwater resources, capacity development, and innovative groundwater

Enhancing Sustainable Groundwater Use in arid Southern Namibia /Karas Region: Towards an occurrence in the deep Karoo and the crystalline basement aquifers in the Region



Eswatini

Namibia

Lesotho

Zimbabwe



Groundwater Monitoring in the Save Alluvial Aquifer of Zimbabwe

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