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# SADC-GMI BULLETIN

*Official Bulletin of SADC-GMI*

**Welcome  
to our first  
bulletin!**

Our mission with this publication is to keep you abreast of the advancements and milestones achieved in our initiatives while offering foresight into the dynamic developments set to unfold throughout the year. In this issue, we're excited to outline a few pivotal activities planned to kick-start in the first quarter of 2024 and provide insights into the trajectory of our project execution. Stay informed as we navigate the path towards sustainable water management and infrastructure development across the SADC region.



# SADC-GMI LAUNCHES THE SADC DRILLERS DIRECTORY

SADC-GMI is pleased to announce that in February 2024, we launched the **SADC Drillers' Directory**—a visionary step towards enhancing the visibility and connectivity of drilling service providers within the SADC region. This directory serves as an essential bridge, enabling companies and drilling professionals to present their capabilities to a broad audience.

The SADC Drillers' Directory is more than just a listing of services; it's a premier portal for drilling enthusiasts and businesses within our community. By adding a listing in the directory, you elevate the profile of your business, tap into a wealth of networking opportunities, bolster your credibility, and gain a dedicated space to showcase what you have to offer to the industry. Click the link to register: [sadc-gmi.org/drillers/](https://sadc-gmi.org/drillers/)

## ANNOUNCING THE 6TH SADC GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE

The SADC Groundwater Management Institute is proud to announce the **6th installment of the SADC Groundwater Conference**, embracing the theme, "Promoting Peace Across Borders Through Conjunctive Water Management." We invite you to **Maseru, Lesotho**, from **13 -15 November 2024**, for what promises to be an informative and impactful gathering.

The conference is designed to serve as a nexus for key actors in the water sector, placing a spotlight on groundwater—a vital yet often overlooked resource. Our goal is to curate a collaborative environment conducive to the open exchange of knowledge, highlighting best practices, and innovations, and tackling the ongoing challenges that impact groundwater resources both regionally and continentally. Since its inception in 2018, the conference has been a rallying point for groundwater advocacy, continuously promoting the recognition of its importance. It has consistently been a platform that fosters adaptation to changing water needs and strengthens cooperation among Member States. Join us as we advance this dialogue and work towards securing a sustainable groundwater future for our shared communities. For more information visit the SADC-GMI website: [www.sadc-gmi.org](https://www.sadc-gmi.org)

## UPCOMING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Central to our mission is the imperative to tailor groundwater capacity development initiatives to the specific needs of the SADC region. Recognizing the importance of equipping Member States with the necessary tools and knowledge, SADC-GMI has prioritized capacity development as a core focus area. This falls squarely within our mandate and is a critical step in addressing the regional capacity gaps.

In line with our commitment, SADC-GMI has crafted a comprehensive plan to conduct numerous training sessions spanning the entirety of 2024. The topics for these training courses have been carefully selected for their relevance and potential impact on the groundwater community.

In this bulletin, we spotlight two training sessions that are earmarked to take place in the first quarter of 2024.

- **Geographical Information Systems and Remote Sensing Training** for Groundwater Professionals in the SADC Region. Scheduled for **18 - 20 March**, this training aims to bolster the technical expertise of our groundwater professionals in the use of cutting-edge GIS and remote sensing technologies.
- **Transboundary Groundwater Governance and Management Training** for River Basin Organizations. Scheduled for **10 - 12 April**, this course will focus on the complexities and strategies for effectively governing and managing groundwater resources that span across national boundaries.

To learn more about these initiatives, connect with us via our website: [www.sadc-gmi.org](https://www.sadc-gmi.org), and our social media platforms at [sadc-gmi](https://sadc-gmi.org).

## PREPARING FOR MARCH WATER AWARENESS EVENTS

We are gearing up to address the array of water-related events happening in March. Using our diverse communication platforms, we will shine a spotlight on the distinctive water challenges encountered within the SADC region.

We'll start with **National Groundwater Week**, taking place in the second week of March, emphasizing the importance of raising awareness about the limited availability of drinkable groundwater.

Following that, we'll actively participate in **Fix-a-Leak Week** during the third week of March, advocating for household leak detection and repair to conserve water resources.

Lastly, we'll dedicate our efforts to **World Water Day**, celebrated annually on March 22nd, with this year's theme being "Water for Peace." This day serves as a global platform for demonstrating collaborative efforts in raising awareness, ensuring access to clean water, and safeguarding this vital resource for future generations.

Join us as we actively contribute to the narrative of sustainable groundwater management during these events.