



# 6TH SADC GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE: 1ST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**THEME: PROMOTING PEACE ACROSS  
BORDERS THROUGH CONJUNCTIVE WATER  
MANAGEMENT**

**DATE: 13 - 15 NOVEMBER 2024  
MASERU, LESOTHO**



## ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE 6th SADC GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE

We invite you to submit oral and poster abstracts for the upcoming 6th annual Southern African Development Community (SADC) groundwater conference hosted by the SADC Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI). The conference is held annually, providing a platform for advancing knowledge sharing on sustainable groundwater management at national and transboundary levels across the SADC Member States. The conference will be held Wednesday, 13 November 2024 - Friday, 15 November 2024, in Maseru, Lesotho, under the patronage of the Ministry of Water. When submitting an abstract, please note that we plan to make this an in-person event. We seek cutting-edge best practices and presentations addressing the theme and sub-themes below. However, all presentation topics that advance our groundwater knowledge are welcome. Please direct your enquiries to [thokozani@sadc-gmi.org](mailto:thokozani@sadc-gmi.org).

## BACKGROUND

Surface- and groundwater are two components of a single water system connected in most landscapes, with few examples of managing them conjunctively across borders (Ibrahim and Lautze, 2023). The challenges include complicated cross-sectoral coordination, inadequate technical and institutional capacity, inadequate scientific data on transboundary water resources, and limited financial resources. Nevertheless, the conjunctive management of surface water, groundwater, and other water cycle components represents an effective means of increasing water security as it reveals a set of water supply options different from traditional approaches to water supply management. Thus, the SADC-GMI's core mission is to promote the conjunctive management of the SADC surface and groundwater resources at community, national, transboundary, and global levels through:

- Advocacy and providing technical support
- Creating an enabling policy, legal, and regulatory environment
- The provision of evidence-based and actionable information
- Promoting impact-oriented solutions for capacity-building training
- Leading and promoting multi-sectorial coordination
- Supporting infrastructure development for sustainable groundwater management

The theme of World Water Day 2024 is 'Water for Peace'- When we cooperate on water, we create a positive ripple effect – fostering harmony, generating prosperity, and building resilience to shared challenges. The Stockholm World Water Week's 2024 theme, 'Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future,' focuses on water cooperation for peace and security. It requires recognising communities' and nations' regional and global interconnectivity and how water-related solutions are crucial to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals. In line with SADC-GMI's core mission, the SADC-GMI will host the SADC Groundwater Conference under the theme "Promoting Peace Across Borders through Conjunctive Water Management" from November 13-15, 2024, in Maseru, Lesotho. The conference modalities included high-level plenary sessions focusing on the theme and sub-themes, technical presentations, and panel discussions led by the partners of the SADC-GMI. Partners and Stakeholders wishing to run special sessions and panel discussions under the sponsorship program are required to submit an expression of interest by 30 April 2024 and a programme in line with the conference's theme by 30 September 2024.

## SUB-THEMES FOR THE CONFERENCE

### SUB-THEME 1: USING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

This subtheme focuses on advanced technologies and systems to promote peace across borders through conjunctive water management in SADC countries. Emerging contaminants, microplastics, excess nutrients, and limited water supply are all pressing challenges requiring innovations in water treatment, reuse, and environmental biotechnologies. The numerous ways water moves through and interacts with the earth's surface can lead to challenging data analysis and modelling challenges. For instance, determining groundwater and surface water interactions on river courses requires complex modelling across space and time with data sets that are often sparse or highly uncertain. The sub-theme intends to discuss the extent and nature of groundwater and surface-water interactions, the geochemical effects of mixing water from different sources with aquifer water, the production and degradation of by-products from injection of treated water, and other issues.

### SUB-THEME 2: ESTABLISHING INNOVATIVE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

Effective conjunctive water management involves many actors (politicians, government agencies, water professionals and local stakeholders). The subtheme considers institutional arrangements to advance water for peace as resolving water issues is becoming increasingly urgent and complex. This subtheme intends to discuss modalities for working together on water across borders and sectors to build resilience to climate change, contribute to disaster risk reduction, provide renewable energy, support cities and industry, and foster regional integration and peace.

### SUB-THEME 3: HARNESSING DATA

Water scarcity, water disasters, extreme weather events, failures of climate change mitigation and adaptation and governance shortcomings continue to rank among SADC's leading risks. Data is fundamental to understanding areas of highest risk and contributing factors. Harnessing data can indicate probable solutions to mitigate these risks. The systematic harnessing of data uses innovative remote sensing and automatic monitoring techniques. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and other modern ICT tools help process the collected information efficiently and convert it into information. New technological solutions, such as GIS-integrated simulation models and machine analytics, may provide reliable tools to assess space and time impacts and manage conjunctive surface water and groundwater utilization.



## SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

Authors are invited to submit abstracts for both oral and poster presentations for the sub-themes outlined above. Authors are requested to indicate the sub-theme for which they are making submissions.

**Deadline: 30 June 2024**

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Technical Committee reserves the right to reject or accept an abstract. By submitting an abstract, the authors commit that the presenting author register before

**30 September 2024.**

## ABSTRACT SPECIFICATION

The conference uses the EasyChair conference platform for abstract submissions. We request authors to:

- Have a short title (concise and informative) that adequately captures the scope of the presentation.
- Authors are discouraged from using excessively long titles
- Be written in English, French or Portuguese
- indicate the authors of the abstract and their affiliations with the corresponding author, clearly marked and contact details provided
- Provide the main results, the main conclusion, statement of the problem, objectives, methods, and results
- Avoid using abbreviations
- Be a maximum of 200 words
- Provide keywords for the abstract (up to 5)

**Abstracts will be peer-reviewed by the Technical Committee, which comprises representatives from universities, international institutions, and national governments.**

**NB: When you click the link below, it will ask you to create an account in order to submit your abstract**

**[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT](#)**

## IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of Expressions of Interest for the Sponsorship program: 30 April 2024

Submission deadline for abstracts: 30 June 2024

Notification of abstract acceptance: 30 August 2024

Confirmation by authors and presenting authors' registration: 30 September 2024

Final Program: 31 October 2024

Conference run: 13, 14 and 15 November 2024

## REGISTRATION COSTS

- Early bird conference registration: **20 September 2024**
- Physical conference attendance: **R 3 500**
- Late conference registration:
- Physical conference attendance: **R 4 500**
- **Young professionals/ Students Free (Below 35 years old)**

## BANKING DETAILS

Payments are to be made through the account below, and send the proof of payment to the following e-mail address, [tebogo.pogoo@sadc-gmi.org](mailto:tebogo.pogoo@sadc-gmi.org)

- Account name: SADC-GMI
- Bank: ABSA
- Account number: 4107554267
- Branch code: 632005
- SWIFT Code: ABSAZAJJ

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE](#)**

## ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

### KEYNOTE AND INVITED TALK

- Keynote and invited speakers are allocated 20 minutes to deliver their presentation, with an additional 10 minutes for a Q&A
- The presentation file should ideally contain approximately 15-20 PowerPoint slides based on the time allocated for the presentation. You are responsible for the content of your presentation. A PowerPoint template is provided.

### PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

- Presenters are allocated 10 minutes to deliver their presentation and 5 minutes for a Q&A.
- The presentation file should ideally contain approximately 10-12 PowerPoint slides based on the time allocated for the presentation. You are responsible for the content of your presentation. A PowerPoint template is provided.
- All presenters must submit their presentation file to the operator of each presentation on a USB memory stick during registration on the first day of the conference or at least 30 minutes before the session starts. It is not possible to use your computer for your presentation.
- Suppose your presentation contains links to video files. You must bring not only your PowerPoint file but also your video files to the operator. All videos linked to PowerPoint slides must be checked to ensure proper functioning.
- Please note that each presenter is given a maximum of 1 podium presentation per meeting. If a presenter has multiple abstracts deemed acceptable for a meeting, the presenter must either (1) decline all but 1 podium presentation or (2) make arrangements for a co-author to present the abstract.

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