

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 /2025



GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE



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SECTION A
GENERAL INFORMATION

1. ABOUT THE REPORT

SADC-GMI serves as a "Centre of Excellence" for groundwater development and management, acting as a vital liaison with national, regional, and international groundwater initiatives.

Established in 2008, SADC-GMI, which started its full operations in 2016, is dedicated to promoting sustainable groundwater use while addressing the diverse challenges faced in the region.

Currently, SADC-GMI is implementing Sustainable Groundwater Management in the SADC Member States Programme Phase 2 project, funded by the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Cooperation in International Waters in Africa and the Global Environment Facility through the World Bank Group. This program achieves its objectives through three key components:

- Capacity Building for Sustainable Groundwater Management
- Knowledge Development, Dissemination, and Advocacy
- Building Resilient Livelihoods and Inclusive Groundwater Management

This report provides an analysis of SADC-GMI's performance against its planned objectives and targets, highlighting the successes achieved and the challenges encountered throughout the year. By capturing financial, operational, and strategic information, the report upholds the principles of transparency and accountability that guide SADC-GMI's operations.

Furthermore, this report ensures that lessons learned, best practices, and knowledge generated from SADC-GMI's activities are widely disseminated among Member States and beyond, fostering learning and capacity building in groundwater management.

Ultimately, this annual report reflects our commitment to sound governance principles as we strive for excellence in advancing groundwater management in the region. It stands as a testament to our successful endeavors in shaping a narrative for future growth and collaboration.



2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

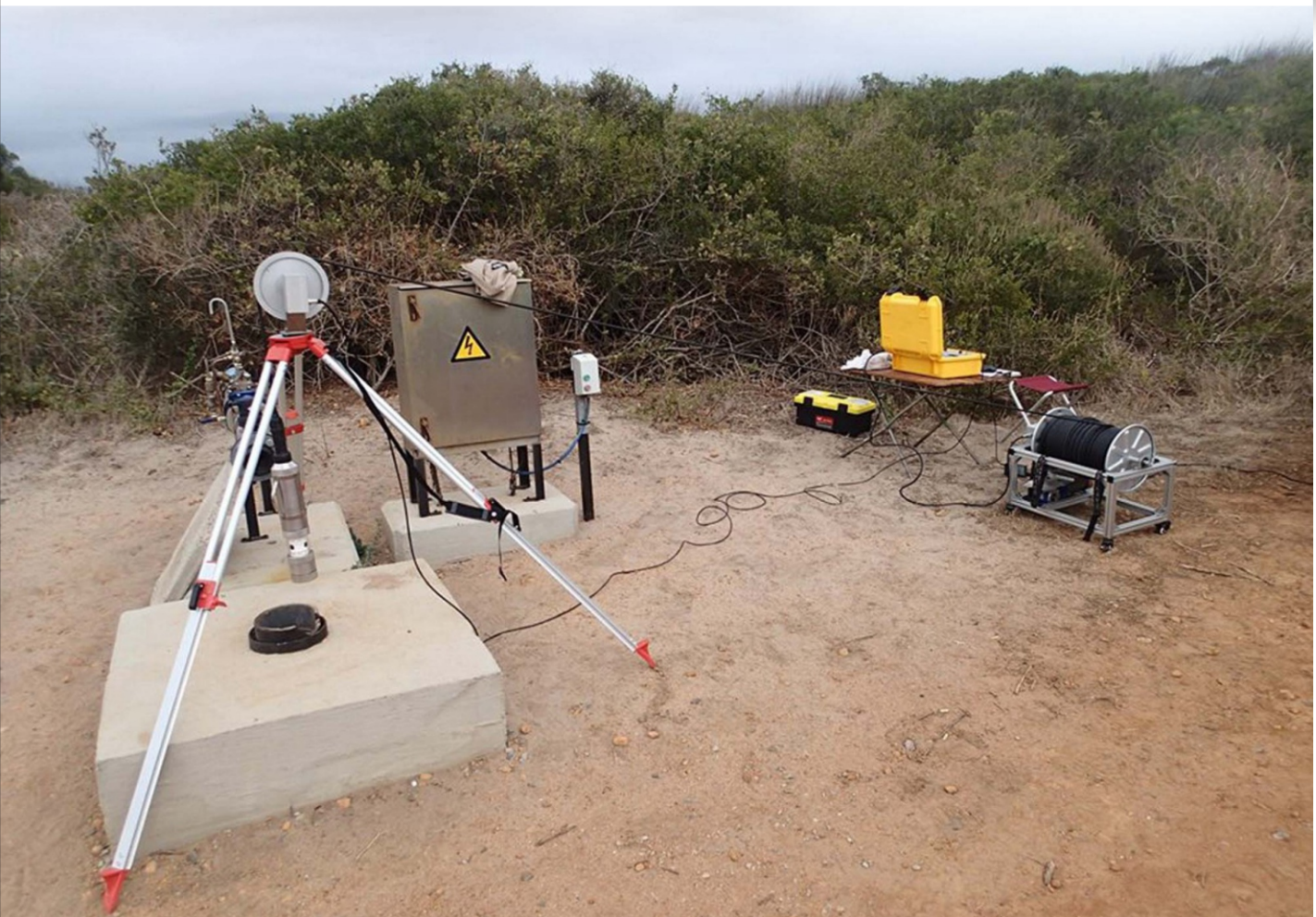
This annual report marks a significant milestone for the SADC Groundwater Management Institute, highlighting the organization's key achievements during the 2024/2025 reporting period. Its development reflects the dedicated efforts of numerous individuals both within and outside the institute, who worked diligently to ensure the report meets international standards.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the entire SADC Groundwater Management Institute team for their unwavering dedication, commitment, and professional approach to the task. Special recognition is due to Mr. Thokozani Dlamini, Communication and Knowledge Management Specialist, for his tireless coordination in gathering data and ensuring the timely and high-quality completion of all activities related to this report.

We also gratefully acknowledge the guidance and support of our partners, particularly our Board of Directors. Your continued collaboration is highly valued.

We are confident that this report will provide stakeholders with a deeper understanding of our vision, mandate, and focus as the Centre of Excellence in sustainable groundwater management in the SADC region while also showcasing the significant progress SADC-GMI has made in recent years.

Compiled and edited by: SADC-GMI Communication Team



3. MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON



Dear Colleagues and Stakeholders,

As we take a moment to reflect on SADC-GMI's journey, it's evident that the Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) shines brightly as a beacon of hope and progress.

The SADC Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) proudly stands as the Regional Centre of Excellence, providing solutions to groundwater issues in the SADC region to improve livelihoods and socio-economic development. As a subsidiary of the SADC Secretariat, SADC-GMI fulfills its mandate under the strategic guidance of the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana. During the 2024/2025 period, SADC-GMI has continued its impactful work through the Sustainable Groundwater Management in the SADC Member States Project, Phase 2, funded by the Global Environment Facility and the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa, through the World Bank Group. This program transcends mere water management; it's about transforming lives and empowering communities.

Throughout the implementation of this program, we have witnessed remarkable progress across all activities undertaken by the institute in the SADC Member States, including 24 ongoing sub-grant projects aimed at improving the livelihoods of communities through the promotion of innovative groundwater management solutions and infrastructure. We commend the transformative work that SADC-GMI, in partnership with its Member States, is undertaking to improve the lives of citizens throughout the SADC region.

As the SADC Secretariat, we are proud to be part of the SADC-GMI's journey. We have seen the institute engage in various initiatives, including transboundary research studies that aim to promote cooperation and collaboration across borders. Another significant initiative undertaken by SADC-GMI, in partnership with the SADC Secretariat in 2024/2025, was the revision of the SADC Water Policy (2005). This pivotal step is crucial in guiding sustainable water resource management across our region, and we are immensely grateful for SADC-GMI's leadership in this essential endeavor.

We also note the role that SADC-GMI played in enhancing the capacity of Member States in numerous facets of groundwater management. This initiative not only strengthens local expertise but also promotes sustainable practices that ensure the longevity of vital groundwater supplies. Through targeted training programs and innovative strategies, SADC-GMI is paving the way for a more resilient and water-secure future for all Member States.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to commend our outstanding performance in financial management. The unqualified external audit conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers is a testament to our high standards of governance and fiscal accountability.

In closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you who contributed to making this reporting period a remarkable success. Your dedication and teamwork have been invaluable, and your efforts have not gone unnoticed. As we look toward the future, let us continue to support one another and carry forward our meaningful work with enthusiasm and commitment.

Together, we can achieve great things!

Ms. Mapolao Mokoena
Chairperson, SADC Secretariat

4. MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Groundwater is not just a resource; it's a lifeline for millions across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. At the SADC Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI), we are passionately dedicated to promoting sustainable groundwater management practices that ensure the long-term viability of this essential resource. Over the past year, we have embarked on numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing groundwater management across our Member States.

Key Achievements in Sustainable Groundwater Management

Through our "Sustainable Groundwater Management in the SADC Member States Programme," supported by the Multi-Donor Trust Fund via CIWA and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), in collaboration with the World Bank Group, we have made remarkable strides. This program is structured around three pivotal components: Capacity Building for Sustainable Groundwater Management, Knowledge Development and Advocacy, and Building Resilient Livelihoods.

During the reporting period, we have seen impressive progress under each component. In the third component, we proudly launched additional subgrant projects, bringing our total to an astounding 24 projects across Member States. These projects included initiatives aimed at promoting community livelihoods through solar-pumped groundwater systems, Improving groundwater management by updating hydrogeological maps, Enhancing groundwater data collection and management through the installation of monitoring networks, Piloting Managed Aquifer Recharge, Improving groundwater quality and potable water supply, and exploring and developing groundwater aquifers. A standout achievement is the successful completion of the Democratic Republic of Congo project in late 2024. Additionally, we are thrilled to announce that Mauritius has initiated its first groundwater project, expanding our reach to island states within the region.

Strengthening National and Regional Collaboration

Our commitment to fostering regional cooperation has yielded significant results: We established five additional National Focal Groups (NFGs) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, South Africa, and Zambia. We also hosted four National Stakeholder Dialogues in Lesotho, Eswatini, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. During the reporting period, we also managed to formalize our partnership with organizations such as the Buzi, Pungwe, and Save Watercourses Commission (BUPUSA), which enables the integration of groundwater management into river basin organizations. These collaborations are vital in supporting our mandate across the region.

Investing in Future Generations

In line with our commitment to capacity building, we proudly launched the Young Professionals Programme, engaging approximately 574 young people from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. This initiative is nurturing fresh talent in the critical field of groundwater management, ensuring a sustainable future for all.

Expanding Funding Opportunities

To secure the long-term sustainability of our efforts, we are collaborating with esteemed partners such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Water Partnership of Southern Africa (GWP-SA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) to try and access an additional \$30 million portfolio of projects on board. This initiative aims to attract funding from institutions such as the Adaptation Fund and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), thereby providing a robust financial foundation for future projects.

Enhancing Operational Efficiency

After navigating challenges related to securing work visas for non-South African staff, we signed an HR hosting agreement with the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) in June 2024. This agreement has significantly strengthened our internal capacity, enabling us to operate more effectively and employ international staff on a full-time basis and enhancing our capabilities.

Policy Influence

In collaboration with the SADC Secretariat, we have spearheaded the review of the 2005 SADC Water Policy, to address emerging challenges such as conjunctive surface and groundwater management, climate change and gender equality. This revised policy will guide more inclusive and resilient water management practices across the region.

Commitment to Excellence

As a Centre of Excellence for groundwater management in the SADC region, SADC-GMI remains steadfast in its mission to promote sustainable groundwater management. By addressing critical groundwater challenges, we aim to improve livelihoods and promote socio-economic development throughout the region.

We recognize that implementing an extensive program like ours comes with its share of challenges. However, collaboration with our partners, Member States, and regional and international allies has been instrumental in achieving the results we celebrate today. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners for their unwavering support as we strive to create a water-secure region through sustainable practices.

We are proud of the progress we've made and remain committed to supporting the sustainable management of groundwater for the benefit of all.

Eng. James Sauramba
SADC-GMI Executive Director



5. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

SADC-GMI	Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute
SADC	Southern African Development Community
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
RBOs	River Basin Organizations
FSP	Financial Sustainability Plan
SES	Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
SBP	Strategic Business Plan
KOBWA	Komati Basin Water Authority
INMACOM	Incomati and Maputo Watercourse Commission
SONGWECOM:	Joint Songwe River Basin Commission
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
CIWA	Cooperation in International Waters in Africa
GEF	Global Environment Facility
LIMCOM	Limpopo Watercourse Commission
NFGs	National Focal Groups
YPs	Young Professionals
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
JSAP	Joint Strategic Action Plan
PSC	Project Steering Committee
GDEs	Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goal
WB	World Bank
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
GWP-SA	Global Water Partnership for Southern Africa
BUPUSACOM	Buzi, Pungwe, and Save Watercourse Commission
CUVECOM	Cuvelai Watercourse Commission
OKACOM	The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission
ORASECOM:	Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM)
ZAMCOM	Zambezi Watercourse Commission



ABOUT SADC-GMI

SADC-GMI Leads the Charge in Sustainable Groundwater Management Across Southern Africa

6. ABOUT SADC-GMI

The Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) is a vital regional Centre of Excellence committed to enhancing sustainable groundwater management practices throughout the SADC region. Headquartered at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria, South Africa, SADC-GMI operates under the strategic direction of the SADC Secretariat's Directorate of Infrastructure and Services – Water Division, located in Gaborone, Botswana.

As a subsidiary of the SADC Secretariat, the institute derives its mandate from the SADC Regional Strategic Action Plans (RSAPs) on Integrated Water Resources Development and Management, which are rooted in the SADC Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses (2005). Through its Strategic Business Plan and Financial Sustainability Plan, SADC-GMI is dedicated to fulfilling its mission of promoting sustainable groundwater management and addressing groundwater challenges across the SADC region, ultimately contributing to improved livelihoods and socio-economic development.

Currently, SADC-GMI is implementing Phase 2 of the Sustainable Groundwater Management project across the 16 SADC Member States. This initiative is funded by the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with support from the World Bank Group, reflecting a robust commitment to sustainable development in the region. By leveraging collaborative efforts and innovative solutions, SADC-GMI aims to ensure the sustainable use of groundwater resources, safeguarding them for future generations while fostering regional cooperation and resilience.

7. VISION

SADC- Groundwater Management Institute aspires “to be a Centre of Excellence in promoting equitable and sustainable groundwater management in the SADC region.”

Mandate

SADC-GMI's core mandate is to promote sustainable groundwater management and provide solutions to groundwater challenges across the SADC region, thereby enhancing improved livelihoods and socio-economic development.

Values

SADC-GMI's work and collaboration with stakeholders and partners is anchored in the following core values:

Excellence: SADC-GMI will demonstrate leadership and excellence in groundwater management in the SADC region.

Professionalism: SADC-GMI will behave professionally in all interactions.

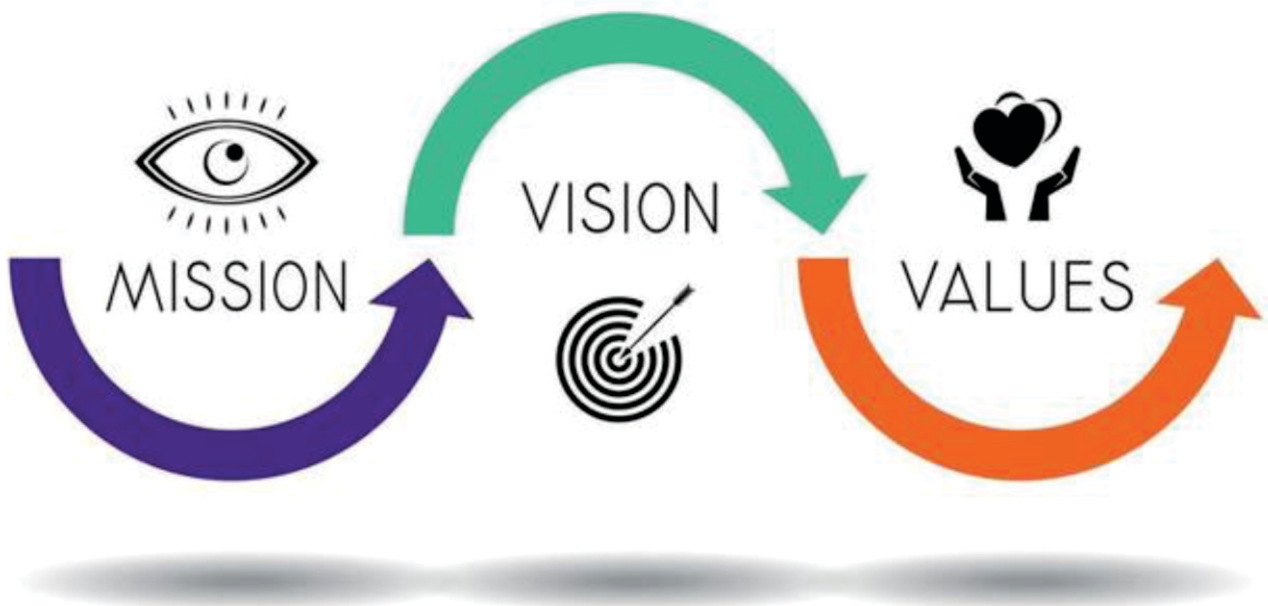
Integrity: As an advisory institution, SADC-GMI will act with integrity

Diversity: The diversity of SADC and its people is valued as a strength and will be promoted during SADC-GMI's decision-making.

Equity: Groundwater resources are often shared resources, and the benefits arising from their use will be shared equitably.

Accountability & Transparency: Accountability arises from responsible and transparent behaviour. To act as a trusted advisor for groundwater management in the SADC, the SADC-GMI will maintain transparent communication and decision-making processes and be accountable to its Member States.

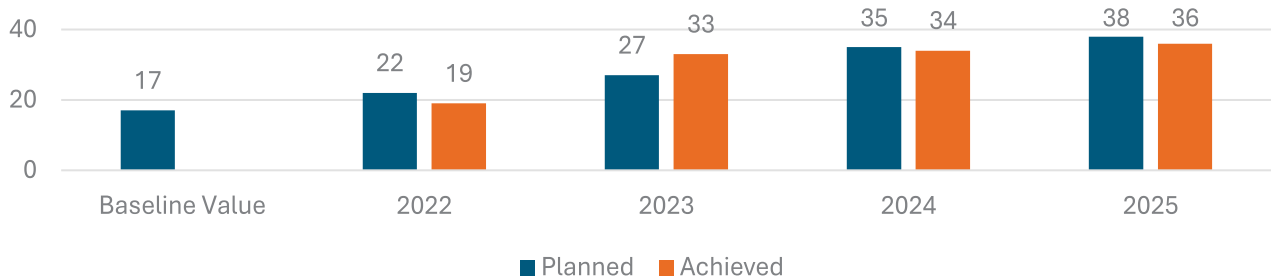
Collaboration and Partnership: SADC-GMI will lead collaborative groundwater initiatives for national and regional groundwater management, developing strong partnerships with key stakeholders across relevant sectors.



8. BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT IN SADC REGION

At SADC-GMI, we take immense pride in our strategic partnerships that have been instrumental in driving our success. We are a small institution, and these collaborations have not only helped us achieve significant milestones but have also empowered us to fulfill our mandate. Together, we are paving the way towards our vision of becoming a Centre of Excellence in sustainable groundwater management across the SADC region.

During the reporting period, SADC-GMI has made remarkable strides in forging strategic partnerships aimed at enhancing sustainable groundwater management across the SADC region. While projections for 2024 (35 MOUs) indicate a slight lag in achieving our goals (34 MOUs), the overall trend underscores our commitment to practical collaboration, solidifying SADC-GMI's position as a leading regional institution in groundwater management. This is demonstrated in the graph below:



During this reporting period, we proudly signed several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with key institutions, paving the way for knowledge exchange and capacity building in groundwater management. These partnerships encompass universities, international organizations, and regional bodies, all of which contribute to SADC-GMI's mission of promoting sustainable groundwater practices and addressing pressing groundwater challenges. Notable collaborations with the University of the Western Cape and the University of Namibia have fostered academic research and training essential for cultivating skilled professionals in the region.

Starting from a baseline of 17 partnerships, we have successfully established an additional 17 partnerships within the first two-quarters of this reporting period. This significant growth underscores our commitment to enhancing collaboration with groundwater institutions. These strategic alliances have also bolstered project implementations, including the Incomati and Maputo Watercourse Commission (INMACOM) Hydrocensus project and the Shire River Aquifer System Project in collaboration with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). Organizations like BASEflow and Water Mission have played vital roles in supporting sub-grant project implementations, aligning seamlessly with our project objectives.

One of the highlights of this reporting period was the recent collaboration formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BUPUSACOM, established during the prestigious Stockholm Water Week in August 2024. This partnership not only reinforces SADC-GMI's commitment to sustainable water management but also complements our existing collaborations with various River Basin Organizations across the region. By joining forces with BUPUSACOM, we aim to leverage shared expertise and resources to tackle urgent groundwater challenges, promote innovative solutions, and foster regional cooperation.

These partnerships mark a pivotal step in strengthening the collective efforts of stakeholders in the SADC region, ensuring that water resources are managed sustainably for the benefit of all communities. Through these collaborations, SADC-GMI reaffirms its leadership role in groundwater management, committed to enhancing water security and resilience in the face of climate change and increasing water resource demand. Together, we are building a sustainable future for our region.

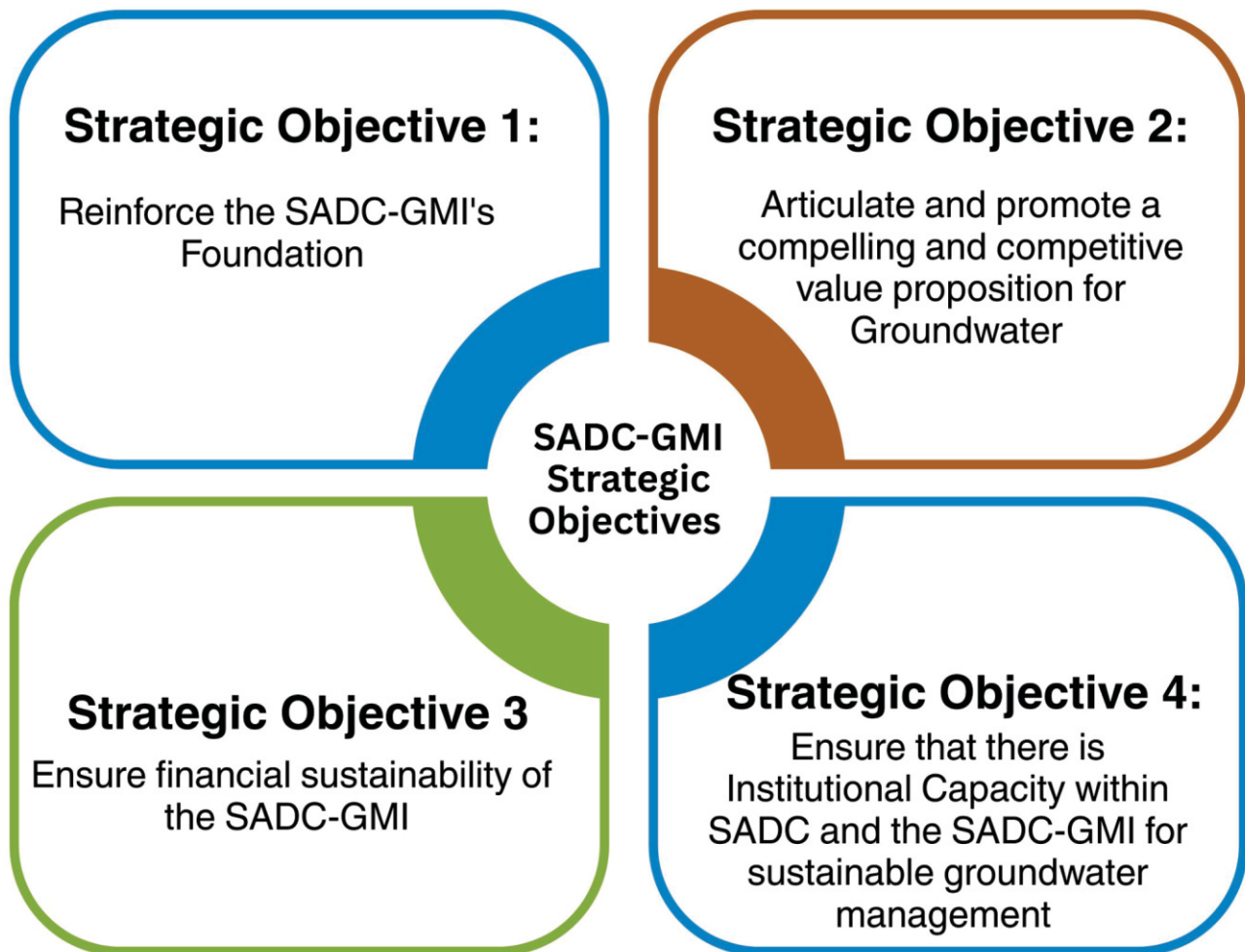
9. FOOTPRINT

SADC-GMI HAS A FOOTPRINT IN ALL 16 SADC MEMBER STATES IN THE SADC REGION.



10. SADC-GMI STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The SADC Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) is guided by four strategic objectives that define our direction and focus, serving as a roadmap to achieve our long-term vision and mission. These goals shape our policies, programs, and initiatives, ensuring our commitment to promoting sustainable and integrated groundwater management.



Through these strategic objectives, we empower SADC Member States to address the pressing challenge of water scarcity, fostering resilience and sustainability throughout the region.



SECTION B GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

11. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Status of Board Operations and Governance at SADC-GMI

The SADC Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI), a subsidiary of the SADC Secretariat under the Directorate of Infrastructure and Services (Water Division), is strategically hosted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria, South Africa. The governance framework of SADC-GMI is meticulously designed to incorporate essential elements for effective strategic management, including strategic oversight, specialized technical advice, risk mitigation, and the pursuit of sustainable growth.

Board of Directors: The Pinnacle of Governance at SADC-GMI

The Board of Directors stands as the highest authority within SADC-GMI's governance framework, playing a crucial role in steering the strategic direction of the institute. With a steadfast commitment to fulfilling its mandate, the Board ensures robust management and financial accountability, thereby safeguarding the organization's integrity.

Composition of the Board

The Board consists of up to ten members, featuring a diverse mix of non-executive directors representing SADC member states. This includes two representatives from the University of the Free State and two independent non-executive directors, enriching the Board with a wealth of expertise and perspectives. Additionally, the SADC-GMI Executive Director is a key member, alongside a Non-Executive Director from the SADC Secretariat's Water Division, who serves as the Chairperson of the Board.

Sub-Committees Enhancing Governance

To further strengthen its governance, the Board has established two vital sub-committees:

Audit and Risk Management Committee: This committee plays a crucial role in ensuring financial integrity and effectively managing risks. It oversees internal audits, evaluates risk management processes, and ensures compliance with financial regulations and policies, thereby fortifying the institute's financial health.

Business Development Committee: Focused on securing the institute's financial sustainability, this committee actively explores opportunities for growth, potential partnerships, and innovative ventures. By aligning these initiatives with SADC-GMI's long-term objectives, the committee plays a pivotal role in driving the institute's success into the future.

Sub-Committee on Hydrogeology: Comprising representatives appointed by each of SADC's Member States, this specialized advisory body plays a critical role in guiding the diverse projects undertaken by SADC-GMI. Members also serve as project steering committee members, ensuring that technical expertise is integrated into project planning and execution.

Conclusion

Through its robust governance framework, SADC-GMI is committed to enhancing groundwater management in the Southern African region, ensuring that it not only meets current challenges but also anticipates future needs. The collaborative efforts of our governing structures reflect a dedication to sustainable development and effective resource management, positioning SADC-GMI as a leader in groundwater governance.

Capacity Development



CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

This is to certify that:

Malakia Itilshidhimbwa Shetu Ntinda

Attended the 1st SADC-GMI Young Professionals Winter School
Organized by SADC-GMI and the University of Zimbabwe

28 July - 08 August 2025

Eng. James Mupfema, SADC-GMI Executive Director
Prof. Dr. David Mupfema, University of Zimbabwe

12. SADC-GMI'S CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR MEMBER STATES AND RIVER BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

Capacity development is central to the SADC-GMI's mandate. As a result, SADC-GMI thrives on capacity development initiatives that focus on enhancing the skills of SADC citizens involved in sustainable groundwater management. Our mandate is to bridge the skills gap in the SADC region by empowering groundwater professionals. We aim to equip these experts with the necessary skills and knowledge to help their countries achieve a water-secure future.

During the reporting period (2024 – 2025), several training programs were undertaken, namely GIS and Remote Sensing, Operation and Maintenance of Groundwater Infrastructure, Borehole Sustainable Yield Testing and Groundwater Supply, Transboundary Groundwater Governance and Management in River Basin Organisations, Environmental And Social Management, Data Collection And Management, and Media Training.

- **GIS and Remote Sensing Training:** This training equipped participants with the skills to analyze spatial data and imagery for informed decision-making in urban planning, environmental management, and resource allocation.
- **Operation and Maintenance of Groundwater Infrastructure Course:** The training aimed to develop expertise in operating and maintaining groundwater systems to ensure the longevity and efficiency of the infrastructure.
- **Borehole Sustainable Yield Tests and Groundwater Supply Training:** The training covered the principles of designing, planning, and conducting borehole yield tests, as well as analyzing drawdown data to ensure a sustainable water supply.
- **Environmental and Social Management Training:** This training provided participants with the knowledge to assess, manage, and mitigate project environmental and social impacts, promoting sustainable practices and regulatory compliance.
- **Transboundary Groundwater Governance and Management Training:** Focused on collaborative management of shared groundwater resources across borders, emphasizing legal, institutional, and technical approaches within river basin organizations.
- **Data Collection and Management Training:** Equipped participants with essential skills for effectively gathering, organizing, and analyzing data to support informed decision-making and enhance project outcomes.
- **Media Training:** The training aimed to Enhance participants' communication skills for effective engagement with the media, including message development, interview techniques, and crisis communication strategies to improve public relations.

By investing in these initiatives, SADC-GMI is empowering groundwater professionals with the expertise to manage groundwater resources more effectively, which is essential for sustainable development, especially in regions susceptible to climate change and water scarcity.

In addition to comprehensive training, SADC-GMI successfully organized workshops focused on capacity development and fostering information sharing among Member States and regional partners, including River Basin Organizations. Throughout the reporting year, SADC-GMI's initiatives have empowered 252 participants, with a focus on inclusivity and gender equality. Women comprised 82 of these participants, representing 31.91% of the total. Inclusivity is a cornerstone of our training programs. By actively involving women in our training initiatives, we equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary for effective management of water resources.

This commitment to gender balance aligns with SADC's broader goals of gender transformation, social justice, and women's empowerment (Policy and Movement Building, 2022).

13. SADC-GMI YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM: EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS IN WATER MANAGEMENT

In 2024, the Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) launched an innovative initiative known as the Young Professionals Program (YPP). This program is designed to empower the next generation of leaders in water management across the SADC region by equipping them with the essential resources, knowledge, and skills necessary for effective engagement in sustainable water practices.

Program Objectives

The primary objectives of the YPP are:

- To disseminate critical information and best practices in groundwater management through webinars, discussions, and resource-sharing initiatives.
- To cultivate a sense of community among young professionals in the SADC region, thereby enhancing participant engagement and collaboration.
- To create a collaborative environment among emerging professionals in the water sector, fostering networking and mentorship opportunities that are crucial for professional growth.

The program's official launch in 2024 also marked the development of a comprehensive Young Professionals Strategy outlining its initiatives and objectives.

Highlights and Achievements

Since its inception, the YPP has successfully spearheaded various initiatives to enhance the capabilities of young professionals. One of the program's standout features includes hosting monthly webinars that empower participants on various topics pertinent to the Groundwater Sector. In 2024, seven webinars covered sustainable groundwater management, challenges and solutions in urban groundwater, water quality assessment, policy and governance, and hydroinformatics. Distinguished guest speakers with extensive experience in the water sector and young professionals were invited to present technical material and share knowledge with young professionals. An impressive 298 participants participated in these webinars, which provided valuable insights and facilitated discussions on current challenges and innovations in groundwater management.

In a significant move to enhance practical experience, SADC-GMI sponsored 11 young professionals to attend the 6th SADC Groundwater Conference, held in Maseru, Lesotho, from 13 to 15 November 2024. This event served as a vital platform for participants to engage with industry leaders, share their insights, and learn about the latest advancements in groundwater management. In addition to SADC-GMI-sponsored Young Professionals, 42 young professionals (62% female and 38% male) attended the conference, with 26 presenting their research papers and participating in the Young Professionals session on Data-Driven Insights and Collaborative Governance, which the Young Professionals themselves led.

Commitment to Inclusivity

Since its launch, the YPP has registered an impressive 574 candidates, who received registration certificates valid for one year (2024–2025). Notably, 54% of the registered candidates are females, while 46% are males. This diverse representation is crucial for developing innovative solutions to the complex challenges encountered in groundwater management today.

Supporting Education and Research

SADC-GMI awarded five deserving student bursaries to pursue postgraduate qualifications (MSc Degree) in groundwater-related areas as part of the program. The recipients are:

- Mmasechaba Lebogang Moropane - University of the Western Cape – South Africa
- Matlhogonolo Lesedi Mmese - University of Botswana
- Ilca António de Oliveira Nhandamo - University of Zambeze - Mozambique
- Mmakoena Rammutla- University of the Free State - South Africa
- Diana Nehale - Namibia University of Science and Technology

Future Initiatives

The YPP is growing and it continues to empower young professionals, enhancing their skills, and creating a vibrant community of future leaders in water management across the SADC region. The program not only aims to address current water management issues but also strives to inspire a new generation of professionals who are passionate about sustainable practices and collaborative solutions.

Going forward, SADC-GMI will continue to develop innovative strategic initiatives to enhance the visibility and influence of young professionals in shaping policy and practice. These initiatives are designed to create more opportunities for leadership, research, and authentic narratives from young professionals, ensuring their voices are heard within the water management sector.



14. EMBRACING THE FUTURE OF HYDROGEOLOGY: MATLHOGONOLO LESEDI MMESE'S JOURNEY



At just 27 years old, Matlhogonolo Lesedi Mmese is already making a significant impact in the field of hydrogeology. With a bachelor's degree in applied geophysics and currently pursuing her MSc in Hydrogeology at the University of Botswana, Matlhogonolo's passion for groundwater management is both inspiring and essential for her home country, Botswana, where over 60% of the population relies on groundwater.

A Passion Ignited in High School

Matlhogonolo's journey began in high school, where the allure of the title "Hydrogeologist" first caught her attention. However, it was the realization of the critical role groundwater plays in Botswana's sustainability that truly fueled her passion. The groundwater industry is diverse, offering opportunities in modeling, drilling, management, and monitoring, ensuring that there is always something new to learn.

Joining the SADC-GMI Young Professionals Programme

In 2023, Matlhogonolo joined the SADC-GMI Young Professionals Programme, a decision that has significantly broadened her horizons. "It's been amazing, to say the least," she shares, reflecting on her enriching experience. The program has connected her with a network of young professionals in the groundwater sector, fostering collaboration and innovation.

Unleashing Potential Through Networking

One of the standout benefits of the program for Matlhogonolo has been the expansion of her professional network. "It has made my world field-wise so much bigger," she explains. The program not only amplifies the voices of young professionals but also encourages them to make meaningful contributions to their fields.

Building Confidence and Skills

Through her involvement in the program, Matlhogonolo has honed her presentation skills, overcoming her initial discomfort with public speaking. "The conferences I've been invited to speak at and the monthly webinars have helped me grow more confident," she notes. This newfound confidence has opened doors to significant opportunities, including full sponsorship to attend the 6th SADC-GMI Groundwater conference and the IAH 2024 conference, as well as being honored with the Bursary Scheme for Young Professionals at the master's level.

Highlights and Future Aspirations

The chance to attend conferences and build a network with seasoned professionals from across the SADC region has been a highlight of Matlhogonolo's journey. She firmly believes that programs like SADC-GMI are essential for young professionals. "They expose us to others in related fields, provide platforms for our voices to be heard, and help us grow through learning opportunities," she asserts.

As Matlhogonolo continues her journey in hydrogeology, her story serves as a testament to the importance of mentorship, networking, and continuous learning in shaping the future of the groundwater sector. Her passion and dedication not only inspire her peers but also contribute to the sustainable management of Botswana's vital groundwater resources.

15. BENJAMIN KITAMBO'S JOURNEY WITH THE SADC YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

Benjamin Kitambo, a 36-year-old postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Geodesy at the University of Stuttgart and a lecturer at the University of Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo, has embarked on a remarkable journey in the field of water resource management. His passion for addressing real-world water challenges was ignited during his undergraduate studies when he undertook a research project focused on identifying potential aquifer zones for borehole drilling.

As Benjamin progressed through his academic career, particularly during his master's studies, he delved deeper into the intricacies of spatial hydrology and remote sensing technologies. His work on a soil erosion mapping project in an ungauged basin revealed the immense potential of these tools, particularly in data-scarce regions such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. This realization solidified his commitment to using scientific methods to contribute to societal solutions.

In 2024, Benjamin joined the SADC-GMI Young Professionals Programme (YPP), a decision that significantly enriched his professional journey. He says the program has provided him with a wealth of resources, including webinars, shared documents, and reports, all of which have been instrumental in expanding his knowledge base. However, the most valuable aspect has been the opportunity to connect with fellow young scientists from the region. These interactions fostered meaningful exchanges and collaborations, enhancing their collective understanding of regional challenges and solutions in water resource management.

"As a young professional, the YPP program has been pivotal in supporting my early career. It has expanded my regional scientific network, allowing me to connect with peers who face similar challenges", he emphasizes. Benjamin continues to say this sense of community is vital for building confidence and motivation at this stage of his career. The program has also facilitated access to critical in situ data across the region, a significant advantage in the field of water resource management.

Through his participation in the YPP, Benjamin has acquired practical skills that have greatly benefited his professional development. "Through the program, I learned how to create concise scientific presentations and led open discussions on remote sensing applications in groundwater studies," he asserts. These experiences have strengthened his ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and confidently. A highlight of his journey was attending the 6th SADC Groundwater Conference in Lesotho, supported by YPP, where he was exposed to regional research trends and developed new project ideas.

In conclusion, Benjamin firmly believes that programs like the SADC Young Professionals Program (YPP) are essential for empowering young professionals. They bridge the gap between academic knowledge and real-world application, nurturing leadership and fostering innovation. By promoting a sense of community among early-career scientists, programs like YPP are crucial for developing the next generation of researchers equipped to tackle regional water challenges with modern, science-based tools. Benjamin's journey continues, fueled by the connections and skills he has gained through this transformative experience.





SECTION C
GROUNDWATER ADVOCACY

16. STRENGTHENING GROUNDWATER GOVERNANCE THROUGH UPGRADING OF THE SADC-GIP AND IT'S EXPANDING REACH

In 2022, SADC-GMI launched a strategic project to overhaul and enhance the Groundwater Information Portal (SADC-GIP). This regional data platform has served as a central repository for hydrogeological data since 2010. This initiative, running through August 2024, marks the third and most transformative phase in a series of targeted projects aimed at improving groundwater data accessibility, integration, and application for informed decision-making across the SADC region.

Unlike earlier projects, which focused on establishing the initial portal and updating historical datasets, this latest project takes a deep dive into expanding the analytical power, usability, and interoperability of the GIP. It is designed not only to upgrade the platform technologically but to position it as a decision-support tool central to regional Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Addressing GIP's Limitations: Why This Project Was Necessary

Before the current upgrade, the GIP faced well-recognized challenges:

- Outdated and fragmented datasets, with uneven contributions from Member States
- Minimal analytical tools, limiting the platform's decision-making value
- Lack of real-time and time-series integration, which hampered monitoring efforts
- Disconnected national systems, making regional data harmonization difficult

The 2022–2024 upgrade project was initiated specifically to bridge these gaps, making the GIP analytics-ready, harmonized across borders, and equipped for modern data exploration and reporting.

MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The upgrade has already yielded impressive results:

Data Integration: The GIP now harmonizes data from national databases and newly collected datasets, thanks to the efforts of trained Young Professionals from Member States.

Analytical Power: Big Data analytics and machine learning are being piloted in strategic aquifers, enhancing predictive capabilities and groundwater trend analysis.

User Engagement: With over 640 registered users and new stakeholders joining weekly, the platform is becoming a hub for governments, NGOs, academia, and the private sector.

Capacity Building: Regional training workshops have empowered Young Professionals to utilize the GIP for data uploading, analysis, and visualization using tools like Python and regression modeling.

Expanded Connectivity: Linking Regional and Global Resources

The upgraded SADC-GIP is not just a standalone platform; it's now interconnected with various complementary platforms, enhancing its role as a regional groundwater data hub:

Hydrogeological Mapping and Country Profiles: Access to the Africa Groundwater Atlas and other geological maps helps users understand the geological context of groundwater systems.

National and Sub-National Groundwater Data Archives: Detailed, country-specific datasets complement the GIP, enabling cross-border analysis and national reporting.

Scientific Literature and Knowledge Repositories: Access to research papers and technical studies enriches the GIP, providing contextual insights for data interpretation.

Wetlands, River Basins, and Water Resource Management: Tools focusing on surface water systems facilitate the integration of groundwater and surface water management, particularly in transboundary settings.

Open Data and Global Water Platforms: Aligning with international data-sharing norms, these portals expand the GIP's visibility within global groundwater monitoring initiatives.

Impact and the Road Ahead

The upgraded GIP is evolving into a robust decision-support system. The incorporation of modern analytics and integration of data across political and hydrological boundaries is helping Member States transition from fragmented information to unified insights. With sustained political will, continuous data input, and growing user engagement, the SADC-GIP is on track to become the central nervous system for groundwater governance in the region. Explore the SADC Groundwater Information Portal (GIP) and discover how it's transforming groundwater management - SADC-GIP: <https://sadc-gip.org>

17. REVITALIZING GROUNDWATER KNOWLEDGE: THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE SADC GROUNDWATER LITERATURE ARCHIVE (GLA)

SADC-GMI initiated a project to update the SADC Groundwater Literature Archive (SADC-GLA), to make it a fully functional online archive of groundwater literature for the SADC region. The project started in February 2020 and ended in October 2020. It was implemented by the British Geological Survey (BGS), in collaboration with the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC). As a result of this project, the platform was upgraded in terms of user interface, functionality, and content.

In 2023, the project was further initiated to increase the number of records in the archive, and three universities were engaged to support the collection of these records.

Key Activities Undertaken During the Upgrade

The upgrade process was a collaborative effort that involved technical development, institutional engagement, and strategic outreach. Here are some of the key activities undertaken during the upgrade:

Content Expansion: 5,903 groundwater-related records were consolidated from a baseline of 4,530, all from a diverse array of sources, including government departments, research institutions, universities, and consultants across the SADC region. This increase represents 30.2 % from the baseline.

Regional Collaboration: Three academic institutions played a crucial role by reviewing and tagging thousands of documents, ensuring that the content is both relevant and technically robust. These were University of Namibia, University of Botswana and Mzuzu University.

Results and System Use Since the Upgrade

Prior to the 2020 upgrade, the GLA averaged fewer than 200 unique users per month, with minimal engagement largely due to outdated content, limited awareness, and a user interface that offered little incentive for regular interaction. The platform functioned more as a passive repository than a dynamic knowledge resource.

Between July 2023 and April 2024, platform usage averaged 360 unique users per month, with fluctuations marked by occasional spikes and dips. This pattern shifted significantly beginning in May 2024 when user numbers rose sharply, reaching a peak of 1,018 unique users in July 2024, representing a nearly 400% increase compared to July 2023 (215 users). From April 2024 to March 2025, the platform maintained an elevated average of 661 users per month, indicating a clear and sustained growth in engagement following the system enhancements and outreach efforts.



This growth is not just in numbers but in the quality and diversity of users as well. The user base has broadened to include researchers from universities across the region, policymakers from national governments, NGOs, and consultants working on infrastructure and water governance projects. This shift demonstrates that the GLA is no longer just a digital archive but an active platform supporting informed decision-making, research, and collaboration on groundwater issues.

Partnership Development to enhance the utilization of GLA: Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and collaboration proposals are being signed with universities across the region, thereby embedding the GLA into their curricula and research processes. Notable partners include the University of Namibia, Mzuzu University, the University of Botswana, and the University of the Free State.

Impact on Groundwater Research and Management

The upgraded GLA is proving to be more than just an archive; it is becoming a central pillar of groundwater knowledge management in the region.

Key impacts include:

Informed Research: The GLA is cited in academic research, graduate theses, and regional assessments, providing evidence-based support for inquiries into groundwater systems, hydrogeology, and transboundary aquifer management.

Improved Policy and Planning: Government officials have acknowledged using the GLA to access past groundwater assessments and policy documents, which inform planning and legislative reviews.

Capacity Building: Universities are integrating GLA content into their research guidance, exposing students to real-world data and literature that enhances their academic outputs.

Knowledge Visibility: The platform has brought to light previously unpublished or inaccessible regional studies, thereby enhancing the visibility of African researchers and institutions in the global water discourse.

Looking Ahead

The SADC-GMI is dedicated to enhancing the GLA platform continuously. We have outlined several ambitious initiatives to further refine its capabilities and ensure it meets the evolving needs of our stakeholders.

- Introducing analytics dashboards for contributors and users to track engagement and impact.
- Initiating contributor profiles and citation tracking to enhance academic collaboration.
- Supporting user-generated content, including community-led case studies and field updates.

Explore the GLA: <https://sadc-gla.org>



18. PROMOTING PEACE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: THE POWER OF TRANSBOUNDARY COLLABORATION IN SADC

SADC-GMI's Commitment to Sustainable Groundwater Management

Through these comprehensive research efforts, SADC-GMI is enhancing regional cooperation and building the capacity necessary for sustainable groundwater management. By equipping stakeholders with the knowledge and tools they need, SADC-GMI is paving the way for a more resilient and sustainable future for groundwater resources in Southern Africa. This collaborative approach ensures that future generations can rely on clean and sufficient water supplies, supporting ecological health and human development.

Overcoming Challenges in Transboundary Aquifer Management Through Collaborative Engagement

Implementing transboundary studies presents several challenges, primarily centred around fostering effective collaboration among Member States sharing the TBA. Achieving the project's objectives hinges on successfully sharing and harmonizing data across these nations. Despite the shared interest in the TBA, differing priorities among Member States can significantly impact the implementation and progress of the project. To address these challenges proactively, comprehensive stakeholder engagement is essential at the project's outset. This engagement ensures that all parties are aligned, facilitating smoother cooperation and a more unified approach to data management and project execution.

Celebrating Success: Key Highlights from Our Completed Studies

The Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) has made significant strides in advancing critical research studies across various Transboundary Aquifers (TBAs) in the SADC region. These studies are crucial for deepening our understanding of groundwater dynamics, promoting peaceful cooperation, developing effective management strategies, and ensuring the sustainable use of this vital resource.

During the reporting period, SADC-GMI embarked on and completed the Eastern Kalahari Karoo Basin Aquifer (EKK-TBA) Numerical Model, developed groundwater monitoring networks in island states, completed hydrogeological analysis of coastal sedimentary basin IV TBA shared between Namibia and Angola and participated in the Buzi, Pungwe, and Save Watercourses Commission (BUPUSA) E-flows Hydrogeology Study. These studies have yielded actionable insights and practical tools that empower stakeholders to implement effective groundwater management practices. The EKK-TBA Numerical Model, for instance, provides a sophisticated framework for simulating groundwater flow and predicting responses to various management scenarios. At the same time, the BUPUSA study offers critical data on ecological flows necessary for maintaining the health of aquatic ecosystems.

Another of our key initiatives was the design of a Regional Monitoring Network, which is intended to enhance data collection and facilitate sharing across borders, thereby fostering collaboration among Member States. Simultaneously, we are conducting additional studies focused on coastal aquifers, addressing their unique challenges, such as saltwater intrusion and the impacts of climate change. In major urban centres like Kinshasa, Luanda, and Johannesburg, we are currently undertaking a project titled "Determining Dependency and Vulnerability in Mega Cities." This initiative aims to assess the reliance on groundwater resources and the vulnerabilities these densely populated areas face.

Research Studies Completed, Paving the Way for Future Success

The target for the number of research studies is set to increase incrementally each year, culminating in an ambitious final goal of 18 studies by the end of the project cycle. As we report, we proudly report an impressive total of 16 studies that have already been completed. This achievement surpasses our planned target for the year, reflecting the dedication and hard work of our research team. Additionally, we have five studies currently in various stages of completion, indicating a robust pipeline and a promising trajectory for future research endeavours. This strong performance highlights our commitment to advancing knowledge in our field and positions us to exceed our final target. As we progress, we will continue to focus on enhancing our research capabilities and fostering collaboration to ensure sustained success in the years to come.

"Unlocking the Future:

Looking ahead, initiatives such as the Limpopo Groundwater Study being undertaken through a GEF grant channeled via GWP-SA are poised to address emerging challenges in groundwater management. This study will focus on understanding the complex interactions between surface water and groundwater in the Limpopo River Basin, providing critical insights for sustainable resource management in a region facing increasing water scarcity.

SADC-GMI Financial Sustainability: Paving the Way for Future Groundwater Management

Securing SADC-GMI's financial stability through diversification of funding sources is a strategic objective of its Financial and Sustainability Plan. The intention is to attract support from various strategic partners by reshaping the narrative around groundwater as a solution for development and climate change resilience. Additionally, tapping into funding from regional development agencies is seen as crucial for facilitating conjunctive water management projects at both regional and national scales. Industry-related councils and chambers are envisioned as potential partners, contributing funding to initiatives that align with their respective sectors—the SADC-GMI model centres on sustainable funding mechanisms and partnerships to support its activities and objectives. Diversifying contributor support for the SADC-GMI is essential for realizing its mandate as a Centre of Excellence for groundwater management in the SADC through several pathways, which include expanding the donor network, developing tailored proposals, forming partnerships, actively pursuing grant funding opportunities, engaging with corporate entities that have a stake in water resources management, environmental sustainability, or corporate social responsibility, explore crowdfunding platforms and public campaigns to raise awareness about SADC-GMI's work and attract donations from individual supporters, civil society organizations, and community groups passionate about water conservation and environmental protection.

During the reporting year, SADC-GMI pursued various business opportunities through strategic partnerships, including collaborations with the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWP-SA), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). These opportunities focused on the Global Environment Facility (GEF-8) International Waters Project and the Adaptation Fund. These initiatives aim to foster integrated and cooperative groundwater governance, ensuring the protection and sustainable management of these essential water resources.

River Basin Organisations (RBOs) are the preferred institutions to promote transboundary aquifer management and protection. The SADC region has about 15 River Basins shared by at least two SADC Member States and an estimated 30 transboundary aquifers (TBAs). Several river basin commissions, including BUPUSACOM, CUVECOM, INMACOM, KOBWA, LIMCOM, OKACOM, ORASECOM, SONGWECOM, and ZAMCOM, have been established to manage shared watercourses. SADC-GMI is supporting GWP-SA with hydrogeological assessments in BUPUSA, LIMCOM, and CUVECOM, attracting \$ 630,000.

The SADC-GMI, in partnership with IFAD, has successfully had its pre-concept approved at the Adaptation Fund Board meeting held in April 2025. The project "Upscaling Groundwater-Based Natural Infrastructure (GBNI) to Support Water Resilience in Selected Transboundary Aquifers (TBAs) of Southern Africa" aims to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate variability and change through the joint management of shared surface water and groundwater, the identification of groundwater-dependent ecosystems, and the diversification of livelihoods. The project value is estimated at 14,000,000 USD.

The Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) is partnering with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to develop a comprehensive concept note aimed at addressing critical water security challenges in the coastal aquifers of the Western Indian Ocean region.

Groundwater resources in South Africa, Mozambique, and Tanzania are increasingly under threat due to climate variability, over-extraction, and pollution, jeopardizing both water security and ecosystem

stability. Coastal aquifers, which serve as vital freshwater sources for both urban and rural communities, are particularly susceptible to salinity intrusion, unregulated withdrawals, and contamination.

This initiative will focus on the following key objectives:

- (i) Strengthening institutional, governance, technical, and financial capacities for sustainable groundwater management.
- (ii) Ensuring equitable and climate-resilient access to groundwater for communities and smallholder farmers in water-scarce regions.
- (iii) Enhancing groundwater recharge and discharge through nature-based solutions (NbS).
- (iv) Improving knowledge and technical understanding of transboundary groundwater systems and groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs).

The estimated budget for the successful implementation of this project is \$9 million.

In addition to these projects, SADC-GMI, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), is implementing the Groundwater for Advancing Resilience in Africa initiative, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), this project, valued at USD 219,000, underscores our dedication to strengthening resilience through effective groundwater management throughout the region.

Moreover, SADC-GMI is dedicated to capacity development, as exemplified by the successful training sessions and the 6th SADC Groundwater Conference undertaken in 2024, further strengthening our organizational sustainability.

All these initiatives contribute significantly to the SADC-GMI reserves account, a vital component for the institute's long-term sustainability. Looking ahead, we are optimistic about securing funding for Phase 3 from the World Bank, which will enable us to continue our impactful work in the SADC region.



19. EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH INNOVATIVE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Through a World Bank-funded project, the SADC Groundwater Management Institute is making strides in implementing projects that promote sustainable groundwater management in SADC Member States. Currently, 24 projects across 12 Member States are underway under the following categories: Promoting community livelihoods through solar-pumped groundwater systems, Improving groundwater management by updating hydrogeological maps, Enhancing groundwater data collection and management through the installation of monitoring networks, Piloting Managed Aquifer Recharge, Improving groundwater quality and potable water supply, and exploring and developing groundwater aquifers. The Subgrant projects are underway in Angola, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, with the Democratic Republic of Congo completed in 2024.

The World Bank project encompasses three key components, with Component 3 dedicated to fostering resilient livelihoods and promoting inclusive groundwater management. This component involves allocating small grants to support sustainable and scalable initiatives within Member States. The subgrant projects are categorized into two distinct types: Basic and Competitive grants, which include sixteen Basic grant projects and eight Competitive grant projects. While some of these initiatives have been completed, others are currently being implemented.

These projects are strategically aligned with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional strategies, which underscore the critical importance of groundwater in enhancing resilient livelihoods. Given the significant water access challenges faced by SADC countries, these initiatives are poised to play a crucial role in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on water resources.

The Basic grant projects aim to benefit approximately 251,653 individuals, while the Competitive grants aim to reach around 346,344 people, culminating in 597,997 projected beneficiaries. These initiatives address immediate water access issues and contribute to long-term sustainability and resilience in the region.

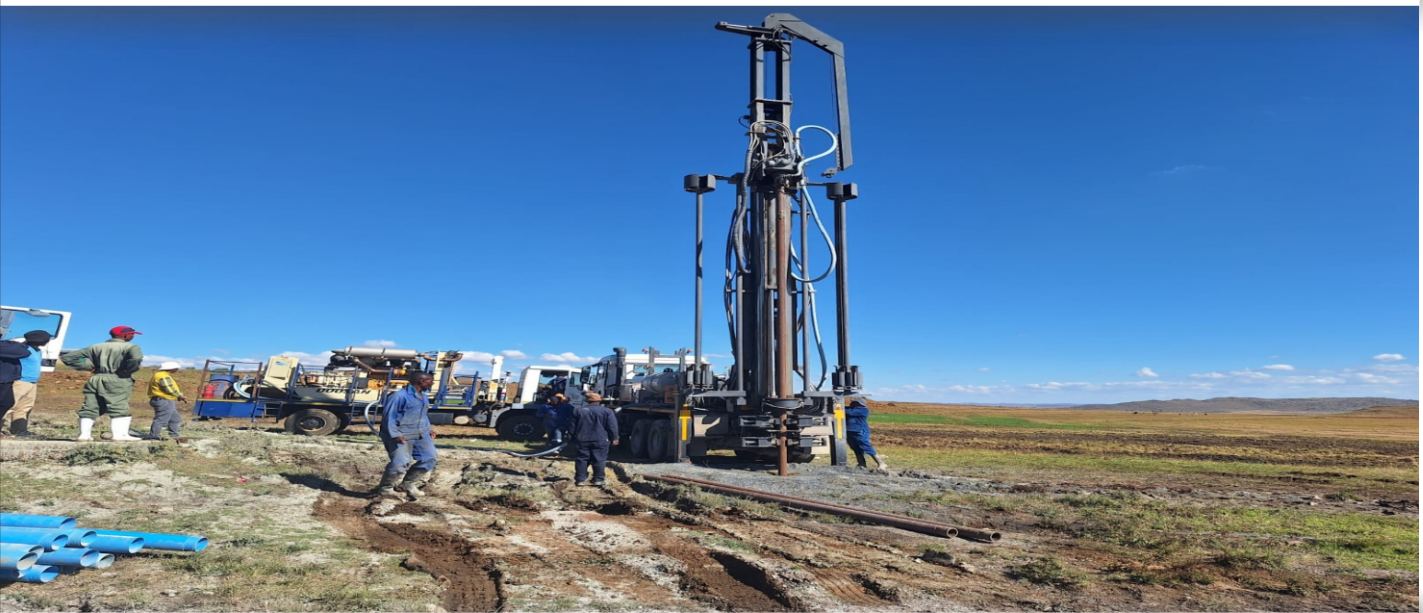


Promoting Community Livelihoods through solar-pumped groundwater systems

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Lesotho, and Namibia, the SADC-GMI has significantly improved water supply and community livelihoods during the reporting year. In the DRC, the Madimba and Kimpangu communities have completed a water supply project that benefits approximately 7,202 residents. Meanwhile, a similar initiative in southern Zambia is nearing completion, promising to support the local school and its surrounding community. In Lesotho, Ha Mpusi, Ha Mosotho, and Ha Koali villages in Mafeteng are set to benefit from an ongoing water supply project. At the same time, the Southern Namibia/Karas Region, particularly in the villages of Betis (80 households), Gainachas (approximately 3,000 inhabitants), Gabes (approximately 1,000 inhabitants), and Blouwes (approximately 300 inhabitants), is also poised to reap transformative benefits from these initiatives. These projects aim to uplift lives and enhance livelihoods by providing water to previously water-scarce communities in the Member States.

Improving groundwater management through updating Hydrogeological maps

A significant obstacle to achieving prosperity is the limited accessibility of groundwater information for planners, decision-makers, and users. To tackle this issue, groundwater data that was once restricted to experts and databases is now being transformed into visual maps. The SADC-GMI is collaborating with the Governments of South Africa's Department of Water and Sanitation and the Kingdom of Eswatini's Department of Water Affairs to review and enhance their hydrogeological maps. This initiative aims to present hydrogeological information in a clear and comprehensible format. These maps become invaluable for decision-makers for groundwater development potential by synthesizing the latest data and insights from geohydrologists. They also become invaluable tools for pinpointing areas that need further data collection and investigation.



Improving groundwater data collection and management through the installation of monitoring Networks

Groundwater is a vital resource crucial in meeting our diverse water needs, including domestic consumption, agriculture, industry, and environmental conservation. Effective monitoring becomes increasingly critical as our reliance on this hidden treasure beneath the surface grows. Robust groundwater monitoring is vital for understanding seasonal dynamics, assessing development potential, mitigating environmental and climate impacts, addressing contamination issues, and ultimately achieving sustainable aquifer management. During the reporting period, the SADC-GMI has actively supported Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, South Africa, and Zimbabwe in enhancing their groundwater monitoring networks. These initiatives aim to strengthen groundwater monitoring in these countries, promoting sustainable resource management for improved livelihoods.

Piloting Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)

As the world grapples with escalating water scarcity exacerbated by climate change, the significance of Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) has never been more pronounced. Statistics reveal that over 300 million people in Africa lack access to safe drinking water, highlighting the urgency of implementing sustainable water management practices. As Climate Change exacerbates rainfall variability, the need for effective Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) systems becomes even more pressing. As a result, SADC-GMI is piloting a Managed Aquifer Recharge project in the Central Region of Malawi. This project aims to enhance the natural replenishment of aquifers, ensuring a sustainable water supply for communities in Malawi.

Improving groundwater quality and portable water supply - fluoride levels reduction

The prevalence of dental fluorosis, particularly among the Black population in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, is a pressing public health concern, especially in rural areas. Many individuals in these communities rely on untreated surface and groundwater sources for drinking water, often obtained from springs, wells, and boreholes. In the Kariba Rural District of Mashonaland West Province, Zimbabwe, fluoride contamination has led to significant health concerns for the local population. In response to this critical issue, the SADC Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) is spearheading a project to improve groundwater quality. This initiative focuses on developing effective strategies and technologies to combat water quality deterioration and enhance the availability of safe drinking water. The project is supported through a sub-grant, underscoring the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing this urgent public health challenge.

Groundwater aquifer exploration and development

Groundwater exploration is becoming increasingly vital in urban and rural areas, particularly in emerging nations, due to the global decline in groundwater levels. A scientific understanding and effective management of groundwater resources are essential, as responsible use and replenishment can significantly alleviate water scarcity issues. The Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) is dedicated to assisting Member States in exploring groundwater aquifers for sustainable development. During the reporting period, two significant projects were implemented in Tanzania and Zambia. These initiatives focus on identifying and characterizing aquifers to assess their productive capacity, ultimately pinpointing suitable locations for reliable water supply.

These initiatives are strategically designed to enhance the sustainability of groundwater resources within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, particularly in response to the challenges posed by climate change and variability. Importantly, numerous projects integrate components to enhance community livelihoods, aligning with the broader objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 6, which aspires to ensure universal access to water and sanitation for all individuals.



20. TRANSFORMING LIVES: 7208 PEOPLE EMPOWERED BY SADC-GMI'S COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS IN MADIMBA AND KIMPANGU, DRC

Access to clean water was a significant challenge for the Madimba and Kimpangu communities in the Kongo-Central province, Democratic Republic of Congo. In both areas, women walked long distances to access fresh water, which deprived them of valuable time to engage in other productive activities such as house chores. Such a lack of water created a hygiene problem that significantly impacted the communities' living conditions.

The situation in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo, underscores the severe challenges of accessing clean water and adequate sanitation. Despite global progress, many countries in the SSA region are experiencing a decline in access, which has a profound impact on public health, economic stability, and overall quality of life.

The DRC's low rates of water access and sanitation stem from poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and recurrent armed conflicts (Global Issues in Water, Sanitation, and Health, 2009). In communities like Madimba and Kimpangu, the lack of a clean water supply exacerbates residents' hardships, especially for women, who are often responsible for fetching water over long distances, which impinges on their personal development and well-being.

As part of a comprehensive national plan, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, through the Ministry of Hydraulic Resources and Electricity, in collaboration with the SADC Groundwater Management Institute, has executed critical water supply projects in the communities of Madimba and Kimpangu. The primary aim of these projects was to secure sustainable access to potable water for these communities, thereby addressing the urgent health challenges posed by waterborne diseases linked to consuming contaminated water. "This endeavour by the government reflects a robust commitment to enhancing public health and ensuring the well-being of the residents by providing clean, safe drinking water as a fundamental human right", said Mr. Rolly Binama, the National Focal Person for SADC-GMI activities in the DRC.

The initiatives in Madimba and Kimpangu, supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) through the World Bank Group, and

technically facilitated by SADC-Groundwater Management Institute, demonstrate a concerted effort to significantly improve access to clean and sustainable water in the SADC region.

In Madimba, the project included the implementation and completion of three 73-meter-deep production boreholes and the installation of motorized electronic pumps, a modern approach to ensuring efficient water extraction and distribution. Both areas (Madimba and Kimpangu) saw the implementation of a reticulated water supply with communal taps, providing convenient access points for residents and helping to distribute water evenly within the communities. In Kimpangu, a 150-meter-deep borehole was constructed, demonstrating the need for deeper drilling to access aquifers and provide a reliable water source. These projects primarily focused on providing water for domestic use, underscoring the commitment to addressing basic human needs and enhancing living standards. An estimated 7,208 people were expected to benefit directly from the program, with 2,143 in Madimba and 5,065 in Kimpangu, indicating a significant impact on the local populations.

The communities expressed a desire to establish a dedicated fund to maintain the infrastructure post-implementation. This initiative demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainability and community ownership, key factors in the ongoing success and functionality of the new water supply systems.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, this call to action was met with remarkable success, as both grant proposals were approved. Consequently, the DRC was allocated USD 125,000 for the groundwater development project in Madimba and USD 142,300 for the water supply project in Kimpangu. Both projects are milestones of progress and hope for their respective communities.

The Madimba project commenced on June 19, 2023, and was completed by May 31, 2024. Meanwhile, the Kimpangu project began its vital work on November 1, 2023, and was completed on April 30, 2024.



Kazungula Water Supply Project to Transform the Lives of the Community

Muzumi village is one of the communities set to benefit from the water supply project. Women currently have to travel long distances to fetch water for their households. The project aims to bring water closer to the community, saving them significant time and effort.

The water crisis in Zambia is not a mere statistic; it's a pressing and severe reality. The lack of access to clean and safe water is not just a challenge to basic human needs, but a silent threat, with water-borne diseases emerging as a significant public health crisis. The consequences are far-reaching, affecting education and perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality, particularly among girls.

The importance of clean water is multi-faceted, influencing not only personal well-being but also economic activities. The lack of clean water directly impacts businesses and agriculture, which are critical elements of commerce in Zambia, thereby hindering economic development. Addressing this issue requires comprehensive intervention strategies that go beyond just improving water infrastructure, including promoting hygiene and sanitation practices and ensuring sustainable water resource management. This is more than a matter of infrastructure; it's about ensuring that all individuals, especially vulnerable groups like children and women, have the foundation to lead healthy, educated, and economically productive lives.

The water challenges in Kazungula prompted the project and reflect a broader challenge across Zambia concerning water supply, particularly in rural districts. Being a border town, the issues faced by the inhabitants of Kazungula may also have cross-border implications, affecting trade, mobility, and relations with neighbouring countries. The impacts of climate change, such as variable rainfall patterns, floods, and droughts, exacerbate existing water supply issues, making it more challenging to maintain consistent access to safe water. In areas like Kazungula, where access to safe water is limited for a significant portion of the population, there can be considerable setbacks in development priorities such as education, food security, and poverty alleviation.

During the reporting period, SADC-GMI collaborated with **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**, **Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA)**, **Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation** (Zambia) and the **World Bank Group** to implement the Water Supply project in Kazungula community and Sihumbwa Primary School. For a long time, the school and the surrounding community have struggled with severe water shortages, which impact daily life and educational opportunities. This comprehensive project aims to alleviate those long-standing challenges.

Transforming Education

Mr. Lanest Hamatika, the Headmaster of Sihumbwa Primary School, believes this project is a beacon of hope for the community and will lead to significant transformation. He emphasizes that the lack of water at the school has negatively impacted the educational environment. Specifically, many female learners often stay home during their menstrual cycles due to inadequate water facilities. The school uses a bucket system for drinking, which poses hygiene concerns, as they sometimes must share a single cup. Mr. Hamatika asserts that implementing this project presents a significant opportunity for improvement in the community and is expected to bring about meaningful change. He continued to say access to water would facilitate the resumption of orchard and gardening projects at the school, which had previously been suspended due to water shortages. The implementation of such projects could not only generate additional income for the school but also enhance the nutritional standards of the learners.

Relieving the Burden on the Community

Currently, women and girls travel up to **9 kilometers** to fetch water, dedicating hours that could be used for education or other productive activities. By eliminating this burden, the project will allow the community to focus on fostering sustainable development, enhancing food security, and improving overall quality of life.

Ensuring Sustainability

The school and the surrounding community currently source water approximately 9 kilometres away, which strains women and young girls. They often wake up early in the morning to avoid long queues. This challenging situation necessitates significant time devoted to securing water, which ultimately detracts from their ability to engage in more productive activities.

Once finished, the project will ensure a consistent and reliable supply of clean drinking water for the school and its neighbouring community, significantly improving the quality of life in the area.

A Catalyst for Social Development

The community expressed a clear interest in using the newfound access to clean water as a catalyst for various developmental projects, particularly aquaculture and gardening. These initiatives are seen as vital for generating income and improving livelihoods. Additionally, the community believed that clean water would have a transformative impact on their domestic animals, whose health had been compromised by the previous lack of water. The project hoped to alleviate these adverse conditions, leading to healthier livestock and more sustainable agricultural practices.





CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES:

21. EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: SADC-GMI'S COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE SADC REGION

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) region stands at a crossroads, facing pressing challenges, including poverty, food insecurity, and limited access to clean water and sanitation. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goals 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)—are not just targets; they are lifelines for fostering sustainable development in this region.

As the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Groundwater Management within the SADC region, we recognize that three of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) align closely with our mission and activities. Through our activities, we are dedicated to helping communities gain access to clean water and enhance their livelihoods. It is crucial that our initiatives, regardless of their size, actively contribute to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Understanding the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, all United Nations Member States adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), comprising 17 ambitious objectives designed to address pressing global challenges, including poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation. Within this framework, Goals 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) are particularly significant for the SADC Groundwater Management Institute, which serves as the regional Centre of Excellence for sustainable groundwater management in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. These goals are integral to nurturing sustainable development and ensuring the responsible management of vital water resources in the region.

Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6)

Access to clean water and sanitation is not merely a luxury; it is a fundamental human right essential for safeguarding health, enhancing educational opportunities, and fostering economic development. In the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, millions of people are deprived of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 319 million people in sub-Saharan Africa lack access to safe drinking water. This alarming situation contributes to the prevalence of waterborne diseases, disproportionately impacting vulnerable populations, particularly children.



The SADC Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) is making remarkable progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6, which focuses on clean water and sanitation for all. Through a dynamic array of implementation projects, SADC-GMI is dedicated to the sustainable management of groundwater resources across the region. Currently, SADC-GMI is spearheading 24 innovative sub-grant projects in SADC Member States specifically designed to tackle pressing water challenges. Approximately 50% of the 24 sub-grant projects have a livelihood component that enhances water supply to the communities, thus contributing to SDG 6. As water availability improves, many communities are seizing the opportunity to engage in community gardening initiatives, which not only enhance food security but also contribute to poverty alleviation.

Moreover, SADC-GMI is actively conducting transboundary studies to ensure equitable sharing of water resources among Member States. This collaborative approach enhances water accessibility, empowering SADC citizens to harness water resources for socio-economic development and improved livelihoods. In partnership with River Basin Organizations, SADC-GMI is also integrating groundwater management into broader activities, ensuring a holistic approach to water resource management. Together, these efforts are paving the way for a sustainable future where every community can thrive with access to vital water resources.

The Interconnectedness of the Goals

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of Clean Water and Sanitation, No Poverty, and Zero Hunger is not just a matter of ticking boxes; it is essential for fostering a resilient and prosperous future in the SADC region. By contributing to addressing these interconnected challenges, we aim to create a robust framework for sustainable development that uplifts entire communities.

A Call to Action

Collaboration is key. Governments, NGOs, the private sector, and local communities must collaborate to address these pressing issues directly. Together, we can ensure a sustainable future for all, where clean water, food security, and poverty alleviation are not just dreams but realities. Let's work together to turn the tide and make the SADC region a beacon of sustainable development!



22. HARNESSING EQUITY: THE ROLE OF GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT IN SADC REGION-A TRANSFORMATION APPROACH

Integrating Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) into groundwater management is essential for the sustainable development of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. By ensuring that all community members, particularly marginalized groups, have a voice and access to groundwater resources, SADC-GMI fosters socio-economic development, equity, and inclusivity. This approach is vital in addressing water scarcity challenges that disproportionately impact women and marginalized groups. By combining GESI principles with sustainable groundwater management practices, SADC-GMI helps create more resilient communities and enhances overall outcomes.

During the reporting period, SADC-GMI continued to implement its four-year Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategy, developed in 2022. This strategy aims to enhance the capacity of SADC-GMI and its partners to mainstream GESI into program execution. It promotes the active participation and decision-making of women, persons with disabilities, youth, and other marginalized groups in all stages of project design and implementation, ensuring inclusive and sustainable development of infrastructure and effective management of water resources.

Key Initiatives in implementing the GESI Strategy

To further this commitment, SADC-GMI has integrated Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles into its employment policies, prioritizing the recruitment of women. As a result, our workforce now reflects a balanced gender representation, with 50% female and 50% male employees.

Community Engagement Programs

SADC-GMI is implementing 24 innovative sub-grant projects across 12 SADC Member States, with a focus on government and community-level groundwater management. These projects prioritize gender equity and social inclusion, particularly involving marginalized groups, such as women and children, in decision-making processes. In 2025, we proudly report that 52,879 female beneficiaries out of a total of 100,781 have successfully engaged with our programs. This represents 52% of the total. This significant increase in female participation from a baseline of 44,563 at the inception of the 2nd phase highlights our commitment to fostering inclusivity within the groundwater sector, marking a vital step forward in empowering women and promoting gender equality in this critical field.

Through these initiatives, SADC-GMI is paving the way for a more equitable and sustainable future where every community member has a stake in the stewardship of their groundwater resources.

2. Capacity Development

A key emphasis of the SADC-GMI Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) strategy is on capacity development. During the reporting period, our initiatives successfully enhanced the skills and knowledge of 360 participants, including 114 women, which accounted for 32% of the total participants.

These training initiatives encompass a range of topics, including the technical aspects of groundwater management, which equip participants with a solid understanding of water resource systems. Additionally, the programs emphasize leadership and advocacy skills, enabling these individuals to articulate their concerns, influence decision-making processes, and advocate for the needs of their communities.

By investing in the capacity of these groups, SADC-GMI enhances their ability to engage in groundwater management and fosters a more inclusive and equitable approach to resource stewardship. This empowerment is crucial for ensuring that diverse perspectives are represented in discussions and decisions that affect local water resources, ultimately leading to more sustainable and effective management practices.

3. Policy Advocacy

SADC-GMI actively seeks to influence policy frameworks to create an environment that enables sustainable groundwater management. In 2024/2025, the institute, in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat, undertook a comprehensive revision of the SADC Water Policy 2005. A significant enhancement in this updated policy is the explicit integration of gender issues, which were notably not addressed in the previous edition. This revision aims to ensure that gender considerations are not only acknowledged but are also central to the policy's framework, promoting equitable access to water resources and decision-making processes for all genders within the SADC region.

By advocating for policies that prioritize inclusivity, the institute aims to ensure that the voices of marginalized groups are integrated into the broader governance structures.



23. SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE NPC

(REGISTRATION NUMBER 2011/011724/08)
(286-995 NPO)

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Directors' Responsibilities and Approval

The directors are required in terms of the Companies Act of South Africa to maintain adequate accounting records and are responsible for the content and integrity of the annual financial statements and related financial information included in this report. It is their responsibility to ensure that the annual financial statements present the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and the results of its operations for the period then ended, in conformity with the accounting policy as determined by the company. The external auditors are engaged to express an independent opinion on the annual financial statements.

The annual financial statements are prepared in accordance with the accounting policies of Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute and are based upon appropriate accounting policies consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates.

The directors' acknowledge that they are ultimately responsible for the system of internal financial control established by the company and place considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. To enable the directors to meet these responsibilities, the directors set standards for internal control aimed at reducing the risk of error or loss in a cost effective manner. The standards include the proper delegation of responsibilities within a clearly defined framework, effective accounting procedures and adequate segregation of duties to ensure an acceptable level of risk. These controls are monitored throughout the company and all employees are required to maintain the highest ethical standards in ensuring the company's business is conducted in a manner that in all reasonable circumstances is above reproach. The focus of risk management in the company is on identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring all known forms of risk across the company. While operating risk cannot be fully eliminated, the company endeavours to minimise it by ensuring that appropriate infrastructure, controls, systems and ethical behaviour are applied and managed within predetermined procedures and constraints.

The directors are of the opinion, based on the information and explanations given by management, that the system of internal control provides reasonable assurance that the financial records may be relied on for the preparation of the annual financial statements. However, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The external auditors are responsible for independently auditing and reporting on the company's annual financial statements. The annual financial statements have been examined by the company's external auditors and their report is presented on pages 5 to 7.

The annual financial statements and additional schedules set out on pages 8 to 19, which have been prepared on the going concern basis, were approved by the directors and were signed on its behalf by:



Chairperson: SADC-GMI Board
Dr P Kabeya



Chairperson: SADC-GMI Audit Committee
Ms ZM Kabini

30-09-2025 | 14:35 SAST

30-09-2025 | 14:06 SAST



Independent auditor's report

To the directors of Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute NPC

Our opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements of Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute NPC (the Company) for the year ended 31 March 2025 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1.1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa.

What we have audited

Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute NPC's financial statements set out on pages 9 to 15 comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2025;
- the statement of surplus or (deficit) for the year then ended;
- the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors' *Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Auditors* (IRBA Code) and other independence requirements applicable to performing audits of financial statements in South Africa. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IRBA Code and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing audits in South Africa. The IRBA Code is consistent with the corresponding sections of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)*.

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Chief Executive Officer: L S Machaba
The Company's principal place of business is at 4 Lisbon Lane, Waterfall City, Jukskei View, where a list of directors' names is available for inspection.
Reg. no. 1998/012055/21, VAT reg.no. 4950174682

www.pwc.co.za

Emphasis of matter - basis of accounting and restriction on distribution and use

We draw attention to note 1.1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Company's own accounting policies to satisfy the financial information needs of the Company's directors. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose.

Our report is intended solely for Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute NPC and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute NPC. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the document titled "Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute NPC Annual Financial Statements for the year ended on 31 March 2025", which include(s) the Directors' report as required by the Companies Act of South Africa. The other information does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the financial statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1.1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa, for determining that the basis of preparation is acceptable in the circumstances and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with the Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc.

Director: CJ Hertzog

Registered Auditor

Bloemfontein, South Africa

30 September 2025

Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute NPC
(Registration number 2011/011724/08)
Annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

Directors' Report

The directors submit their report for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Incorporation

The company was incorporated in South Africa as a non-profit company.

2. Main business and operations

The company is established to ensure the equitable and sustainable use and protection of groundwater and to be a centre of excellence in the area of groundwater management.

3. Review of activities

The operating results and state of affairs of the company are fully set out in the attached annual financial statements and do not in our opinion require any further comment. Net surplus of the company is ZAR7 467 388 (2024: ZAR7 470 899).

4. Going concern

The annual financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies applicable to a going concern. This basis presumes that funds will be available to finance future operations and that the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities, contingent obligations and commitments will occur in the ordinary course of business. The World Bank has made provision to fund the company's operations until 30 November 2025 with a provisional extension until 31 May 2027 under the CIWA and GEF grant. While the World Bank is the main funder, funds from other funders have been secured for the company to continue with its operations through the reserves accumulated in previous years from the GWP Southern Africa CUVKUN and LIMCOM projects as well as the Research Project from International Water Management Institute (IWMI) being the lead organization for the Research Project Groundwater for aDvancing Resilience in Africa (G4DR) funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF). The cashflow forecasts include both funding from the World Bank and other grantors. The existing Reserve fund is adequate to sustain the operational functionality of the company at minimum spend for just over 12 months.

5. Dividends

The company is incorporated as non-profit, thus no dividends are payable.

6. Directors

The directors of the company during the year and to the date of this report are as follows:

Name

Mr James Sauramba

Mr. Eelco Lukas

Prof. John Cantius Mubangizi

Mr Michael William Marler

Ms. Zandile Matilda Kabini

Ms. Ana Isabel Fotine Mponda

Dr Patrice Kandolo Kabeya

Mr. Mleta Prince Wellington Charles

Ms. Mapolao Mokoena

7. Auditors

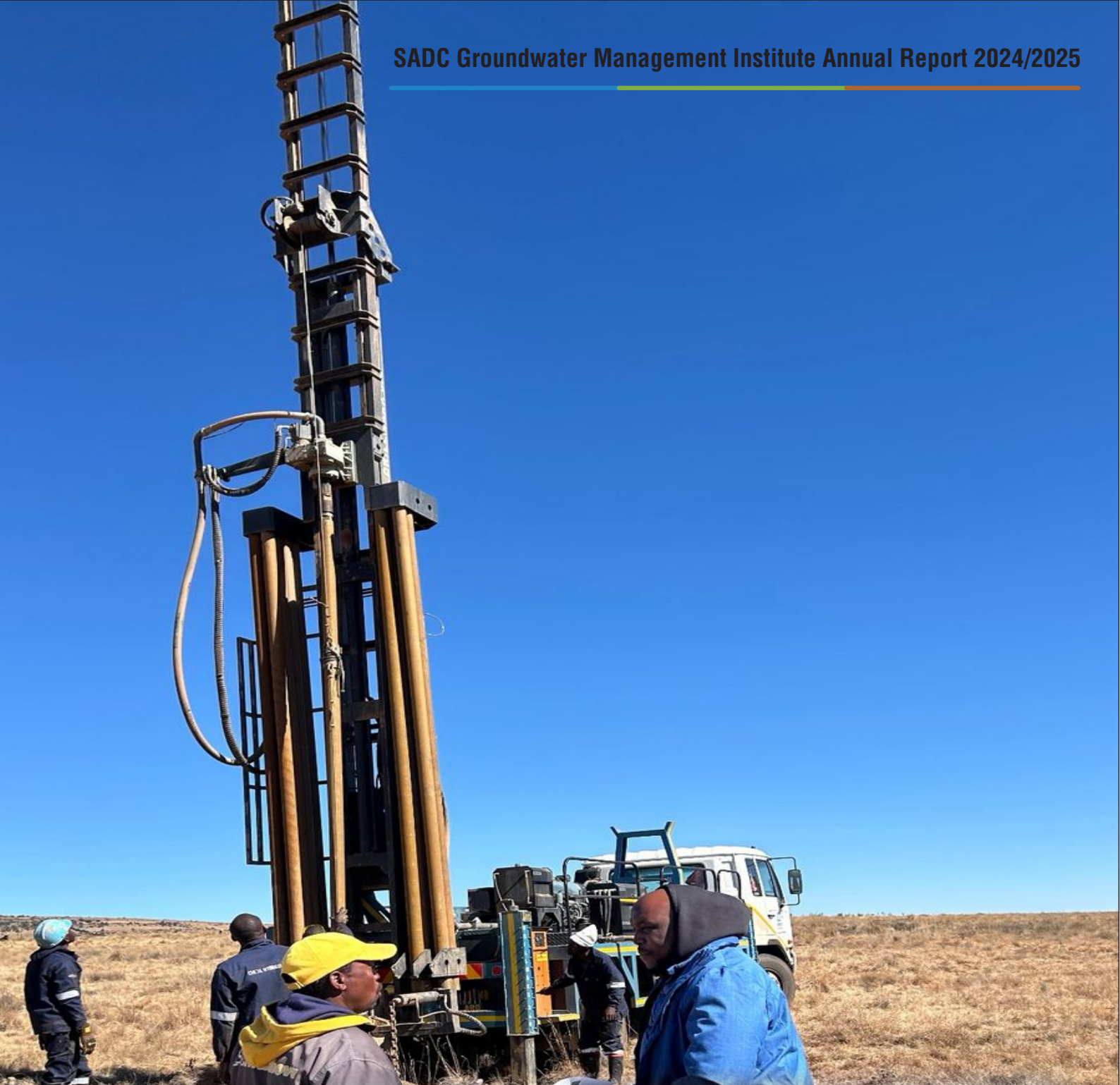
PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. will continue in office in accordance with section 90 of the Companies Act of South Africa.

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 USD	2024 USD	2025 ZAR	2024 ZAR
Assets					
Current Assets					
Accounts receivable	2	18 616	39 864	340 583	757 012
Current tax receivable	3	24 743	-	452 674	-
Cash and cash equivalents	4	2 121 205	1 580 961	38 808 075	30 022 448
Total Assets		2 164 563	1 620 825	39 601 332	30 779 461
Equity and Liabilities					
Equity					
Retained income		1 880 447	1 418 429	34 403 348	26 935 961
		1 880 447	1 418 429	34 403 348	26 935 961
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities					
Trade and other payables	5	284 116	202 396	5 197 984	3 843 500
Total Equity and Liabilities		2 164 563	1 620 825	39 601 332	30 779 461

Statement of Changes in Equity

	Retained income USD	Total equity USD	Retained income ZAR	Total equity ZAR
Balance at 1 April 2023	1 092 930	1 092 930	19 465 061	19 465 061
Surplus for the year	325 500	325 500	7 470 899	7 470 899
Other surplus	-	-	-	-
Balance at 1 April 2024	1 418 429	1 418 430	26 935 960	26 935 960
Surplus for the year	462 018	462 018	7 467 388	7 467 388
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2025	1 880 447	1 880 447	34 403 348	34 403 348



Contact Details:

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Social media handles: Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn



Instagram

LinkedIn