

How fast does groundwater move, or how  
old is it?  
...And why do we care?

Pradeep Aggarwal  
Programme Manager, Water Resources

Andy Garner  
Water Resources Management Specialist



IAEA

Water  
Resources  
Programme

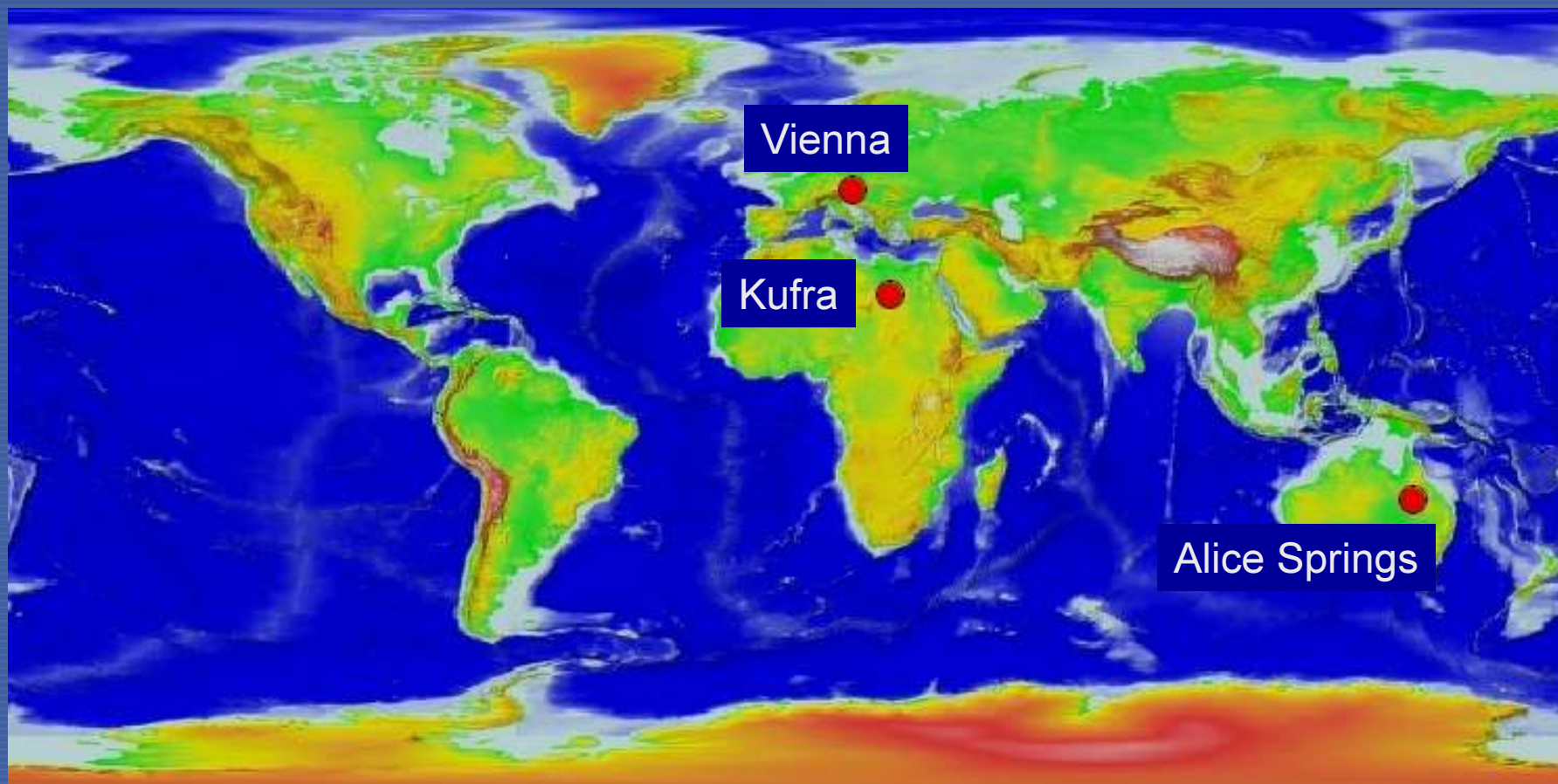
# Groundwater moves much, much slower than river water

River flow – **meters/sec;**  
**even the largest rivers are renewed in a couple of weeks**



Groundwater – **millimeter to meter/year;**  
**months to thousands of years old**

# Can we taste the age of water from Europe, Africa and Australia?



# What does it mean if groundwater is old?:



If groundwater is old, the reservoir or aquifer is not being refilled!!

