INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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# Southern African Development Community (SADC) Groundwater and Drought Management Project

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1. Agreement on establishment of the Groundwater Management Institute through a competitive, consensus led process among SADC Member States.

2. Community-based Groundwater Management Plans, supported by pilot investment projects, developed and helping communities make optimal use of local groundwater resources to maintain livelihoods during drought periods.

3. Decision Support Guidelines developed to facilitate decision making and promote the increased support for groundwater management in the Southern African Development Community.

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## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

***The Development Objective*** *is "to assist [SADC] develop consensus among its Member States for regional strategic approach to support and enhance their capacities in defining drought management policies, specifically in relation to the role, availability, recharge and supply potential for groundwater resources".*

## RESULTS: PROCESS

INDICATOR#1: Groundwater Management Institute (GMI) of Southern Africa established and financially viable.

As a result of support from the project, the SADC Member States are working closely and developing regional consensus on the importance of groundwater management. Enhanced institutional coordination among agencies involved in technical work on groundwater management and advocacy has evolved as a result of the project support.

Reflecting this, the SADC Member States have established the GMI through a competitive, consensus lead process after 14 institutions were nominated by nine of the SADC Member States as potential host institutions. These were subsequently evaluated by the SADC organs, endorsed by the SADC Council of Ministers, governance structures put in place and the host institution identified.

INDICATOR#2: Re-establishment the SADC sub-committee on Hydrogeology

The Steering Group established under the Project has provided forum for agencies from the SADC Member States to work together. As a result, the SADC Member States have decided to re-establish the sub-committee on hydrogeology, which is a Member State funded entity working with the SADC Secretariat toward better management of groundwater in the regional trans-boundary context and development of key projects.

## RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

INDICATOR#1: Regional management tools and guidelines prepared

The project is a first of a series of long-term interventions to improve groundwater management. Given preliminary state of knowledge on groundwater systems, the project has focused on improving technical knowledge to provide tools for policy makers and water agencies. Decision Support Guidelines have been prepared to increase awareness around groundwater, facilitate decision making and promote the increased support for groundwater management in the South African Development Community based on the outputs of technical studies in to: i) *Economic Valuation of Groundwater; ii) Mapping of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems; iii) Regional Groundwater Vulnerability Mapping; iv) Trans-boundary Aquifer Monitoring; and, v) National Case Studies.* By identifying vulnerable areas, decision makers will have a dependable instrument to protect vulnerable recharge areas and protect the aquifers from pollution and contamination.

## RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

INDICATOR#1: Stakeholders and groundwater dependent eco-systems in the pilot areas are less vulnerable to drought impacts and regional implications are identified.

Community Groundwater Management Plans developed and implemented leading to increased community resilience and improved groundwater management through the sustainable application of limited water resources in drought prone areas helping communities make optimal use of local groundwater resources and maintain livelihoods during drought periods. By improving run-off capture and allowing more time for infiltration, the recharge rate at the pilot levels has improved, although not quantified. There are also improvements in water availability (for human, livestock and gardening), vegetation cover, reduction in erosion, and enhancement in food security due to the boost in runoff capture and improved recharge rate. The lessons from these pilots are being captured to provide SADC Member States with tools to implement in those localities where communities are vulnerable to droughts.