

**MINUTES OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE AFRICA GROUNDWATER NETWORK (AGW-NET) HELD AT
THE SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES, WITWATERSTRAND UNIVERSITY, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH
AFRICA ON THE 22ND JUNE, 2015**

7.1 MEMBERSHIP

1. Prof. Tamiru Abiye	Network Manager/Chairman	RSA
2. Eng. Mohamed Elrawady	Steering Committee Member	Egypt
3. Dr. Richard Owen	Steering Committee/Website	Zimbabwe
4. Dr. Geophrey Anornu	Steering Committee Member	Ghana
5. Prof. Daniel C.W. Nkhuwa	Steering Committee Member	Zambia
6. Dr. Martin O. Eduvie	Steering Committee/Secretary	Nigeria

7.2 APOLOGIES

1. Dr. Moustapha Diene	Steering Committee Member	Senegal
2. Prof. Tenalem Ayenew	Steering Committee Member	Ethiopia
3. Dr. Callist Timdimugaya	Steering Committee Member	Uganda
4. Dr. Karen Villholth	Steering Committee Member	RSA

7.3 OPENING

The meeting started at 9.20 am with a formal opening ceremony. The Head of the School of Geosciences of the University of the Witwatersrand Prof. Roger Gibson welcomed the Steering Committee members of the Africa Groundwater Network to Johannesburg and specifically to the University. He stressed the need for the network (AGW-net) to realize its objectives for better understanding and cooperation especially within the African region and the advancement of the study of groundwater in general for mankind. He then wished the members a very successful meeting and safe journey back at the end of deliberations.

7.4 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman, Prof. Tamiru Abiye, welcomed all to the meeting and thanked members for their cooperation and sacrifice over the years to move the network forward. Thereafter, he presented the agenda of the meeting as follows:

1. Welcome by the Manager, Attendance/Apologies and adoption of the agenda.
2. Minutes of the 2013 (5th SC Meeting) and 2014 ad hoc (6th SC) meeting in Morocco, correction and adoption of the minutes.
3. Network activities in 2014 and 2015
4. Discussion on the SWOT analysis
5. Collaboration with potential partners (Cap-Net, IWSD, IWMI, IAH/BGN, others)
6. Additional activities, funding sources for 2016
7. Manager's election
8. AOB (Cap-Net reporting documents, groundwater in News).

The Agenda was adopted as presented by members of the Steering Committee

7.5 Matter arising from the 5th SC meeting held in Burundi

The following matters were reported.

I. Course approval by Cap-Net.

Some of the approved courses for 2013 were carried out including the one held in Johannesburg. The activities not executed in 2013 were suppose be carried over to 2014. Unfortunately not much was achieved due to lack of funding in 2014.

II. Website

The chairman reported that the quality of the website has improved significantly. It was also agreed that the present arrangement of using cost recovery of 7% from training activity should be sustained for the management of the website.

III. Electronic voting for SC members

The use of electronic voting was used to elect the present SC members and the method was appreciated by members. It was resolved that subsequent elections should also be done through the electronic voting technique.

IV. Improvement of AGW-Net flyers

The AGW-Net flyers have been redesigned with some improvement. This will be continuously be used for advocacy and advertisement at conferences, meetings, workshops etc.

V. Membership

The Chairman reported that our membership has been increasing from year to year.

VI. IGRAC/Global Africa Monitoring Group

Mohammed was requested to follow up on the Africa Monitoring Group and to identify the role of AGW-Net for the 2016 possible network monitoring.

VII. Knowledge Management

It was observed that Dr. Muna has been the focal Person on issues of Knowledge Management of the network. However, since her exit from the SC, not much has been heard from her. The Website Manager was commended for his efforts in the compilation of the research work of Members. He was however advised to consider the issues of copyright on already published materials. It was generally agreed that links can be adopted in the AGW-net website to avoid copyright matters.

7.6 Matters arising from the 6th meeting held in Morocco

a) Manual Development

The Chairman reported that the manual on Integration of Groundwater Management into Transboundary Basin Organization in Africa (in English and French) has been completed and now available at AGW-NET and Cap-Net websites.

b) Africa Groundwater Publications

The meeting noted the publications on African groundwater issues and observed that some of the facts contained in the said publications are not very correct. However, it noted that, though not accurate, they provided material(s), which can be improved upon.

c) Case Studies

The meeting noted the issues of pollution in urban groundwater and the need to study urban groundwater management in some of these urban areas of Africa. Members were called upon to submit proposals for such studies that could form some of the AGW-net activities for 2016.

7.7 Network activities in 2014 and 2015

1. Training/Training Manual

In 2014, activities in the work plans could not be executed as planned due to lack of funding from Cap-Net. However, the following activities were done:

- ✓ The revision and completion of the Integrated River Basin Manual was completed.
- ✓ The training course proposed by Dr. Moustapha in Dakar (1st – 5th December, 2014) was carried out without Cap-Net funding. Due to the closing of Cap-net financial accounts, the participants were mobilized from Universities, Water establishments and the private sector in Senegal.

2. Work plan for 2015

Members were encouraged to carry out the proposed 2015 activities as contained in the work plan circulated earlier in the year. A course has been set for Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 24th to 28th August 2015.

3. Membership

In 2015 a total of 24 new members were registered. The total membership of AGW-Net is now 361 members in 53 countries.

7/8 SWOT Analysis

The meeting had an extensive discussion on the SWOT analysis with regard to how we the AGW-Net could use the identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to its advantage in moving the Network forward. The following summarises the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats identified from contributions obtained from the SC members earlier in the year (or was it last year?):

Strengths

- ✚ The size of the network with large membership, qualified and experienced members and highly dedicated Manager/SC members
- ✚ The network has a (large) continent-wide membership (361 members)
- ✚ The Steering Committee consists of senior and respected individuals in the African hydrogeological community

- ✚ There is an attractive and well-laid out website with capacity to generate and send newsletters to our membership
- ✚ The network has good links with IAH, BGR, BGS and RWSN
- ✚ Network has minimal fixed costs and can survive in periods of zero funding, like the present
- ✚ Network has a continental spread, with a rich pool of qualified experts, and a committed membership championing the same cause
- ✚ AGW-Net is made up of Africa's groundwater/water resources, environmental and many other specialists
- ✚ The main strength of the Network is the fact that it has groundwater experts from all the geographical sub-regions of Africa, as well as most of the lingual divisions. Also, the fact that it is sponsored by Cap-Net gives it more credibility and wider acceptance in the whole continent.

Weaknesses

- Lack of adequate funding, activities in work plans are not executed, sometimes coordination is not very effective
- The network has no financial resources of its own
- Network has no financial strategic plan to build up its financial viability, it is a group of volunteers
- The continent wide nature of the network means that many members work in isolation and it is costly to meet up
- Lack of steady funding support for network to build up its own strength
- Weak recognition/awareness by market off its capacity, not able to effectively execute its programmes because of inadequate financial support
- Lack of funding, loose coordination
- Financial instability, funding is not diversified
- The most important weakness is the lack of consistent financial resources, a problem that has been evident in the last two years.

Opportunities

- AGW-Net could be used by Africa countries for their groundwater master plans, support the private sector and good investment
- AGW-Net is unique in Cap-Net in its focus on groundwater
- AGW-Net can offer support to other networks for groundwater management
- Net work can offer services to AMCOW and AGWC in terms of groundwater services in Africa
- Rise in profile/importance of groundwater, more attention towards groundwater as a climate change adaptation measure
- AGW-Net can be considered the official PRO of African groundwater issues
- The need expressed for capacity building is huge, throughout the continent
- The Steering Committee Members can allocate time to participate in many of the calls and tenders offered by many donors so as to achieve its goals.

Threats

- ❖ Lack of funding could reduce interest, coordination could be a problem, could also reduce visibility if activities are not carried out regularly
- ❖ Cap-Net seems unable to provide even basic financial support. Without financial support, the network will certainly collapse entirely
- ❖ Limited/uncertain policies/stimuli from government to boost Network's activities, emergency of more institutions with similar mandate
- ❖ Lack of funding could reduce interest, coordination could be a problem
- ❖ Other Networks and organizations involved in groundwater activities
- ❖ Funding
- ❖ Lack of regular activities that make the network visible
- ❖ Again, the main threat is the lack of funding, the situation has been critical recently, all the core activities have not taken place.

Way forward

Having critically examined all the above strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, the meeting concluded that the only way forward is to have a very strong partnership with organizations that have funding provision for AGW-Net activities. This money will be used as counterpart funding with Cap-Net.

Secondly, AGW-Net is expected to develop proposals that are useful for country- demand-driven activities/programmes in order to win willingness and support from the concerned countries. Conditions to be considered include:

- a) Identifying groundwater components of country needs
- b) Development of useful AGW-Net proposals that are demand driven
- c) Use AGW-Net training manuals as a tools for network patronage
- d) Engage in consultancy projects

7.9 Collaboration with Potential Partners

Our regular partners should be followed up for support. These include the following:

Cap-Net IWRM

WATER-Net

BGR

GWMATE

IGRAC

IAH/BGN

RWSN (Martin)

UNESCO (Callist)

UNECA

IWMI

AMCOW/ANBO

NILE IWRM

EU

The status of these partnerships was discussed, and it was stressed that Members of SC should follow-up contact for effective relationships.

7.10 Additional activities

The following trainings were suggested for execution subject to availability of funding:

1. IWRM in Cote d' Ivore (training)
2. Cost effective Drilling in Nigeria (training)
3. Enhanced Monitoring and Evaluation of Groundwater in Egypt (training)
4. Dr. Richard to collate case studies on Urban groundwater Management.

5. Groundwater and Irrigation case study (Karen)

7.11 Funding Sources for 2015 and 2016

These include the following:

- ✓ 7% from training activities for the Management of the AGW-Net website
- ✓ MELP report
- ✓ Counterpart funding from donors and
- ✓ Cap-Net core support and activities sponsorship

7.12 Newsletter

Newsletters will be produced as usual but materials need to be submitted to the website Manager.

7.13 Manager Election/SC Members

Dr. Moustapha Diene from Senegal was elected as the new AGW-Net Manager. Also elected as SC members is Engr. Mohammed Elrawady from Egypt representing North Africa and Prof. Tamiru Abiye as Ex-Official Member. Their tenure starts in January 2016.

7.14 AOB

Cap-Net Reporting Format

The Chairman reported that Cap-Net has requested all networks to adhere to the new reporting formats in the presentation of their report and MELP..

7.15 Closing

The meeting came to a close after expressing SC members' sincere appreciation and gratitude for the excellent hosting by the Chairman and the University of Wits.

Prof. Tamiru Abiye

AGW-Net Manager/Chairman

Dr. Martin. O. Eduvie

SC Member/ Secretary