

NETWORK PROGRESS REPORTS

Name of the Network

Africa Groundwater Net (AGW-NET)

Period covered by the report

Annual progress

Mid year progress

Host Institution and address Partenariat National de l'Eau du Sénégal (PNES)

Network Manager: Name: Moustapha DIENE
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Network Website: <http://agw-net.org/home.htm>

Network Management

AGWNET has an online registration facility on its website: www.agw-net.org. Currently the network has nearly 430 members, compared to 2014, when 340 were listed. This means that many new members have joined the network since Jan 2014.

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. The Steering Committee is now composed as shown below:

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|-----|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Moustapha Diene
Senegal | Network Manager |
| 2. | Prof. Tamiru Abiye
RSA | Steering Committee Member |
| 3. | Eng. Mohamed Elrawady
Egypt | Steering Committee Member |
| 4. | Dr. Richard Owen
Zimbabwe | Steering Committee/Website |
| 5. | Dr. Geophrey Anornu
Ghana | Steering Committee Member |
| 6. | Prof. Daniel C.W. Nkhuwa
Zambia | Steering Committee Member |
| 7. | Dr. Martin O. Eduvie
Nigeria | Steering Committee/Secretary |
| 8. | Prof. Tenalem Ayenew
Ethiopia | Steering Committee Member |
| 9. | Dr. Callist Timdimugaya
Uganda | Steering Committee Member |
| 10. | Dr. Karen Villholth
RSA | Steering Committee Member |

AGW-Net has changed host institution, which was the IWSD (Institute of Water and Sanitation Development) based in Harare, Zimbabwe. Starting of July 1st

Cap-Net has contracted the Country Water Partnership of Senegal (in French Partenariat National de l'Eau du Sénégal – PNES -), as the new host institution of the network, which is within the same location as the network manager.

Communication and promotional materials

AGWNET website is regularly updated. The materials uploaded include:

- a) Regular announcement
- b) The 2016 work plan
- c) Steering Committee meeting
- d) E-news letters
- e) Scientific publications for members

The website has been regularly used by members and visitors.

The new training manual, “Integration of Groundwater Management into Transboundary Basin Organizations in Africa”, that has been developed by AGW-Net and partners over the previous years, has been launched during the Africa Water Week held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The launch was attended by high level representatives of River Basin Organizations, International Association of Hydrogeologists, Africa Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), UNESCO, BGR, Africa Network of Water NGOs, Rural Water Supply Network, Water-Aid, various government agencies and civil society.

The IAH Congress in Montpellier (France) was another opportunity to launch again the manual before an international audience made of hydrogeologists; this was during the meeting of the Transboundary commission on Tuesday, 27 September 2016. The 7th RWSN forum that will take place in late November in Abidjan is an international event, where numerous water professionals from various profiles will gather to exchange on rural water supply services and groundwater development. AGW-Net will be there to increase the visibility of the network. In this line, a one-day training workshop on groundwater management will be held, and at the same time the manual will be presented to participants.

Actions to support members: training, meeting, exchange

Capacity building through short courses is one of main activities of the AGWNET. As stated in Network workplan, the current priority is on capacity development in integration of Groundwater in River Basin Organizations (RBOs), which has attracted the attention of decision makers.

It was not possible to hold a scheduled training course in Bamako (shift from Abidjan) due to lack of matching fund from CAPNET, however taking the opportunity of a worldwide event like Africa Water Week, a one-day course was implemented in Dar es Salam.

The training was attended by 25 participants from RBOs or regional organizations such as OSS (Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel), LCBC, Nile Basin Initiative and Zambezi Basin, and also relevant water related officials all coming from 8 countries: Tunisia, Chad, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Nigeria, Namibia, Kenya. Eighth of the participants were females.

One of the outcomes that may be listed is the visibility gained by the network through international organizations/institutions. Indeed, the training was attended by high level representatives of River Basin Organizations, International Association of Hydrogeologists, Africa Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), UNESCO, BGR, Africa Network of Water NGOs, Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN), WaterAid, various government agencies and civil society. RWSN has expressed the need to implement the same training during its next forum to be held in November in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire).

Following this line, LCBC though BGR project has scheduled ToT course based on the manual. This training course was held from 31st October to 04 November 2016 in Ndjamena (Chad), in partnership with AGW-Net. 21

participants from LCBC staff have attended the training, that will be replicated in member countries.

AGW-Net, in partnership with RWSN and BGR has implemented similar one-day course in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire); the training was in French.

During last IAH Congress in Montpellier we had meeting about initiative on groundwater and surface water interaction theme. We came out at the conclusion that a programme will be implemented within AGW-Net, which will focus on increasing the awareness of the importance of surface water and groundwater interactions in Africa.

It is expected that the new programme will receive funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York through the Science Initiative Group's (SIG) Regional Initiative in Science and Education (RISE) program (<https://sig.ias.edu/rise>).

We envisage to hold workshop during next year SC meeting, which will bring together hydrologists and hydrogeologists to discuss key issues around the understanding of and modelling of SW/GW interactions.

Provide reference to supporting documents such as minutes of steering committee meetings, ToT course reports etc.

Summary of network activities

Due to lack of sufficient fund, AGWNET was not able to conduct the planned activities in 2016. However, the network has successfully implemented visibility activity at the Africa Water Week, held in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), during the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) Congress, held in Montpellier (France), and in the 35th International Geological Congress held in Cape Town. Similar visibility activity will be conducted in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire) at the 7th Forum of Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN).

Below are listed capacity building activities undertaken this current year by or in partnership with AGW-Net:

- Groundwater Management in River Basin Organizations on 20 July 2016 in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)
- Integration of Groundwater Management in the Lake Chad Basin on 31st October - 04 November 2016 in Ndjalena (Chad)
- Groundwater Management for National and River Basin Organizations on 28th November, 2016 in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire).

Main partners of the network (please elaborate the acronyms)

1. BGR – Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (Germany): BGR has sponsored participants to the one-day training course, and supported as well organizational costs linked to the event. Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) has implementing, through BGR lake Chad project, and together with AGW-Net a ToT course using material developed in the manual on "Integration of Groundwater Management into Transboundary Basin Organizations in Africa"; the event took place in Ndjamena (Chad) from 31st October to November 4th, 2016
2. IAH (International Association of Hydrogeologists) through the Burden Network for Groundwater Development, has manifested willingness to participate in training courses funding. During the last 4 years, it took part to all training workshops implemented by AGW-Net. We do believe that this support will continue.
3. CRU-BN (in French Coordination Régionale des Usagers du Bassin du Niger – Regional Association of Niger Basin water users) was our major partner in implementing training courses since 2013. So far our partnership has resulted in holding 3 training events: Bamako and Porto Novo in 2013, and

Ouagadougou in 2015. A training course was scheduled this year initially in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire) and then shifted to Bamako (Mali); but unfortunately, this has not come to the success due to lack of core support from CapNet.

4. IWMI (International Water Management Institute): in 2015 the collaboration between IWMI and AGWNET was effective through planning, coordination and implementation of the preparation of the RBO training manual. In 2016, IWMI has participated in funding the one-day course in Dar es Salam, through its new initiative GRIPP (Groundwater Solutions Initiative for Policy and Practice). AGW-Net is co-partner of GRIPP and will collaborate with IWMI to scale up practical solutions for groundwater management
5. RWSN (Rural Water Supply Network) is a potential partner of AGW-Net in capacity building development. The last one-day course is of great interest for RWSN, and it is in our hope to implement the same scheme during their next forum to be held in Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire). RWSN is engaged in UPGro (Unlocking the Potential of Groundwater for the Poor), a seven-year international research programme (2013-2020) which focuses on improving the evidence base around groundwater availability and management in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Two of Steering Committee members are nominated ambassadors of this programme (Callist Timdimugaya and Moustapha Diene), this should be an opportunity to widen the audience of AGW-Net through more diversified partnership.