



**Minutes of the (Extended) 3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee
of the Africa Groundwater Network
held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at 9.00am on 14th August 2010.**

PRESENT: Richard Owen (AGW-Net Manager) (Chair), Tamiru Abiye, Tenalem Ayenew, Muna Mirghani, Daniel Nkhuwa and Callist Tindimugaya (all AGW-Net Steering Committee Members).

BY INVITATION: Phillip Beetlestone (SADC Groundwater and Drought Management Project), Mohammed Bila (Lake Chad Basin Commission), David Love (WaterNet) (Secretary), Paul Taylor (Cap-Net), Albert Tuinhof (GW-Mate / World Bank), Vanessa Vaessen (BGR), Karen Villhoth (GEUS) and Sara Vassolo (BGR).

APOLOGIES: Martin Eduvie, Moustapha Diene. Their flight was cancelled due to a bird strike on the engine.

1. Opening

- 1.1. Dr Owen opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
- 1.2. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Purpose of Meeting

- 2.1. Dr Owen described the purpose of the meeting being to discuss the AGW-Net's strategic vision, compliment efforts with other players in the (ground)water sector and focus on key priorities. The meeting, Dr Owen said, would also consider technical and financial possibilities in, and constraints of the AGW-Net's operations.
- 2.2. Partners' interests:
 - 2.2.1. The International Association of Hydrogeologists' Burdon Network will work with AGW-Net on capacity building and dissemination activities to avoid duplication. Funding and staff could be provided for training and reviewing of training materials and advertising.
 - 2.2.2. The German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) was willing to work with AGW-Net on training materials' development (especially on groundwater – surface water interactions) and on post-evaluation of training events. The BGR was also keen to link AGW-Net and its events with national initiatives and networks. The BGR would like to see AGW-Net as an advisory board to the Africa Groundwater Commission.
 - 2.2.3. The European Water Initiative Research Area Network (SPLASH) had some funding for groundwater management, but future funding was unclear.

- 2.2.4. The Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) expressed interest to promote awareness of groundwater within the donor community and to work with AGW-Net on training material development and on awareness.
- 2.2.5. The SADC Groundwater and Drought Management Project also expressed interest to work with AGW-Net on awareness, advocacy, and improving groundwater management through river basin organisations. SADC would like to use AGW-Net's expertise in training materials' development.
- 2.2.6. Cap-Net (of which AGW-Net is a member) was still interested in collaborating with AGW-Net in training courses and post-course evaluation – but increasingly in looking at implementation of water resources management on the ground and with river basin organisations. Cap-Net expressed the need for more focus of such activities on institutions, not just individuals.
- 2.2.7. The Groundwater Management Advisory Team of the World Bank (GW-Mate) expressed its wish to continue supporting AGW-Net, as well as on awareness and data management. Links also needed to be built with the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC).
- 2.2.8. WaterNet would want to work with AGW-Net on training courses, outreach and collaborative research projects on the basis of an annual work plan (an MOU has been signed). WaterNet particularly expressed keenness to work more on course delivery in French and Portuguese, and was also interested in work of capacitating river basin organisations.
- 2.2.9. Nile IWRM-net was keen to work with AGW-Net.

3. AGW-Net Activities

- 3.1. Dr Owen outlined the AGW-Net's mission and vision
- 3.2. Capacity Building: To date AGW-Net has focussed on *Groundwater Management in IWRM* and have produce a training manual and course materials. Some topics that should receive attention for future development include: *Groundwater Management in River Basin Organisations*, *Cost-Effective Borehole Drilling* and *Waterpoint Maintenance*.
- 3.3. Advocacy. AGW-Net has been seen as an important advocacy group and this role needed to be expanded.
- 3.4. Membership activities – AGW-Net should continue to engage with its membership and encourage members to be active and use the network as an institution to promote their activities.

4. Strategic issues were identified by the general meeting for steering committee discussion:

- 4.1. To what extent capacity building will focus on groundwater management vs groundwater development vs hydrogeological science.
- 4.2. The AGW-Net and Burdon Network websites could be merged and provide links to other organisations and to training materials.
- 4.3. Could the AGW-Net become an advisory board to the Africa Groundwater Commission?
- 4.4. Could AGW-Net develop a course on *Groundwater Management in River Basin Organisations* in collaboration with Cap-Net, WaterNet and the SADC Groundwater and Drought Management Project.
- 4.5. Documenting relevant case studies and country groundwater notes could be a priority.
- 4.6. What role could the network play in influencing the development of water law?

4.7. Should more partners sit on the AGW-Net Steering Committee, e.g. the sister networks?

At this point AGW-Net Steering Committee members held their own meeting for 2 hours to discuss the AGW-Net strategy and key plans for the network in the coming two years before presenting their plans to the invited colleagues and partners for further discussion.

AGW-Net Steering Committee Discussions:

In the separate meeting the AGW-Net SC identified key priorities that were subsequently discussed with the partners. The decisions taken as a result of these discussions are listed below.

1. TRAINING

a. Training materials development:

- i. e.g: groundwater – surface water interactions; integrating groundwater and surface water management (in River and Aquifer Basin Organizations (RABOs));
 - ii. Develop a management tool for water point maintenance (community based management / ownership / finance / capacity / spare parts etc);
 - iii. climate change issues (3R).
- b. Develop a practical guide** for assessing, allocating and monitoring groundwater in RABO's.
- c. Post-evaluation** of training events – to be integrated into all training activities.
- d. Hosting / support for a variety of short professional courses:**
- i. Groundwater management in IWRM;
 - ii. Review and strengthening of the Groundwater management component for the IWRM in River Basin Organizations course;
 - iii. Management of pollution and water quality;

2. ADVOCACY / AWARENESS

- a. Promote adoption of suitable codes of best practice in groundwater exploration, development and management.
- b. Provide medium for information sharing and exchange on Groundwater programs, initiatives, case studies and research etc.
- c. AGW-Net to provide advocacy services on behalf of the African groundwater community to policy makers and other stakeholders on a variety of important issues; e.g. discharge of effluent into streams and national waterways.
- d. Promote suitable practices for data capture, storage, interpretation and use.

3. NETWORKING

- a. Establish links / Memoranda of Understanding with other networks e.g. Burdon Groundwater Network / International Association of Hydrogeologists, Nile IWRM-Net, WaterNet (MoU already signed), WA-Net, etc. to promote integrated groundwater / surface water management.
- b. Promote joint training, advocacy and networking activities.

- c. Dissemination of training materials; review of training materials and advertising. Linkages with Groundwater friendly institutions.
- d. Web site development and expansion.
- e. Participate in major networking / awareness raising events; e.g. World Water Week and Africa Water Week; regional events, etc.

4. AGWNET DEVELOPMENT.

- a. To establish a West Africa / Francophone office in Senegal;
- b. To distribute network and network management activities amongst steering committee members to work more effectively and reduce the burden on the network manager;
- c. expansion of membership;
- d. the AGW-Net steering committee to include partners from other networks based on MoU signed with such networks;
- e. similarly an AGWNET sc-member should sit on the steering committees of those networks where we have signed MoU.
- f. Communication of activities / benefits with members – this is a core activity of the network and must be afforded top priority. The web site and emails are seen as the key methods for this.

5. FUNDING for ALL OF THE ABOVE!

The meeting discussed a variety of funding strategies. Apart from CapNet, the other partners were only able to pledge support in principle, and no firm commitments could be made. AGW-Net was advised to consider applying for funds to the African Water Facility (AWF) and to the EU – ACP Water Facility.

There was a consensus that at this stage AGW-Net does not seek legal status but continues to use its host IWSD and other partners (e.g. WaterNet and CapNet) as front organizations through which applications for funding and payments could be channelled

The meeting ended at 6.30pm.