



The AFRICA GROUNDWATER NETWORK

WORKPLAN

2011

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AGW-NET WORKPLAN 2011

Introduction.

The 2011 year holds significant uncertainties for AGW-Net. As we enter the year, only CapNet has confirmed that it will continue to fund some level of AGW-Net activities. The other two regular financial supporters, BGR and Splash, are both seeking new mandates and new funds for their next period. It is only after this process has been completed by the end of March 2011 that AGW-Net will know if funding will still be coming from these two sources.

This 2011 workplan has been developed on the assumption that BGR and Splash funding will again be approved from March to a similar level as funding allocated in 2010. If this turns out to be an incorrect assumption, then the workplan will have to be modified.

The workplan for 2011 is divided into sections as follows:

- Network Management
- Fund Raising
- Visibility Actions
- Vision / Plans for 2011.
- Budget for 2011.

Network Management.

Network management will focus on five main issues:

Short courses: this is where the network receives support from CapNet and other donors. The network has a well tested course in *Groundwater Management in IWRM* that has now been delivered 5 times including two Training of Trainers courses. AGW-Net intends to continue to run regional courses with this training manual. There is one already planned for the SADC region, while two more courses are proposed; one in Francophone Africa (?Cameroon) and one in East Africa / Nile (Kenya?). However, if AGW-Net manages to establish relations with AGWC (Africa Groundwater Commission), then we will look into running the course in North Africa. In addition, AGW-Net has been looking into the issue of preparing new materials for a course entitled: *Groundwater Management for River Basin Organizations*. If we succeed in producing a new training manual with this title, then we would certainly try to run one or two courses. AGW-Net has a strong focus to bring groundwater into the IWRM paradigm by working towards the integration of surface and groundwater management. In addition there is the possibility of AGW-Net / RWSN and NWRI hosting a short course on cost-effective drilling in Nigeria.

Web Site: CapNet has supported the rebuilding of the AGW-Net web site by a South African company. The new web site should be complete and functional in the early new year. AGW-Net management intends to try and use the web-site for greater interaction with the membership. We hope to hold a forum where members views on groundwater related issues can be posted on the web site.

Partnerships: AGW-Net has signed MoU with WaterNet and Burdon Groundwater Network and has prepared a draft MoU with AGWC. In addition, AGW-Net and RWSN (Rural Water Supply Network) have been communicating about mutual support. We would also like to expand our links with the GWMate team. Network management will spend time in 2011 developing these partnerships and in trying to organize joint activities.

Projects: AGW-Net has two active projects: Gender in Groundwater and Water Point Pump Maintenance. CapNet has allocated \$3000- for the development of some gender awareness materials and preliminary meetings to design a strategy to distribute these materials to relevant

institutions and localities. The Maintenance project has an email campaign to members and to other networks to try and develop a management tool to for improved pump maintenance.

Annual Steering Committee Meeting: AGW-Net will hold an annual steering committee meeting (in Senegal?) during the year so that the steering committee can strategize for the future.

Fund Raising.

AGW-Net seems to be significantly underfunded with regards to its core activity: to initiate, manage and develop an African continental network for Groundwater. We get funding from CapNet for core support ± \$12k per year. The major items covered under this funding are: network management fees, communications, office hire, administrative assistant, web site mangement and host institution fees. In November 2010, CapNet also allocated \$3000- for the Gender in Groundwater project.

In addition AGW-Net gets ad hoc funding from CapNet, BGR and Splash for holding short courses. These funds do not come to AGW-Net but go directly to the host institution that is hosting the short course. Short courses typically cost about \$50k with airfares and accommodation being the largest components. CapNet may be relied on to support upto 4 courses per year with an average input of \$15k plus airfares for 15 participants. BGR support is at a similar level and has been forthcoming when requested in the past, but it is not guaranteed. Splash has previously signed a contract (with Witwatersrand University, South Africa) to support 3 AGW-Net courses but this agreement has now expired.

No funds are allocated to visibility actions, participation in major regional or global events such as Africa Water Week or World Water Week. However BGR has in the past funded airfares and accommodation to participate in such events. The visibility of the network has a direct impact on our ability to attract financial support.

As a result of the unsatisfactory situation regarding funding, it seems likely that the network may lapse into silence unless additional funding support can be found.

Existing Donors: With regards to existing donors (CapNet and BGR) AGW-Net will continue to submit our annual workplans to these donors and hope for continued support. With CapNet, we will negotiate an annual budget for network management.

New Funding: The network management will allocate time to fund raising this year by submitting a joint funding application with WaterNet to the African Water Facility. Since AGW-Net is not a legally constituted entity, we are unable to apply for such funding on our own. Moreover the joint funding application is likely to significantly strengthen our association with WaterNet and serve to further help integrate groundwater management into surface water management structures such as River Basin Organizations. If appropriate, WaterNet / AGW-Net may submit further applications to other multi-lateral funding agencies.

Visibility Actions.

AGW-Net will try to send a representative to two major visibility events during 2011. The key event will be the 4th Africa Water Week. There are several other valuable events where it will be beneficial for AGW-Net to be represented – eg: World Water Week, WaterNet Symposium, IAH annual congress, ?AGWC, ?Splash, etc.

AGW-Net will strive to send either the network manager or a steering committee member to some of these visibility events. AGW-Net has developed a powerpoint slide show which explains the role and activities of the network and we will continue to develop and change this presentation to reflect new events / activites etc.

There are three principal reasons that AGW-Net needs to be represented at such events. The first reason is that there are so many NGOs, networks, organizations, etc etc. that it is indeed difficult to keep up with them, and unless an organization has some level of visibility, then it just falls off the map. Funding becomes impossible to obtain and the ability to carry out activities declines. So we regard participation in these events as an important step in maintaining and improving our visibility. The second reason is that AGW-Net needs to communicate our capacities and the role that we can play within the African water community, and to spread awareness of what we can deliver and the services that we can provide. The third reason is that by maintaining visibility at these events, AGW-Net can increase its membership and in particular we can attract members amongst groups who might not normally participate in / attend our activities.

Vision and Plans for 2011.

It is relevant to revisit the Vision for 2010 when planning for 2011.

Plan for 2010	Achievements 2010
Continue with Capacity Building Activities	3 short courses held including 1 ToT
Improve groundwater awareness	Groundwater 2 pager awareness document
Improve integration with surface water	RBOs invited to short courses; new course on Groundwater for RBOs under development.
Develop new products on: cost effective drilling and borehole maintenance	Cost Effective Drilling course planned in Nigeria; Management Tool for Borehole Maintenance
Gender in Groundwater	Funds received for Gender Awareness materials
Local level impact	Membership includes people working at grassroots levels in NGO's & CBO's.N
Steering committee meeting	Expanded meeting held in Addis Aug 2010.

To some extent, AGW-Net made some progress in all these aspects of its 2010 vision. Some of these are small steps to be sure, but nevertheless the focus has not been lost.

Plans for 2011.

The following activities are planned for 2011:

- 1) Facilitation of three short regional courses in groundwater management, with two English language courses proposed for Botswana or South Africa and Kenya or Uganda and a French language course proposed for Rwanda or Cameroon. These would be the Groundwater Management in IWRM short course and would be co-hosted together with eg. Nile IWRM-Net, WaterNet and WANet.
- 2) Development of training material for a course: Groundwater Management for River Basin Organizations (RBO's) and the hosting of at least one pilot course. Material will be largely modified from existing CapNet training manuals.
- 3) AGW-Net will seek to develop a new short course in collaboration with our supporting partners (eg RWSN and National Water Resources Institute, Nigeria) on Cost Effective Borehole Drilling with Effective Data Capture. We have not included this in the budget since we have been advised by both CapNet and BGR that they are not interested in funding a training course in this subject.
- 4) Web site management and development. The web site is being rebuilt, and AGW-Net activities and development will be posted there, supported by bulk email campaigns. AGW-Net will attempt to make the site useful and attractive by including a variety of sections with course and membership applications, course materials, discussion forums and a calendar of AGW-Net activities.
- 5) Fund Raising: AGW-Net will submit an application for funding to the African Water Facility and possibly other funding institutions.
- 6) AGW-Net will hold its 4th Steering Committee meeting (? in Senegal).
- 7) Gender in Groundwater – phase 2 of project. This will include bulk printing of the awareness materials (posters and pamphlets) developed in phase one, and carrying out

a pilot dissemination of these materials in a district or province in Zimbabwe. A modest follow up exercise is also proposed to see how the materials have been received at the distribution localities.

The 2011 Budget:

AGW-Net Budget 2011 for core activities.

Network Development & Management Activities				
Activity	Time	Unit cost	Total	Source of Funds
Network administration.	Continuous	\$500 pm	\$6000	CapNet core grant
Web site hosting and management	Continuous	\$600	\$600	CapNet core grant
Communications – email / tel.	Monthly	\$100 pm	\$1200	CapNet core grant
Visibility Events – time	Ad hoc	\$200 pd	\$1200	CapNet core grant
Office Hire	Monthly	\$150 pm	\$1800	CapNet core grant
Admin Assistant	Monthly	\$50 pm	\$600	CapNet core grant
Host Fee	Annual	5%	\$600	CapNet core grant
Total			\$12000	

AGW-Net Budget 2011 for courses and other activities.

Budget for Courses and other ad hoc activities			
Activity	Units	Costs per each course	Total
Groundwater Management Courses (3 courses)*	3	15 participants: Hotel 6 nights @ \$100 = 600 x 15 x 3 DSA @ \$40 = 40 x 6 x 15 x 3 Air Fares @ \$1000 = 15 x 1000 x 3 Course Fees @ \$500 = 15 x 500 x 3	\$27,000 \$10,800 \$45,000 \$22,500
Groundwater for River Basin Organizations course**	1	15 participants: as above except only 1 course = 1/3 cost.	\$35,100
Steering Committee Meeting	1	9 participants: Air Fares @ 1000 = 1000 x 9 DSA 3 nights @ \$150 = 9 x 3 x 150	\$9,000 \$4,050
Gender in Groundwater	1	Printing and pilot dissemination (estimate)	\$10,000
Total for ad hoc activities		All activities	\$163,450

* CapNet contribution to cover 15 participants: accommodation, DSA, course fees and air fares. Co-funding from other partners to cover the other participants – normally 10 to 15 participants.

** No funds allocated to course material development.

Cost effective drilling course not budgeted because CapNet does not support such training.

The total required funding for 2011 are \$178,650 (one hundred and seventy eight thousand six hundred and fifty dollars). Of this amount, network management costs represent 8.5%. AGW-Net manager considers the management budget to be inadequate.

The budget indicated above assumes that co-funding will be available from other donors such as BGR / Splash / WaterNet and ? SADC. If such funding is available, then we anticipate that we should be able to carry out all the proposed activities. The venue of the Groundwater Management for River and Lake Basin Organizations is not yet stipulated, and it will depend on whether and where we can find a RLBO to host the course.

AGW-Net tries to run courses in new country venues in order to spread our impact and increase our continental membership. Although each new venue usually means a steep learning curve, we regard this as a requirement for a network that wishes to have a continental impact.

We further request timely disbursement of the funds; in 2010, despite early submission of invoices, the first budget disbursement from the core funds occurred only in July and was just 30% of the total budget. By 25th November 2010 no further core funding disbursement had reached the network. This effectively means that the network management has had to survive on just 30% of the allocated budget. This is obviously highly unsatisfactory, and further suggests that AGW-Net is unimportant to CapNet.

Summary

As the network enters its third full year of activity, there are some pleasing signs that it has been welcomed by the African groundwater community. We have not managed as many courses as in 2009, but our Groundwater Management training manual has now been introduced to the other networks from other continents.

We held an important steering committee meeting in Addis Ababa in August together with several representatives from donor organizations and partner institutions. The profile and visibility of the network has been further improved by presentations at World Water Week, IFAT and Africa Water Week. Memoranda of Understanding have been negotiated with WaterNet and Burdon Groundwater Network, and a draft MoU with AGWC is under discussion.

Funding will be a key challenge for 2011, and with two of our regular sponsors entering new funding phases, funding is rather uncertain. AGW-Net intends to make a funding application with WaterNet to the African Water Facility that, if successful, should ensure financial stability for at least a 3 year period.

Signed

Richard Owen
Network Manager for AGW-Net.
23 November 2010.