

Dear Sir,

Wellfield Consulting Services in association with **British Geological Survey** has been engaged by SADC under the **GROUNDWATER AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PROJECT** to implement Component 2, Contract 003D: Regional Groundwater Monitoring Network.

The essential requirement of this study is to provide a current and comprehensive review of groundwater monitoring throughout SADC; to design, install and operate a limited pilot scheme encompassing transboundary aquifers and utilising appropriate monitoring technology and telemetry [a 'test' site]; to develop data collection, transmission and archiving protocols; to assess the feasibility of developing a regional SADC groundwater reference network and develop guideline and plans for such; to develop a Project Proposal for the development and implementation of such a network; and to document lessons learnt from the pilot activities and develop decision support guidelines for groundwater monitoring in SADC.

The study is to be undertaken in 4 phases in the period January 2011 to October 2011. The initial Inception Phase requires that the Consultant presents an overview of the current status of groundwater monitoring in each of the SADC Member States as a precursor to more detailed evaluation and project development.

It is thus in this context that we would very much hope that we can solicit your kind assistance and draw upon your specific knowledge of the groundwater sector in your respective home country by requesting that you spend just a few minutes of your valuable time to complete the very brief questionnaire attached to this mail.

Within the questionnaire many of the questions are simply 'Yes', 'No' or at least very brief answers. Elsewhere we have requested if possible that you expand your response to be able to provide us with a more complete picture as to the status of groundwater monitoring in your Member State, as this information will be vital to us in the development of the much larger SADC regional monitoring project that is under consideration and which we believe will ultimately benefit all Member States. Any additional observations or referenced information that you can supply would also be invaluable.

Please note that at this stage we are not requesting any actual monitoring data, but only an overview of the current status of groundwater monitoring. The time required to respond to our questionnaire should thus be minimal.

We look forward to your response as soon as you are able to do so. If you feel that there is someone better placed to also respond to the questionnaire, or who may be more appropriate to provide a response, then we would be extremely grateful if you could forward this mail to them (copy to us) as a matter of urgency.

We anticipated keeping all respondents informed of project evaluations and major milestones as the project progresses.

John L Farr
Project Director

- Groundwater level is the most important single indicator of the state of a groundwater system. Knowledge of level and behaviour in response to external influences on an aquifer, such as recharge or abstraction allows the hydrogeologist to assess groundwater storage and inter physical characteristics of the aquifer including transmissivity.
- Monitoring schemes provide data that may be used to characterize the state of an aquifer on a particular date, or to study the variation in level with time.
- The monitoring of groundwater levels is a vital prerequisite for the good management of water resources and provides information essential to any actions designed to reduce pollution, including the formulation and implementation of policies for groundwater protection.

McKenzie et al (1994)