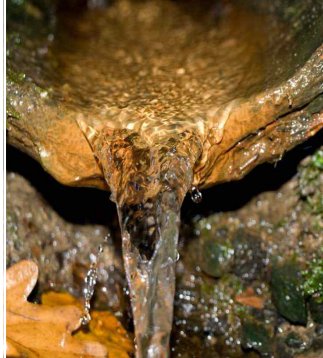


# SADC Multi-stakeholder Water Dialogue

27-28 May 2009 Johannesburg, South Africa

Watering development in SADC:  
Surfacing of the hidden resource -  
groundwater



## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The SADC Multi-stakeholder Water Dialogue is an activity under the IWRM Awareness Creation Component of the SADC–DANIDA Regional Water Sector Programme which is a programme in the Regional Strategic Action Plan of the SADC Water Division in the Directorate of Infrastructure Services.

Under the theme **Watering Development in the SADC Region**, the SADC Water Dialogue mobilises different stakeholders to share experiences in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The Dialogue highlights IWRM activities by different organisations demonstrating how IWRM approaches can address key aspects of socio-economic development and poverty eradication in Southern Africa.

The SADC-DANIDA Awareness Creation Component has as its development *objective to improve awareness and participation by policy and decision makers and the media on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and related resources that contribute to poverty alleviation through equitable and sustainable utilisation of water in the SADC region, thus advancing SADC treaty objectives.*

To achieve the development objective, the Awareness Component has two immediate objectives as follows:

- ▶ Demonstrated awareness among targeted decision makers and policy makers regarding key aspects of the IWRM concept and its relevance to social and economic development in the SADC region;
- ▶ Demonstrated awareness of key aspects of IWRM issues among the media in the SADC region.

The 2009 dialogue is the third to be held under the SADC-DANIDA Regional Water Sector Programme. The 2007 dialogue was held in Maputo, Mozambique under the theme “Watering Development in SADC: Beyond IWRM Concepts and the Converted”. The 2008 Dialogue was held in Maseru, Lesotho and dealt with the issue of climate change and variability, which could have a significant impact on other sectors due to its effect on water availability. The theme was “Watering Development in SADC: Rising above the climate change threat – towards security”. The stakeholders at the 2008 Dialogue agreed on a number of priority actions needing follow up and progress will be reported back to the stakeholders at the 2009 Dialogue. This year’s Dialogue will focus on raising awareness and initiating dialogue on the ‘hidden’ critical resource – ground water. The Dialogue specifically aims to highlight the threats, challenges and demands on ground water by other sectors and the importance of IWRM in managing this precious resource on which we have most heavily relied upon to address the region’s socio-economic development and poverty reduction efforts.

## THE 2009 DIALOGUE

The theme of the 2009 SADC Multi-stakeholder Water Dialogue is “*Watering development in SADC: Surfacing of the hidden resource- groundwater*”. SADC Water Dialogue over the years has been premised on raising the awareness and understanding of how IWRM’s can contribute to ‘socio-economic development and poverty eradication’ by ensuring a water secure region.

The SADC Dialogue this year will examine and discuss how better water resources management using an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach could help in bringing different sectors to use, develop and manage groundwater resources in a sustainable manner. Groundwater as a resource has often not received the attention that surface water gets when it comes to management. However of Africa’s population of 900 million roughly 60% live in the rural area and approximately 80% of them rely on groundwater. In the region during drought periods, drilling boreholes (groundwater) has always been seen as an ad hoc solution and such initiatives can lead to depletion of the

resource. It is therefore clear that reliance on groundwater as a source will increase driven by climate change and variability and other demand side pressures like population growth, urbanisation, land use change, rising food demands which will alter patterns and levels of water demand. Interactions between groundwater and surface water should also be understood – so as to ensure different sectors play a role in managing this integration.

The Dialogue will focus on the opportunities and challenges on the groundwater resource and explore the responses that each sector can implement to ensure an integrated approach towards ensuring a water secure SADC region.

Different sectors affect groundwater resources either through use or influencing groundwater management through decisions and actions that they take. It is important therefore for all these sectors to work together collectively to ensure that an integrated approach is planned for and implemented.

A number of sectors impacting and influencing the management of groundwater have been identified to come and dialogue with water practitioners and define responses and strategies towards improving management of the resources. Users of groundwater resources vary from players who contribute to the economic growth of countries sectors like mining, tourism, agriculture (for food security), water supply for urban areas, to sectors that directly contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) thus improved livelihoods like water supply for multi-purpose uses, health (in view of sanitation issues and reliance of health facilities in rural areas to groundwater), smallholder irrigation for improving food security thus reducing hunger. Other sectors that have been targeted are those that influence management responses and decisions these include demographic experts, parliamentarians, planning departments at all spheres of government and climate change experts.

The objectives of the SADC Water Dialogue are:

- ▶ To improve the region's understanding of groundwater as an important resource to address critical development challenges such as climate change, food security and health; and its potential in addressing local, national and regional socio-economic development and poverty reduction (with an emphasis on achieving the MDGs and thus improving livelihoods);
- ▶ To promote knowledge sharing on integrated approaches and responses with regards to opportunities and threats in the use, development and management of groundwater resources.); and

At the end of the SADC Dialogue, delegates will:

- ▶ Understand the development aspects of IWRM and have a deepened understanding of the potential, value of groundwater to address critical development challenges and in contributing to improving livelihoods;
- ▶ Have developed responses and strategies of how each sector can contribute to an integrated approach in the use, development and management of groundwater resources. Identify opportunities for strengthened collaboration.

## Structure and Content

The SADC Dialogue will be held over a two day period in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The 1<sup>st</sup> component of the Dialogue is a report-back session for half a day, following the outcomes of the 2008 Dialogue, highlighting the recommendations, progress that the SADC region has made and what urgent actions remain for the region to 'rise above the Climate Change Threat'.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> component of Dialogue 2009 will examine the impact of different sectors on groundwater and discuss ways in which different stakeholders can respond to ensure an integrated approach in the use, development and management

of the resource. Stakeholders will make recommendations on how the region will need to collaborate to ensure groundwater resources contribute to a water secure region. .

The 3<sup>rd</sup> component of the Dialogue will include an exhibition of relevant IWRM work by stakeholders in the SADC region.

## **SESSION 1:**

### **The SADC region's responses to the 2008 Dialogue outcomes and required actions to rise above the climate change threat**

The SADC Dialogue 2008 (Maseru Dialogue) had a number of outcomes, where stakeholders agreed on particular challenges and recommended certain follow up actions that the region needed to report back on at the 2009 Dialogue.

#### **Session presentations and discussions**

This session will aim to report back on how the region has responded to recommendations that were made by stakeholders during the Maseru Dialogue. The response to the outcomes will be delivered by the SADC Infrastructure Services Directorate – Water Division and will aim to report on the progress and follow up actions done at local, national and global levels. Urgent priorities and further follow up actions towards rising above the climate change threat will also be highlighted.

A number of initiatives being implemented at regional level by different organisations working with SADC focusing on adaptation of water to climate change adaptation will also be presented to show what programmes the region will be embarking on over the next five years.

A facilitated discussion will be held with regional stakeholders, to discuss the progress and initiatives and agree on future priority actions in the build up towards the Conference of the Parties (15) meeting in Copenhagen at the end of 2009 and actions and programmes required beyond that.

## **SESSION 2:**

### **Unpacking groundwater in a multi-sectoral environment – highlighting different sectoral uses and pressures on groundwater resources**

Session 2 will highlight the value, potential and use of groundwater resources for socio-economic development. This session will also aim to highlight the impact of climate change and demand side pressures like population, urbanisation, land use changes and rising food demands on groundwater resources.

#### **Session presentations and discussions**

The session will seek to achieve the following:

- ▶ Set the IWRM and groundwater context in the SADC region;
- ▶ Highlight the dependence of the region on groundwater to address socio-economic development, poverty reduction and improved livelihoods; and
- ▶ Highlight the key threats to the groundwater resource – in particular by major water using and impacting sectors.

## Speakers

### **Key note presentation:**

Groundwater, IWRM and local, national and regional development

### **Presentation 1:**

Groundwater and Climate Change adaptation

### **Presentation 2&3:**

The benefits of groundwater for socio-economic development (MDGs, economic growth, livelihoods, health and food security). The 2 papers will emphasize different aspects of the value and dependence of the resource for development.

### **Presentation 4:**

Sectoral demand-side pressures on groundwater.

## SESSION 3:

### Open dialogue with panellists: Groundwater the contested and threatened resource

To encourage dialogue amongst the different water using and influencing sectors, a high level Panel Discussion will tackle the issue of groundwater as a contested resource. The discussions will address how different sectors can contribute in reducing the impact of sectoral demands and pressures on the resource. Perspectives from different impacting sectors will be sought and recommendations for implementing an integrated approach will be suggested by the stakeholders.

## Panelists

*Mining(private sector)*

*Tourism*

*Agriculture and food*

*Government: Planning Department*

*Government: Water*

*Parliamentarian*

*Groundwater specialist*

## SESSION 4:

### Playing your role – sectoral responses to improving groundwater management and use

#### Session presentations and discussions

The session will seek to demonstrate how other sectors (government and private) at regional, national and local level have been successfully involved in managing and utilising the groundwater resource – playing their role effectively. It also aims at looking at ways of how we can continue with what we are doing well and suggesting ways of better managing groundwater resources bearing in mind its cross-sectoral nature.

## Speakers

**Presentation 1: The international response – Management and International transboundary aquifers – UNESCO**

**Presentation 2: The regional response – The SADC Groundwater Programme**

**Presentation 3: The private sector response – solutions from mining community - Debswana**

**Presentation 4: The local government response – solution in Namibia (ASR)**

**Presentation 5: The community response – community based management of groundwater**

**Presentation 6: Health sector's response – groundwater and health in Malawi**

## SESSION 5:

### Open dialogue with panellists: Are we geared to implement integrated & sustainable groundwater management?

#### Panel Discussion Overview and challenge

The high level panel will discuss *in view of the state and management of groundwater, what the success factors have been and how different players can thrive to be more coordinated, capacitated and integrated in the management of the resource so as to maximise its value and ensure water will be available in the future to contribute to socio-economic development. Roles and responsibilities will be defined for the different sectors and recommendations made on how to ensure players can better collaborate.*

#### Panelists: different perspectives on above questions

SADC	Cap-Net	UNESCO	ICP-donor	Chambers of commerce	Ministry of Economics, Finance and Planning	Government – water / Groundwater
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