



1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee Meeting – Africa Groundwater Network  
Date: 18 April 2009. 8.30 – 9.30 am.  
Venue: Brooklyn Guest House, Pretoria, South Africa.

Present: Richard Owen (chairman), Muna Mirghani, Moustapha Diene.

Absent: Tamiru Abiye, Hudson Ngotagu, Martin Eduvie.

Apologies: The meeting was held in Pretoria and all the other members of the steering committee were not in South Africa and hence could not attend. They have sent their apologies.

#### Agenda:

##### AGW-Net Activities

1. Membership
2. AGW-Net theme initiatives
3. Web development
4. Training courses
5. Training manuals
6. Administration and governance
7. Network managers meeting.

#### Membership.

The AGW-Net membership has been compiled in Excel format. The membership consists of 45 ordinary members from 17 countries across the African continent; and 20 partner members (individuals and institutions), who provide technical and financial support to the network. Existing members are asked to spread the word about the Africa Groundwater Network, and seek new members.

The members are already on the Cap-Net web site ([www.cap-net.org](http://www.cap-net.org)) and if you wish to add your photograph, please send it to Paul Taylor at [paul.taylor@capnet.org](mailto:paul.taylor@capnet.org)

#### AGW-Net Themes.

The network has three theme initiatives that have been identified as areas / subjects of interest that will become the focus of specific attention through the creation of working groups. These themes are

- Gender in Groundwater – to increase the number of women working in the groundwater sector at all levels

- Borehole Maintenance – to focus attention on the issue of the very high percentage of community boreholes that are not functioning at any point in time
- Low Cost Drilling – to identify appropriate technology and its application to reduce the costs of accessing groundwater resources in different environments.

These initiatives are at their inception, and the plan is to establish working groups via our web site (being developed at [www.cap-net.org](http://www.cap-net.org)), with a blog section. It is envisaged that in time these themes will be carried forward by the working groups.

AGW-Net calls on the membership to express interest and link up with like-minded members, initially by emailing the manager ([richardo@zol.co.zw](mailto:richardo@zol.co.zw)) and later by registering on our web site (when it is ready).

The steering committee has expressed strong support for these theme initiatives.

#### Web Development.

AGW-Net has a small budget for web site development and is working with Cap-Net to develop our web profile. At present, our membership list is on the Cap-Net web site. The AGW-Net steering committee (SC) considers the web site as a vital tool to enhance networking and the benefits of being a network.

In addition to the Cap-Net web site, AGW-Net has been invited to host our web site on the IGRAC (International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre) web site. The development of our web site is considered a priority by the SC.

#### Training Courses.

AGW-Net has four training courses that are planned. These are listed below:

Date	Venue	Co-ordinator	Contact	Title
25-29 May	Dakar, Senegal	Moustapha Diene	mod2004_dn@yahoo.com	Groundwater and IWRM
29 June - 3 July ??	Accra, Ghana	Geophrey Anornu	anoprof@hotmail.com	Groundwater management for hydrogeologists
6-10 July	Johannesburg, South Africa	Tamiru Abiye	Tamiru.Abiye@wits.ac.za	Groundwater management for water managers
27-31 July ??	Kampala Uganda	Callist Tindimugaya	callist.tindimugaya@mwe.go.ug	Training of Trainers – Groundwater Management

Members may contact the network manager, any member of the steering committee or the course coordinator for further details about these courses. All courses and their details will appear on the AGW-Net web page shortly.

The course in Senegal has 28 candidates; 12 funded by BGR; 12 by Cap-Net and 4 (female candidates) by GWP-WA. This course will use some of the groundwater management training material being developed by AGW-Net.

The course in Johannesburg has 15 candidates sponsored by BGR. These candidates are representatives from government water ministries around Africa. The SC suggested that a course concept note with the background to the course would have been helpful in the preparations for the development of this course. It was also noted that the specific invitation letters to government water ministries did not guarantee that a sponsored participant nominated by that ministry would be accepted to the course. It was felt by the SC that such specific invitations to government ministries imply that sponsorship is available to the nominee selected by that ministry.

The courses in Ghana and Uganda are still in the early planning stages and the dates are not yet finalized. Certainly the courses are bunched very closely and this mitigates against full participation by various regional resource persons who may be important in terms of running these courses. The SC agreed that the dates for these two courses should be revisited. However it is noted that the presence of Dr Albert Tuinhof for the Training of Trainers (ToT) course depends on World Bank approval and also that he is not available in August or September.

#### Training Manuals.

Three members of the SC are at present in Pretoria to prepare training materials for groundwater management courses. A 100 page training manual is anticipated, which will be based on the GWMate materials prepared and distributed by the World Bank. The first draft is to be submitted on 18<sup>th</sup> April 09 (today). Comments on the first draft will be submitted to the authors by 18<sup>th</sup> May, and the second draft is due on 1<sup>st</sup> June. The first draft of the power-point presentations is due on 30<sup>th</sup> April, and comments on the power-point presentations are due on 18<sup>th</sup> May. The second draft is also due on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

#### Administration and Governance Guidelines and 2009 Workplan.

The network administration and governance guidelines and the 2009 workplan have been produced, approved by the SC and circulated to the membership. In time, these will be posted on the web site.

The SC agreed that the network should prepare guidelines for running AGW-Net approved courses. There should be specific procedures for announcing courses, approved criteria for selecting sponsored participants, a requirement for AGW-Net SC review and approval, and a final report produced on each course. Cap-Net has guidelines for running courses and these can form a template for AGW-Net courses.

#### Network Managers' Meeting – Sri Lanka.

The network manager participated in the Cap-Net network managers meeting in Sri Lanka. The meeting helped AGW-Net to establish links with other networks around the world, and possibly in time to offer some of our courses to other networks, as well as inviting other networks to offer courses to our members. It was also valuable to look at the workplans and activities of the other networks, and thereby gain ideas for activities for AGW-Net.

Any Other Business.

There was no other business, and the meeting ended at 9.30am.

Circulated 3 May 2009

Richard Owen  
Network Manager.

Approved by SC...  
Date:

Signed  
R Owen.