



Minutes of the 2nd Africa Groundwater Network (AGW-Net) Steering Committee Meeting held on the 21st November, 2009 at White Sands Hotels and Resort, Africana road, Jangwani, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

1.1 Attendance

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| 1. | Dr. Richard Owen | Network Manager /Chairman |
| 2. | Dr. Martin O. Eduvie | West Africa Region SC Member |

1.2 In attendance (Invited Guests)

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| 1. | Dr. Callist Tindimugaya | AGW-Net member: Uganda |
| 2. | Dr. Willi Struckmeier | IAH President (BGR) |
| 3. | Dr. Daniel C.W. Nkhuwa | AGW-Net member: Zambia |
| 4. | Dr. Albert Tuinhof | GW-Mate |

1.3 Apologies

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|----|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Muna Mirghani | Nile Region SC Member |
| 2. | Dr. Hudson Ngotagu | East Africa Region SC Member |
| 3. | Dr. Moustapha Diene | Francophone Region SC Member |
| 4. | Dr. Tamiru Abiye. | Southern Africa Region SC Member |

2 AGENDA:

1. AGW-Net Governance
2. AGW-Net Annual report
3. AGW-Net Financial report
4. Groundwater Management training manuals

5. Courses conducted in 2009
 - a) Senegal May 2009 (Moustapha Diene)
 - b) South Africa July 2009 (Tamiru Abiye)
 - c) Ghana July 2009 (Richard Owen)
 - d) Tanzania November 2009 (Hudson Ngotagu)
6. Website development and hosting
7. AGW-Net 2010 plan activities
 - a) New courses for 2010/Groundwater management courses for 2010
 - b) Network sustainability and development/membership issues
 - c) Emerging issues in the Network
 - d) Other activities for 2010
8. Any other Business
9. Closing

3.1 Opening Remarks

The meeting started at 8.45am with brief remarks from the Network Manager. He thanked and expressed his appreciation to the President of IAH and other co-opted members for accepting to attend the 2nd AGW-Net Steering Committee meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

3.2 Observations on Quorum

At the commencement of the business of the day, observations were made on what constitute a quorum for a meeting since only two members of the SC members were present. The manager explained that the AGW-Net governance guidelines did not really address quorum issues, an oversight that would need to be rectified. Previous steering committee meetings had been arranged to coincide with other events where SC members were already present such as the preparation of the training manual and short courses. Since AGW-Net does not have core funding for an annual steering committee meeting, such meetings have had to be organized as and when SC members are together for other reasons. This factor may make it difficult to achieve a quorum. The issue was noted for further discussion during the next scheduled SC meeting early next year.

4.1 AGW-Net Annual Report

The manager of AGW-Net presented a detailed report of the activities and achievements of the Net-work for 2009. The annual report has been submitted to CapNet for the annual network managers meeting to be held in Tobago from Dec 7th - 11th 2009 and will be posted on the web-site. Key points from the annual report were presented to the steering committee meeting as indicated below.

4.2 Training Materials. The Ground Water Management Training Manual (11 modules) with PowerPoints (13) for course presentation have been prepared by AGW-Net members with support from CapNet, GWMate, Splash and BGR. The full course training materials for groundwater management are now ready, and have been

submitted to CAP-Net for publication and translation (French, Arabic and Portuguese) and then for distribution to members, and the wider water sector community via CDs and manuals prepared by CapNet and via the AGW-Net web-site.

- 4.3 Links:** The network has established links with various partners in the groundwater community who have provided both financial and technical support for our activities. International partners have participated in all our courses as facilitators.

Contacts made to supporting partners during the period for the support of the AGW-net activities include: CapNet (Capacity Building Network for the Water Sector), BGR (German Geological Survey), Splash (European Water Research for Poverty Reduction), BMZ (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), GWMate (Groundwater Management Advisory Team) World Bank, BGS (British Geological Survey), GWP-WA (Global Water Partnership - West Africa, Univ Cheik Anta Diop, Dakar Senegal, WRC (Water Resources Commission) Ghana, Confederation Suisse, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, IAH (International Association of Hydrogeologists), GEUS (Danish Geological Survey), Wits University Johannesburg South Africa.

4.4 Training Courses conducted in 2009.

A total of four (4) courses were carried out during the period. The table below gives a summary of the trainings. All the courses have been completed successfully, and course reports have been submitted, except for Tanzania. Key financial and technical partners for the courses have been CapNet, BGR, BMZ, Splash partners (financial and technical support) and GWMate (technical support). Financial and logistic management for each course is carried out by a local host institution, which is responsible for reporting back to the financial and technical supporters.

S/No.	Course	Venue	Date	Total No.	Female
1	Groundwater Management	Senegal	25-29 May 2009	23	8
2	Hydrogeology for Water Managers	South Africa	5-11 July, 2009	13	5
3	Groundwater Management - Training of Trainers Course	Ghana	27-31 July, 2009	23	6
4	Groundwater Management - SADC Groundwater Project Course	Tanzania	16-29 Nov. 2009	15	5

4.5 Network website and membership.

Web Site: A network website has been developed and almost completed and will be hosted shortly and hopefully be fully operational by early next year. This will further improve communication and advertise the activities of the AGW-Net.

Membership: The network has managed to expand its membership quite significantly, with most new members coming in from participants in the short courses in Groundwater Management.

5 Financial Report

AGW-Net receives an annual core income of approx. \$10,000 from Cap-Net. The first such grant was received in March 2009, with funds allocated for network management, purchase of a laptop computer, a digital camera, website development and communication. Funds were paid in a number of tranches directly to the Institute of Water and Sanitation Development (IWSD), which is the designated host institution for the AGW-Net. IWSD paid funds over to AGW-Net based on written request letters with pro-forma invoices / cost estimates from AGW-Net.

The budget for short courses comes from ad hoc funds that are raised for each course. The funds raised are normally deposited with a local host institution that manages the course and the financial reporting for these funds is concluded on a course by course basis, with the local host submitting accounts to each of the donor organizations to account for the donated funds. Generally speaking AGW-Net has no control over these funds since the funding agencies make contracts directly with the local host institution.

A summary of the financial report for the core funds for the period of 2009 is presented below. It is noted that there remains an outstanding positive balance with CapNet of \$2200 still to be disbursed to AGW-Net via the host institution, IWSD. These funds will be allocated to a) network management (\$1000), b) communications (est \$400), c) Web site management (\$500 est) and d) payment to host institution (\$300).

For communication, a portion of the manager's telephone account (\$100 pm) has been apportioned to cover internet / email time. Telephone connectivity speeds are very slow in Zimbabwe, and since charges are made per minute, the communication costs are high. For this reason a higher speed wap / data phone has been purchased, but remains inactive at present due to logistical problems at the mobile telephone service provider, resulting in a very erratic and slow network environment.

Statement of Income & Expenditure March - December 2009

Date	Supplier	Item	Amount ¹ US\$		
			Income	Expenses	Balance
March 09	CapNet	Support funds	3200		3200
Sept 09	CapNet	Support funds	1900		5100
Mar – Dec	R Owen @ 500/pm	Network administration 10 months @ 500 pm		5000	100
19/6/09	HP Home Store	HP LapTop & shipping		735.59	-635.59
Mar – Dec	Tel-One	Communications 10 months @100 pm		1000	-1635.59
9/6/09	Amazon	Laptop battery		51.36	-1686.95
19/6/09	Sears	Digital Camera		195.01	-1881.96
10/7/09	Incredible connection	Data stick (R170)		22	-1903.96
25/9/09	ZolSpot	Wireless Internet time		110	-2013.96
26/10/09	ZolSpot	Wireless Internet time		110	-2123.96
Sep	Wiztech	Wap / data phone		170	-2293.96
12/11/09	Simba Bonga	Web Design		950	-3243.96
Nov	CapNet	Support Funds	3000		-243.96
5 Dec 09		Balance			-243.96
	CapNet	Income not yet disbursed	2200		
		Total Income to date	8100		
		Total CapNet Grant	10300		
		Available Balance at 20/11/2009			1956.04

¹(expenses are supported by receipts which will be submitted with the final annual accounts)

6 Initiatives

The network has proposed a number of initiatives to the membership: Gender in Groundwater; Borehole Maintenance; Low Cost Drilling. These initiatives seek to mobilize the membership to address certain issues related to these subjects. The web site includes a discussion forum to generate membership participation in these initiatives.

7 New courses for 2010

The following courses have already been proposed for 2010, and it is anticipated that further courses will be proposed and mounted during the course of the year.

1. 3 x Groundwater Management Courses for 2010. The proposed venues are:- Togo/Addis Ababa/Southern Africa
2. Borehole Maintenance workshop with WaterAid and RWSN. This workshop will seek to attract water managers with country experiences so that different approaches and their drawbacks and benefits can be mutually explored. The workshop is still only in concept at this stage and a workshop proposal needs to be written.
3. Low cost drilling for drillers and borehole supervisors. There has been significant demand for such a course / workshop. Dr. Martin O. Eduvie is to develop a draft concept note / proposal for this course, which will be targeted for early / mid 2010.

8 General Discussion on Emerging Issues for AGW-Net.

1. Allocation of duties among SC members. It was agreed that AGW-Net should look at allocating certain responsibilities to different steering committee members as this will broaden the base of the network management and provide better long term stability and continuity.
2. Emerging Issues in the Network. The following issues were discussed:
 - a) the lack of members in North Africa, which might be addressed by running courses with eg Nile IWRM-Net programmes
 - b) establishing close cooperation between the network and the SADC Groundwater Management Institute
 - c) network stability due to the limited core funds, which results in limiting the output from the network such as the web site, as well as the inability to hold an annual steering committee meeting.
3. Co-operation with Burdon Network. AGW-Net should seek to coordinate its activities with the Burdon Network to benefit from our combined strengths in capacity building and to avoid duplication.
4. AGW-Net needs to bring the groundwater message more into the political processes. AGW-Net needs to establish links / activities with the international river basin organizations such as Inbou and AnBou, regional river basin organizations in Africa, as well as in country catchment management authorities.

9 IAH Congress 2011

As a follow up to the 2008 Kampala meeting on Groundwater and Climate Change, it was proposed that the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) annual congress could be hosted in Africa in 2011. In order for this to occur, there would need to be a strong cooperative effort between not only IAH and AGW-Net, but also with the Burdon Network (which is an Africa affiliate of IAH) and with the Africa Groundwater Commission (AGWC). Political support for such an event should be forthcoming from the highest levels in the host nation since such an event has the possibility of being an important milestone for groundwater in Africa if it receives AMCOW / ministerial level support.

Some countries were mentioned as possible host countries: Tanzania, Mozambique and Ghana. However the host can be any country in Africa that has the capability and facilities to host such a large international congress and has the full support of the local groundwater community and political establishment. It would also be relevant if the host country has experienced climate change related impacts on its water resources such as salinization of coastal aquifers, drought and flooding etc.

AGW-Net members are invited to seriously consider the possibility of hosting such an event in their countries if they are certain that the requirements indicated

above can be met, and that their country can be an attractive venue for an IAH international congress.

If such an event is to take place in Africa, it will require the early formation of an organizing committee to generate the necessary political and professional support, carry out the organization, advertising, logistic arrangements etc. To facilitate such activities it is therefore proposed that in early 2010 AGW-Net will host a special steering committee meeting on this issue with invited participation from IAH, Burdon Network, AGWC, AMCOW, BGR etc. as listed below:

All AGW-Net Steering Committee Members

IAH Vice President Segun Adelana

Burdon Commission Chair

A representative of BGR

Dr. Albert Tuinhof of GW Mate (World Bank)

Dr. Callist Tindimugaya Uganda

Dr. Daniel C.W. Nkhuwa Zambia

President of IAH (if possible)

Representative of AGWC.

10 Any Other Business

Strategic Vision for the Africa Groundwater Network into the Future.

The steering committee discussed the future of the network and the vision for its activities as indicated below:

Capacity Building will remain a core focus, but with an expanded suite of courses to include more practical short courses such as borehole maintenance, low cost drilling, etc and other courses that they have been able to identify a market for: eg. Professional courses such as geophysics field courses, etc

Integration with surface water networks: AGW-Net will preferentially seek to mount courses with other existing capacity building networks in the Cap-Net family such as WaterNet, WANet, Nile-IWRM Net, NBCBNet etc.

Develop and coordinate linkages with groundwater development partners and NGO's such as GWMate, SADC GMI, Burdon Network, AGWC, WaterAid and RWSN. Provide a vehicle for these partners to assist in delivering / developing capacity building services through our network membership across the continent in order to achieve our common aims and goals.

Awareness: AGW-Net shall act as a vehicle for awareness raising through the development of groundwater awareness products aimed at a range of audiences from school children to politicians, in cooperation with various partners eg SADC GMI / RWSN / Gender Alliance etc.

Web Site: Disseminate information about our activities and products such as our training manuals and presentations.

Networking: To maintain a register of members from across the African continent and foster communication between them. Provide a forum for discussion of topical groundwater issues and interaction between our members through our web site discussion pages.

Research: Encourage and foster research activities in ideas that have generated significant interest and support in the web discussions. Host research papers on the web site

Gender Policy: Promote a gender in groundwater policy through awareness campaigns at school leaver level to attract more women to study geology / hydrogeology

Financial leverage: To use the network to help to generate financial resources for approved membership activities, such as development of regional chapters and thematic activities.

Network Stability: Raise further core funding for the specific purpose of fostering long term network stability through:

Annual Steering Committee Meeting: Provision for an annual steering committee meeting to promote continuity and develop a strong sense of ownership amongst network membership was suggested and funds will solicited from Cap-Net.

Administrative Assistant: Employing a full time administrative assistant to help manage network activities and to provide more regular feedback to network members on various activities and initiatives was approved.

Closing

In the absence of any other matter, the meeting came to a close at 4.05pm.

Dr. Richard Owen
Chairman

Dr. Martin O. Eduvie
Secretary