



# Groundwater Resources Governance in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA Project)

## Stampriet - Kalahari/Karoo Aquifer Case Study

### SUMMARY OF THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL SEMINAR on PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

UN HOUSE, Windhoek (Namibia)

21-23 May 2014

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#### BACKGROUND

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The Governments of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, jointly with the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP) and the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) organized a technical meeting from 21-23 May 2014 at the United Nations House in Windhoek, Namibia on the assessment of the transboundary Stampriet Aquifer within the framework of the “Groundwater Resources Governance in Transboundary Aquifers” (GGRETA), funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The **main objective** of the technical meeting was to operationalize the national technical teams from the involved countries on the methodology used for the data collection process of hydrogeological, socio-economic, environmental, legal and institutional aspects.

#### OBJECTIVES

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- To operationalize the national teams who will implement the project on the methodology used for the data collection process of hydrogeological, socioeconomic and environmental, and legal and institutional aspects.
- To identify the availability of different types of national data in Namibia, Botswana and South Africa with the national teams.
- To present and discuss the project’s organizational chart and work plan (especially for data collection, processing, harmonization and communication).

## OUTCOMES

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- Fully operationalization of the national teams who will implement the project.
- National teams have clear understanding of the project methodology and planning
- Commencement of the data collection activities relating to the aquifer assessment.
- Agreement on the priorities and schedule of data collection and processing (i.e. hydrogeological, socioeconomic and environmental and legal and institutional aspects) activities based on the project methodology.
- Agreement on a template for national teams to report the type, availability and cost of data. These will be used to specify work plans and deliverables during the data collection and processing phase of the project.
- Preparation of a draft document with the availability of hydrogeological, socioeconomic and environmental, and legal and institutional data in Namibia, Botswana and South Africa.
- Agreement on a revised version of the project organisational chart that clearly defines the relationships between different parts of the project management structure.
- Preparation of a cover/introductory letter on behalf of the major governmental stakeholders (Departments of Water Affairs) in order to support the national teams for data collection.
- Agreement on the set up of a shared workspace (management tool).
- Strengthening of cross-border dialogue and cooperation.

## SUMMARY

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The meeting began with welcoming remarks from the Ms Cecilia Barbieri, Officer in Charge of the UNESCO Office in Windhoek, Mr Abraham Nehemia, Under-Secretary, Department of Water Affairs, Government of Namibia, Mr Peloteshweu Phofuetsile, Deputy Director, Department of Water Affairs, Government of Botswana, and Mr. Fortress K. Netili, Senior Hydrogeologist, Council for Geoscience South Africa.

On **Day 1 of the meeting**, the newly recruited national specialist teams were briefed by the project coordinators and international experts on the GGRETA project context, objectives, workplan and organization. The meeting agreed on a revised version of the project organisational chart that clearly defines the relationships between different parts of the project management structure (attached). National technical groups (NTTG) will be responsible for the multi-disciplinary assessment covering hydrogeological, socio-economic, environmental, legal and institutional aspect. At the national level, their work will be facilitated and endorsed by Coordination Focal Points (CFP) who will also provide a link to Government Representatives. At the transboundary level, a Regional Coordinator will secure interaction among NTTGs for harmonization and consistency of the data collected, and reporting to the Project Management Unit (i.e. UNESCO and IGRAC)

The NTTGs also received detailed briefing on the project methodology on hydrogeological, socioeconomic and environmental, and legal and institutional aspects. Based on the discussion, the legal institutional questionnaire for data collection was expanded and adjusted to comprehensively reflect the local situation.

**On Day 2 of the meeting**, extensive discussions of the three countries' national data availability, data collection and processing requirements were initiated by presentations from the NTTGs. Data availability was discussed with a few gaps in hydrogeological data being identified. Data harmonization and communication within the project were also discussed.

Meeting participants developed a matrix based on the project methodology for NTTGs to report the type, availability and cost of data, as well as priorities for the collection of data. The matrix will be used as a template to specify work plans and deliverables during the data collection and processing phase of the project.

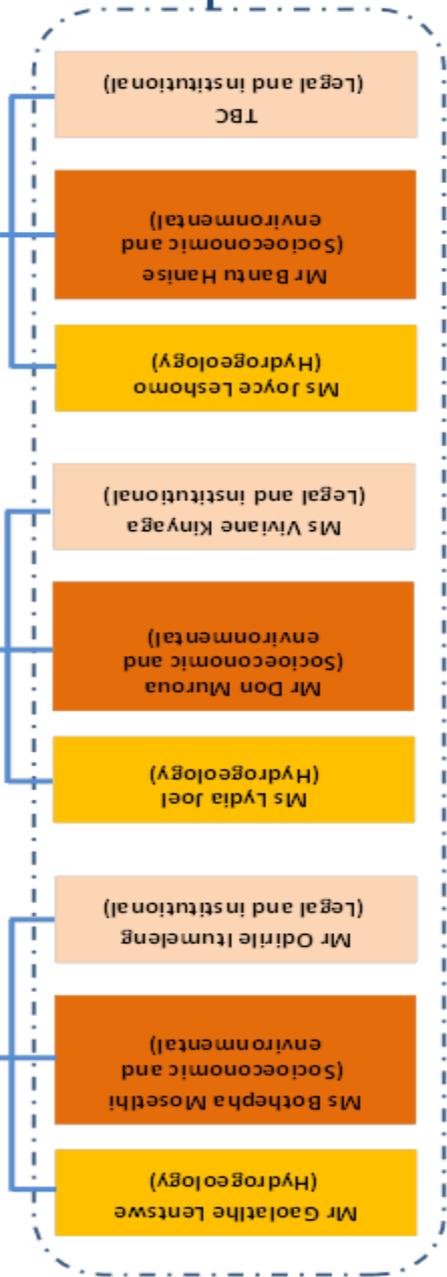
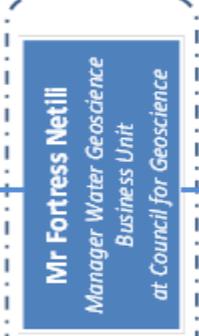
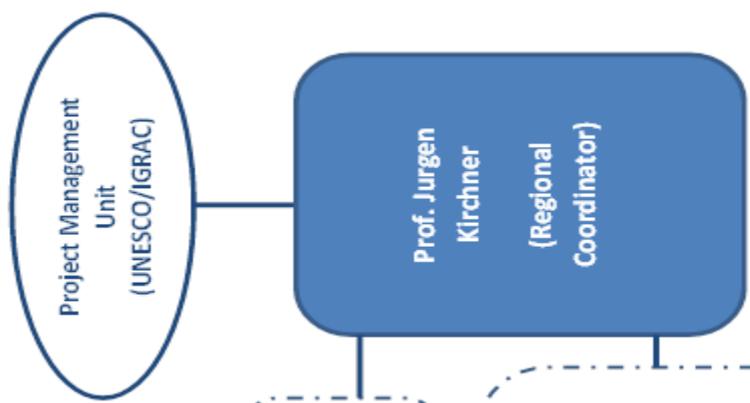
**On Day 3 of the meeting**, further discussion on data collection, processing and harmonisation, including reporting and logistical requirements were held. The meeting also identified the need for letters of introduction from Government Representatives to enable the NTTGs gain access to data, and for funding to cover travel by the NTTGs to regional centres where some important project data is held.

The meeting ended with a short discussion of the project work plan, and agreed on the project work program and schedule of project meetings until the end of in 2015.

# SOUTH AFRICA

# NAMIBIA

# BOTSWANA



Government Representatives

Coordination Focal Points (CFP)

National Technical TBA Group (NTTG)