



## Burdon Groundwater Network: review 2013, workplan 2014 *to support sustainable groundwater development and management for poverty reduction*

---

### Review of 2013

- 1. Groundwater Management Courses:** two groundwater management courses aimed at river basin staff, in Bamako (Mali) and Porto Novo (Benin) were supported by the IAH Burdon Network. The courses were run by the AGW-NET and CRU-BN in French, and the facilitators were mainly members of the IAH. The two courses were highly successful, with in total more than 50 people at the two courses.
- 2. RWSN:** The IAH Burdon Network has moved to work more closely with RWSN, and during the year has provided people to contribute to several of the excellent webinars that they host, and also contributed to their email discussions.
- 3. Master Courses in Africa.** Members of the Early Career Hydrogeologists Network (ECHN) are working with the BGN to put together an up-to-date list of MSc courses with a strong hydrogeological component as a spring board to supporting these courses. Work started during this year.
- 4. African Groundwater Atlas:** During 2013, funds were agreed through UPGRO for BGS to facilitate the implementation of: (1) a database of literature for Africa, (2) to develop an online Hydrogeological Atlas, and (3) to help edit an IAH book. This should provide IAH members in Africa with an opportunity to contribute to the development of a key resource and also facilitate the access to information and reports.
- 5. Twinning and support in starting new chapters.** There was little progress in this during 2013, apart from initiatives by the Irish Chapter to twin with Uganda. Discussions with Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia are continuing very slowly.
- 6. Networking and advice** The IAH Burdon Network has formed a partnership with Hydrogeologists Without Borders (HWB).

### Strategy for 2014

In 2013, a two year strategy for IAH Burdon was developed to build on partnerships to help deliver our vision “*to support sustainable groundwater development and management for poverty reduction*”. At present, the Burdon Groundwater Network is focussing primarily on sub-Saharan Africa, and as such works closely with the IAH Regional Vice President in his role of promoting IAH as an international groundwater knowledge base that can greatly contribute to sustainable groundwater management and development in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2014 the following activities are proposed:

#### Marrakech

This is the first IAH Congress in Africa since 2000. We would like to be able to part sponsor as many African hydrogeologists as possible to attend. The IAH Burdon Network is organising a session: *developing shallow groundwater for drinking and productive uses in Africa*. Budget 2014 Euro 15k (for discussion by Executive)

#### Africa Groundwater NET training courses

After the success of our collaboration in 2012 and 2013 and in line with our MoU we would like to help support more training courses with AGW-NET. The limit of involvement here is how much resources we have at our disposal. We suggest supporting one training course within 2014. Budget 2014 Euro5k

---



## Burdon Groundwater Network: review 2013, workplan 2014 to support sustainable groundwater development and management for poverty reduction

---

### **Expanding IAH Chapters**

Supporting the development of new chapters and their development through twinning. This is a key activity for IAH within sub-Saharan Africa and IAH Burdon Network will work very closely with the IAH VP in promoting this. Budget *Euro 3k*

### **Website**

We would like to link with the AGW\_NET to provide a one stop website for groundwater networks in Africa. There is no point in duplication. Now that the IAH website has been rejuvenated we should explore creating, hosting and maintaining a joint website Budget *Euro 2k*

### **Supporting Masters Courses in Africa**

There are several organisations, HWB and UniWater that are keen to develop MSc courses across Africa. IAH BGN has provided some help and advice to those in the past few years. We would like to formalise this by having an IAH BGN member whose sole responsibility is to channel support to MSc courses in Africa. ECHN are currently wanting to help with this and we plan to provide a definitive list, start a social media site and provide resources to these courses *Budget 2014 Euro 2k*

### **Continue the book scheme**

Consistently this is one of our most appreciated activities clearly indicating the lack of access to reference material for hydrogeologists in sub Saharan Africa. There was no free book scheme in 2013. During the 2014 we plan to undertake a survey of the success of this activity to inform whether we offer it in 2015.

### **Hydrogeological Atlas of Africa**

Work is underway to develop a bibliography and atlas of groundwater in Africa, and beta version of the online database will be available in February 2014, with 4000 references. This will require no funds from IAH, but coordination to help link up appropriate national hydrogeologists to the Atlas team.

### **Expanding the workers!**

Our strategy is ambitious, and will require a core of committed IAH members to implement. We have enlisted the help of ECHN, but will need to pursue new members, particularly in Africa with the help of the IAH VP.

*Aims: to support sustainable groundwater development and management for poverty reduction.*

The strategies of the BGN to realise the mission should centre on:

- Connecting people: increasing networking and experience sharing
- Capacity building through training and resources
- Making existing and new knowledge more widely and easily accessible.
- Advocacy externally of the role of groundwater for poverty reduction and the value of hydrogeologists
- Advocacy within the hydrogeological community of the importance and value of the work of hydrogeologists in developing countries