



Burdon Groundwater Network: review of 2015 and work plan for 2016

to support sustainable groundwater development and management for poverty reduction

Review of 2015

- 1. Name change:** We have renamed the BGN the Burdon Groundwater Network for International Development (IAH-BGID)
- 2. More volunteers:** Viviana Re has agreed to co-chair the network with Alan MacDonald and Tamiru Abiye. Viviana brings with her considerable experience in getting people involved through the ECHN
- 3. Rome** The IAH-BGID supported a session in Rome on groundwater in developing countries and the role of science and civil society. The sessions were well attended and provoked good discussion.
- 4. African Groundwater Atlas:** Much of the work of the IAH Burdon Network in 2014-15 has focussed on contributing to the development of the African Groundwater Atlas. Core funding for this has come from the UK Government which has facilitated the technology, coordination and editing of the Atlas, enabling Hydrogeologists from across Africa to write a country reports as a gateway to hydrogeological information for their country. The online Atlas is available in the link below and will be launched through Feb 2016. http://earthwise.bgs.ac.uk/index.php/Africa_Groundwater_Atlas_Home
- 5. Support to the African Groundwater Network:** 5000 US dollars were provide in partial support to the training course for river basin staff in Ouagadougou.
- 6. Networking and advice:** The IAH Burdon Network has formed a partnership with Hydrogeologists Without Borders (HWB) in the UK and continues to play a part in the RWSN and AGW_NET.
- 7. The book scheme:** Preparatory work has started on the free book scheme for 2015/16.

Activities planned for 2016

Book scheme Resources were agreed for this in 2015, and the work to get the scheme underway started £4000.

Website The BGID website is being relaunched in 2016, Work has started and we hope to have something up and running by March

Conferences Montpellier 2016 BGID is helping to organise a session at Montpellier on groundwater and drinking water in developing countries. BGID is also contributing to the organisation of a groundwater workshop at the *35IGC in South Africa*

Support to MSc Courses Revisiting work carried out in 2007, a review is being undertaken of university Education in hydrogeology across Africa, with a view to making it easier to support courses

Increased networking A LinkedIn group has been started for BGID and will gradually become a main pathway for communication and networking (Link: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8468964>). Other social media (Facebook, Twitter) might be used to increase information sharing, networking and discussion with members and sister societies/groups



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IAH Publication The BGID is considering a contribution to the IAH book series. Either making the online atlas available as hard copy, or a collection of case studies linking groundwater and poverty reduction or economic growth.

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.