



Burdon Groundwater Network: review 2016, workplan 2017

to support sustainable groundwater development and management for poverty reduction

Review of 2016

African Groundwater Atlas

The Africa Groundwater Atlas was formally launched online in May 2016 and at an event at the 7th RWSN Forum in Abidjan http://earthwise.bgs.ac.uk/index.php/Hydrogeology_by_country It has been developed within the UPGro research programme (<https://upgro.org/>) by BGS with support from the IAH-BGID, in collaboration with IAH members and other hydrogeologists across Africa. More funding has been secured from UPGro to develop it further over the next 3 years, and the developers welcome further input from IAH-BGID members. The atlas is gaining in popularity with approx 1000 hits per month

IAH-BGID Website and social media

The official website for the Burdon Groundwater Network for International Development was launched in autumn 2016 and is being actively managed by webmaster Rachel Bell <https://burdon.iah.org/>. We have also developed a LinkedIn group and Twitter Account

Session at IAH Congress Montpellier

IAH-BGID co-organized a session on “Groundwater for sustainable water supplies in developing countries” on Tuesday, September 27th, 2016, chaired by Alan MacDonald, Viviana Re and Jean-Michel Vouillamoz (IRD-LTHE, France). This session focused on groundwater supplies in developing countries and different topics were addressed during 15 oral presentations, 15 e-posters and 4 flash poster presentation. Specific attention was paid to the contribution of groundwater to domestic and agricultural needs, to the new approaches for improving knowledge on groundwater availability and renewability, current and future challenges of increasing groundwater supply in developing countries, and the opportunities of developing participative approaches for long-term sustainable management.

AGM

Also on Tuesday 27th September the IAH-BGID Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held with the aim of updating members on current and future activities. During the AGM participants identified the following, mid-term objectives from the network:

- Collaborate with the IAH VP to find new strategies to increase membership in Sub-Saharan Africa and low-income regions,
 - Increase visibility of researches and activities carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa and low-income regions.
 - Prepare a book for the IAH Book Series with relevant case studies in IAH-BGID key areas and topics.
 - Develop a forum to promote easy virtual networking amongst members in sub – Saharan Africa
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Research

Network members are heavily involved in research related to the role of groundwater in alleviating poverty. The £12m UPGro research programme in Africa was shaped with help from Network members. 120 groundwater researchers are now focussing on groundwater and poverty research in 15 African countries. IAH – BGID is continuing to play a role in helping to disseminate this research and connect researchers.

WorkPlan for 2017

Free Book Scheme The planning for the free book scheme is underway with delivery by end 2017

IAH Publication IAH-BGID is considering another contribution to the IAH book series. The possibility of a collection of case studies linking groundwater and poverty reduction or economic growth will be discussed during the AGM 2017 to be held in Dubrovnik

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 to encourage postgraduate course delivery and expand Hydrogeology training through the support of BGID-IAH

Session at IAH Congress at Dubrovnik.

Support to UK IAH conference in London on groundwater and Poverty. IAH BGID has been involved in planning a major one-day conference London on groundwater in Africa and encouraged the attendance of the IAH – VP for Africa.

Creation of the Network Logo

Develop a 5-year wish list for the Burdon Network – the implementation of to be discussed further at the IAH congress in Dubrovnik

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

The strategies of the IAH – BGID 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
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