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**REPORT FROM REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA- 2018****1. Participation in IAH Commissions, Networks and Working Groups by IAH members from Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)**

Responses of IAH members in SSA to join the various IAH commissions and networks continue to be encouraging and a number of members have expressed interest in joining the various commissions and networks. I formally wrote again in early 2018 to IAH members in SSA encouraging them to join the various IAH commissions and networks. Am however aware of only three member from SSA that are members of the Working Groups/Networks on Groundwater and Climate Change, Burdon Groundwater Network for International Development and Early Career Hydrogeologists Network. Am not sure whether there is any other that has been admitted to other commissions and networks. It is hoped that positive consideration will be given to those that have or will apply.

**2. Operationalisation of the Burdon Network activities**

As the VP for SSA I have been actively involved in activities of IAH taking place in the region through the Burdon Network. Support provided through the Burdon Network to SSA has continued to include development of database on grey literature, development of Africa Groundwater Atlas, free books scheme, support to training courses and webinars, monitoring network data review. These have been used to promote IAH and have it appreciated by members of IAH. The VP is using the benefits members get as incentive for them to join the association.

**3. Promotion of IAH membership in SSA**

Membership promotion drive has been ongoing in Sub-Saharan Africa. As VP for SSA I always have promotional slides on IAH during presentations am invited to make on groundwater within and outside Africa. This has been the case in the groundwater conference in Zambia in July 2017, meeting in July 2017 in Tanzania on re-activation of the Africa Groundwater Commission, Ineson Lecture in the UK in October 2017, Africa Day during the 2018 Stockholm Water Week in August 2018 where I made a presentation on Groundwater Governance in Africa. .

Special invitation to join IAH issued first in 2014 through AGWNET network, IAH members and Rural Water Supply Network indicating the benefits of joining IAH and indicating the procedures to go through to join the association was again issued in early 2018. This invitation was also very well received and many follow up requests for further information continue to be received. As a result the number of IAH members from SSA has increased reasonably. As of August 2018 the membership is 304 up from 259 in 2017. The membership drive will continue through various partnerships with other groundwater related organisations such as African

Groundwater Network, SADC Groundwater Management Institute, AMCOW/AGWC etc .

#### **4. Support to establishment of new IAH National Chapters**

As a follow up of this issues email contacts have continued to be made with Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia to reactivate plans for setting up national chapters but the responses have not been as good as expected. These efforts will continue and hopefully some achievements will be realized by end of 2018.

In addition an initiative by the Irish Chapter to twin with Uganda started a few years ago and discussions have progressed and hope to be concluded by end of 2018.

#### **5. Attendance of Conferences and Congresses**

Am an ambassador for the UK government-funded UPGro programme which has many initiatives ongoing in Africa and funded by the UK Government. In this capacity am responsible for providing continuous guidance to the UPGro research team on how to ensure that the research agenda links to practice and delivers policy guidance to policy makers in Africa. I therefore participate in UPGro conferences and meetings that are held regularly. I participated in UPGro project meeting held in London, UK in October 2017 and in another one held in Kampala, Uganda in May 2018. The research is progressing well and a number of policy papers are being generated by the research team to raise the profile of groundwater in Africa.

In my capacity as IAH Vice President for SSA and also UPGro Ambassador, and at the invitation of British National Chapter of IAH, I delivered the 2017 Ineson Lecture on Africa, Groundwater and the Sustainable Development Goals in London, UK in October 2017.

Am also involved in Groundwater Solutions Initiative for Policy and Practice (GRIPP) whose groundwater advocacy agenda continues to expand across the world under the coordination of Karen Villholth.

I together with a number of groundwater professionals in Africa had planned to organise a groundwater summer school in Sub-Saharan Africa at which guidance on submitting research/academic papers, etc would be provided to participants. This was however not possible due to unavailability of funding. The proposal will be reactivated when sources of funds are identified.

I had planned to attend the annual Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists (NAH) conference in Nigeria in November 2017, following liaison with the organisers and IAH Secretariat but this was not possible because of limited funding to enable me participate. I will however continue engaging the Nigerian Association by email since resources to participate in the 2018 annual Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists (NAH) conference are not available.

I was invited by the AMCOW to deliver a key note presentation on Groundwater Governance in Africa during the Africa Day at the Stockholm Water Week in August 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden.

I have been invited by the UPGro project and SADC Groundwater Management Institute to deliver a key note presentation on Groundwater and African National Development Strategies during the first SADC Groundwater Management Conference at the end of September 2018 in South Africa. This conference will be used to prepare a position paper on the role of groundwater in Africa's development to be presented during the Africa Water Week in Gabon. The SADC Groundwater Management conference will be attended by a number of hydrogeologists from Africa and will also be used as an opportunity to promote IAH and also encourage more hydrogeologists to join IAH.

I have been invited by the UPGro project and AMCOW to deliver a key note presentation on Sustainable Groundwater management in Africa during the Africa Water Week to be held at the end of October 2018 in Gabon. The Africa Water Week in Gabon will be used as an opportunity to present a position paper on the role of groundwater in Africa's development to the Ministers in Charge of Water in Africa. The Africa Water Week will be attended by a number of stakeholders including UN agencies, intergovernmental and government agencies, donors, hydrogeologists and other stakeholders from within and outside Africa and will also be used as an opportunity to promote IAH and also encourage more hydrogeologists to join the association.

## **6. Publicity and out-reach**

In order to improve the profile of IAH and create synergy in promotion of groundwater activities in Sub-Saharan Africa contacts were maintained with a number of groundwater related programs in Africa namely the African Groundwater Network (AGWNET), IAH Burdon Network, UPGro, GRIPP, AMCOW, and the newly created South African Development Community (SADC) Groundwater Management Institute. Discussions have centred on possible joint training programs and other collaborative activities.

## **7. Capacity building in groundwater related courses**

The proposal to allocated funds in the IAH budget for at least one groundwater related training to be undertaken in one part of SSA (East Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa and Central Africa) has still not been realized due to limited funds. Such courses could be offered as part of support to establishment of a national Chapter and could be conducted in collaboration with other networks such as Capnet, AGWNET, AMCOW/AGWC, SADC Groundwater Management Institute to have many participants and raise additional resources. Opportunities of IAH providing such funds should continue to be explored.