

## **Organised a session at the IAH Congress in Davos**

BGID organised a session entitled “Developing groundwater for drinking water and sustainable livelihoods for low-income communities” and was well supported with 12 talks and several posters (with 25 submitting abstracts). The session was over subscribed and generated much interest in the audience.

We included Mouses Souta as a chair. An early career Hydrogeologist based in Zimbabwe.

The IAH Burdon Network were also invited to be part of a plenary discussion on the state of groundwater research <https://www.youtube.com/@iah2024davos>

## **Updated the African Groundwater Atlas**

Regular updates to the African Groundwater atlas, incorporating new material and ensuring the smooth running of the Atlas. The atlas has 200 pages of groundwater resources in Africa available in English and French. The Atlas provides simple downloadable maps of the hydrogeology of 43 countries – in some cases the only national-scale hydrogeology maps in existence. Usage statistics show the maps have been downloaded >10,000 times, from every country they are available from with the highest usage in Kenya, Ethiopia, Algeria, Malawi and Morocco. They are accessed by NGOs, government, academia and consultancies.

<https://africangroundwateratlas.org/>

We also delivered a complete overhaul to the back end of the African Groundwater Literature Archive. This has been rebuilt on a new software platform, has >8000 hard to find articles available to search

<https://africangroundwateratlas.org/agla>

## **Delivered an Opinion Piece for the Guardian Newspaper on solar pumping and equity**

The BGID entered into a debate on the potential increase in pumping in Africa due to the advent of solar pumps. An OPed piece was written for the Guardian. This led to much correspondence and discussion about equity.

*The solar pump revolution could bring water to millions of Africans but it must be sustainable and fair*

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/article/2024/sep/09/africa-water-access-solar-pump-technology-groundwater-hydrogeology-sustainable-fair>

## **Discussions about the long term future**

Some preparatory discussions have been help on the long erm future of the Network. Several people have been approached who show interest in its future.

## **Plans for this Year 2025**

The main plan for this year is to find a new Chair and management team for the Network. The online Atlas is functioning well, but since the publication of the IAH book in 2022 Groundwater for

sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth <http://dx.doi.org/10.1201/9781003024101> and the contributions to the UN Groundwater Summit in Dec 2022, and groundwater photostories in 2023 <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/news/world-water-day-2023-groundwater-photo-stories/> there have been no new major initiatives, and we believe new people and an overhaul is required to re-energise the network.

Alan MacDonald

Chair BGID