

Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA)



Region

Central Asia, Southern Africa, Central America

Partners

UNESCO-IHP, IUCN

Background information

Two-folded approach to inform decisions on the basis of sound science and to reach consensus on transboundary governance mechanisms.

Project target

- To improve knowledge and recognition of the importance and vulnerability of transboundary groundwater resources.
- To enhance cooperation on water security, reduce transboundary and water-use conflicts, and improve overall environmental sustainability.

Beneficiaries

Governments at local and national levels, regional organizations, major user groups, population of the aquifers areas

Costs

CHF 1,880,000 (SDC)

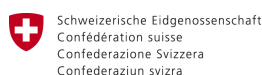
CHF 1,000,000 (co-financing)

Duration

01.2016 – 12.2018

Contact

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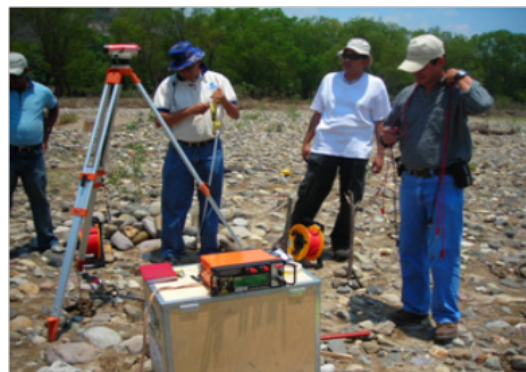
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

This project aims to address issues related to the governance of Transboundary Aquifers (TBA) and to respond to the need to increase the knowledge on their physical and socioeconomic characteristics. Its goal is to ensure the protection and sustainable use of groundwater resources through enhanced transboundary groundwater governance. The project will contribute to develop capacity on governance, gender and conflict issues and facilitate coordination mechanisms for joint monitoring and management in three transboundary aquifers: Ocotepaque-Citalá (Meso-America), Pretashkent (Central Asia) and Stampriet (Southern Africa). The project will contribute to improve the overall environmental sustainability.

The project wants to achieve a better integration of groundwater resources into the water budget of basins, countries and regions, as part of a step-by-step approach to enable and foster transboundary cooperation.

UNESCO's work will gradually shift from establishing a shared understanding in the three concerned transboundary aquifers in the previous phase to joint groundwater governance at national and regional level and capacity building for conflict resolution, gender responsive activities and cooperative frameworks. It will therefore keep improving the resources knowledge based on recognition of the importance and vulnerability of trans-boundary groundwater resources.

Based on the recognition and the dialogue and trust building that resulted from the aquifers assessment activities undertaken during the first phase, phase



two of the project will focus on achieving the agreement on the priority issues, the establishment of a common monitoring system and the development of cooperation mechanisms among countries. Steps are already taken towards a political commitment to cooperate and implement priority actions. This includes the establishment of multi-country consultative bodies.

The project is linked to - and works in collaboration with - major international networks and strategic partners in the field of TBAs. The project closely cooperates with organisations and institutions engaged with UNESCO in the global effort to improve transboundary groundwater management, in particular the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (UN WWAP), as well as regional organisations and UN Regional Economic Commissions.

Additional information:

www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/ihp/ihp-programmes/isarm/