



RESTRUCTURING PAPER  
ON A  
PROPOSED PROJECT RESTRUCTURING  
OF  
AFCRI-SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT IN SADC MEMBER STATES  
APPROVED ON APRIL 24, 2014  
TO  
SADC SECRETARIAT

WATER

AFRICA EASTERN AND SOUTHERN

Regional Vice President:	Hafez M. H. Ghanem
Country Director:	Deborah L. Wetzel
Regional Director:	Mark R. Lundell
Practice Manager/Manager:	Maria Angelica Sotomayor Araujo
Task Team Leader:	Anna Cestari



## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AMCOW:	African Ministers' Council on Water
IGRAC:	International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre
IHP:	Intergovernmental Hydrological Program
IWMI:	International Water Management Institute
SADC:	Southern Africa Development Community
SADC- GMI:	Southern Africa Development Community Groundwater Management Institute



**BASIC DATA**

**Product Information**

Project ID P127086	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing
Original EA Category Partial Assessment (B)	Current EA Category Partial Assessment (B)
Approval Date 24-Apr-2014	Current Closing Date 31-Dec-2020

**Organizations**

Borrower SADC Secretariat	Responsible Agency University of the Free State, University of the Free State
------------------------------	--

**Project Development Objective (PDO)**

Original PDO

To support sustainable management of groundwater at national and transboundary levels across SADC Member States.

**Summary Status of Financing (US\$, Millions)**

Ln/Cr/Tf	Approval	Signing	Effectiveness	Closing	Net Commitment	Disbursed	Undisbursed
TF-16748	24-Apr-2014	15-Jan-2015	30-Jun-2015	31-Dec-2020	2.00	1.78	.22
TF-16970	24-Apr-2014	15-Jan-2015	30-Jun-2015	31-Dec-2020	8.20	8.20	0

**Policy Waiver(s)**

Does this restructuring trigger the need for any policy waiver(s)?

No



## I. PROJECT STATUS AND RATIONALE FOR RESTRUCTURING

1. This Restructuring Paper requests an extension of the closing date of the project from December 31, 2020 until June 30, 2021, to address delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns and restrictions. This extension will allow the successful completion of all pending project activities and ensure their sustainability thereafter. A letter requesting the extension was sent by the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Secretariat to the World Bank on September 15, 2020.

2. The PDO is attainable within the extended implementation period. The proposed 6-months extension represents a cumulative extension of the closing date of 24 months hence requiring RVP level approval.

3. Based on the discussions and findings of the mission with the Southern Africa Development Community Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) and the SADC Secretariat completed on October 20, 2020, no other changes are required. The activities to be implemented during the extension period do not require reallocations among disbursement categories.

### Project Background

4. The Development Objective of the Project is to support the sustainable management of groundwater at national and transboundary levels across the SADC Member States.

5. The project consists of four components:

A: Operationalization of the SADC-GMI;

B: Strengthening institutional frameworks for sustainable groundwater management;

C: Advancing knowledge & information-sharing on transboundary and national groundwater;

D: Promoting groundwater infrastructure development;

6. Approved on April 24, 2014, the project became effective on June 30, 2015. In the early stages, implementation suffered delays because the establishment of the SADC-GMI took longer than envisaged. This delay was due to the complexity of a) setting up the institute as a subsidiary of the SADC and b) a hosting agreement with the University of the Free State in South Africa. Once these administrative hurdles were overcome, the implementation started to pick up pace with a strong performance of the SADC-GMI's management. Yet, the time lost at the beginning of the project could not be fully recovered and an extension of the closing date of 18 months from June 30, 2019 to December 30, 2020 was agreed upon in February 2019. Project implementation has progressed well with Component A and B rated satisfactory and component C and D moderately satisfactory. These ratings reflect the latter two components' complex implementation which entails extensive engagement with the 16 SADC Member States and works on the ground. These two components have been particularly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

### Project Status



7. The project is performing well, and it is on track to achieve its objectives. As documented in the latest ISR approved on November 7, 2020, several of the indicators have achieved or exceeded their targets. Some intermediate results indicators, mostly pertaining to training and studies under component C and the number of block grants under component D, are yet to be achieved and are expected to be substantially achieved with the extension. Disbursement at the end of August 2020 was at 98 percent (with USD 1,540,542 committed but unspent). All contracts have been signed, execution is underway, and no new activities are being contemplated.

- In the few years since its creation, the SADC-GMI has managed to become a well-recognized center of excellence in the field of groundwater management and knowledge, leading capacity building and knowledge initiatives in the region and becoming the prime repository for groundwater-related information in the SADC region.

- In this capacity, SADC-GMI has established formal cooperation with 5 Transboundary River Basin Organizations (RBO) in SADC to share and promote the role of groundwater in basin management and generated shared knowledge in SADC through studies undertaken in three transboundary basins. Among the many capacity-building efforts at the national and transboundary level, it has enhanced groundwater capacity and advocacy in the region through its Young Professionals Internship Program, whereby 65 professionals have been trained and it established National Focal Groups within the administrations of five SADC Member States.

- SADC-GMI has also developed active partnerships with government agencies and groundwater knowledge institutions in the region and beyond [including International Water Management Institute (IWMI), UNESCO- Intergovernmental Hydrological Program (IHP), International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), USAID, African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)] by implementing joint studies and activities. It has improved regional data and information sharing by establishing the SADC Groundwater Information Portal and the online SADC Groundwater Literature Archive, with about 180,000 visitors to date. SADC-GMI also initiated 12 innovative Sub-Grant projects in ten SADC Member States, building reliable and clean groundwater infrastructure and ensuring its local management by promoting sustainable groundwater management practices and strengthening groundwater monitoring & data management.

8. The next phase of the project, to be financed by the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA) Trust Fund, is being prepared and it is planned for approval by the World Bank Board of Executive Directors on June 16, 2021. The new project proposes to scale up and deepen actions and engagements where the SADC-GMI has been successful in mobilizing countries around cooperative action and sustainable management of groundwater, which is critical to building resilience, including food security, in an uncertain climate future.

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES**

9. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, however, the implementation pace has slowed down significantly, especially under Component D which finances the ongoing sub-grant infrastructure pilot projects that require construction works and associated field activities in ten SADC Member States. SADC-GMI has taken early actions. It has developed and has been implementing a Covid-19 mitigation plan since the early stages of the Pandemic in March 2020, yet while workshops and training could be conducted virtually, works on the ground were repeatedly interrupted. During the latest implementation support mission (October 2020) the team has assessed that it will not be possible to complete all activities by the current closing date of



December 31, 2020. According to the revised implementation schedule an extension of the closing date by six (6) months until June 30, 2021, is required to complete all pending project activities successfully and ensure their sustainability thereafter.

10. Additionally, the proposed extension would facilitate a smooth transition between this phase and the next phase of engagement with SADC and SADC-GMI, with the clear advantage of maintaining adequate SADC-GMI staffing and full operational capacity.

11. The end target date for project indicators will also be updated to coincide with the revised closing date.

**III. SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

	Changed	Not Changed
Results Framework	✓	
Loan Closing Date(s)	✓	
Implementing Agency		✓
DDO Status		✓
Project's Development Objectives		✓
PBCs		✓
Components and Cost		✓
Cancellations Proposed		✓
Reallocation between Disbursement Categories		✓
Disbursements Arrangements		✓
Disbursement Estimates		✓
Overall Risk Rating		✓
Safeguard Policies Triggered		✓
EA category		✓
Legal Covenants		✓
Institutional Arrangements		✓
Financial Management		✓
Procurement		✓
Implementation Schedule		✓
Other Change(s)		✓



Economic and Financial Analysis		✓
Technical Analysis		✓
Social Analysis		✓
Environmental Analysis		✓

**IV. DETAILED CHANGE(S)**

**LOAN CLOSING DATE(S)**

<b>Ln/Cr/Tf</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Original Closing</b>	<b>Revised Closing(s)</b>	<b>Proposed Closing</b>	<b>Proposed Deadline for Withdrawal Applications</b>
TF-16748	Effective	30-Jun-2019	31-Dec-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Oct-2021
TF-16970	Effective	30-Jun-2019	31-Dec-2020	30-Jun-2021	30-Oct-2021



**Results framework**

COUNTRY: Eastern Africa

AFCRI-Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States

**Project Development Objectives(s)**

To support sustainable management of groundwater at national and transboundary levels across SADC Member States.

**Project Development Objective Indicators by Objectives/ Outcomes**

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	End Target
<b>Development of the SADC Groundwater Management Institute to a recognized center of excellence</b>			
Development of the SADC Groundwater Management Institute to a recognised center of excellence (Text)		n/a	GMI established with 80% satisfaction
<b>Transboundary institutions strengthened to improve regional cooperation</b>			
Transboundary institutions strengthened to improve regional cooperation (Text)		Establ.	Operating with full staff, work-prgrm & long-term Financial Mgmt Plan impl.
<b>Enhanced capacity for sustainable transboundary groundwater management</b>			
Enhanced capacity for sustainable transboundary groundwater management in the Ministries responsible for groundwater in SADC MemberStates (Text)		n/a	70% of capacity demand met
<b>Promoting infrastructure solutions for the development of groundwater resources</b>			
Direct project beneficiaries (Number)		0.00	5,000.00
Female beneficiaries (Percentage)		0.00	40.00



**Intermediate Results Indicators by Components**

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	End Target
<b>D: Promoting groundwater infrastructure development</b>			
Running of a fully integrated data management system: stores, connects, collects & makes available information from groundwater initiatives and data sources (Yes/No)		No	Yes
# of documents produced on financing of construction and maintenance of groundwater infrastructures (Number)		0.00	5.00
Sub Grant Manual Implemented (Text)		None	Updated & implemented
Improved strategic analyses conducted and knowledge products developed to illustrate the evidence base for cooperation needs and challenges (Number)		0.00	4.00
<b>C: Advancing knowledge &amp; information-sharing on transboundary and national groundwater</b>			
Number of joint activities conducted with international groundwater organisations (Number)		0.00	25.00
# of people received training dedicated to groundwater data collection, management & sharing (Number)		0.00	120.00
# of people directly benefitting from demonstration/pilot groundwater infrastructures (Number)		0.00	200.00
# of research studies completed on groundwater management challenges selected by SADC Member States (Number)		0.00	7.00
# of people receiving training in infrastructure solutions in priority areas of Member States (Number)		0.00	180.00
# of visitors to SADC GMI website (Number)		0.00	20,000.00
% of participants satisfied with seminars and workshops conducted on knowledge transfer with 'excellent' outcome (Percentage)		0.00	80.00



Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	End Target
% of trained groundwater practitioners who deemed training and manuals satisfactory (Percentage)		0.00	80.00
Advanced scientific knowledge enabling sustainable transboundary groundwater management among SADC Member States (Number)		0.00	4.00
Percentage of times on-demand technical assistance requests from SADC Member States met (Percentage)		0.00	80.00
<b>B: Strengthening institutional frameworks for sustainable groundwater management</b>			
# of guideline notes on policy and legislation for transboundary and national aquifers developed and disseminated (Number)		1.00	10.00
MoU Signed between SADC Secretariat and the University of the Free State (Text)		No MoU	MoU signed
# of trainings dedicated to providing guidance to stakeholders on identifying solutions for strengthening legal, policy, and regulatory tools (Number)		0.00	10.00
# of manuals produced which provide operational support for groundwater infrastructure development (including management of environmental and social impacts) (Number)		0.00	4.00
# of people learning applied skills from demonstration/pilot groundwater infrastructures (Number)		0.00	60.00
<b>A: Operationalisation of the SADC Groundwater Management Institute</b>			
# of Interns/ Seconded with the regional internship programme at SADC-GMI (Number)		0.00	45.00
SADC-GMI obtains Subsidiarity Status of SADC (Text)		Not obtained	Subs status granted
# of sub-grant pilot activities at SADC Member States level completed with satisfactory outcome (Number)		0.00	15.00



Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	End Target
Strengthened transboundary institutions with improved analytic tools, knowledge products, data, forecasting, and/or capacity for improved water and climate risk management (Number)		0.00	5.00
Financial resources sought and secured for long-term sustainability &/or expansion of operations (Text)		None	grant/ revenues secured



**The World Bank**

AFCRI-Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States (P127086)

---