



United Nations
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International
Hydrological
Programme



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**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**



National Workshop on National and International Water Law

Water Research Commission (WRC)

Pretoria, South Africa

3 – 4 April 2017

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Background and Objectives of the Meeting

Within the framework of the “Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers” (GGRETA) project, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Governments of Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, jointly with the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP) are undertaking an assessment of the Stampriet Transboundary Aquifer System (STAS). The importance of the STAS to the region draws from the fact that it is the only permanent and dependable water resource in the area, which covers 87,000 sq. km from Central Namibia into Western Botswana and South Africa’s Northern Cape Province.

The GGRETA project aims to reinforce the capacity of Member States in managing groundwater resources; strengthen cooperation among countries sharing the aquifer; and develop a long term strategy for the monitoring and governance of the transboundary aquifer. One of the main findings of the first phase of the project (2013-2015) was that strengthening domestic capacities in implementation and enforcement of domestic water legislation is necessary to support cooperation for the management of the STAS. In this connection, the legal and institutional component of the second phase of the project (2016-2018) will concentrate on strengthening capacity on groundwater governance at the national and transboundary levels through a series of capacity-building modules as a means to support the process of establishment of a multi-country cooperation mechanism (MCCM). The establishment of the STAS MCCM would be the first example of a mechanism for the management and governance of a transboundary aquifer in Southern Africa.

Objectives

To illustrate and discuss the water laws of South Africa, in context with the cooperation underway on the Stampriet Transboundary Aquifer System (STAS) with the neighboring countries sharing that aquifer.

Draft programme

DAY 1 • Monday, 3 April 2017

08:00-08:30	Registration
08:30-09:30	Introduction to the training
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome, introduction, getting acquainted with the participants• Adoption of the agenda
09:30-10:45	The global context – Global trends and developments in domestic water law
09:30 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A comparative global review of contemporary domestic water legislation – trends, issues emerging, responses<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ <i>Mr Stefano Burchi, International Water Law Association, GGRETA Project Senior Legal Advisor</i>
10:30 – 10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Q&A, debate
10:45-11:15	Tea and coffee break

11:15-12:30	International water law and its linkages with the domestic water laws of South Africa
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International water law, with a focus on transboundary aquifers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Mr Stefano Burchi, International Water Law Association, GGRETA Project Senior Legal Advisor</i> • Q&A, debate
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-17:00	International water law and its linkages with the domestic water laws of South Africa (ctd.)
14:00 – 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking international water law with domestic water legislation – general principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Mr Stefano Burchi, International Water Law Association, GGRETA Project Senior Legal Advisor</i> • Q&A, debate
15:00-15:30	Tea and coffee break
15:30-17:00	Group Exercise: Contextualizing South Africa’s water laws in the STAS cooperation on-going
17:00-17:15	Concluding Remarks

DAY 2 • Tuesday, 4 April 2017

10:00-12:30	GGRETA 2 project legal and institutional activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on GGRETA Phase 2 legal and institutional activities and workplan (May 2017 – December 2017)
12:30-12:45	Concluding Remarks