

MID-TERM REVIEW

Project ID:	10797
Project Name:	GEF Sustainable Groundwater Management In SADC Member States Project Phase 2
Countr(ies):	Regional, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Angola, Botswana, Congo DR
Implementing Agency:	World Bank

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

GEF Sustainable Groundwater Management In SADC Member States Project Phase 2

Country

Regional, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Angola, Botswana, Congo DR

GEF ID
10797

Implementing Agency
World Bank

Executing Entity

SADC-Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI)

Trust Fund
GET

Project Type
FSP

Objective

The objective of the project is to develop capacity and knowledge for inclusive groundwater management and use in the SADC region at national and transboundary levels specifically shared aquifers

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval
12/9/2022

Agency Approval
5/26/2023

Implementation Start

First Disbursement

Expected MTR
11/23/2024

MTR Submission
9/4/2025

Actual MTR
11/28/2023

Expected Completion
11/30/2025

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main MTR Findings

Implementation progress has significantly improved with a huge turn-around where several activities have been completed or at near completion. 11 National Focal Groups (NFGs) have been established and operational out of the 13 planned. NFGs are instrumental in the implementation of both the national level sub-

grant projects as well as the transboundary initiatives implemented in the Transboundary Aquifers (TBAs) and River Basin Commissions (RBOs). The Young Professionals Programme (YPP) has more than 1,000 participants on the Community of Practice and hosts monthly webinars. 12 YPs (10 master's and 2 PhD) have benefitted from the bursary scheme, while more than 120 have gone through the internship program. Partnerships with RBOs have enhanced the achievement of SADC-GMI's Centre of Excellence mandate to facilitate the integration of groundwater development and management at transboundary level. Good progress has consistently been reported regarding the updating of the time series data and enhanced online functionalities of both SADC Groundwater Literature Archive (SADC-GLA) and SADC Groundwater Information Portal (SADC-GIP). Recently SADC-GMI implemented an acceleration plan for implementation of the sub-grants, improved member states engagement and a significant turnaround was noted with seven (7) sub-grant projects completed and commissioned and eight (8) over 50% of implementation out of the twenty-four (24) under implementation.

Progress on implementation of sub-grant programme for both base- and competitive grants was significantly lagging, with reasons differing from capacity in member states to slow bureaucratic processes. Implementation of joint studies for TBAs takes a long time to complete consultations, and agreed joint actions, the project will require extension of closing date for an extra 18 months.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

Through operation of NFGs, the project supported the implementation of National Stakeholder Dialogues in Eswatini, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe respectively during the period between October 2024 to March 2025 with a cumulative number of 413 national stakeholders benefitting from the dialogue on groundwater. An additional National Stakeholder dialogue is planned in South Africa before end of August 2025. Both the establishment and full operationalization of the NFGs are largely demand driven, are requires continuous engagement between SADC-GMI and member states. The project had planned to establish all the 16 NFGs representing the total number of SADC member states, however, there has been a slow response from other member states, such thta the project has only established so far only 11 NFGs.

C. Gender Equality

Capacity building efforts are implemented with an aim to be inclusive by considering the special needs and challenges of women and other vulnerable populations. All capacity building initiatives and YP opportunities are designed to promote equitable access for women and men. SADC-GMI deliberately requests Member States to nominate both male and female candidates as a measure to achieve inclusivity. However, it has been observed that the success of such deliberate efforts largely rely on the availability of candidates in the Member States likely to be attributed to the inherent male dominance in the water sector. The project continues to expand the young professionals' internship program, focusing on forming women professionals. The project also devotes attention to the ability of traditionally excluded groups to organize, adapt, monitor and enforce institutional arrangements that govern their use of natural resources such as groundwater, recognizing the central role of women as providers and users of water and guardians of the environment.

D. Knowledge Management

Component 2 is at the core of trying to build an understanding of groundwater and its role in building resilience and coping with the impacts of climate change amidst all the other global and transboundary cooperation challenges. The project is undertaking activities to generate more data, information and knowledge products to feed into Decision Support Systems (DSS) for climate adaptation and resilient livelihoods. Activities include development of a regional monitoring network, time series data and information generation from SADC-GIP and GLA, integration of big data, AI and GIS/Remote sensed applications. The project has sealed partnerships with various Universities across the SADC region to collect

1 400 records to be uploaded on the SADC-GLA. Development of a regional groundwater monitoring network has started with strategic aquifer systems to identify common or unique parameters necessitating monitoring in three typology aquifers, namely on Mainland SADC TBAs, Coastal Aquifers and Island State Aquifers.

III. Core Indicators

Indicator 7 Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem	Sand and Gravel Aquifer, Coastal Sedimentary Basin III	Sand and Gravel Aquifer, Coastal Sedimentary Basin III	Sand and Gravel Aquifer, Coastal Sedimentary Basin III,	
Count	2	2	3	0

Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
			3	
			3	

Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Sand and Gravel Aquifer	3	3	3	
Coastal Sedimentary Basin III	3	3	3	

Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Sand and Gravel Aquifer	2	2	3	
Coastal Sedimentary Basin III	2	2	3	

Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Coastal Sedimentary Basin III	2	2	3	
Sand and Gravel Aquifer	2	2	3	

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	55,825	70,490	52,883	
Male	45,675	62,510	47,922	
Total	101,500	133,000	100,805	0

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO(\$)	Materialized at MTR(\$)
GEF Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	9,000,000.00	6,730,000.00
GEF Agency	World Bank	Loans	Investment mobilized	24,000,000.00	
GEF Agency	World Bank	Loans	Investment mobilized	62,000,000.00	
Total Co-financing				95,000,000.00	6,730,000.00

Comments

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate	

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

A dedicated environmental and social officer oversees the environmental and social risk management of the project. Under Component 3, SADC member states have submitted grant applications for sub-projects which are spread across the member states. All grant proposals have been screened for environmental and social risks. Most of the sub-grants require standard mitigation of environmental and social risks, utilizing a template which must be adjusted to the location and affirm responsibilities for measures and oversight. In addition, sub-grantees apply agreed minimum standards in the Labor Management Procedures and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (e.g. ensure access to grievance), regardless of the location.

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	10797-P176607 - P175355-2025-PIR-WB-Eastern and Southern Africa