

GEF Sustainable Groundwater Management In SADC Member States Project Phase 2

Basic Information

GEF ID

10797

Countries

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

Project Title

GEF Sustainable Groundwater Management In SADC Member States Project Phase 2

GEF Agency(ies)

World Bank

Agency ID

World Bank: P176607

GEF Focal Area(s)

International Waters

Program Manager

Christian Severin

PIF

Part I – Project Informatics

Focal area elements

1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): Maybe, the proposed investment seems to align with the GEF IW FA, but the uploaded information in the portal is too little to determine this. Please fill in the sections in the portal and make sure that the inserted text responds to the titles of the sections.

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes

Agency Response

4/21/21

Thank you. The requested information has been added to Table B and the Outcomes window.

Indicative project/program description summary

2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): Maybe, not possible to determine due to the extremely limited information uploaded. Please fill in the template and ensure to respond to the different headings and subheadings in the template. Further, please specifically address following:

- 1) Reading the PCN, it seems that the proposed investment will be assisting countries in delivering towards the regional SAP on groundwater and the PCN lists quantifiable outputs, such as "establish and operationalise new NFGs in at least 8 of the remaining 11 SADC member states and support to Groundwater action plans in x countries" This is the kind of information that is missing in the Portal submission. It is not possible for the reader of the portal submission to understand what the project will be delivering. Table B needs to be filled in properly.
- 2) Project outcomes have been listed, but all output indicators to deliver on these, have been not been included. please do so
- 3) Component 3s title (Building resilient livelihoods and inclusive groundwater management) , as well as its classification, that it will be supporting investments on the ground, leading to curbing strain on the shared groundwater resources. However, it is not possible to understand what these actions will be and what outputs are foreseen. Please include these.
- 4)The amount of Transboundary aquifers that have been included that will benefit from this investment, is unrealistically high. Please include only include the one or two that you will be investing in for this grant of \$5 mio.
- 5) Justification for the investment, along with incremental reasoning etc are all missing from the submission, please include.
- 6) Entire section on stakeholder engagement is missing, as well as proof of stakeholder engagement/consultations undertaken.
- 7) the Gender section is not truly reflecting on the wealth of gender activities planned and the proposed actions alignment with the "the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development plan". Please make sure that the section is properly reflecting on what will the project will be supporting.
- 8) Please expand private sector section of the template. considering the importance groundwater has for supporting both public and private sector growth and stability, the section is simply too shallow.
- 9) Please produce and include an opportunity and risks analysis in relation to the current pandemic.
- 10) Please obtain more LOEs and make sure these are uploaded.

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Partly. Please following points that are still outstanding:

- 1) Please provide more details on what will be delivered through the on the ground investments under component 3
- 2) Please remove the many TB aquifers listed under core indicator 7 and include only 1 or maximum 2. There is no way that this investment can deliver impacts in that many transboundary aquifers.
- 3) Private sector stakeholders play an essential role as water users and custodians. The private sector stakeholder group is much broader than what has been included in the section. Please expand.

4) Please upload missing LOEs

28th of April 2021 (cseverin): Partly addressed, five LOEs still missing, from Angola, Botswana, Congo DR, Namibia and Seychelles. Please upload these to the portal submission, or remove the countries from the submission. Please insert a footnote that indicates that the project proponents will be working towards obtaining the remaining LOEs during PPG.

3rd of May 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

5/3/2021

Proposal will be submitted for 13 countries that provided LOEs. 3 remaining countries (Angola, Botswana, DRC) are excluded from the list of countries in submission, with the note that the remaining LOEs will be obtained during project preparation

4/21/2021

Thank you. Please see our responses:

Questions 1-3: The following was added to the Portal submission: components with detailed outcomes; core indicators and intermediate indicators.

Question 4: The selection of 2-3 TBAs out of the included list will be part of the project. This selection will be done by the member states in a participatory way. The SADC Sub-Committee on Hydrogeology, which also serves as the Project Steering Committee, has developed a decision-making mechanism that proved to be efficient in this type of selective processes. This approach supports the ownership and hence the future collaboration. The SADC-GMI has advised the team to avoid prior selection of the TBAs and allow for a participatory selection to support collaborative project implementation.

Question 5: As articulated in the SADC Regional Strategic Action Plans (RSAPs), water plays a key role in the region's development at the local, national and regional level. As climate variability is affecting the availability of surface water, groundwater has become an indispensable source of water. Groundwater can play a key role in improving water security. To identify and pursue sustainable solutions for groundwater use and management, SADC Member States have identified the need to improve their capacity and knowledge to better understand and cooperate on groundwater issues. The project addresses water security in freshwater ecosystems, as reflected in its Development Objective of developing knowledge and capacity for inclusive groundwater management in the SADC region at national and transboundary levels. The incremental reasoning is as follows: the project will add value to the global interface on IW by developing GW knowledge under Component 2 (GW studies) and utilizing it under Component 3 through the innovative GW sub-grants. In particular, the project The project components focus on 1) building capacity and promoting cooperation at national and regional levels, with a special focus on promoting and supporting conjunctive management of the TB groundwater and surface water resources in the regional RBOs. 2) generating knowledge on the regional groundwater resources and promoting dissemination and knowledge sharing by national and regional institutions, and 3) piloting investments supporting the sustainable and inclusive use of the regional groundwater resources. These 3 components are closely aligned with the 3 focus areas of strategic action of the GEF IW program: advancing information exchange,

enhancing regional and national cooperation on shared freshwater surface and groundwater resources, and investing in water, food, energy and environmental security.

Question 6. The section has been added to the Portal .

Question 7. The section has been added to the Portal.

Question 8. The section has been expanded, project-specific information was reflected.

Question 9. A study by SADC “Report on the impact of COVID-19 on the SADC Water Sector” has been prepared. It includes COVID-related risk analysis. The document has been uploaded into the GEF portal and shared with GEFSEC.

Question 10. Additional LOEs have been uploaded.

4/27/2021:

Question 1. Component 3 output.

The overall KM strategy will comprise of the development of knowledge products that will be disseminated through a variety of channels. The development of knowledge products will comprise the documentation of lessons learnt and best practices in the form of guidelines, blue-prints, procedures manuals, video clips, academic papers, news pieces, amongst others. The Knowledge products will be shared and disseminated through various channels which include: (i) the SADC-GMI website; (ii) training, advocacy and knowledge exchange workshops; (iii) professional conferences which includes the SADC Groundwater Annual Conference; (iv) the SADC-GMI quarterly newsletter (The Well); (v) study tours and technical exchanges among the Member States; (vi) publication of academic papers in some journals; (vii) news pieces to disseminate knowledge generated by the project.

Question 2: Selection of aquifers. The priority aquifers have been identified on the basis of the analysis: (i) Ravuma delta Coastal Sedimentary Basin III TB Aquifer (shared Tanzania and Mozambique); and (ii) Sands & Gravels of weathered Precambrian Basement Complex TB Aquifer (shared between Malawi and Zambia).

According to the 2012 SADC-ISARM analysis and the TBA management needs assessment by BGS (2013), transboundary aquifers in the SADC region requiring support in terms of GW management were categorized into 3 priority classes: A, B, and C. Funding under the proposed project will be focusing on TBAs in class A. The prioritization will be discussed and confirmed by the SADC Member States through the Sub-Committee on Hydrogeology. The final choice of the TBAs included in the project will be made by the SADC Member States during the project implementation.

Question 3: Private sector.

Additional information:

The project will benefit all economic sectors and all water user groups, including such private sector users as the industry (private), business sector, agriculture, and domestic sector. Specific private beneficiaries are:

- Local-level direct beneficiaries: Small-grant project and community-level capacity building beneficiaries. The innovative infrastructure pilots implemented by this project to promote sustainable groundwater management practices will directly benefit the planners, managers, implementors, and community members, illustrating the potential of innovative approaches. Another local-level project initiative is

developing technical and vocational skills among groundwater stakeholders that enable equal participation of women and men. The modalities will include training and the provision of guidance materials on groundwater stewardship, and the beneficiaries will be the local stakeholders (both women and men) selected and involved in the implementation of the pilot projects.

- Local-level indirect beneficiaries: Communities in Member States. Most rural communities are served from groundwater resources, with high dependence in Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, eSwatini, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Many towns and cities also depend substantially on groundwater, including Tshwane in South Africa, Lusaka in Zambia, Bulawayo in Zimbabwe and Dodoma in Tanzania. Considering that the project's technical and institutional capacity support at the national level improves groundwater management and groundwater resources sustainability, groundwater-dependent communities will be indirect beneficiaries.

- National level direct beneficiaries: Focal Persons, Focal Group members, trainees and interns. SADC-GMI has identified and supported National Focal Persons to act as an interface between the Institute and the SADC Member States. Five National Focal Groups were also established. The Focal Group initiative will continue as an activity in the proposed program and will include further capacity building and support inputs. As the focal persons and focal group initiatives unfold, growing numbers of participants will be direct project beneficiaries. Further national-level direct beneficiaries will include country participants in conferences, workshops and training, and young professionals selected and or seconded to join the regional internship program.

Question 4. remaining LOEs will be added as requested

Co-financing

3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion 12th of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes, cofinancing is fine. However, it is noted that cofinancing section includes contribution from many countries that have not endorsed the project.

Agency Response

4/21/2021

Please note that the co-financing amounts are indicative at this stage. Actual amounts will be confirmed during project preparation.

GEF Resource Availability

4. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion 12th of April 2021 (cseverin):Yes

Agency Response

The STAR allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

Impact Program Incentive?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

Project Preparation Grant

5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion 12th of April 2021 (cseverin): No PPG requested.

Agency Response

Core indicators

6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin):No, the list of shared aquifers is too long. it seems impossible that a grant of the size of \$5 mio will be able to impact this many. therefore, please only include the one or potentially two that will be invested in.

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Please remove the long list of TB aquifers included under core indicator 7. please only include one or maximum two at this stage. We can not process this investment with the long list, it will simply mess up our internal accounting system, as this one investment will then count for investment in too many TB investments, that will end up not happening.

28th of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

4/21/2021

Please see the PCN, p. 6.

The selection of 2-3 TBAs out of the included list will be part of the project. This selection will be done by the member states in a participatory way. The SADC Sub-Committee on Hydrogeology, which also serves as the Project Steering Committee, has developed a decision -making mechanism that proved to be efficient in this type of selective processes. This approach supports the ownership and hence the future collaboration. The SADC-GMI has advised the team to avoid prior selection of the TBAs and allow for a participatory selection to support collaborative project implementation.

4/27/2021:

The priority aquifers have been identified on the basis of the analysis: (i) Ravuma delta Coastal Sedimentary Basin III TB Aquifer (shared Tanzania and Mozambique); and (ii) Sands & Gravels of weathered Precambrian Basement Complex TB Aquifer (shared between Malawi and Zambia).

According to the 2012 SADC-ISARM analysis and the TBA management needs assessment by BGS (2013), transboundary aquifers in the SADC region requiring support in terms of GW management were categorized into 3 priority classes: A, B, and C. Funding under the proposed project will be focusing on TBAs in class A. The prioritization will be discussed and confirmed by the SADC Member States through the Sub-Committee on Hydrogeology. The final choice of the TBAs included in the project will be made by the SADC Member States during the project implementation.

Project/Program taxonomy

7. Is the project/program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion 12th of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes

Agency Response

art II – Project Justification

1. Has the project/program described the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin):No, has not been included. please do so.

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes, provided in the comment-section of the gefportal, and in the PCN

Agency Response

4/21/2021

Please note that this entry is not available in the World Bank-GEF datasheet template

This information is included in the PCN, p. 5.

2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin):No, baseline has not been described, so not possible to assess.

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin) Yes, included in the PCN p 5

Agency Response

4/21/2021

Please note that this entry is not available in the World Bank-GEF datasheet online template

Please see the PCN, p.5.

3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

12th of April 2021 (cseverin):No, please include

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes, included in the PCN

Agency Response

4/21/2021

Please note that this entry is not available in the World Bank-GEF datasheet online template

Please see the PCN, p.6-7.

4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

12th of April 2021 (cseverin):No included so not possible to assess. please include

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes, included in the PCN

Agency Response

4/21/2021

Please note that this entry is not available in the World Bank-GEF online template

Please see the PCN, p.5.

5. Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): No not included, so impossible to assess. Please formulate and include in submission

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes, included in the PCN

Agency Response

4/22/2021

Please note that this entry is not available in the World Bank-GEF online template.

The project will contribute to sustainable regional basin management and the SAP implementation. Component 2 is dedicated to knowledge management, in particular, it will finance GW studies, which will contribute to the global IW interface and will underpin the innovative GW management pilots conducted at the community level under Component 3.

6. Are the project's/program's indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): No, the core indicator information under core indicator 7 is too high. please adjust according to comments earlier in the reviewsheet.

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Issue persists, please address

28th of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

4/21/2021

Please note that this entry is not available in the World Bank-GEF online template.

Please see the PCN, p.5.

Please also see an explanation here: The selection of 2-3 TBAs out of the included list will be part of the project. This selection will be done by the member states in a participatory way. The SADC Sub-Committee on Hydrogeology, which also serves as the Project Steering Committee, has developed a decision-making mechanism that proved to be efficient in this type of selective processes. This approach supports the ownership and hence the future collaboration. The SADC-GMI has advised the team to avoid prior selection of the TBAs and allow for a participatory selection to support collaborative project implementation.

4/27/2021:

The priority aquifers have been identified on the basis of the analysis: (i) Ravuma delta Coastal Sedimentary Basin III TB Aquifer (shared Tanzania and Mozambique); and (ii) Sands & Gravels of weathered Precambrian Basement Complex TB Aquifer (shared between Malawi and Zambia).

According to the 2012 SADC-ISARM analysis and the TBA management needs assessment by BGS (2013), transboundary aquifers in the SADC region requiring support in terms of GW management were categorized into 3 priority classes: A, B, and C. Funding under the proposed project will be focusing on TBAs in class A. The prioritization will be discussed and confirmed by the SADC Member States through the Sub-Committee on Hydrogeology. The final choice of the TBAs included in the project will be made by the SADC Member States during the project implementation.

7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): Not included, so not possible to assess. Please formulate and include.

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): No, it is not possible from reading the PCNs formulation how this investment will be innovative. Simply by labeling the sub-grants as "innovative" is not allowing the reader to understand how they these sub grants will further innovation.

28th of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

4/21/2021

Please note that this entry is not available in the World Bank-GEF datasheet online template

Please see the PCN, p.7 information on innovation, sustainability and scale up

4/27/2021

The following will be delivered through Component's 3 sub-grant pilots: under Phase 2, the project will promote innovative technologies and solutions to manage and use groundwater. It will also promote synergies with other programs and projects to maximize positive outcomes and help maximize the sustainable management and use of groundwater to build resilience in the water systems of member states.

Technologies that will be offered for selection under the innovative grants of Component 3 include: Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR), Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE), Shallow Aquifers, and Island and Coastal Aquifers. However, a full set of technologies that will be offered depends on the outcomes of Component 2, which is dedicated to GW knowledge development.

Project/Program Map and Coordinates

Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes

Agency Response

Agency response

Stakeholders

Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): Not included, so impossible to assess. please do so

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

3rd of May 2021 (cseverin): Please elaborate further on which stakeholders, including civil society organization were consulted in project design.

3rd of May 2021 (cseverin): Addressed, as described the proposed investment will be building on and utilizing existing collaboration with CSO in the SADC region, through the investment, that this proposed investment will build on. Due to COVID Pandemic, it has not been possible to undertake extensive consultations and therefore these have been deferred to the PPG phase.

Agency Response

5/3/2021

Information added in the Stakeholders section of the online WB PIF on international organizations, donors, and institutions involved at this stage and will be engaged during project implementation.

4/21/21

This information has been added to the Portal.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): Please expand on this section. the proposal seems to be suggesting a number of activities (when reading the PCN), but only a few things have been included in the submission template.

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

3rd of May 2021 (cseverin): Please provide explicit information on women groups/associations as stakeholders to be consulted or the process to ensure gender-responsive consultations in project development

3rd of May 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

5/3/2021

information on women groups as stakeholders to be consulted is added in the relevant section of the WB online PIF.

4/21/21

The section has been expanded in the Portal.

Private Sector Engagement

Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): No, please expand considerable.

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): No, please expand. the private sector players that are benefiting from and relying on water resources from aquifers is broader than "drilling companies". Sure water providers and hence drillers are part of the stakeholder groups, but there are many other economic sectors that are and should be involved.

28th of April 2021 (cseverin) addressed.

Agency Response

4/21/21

The section has been expanded, specific project value added has been included.

4/27/21

The project will benefit all economic sectors and all water user groups, including such private sector users as the industry (private), business sector, agriculture, and domestic sector. Specific private beneficiaries are:

- **Local-level direct beneficiaries: Small-grant project and community-level capacity building beneficiaries.** The innovative infrastructure pilots implemented by this project to promote sustainable groundwater management practices will directly benefit the planners, managers, implementors, and community members, illustrating the potential of innovative approaches. Another local-level project initiative is developing technical and vocational skills among groundwater stakeholders that enable equal participation of women and men. The modalities will include training and the provision of guidance materials on groundwater stewardship, and the beneficiaries will be the local stakeholders (both women and men) selected and involved in the implementation of the pilot projects.

- **Local-level indirect beneficiaries: Communities in Member States.** Most rural communities are served from groundwater resources, with high dependence in Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, eSwatini, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Many towns and cities also depend substantially on groundwater, including Tshwane in South Africa, Lusaka in Zambia, Bulawayo in Zimbabwe and Dodoma in Tanzania. Considering that the project's technical and institutional capacity support at the national level improves groundwater management and groundwater resources sustainability, groundwater-dependent communities will be indirect beneficiaries.

- **National level direct beneficiaries: Focal Persons, Focal Group members, trainees and interns.** SADC-GMI has identified and supported National Focal Persons to act as an interface between the Institute and the SADC Member States. Five National Focal Groups were also established. The Focal Group initiative will continue as an activity in the proposed program and will include further capacity building and support inputs. As the focal persons and focal group initiatives unfold, growing numbers of participants will be direct project beneficiaries. Further national-level direct beneficiaries will include country participants in conferences, workshops and training, and young professionals

Further national level direct beneficiaries will include country participants in conferences, workshops and training, and young professionals selected and or seconded to join the regional internship program.

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): Yes, the risk section is probably the section that has been dealt with most carefully in the submission. However, please add a risk and opportunity analysis presented by the current COVID pandemic.

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

4/21/21

This has been done: a study by SADC "Report on the impact of COVID-19 on the SADC Water Sector" has been uploaded in the GEF portal Roadmap, it includes risk information.

Coordination

**Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined?
Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?**

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): No information included in the submission, please include

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed in PCN

Agency Response

4/21/21

Please note that this entry is not available in the World Bank-GEF online template

Please see the PCN, p. 9-10 - information is added.

The SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana, through the Directorate for Infrastructure and Services (Water Division), will be the custodian of the project and recipient of the Grant. The SADC-GMI will implement the project in synergy with several national and regional stakeholders. The program has a SADC wide regional footprint and is designed to contribute to the sustainable management of groundwater at multiple levels, ranging from local to regional. In this context, there are many beneficiaries, some deriving direct benefit from the project and its activities and others enjoying indirect benefits. In addition, donors and funders may be argued to benefit by extending their development agendas through their involvement with the program.

The project coordinate with the Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States Project financed by CIWA and implemented by the World Bank, P175355, which is expected to be approved in June 2021 and which is the second stage of the ongoing SADC-SGWMP. The components under the proposed project are defined to allow synergies with the World Bank operation. Both projects will be using the same project implementation unit: SADC-GMI's, which has proven to be a center of excellence on groundwater in the region, able to respond to the capacity and knowledge needs of the SADC Member States and regional institutions.

Several IFI and donor-funded investments in the SADC countries address groundwater development. The team will collaborate with other IFIs at the country level to ensure coordination and synergy. In particular:

- UNESCO has been involved in transboundary work in the Stampriet Transboundary Aquifer System (STAS) shared between Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. This work is being implemented with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation under the Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA) project. Within the SADC region, the project is viewed as a pioneer/pilot project from which lessons can be learned and replicated across the region. The proposed project seeks collaboration with the UNESCO IHP.
- African Ministerial Commission on Water (AMCOW), the Pan-African Groundwater Program (APAGroP). The first APAGroP action is the piloting of a Groundwater Country Support Tool in Namibia. In 2020 AMCCOW launched the Knowledge Hub to share Africa's Water and Sanitation sector information and knowledge. The proposed project will collaborate with AMCOW in areas of capacity building, knowledge management, and access to water-related data, as well as in mainstreaming gender in the water sector in Africa.
- United States Agency for International Development Southern Africa – USAID-SA. Implementation of Big Data and Transboundary Water Cooperation Project. The SADC-GMI is collaborating with the USAID and a consortium of partners on piloting Machine Learning in

Transboundary aquifers. Under the project, SADC-GMI will develop monitoring tools to enhance its capacity to measure achievements and compliance of gender-specific actions and accountability at the sub-project level.

- The Water Research Commission South Africa (WRC-SA). The SADC-GMI is collaborating with the WRC-SA. Areas of cooperation include disseminating knowledge products to the SADC Member States (Under Component 2 of the Proposed project), rolling out the vocational training program for groundwater technicians and piloting innovative infrastructure projects.
- International Groundwater Resources Assessment Center, IGRAC. The collaboration will include the intended under Component 2 of the proposed project activities to improve the functionality of real-time data to the SADC-GIP, and also to produce periodical information packs from the analysis of the data collected.
- Africa Groundwater Network, CAP-Net, WaterNet and AU/Nepad Southern African Network for Water Centres of Excellence (SANWATCE). In particular, the regional network, WaterNet, promotes training, research and outreach on IWRM to academics, technical experts and government officials in southern and eastern Africa. The SADC-GMI is collaborating with the CapNet, WaterNet and A-GW-Net, offering a variety of trainings in the areas of professional borehole drilling, legal instruments for groundwater management, operation and maintenance of groundwater-related infrastructure and preparing a proposal for funding groundwater-related projects. The proposed project will continue to make use of the CapNet Virtual Campus.

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): Not included in the submission, please add

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed in PCN

Agency Response

4/21/21

Please note that this entry is not available in the World Bank-GEF online template

Please see the PCN, p. 4-5.

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed “knowledge management (KM) approach” in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project’s/program’s overall impact and sustainability?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): Not included in the submission, please add

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): No. Considering how important KM activities are for the success of this investment, please elaborate further on the KM actions and strategies of the investment. Not only as part of component 2 activities, but broader and how the investment will fit into supporting the implementation of the regional SADC strategy, build capacity and establish a regional KM modality.

28th of April 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

4/21/21

Please note that this entry is not available in the World Bank-GEF online template

Please see the PCN, p. 6-7 information is added

Please see a brief explanation here: Component 2 is dedicated to knowledge development. The focus is on supporting regional GW research. It will involve IW Learn and also will be the basis for the innovative pilots in Component 3.

4/27/2021:

The overall KM strategy will comprise of the development of knowledge products that will be disseminated through a variety of channels. The development of knowledge products will comprise the documentation of lessons learnt and best practices in the form of guidelines, blue-prints, procedures manuals, video clips, academic papers, news pieces, amongst others. The Knowledge products will be shared and disseminated through various channels which include: (i) the SADC-GMI website; (ii) training, advocacy and knowledge exchange

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): Please add remaining five LOEs (Angola, Botswana, DRC, Namibia and Seychelles)

Agency Response

5/3/2021

13 LOEs are uploaded in the GEF portal. Angola, Botswana and DRC are excluded from the list of countries, with the note that remaining LOEs will be obtained during project preparation.

4/21/2021

11 LOEs are uploaded in the GEF portal. Remaining LOEs are subject to signature

Termsheet, reflow table and agency capacity in NGI Projects

Does the project provide sufficient detail in Annex A (indicative termsheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table in Annex B to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. After reading the questionnaire in Annex C, is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

NA

Agency Response

EFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12th of April 2021 (cseverin): No, please address comments and resubmit

23rd of April 2021 (cseverin): No, please address comments and resubmit

28th of April 2021 (cseverin): Ready for receiving PPO review comments

3rd of May 2021 (cseverin): No, please address comments and resubmit ASAP

3rd of May 2021 (cseverin): Yes, project is recommended for technical clearance.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Review Dates

PIF Review Agency Response

First Review
Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)

PIF Recommendation to CEO

Brief reasoning for recommendations to CEO for PIF Approval

For the SADC member states (Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) water is a key resource for the growth of national and local economies, while supplying regional cohesion. As climate variability is affecting the availability of surface water, groundwater becomes an even more indispensable source of water in SADC. Groundwater plays a key role in improving water security, while also being intrinsically linked to improved hygiene practice and provides effective mitigation against the spreading of diseases, including COVID-19. It is estimated that over 70 percent of the 345 million people living in the SADC region rely on groundwater as their primary source of water.

Water, including groundwater, is the most shared resource in the SADC region. More than 70 percent of the surface water resources are shared between two or more member states. The SADC region has 15 internationally shared rivers and an estimated 30 transboundary aquifers, where the interest and need for cooperation on shared groundwater resources is growing. Attention to the conjunctive use and management of surface and groundwater resources, will require improving competences around groundwater, for example, by creating groundwater committees and reaching out to groundwater expertise.

The projects objective is to develop capacity and knowledge for inclusive groundwater management in the SADC region at the national and transboundary levels.

Building on the achievement of the SADC-SGWMP, this repeater second phase of the project aims to support SADC-GMI in consolidating its position as the region's go-to center of excellence on groundwater management. Building on an ongoing long-term technical engagement with the Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the project will support SADC-GMI to fulfil its mission to

develop, sustain and demonstrate technical and financial capacity to inclusively and innovatively to: a) build capacity on groundwater management and development. B) collect, manage, and share data accessible to all users and c) develop and manage knowledge for sustainable surface/groundwater use.