



Project Information Document (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 03-Dec-2020 | Report No: PIDC30701

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Eastern Africa	Project ID P175355	Parent Project ID (if any)	Project Name Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States Project Phase 2 (P175355)
Region AFRICA EAST	Estimated Appraisal Date Mar 22, 2021	Estimated Board Date Jun 16, 2021	Practice Area (Lead) Water
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)	Implementing Agency SADC-Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI)	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To Strengthen Inclusive Groundwater Management in the SADC Region at National and Transboundary Levels

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	9.00
Total Financing	9.00
of which IBRD/IDA	0.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS**Non-World Bank Group Financing**

Trust Funds	9.00
Cooperation in International Waters in Africa	9.00



Environmental and Social Risk Classification

Moderate

Concept Review Decision

Track I-The review did authorize the preparation to continue

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Regional Context

Sustained and inclusive economic growth in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) can accelerate job creation, poverty reduction and access to basic services. However, the region faces numerous water-related challenges that threaten economic growth and sustainable livelihoods. Poverty is prevalent in the Southern Africa region, especially amongst female-headed households, and the current global Covid-19 pandemic has severely dampened the economic outlook. Climate change poses serious risks to the agricultural sector of Southern African countries and may depress economic growth in the region. In addition, the lack of climate resilient infrastructure and climate-proof insurance in most of these Southern African countries will likely exacerbate the risks. Among different sources of water, groundwater is especially important for building climate resilience and alleviating poverty through improving human wellbeing, livelihoods, food production, ecosystems, industries and growing cities in SADC. Despite varying dependency on groundwater across SADC Member States, groundwater usually provides a critical buffer between dry and rainy seasons. In response to such dependency, some SADC Member States are actively integrating groundwater into their water resource management policies and laws.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Groundwater can play a key role in addressing water scarcity exacerbated by climate change and in supplying the safe water, which is essential in fighting disease, including Covid-19. The drier SADC countries in the South and South-West of the region are most dependent on groundwater. South-Africa, Botswana and Namibia all use more than 60 m³/capita/yr of groundwater. At the regional scale, only 1.2% of groundwater is currently utilized.⁹ Most SADC Member States use less than 10% of their renewable groundwater resources, except for South-Africa (65%) and Malawi (11%). This creates an enormous opportunity for further development and management for efficient utilization. Largely, the development and management of water resources in SADC have focused on surface water. There has been remarkable progress in establishing several transboundary institutions to facilitate sustainable and shared management of river basins in the SADC region. More than 70 per cent of the region's surface water resources are shared between countries. SADC has 15 international shared rivers and an estimated 30 transboundary aquifers. In contrast to its strategic role as an essential resource to help achieve community development and poverty alleviation, the institutional frameworks to manage water at both national and transboundary levels do not feature groundwater prominently. Thus, more effort is required to better understand and manage groundwater at transboundary, national and local levels and the potential of groundwater to guarantee water security needs to be adequately addressed in the policies, legal and regulatory frameworks at



both national and regional levels. The SADC-Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) was set up to strengthen the ability of national and transboundary institutions to manage groundwater.

Relationship to CPF

The project is well-aligned with the WBG Regional Integration Strategy for Africa, as highlighted in the analyses prepared for the *WBG Africa Regional Integration Strategy Update FY21-23*, primarily through *Strategic Pillar 4: Reinforcing Resilience*. This pillar directly responds to the WBG priorities for Protecting the Poor and Vulnerable and Strengthening Policies and Institutions. Proposed activities under Components 1 and 2 of the Project align closely to Focus area 4 under this pillar: *Transboundary water and natural resource management*. Component 1 will support River Basin Organizations (RBOs) and National Institutions to include groundwater planning in their programmes and strategies and supports the SADC Member States in strengthening groundwater regulations to create the regional regulatory environment that enables sustainable groundwater management. Component 2 will promote knowledge generation and sharing on national and transboundary water resources, increase the use of groundwater information in planning at national and regional levels and guide the Member States and RBO's with groundwater assessments, the preparation of monitoring plans and the compilation of groundwater info. Component 1 also aims at building capacity for sustainable, inclusive and participatory groundwater management in transboundary and national institutions which aligns well with Focus Area 2 “Skills and capacity-building“ of Strategic Pillar 3 which “Supports Human Capital Development”. Finally, the proposed project also aligns with two other Focus Areas under Strategic Pillar 4 of the regional strategy: “Agro-pastoralism” and “Food security and climate change”. Project Component 2 promotes the development of sector-specific knowledge products and information to guide and inform food production and pastoralism on groundwater availability and status

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

To Strengthen Inclusive Groundwater Management in the SADC Region at National and Transboundary Levels

Key Results (From PCN)

The proposed project directly builds on the results of the ongoing Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States Project (P127086). The new project deepens and broadens the efforts to support the SADC Member States and Transboundary River Basin Organizations (RBOs) to operationalize advances in knowledge generation and dissemination, to institutionalize gains in the capacity at local, national and transboundary levels to manage groundwater resources sustainably and equitably as well as to develop infrastructure solutions based on broad-based and inclusive consultations that are ready to be scaled up through investment programs. Continued support for groundwater institutional development will lead to Improved groundwater management in the SADC region at the transboundary, national and local level which contributes to improved access to water and builds resilience against climate-induced shocks for sustainable livelihoods. The theory of change (Figure 5).is based on the expected outcomes generated from the combined activities under each of the project components. The outcomes include: improved and equitable capacity of key institutions to manage groundwater in the SADC region at the transboundary, national and local level, improved knowledge on the status of groundwater resources



readily available and improved access to water of local communities contributing to improved livelihoods, increased economic opportunities and reduced vulnerability to climate-induced shocks that take into account the undue burden on women and other vulnerable populations.

D. Concept Description

The proposed project builds on an ongoing long-term technical engagement with the Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) through its regional technical center of excellence, the SADC-Groundwater management Institute (SADC-GMI). The concept proposes to scale up and deepen certain types of actions and engagements where the SADC-GMI has been successful in mobilizing countries around cooperative action and where countries have expressed interest and need for further engagement. In alignment with the proposed Project Development Objective (PDO), the project support is organized around four main components: (i) improved capacity of regional institutions for sustainable groundwater management; (ii) developing and disseminating timely and targeted knowledge for groundwater management; (iii) improved livelihoods that are more resilient to climate change and climate-related shocks; and (iv) SADC-GMI core functions and project management. The work will be delivered through regional dialogue and collaboration, where the sustainable socio-economic development in the SADC Region is the long-term objective of the program. Lessons from the existing project point to a good track record of SADC-GMI in project implementation, though the situation may be slightly different at the national and local levels within the different SADC member states. The risk will be mitigated by exploring alternative delivery models such involving partnerships with regional implementation partners and the private sector, to complement efforts at national level.

Legal Operational Policies	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	Yes
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The environmental and social risk rating is moderate at this time. Impacts that may arise are expected to be site specific, limited in scope and duration, and include localized loss of vegetation, soil erosion and degradation, soil and surface water pollution, minor dust and noise emissions, generation of small scale construction hazardous and non-hazardous waste, occupational health and safety concerns to both contracted workers and community and issues regarding labor and working conditions. Since the impacts are considered localized and of short duration it can be mitigated through the engagement of good practice measures such as the development of an environmental and social management frameworks which includes aspects for addressing health and safety for both workers and communities, labor management practices, stakeholder engagement plans and screening of sub-project level activities and development of site specific environmental and social management plans. It is not expected that the



project will require land acquisition or result in loss of livelihoods and assets as the investments are expected to take place within already established community areas.

CONTACT POINT

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APPROVAL

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