

UNESCO COORDINATES THE MANAGEMENT OF SHARED GROUNDWATER SOURCES BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA, BOTSWANA AND NAMIBIA



The Governments of South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia, jointly with the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) are holding the Regional Meeting on Tools for the Sustainable Management of Transboundary Aquifers in South Africa (Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre) from 28 to 31 July 2015.

The meeting covers the stakeholder consultation for the assessment of the Stampriet Transboundary Aquifer System (STAS, shared between South Africa, Botswana and Namibia); and the inception consultation for the Transboundary Ramotswa Aquifer System (STA, shared between South Africa and Botswana).

The meeting is being jointly convened within the framework of the UNESCO-IHP "Groundwater Resources Governance in Transboundary Aquifers" (GGRETA) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Resilience in the Limpopo Basin (RESILIM), funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and USAID/WLE, respectively.

The objectives of this meeting are:

- 1) to raise awareness and promote transboundary aquifer management cooperation in Southern Africa,
- 2) to share the results of the STAS assessment with a broader audience, including regional and national stakeholders nominated by the STAS countries,
- 3) to receive suggestions on possible policy and institutional responses to the assessment as well as options for a STAS Multi-Country Consultation Mechanism (MCCM) to improve management of the Stampriet aquifer,
- 4) to present options for cooperation between the three countries for the management of the STAS,
- 5) to present the RAMOTSWA project objectives, present current knowledge on the aquifer, and
- 6) to develop a joint work plan for the RAMOTSWA project.