



## Media Release

### Namibia to host the 5<sup>th</sup> SADC Groundwater Conference

**October 2022, Pretoria, South Africa:** The Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Namibia (Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform), and other regional and international partners will convene the 5<sup>th</sup> SADC Groundwater Conference, under the theme **“Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible for Socio-Economic Development”**.

The Conference seeks to provide a platform to discuss ways of enhancing the contribution of Groundwater to sustainability and ecosystem services for socio-economic development and climate change adaptation. This is important especially in the SADC region which faces many challenges requiring multi-dimensional solutions to address the many deficiencies at the household level.

The conference will take place on the 16th – 18th November 2022, at Windhoek Country Club Resort, with a virtual option for those who cannot be at the venue.

This supreme event intends to deliberate on groundwater's role in providing and sustaining ecosystem services, groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs) contribution to livelihoods, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and enhancing access to water by strengthening the governance frameworks.



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Main messages of the conference will contribute to the agenda of the Groundwater Summit to be held in Paris in December 2022 and the UN-Water Conference in New York in March 2023. Highly esteemed Keynote speakers and presenters will tackle groundwater's critical role and provide robust scientific solutions in enhancing groundwater contribution to socio-economic development in the SADC region and beyond.

Eng. James Sauramba, SADC-GMI Executive Director says groundwater is key for socio-economic development especially in the face of climate change which has a negative impact on water and food security, not only in the SADC region but globally.

Eng. Sauramba emphasized the need to elevate groundwater conversations particularly its contribution to poverty alleviation and food security. "SADC protocols and national policies and legislation don't talk much about operationalising mechanisms to recognise the significance of groundwater upon which about 70% of the population in the SADC region relies on for their primary livelihood activities for resilience."



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As we build up to the conference, we would like to shape the narrative about this resource (groundwater). We have seasoned keynote speakers and presenters lined up for the conference, and who are willing to be interviewed prior and during the conference.

END

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** SADC-GMI is a subsidiary structure of the SADC Secretariat launched in 2016 to raise the prominence of groundwater in national and regional policy, legal and regulatory frameworks. SADC-GMI gets its mandate from the Regional Strategic Action Plan (IV) on Integrated Water Resources 2016 – 2020.

*Part of its mandate is to facilitate the integration of groundwater into shared watercourse commissions and agreements through transboundary cooperation. It aims to assist Member States pursue a harmonized Integrated Water Resources Management framework that promotes equitable and sustainable use of shared international water resources.*

**To arrange interviews, please contact us on the details provided below:**

**Date:** 16 – 18 November 2022

**Venue:** Windhoek Country Club Resort, Namibia

**Program starts at:** 08:30

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