Document from the 7th Africa Water Week, held in Libreville, Gabon, 29 October – 2 November 2018

This material is shared as a learning resource to promote awareness and good practice in the provision, use and management of water resources for sustainable social and economic development and maintenance of African ecosystems.

A knowledge asset of the African Ministers' Council on Water

PLENARY SESSION DAILY REPORT
(RAPPORT JOURNALIER DE SESSION PLÉNIÈRE)
'7TH AFRICA WATER WEEK'
« 7IEME SEMAINE AFRICAINE DE L'EAU »
29 OCT. – 02 NOV. 2018

No.	**AWW7-2018SS/39**	**Version No.**	01r0			**Report Date:** (Date du rapport)	02/11/2018
Date:	01/11/2018	**Time:** (Heures)	4:00 PM	to	5:36 PM	**Language:** (Langue)	French
Theme:	Toward Achieving Water Security and Safely Managed Sanitation for Africa						
French theme	'Vers la Sécurité de l'Eau et des Services d'Assainissement gérés en toute sécurité pour l'Afrique'						
Sub-theme: (Sous-thème)	Water Governance: IWRM Reengineering, the Nexus Approach						
Session No.	39	**Title:** (Titre)	Influencing Policies and Practices – The African Underground Water and Development Research Commission				
Country: (Pays)	GABON	**City:** (Ville)	Libreville	**Location:** (Lieu)	Stade de l'Amitié Sino-Gabonaise à ANGONDJE		
Rapporteur (Rapporteur):	MOUNDENDE MOUNDENDE Abel			**Technical Partner:** (Partenaire technique)	SASI GABON		
Further details: (Informations complémentaires)	• PowerPoint Presentation (YES) : Broda_WHYMAP_AWW_v4; GW in RBOs; Project PR Inception Workshop 280918; Research into Use within UPGro - Final 31_10_2018; STAS_MCCM_ORASECOM. • Technical Documentation Technique (NO)						
Abbreviations and Acronyms: (Sigles et abréviations)	• AMCOW: African Ministers Council On Water. • UPGro: Unlock the Potential of Groundwater. • TMC: Transition of Management Cycle (Transition de Cycle de Gestion)						

IDENTIFICATION OF THE LEAD CONVENER AND CONTACT (IDENTIFICATION DES RESPONSABLES ET CONTACTS)

Lead Convener (Responsable):	AMCOW et UPGro (c/o Skat Foundation).
Co-convener (Coresponsable):	UPGro is a study program for research institutions and universities, in collaboration with the African Underground Water Network, the International Hydrologist Association, in partnership with water management institutions in African countries.
Contact:	Sean Furey (sean.furey@skat.ch) ; Dr Andrew Bullock (andybullock61@btinternet.com) ;

SPEAKER IDENTIFICATION (IDENTIFICATION DES INTERVENANTS)

Moderator (Modérateur):	Dr Andrew Bullock (Senior consultant HJP INTERNATIONAL LTD)
Speakers (Intervenants)	Dr Andrew Bullock (Senior consultant HJP INTERNATIONAL LTD)

SESSION OBJECTIVES (OBJECTIFS DE LA SESSION)

- Discuss the possibilities of using a hybrid water body.
- Allowing African States to effectively manage water

Session Plan (Plan de session)

- Introduction of the UPGro Project
- Detail activities carried by the UPGro Project
- Project Reflection

Session Summary (Résumé de la session)

Important points have been raised in researches and analyses carried by the UPGro with the aim to "unblock the underground water potential for the poor."

- This is a research program based in Africa, it began in 2013 for the 2020 perspective. In 2007, AMCOW took the resolution to support the UPGrp project in the water and sanitation sector.

However, within the UPGro studies, some preoccupations can also remain:

- Who will benefit more from this project?
- The fight aiming to show the project's benefits for the two or three years to come.

UPGro Project aims to prove the improvement of underground water availability and the acceptable use of it, for the benefit of the poor.
According to the quality analyses, this water depends on:

- Geology (ground state);
- Geomorphology (ground structure);
- Climate, precisely in African territories, rainfall (past and current);
- Complex hydrological environment with variations on how water is managed and recharged.

- UPGro proceeded in a total theory change, in order words performing researches that unblock development impacts. It consists in:

- Making social and productive benefits available for citizens;
- Preventing decline;
- Understanding usage risks and limits of underground water, so that capital is not compromised.
    - The definition of change according to UPGro is to: give a comprehension or research results for users and get to know the steps.

Moreover, some of the approaches used by UPGro is among the RIU (Research Into Use or usage research) which is an initial framework appropriated research to unblock opportunities for less fortunate individuals. They are learned alliances for citizens in areas in which UPGro is active to give room to "Local Research Partners."
To better equip them, technical data analysis are inculcated in the research methods capacity building framework, and the reaching of a large number of individuals to introduce the project.
In that context, UPGro implemented a Training Centre in the city of KWALE. This school is composed of 60% girls. It aims to form men and women for underground water management, the water quality and treatment appropriated for its conservation.

- In framework of realising its projects UPGro has elaborated a support system, on underground water usage for agriculture in rocky areas in LIMPOPO in South Africa.

Approaches used in the sector:

- Analyze the long term underground water level in time series;
- Estimate the refill and other water balance components in a hydroelectric dynamic modelling;
- Stimulate observed temporal changes, project climatic change impacts and change agricultural methods;
- Engage with farmers in the LIMPOPO zone for data collection and interpretation, and apply a support model for underground water management.

In addition, reflections on usage research by the T-Group Association have been carried. First, the T-Group is a project aiming to improve access to safe water in urban areas. T-Group also aims to find new collaboration opportunities in urban underground water management and use.
It is installed across three sites in Africa:

- DODOWA;

- KAMPALA;
- ARUSHA.

The Project was carried in two phases:

1. (For 2 years, 2015-2017) natural science is applied to have a detailed understanding of underground water quality and quantity, the water source types and the associated cost of water, governance and water sources management.
2. (For 2 years, 2017-2020), use the natural science findings to test the management transition cycle (abbreviated as TMC) which uses multisectoral actor platforms or social learning alliances to show the promise made through the development of transition toward acceptable underground water management.
   The principal TMC components include multi-stakeholder platforms (learing alliances), strategic planning, and small scale demonstrations to show the promise while making the transition toward sustainable underground water management.

Designed for development impact, TMC is also a research subject: starting with the TMC they have initially development, they aim at developing a TMC designed for underground water use in the complex context of their study area which can be replicated in other Sub-Saharan African cities.

Questions and Answers (questions et réponses)

Question No.		**Author** (Auteur):	
Wording (Libellé):	No question.		
ANSWERS (RÉPONSES)			**Speakers** (Intervenants)

Conclusions of the Session (conclusions de la session)

- Free access information is available, on African Underground Water Atlas and Literature archives at this address **https://www.bgs.ac.uk/africagroundwateratlas/index.cfm**

  This is a platform developed under UPGro by BGS in collaboration with the International Hydrogeologist Association (IHA).
  This online platform contains information from 51 African countries on:

- Hydrological summaries
- Underground layers maps
- Overview of the underground water statuses and institutions supporting this initiative.