

Individual Vacancy Position

INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTANT

Background

The SADC Secretariat, through the Directorate of Infrastructure and Services – Water Division, in Gaborone, Botswana received a grant through the World Bank to implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States project.

The Southern African Development Community Groundwater Management Institute (SADC-GMI) is a newly established regional centre of excellence on groundwater management hosted by the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa on behalf of and under the strategic guidance of the SADC Secretariat, Directorate of Infrastructure and Services – Water Division, in Gaborone, Botswana.

The vision of the SADC-GMI is to ensure the equitable and sustainable use and protection of groundwater in the SADC region. The role of the SADC-GMI is to:

- Promote sustainable groundwater management in the SADC region through building capacity, providing training, advancing research, supporting infrastructure development, and enabling dialogue and exchange of groundwater information.
- Conduct and support the 15 SADC Member States in groundwater research and serve as the focal interlocutor with national, regional and international groundwater initiatives.

The SADC-GMI was established as a not-for-profit company under South African law and it is the implementing agency of the Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States project funded by the World Bank (through the support of the Global Environment Facility and the Cooperation in International Waters in Africa trust fund) until June 2019. During this period the SADC-GMI is expected to secure long term funding to become a sustainable centre of excellence and groundwater expertise in the region providing research, training and advice to public and private sector clients.

The current project which the SADC-GMI is implementing comprises four main components, with each component comprising a number of sub-components:

- Component A:* Operationalising the SADC-GMI;
- Component B:* Enhancing institutional capacity of governments in SADC Member States and transboundary organisations;
- Component C:* Improving availability of and access to knowledge, scientific research

and data on groundwater; and
Component D: Promoting infrastructure solutions for sustainable groundwater management.

The SADC-GMI hereby invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill the new position of:

Infrastructure Consultant

Duty Station

The position is based in the SADC-GMI office hosted within the Institute for Groundwater Studies at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa, with extensive travel to the 15 SADC Member States

The Position

Infrastructure Consultant will render technical assistance to all the 15 SADC Member States implementing pilot groundwater infrastructure projects under the sub-grant scheme so as to enhance the sustainability of the projects.

Key Duties and Responsibilities

The key duties and responsibilities will include the following:

1. Provide operational support for groundwater infrastructure development in the SADC Member States;
2. Ensure that all sub-grantees under the SADC-GMI sub-grants scheme perform according to the terms of their Approved sub-Grant Agreements;
3. Undertake quarterly technical support and supervision missions to the Prime Partner, Focal group and the sub-Grantees in the Member States;
4. Visit the sub-grantees on a scheduled, need based and on exceptional circumstances basis to provide direct support;
5. Review minutes of Program Review Meetings with the objective of identifying challenges affecting the implementation of the projects and make timely corrective actions;
6. Capture any good practices and facilitate their sharing in-country and within the SADC region;
7. Mainstreaming environmental and social safeguards in the design, installation and utilization of the infrastructure;
8. Assisting member states to comply with environmental guidelines in the donor's simplified Environmental Management Framework-Environmental Management Plan (EMF-EMP);
9. Enhance the effective operation and maintenance of groundwater infrastructure through the development of operation and maintenance guidelines/ manuals for, but not limited to sand dams and subsurface dams and guidance tools (siting of wells and/or mapping and siting of water buffering systems, cost-effective well drilling) as well as technical assistance in applying these manuals and guidance tools;
10. Assist Member States in rehabilitation, operation and maintenance of groundwater infrastructures that present real challenges to sustained access to groundwater (e.g., deterioration of hand pumps);

11. Assist Member States with promoting improvement of groundwater infrastructures and identifying opportunities for, modernisation and scaling up of groundwater infrastructures;
12. Assist member states in the selection, siting, design and construction of pilot groundwater infrastructures (i.e., civil works and management interventions);
13. Render Technical Assistance to the Member States to source and access other forms of funding for groundwater development infrastructure
14. In liaison with the Senior Groundwater Specialist and the Executive Director, identify and evaluate groundwater infrastructure solutions for implementation in the Member States;
15. Participate in knowledge management sessions, workshops and meetings hosted by, and on behalf of SADC-GMI,
16. Undertake any other tasks as assigned by the superiors

Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant

The ideal qualifications of the successful Consultant are;

- Hold at least a Degree in Civil/Water or other engineering discipline involving the planning, installation, operation and maintenance of water related infrastructure.
- Proven experience in groundwater development and a track record of more than 10 years post-graduation working with groundwater infrastructure projects
- Knowledge of the groundwater sector in the SADC region is a distinct advantage.
- Demonstrated ability to provide technical leadership on water infrastructure projects.
- Proficiency in the management of multiple projects and work in multicultural settings.
- Ability to train project stakeholders and imparting knowledge.
- Have at least 5 years' experience of project proposal writing for funding of water infrastructure projects.
- Demonstrate an excellent understanding of environmental and social safeguards in the design, installation and utilization of groundwater infrastructure.
- Be fluent in English, while knowledge/fluency of Portuguese and/or French will be considered favourably.
- Demonstrate familiarity with project planning, scheduling and management techniques.
- Be willing to travel to Member States.
- Have prior experience working with donor funded projects.