

Zimbabwe

Capital city: Harare
Inhabitants: 14.4 Million



INSTITUTIONAL SETTING AND PURPOSE

The Groundwater Division of the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) is a parastatal entity under the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement. ZINWA is responsible for monitoring groundwater quality and levels. Furthermore, the Catchment Councils, through the sub-catchment councils, are responsible for water allocation and groundwater monitoring in the context of a catchment scale.

There is no national groundwater monitoring plan in Zimbabwe, but groundwater levels are measured by ZINWA in three major aquifers: the Lomagundi Dolomite Aquifer (in the north west of Zimbabwe), the Nyamadlovu Sandstone Aquifer (in the south west of Zimbabwe) and the Save Alluvial Aquifer (in the south east of Zimbabwe). The objective is to perform resource monitoring for the development of well fields.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NETWORK

Water levels are measured manually once per month. There are routine checks to assure the quality of the data, but no standard protocol is employed. During data collection, no specific procedures for quality control are applied.

Considering the number of authorities collecting various groundwater data, it is expected that quality control procedures or protocols vary depending on the type of data being collected.

PROCESSING AND DISSEMINATION

For the well fields, the monitored groundwater level data are stored in Excel files in internal hard drives, and in some external drives for backing up. Hard copies of field measurements are also stored. The data can be accessed through a formal written request indicating the purpose of the data.

The external access to the data can be challenging since there is no national database. This means that the data are found in different departments or stakeholders, which must be approached separately to make a request. Moreover, in most cases it is not possible to know beforehand what kind of data are available and in which department.

Figure 1 - Aerial view of cultivated fields in the countryside of Zimbabwe-by Soldo76



Sources

- **Country visits SADC - 2017;**
- **Feedback from the Department of Water Resources Planning and Management; Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement** - received on 22-09-20; and
- **GGMN workshop SADC - 2013.**