

# Joint Initiative Transboundary Groundwater for Africa

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on behalf of



Kampala, Uganda, October 19-20, 2006  
[www.bgr.bund.de/EN/TransboundaryGW](http://www.bgr.bund.de/EN/TransboundaryGW)

## Under Cover? Transboundary Aquifers – The Hidden Asset for Riparian Cooperation in Africa Seminar during the 2006 World Water Week in Stockholm



- **Groundwater a key to achieving MDGs in Africa**
- **“Stockholm Message on Transboundary Groundwater for Africa”** calls for
  - Support to **improved cooperation** on transboundary aquifers enhancing sustainable regional development and poverty alleviation by **generating economic, social and ecological benefits** for the people in African states
  - International **financial institutions** to acknowledge the importance groundwater plays for the development in Africa and support processes for its better understanding and development through **funding of monitoring networks and exploration**

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## From Message to Realisation



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- **Integrating groundwater into water management** by widening the scope of work of existing R/LBO – as far as appropriate – to include the whole groundwater catchment
- **Raising awareness** of key stakeholders at all levels regarding the relevance of groundwater
- **Developing capacity** within national institutions and on regional level
- **Building knowledge** requiring shared monitoring networks and resources assessments to allow for informed decisions
- **Promoting and institutionalising cooperation** should be fostered by institutional mechanisms to develop and share the benefits of the utilisation of their R/LB's groundwater



## The Way Forward?

### Integrating groundwater into R/LBOs faces 3 challenges:



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- **Hydrological-hydrogeological issues:**
  - Do we know the volumes and qualities of groundwater discharging into our R/LB?
  - Do we know the extent of the groundwater catchment area contributing to the flow/water of our R/LB?
  - What are the interconnections between surface and groundwater bodies in our R/LB?
  - Over the year with its dry and wet seasons; how much is my river actually a "groundwater" (based) river, e.g. depending on spring discharges during dry seasons?
- **Institutional-administrative issues:**
  - Is our staff at the R/LBO adequately skilled and trained to understand and manage the complex hydrogeological conditions in our basin or is there potential to develop our institution's capacity further?
  - How do we coordinate and cooperate on existing or needed shared monitoring of groundwater levels, flows and quality changes?
- **Questions of the political mandate:**
  - If the extent of the groundwater catchment is known our R/LBO may need to enlarge its political mandate to include other riparian countries into their joint management and benefit sharing?
  - Do the legislative situations in our riparian countries address the groundwater issues adequately or on which basis can we build our promotion of better groundwater resources management in the basin?



## The Way Forward? 1/2



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**Outlook Stockholm 2007:**  
**Proposal**  
**Review current procedures and ways to**  
**incorporate groundwater into existing R/LBO**

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