Global Groundwater Monitoring Network

The state of development

Dr Neno Kukuric Tokyo, March 2011



IGRAC & Groundwater Monitoring

- IGRAC International Groundwater Resource Assessment Centre is an UNESCO and WMO groundwater centre
- IGRAC facilitates and promotes global sharing of information and knowledge required for sustainable groundwater resources development and management
- Focused on information and knowledge management, transboundary aquifer assessment and groundwater monitoring



- IGRAC supports groundwater monitoring through two activities:
 - Information exchange on (and development of) Monitoring Guidelines & Protocols
 - Development of a Global Groundwater Monitoring Network (GGMN)



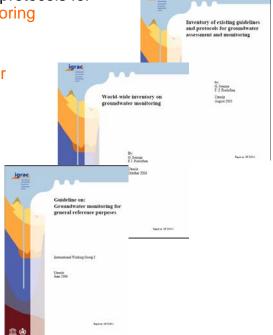
Monitoring Guidelines & Protocols

Inventory of existing guidelines and protocols for groundwater assessment and monitoring

 World-wide inventory of groundwater monitoring

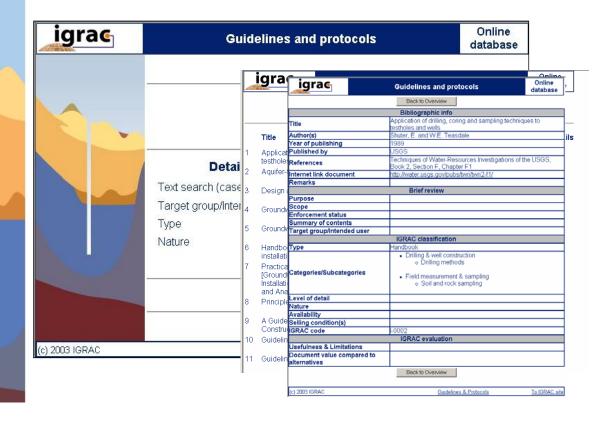
 Development of guidelines on groundwater monitoring for general reference purposes (by an international Working Group led by IGRAC)

 Contribution to a WMO/UNESCO manual on water resources assessment





Guidelines & Protocols Database





Why a Global Groundwater Network?

No systematic monitoring and assessment of groundwater change on global scale.

IGRAC is setting up a sustainable Global Groundwater Monitoring Network (GGMN) for a periodic assessment of the global change of groundwater resources

- GGMN postulates:
 - A network of networks (using/extending existing networks)
 - Aggregated groundwater information carried out by regional specialists, involving point measurements and proxy values
 - Web-based collection, analysis and dissemination of information



GGMN postulates elaborated

- Why not a new network?
 - Extremely difficult to set up and sustain (incentives and mandate),
 - Favorable position of IGRAC as UNESCO/WMO centre.
- Why aggregated information?
 - Limited representativeness of point measurements (aggregation using the expert knowledge and proxy values)
 - Obstacles related to international exchange of data (aggregated value is derived information).
- Why web-based system?
 - Easy reporting and analysis tool (only a browser required),
 - A control over information provided,
 - Involvement and recognition.





GGMN – current status

• Done:

- Inventory on networks/programmes (including the users)
- Embedding in GTN-H network of WMO, IGWCO network and GEO task on groundwater, Graphic of UNESCO, AEGOS (EU-African project), WWAP...
- Dissemination at IAH/IAHS conferences, Kampala conference on gw and climate, WWF5, IGWCO & GTH-N meetings, articles, update website,...
- Development and release of a first version of online application

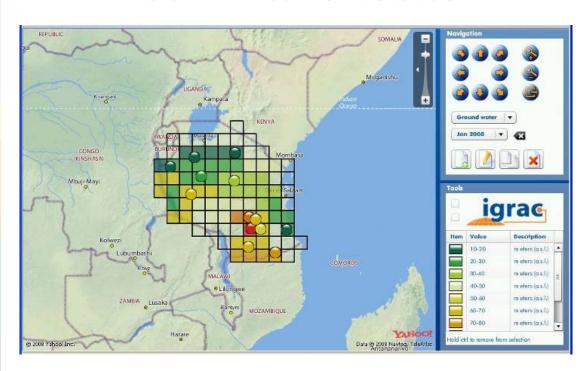
Should also have been done:

- Formalise a development of the GGMN as a long term programme, led by IGRAC and supported by WMO, UNESCO, GEO, IAH, etc.
- Developing of the "people network" of skilled country representatives
- Processing accessible data (in Europe and USA) and fill in the GGMN database
- Further development of the GGMN software

(lack of) funding is a problem (but one cannot blame it for everything)



GGMN – current status





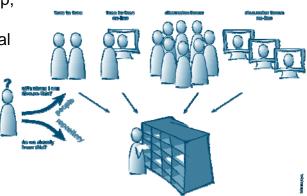
GGMN – activities 2011-2015

- Embedding the GGMN programme in the new IGRAC strategic (2011-2015) and operational (2011) planning.
- Start realisation of 'should also have been done' according to the new operational plan:
 - Formalisation of the programme
 - Emphasize on 'people network' a workshop with at least one region in Africa.
 - Processing accessible data (link to USGS and EEA)
 - Further development of the GGMN software.
- Looking for extra funding for overall support of GGMN (a GEO proposal for GMN – Africa submitted)
- Further linkage with Whymap's groundwater resources maps and GPCC output (gridded precipitation maps)
- Enclosure of the GGMN in WWAP
- Update the site/promotion material



GGMN - activities 2011-2015

- GGMN as a participative network
- Incentives: Involvement, ownership, recognition, accessibility
- Approach: long lasting international non-profit programme
- Main Activities:
 - Setting up regional communities (workshops!)
 - Supply of monitoring kits & apps for mobile phones
 - On-line and in-situ support
 - Linking with similar initiatives (IWA, NGWA, etc see e.g. on next pages)
 - Linking to EU FP7 ENV.2012.6.5-1
 Developing community-based environmental monitoring and information systems using innovative and novel earth bservation applications (GEOSS!)



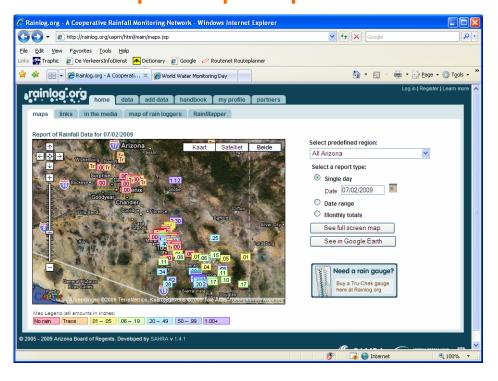


An example of a participative network





An example of a participative network





Thank you for your attention







