

NEWS

UPGro research programme findings revealed in new film

Thursday, 30 July 2020

Scientists from the British Geological Survey (BGS) are among a group of 200 of the world's best researchers from more than 50 organisations across Africa and Europe, involved in a programme to improve the evidence base around groundwater availability and governance in Africa.

The findings are revealed in a [new film](#) which explains more about the use and potential of groundwater for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Unlocking the Potential of Groundwater for the Poor (UPGro), has been a seven-year international research programme (2013 - 2020), funded by the Department for International Development, Natural Environment Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council.

The goal has been to ensure that the hidden wealth of Africa's aquifers benefit all citizens and the poorest in particular. UPGro projects are interdisciplinary, linking the social and natural sciences to address the challenge.

BGS has taken a major role in the programme and has been involved in approximately half of the projects over the seven years, leading one of the five consortium projects and helping to manage two others.

The BGS team of 15 worked across 10 African countries undertaking detailed interdisciplinary field studies in collaboration with partners

BGS Hydrogeologist Prof Alan MacDonald said: "The UPGro programme is a rare combination of world class research with tangible local impacts and meaningful partnerships.

“Together we have uncovered how groundwater is replenished, the quality of groundwater, the permeability of aquifers, and the true state of groundwater infrastructure and management.

“With partners we have used this knowledge to help identify and develop pathways to unlock groundwater’s vast potential and govern it in a sustainable way that benefits all.”

You can learn about groundwater and the findings from the research programme in UPGro’s [new film](#).

You can also find out more about BGS’s involvement in the programme [here](#).

More information about the Hidden Crisis consortium, led by BGS, can be found [here](#) and the African groundwater atlas developed by BGS, [here](#).

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