

MAR-NET

A UNESCO-IAH Managed Aquifer Recharge Network:

What is Managed Aquifer Recharge?

'Managed Aquifer Recharge' describes the banking of water in aquifers and bank filtration to enhance aquifer recharge and improve water quality; a vital tool in the sustainable management of the world's groundwater resources.

MAR-NET Vision

- To facilitate use of Managed Aquifer Recharge to provide access to safe drinking water for communities, and thereby advancing towards the UN MDG for water supply.
- To do this within the context of science-based, integrated, whole of catchment/basin water management, for environmentally sustainable and socially acceptable supplies, that advance socio-economic development.

MAR-NET originates from the International Association of Hydrogeologists Commission on Managed Aquifer Recharge (IAH-MAR) with the support of UNESCO IHP. It promotes growing the scientific foundations, building local capabilities, effective planning and management, securing investment, wise regulation and dissemination of knowledge and experience.



MAR-NET activities

The network will:

- Support and coordinate research to demonstrate that drinking water supplies can be produced, augmented or protected for many communities using a variety of MAR techniques in ways that are cost-efficient and environmentally and socially acceptable within a whole of catchment/basin management approach.

- Collate and facilitate dissemination of research and experiences, including showcase MAR projects, using where possible existing channels to link existing and future initiatives.
- Help build regional capabilities for effective implementation of MAR through training and education including attendance at ISMAR and other conferences and workshops.
- Engage with funding bodies, governments, NGOs and private companies and provide information and appropriate confidence to facilitate international and national investment in demonstration projects.
- Review progress of MAR's contribution to water supplies and disseminate evaluations of the effectiveness of demonstration projects.



Specific objectives

Research, Collation of information, and Planning

- To assess the global potential for MAR
- To identify information needs and promote research including at a network of demonstration projects.

Communications and Dissemination

- To develop a communications plan to deliver key messages using various media and languages (at least English, Spanish and Chinese) and websites.
- To produce reports, position papers, policy briefs, training materials, videos (DVDs) in appropriate languages (at least English, Spanish, and Chinese).
- To contribute to ISMAR Conferences and by holding a joint plenary with IAH-MAR to inform on network activities and seek feedback.

- To instigate and support regional conferences on MAR and related topics aligned with the communication plan and the priorities of countries involved

Training and Capacity Building

- To establish or link at least eight regional or national hubs closely aligned with MAR where there is already a capability or interest.
- To provide training through relevant UNESCO networks, centres and chairs and other relevant organisations and facilitate establishment of a UNESCO Chair in MAR.

Promotion of demonstration projects

- To engage with implementing agencies (governments, NGOs, private companies) and funding bodies (banks, aid agencies, private sector) on the scientific evidence for the relevance and applicability of MAR to economically address needs for water security, human health, and sustaining livelihoods and the environment.
- In partnership with regional centres and national governments, to develop proposals to funding bodies to facilitate implementation of well-sited, -designed, -operated, -monitored and -evaluated showcase MAR projects.

Membership of network

MAR-NET will have as wide a membership as possible. Already there are about 300 people on the email list of IAH-Commission on MAR and there are established links with other relevant associations/networks, such as IHP National Committees, Intl. Water Assoc, Rainwater Harvesting Assoc., Chinese MAR Network, DINA-MAR network (Spanish) etc.

You can get involved by:

- Nominating your centre for training and capacity building.
- Offering a demonstration project for training programs.
- Offering to help as a trainer - identifying expertise and languages in which you could provide training.
- Offering relevant materials, videos, slide sets, etc., for use in training programs.
- Identifying and undertaking other roles to help advance the objectives of MAR-NET.
- Identifying funding for proposals to support MAR-NET activities.



China – Australia Managed Aquifer Recharge workshop – October 2008

To contribute and for further information visit:

www.iah.org/recharge or contact
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