

Friends of Groundwater (FoG)



Friends of Groundwater

ABSTRACT

The Friends of Groundwater (FoG) has about 35 active members. Its workstream's main objective is to improve the global knowledge base on groundwater quality through the development of a set of recommendations and guidelines to assist regional groundwater quality assessments.

This initiative is supported by the Global Groundwater Quality Portal. So far, FoG has produced a perspective paper: *Assessing Groundwater Quality: A Global Perspective*

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GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON ASSESSING GROUNDWATER QUALITY

- A perspective paper titled "Assessing groundwater quality: A global perspective – Importance, methods and potential data sources" was published in 2021 as a supporting document to UNEA-5. It addresses the relevance of a global assessment, data and information sources, and related assessment methods to be used for groundwater quality.
- An abbreviated version of the paper has been accepted by the Hydrogeology Journal as part of a topical collection of essays designed to mark the International Year of Groundwater and will be published soon. This essay is dedicated to our good friend and fellow FoG member Ralf Klingbeil who passed away suddenly last February.

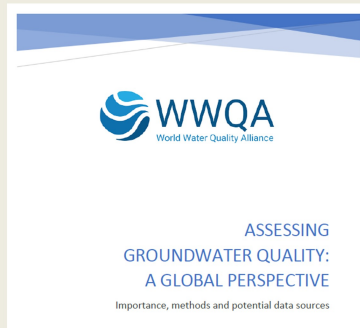


Figure 1. Perspective paper

UPDATE ON WORKSTREAM ACTIVITIES

Seed funding was approved at the end of 2021 for the project "Groundwater Quality for the World Water Quality Assessment" with the goals to:

- develop further the Global Groundwater Quality Portal, which aims at contributing to an increased knowledge on groundwater quality at a national, regional and global scale
- produce guidelines on regional groundwater quality assessment. During this activity, experiences and practices in upscaling/aggregation of groundwater quality findings are being collected and analysed, and a set of recommendations and guidelines to assist regional groundwater quality assessment in practice will be produced.

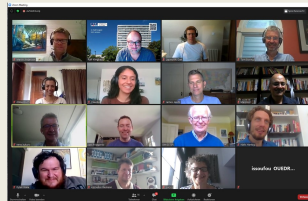


Figure 2. The Friends of Groundwater.

GLOBAL GROUNDWATER QUALITY PORTAL

Global Groundwater Quality Portal (<https://groundwater-quality.org/>) – a focal place for global groundwater quality information and activities: a website, reference database and GIS viewer (2021).

- The reference database aims at storing and sharing relevant studies on groundwater quality on a national, regional and global scale. Documents will be submitted by FoG members as well as other interested parties.
- The map viewer provides an overview of groundwater quality issues around the world at glance. Information included in the portal will be provided by the FoG and other interested parties, as much as possible through web-based services, and will possibly be connected to the UNEP World Environment Situation Room.
- Guidelines on regional groundwater quality assessment are currently being developed, and its outputs will feed the portal.

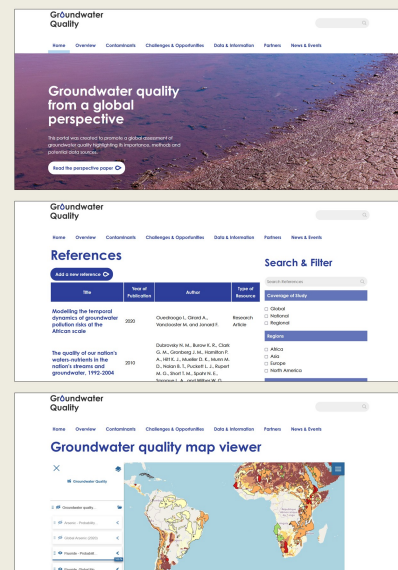


Figure 1. The Global Groundwater Quality Portal

FUTURE OUTLOOK

The FoG looks forward to working in its commitments for 2022. It is expected that in the future the guidelines will be of use to anyone who deals with groundwater quality at the regional scale. In addition, it is hoped that the guidelines will have a strong impact on the quality of further regional assessments and their harmonization across regions. Finally, the group aims at expanding upon the groundwater contribution to the next WWQ Assessment.