



Water
Resources
Programme

Supporting the Management of Shared Aquifers in Africa

Shared aquifers are an important water resource for drinking water and irrigation. In continuation of the IAEA's efforts to address water management issues in the African region, three aquifer systems shared by several countries in northern Africa are being investigated in collaboration with other international organizations.

Isotope techniques are being employed to understand the dynamics of these aquifers systems for the sustainable management of water resources for

socioeconomic development of the region. For the Nubian Aquifer System project, the UNDP/GEF has provided a \$ 1 million grant for implementation by the IAEA.

| Aquifer system | Sharing countries | Extent (km ²) |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Nubian Sandstone Aquifer | Chad, Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Sudan | 2 000 000 |
| Northwestern Sahara Aquifer | Algeria, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia | 200 000 |
| Iullemeden Aquifer | Mali, Niger and Nigeria | 500 000 |

Major shared aquifers (shown in red) in arid regions of northern Africa. The green circles and squares represent the stations and water sampling points from the ISOHIS database

