

# Your Portal to Groundwater Knowledge

## Why IGRAC?

Groundwater is an extremely important resource and often the primary source for drinking and industrial water supply and irrigation and a necessity for well-functioning ecosystems. It is considered more reliable and generally less prone to contamination than surface water, rendering it the most viable source of water throughout many parts of the world.

Appropriate assessment and sustainable management of groundwater require an in depth understanding of this resource and its interaction with the wider environment. We strongly believe that the sharing of groundwater information and knowledge, in particular on an international level, contributes to:

- the understanding of global and regional groundwater processes
- the identification of similar problems in different locations and the knowledge transfer
- the management of internationally shared (transboundary) aquifers
- internationally consistent data collection and monitoring
- the mainstreaming of groundwater in integrated water resource planning, management and governance.

## What is IGRAC?

IGRAC is a non-profit centre that facilitates and promotes global sharing of information and knowledge required for an appropriate assessment and management of groundwater resources. The initiative to set up an international groundwater centre came from UNESCO and WMO, resulting in the launch of IGRAC in March 2003. IGRAC is a legally independent foundation, working under the auspices of UNESCO and WMO and financially is supported by the Government of the Netherlands.

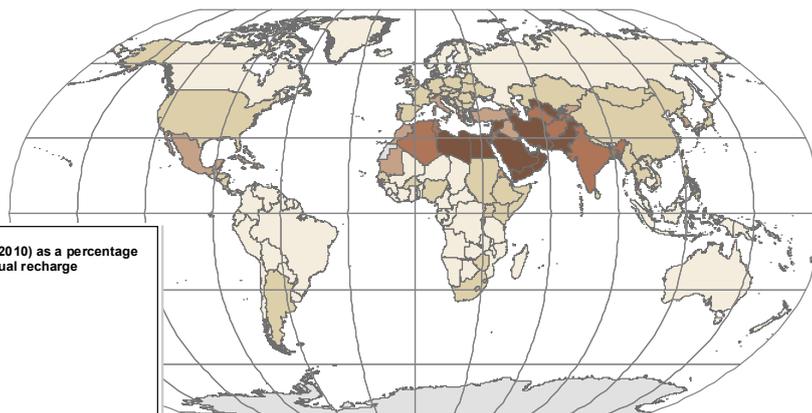
## What does IGRAC do?

IGRAC's work primarily focuses on the global/ regional assessment of groundwater resources and monitoring of their change. Special attention is paid to the topic of transboundary aquifers, largely within the framework of the ISARM programme ([www.isarm.org](http://www.isarm.org)), GEF (Global Environment Facility) projects and the UNECE assessments.



Already for several years, IGRAC provides an independent content and process support to the assessment and management of internationally shared groundwaters. Further on, IGRAC coordinates the development of the Global Groundwater Monitoring Network (GGMN) and related guidelines and protocols.

Groundwater governance, Managing Aquifer Recharge (MAR) and various thematic assessments (e.g. pollution by arsenic and groundwater salinity) are additional topics of IGRAC's interest and activity. All of the information collected and assessed by IGRAC is freely available through the Global Groundwater Information System (GGIS) - see the IGRAC portal: [www.un-igrac.org](http://www.un-igrac.org).



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