Citizen-generated data for water management in Malawi

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1. PhD Research - 'Citizen Science' for Water Monitoring in Malawi

'Citizen science' = non-specialist participation in science

- 'Citizen' participation in water management is common practice in Malawi
- Numerous co-benefits of citizen science approaches

Water Monitoring

- Core function of government-led bodies, yet **under resourced**
- Provides crucial information for resource management and climate change mitigation
- Current **conventional network**, like groundwater monitoring (figure 1), is **not in working order**

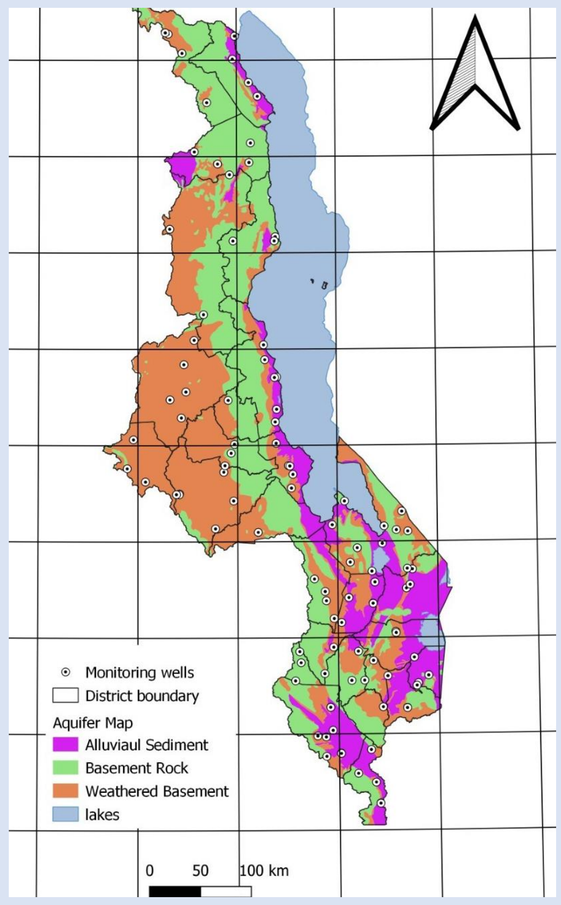


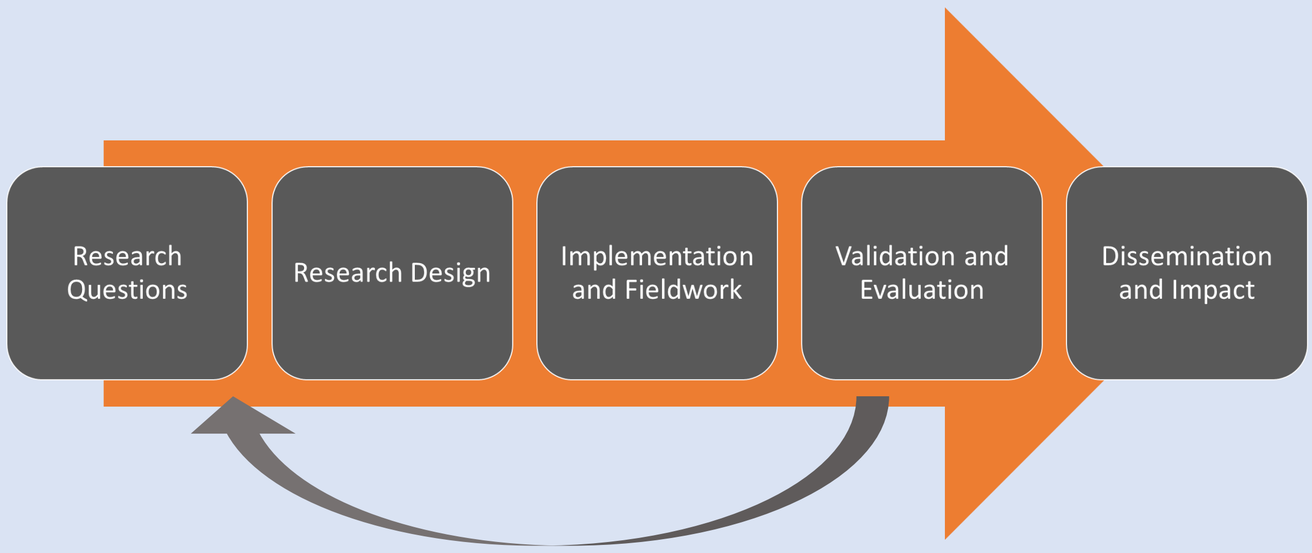
Figure 1. Map of Malawi with major water-bearing geological units and locations of monitoring boreholes. (Government of Malawi et. al, 2022)

2. Partnerships – Research Advisory Group (RAG)

RAG – non-supervisory group of Malawian stakeholders with interest in research project established in Year 1

Involved individually and as a collective at key research stages

Provides basis for more equitable partnerships



3. RAG - Opportunities

- Network and making connections
- Provides recognition for those who help influence and shape the research
- Identify research and practical challenges early
- Ensure research is 'impactful'
- Provides voice for non-researchers

4. RAG - Challenges

- Time commitments, long-term partnership building
- Voluntary participation
- Changes to availability and suitability
- Divergent priorities and interests through time
- Schedules and capacity

References:
Government of Malawi, Department of Water Resources, BASEflow Malawi, BAWI. (2022). Report on the assessment of groundwater monitoring wells in Malawi. Lilongwe.

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