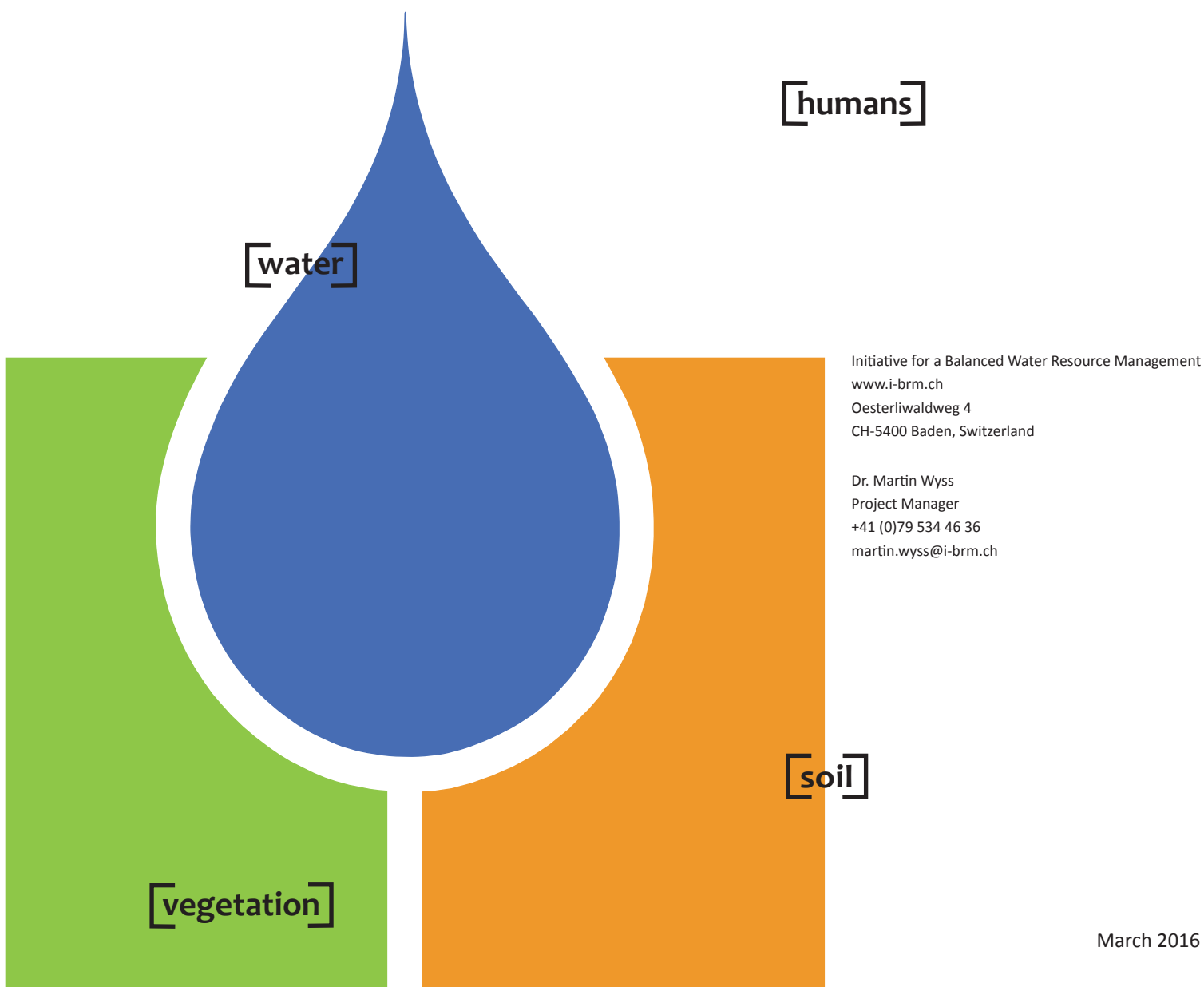




INITIATIVE FOR A BALANCED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
INITIATIVE POUR UNE GESTION INTÉGRÉE DES RESSOURCES EN EAU
INICIATIVA PARA UNA GESTIÓN EQUILIBRADA DE LOS RECURSOS HÍDRICOS

Initiative for a Balanced Water Resource Management

Association and project team introduce themselves





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Association

The association 'Initiative for a Balanced Water Resource Management', abbreviated as 'i-brm', was founded in June 2014 by two natural scientists and one social geographer with the intention of establishing a platform for the realisation of integrated and transdisciplinary research projects in the field of sustainable use of the environmental resources water, soil and vegetation. For the founders of the association it is of particular importance to elaborate results that may be implemented in practice at those locations, where people are affected from scarcity of water and related resources. By this, the association has a bridgehead function between scientific research on the one hand, and developmental cooperation on the other hand.

The logo of our association symbolizes the environmental resources **water**, **soil** and **vegetation**. The name of the association refers to the balance in the usage of these resources, but also to the conceptual 'water balance' as a basement of understanding complex connections concerning water.

Purpose of the association

The commitment of the association is to contribute to the conservation, the sustainable use and the regeneration of the environmental resources water, soil and vegetation, taking into consideration the needs of the population and the economy. We thereby strive for a utilization of resources that meets the demands of the present generation without jeopardizing the possibilities of future generations to satisfy their own needs¹.

The association promotes scientific services such as research, teaching, consulting, evaluation, public relations as well as attending the implementation of measures in the field of sustainable resource use. First and foremost the population, the authorities and NGOs in countries and regions that face problems in using environmental resources should be supported in their decision-making processes regarding a sustainable development. In addition the scientific range of the association addresses also students and scientific institutions, as well as governmental and non-governmental organisations, with which the association intends to establish cooperations, particularly in the form of transdisciplinary research projects.

Vision - what we would like to achieve in the long term

- contribute to a long term resource security through scientific work
- offer reliable planning foundations and realistic future prospects to people that suffer from resource scarcity, particularly lack of water
- empower these people to adjust to the future and, as far as possible, increase their capabilities and reduce their vulnerability
- play the role of a bridgehead between scientific research on the one hand, and developmental cooperation on the other hand

¹ This corresponds to the definition of the term 'sustainable development' as used in the report "Our Common Future", issued by Gro Harlem Brundtland in 1987, and commissioned by the United Nations.





Mission - values and principles that guide us

- sustainable development (ecologically and socially viable)
- scientific work for the benefit of the local population and the development
- long term perspectives and commitment
- integrated approach (water, soil, vegetation and various human activities as one system of relations)
- allowing for local knowledge and local needs in research (transdisciplinary research)
- taking gender and generations into account

Domicile, office, association's board und founding date

Domicile: Berneggweg 3, CH-8055 Zürich
 Administrative office: Oesterliwaldweg 4, CH-5400 Baden
 Founding date: 17. June 2014
 Association's board: Dr. Martin Wyss (President)
 Dr. Luzi Matile

Long term perspectives

The association aims to establish itself as a competence centre and a platform for the realisation of projects in accordance with its purpose. Beside research, the implementation of concrete measures for a sustainable usage of resources is of particular importance for us. We can imagine in the long term to found a social entrepreneurship² as the basis for the development, production and implementation of such measures.

Website, Blog and e-mail addresses

The website ‚www.i-brm.ch‘, which is evolving, will inform about the projects of the association. The projects will be portrayed in their ecological and socio-economical context, and information on activities and results will be updated continuously. In addition a blog will report in “real time” on work on-site. The website will also inform more generally about the condition and the development of natural resources, as well as on topics related to sustainable resource usage. Last but not least documents on our association, such as statutes, the organisation chart and annual reports will there be published.

The e-mail addresses of the members of the board are: first name.surname@i-brm.ch

Account details

Aargauische Kantonalbank, 5001 Aarau
 Konto 50-6-9
 IBAN CH24 0076 1505 1583 6200 1

Non-profit status

The association is exempt from taxes since 24 August 2015.

² Social entrepreneurship refers to innovative, pragmatic and long term entrepreneurial activities, that are committed to a substantial and sustainable positive change in society.



Project team

It was during their university studies that the project partners, Dr. Martin Wyss and Dr. Luzi Matile first met and discovered their shared passion for water and environmental issues. In 1999, they worked together in the Himalayas, and from 2003 to 2008 they explored the possibilities of sustainable water utilization in Mali, West Africa. During these years, the two grew together into a strong team.

Dr. Martin Wyss, project leader

Martin Wyss is 51, married, with a 16-year-old daughter, and lives in Baden. After studying geology at Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ), he went on to complete his doctoral degree in the geology of the northwestern Himalayas at Lausanne University. Following that, he worked as a teacher in an upper secondary school, teaching geography as well as natural and social sciences. It was in his student years that he started to go on educational journeys and research trips lasting several months at a time. Later, he continued to travel to out-of-the-way mountain ranges and deserts, mainly in Asia and Africa. He is particularly familiar with the Sahara desert, as well as the Himalayas and the Arctic.

“Running waters have always had a particular fascination for me, and I can spend hours and hours watching them. But water is also the most important resource in the world and is closely connected to soil and vegetation. It is water that the future of mankind and feeding the world will depend on. Through constantly growing demands, these environmental resources have been dramatically over-exploited in many countries, with unforeseeable consequences for populations and environments. It is difficult to accept just to look on, deplore but do nothing, just like many governments and civil societies. Instead, I would like to make an active contribution to ease the situation. In order to do so, we must first establish a sound database for the local utilization of water resources on a natural and social-scientific basis. This can then serve as the basis for finding the right solutions.”

Dr. Luzi Matile, deputy project leader

Luzi Matile is 50, married, with two children aged eight and ten, and lives in Zurich. Having completed his studies in geology at Zurich University, he took his doctoral degree in magmatic petrology at Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ). After that, he worked as a self-employed service provider in the areas of soil conservation and hydrology. Currently he is a university lecturer for the soil ecology research group and head of the geology section at the Institute of Natural Resource Sciences, Zürich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW).

“Water and soil conservation have been of major interest for me right from the beginning of my career. Making a contribution towards a sustainable handling of these most important natural resources is a great concern of mine. A population’s utilization of water, soil and vegetation is closely interconnected. Integrated research projects in various parts of the world offer formidable opportunities to recognise these interrelations and use them as the basis for decision-making processes and instruments for a water and environmental management that aims to secure their long-term utilization. It is of great importance for me that our projects take into account specific cultural developments and their impact on the environment.”





Experiences

Since 2003 Martin Wyss and Luzi Matile have been carrying out studies in the context of the project *Projet hydrogéologique pour une gestion durable et efficace des eaux souterraines du Mali* for Lausanne University for the purpose of identifying groundwaters. The fundamental idea underlying this project was to improve the sustainability of water utilization on the basis of scientifically surveyed data. The project aimed at achieving statements regarding the conditions of groundwater resources in the desert and savannah areas of Mali through the utilization of the existing very modest water infrastructure and while keeping logistical demands as low as possible. Due to the high risk of being abducted, field work in North Mali has not been able to be carried out since 2008.

