Hydrological education and training needs in sub-Saharan Africa: requirements, progress and constraints.

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This paper represents a perspective on the education and training needs related to hydrology and water resources science within the sub-Saharan Africa region. The paper will take into account the requirements of the region, some of the relatively recent developments and initiatives and try and identify some of the constraints that have always existed and remain difficult to surmount. The requirements for education and training include the development of academic research capacity and technical skill development for both the private and public sector at a variety of levels. There have been a number of relatively recent initiatives that are predominantly locally managed, while there are clearly many training and educational opportunities that are available world-wide. Some of the constraints that exist include a lack of adequate funding, lack of follow-up after short training courses, lack of institutional support to continue training and competition for major water resources development projects from organizations outside the region. One of the main conclusions is that to sustain both educational and practical expertise in hydrology and water resources science within the region there is a need to build a ‘critical mass’ of local expertise. Part of this could be achieved by increasing networking within the region and promoting the sharing of information, tools and expertise. There is also a need to promote institutional support.