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# THE PROCESS OF UNDERSTANDING GROUNDWATER



# Why is the understanding important?

- i. Groundwater use for humans-  
drinking, irrigation, industry,  
livestock
- ii. Groundwater use for ecological  
needs
  - Sustaining baseflows and  
supporting non-human  
biosystems

To ensure a balance between these  
two “support” functions



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# What is Groundwater?



It is the water that saturates the pore space, fractures and other such openings of rocks. In other words, it is the water that is contained in rock openings underneath the surface of the ground.

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# Aquifers

- Aquifers are rock units or geological formations (formed from rocks) that are capable of storing water and allowing it to flow, in sufficient quantities to wells and springs
  - Aquifers perform two functions- firstly that of “storing” water and secondly that of transmitting it from one part to another.
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# Understanding groundwater resources and managing them



There are four main pillars of “understanding groundwater”-

1. Study of rocks or geology.
2. Study of water level behaviour.
3. Understanding and quantifying “stocks” and “flows” of groundwater.
4. Understanding the quality of groundwater

Once well understood, planning and management of groundwater becomes easier.