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Implementation of the Guarani Aquifer Strategic Action Programme: Enabling Regional Actions

Lucía Samaniego

Centro Regional para la Gestión de Aguas Subterráneas en América Latina y el Caribe (CeReGAS)







The Guarani Aquifer System is located in the center-east of South America and is shared by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, covering an area of just over one million square kilometers. It is estimated that ninety million people are located on this system and in many cities they depend exclusively on the aquifer for human supply.









In 2003, the Project for the Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of the Guaraní Aquifer System began, which led to the deepening and consolidation of knowledge about the Guaraní Aquifer System in pursuit of the development of shared mechanisms for the management of groundwater and cooperation between countries.

Another objective was to support Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay to jointly develop and implement a common institutional, legal and technical framework to manage and preserve the SAG for current and future generations.

The ministries of the environment, water resources and foreign relations of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay were responsible for the preparation and execution of the Project, which took place over six years (2003 – 2009) with donation resources (US\$ 13.4 million) from the Global Environment Facility and counterparts from the beneficiary countries for the same amount.









Project Components

- expansion and consolidation of the current base of scientific and technical knowledge;
- joint development and implementation of a management framework for the SAG;
- promotion of public participation and environmental education;
- evaluation and follow-up of the Project;
- development of measures for the management of groundwater in critical areas ("hot spots");
- consideration of the potential for the use of geothermal energy;
- project coordination and management.







Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis



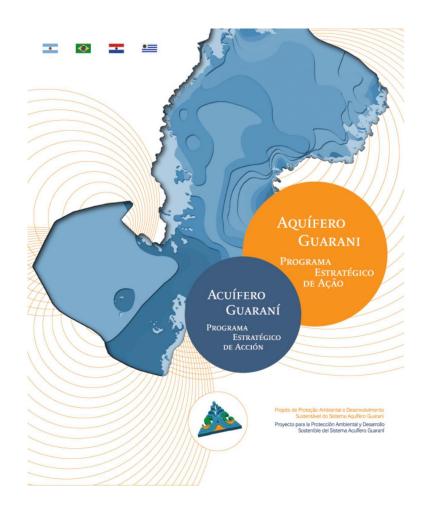
Strategic Action Program (Contribution to the formulation and implementation of public policy)







At the end of the project, a Strategic Action Plan was created, the SAP presents actions to improve the evaluation, protection and management of the aquifer and the local, national and regional benefits that were generated. It also highlights lessons learned, quantifies execution, and highlights the participation of the four countries.









After the end of the project, each country advanced separately and independently with the implementation of the national actions foreseen in the SAP, but did not advance in those regional activities that required coordinated action in several countries to guarantee continuity and harmonization in the generation and dissemination of information of common interest.



GUARANI AQUIFER PROYECT II







The project will start the SAP implementation process by addressing the following issues:

- Institutionalize mechanisms to strengthen cross-border cooperation between the SAG countries.
- Allow countries to detect the evolution in time and space of key quality and quantity parameters of the waters of the Guarani Aquifer System at the regional and local levels.
- Promote gender equality as part of the proposed project and the SAP itself.
- Strengthen institutional capacities and raise awareness.







Thank you for your attention





