

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10550
Project Name:	Binational and integrated water resources management in the Merín Lagoon Basin and Coastal Lagoons
Countr(ies):	Regional, Brazil, Uruguay
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Binational and integrated water resources management in the Merín Lagoon Basin and Coastal Lagoons

Country

Regional, Brazil, Uruguay

GEF ID

10550

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

National Water Directorate (DINAGUA; Uruguay); Agency for the Development of the Lagoon Merín Bay (ALM; Brazil)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/1/2026

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2026 , 1st PIR

Objective

Project Objective: To strengthen public and private sector capacities in Brazil and Uruguay for joint and integrated water resource management (IWRM) in the Merín Lagoon Basin, with emphasis on the sustainable and efficient use of water, preservation of ecosystems and their services, and adaptation to climate change, through the development of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programme

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing

5,310,750.00

Cumulative Disbursement

1,259,107.40

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 4/19/2022	Agency Approval 4/19/2022
Implementation Start 2/1/2025	First Disbursement 4/30/2025
Expected MTR 9/15/2026	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 11/14/2027	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

The main achievement was the preparation of the Basin's Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), carried out by Uruguay's Eastern Regional University Center (CURE) and Brazil's Delfim Mendes Silveira Foundation (FDMS) through two Letters of Agreement (LOAs). These activities involved preparing a Partial Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), focused on environmental, social, and economic analyses, general characterizations, and water uses, and conducting five (5) national workshop sessions in Brazil (24/11) and Uruguay (21, 26, 27, and 28/11). The Preliminary TDA was presented at a Binational Workshop held in the Basin territory (Pelotas, Brazil) on 15–16/04/2026, with the participation of government authorities and representatives, academics, technical specialists, and local stakeholders from Brazil and Uruguay. This made it possible to review technical progress, prioritize transboundary problems, analyze causal chains, and propose leverage points. The event strengthened the binational development of the diagnostic analysis and created valuable opportunities for binational technical and institutional dialogue, representing a strategic step toward strengthening cooperation, governance, and the integrated and sustainable management of shared water resources in the Basin. An online public consultation was also conducted with citizens of Brazil and Uruguay on the content and conclusions of the TDA, with the aim of presenting the document to a broad segment of the population of both countries and receiving comments, contributions, and opinions that would enrich it. The results of the Binational Workshop and the online public consultation were incorporated into the final version of the TDA. In parallel, the Uruguayan section of the Binational Basin Atlas was completed, including infrastructure, a database, metadata, symbology, viewers, and thematic maps. Progress was also made in capacity building: the diagnostic cycle concluded (June–July 2025), and the results were systematized in a report for the Capacity-Building Program for the formulation of the SAP. GIS, gender, and training specialists were engaged for the Project Coordination Unit (PCU). Two meetings of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) were held; Project coordination and monitoring activities were conducted; Water and Gender training sessions were given to project stakeholders; a relationship was established with FAO's Inland Fisheries Unit to exchange experiences; in May 2026, the Principal Technical Officer (OTP) made a technical visit to the project territory providing technical support and recommendations for improvements; and preparatory activities began for the Mid-Term Review and the Project's participation in the 11th GEF International Waters Conference.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Some of the main challenges identified during implementation involve continuing to strengthen binational technical coordination, the institutional governance of the Basin, and mechanisms for participation, information exchange, and coordination among stakeholders. During the Binational TDA Workshop, the need to reinforce these aspects was emphasized, together with the incorporation of territorial and local approaches into the analysis and resolution of transboundary problems. There is also a need to strengthen a shared vision of the Basin in order to consolidate effective cooperation between both countries and move toward more effective implementation at the territorial level. Some challenges and opportunities for improvement are also evident in relation to binational information management and data standardization. Lastly, the challenge of sustaining Project implementation, monitoring, and technical alignment is identified within a context of multiple simultaneous processes, such as those related to the TDA, the Binational Atlas, and the public consultation. This simultaneity requires continuous coordination to ensure the technical quality of the outputs, compliance with deadlines, and appropriate coordination among the Project's results.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	Brazil-Uruguay Joint Commission for the Development of the Laguna Merín Basin (CLM) – Brazil and Uruguay	Project Steering Committee Member	Key stakeholder. Actively participates through Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings and consultation instances.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MRE) – Brazil	Project Steering Committee Member	Key stakeholder. Actively participates through Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Integration and Regional Development (MIDR) – Brazil	Project Steering Committee Member	Key stakeholder. National Project Directorate for Brazil. Co-financier.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MMAMC) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture (MPA) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.

Government Institutions	Ministry of Tourism (MTur) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Ports and Airports (MPOR) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Cities (MC) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	National Institute for Colonization and Agrarian Reform (INCRA) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	National Water, Sanitation and Basic Sanitation Agency (ANA) – Brazil	Co-financer	Co-financier. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Geological Service of Brazil (SGB) – Brazil	Co-financer	Co-financier. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	National Waterway Transport Agency (ANTAQ) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	National Health Foundation (Funasa) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Laguna Merín Agency (ALM) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Brazilian Company for Technical, Rural and Social Assistance (EMATER) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	State Secretariat for Environment and Infrastructure (SEMA) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Department of Water Resources and Sanitation Management (DRHS) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (Ibama-RS) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock, Sustainable Production	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.

	and Irrigation (Seapi-RS) – Brazil		
Government Institutions	State Foundation for Environmental Protection Henrique Luis Roessler (Fepam-RS) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Riograndense Sanitation Company (Corsan) – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Committee for the Management of the Laguna Merín River Basin and the São Gonçalo Channel – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Intermunicipal Public Consortium for Economic, Social and Environmental Development – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Public Consortium for the Regional Development of the Municipalities of the Jaguarão River Basin – Brazil	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MREE) – Uruguay	Project Steering Committee Member	Stakeholder. Actively participates through Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Environment (MA) – Uruguay	Project Steering Committee Member	Stakeholder. Actively participates through Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings.
Government Institutions	National Directorate of Water (DINAGUA) – Uruguay	Project Steering Committee Member. Co-financer	Stakeholder. National Project Directorate for Uruguay. Co-financier.
Government Institutions	Regional Water Resources Council of the Laguna Merín Basin – Uruguay	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Cebollatí River Basin Commission – Uruguay	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	National Directorate of Environmental Quality and Assessment (DINACEA) – Uruguay	Co-financer	Co-financier. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	National Directorate of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (DINABISE) – Uruguay	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.

Government Institutions	Ministry of Housing and Land Planning (MVOT) – Uruguay	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	National Directorate of Land Planning (DINOT) – Uruguay	Co-financer	Co-financier. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) – Uruguay	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	General Directorate of Natural Resources (DGRN) – Uruguay	Co-financer	Co-financier. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	National Directorate of Aquatic Resources (DINARA) – Uruguay	Co-financer	Co-financier. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MTOP) – Uruguay	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC) – Uruguay	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Public Health (MSP) – Uruguay	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	State Sanitation Works Administration (OSE) – Uruguay	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	National System for Climate Change and Variability Response (SNRCC) – Uruguay	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Program for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development in the Eastern Wetlands – Uruguay (PROBIDES)	Co-financer	Co-financier. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	National Protected Areas System Project (SNAP Project)	Specialized National Entity	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Agricultural Research Institute (INIA) – Uruguay	Co-financer	Co-financier. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Government of Rio Grande do Sul (RS) – Brazil	Subnational Government	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.

Government Institutions	Departmental Government of Cerro Largo – Uruguay	Subnational Government	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Departmental Government of Lavalleja – Uruguay	Subnational Government	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Departmental Government of Maldonado – Uruguay	Subnational Government	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Departmental Government of Rocha – Uruguay	Subnational Government	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Government Institutions	Departmental Government of Treinta y Tres – Uruguay	Subnational Government	Key stakeholder. Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project. Participant in technical meetings.
Others	Federal University of Pelotas (UFPEL) – Brazil	Co-financer	Co-financier. Participant in technical meetings.
Others	Federal University of Rio Grande (FURG) – Brazil	Academic and Research Institution	Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project.
Others	Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) – Brazil	Academic and Research Institution	Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project.
Others	Federal University of Pampa (UNIPAMPA) – Brazil	Academic and Research Institution	Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project.
Others	Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of Rio Grande do Sul (IF-Sul) – Brazil	Academic and Research Institution	Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project.
Others	Eastern Regional University Center (CURE-UDELAR) – Uruguay	Co-financer	Co-financier. Implementer of the Letter of Agreement.
Others	Faculty of Sciences (FCIEN-UDELAR) – Uruguay	Academic and Research Institution	Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project.
Others	Faculty of Agronomy (FAGRO-UDELAR) – Uruguay	Academic and Research Institution	Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project.
Others	Technological Laboratory of Uruguay (LATU) – Uruguay	Academic and Research Institution	Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project.

Others	Center for Environmental Studies (CEA) – Brazil	Environmental Organization	Strategic ally. Directly linked to the Project.
NGOs	NEMA – Brazil	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Gaucho Association for the Protection of the Natural Environment (AGAPAN) – Brazil	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Permanent Assembly of Entities in Defense of the Environment of Rio Grande do Sul (APEDeMA-RS) – Brazil	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Igré Association – Brazil	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Ecovida Network – Brazil	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Support and Promotion Center for Agroecology of Pelotas (CAPA – Pelotas) – Brazil	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Ambá Organization – Uruguay	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Hue Miri Assembly – Uruguay	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	ECOS Civil Association – Uruguay	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Pindó Azul – Uruguay	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering – Uruguay Chapter (AIDIS-UY) – Uruguay	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Agronomy Center of Treinta y Tres – Uruguay	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.

NGOs	National Commission in Defense of Water and Life – Uruguay	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Environmental Culture – Uruguay	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Uruguayan Environmental Network – Uruguay	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Agroecology Network of Uruguay – Uruguay	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	REDES – Friends of the Earth – Uruguay	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Uruguayan Park Rangers Association – Uruguay	Environmental Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Neighborhood Commission of Barra de Valizas – Uruguay	Neighborhood Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Paso Centurión Neighborhood Group – Uruguay	Neighborhood Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Union of Residents of the Lago Merín Resort – Uruguay	Neighborhood Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Santa Isabel Community Association – Brazil	Neighborhood Organization	Civil society stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Association of Rural Women of Uruguay (AMRU) – Uruguay	Women's Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Ecofeminist Collective Dafnias – Uruguay	Women's Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Cotidiano Mujer – Uruguay	Women's Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Women of the Border – Uruguay	Women's Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	State Commission of Working Women of FETAG/RS – Brazil	Women's Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.

NGOs	Movement of Rural Working Women of RS – Brazil	Women's Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	National Commission for Rural Development (CNFR) – Uruguay	Family Farmers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Rice Mills Union – Uruguay	Family Farmers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Single Union of Rice Workers (SUTAA) – Uruguay	Family Farmers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Rural Development Society (SFR) of Lascano – Uruguay	Family Farmers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Rural Development Society (SFR) of Cándido Cal – Uruguay	Family Farmers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Rural Development Society (SFR) of Treinta y Tres – Uruguay	Family Farmers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	National Union of Wage Earners, Rural Workers and Related (UNATRA) – Uruguay	Family Farmers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Pampa Gaúcho Cooperative – Brazil	Family Farmers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Federation of Agricultural Workers in Rio Grande do Sul (FETAG-RS) – Brazil	Family Farmers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Transport Workers Union of Pelotas (STTR-Pelotas) – Brazil	Family Farmers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Rural Union of Jaguarão – Brazil	Family Farmers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Cooperative of Rio Branco and Laguna Merín Resort – Uruguay	Artisanal Fishers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Fishing Groups of Charqueada, Lago Merín and Yaguarón – Uruguay	Artisanal Fishers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Single Union of Sea and Related Workers (SUNTMA) – Uruguay	Artisanal Fishers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.

NGOs	Fishermen's Association (APEVA) – Brazil	Artisanal Fishers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Fishermen's Association of Capilha-Taim – Brazil	Artisanal Fishers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Hermenegildo Fishermen's Association – Brazil	Artisanal Fishers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Association of Fishermen and Fisherwomen of Jaguarao (APEPEJA) – Brazil	Artisanal Fishers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Laguna Mangureira Fishermen's Association (APELMA) – Brazil	Artisanal Fishers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Agua Viva Fishermen's Cooperative (COOPAV) – Brazil	Artisanal Fishers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Santa Isabel Fishermen's Cooperative (COOPESI) – Brazil	Artisanal Fishers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Fishermen's Union of Jaguarão – Brazil	Artisanal Fishers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Z-24, Z-25, Z-16 Colonies – Brazil	Artisanal Fishers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Santa Vitória do Palmar Fishing Colony (COMIRIM) – Brazil	Artisanal Fishers' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of the Southern Region (ARPIN-SUL) – Brazil	Indigenous Peoples' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Association for Studies and Projects with Indigenous Peoples – Brazil	Indigenous Peoples' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Mbya Guarani Association Tenonde Rã – Brazil	Indigenous Peoples' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Guarani Yvyrupa Commission – Brazil	Indigenous Peoples' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.

NGOs	Environmental and Territorial Management Portal for Indigenous Lands – Brazil	Indigenous Peoples' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
Government Institutions	National Foundation of Indigenous Peoples (FUNAI) – Brazil	Indigenous Peoples' Organization	Direct beneficiaries. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Rural Association of Uruguay (ARU) – Uruguay	Indigenous Peoples' Organization	Productive sector stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
NGOs	Chamber of Industries of Uruguay (CIU) – Uruguay	Indigenous Peoples' Organization	Productive sector stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
Private Sector entities	Uruguayan Chamber of Tourism (CAMTUR) – Uruguay	Productive and Business Sector	Productive sector stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
Private Sector entities	Trade Center of Treinta y Tres – Uruguay	Productive and Business Sector	Productive sector stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
Private Sector entities	Rural Federation of Uruguay (FRU) – Uruguay	Productive and Business Sector	Productive sector stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
Private Sector entities	Gastronomic and Hotel Workers Union – Uruguay	Productive and Business Sector	Productive sector stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
Private Sector entities	Milk Producers Association – Uruguay	Productive and Business Sector	Productive sector stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
Private Sector entities	Rice Growers Association of Rio Grande – Brazil	Productive and Business Sector	Productive sector stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
Private Sector entities	Gaucho Association of Forestry Companies (AGEFLOR) – Brazil	Productive and Business Sector	Productive sector stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
Private Sector entities	Pampa Gaúcho Cooperative – Brazil	Productive and Business Sector	Productive sector stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
Private Sector entities	Agricultural Federation of Rio Grande do Sul (FARSUL) – Brazil	Productive and Business Sector	Productive sector stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.
Private Sector entities	Rural Association of Pelotas – Brazil	Productive and Business Sector	Productive sector stakeholder. Participant in evaluations and consultations.

D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control overall natural resources	No	Activities aimed at closing gender gaps in access to and control of natural resources have not yet been implemented.
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	No	Activities aimed at improving women's participation in basin decision-making have not yet been implemented.
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	No	Socioeconomic benefits or services for women of the basin have not yet been generated.
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	A binational training on Gender and Water was carried out for government institutions of Brazil (19 and 21/01/2026) and Uruguay (20 and 22/01/2026), in which forty-seven (47) people participated (37 women, and 10 men), distributed as twenty-one (21) from Brazil and twenty-six (26) from Uruguay, which aimed to initiate capacity-strengthening activities for the public and private sectors in Brazil and Uruguay for Integrated and Joint Water Resources Management (IWRM), training and raising awareness among directors and representatives of the public sector of both countries on the urgency of integrating gender into water governance, while also making known and mitigating historical disparities and strengthening the contribution of women to water and food security in the basin, thus recognizing their strategic role as catalysts of change and development, as well as contributing to increasing the resilience and adaptive capacity of the population in the face of the increase in extreme events derived from the climate crisis.

E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes
If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.	• The creation of in-person and virtual knowledge-sharing spaces within the Basin territory, such as the national Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) workshops in Brazil and Uruguay (November 2025) and the Binational TDA Workshop (April 2026). This exchange follows a multidirectional learning approach. National institutions contribute regulatory, technical, and public policy information; subnational governments contribute knowledge regarding the territorial implementation of those policies; organizations and communities contribute local knowledge concerning environmental, social, and productive issues; and academia provides methodologies, analyses, and scientific evidence. In these forums, participants contributed national and territorial knowledge, identified problems, analyzed their causes and impacts, and compared the available technical information with the practical experience of those who live or work in the Basin. • The consultation on capacities and training needs, as well as the Gender and Water training sessions. The cycle of participatory activities conducted to identify institutional capacities and training needs, together with the Gender and Water training, helped improve understanding of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and strengthen the participation of local social stakeholders and the target population. These activities also promote the exchange of experiences among stakeholders from different locations and sectors. • The formulation and implementation of the Capacity-Building Program for the formulation of the SAP, aimed at representatives of government and Basin management institutions, regional governments, social organizations, communities, water users, academia, and the productive sector. Its objective is to address the knowledge and capacity gaps identified in the Basin and link the training activities to the seven prioritized transboundary problems. Capacity building is an instrument for improving stakeholders' ability to analyze problems, formulate solutions, and participate in the implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP). • The process of preparing and reviewing the Preliminary TDA served as a mechanism for collective learning and knowledge management, since the environmental, economic, and social reports; the general characterization and water resources use reports; the reports on prioritized problems and their causal chains; the final reports of the national TDA workshops and the Binational TDA Workshop; among others, were reviewed and analyzed by multiple stakeholders and interested parties, receiving contributions

	and improvements from the PCU, the National Project Directorates (NPDs), the FAO country and regional offices, the Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs), and citizens of Brazil and Uruguay, etc. • The online consultation with citizens of Brazil and Uruguay on the TDA was a fundamental knowledge management and dissemination activity because it provided everyone with the opportunity to learn about and read the results obtained and express their views on them. The production of summarized versions in Spanish and Portuguese made the technical information easier to understand and more widely usable, reducing linguistic and technical barriers.
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	Some examples of good practices and lessons learned are the following: • Use of complementary dynamics to move from general perception to structured prioritization. The organization of workshops in successive and complementary dynamics made it possible to gather spatial, temporal, causal and evaluative information on the problems, because it allows the formulation of actions to be structured progressively: first identifying problems, then specifying their location and causality, then weighting their relevance and finally translating the results into lines of action. • Territorialization of problems through maps, spatial location and actors' experiences. In the workshops, participants identified affected areas, doubts and contributions that were guided and systematized by the technical teams, which facilitates the definition of intervention areas, differentiated measures and spatial criteria for implementation. • Combination of collective discussion and individual weighting. The individual weighting of subtopics made it possible to capture perceptions without direct influence from the group, compare priorities among sectors, identify convergences and divergences, reinforce or complement points discussed collectively and generate

	quantifiable data for the prioritization of the TDA. • Expansion and subsequent validation of results through virtual consultation. The virtual consultation to validate the results of the weighting of subtopics makes it possible to expand participation and incorporate assessments from both in-person participants and other relevant actors, which introduces a subsequent validation stage and expands the consultation universe. • Systematization of contributions by country, binational level, causes and recommendations. The transboundary discussion was organized into contributions by topic, integrating results from different workshops, flip charts and plenary sessions, which facilitates the transition from diagnosis to programmatic responses, by organizing each problem in terms of causes and possible lines of action. • Use of the workshops to link prioritized problems with proposals for structuring actions. In the workshops, it was possible to identify priority problems, socio-environmental conflicts, perceptions of risks and vulnerabilities, and proposals for structuring actions to strengthen environmental management and promote integration among actors.
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes

Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.

Main achievements

- Approval of the Communications Plan by the Project Steering Committee in October 2025, as it provides a framework for organizing information, outreach, and engagement activities with Basin stakeholders.
- Establishment of a website hosted on IW:LEARN, with bilingual capacity (Spanish and Portuguese) and sections for news, a gallery, a library, etc., facilitating public access to key documents, news, and the Newsletter, among other resources.
- Coordination with the main partners (FAO, Brazil's Ministry of Integration and Regional Development, Uruguay's Ministry of Environment, among others) to disseminate participatory activities such as the national TDA workshops in Brazil and Uruguay, the Binational TDA Workshop, etc.
- Weekly facilitation and dialogue meetings between Uruguay's Eastern Regional University Center (CURE) and Brazil's Delfim Mendes Silveira Foundation (FDMS) to improve communication and coordination between these institutions and expedite the delivery of outputs related to the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA).
- Engagement of services for the preparation of the Project Visual Identity Manual and the preparation of articles and other Project outreach and communication materials.

Main challenges

- Addressing certain communication weaknesses that have caused operational delays in planning, review, quality control, approval, compliance with deadlines and schedules, etc. Changes and reformulations of schedules and methodologies, the submission of deliverables and final reports with technical and methodological weaknesses, prolonged review and approval processes, etc., demonstrate that communication did not always occur with the necessary advance notice, clarity, and frequency.
- Improving the binational integration of information. During the Binational TDA Workshop, differences were identified between the systems, methodologies, indicators, and data used by Brazil and Uruguay. There is not always interoperability between databases or fully consolidated binational products presenting comparable information, common minimum indicators, and a shared methodology.
- Improving communication with territorial stakeholders and preventing it from being limited to isolated meetings, workshops, or consultations. Communication channels must be established to provide feedback on results, explain how the contributions received were addressed, and create or strengthen permanent communication channels with regional governments, civil society, local communities, water users, and productive sectors throughout the Basin territory.
- The diversity of stakeholders presents the challenge of adapting messages. Technical, legal, and environmental documents must not only be translated into Spanish and Portuguese, but also adapted

	into formats that are understandable to audiences with different levels of knowledge. • Measuring the effectiveness of Project communication. Merely counting publications, workshops, newsletters, or website visits is insufficient to measure and estimate the effectiveness of Project communication. It is necessary to assess the reach of the messages, their level of comprehension, the diversity of the audiences reached, the quality of participation, and the extent to which the information generated by the Project effectively influences decisions, agreements, and Basin management actions.
Human-interest story: Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	Activities that make it possible to record how the Project has helped improve the livelihoods of the people who make up the target population have not yet been carried out.

Please provide links to related website, social media account	https://merin.iwlearn.org/
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web, if any.	• https://merin.iwlearn.org/news/espbrasil-y-uruguay-realizan-consulta-sobre-el-analisis-diagnostico-transfronterizo-del-proyecto-laguna-mernesportbrasil-e-uruguai-realizam-consulta-sobre-a-analise-diagnostica-transfronteira-do-projeto-lagoa-mirimport • https://merin.iwlearn.org/news/esp-brasil-y-uruguay-refuerzan-la-cooperacin-para-la-gestin-sostenible-del-agua-en-la-cuenca-de-la-laguna-mernesportbrasil-e-uruguai-avanam-na-cooperao-para-a-gesto-sustentvel-da-gua-na-bacia-da-lagoa-mirimport • https://merin.iwlearn.org/news/esp-capacitacin-refuerza-el-enfoque-de-gnero-en-la-gestin-transfronteriza-de-los-recursos-hdricos-esport-capacitao-refora-o-enfoque-de-gnero-na-gesto-transfronteira-dos-recursosport-hdricos • https://merin.iwlearn.org/news/text/esp-noticias-del-proyecto-laguna-mern-jun-2026-esport-notcias-do-projeto-lagoa-mirim-jun-2026port
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details.	Communications Specialist: isabela.santos@fao.org Knowledge Management Specialist: leopoldo.blancososa@fao.org

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	During the reporting period, there have been changes in the members of the Project Steering Committee (PSC): Project Budget Holder (BH). FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAORLC). Head of the Argentina, Uruguay and Chile Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Brazil.

Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	Due to some operational delays, the terms of the Letters of Agreement (LOAs) signed for the preparation of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) had to be extended. LOA #1 with Uruguay's Eastern Regional University Center (CURE) was extended until 30/06/2026, and LOA #1 with Brazil's Delfim Mendes Silveira Foundation (FDMS) was extended until 30/07/2026.
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category M and E Document	Title GEFID10550_2026PIR_FAO_Brazil & Uruguay
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