

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10139
Project Name:	Implementation of the Guarani Aquifer Strategic Action Program: Enabling Regional Actions
Countr(ies):	Regional
Implementing Agency:	CAF

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW	3
A. Description	3
B. Ratings and Disbursements	3
C. Key Dates	3
II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES	4
A. Information on Progress, Challenges and Outcomes on Project Implementation	4
B. Stakeholder Engagement	12
C. Gender Equality	13
D. Knowledge Management	15
III: MINOR AMENDMENTS	15
IV: GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES	16
V. ANNEX	17

I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Implementation of the Guaraní Aquifer Strategic Action Program: Enabling Regional Actions

Country

Regional

GEF ID

10139

Implementing Agency

CAF

Executing Entity

UNESCO

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

MSP

PIR Submission

5/23/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2023 , 2nd PIR

Objective

Enhancing water security in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay by facilitating the initial implementation of the Guaraní Aquifer System SAP through the setting up of information collection and exchange mechanisms, and multi-country technical management bodies and tools.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

2,234,500.00

Cumulative Disbursement

2,000,000.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

12/13/2019

Agency Approval

11/20/2019

Implementation Start 6/29/2022	First Disbursement 6/29/2022
Expected MTR 2/28/2024	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 7/15/2025	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Information on Progress, Challenges and Outcomes on Project Implementation

- The Project began execution on June 29, 2022, when all the conditions established in the CAF Agreement (GEF implementing agency) with UNESCO (executing agency) were met. On this date UNESCO received the first disbursement of funds in the amount of US\$150.000.

After the approval of the Project by the GEF (November 20, 2019) and by CAF (May 30, 2020), the specific agreement between both entities is processed and the dialogue between CAF and UNESCO is opened to define and agree on the Project Execution Agreement, a document that defines the responsibilities, conditions and guidelines for the implementation of the Project together with the 4 proposing countries. This period is strongly conditioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, which not only slowed down and modified the work guidelines, but also determined successive changes in the countries representatives. Notwithstanding the impossibility of meeting the requirements to start the formal execution of the Project, during the last months of 2018 and the first half of 2019 it was informally agreed between CAF, UNESCO, and authorities of the 4 countries, to proceed with preparatory work that would then facilitate the start of the execution with advanced programming. Among the preparatory activities for the implementation of the Project were the following:

- the signing of the Implementation Agreement between CAF and UNESCO after an exchange between legal and technical staff and authorities of both institutions.
- a proposal for the Project Execution Plan, detailed by components and activities, including its schedule and associated costs.
- the preparation of the ToRs for the members of the Technical Project Unit, the International Technical Coordination, the Administrative Assistant, the G4 Administrative Officer and the Communications, Dissemination and Public Participation specialist.
- A proposal for the rules of procedure of the Project Steering Committee.

UNESCO in agreement with CAF and with the list of persons provided by the countries, called a preliminary meeting to discuss an agenda that included the presentation of the status of the project and, in order to advance the call to fill the positions of the members of the Project Coordination Unit (PCU), to gather a first opinion of the countries on the proposed Rules of Procedure for the operation of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and about the ToRs, all documents that were submitted to the countries prior to

the meeting. This meeting was held on August 17, 2021, with the participation of high-level authorities from the countries accompanied by technical advisors and all the designated National Coordinators.

Additionally, the “Guarani Agreement” signed by the 4 Presidents of the involved countries enter into force in November 2020, as the Congress of Paraguay, the remaining country, approved the text and the document was deposited in Brazil, as necessary. The approval of this agreement was a key step for the legal and institutional framework for project implementation.

Progress in the execution of the Project.

The progress of the Project execution in its first year of activities is reported now and covers from June 29, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

With regard to the progress of activities in general, it should be noted that the 4 countries maintain a strong interest in the Guarani Aquifer System and the Project, despite the long period of its preparation of more than 10 years. The 4 countries that own it have ratified this will with facts and have responded with initiative to the formal beginning of the activities.

Within the framework of the meetings held by the countries, it was ratified that the Project is within the framework of the La Plata Basin Treaty and the Guarani Agreement, which has been signed by the Presidents and ratified by the 4 countries.

During this 1st year the operational structure and communication networks for the execution of the Project were established. The progress achieved is visualized below following the structure of the Project according to its 3 Components.

Component 1. Consolidating transboundary technical cooperation (SAP Action 2)

The activities foreseen in this Component seek to reconstitute the structure and governance of the Project. To this end, based on the previous preparatory activities, progress was made in the following activities:

- In informal consultations, the Rules of Procedure of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) were prepared for review and approval at the 1st PSC Meeting.

- CAF invited the countries to designate members of the PSC and informed UNESCO of those designated as members. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure approved at the 1st PSC Meeting, this body was constituted as follows:

- i) one representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of each country,
- ii) one representative of the Ministry in charge of Water and
- iii) one representative of the Ministry in charge of the Environment, each with his/her respective alternate.

iv) It is also allowed to incorporate up to 6 members per delegation.
v) The PSC is also integrated by a representative of UNESCO as executing agency and a representative of CAF as GEF implementing agency.

vi) A seat is allocated for the CeReGAS Technical Director, the Secretary General of the CIC and a member of the GEF Secretariat.

- The PSC has formally met three times, one virtually and two in person (in Montevideo and Buenos Aires).

The main achievements of the PSC have been:

- Approval of its own Rules of Procedure
- Recognition of the National Coordinators and their alternates
- Consideration and approval of the Project Execution Plan (PEP),
- Consideration and approval of the Operational Plan for the 1st year
- Consideration and approval of the Operational Manual for the execution of the Project
- Take note of the general guidelines for preparing the Stakeholders Involvement Plan
- Approval of the members of the Monitoring and Models Committee (CMM) and the Capacity Building and Dissemination Committee (CCD).
- Review and approval of the ToRs of the International Technical Coordinator and his or her Assistant.
- Revision and approval of the ToRs of key consultants such as Gender, Equity, Stakeholder Participation and Communication.

The Project's governance and operational structure was completed with the establishment of the Project's National Units in each country. This structure is based on its success during the implementation of the GASP in the previous period, although this new medium-sized project seeks to strengthen its institutionalization.

The consulting contracts in force at the close of this PIR are for:

- International Technical Coordinator (ITC). In this case, two calls had to be made when the contracted specialist resigned for personal reasons on September 1, 2022. There is also a Technical Assistant and an Administrative Assistant.
- Consultant for Stakeholder Participation promotion; consultant in Communications; consultant for Gender Equity promotion. Only the ITC and its assistants locate at the Project headquarters, which has facilitated virtual relations, combined with face-to-face working meetings in the four countries.

Progress made in the institutionalization of cross-border cooperation during this first year of project implementation includes:

- CMM. Formation of the Monitoring and Models Committee with two official members per country and the possibility to add till two alternatives who have been selected by the countries for their normal institutional activity related to well drilling, provision of related services and information management. The Committee is managed and advised by CeReGAS, which provides support with highly trained and experienced

hydrogeologist personnel. The Committee constitution and operation is adapted to the administrative realities of each country. The CMM meets presential and virtually and moves forward cooperatively with the coordination of CeReGAS and ITC.

This activity foreseen in Component 1, in accordance with its quest for institutionalization, is explicitly implemented in Component 2,

- CCD. This Committee is constituted as part of Component 1, but its activities are executed within Component 3. Given the numerous activities it is responsible for conducting under the Project and the different plans it must conduct, the CCD proposed to expand its memberships with 2 additional members (approved by PSC). Additionally, the Committee has the capacity to promote and implement gender equity issues, education, and training, promote public participation and support regional cooperation for the fulfillment of the objectives of the project with the coordination of ITC.

Component 2. Design and field pilot testing of monitoring networks and protocols (SAP Action 4)

The progress of this Component is related to and gives content to the re-created Monitoring and Models Committee (CMM).

The Committee has worked based on regional meetings of all its members, both face-to-face and virtual.

After agreeing on common guidelines, work has been conducted in each country for the selection of the 35 wells to be monitored.

CeReGAS has been entrusted with the technical management of this Committee.

In successive meetings and preparatory work of the Committee and its members, technical criteria and institutional objectives have been agreed upon:

- Criteria for the selection of wells
- Selection of wells to be monitored
- Access agreements with the owners or operators of the selected wells.
- Parameters to be handled and definitions for working protocols for monitoring.
- Pre-identification of equipment to be installed and criteria for its acquisition and installation.
- Pre-definition of data to be managed.

- Certified laboratories with the necessary analytical capabilities were identified for contact proposals in each country.

Criteria for handling the information to be obtained have been shared in a complementary manner. A workshop was organized and held with the broad participation of technicians from the countries to agree on key guidelines for setting up a GAS water information system. In this workshop, alternatives were discussed, and principles were agreed upon for setting up an information system that would be coordinated with the Decision Support System of the La Plata Basin (SSTD) running under the CIC. Work continues on this basis.

Component 3: Stakeholders' involvement, SAP update, dissemination, and capacity building (SAP actions 2, 5, 7)

The activities foreseen under this Component are directly related to the re-establishment of the Capacity Building, Communication and Dissemination Committee (CCD), already established under Component 1. The activities implemented have been driven in the first instance directly from the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and are expected to progress with the hiring of specialist consultants. These consultancies are preceded by the preparation and approval, as appropriate, of the ToR. The ToRs of consultancies for Climate Change, Ecosystem Services and Legal and Institutional are finalized and the contracts for the selected specialists in each area will start soon. The Stakeholder Engagement Promotion, Gender Equity and Communications Consultant are already completed and in progress.

These areas are dealt with horizontally and will give rise to regional, national and local meetings of the members of the CCD, which will be expanded in number and competencies. The work carried out that stands out covers:

- The development of a Map of Actors with different links and interest in the GAS.
- The preparation of a participation plan that was generally approved by the PSC with recommendations for future treatment.
- The scheduling of 4 regional meetings to be held within the last semester of 2023.
- For these meetings, each country includes the stakeholders to be invited and adapts methodologies appropriate to its reality, including water users, private sector, academics, indigenous populations, civil associations, women, etc.
- The participatory scheduling of national/local meetings in areas of priority interest due to the transboundary nature of the GAS.
- The inclusion of gender equity issues in the Project's activities. Its consideration has been considered in the ToR for the hiring of Project staff.
- Finalized the ToRs of climate change, ecosystem services and legal and institutional consultants.

Considering the 10 World Conference of International Waters, the project planned and designed activities for the meeting (stand and sessions) and connected the regional meetings with the round table methodology.

The objective of Component 3 to work on updating the TDA and the SAP with emphasis on gender, climate change and ecosystem services has been considered and discussed in the Committee meetings; however, according to the approved PEP, it corresponds to be executed in next year's activities.

As mentioned before, since the approval date of the project on November 20, 2019, CAF has been working in the Due Diligence of Executing Agency and activities have been carried out with the UNESCO head quarter offices in France that has been involved in the legal and administrative revisions processes in order to establish the adequate procedures for administrative and fiduciary arrangement for third party funds. On the other hand, the project also went through an approval process of the One Step PRODOC by CAF internal bodies, which enabled the sending the Contract draft to UNESCO for juridical evaluation. During the period there have also been several political changes in each of the participating countries which has required a greater investment of time in awareness-raising to ensure the appropriation of it before the start of its implementation.

Project Outputs	Expected Completion Date	Year 1 Targets	Implementation Status	Implementation Status (narrative description)	Comments on Variance, If Any.	Progress rating
Component 1: Consolidating transboundary technical cooperation (SAP Action 2)						
Component Result: The institutionalization of the technical multi-country committees created during PGAS execution facilitates the coordinated management of de SAG. Link between Technical Committees established. / CMM TOR, data exchange strategy, and analysis protocols approved by the UFP. / Signed Agreements and Regulations agreed at de Board of Directors (UFP)						
Output 1.1: The Monitoring Network and Models Committee in charge of data exchange strategies established based upon TORs. Implementation Status: in development Narrative description: To build a data exchange strategy there are many previous activities to be executed: define the initial monitoring network (35 wells), define the parameters for analysis of the groundwater and monitoring protocols, map and contract laboratories, among others. The Monitoring Network and Models Committee was established by nominating its countries representatives (2 official and 2 alternate) which were approved by the Project Steering Committee. The committee joint for 10 meetings since the beginning of the project and advanced in the monitoring wells definition, protocols reviews, monitoring equipment to be purchased.						
Output 1.2: Re-establishment of Capacity Building and Dissemination Committee (CCD). Implementation Status: completed Narrative description The first meeting of the CCD was held on the 26 April 2023, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. At this meeting, the work plans and possible dates and topics to be discussed at the national and regional meetings of each of the GAS countries were defined. Moreover, Consultants in Gender Equity, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Promotion were hired. These specialists will contribute to the organization of the national and regional meetings, and guarantee that some important topics are included in the discussions.						
Output 1.3: Instauration of the Steering Committee for the Implementation of the SAG (UFP) former Board of Directors (CD) Implementation Status completed Narrative description						

The countries designated the members the PSC, following CAF's invitation. The Rules of Procedure of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) were prepared for review and approved at the 1st PSC Meeting, held online 21st October, 2022. The PSC has formally met three times, one virtually and two in person (in Montevideo and Buenos Aires).

Output 1.4: Legal and institutional arrangements for the establishment of regional committees (CMM and CCD) and the Steering Committee

Implementation Status: in development

Narrative description

The administrative processes for the hiring of a legal and institutional consultant has been completed. This Consultant will contribute to the update of the legislation in the 4 GAS countries, contribute to the update of the TDA and SAP, and support the Project bodies in presenting proposals for the maintenance and institutionalization of the structures that operated successfully during the implementation of the GASP, taking into consideration the work dynamics of the committees, which is now becoming institutionalized.

Component 2: Design and field pilot testing of monitoring networks and protocols (SAP Action 4)

Component Result 2.1: The sustainable management of the Guaraní transboundary aquifer enabled by the joint design and field testing of a regionally harmonized multi-purpose monitoring network and related protocols, a prerequisite for groundwater management.

Output 2.1.1: Review and update of the GAS Monitoring Network design defined during the PGAS, endorsed by the Monitoring and Models Committee, and pilot field testing.

Implementation Status: in development

Narrative description

As first step of the project, there was an initial review of the GAS Monitoring Network design defined during the PGAS. For the laboratory analysis of the pilot field testing, The Monitoring and Models Committee (CMM) adopted the technic document *Operativa para la Toma, Almacenamiento y Transporte de Muestras de Aguas Subterráneas destinadas a Análisis Químicos e Isotópicos "Sistema Acuífero Guaraní"* from the Manual Series of PSAG.

Component Result 2.2: Agreement on monitoring data sharing protocols among countries improve the likelihood of effective joint strategies for the mitigation of adverse transboundary impacts.

Output 2.2.1: Monitoring data sharing protocols prepared by the Monitoring Network and Models Committee.

Implementation Status: : in development

Narrative description

The monitoring data sharing protocol has been discussed initially by the National Coordinators with the ITC and then the PCU organized a specific workshop to advance on this topic. The workshop included National Coordinators, CMM representatives, experts in Software and Information Systems and chancellery from the countries. The PCU with the countries aims to propose a system solution for the PSC in November 23rs, and once the project starts producing data, if the system is not defined and ready, the CMM will define how the data will be shared.

Component 3: Stakeholders' involvement, SAP update, dissemination, and capacity building (SAP actions 2, 5, 7)

Component Result: Full and gender balanced participation of stakeholders and of civil society, dissemination of general SAG and project specific information, reinforcement of capacity, and integration of gender, ecosystems, and climate consideration into the SAP, enhance the effectiveness, long-term sustainability, and replication of project results.

Output 3.1: Definition of TORs and establishment of the Capacity Building and Dissemination Committee, coordinating public awareness and capacity building regional events on groundwater management, environmental and gender issues, involving civil society organizations, Indigenous peoples, local committees, basin councils and other stakeholders.

Implementation Status: completed

Narrative description

The Capacity Building and Dissemination Committee has been established, with two designated technicians for each country, and held its first meeting 25th April 2023 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. As to ensure public awareness and capacity building in the region, a consultant for

Stakeholder Participation has been hired. The hiring of consultants for Gender Mainstreaming and Communication was completed next. The definition of the ToR for the Legal and Institutional consultant has been completed.

Output 3.2: A social participation strategy that ensures women's and other minorized groups presence and substantial representation in events.

Implementation Status: in development

Narrative description

The Gender Mainstreaming and Stakeholder Participation Consultants are expected to design a work plan as to ensure women's and other minorized groups presence and substantial representation in the local events, which were expected to take place starting August 2023. It was expected that these events will give the necessary input as to generate a formal participation strategy for future events.

Output 3.2: Gender mainstreaming within the context of the Guarani SAP through a gender analysis of SAP priority actions and policy recommendations, and the conduct of national training workshops on gender analysis and sex-disaggregated data collection.

Implementation Status: in development

Narrative description

In the framework of the regional, national and local events, it is expected to have round table discussions about gender mainstreaming in the context of the GAS. In Uruguay, a series of interviews with local vulnerable population was planned to be carried out to collect their testimonies, in order to identify the relationship between socioeconomic vulnerabilities and gender inequalities.

Output 3.3: Review the SAP to ensure that information on the ecosystem services dependent on the SAG will be available for each of the countries, as a sound basis for reconciling conflicts at the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus.

Implementation Status: in development

Narrative description

A Consultant in Ecosystem Services will be hired, in order to identify the main services provided by the GAS waters to the ecosystems with which it is linked, and contribute to the update of the TDA and SAP, incorporating proposals for measures to avoid ecosystem damage. This consultant will work in close coordination with the Consultants in Gender Equity, Communications, Climate Change and Stakeholder Engagement Promotion.

Output 3.4: Private sector involvement through structured dialogues in the four countries.

Implementation Status: in development

Narrative description

The aim is to ensure the participation of the private sector in the national and regional events to be held in each of the GAS countries and this stakeholders are being mapped. This events will contribute to enhance a mapping of the private sector that will guarantee their involvement and participation if future events and instances organized by the Project.

Output 3.5: Proposal of a new full GEF project for the integrated management and sustainable use of groundwater in the GAS region in consideration of Climate

Change To be confirmed by the Steering Committee

Implementation Status: not initiated

Narrative description

A Proposal of a new full GEF Project is expected to be developed during the second year of the project, with the support of a Consultant.

Output 3.6: Full participation to IW LEARN activities and events (including IWCs), and establishment of the Guarani Aquifer Website according to IW LEARN standards. 1% of the total GEF grant will be allocated to support IW LEARN related activities.

Implementation Status: in development

Narrative description

Meetings with IW Learn organization were held to learn about the recommended methodology to be used in the national and regional events connected with the nexus roundtable, and to organize the participation of the Project in the 10 World Conference of International Waters, to be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay in 2024. The Guarany Aquifer Website is currently being developed and is expected to be launched in the next months.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

In each of the four countries (though there is still scope for improvement) a sufficient legal and institutional framework is in place for the development of sustainable protection and management of the GAS. Conditions are also favorable for development of the necessary coordination among the countries. In view of its close links to normative aspects, the question of institutional preparedness is of key importance and inevitably arises whenever actions are proposed for this area. In countries with federative structures, articulation or integration among States or Provinces is perceived by local stakeholders as the first step toward the goal of sustainable management at the national level. In Argentina, good managing practices and the existing legal structure, indicate that the participation of the involved Provinces in coordination with the National Government is necessary for the conformation of inter jurisdictional Basin Council. In this regard, their federal government system, which states that the original domain of the natural resources is in the hands of the Provinces, demands the National Government the application of a methodology such as stated in Law 25.688. Nevertheless, the above stated Law does not specify a method to achieve the latter objective. Thus, the National Water Plan implemented by the Secretariat for Infrastructure and Water Policy promotes the creation of Basin Councils, with the active participation of the Provinces, the National Government and approval of the National and Provincial Parliament. In Uruguay, there was a proposal for establishment of an Aquifer Committee, with broad powers over the entire area overlying the Uruguayan portion of the Guarani Aquifer. In Brazil, it was proposed that the existing structure and coordination mechanisms among the states should be harnessed, through bodies of proven efficacy (CNRH, CERH, and basin committees). In Paraguay decentralization of certain functions was proposed, to enable departmental governments to collaborate better with the central Government on issues relating to groundwater management.

Establishment and operationalization of the Capacity Building and Dissemination Committee, tasked with the updating of the SAP, the raising of stakeholder's awareness, the dissemination of general SAG and project specific information, the implementation of educational initiatives, together with capacity building and gender mainstreaming, are considered by countries as of paramount importance for the success of the project and of the sustainability of the SAG resources utilization. There is also consensus among countries that groundwater management and protection demand the participation of all stakeholders, including women, Indigenous people, the private sector, and the civil society. This Component of the project will strive to institutionalize these functions, essential throughout SAP implementation and beyond, and to promote gender equity and sex disaggregated data collection, and the protection of groundwater dependent ecosystems and biodiversity.

Activities already prepared include:

- CCD + consultancy organized regional events about integrated water management, environment, and gender issues that would be start in the near future from August 23. Civil Social organizations will be fundamental parts of these events.
- Gender analysis and gender equity proposals would be prepared considering the particular condition in each one of the countries and will be integrated on the regional events.
- Based on the consideration of the particularities of each country, the participation of the various stakeholder groups will lead to the preparation of an updated TDA and SAP, which will serve as a basis for a new full GEF project for the integrated management and sustainable use of groundwater in the GAS region in consideration of Gender Equity, Ecosystem Services and Climate Change.

Participation in events and actions of IW LEARN web page according. Currently and due to the 10 World Conference of International Waters would be hold in one of the participating countries the project will be presented as a case in transboundary groundwater protection.

C. Gender Equality

The project started its execution on June 29, 2022, and the Project Steering Committee and the Technical Coordination Unit have already been established.

Since the preparatory activities for the initiation of the project, the issue of gender equity has been considered. This is shown in the documents prepared. The situation of minority groups such as indigenous and peasant populations has also been considered.

When the governance of the project was considered in the documents prepared, guidelines and directives were given to include these groups. Not only this, but it has also been agreed that these guidelines will be followed from the conformation of the country representations in the project PSC and PCU.

The four countries participating in the project have strong policies aimed at promoting gender equity, which have been incorporated by their representatives into the project working guidelines.

In the terms of reference of the calls made, the inclusion of female candidates has been considered and this has been considered at the time of selection. As an example, the first technical coordinator selected was a woman and the entire coordination support team is made up of women.

In order to ensure technical capacity with respect to gender equity, one of the first contracts that will be made is that of the gender equity specialist. The terms of reference that guide this contract were consulted and endorsed by specialists in the subject from the participating agencies UNESCO and CAF.

The work of the gender consultant is to include in the Stakeholder Participation Plan the identification and status of women in relation to access to groundwater and its transboundary condition, to progress on gender-responsive measures and include gender-sensitive indicators in the project results framework, propose content for updating the Strategic Action Plan.

Currently, the technical teams of the Monitoring and Models Committee and the Capacity Building, Communication and Dissemination Committee are made up of both male and female representatives selected by each of the countries. In the work conducted in these committees, gender and minority issues are considered a priority for each of the activities.

The thematic approach from the beginning was guided by the following considerations:

Equity for women and girls is a strategic and operational imperative for the GEF. Men and women use natural resources differently and, as a result, they are affected differently by changes to these resources. Gender inequality and social exclusion increase the negative effects of environmental degradation on women and girls. Despite recent promising policy and legal reforms, and the full appreciation in the region that “women in decision-making spaces can promote the sustainable water resource use and management” (Water and Gender Workshop, Brasilia October 2017), persistent gender-discriminatory social and cultural norms, unequal access to land, water and productive assets, and unequal decision-making continue to constrain women and men from equally participating in, contributing to, and benefitting from environmental projects and programs. Multiple studies are showing so far how the COVID-19 pandemic is deepening gender inequalities in all its expressions. Without policy reinforcement, their social, physical, and economical vulnerabilities are only to be intensified, hence all gender mainstreaming measures become even more critical in the current context and post-pandemic scenario.

No water assessment or diagnostic can be realistic without a gender perspective. And no decision-making is inclusive unless both women and men participate in the process. In line with the GEF Gender Equality Action Plan, as part of Component 3 the project will conduct a gender analysis of the SAP developed during GASP, to systematically introduce gender responsive results frameworks and foster women’s empowerment. The “gendered” SAP will be submitted to countries for adoption. Gender consideration will inform all activities and products of the proposed project, in particular fostering women’s participation to all working groups, dialogues, consultations, and awareness raising activities.

In addition, the project will conduct national training courses to familiarize stakeholders in all Basins’ countries on gender analysis and indicators, and sex disaggregated data collection, to assist countries in overcoming one of the key stumbling blocks to achieving a more robust gender-integrated international policy regime: the lack of comparable international data on gender-sensitive water indicators. An estimated of 1.000 participants will enroll in these courses, and several mechanisms to ensure gender parity in enrollment will be put in place.

International policy mechanisms are driven first and foremost by data. Without sex-disaggregated data, it is not possible to fully measure progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Without data, it is difficult to make effective analytical assessments of the comparative situation of women and men in different communities, countries, or parts of the world. If data are not available on a topic, no informed policy will be formulated; if a topic is not evident in standardized databases, then, in a self-fulfilling cycle, it is assumed to

be unimportant. UNESCO (WWAP) has developed and evaluated an indicator-based methodology for collection and analysis of key sex-disaggregated water data, with the purpose of creating a baseline knowledge related to water, from which gender progress can later be evaluated. It is expected that the monitoring data sharing protocols referred in component 2 will include a chapter on harmonization, measurement, and interchange of a set of priority gender sensitive indicators.

According to UNESCO's methodology priority gender-sensitive indicators fall under five broad topics: i) water governance, ii) safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene, iii) decision making and knowledge production, iv) transboundary water resources management, and v) water for income generation for industry and agriculture. More specifically, the indicators relate to women's water empowerment and participation in water decision- making, income generation, and unaccounted for water-related working hours. Apart from the incorporation of the most relevant of these indicators within specific chapter of the data sharing protocols a complete gender analysis of the SAP will be conducted as part of the project.

D. Knowledge Management

A great quantity of technical knowledge and a vast amount of data was produced. Manuals of procedures were prepared for managers throughout the region. Moreover, technical criteria and a regional view, so necessary for promoting sustainable groundwater management, were developed based on the highlights of the previous GEF GAS project (2003 -2009):

- Drafting of geological and hydrogeological maps, with details on the geometry and behavior of the GAS, based on a consensus and on correlation with stratigraphic units in the four countries.
- Establishment of a database on tube wells, available to all stakeholders and linked to all the main regional databases.
- Design of a regional monitoring network for wells, including selection of wells (in confined areas and outcrop areas) and their respective sampling protocols, based as well on sociodemographic and gender-sensitive selection criteria.
- Construction of conceptual and mathematical regional flow models (designed to assess regional water-use scenarios including macro changes in land-use and settlement patterns) and local own-models in Pilot-Project areas (a direct management tool for solution of local problems).
- Establishment of the Information System on the Guarani Aquifer System (SISAG, for its acronym in spanish), using the most modern geo-processing and information technologies
- Additionally, the "Guarani Agreement" signed by the 4 Presidents of the involved countries enter into force in November 2020, as the Congress of Paraguay, the remaining country, approved the text and the document was deposited in Brazil, as necessary. The approval of this agreement was a key step for the legal and institutional framework for project implementation.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	

Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	Following CAF's procedures as implementing agency, an extension of the implementing period was recently granted until July 15, 2025
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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Regional Guarani Aquifer	-20,6,654,350,175,521	-49,04,648,784	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Regional Guarani Aquifer	-16.86633611	-53,77,681,944	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
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Regional Guarani Aquifer	-28,01,379,444	-61,78,026,667	
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Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Regional Guarani Aquifer	-21,06,122,222	-46,92,161,111	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Regional Guarani Aquifer	-32,44,224,444	-56,80,663,333	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

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