University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center
Elia M. Tapia, Dr. Sharon B. Megdal

The Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program and the San Pedro River Aquifer Binational Report

Authority

Carried out by the US and Mexico in accordance with resolution 3 of the Mexican International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), entitled Theremamente and Colorado River. In the same manner, Washington, DC, and Mexico City, Mexico, signed the International Boundary and Water Commission United States-Mexico for the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program.

Objectives

- Understand the current state of knowledge with respect to climate, vegetation, land use, soil, topography, and hydrology of the transboundary aquifer system.
- Compile and create a database of scientific information that can be used as a starting point for future collaborative projects.

Participating Agencies

- United States National Water Commission and University of Arizona
- Mexican National Water Commission and University of Arizona

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The San Pedro Report will be the first-ever binational aquifer assessment prepared and released simultaneously in English and Spanish by the IBWC.

Binalional Maps Prepared in English and Spanish

- 20 binational maps were prepared with information on climate, hydrology, geology, land use, soil distribution, vegetation, etc.
- 2 binational maps with information on groundwater levels for the year 2011.

Examples of Mapping Efforts

- Different classification units for each country were used to obtain a binational product.

Examples of Binational Maps

- English and Spanish versions available.

The Binational Experience

Sharing data and information that are accurate and consistent in both countries creates a basis for cooperation. The current work is an effort to understand the evolution of both countries' water resources, and achieving sustainable economic development in arid regions is a international collaboration that improves the relationships between the two nations.

Recommendations from the Binational Team

In order to achieve better understanding of the transboundary aquifer systems, the binational team recommends continuing the scientific collaboration on these aquifers and on other priority aquifers along the United States-Mexico border.

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