

Bridging the science-policy gap in a transition-country setting: enablers and barriers



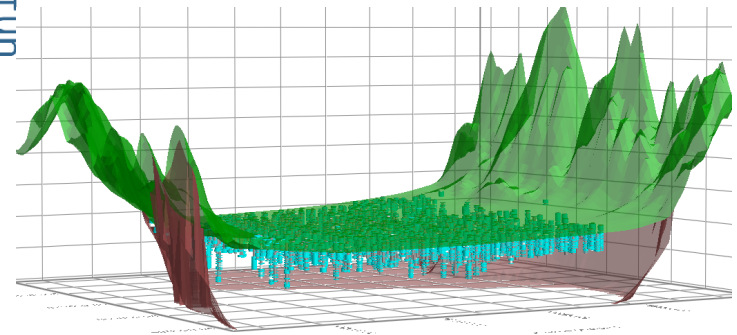
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Challenges in bridging the science policy gap...



conflict shared
institutions water
data power models
policy
science
transparent
trust
champions university
knowledge open
participation bananas sugarcane



Evidence4Policy

Developing the scientific evidence base in managing water resources in Colombia – particular focus on groundwater management planning



Objective is to generate shared knowledge of the water resources availability and use baseline; building on contributions from user communities, water management agencies, research organisations, and other actors to work towards conjunctive use of surface and groundwater resources.

Desired outcome:

A more prudent and transparent decision making supported by scientific knowledge



IHE
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Global Partnership
for Water and
Development



UNIVERSIDAD
DE ANTIOQUIA



Universidad
del Valle



Cinara



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cenicaña

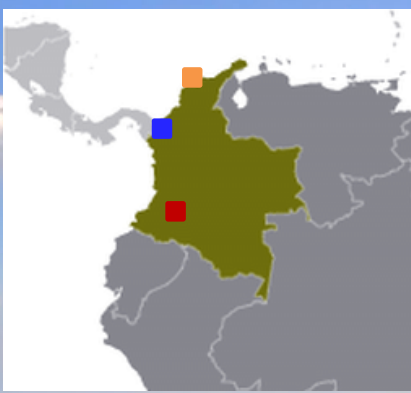


Enabling Delta Life

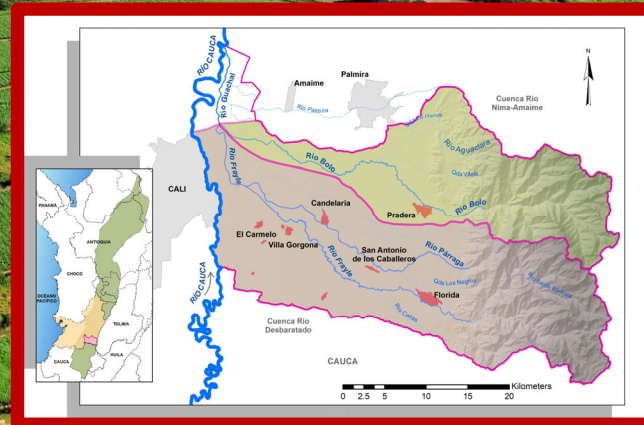


WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

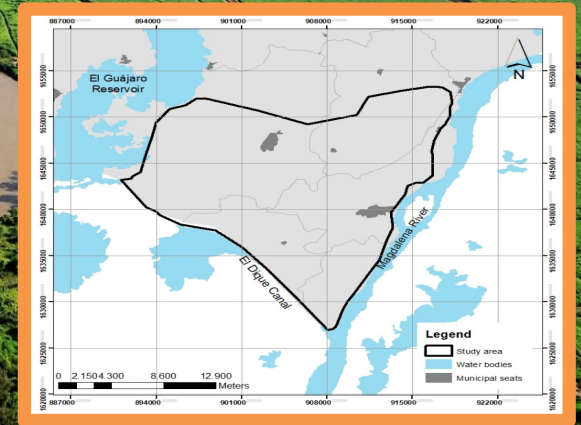
Three distinct case study areas across Colombia



Urabá



Valle del Cauca



Atlántico

Three interconnected axes of research & outreach



Social Sciences research

Social cartography, researching power relationships & decision making strategies, citizen observatories, interviews, interaction with participatory platforms

Physical System Research

Scientific understanding of groundwater system; Monitoring Campaigns (piezometers, isotopes, chemistry); hydrogeological modelling

Capacity & Outreach

Science communication, Integration of institutions, Public fora (local & national), Practical guidelines for policy implementation

Comparison between three case study areas

	Urabá	Valle	Atlántico
Level of economic and institutional development	+	++	-/o
Scientific Understanding of surface & groundwater systems	+	++	--
Knowledge of stakeholders and uses and needs of water resources	+	++	o
Hydro-meteorological monitoring & availability of models	o	++	-
Stakeholder participation in managing shared water resources	++	o	o
Trust relationships between actors at local, regional & national level	++	o	+/o
Development of science-based groundwater management policies	+	++	o
Policy implementation based on shared knowledge	+	o	-

Barriers

- Low development of scientific understanding
- Lack of institutional capacities & community cohesion/participation
- Use of scientific knowledge for political interest
- Low trust between institutions – users – communities – academia
- Lack of continuity - people, funding, commitment



Enablers

- Trust relationships and transparency fundamental to uptake
- Teams that transcend institutional and stakeholder barriers
- Development shared understanding through e.g. citizen observatories & building capacity at different levels, integration of local knowledge
- Long Term Relationships & continued communication

