

Argentina

Capital city: Buenos Aires
Inhabitants: 44 Million



INSTITUTIONAL SETTING AND PURPOSE

Water resources in Argentina are owned by the Provinces, but the National Hydrological Network (RHN), belonging to the Federal State, has its own hydrometric, surface water quality, limnometric and meteorological stations.

The main objective of the RHN is to provide data on water resources, status and trends in the medium- and long-term for the planning of water policies at the federal level, and to contribute to the integrated water resources management at the scale of transboundary basins.

RHN is in the process of installing its first piezometric stations, prioritizing transboundary basins. In addition, the RHN continues its tasks of incorporating and integrating into the information system the provincial stations of basin organizations (ACUMAR, COREBE, AIC, COIRCO, CIC-Plata, etc.), of research institutes (INA, INTA, IHLLA) and municipal early alert and other independent networks (e.g. Red Mate). At the moment there is no national groundwater monitoring network, but some local networks exist.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NETWORK

The monitoring networks of the basin and municipal organizations (early alert) usually collect data on groundwater quantity (levels) and quality. The RHN, for its future hydrogeological stations, plans to make measurements of quantity (level) and quality (conductivity, pH and temperature) with seasonal regularity.

There are manual, automatic and/or telemetric stations depending on the objective of the monitoring.

PROCESSING AND DISSEMINATION

Data from the basin organizations are available on their web pages. By national law, information produced with state funds at any level is public and must be accessible to all citizens, as long as it does not compromise the national security.

The Integrated Hydrological Database (BDH) portal contains time series of all the stations that it installs, maintains and operates. At the moment groundwater monitoring stations are not included in the website.

Dat.ar is the unofficial repository of open public data of Argentina; it contains information on about 5500 SIFAS (Federal Groundwater Information System) wells (update until 2015). Data from these wells can be downloaded, including name, type, coordinates and owner.

The georeferenced overview of wells used to be available through the SIFAS portal of the Ministry of the Interior, updated until 2015. At present, it is not possible to access the website.

EXAMPLE OF LOCAL NETWORK: BDH-AZUL

BDH-Azul is the Hydrological Database of the Azul basin, which depends on the Institute of Plains Hydrology "Dr Eduardo Jorge Usunoff" (IHLLA). The IHLLA has a wide monitoring network of meteorological parameters, surface water and groundwater throughout the basin. Some of them are also linked to the flood early warning system of Azul. This information is available for users since 2002 on a hydrological information management web portal.

On the BDH-Azul web portal (figure below) the georeferenced position of 149 wells is visualised and related data and meta-data can be downloaded, such as coordinates of the wells and groundwater level time-series. Around half of these wells have been flagged as "exploitation" type, and the other half as "other". The frequency of data collection is irregular, ranging from approximately 4 times a year to twice a month.

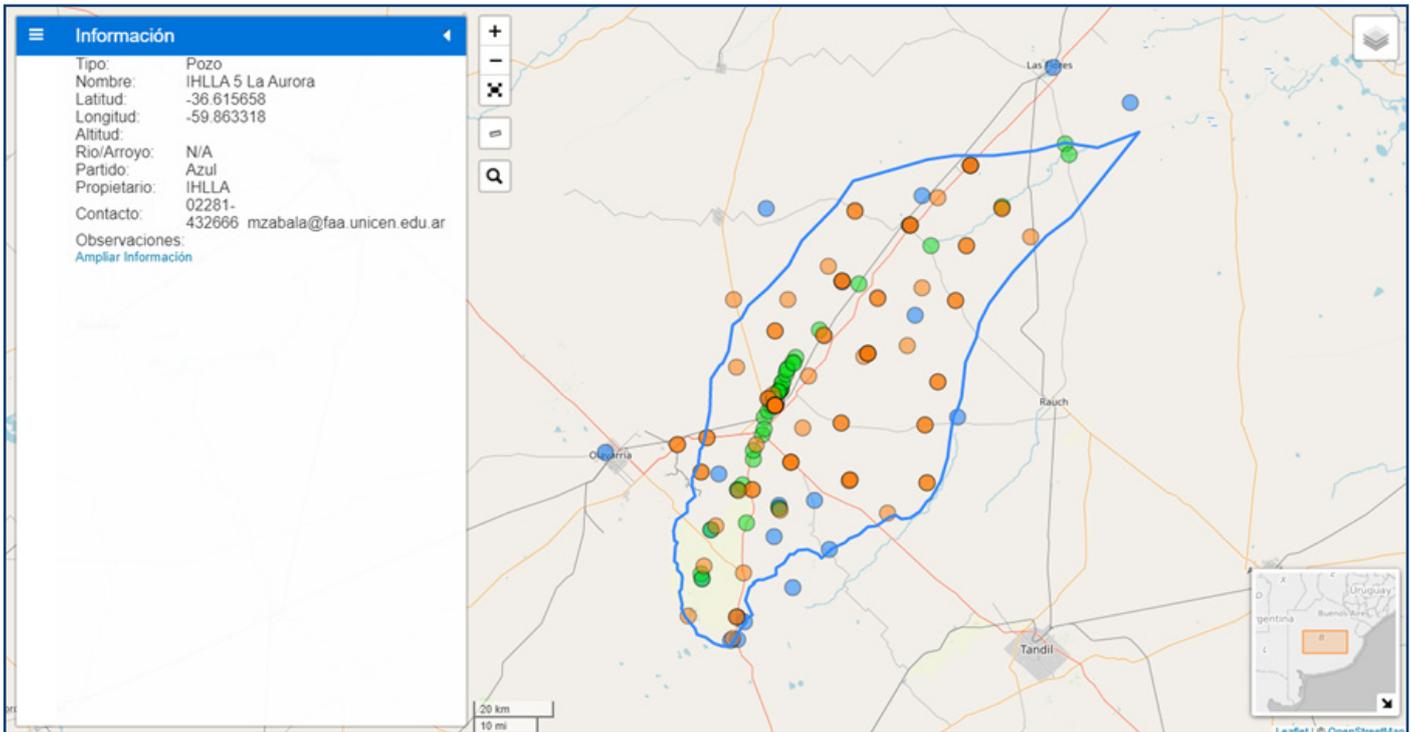


Figure 1 – BDH-Azul web portal



Figure 2 – Dry landscape of Cordoba, Argentina, by: Richard

Sources

- **BDH-Azul web portal** - <http://www.azul.bdh.org.ar>;
- **CeReGAS (Regional Centre for Groundwater Management in Latin America and the Caribbean)** - personal communication, 2019;
- **Feedback from IHLLA** - received on 28 February 2020;
- **Feedback from National Secretariat of Infrastructure and Water Policy - SIPH (answer to form)** - coordinated by CeReGAS and received in 2019;
- **Integrated Hydrological Database of Argentina (BHD)** - <http://bdhi.hidricosargentina.gob.ar>;
- **National Water Institute (INA)** - email exchange, 2020;
- **SIFAS portal** - <http://sisag.mininterior.gob.ar/SIFAS/> (no longer available); and
- **Unofficial repository of open public data of Argentina, Dat.ar** - <http://datar.noip.me/dataset/pozos-sifas>.