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# **MEXICO : "SINA" - "SIRA"**

## **Creation of the national and regional water information systems**

- International Office for Water - Cooperation - International actions - Information and documentation systems -  
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### Reminder of the context...

At the end of the 1990s, the "Basin Councils", created in Mexico according to a logic of decentralization of water resource management, very quickly felt the need to access the information allowing them to make suitable decisions. In order to meet this expectation, the CONAGUA (National Water Commission) then planned the creation of information centers called CICAs (Centros de Información y Consulta sobre el Agua).

The CONAGUA wished to benefit from the French experience in the field of management of water-related data and information.

The International Office for Water and the French Water Agencies provided an organizational and technical assistance, co-financed by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs since 2001. Since 2003, the various recommendations have started to be approved and take effect:

- Preparation by CONAGUA and INEGI (Institute of Statistics and Cartography), SEMARNAT (Secretariat in charge of the Environment) and IMTA (Mexican Institute of Technologies on Water), of protocols for the exchange of information at the national level;
- Adoption by the Basin Committees of the Yucatan Peninsula and Mexico Valley of the launching of the first two pilot "CICAs", and this with a strong support from the States concerned;
- Study tour in France of representatives from the CONAGUA, INEGI, SEMARNAT, IMTA and the government of Quintana-Roo, for an analysis of the methods adopted for the management of data and obtained results.

### Changes and new orientations&hellip;

The Mexican water law of 29 April 2004, appreciably modifies the organization at basin level and provides for:

- the creation of autonomous Basin Organizations, which will be in charge of, among other things:
  - formulating and proposing the Hydrological Plan for their basin;
  - operating the basin financial system;
  - allocating concessions for the exploitation of facilities and water resources;
  - preserving water quality and promoting its effective and sustainable use in coordination with the States and the Basin Councils.
- A redefinition of the role of the "Basin Councils", which become, from now on, consultative bodies of the Basin Organizations. With regard to the information systems, the law:
  - Reminds the general principles of free access to water-related information;
  - Entrusts the CONAGUA and the Basin Organizations with the task of disseminating this information;
  - Plans that "the national planning and programming of water resources will be carried out on the basis of a National System (SINA) and Regional Water Information Systems (SIRAs) which will be supported by the Commission and the Basin Organizations."

In 2005, the SINA/SIRA "project" entered into an implementation phase, with a support from IOWater, within the French- Mexican cooperation. A Topical Group on Water was officially created involving the CONAGUA, SEMARMAT and INEGI.

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The first 7 topical sub-groups were created to define the future common language for data exchange in Mexico: "administrative and institutional context", "surface waters", "groundwater", "water quality", "climate/meteorology", "urban hydraulics", "agricultural hydraulics".

The Planning Department of CONAGUA takes care of the information, facilitation and coordination of the topical groups and prepares, for 2006, the SINA website, the reference frame for the characterization of the main water resources of Mexico and a catalogue of the Mexican water stakeholders.

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