



THE HANDBOOK ON WATER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

ADMINISTRATION, PROCESSING AND EXPLOITATION
OF WATER-RELATED DATA

March 2018



Case study 27: Ecuador / Information to encourage participation [54]**# Basin council and integrated management of water resources: strong complementarity**

The Water Secretariat (SENAGUA), the governing body of water resources in Ecuador, is responsible for preparing the Public Water Registry, defined by the organic law of August 6, 2014.

Following the provisions of the same law, the necessary steps are being taken to establish the main works of watershed councils throughout the Ecuadorian territory, at the scales of the 37 local hydrographic planning units (UPHL) and the 9 Hydrographic Demarcations (DH).

The convergences between these two key axes of the integral management of water resources, which interconnect information systems and the participation of users in the basin councils, is central to SENAGUA's approach. To bring the two processes together, a computer sub-module was created, called "SI/GIRH", dedicated to basin councils within the framework of the National Information System.

The SI/GIRH platform in Ecuador

The country possesses numerous quantitative and qualitative data on water resources and uses. However, they are scattered, heterogeneous, and few are accessible in a standardized form as provided by various entities of national/decentralized level and by the water users themselves.

The "SI/GIRH" platform aims to facilitate access to data and information to encourage participation, planning, and good integrated management of water resources, with a friendly tool that can be used by all stakeholders. Developed with the technical support of IOWater, it aims to make data easy to access following simple, dynamic, flexible and economical procedures. In order to achieve these objectives, the "SI/GIRH" portal gathers information of national interest,



Figure 37: Diagram showing how the SI/GIRH sub-module fits into the national water information system structure



Figure 38: Example of maps within Ecuador's SI/GIRH sub-module

relating to demarcations and planning units based on a principle of participation. It also includes the work of SENAGUA and the councils in the planning framework (baseline maps, practical information). The dynamic character of the information is assured with web services, a geographic viewer and a catalogue of metadata that provides a comprehensive description of the data and information presented. The information made available is based on material produced by SENAGUA at central and local levels, applying the principle of subsidiarity, and also includes information available and produced by all actors in the sector.