

## **Knowledge Management of Water Resources in El Salvador**

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### **Abstract**

The knowledge management in the water resources, consists in the gathering of the information about the elements of the hydrological cycle and how they are affected by the human activities, but also including the activities to assure that this information will be used by the decision makers and users, to improve the water management in order to use it with sustainability.

In El Salvador, the civil war, the lack of resources, have made this process of collecting information, analysis and research, a real challenge, and the lack of complete historical data series can make more difficult to conduct the studies to predict the basins behaviors and the future availability of the water.

But in the last five years it has been taken important steps in order to have more knowledge about the national water resources, as the elaboration of the National Water Balance, the National Water Quality Diagnosis, the hydrometeorological studies to manage the Early Warning Systems and the National Aquifer Diagnosis.

**Key words** water resources knowledge management, water information, water research

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Knowledge Management is a discipline recently developed and applied to a series of activities, but is not a new process, this process has permitted that the human race evolve and survive, and that the enterprises growth, with the experiences learned by trial and error applied to the improvement of the living or development.

There is a wide variety of concepts given to the Knowledge Management, but all agrees that this is a continuous process of data acquisition of different time and space, the analysis of the information and the spread of this information traduced in knowledge, in a way that this knowledge can be applied influencing the change of attitudes and practices in different levels of the human life, in order to be more accurate in the decisions taked, give a faster response to the needs, and obtain a sustainable and more competitive development<sup>1</sup>.

In this way, the Knowledge Management applied to the water resources, is required by the planners, the users of the water and the decision makers, in order to respond to questions like: Which is the real availability of the water due its quality? This water can be used by a specific project? Is there enough water to sustain my needs on time? How can I do to ensure that the availability of the water can be sustained on time in order to use it to recover the investment of my project? Which can be the effects of water availability if the land uses changes? And what is going to happen if there are climate changes or if the water demand increases? Where can be planned water projects?

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Sedeño Prado.