Preliminary Characterization of MTBE in Deep Wells of the Aquifer Patiño, Metropolitan Region of Asuncion, Paraguay

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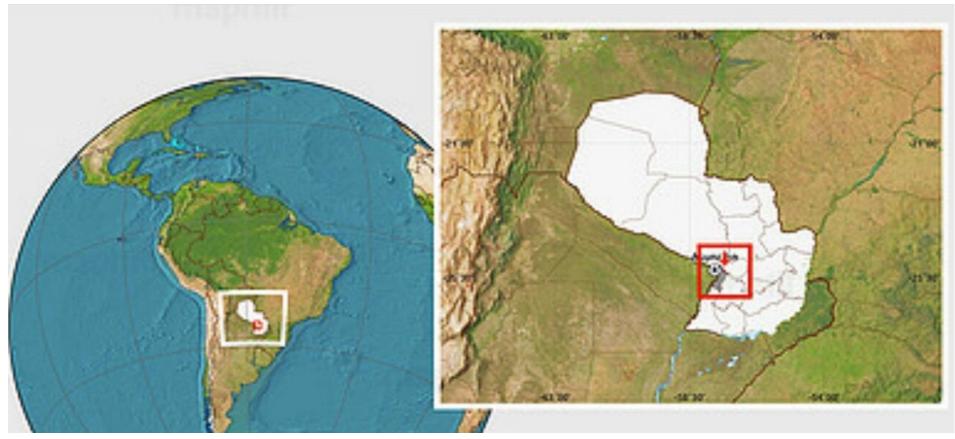
TALK OVERVIEW



- Project rational
- · Objectives and goals
- · Materials & methods
- · Results and discussion
- Future work & conclusions



Where is Paraguay?







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PROJECT RATIONAL

- Anthropogenic activity has enhanced the inputs of contaminants: HCH and oxigenates as MTBE and by-products to the soil and aquifers, causing widespread pollution.
- · Presence of MTBE affects potability characteristics of water.
- Aquifer plays a key role for storage of freshwater for human supply and are affected by emerging pollutants generating a public health issue.
- Oxigenants in fuel and tanks containment regulations play a key role in the state of the aquifers.
- Particular physical & chemical conditions at the Patiño Aquifer: <u>estructura</u> <u>sedimentaria</u>, over-use (extraction) and increased salinity in important areas.

PROJECT RATIONAL

- In 2012: MTBE in gasoline presented concentrations near 18%
- After a Parliamentary debate new regulation was passed in 2014 considering the risk posed by MTBE (up to 2%).
- · Uncontrolled proliferation of gasoline stations in the Metro area of Asuncion has a fundamental importance in vulnerability of the aquifer Patiño.



Project rational

- Seasonal changes (climate change, droughness, and over explotation rates) can govern the concentration of MTBE in waters affected by those conditions.
- In Paraguay, recent debate in the Parliament on the recurrent water quality degradation and remediation measures has centered on the iconic Aquifer Patiño.
- Groundwater Framework Regulation (ERSSAN/2002)

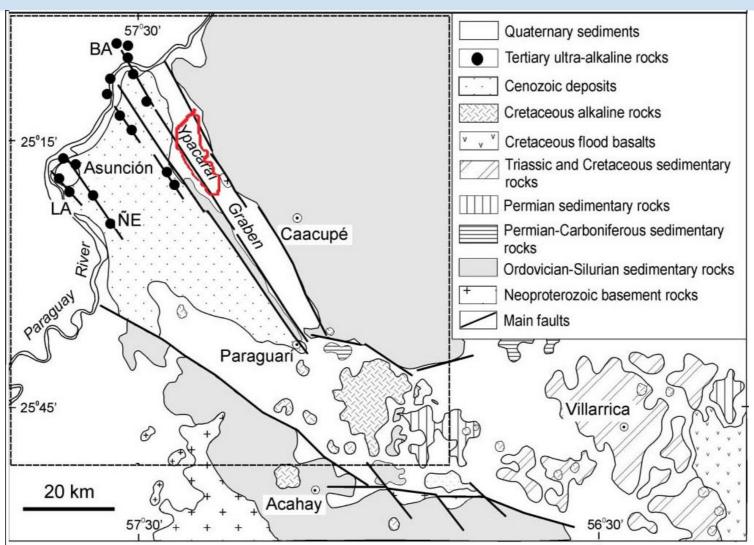


WHY THE AQUIFER PATINO?

- . It is a vital resource for 2.000.000 people.
- 20 years ago sat for dozens of industries with water as a raw material (now moving to other aquifers of Paraguay).
- Is a quaternary sedimentary aquifer.
- Very limited studies during the last 10 years, none on MTBE or emergent contaminants
- Uncertain if other parameters are relevant for restoration



Why The Aquifer Patino?





Location of the Ypacarai Graben and esquematic associated geology (After Riccomini, 2001). Abreviations BA: Benjamin Aceval; NE: Nemby, LA: Lambare 9

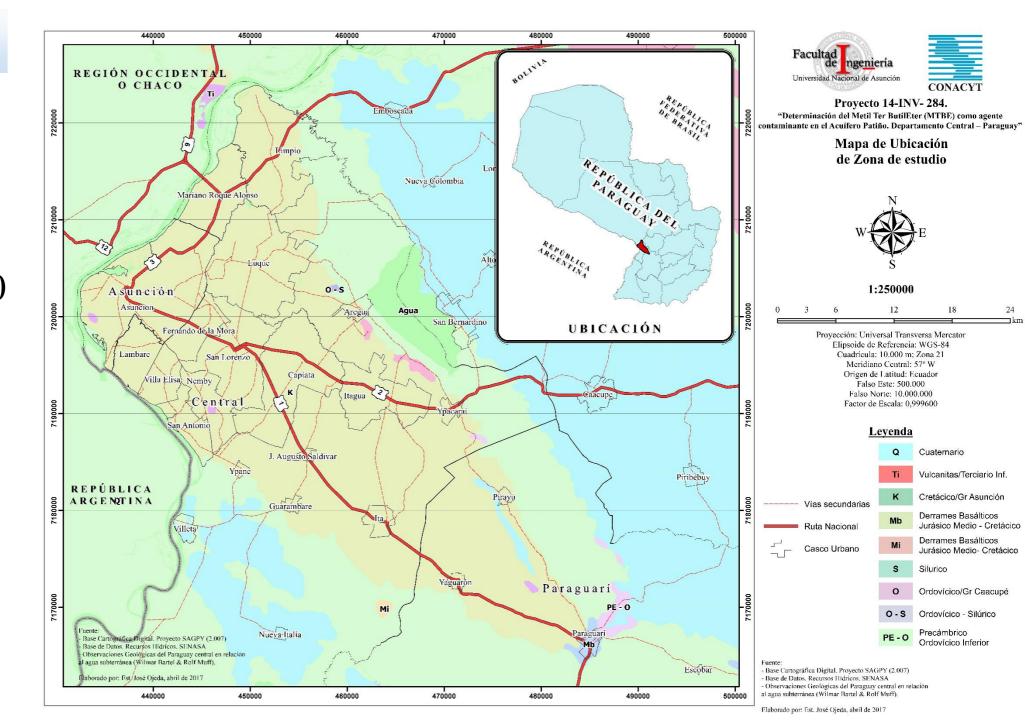
DESCRIPTION

Medium-Large size: (area 1,173 km²)

Deep 100 to 600 m.

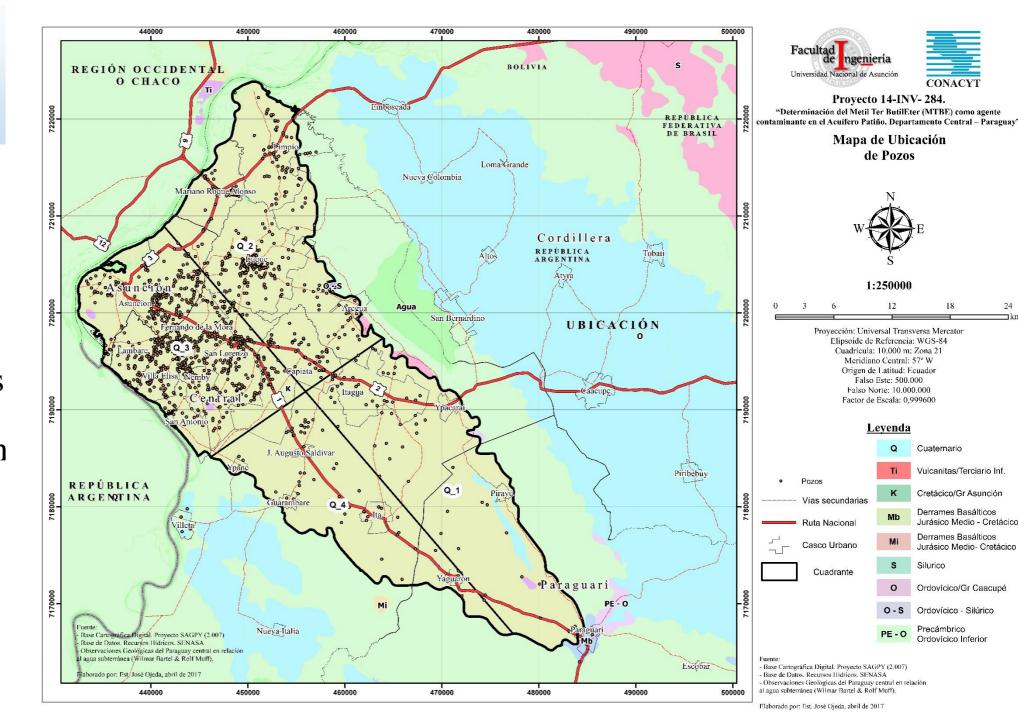
The median volume extracted every year is about 36Mm^3





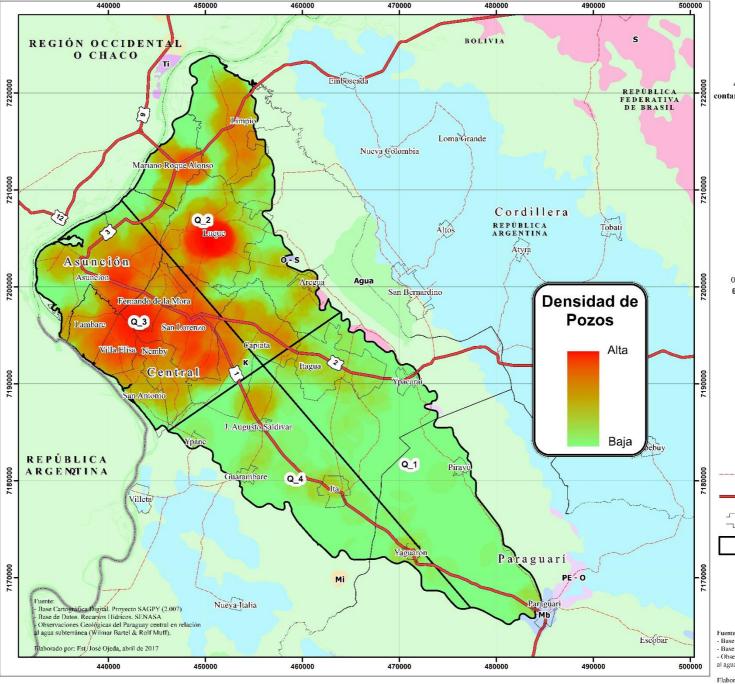
About 700 wells #400 deep wells (80-180 m)and surface wells (4-20m) sealed in 1990-2000).





About 700 wells

Density of wells







Proyecto 14-INV- 284.

"Determinación del Metil Ter ButilEter (MTBE) como agente contaminante en el Acuífero Patiño. Departamento Central – Paraguay"

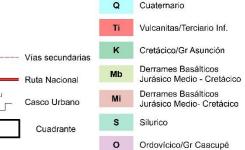
Mapa de Densidad De Pozos



1:250000 12

Proyección: Universal Transversa Mercator Elipsoide de Referencia: WGS-84 Cuadrícula: 10.000 m; Zona 21 Meridiano Central: 57° W Origen de Latitud: Ecuador Falso Este: 500.000 Falso Norte: 10.000.000 Factor de Escala: 0.999600

Leyenda



Ordovícico - Silúrico

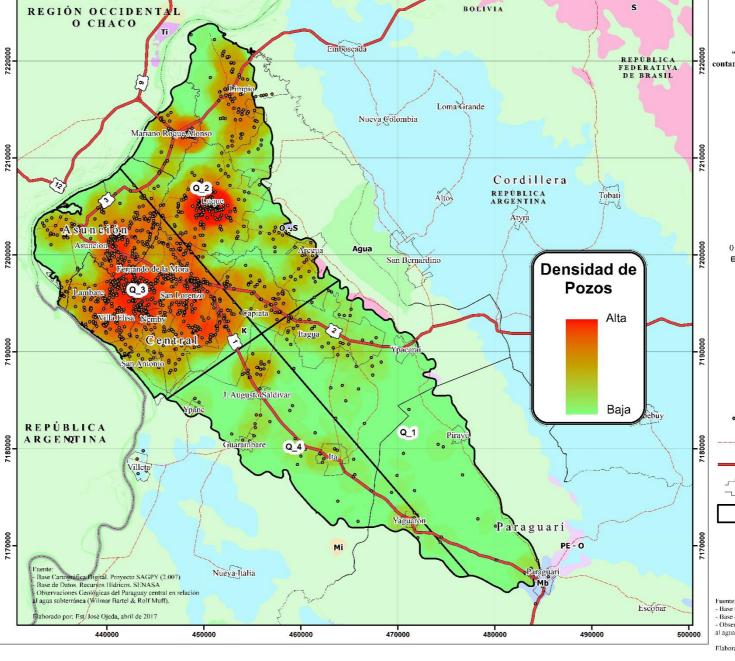
Precámbrico

metal

- Base Cartográfica Digital. Proyecto SAGPY (2.007)
- Base de Datos, Recursos Hidricos, SENASA
- Observaciones Geológicas del Paraguay central en relación al agua subterránea (Wilmar Bartel & Rolf Muff).



Density of wells



470000

480000

450000





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Leyenda



Cuadrante

Ordovícico/Gr Caacupé Ordovícico - Silúrico

Silurico

Cuaternario

Precámbrico

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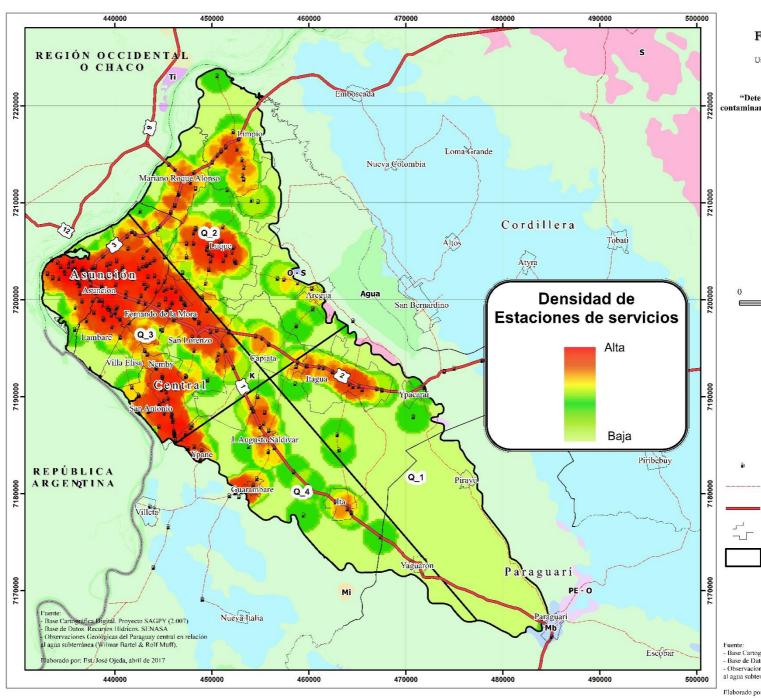


About 500 gasoline stations

Mostly placed near deep and surface wells

Characteristics of facilities









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Mapa de Densidad De Estaciones de Servicio Sobre el Acuífero Patiño



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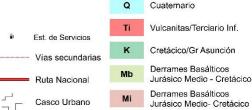
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Levenda

Silurico

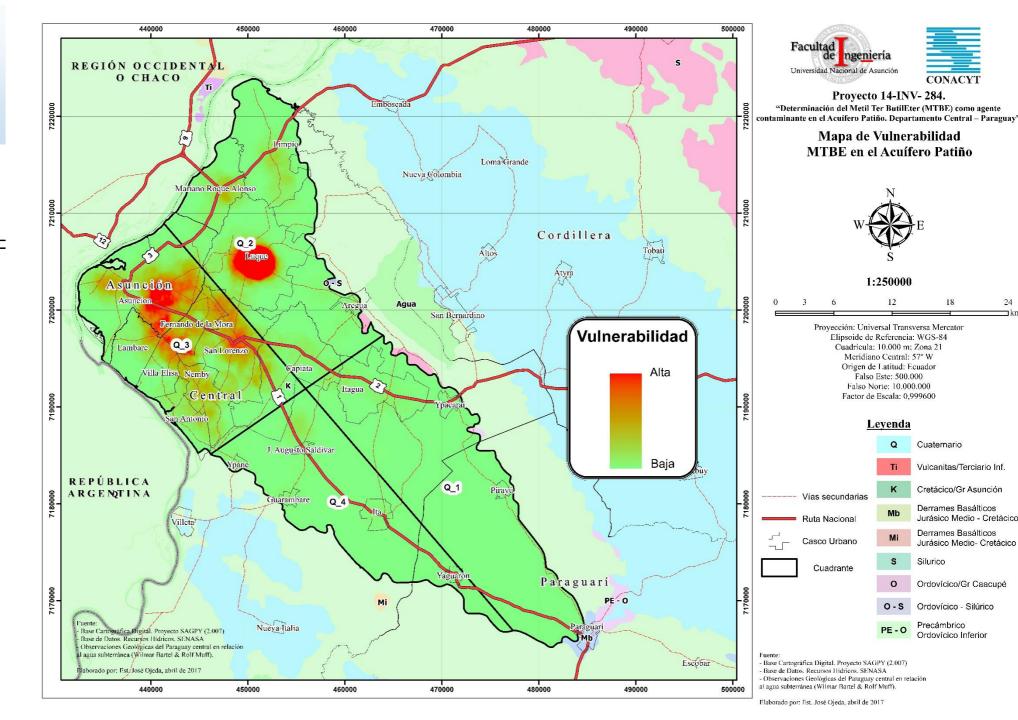
Ordovícico/Gr Caacupé
Ordovícico - Silúrico
Precámbrico



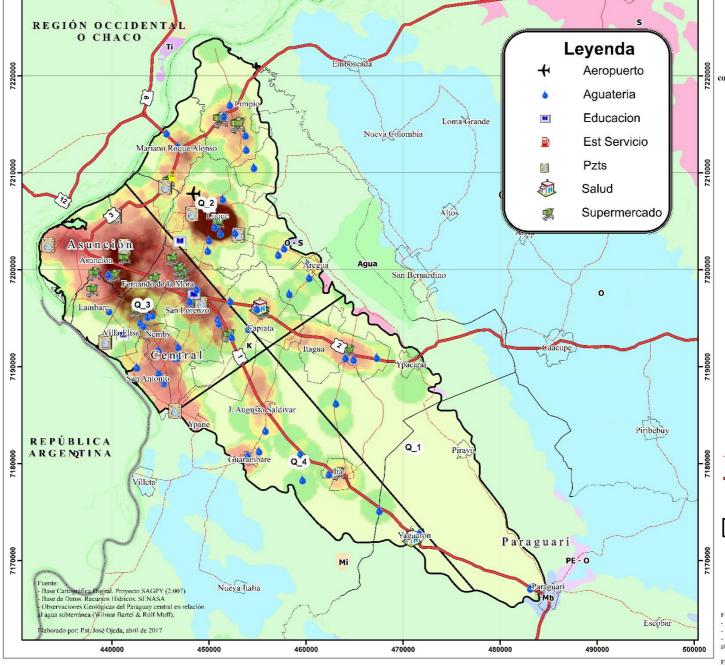
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Density of wells vs density of gasoline stations = Vulnerability hot spots





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470000

450000





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Mapa de Vulnerabilidad MTBE en el Acuífero Patiño



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Falso Este: 500.000 Falso Norte: 10.000.000 Factor de Escala: 0,999600

Leyenda



S Silurico

Cuadrante

O Ordovícico/Gr Caacupé

O - S Ordovícico - Silúrico
Precámbrico

Ordovícico Inferio

Fuente:

- Base Cartográfica Digital. Proyecto SAGPY (2.007)
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OBJECTIVE AND GOALS

- Understand the evolution and trends of the MTBE and bi-products in the Aquifer under the effect of dry and wet seasons.
- Identify key factors that influence the recovery of the water quality of this aquifer.
- Provide with accurate information to the community on the water quality (other parameters were analyzed) of their supplier.
- Recommend measures & policies to improve water management in Metro Area.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2 sampling campaigns (one in wet and other in dry season), 90 wells - filters water uptake btw 70 to 150 m.









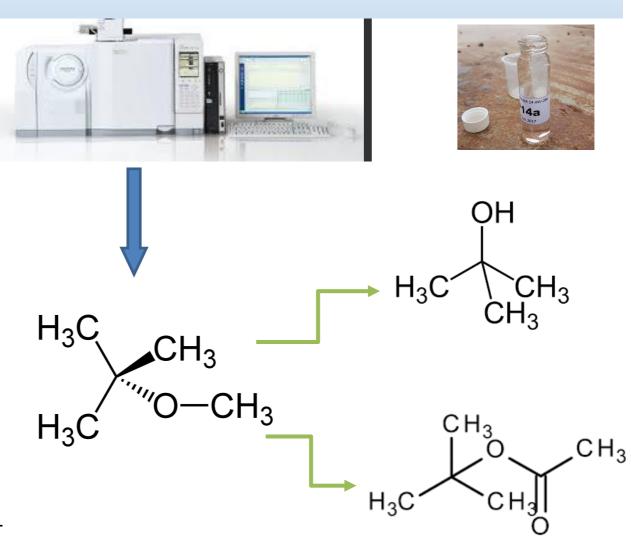
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MATERIAL AND METHODS

Analysis by solid phase microextraction (SPME) and gas chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry (GC/MS).

Validation of this method was performed with the fiber temperature between 21 to 25°C.

Lower Detection Limits obtained were $0.009\mu g.L^{-1}$ for MTBE; $0.029\mu g.L^{-1}$ for TBA and $0.010\mu g.L^{-1}$ for TBF.



Preliminary findings & results

Data: June July-2017

- 1. From 90 Wells MTBE was detected in 44%; TBA in 21%; and TBF in 13%. of the monitored wells.
- 2. Average and maximum concentration of MTBE (0.033 μ g.L⁻¹and 0.156 μ g.L⁻¹), are lower than the values found in other countries [!].

Legend **Vulnerability** WEST REGION THE CHACO TBA (µg.L¹) High 0.030 - 0.039a Grande 0.039 - 0.0550.055 -0.137 Mariano Roque Alonso 0.137 - 0.186Low 0.186 - 0.230TBF (µg.L⁻¹) 0.018 - 0.020 Asunción 0.020 - 0.026San Bernardino 0.026 - 0.037 0.037 - 0.045 0.045 - 0.055 Central MTBE (µg.L-1) 0.010 - 0.0150.015 - 0.023J. Augusto Saldivar 0.023 - 0.031ARGENTINA 0.031 - 0.0790.079 - 0.156 Digital Cartographic Base. SAGPY Project (2.007) - Geological observations of central Paraguay in relation to to groundwater (Wilmar Bartel & Rolf Muff) Paraguarí Nueva Italia

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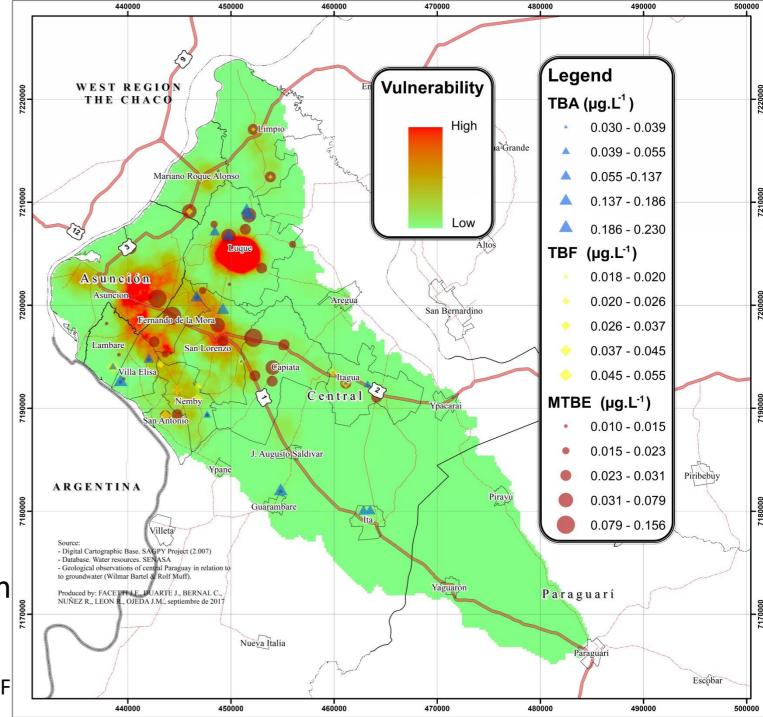
Preliminary findings & results

Data: June July-2017

3. Considering that 52% of all sampling points with presence of MTBE are close to gas stations, it can be inferred that the presence of MTBE is related to the spills of gasoline or unsealed tanks.

These results are consistent with other authors (Rosell, Lacorte & Barcelo) who report that detection of MBTE in groundwater might be strongly associated with population density, use of MTBE in gasoline, and recharge rate of the aquifer.

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RECOMENDATIONS

- The article praise for a better enforcement on laws and regulations regarding disposal of HCH
- · Design of monitoring wells in gasoline stations
- · Improve regulation for accessing monitoring wells
- Further research should also include monitoring of near surface water (shallow wells).





Thank you for your attention

