

# **GOVERNANCE TO CURB WATER POLLUTION: THE RECONQUISTA RIVER BASIN**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The Reconquista River Basin, Argentina, offers a very serious degree of environmental and water pollution. The basin surface is of 1,670 km<sup>2</sup> and its population is about 4.5 million inhabitants. It is an industrial zone in the vicinity of the city of Buenos Aires. There is awareness of the problem at all levels. National laws, provincial statutes and, since 2000, an interjurisdictional programme, could be applied to deal with the situation, but their implementation, or lack of, have produced no positive or significant results so far. A committed institutional framework should be required to reverse the situation, and to transform a vicious circle into a virtuous one. A complete report has been released by the Ombudsman Office of Argentina. The solution could start with the declaration of the Basin as a Critical Zone of Especial Protection, and this is the solution advanced by this paper.

**PALAVRA-CHAVE:** water pollution, environment, Reconquista River Basin, Argentina, interjurisdictional, critical zone