



World Groundwater Congress  
**IAH2024DAVOS**  
Switzerland  
Interacting  
Groundwater  
8.-13.9.2024



## **NEW FINDINGS USING NOBLE GASES ISOTOPES IN THE GUARANI AQUIFER SYSTEM IN SOUTH AMERICA**

**Isadora Kuhn, Roberto Kirchheim**

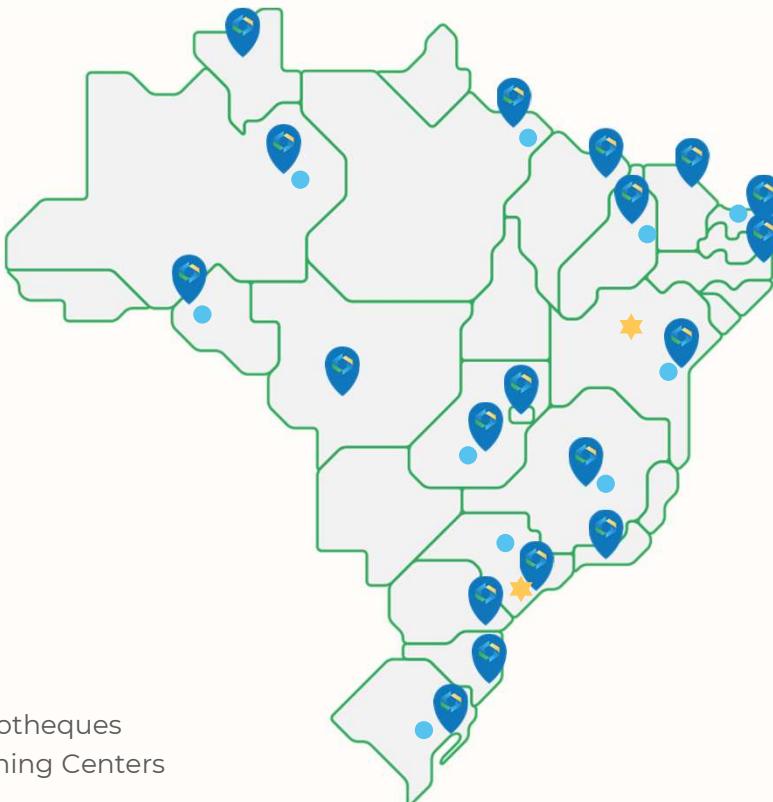


MINISTRY OF  
MINES AND ENERGY





## WHO WE ARE



### Headquarter

Brasília

### Main Headquarter

Rio de Janeiro

### 8 Regional headquarters

Belém, Belo Horizonte, Goiânia,  
Manaus, Porto Alegre, Recife,  
Salvador e São Paulo

### 3 RESIDENCES

Fortaleza, Porto Velho e Teresina

### 7 Technical Offices

Curitiba, Criciúma, Natal, Cuiabá,  
Roraima, Palmas e São Luís



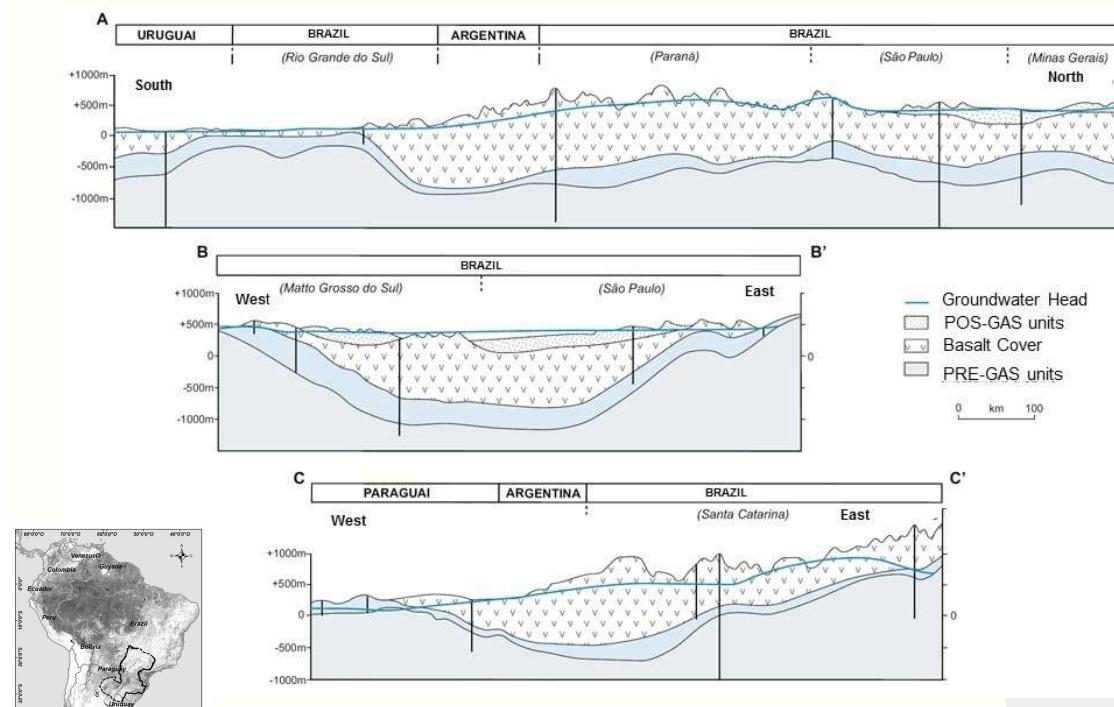
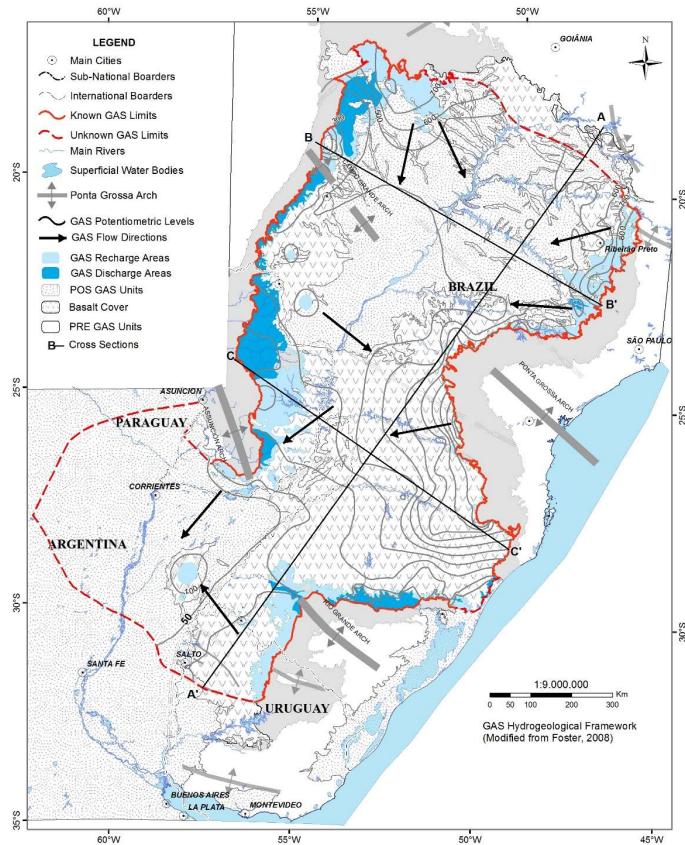
 **CONTEXT**

- GAS is a major transboundary aquifer system;
- Target for many national research initiatives;
- First GEF Project on Groundwater Management (World Bank/OAS);
- Treaty ratified by the 4 Countries;
- Intensification of the use;
- IAEA target for application of Innovative Isotope Techniques.



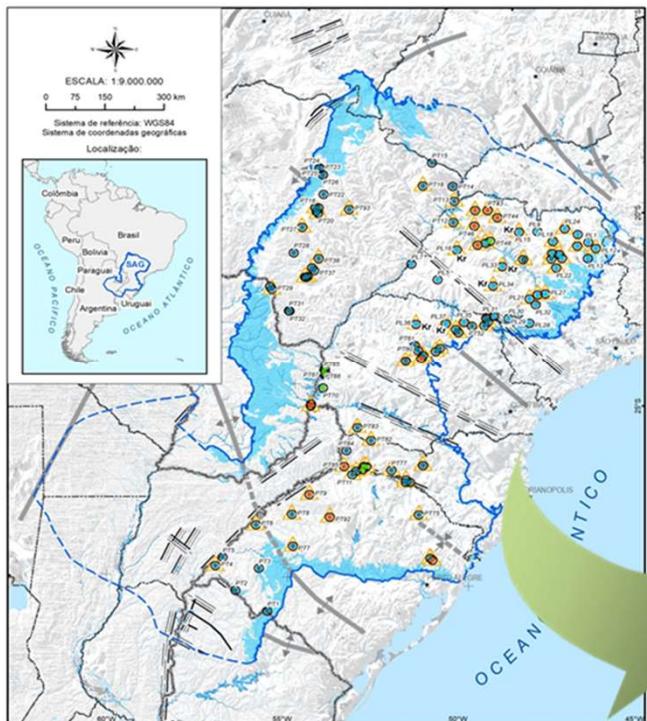


# THE GUARANI AQUIFER SYSTEM





## METHODOLOGY



### Characterization of fossil groundwater systems using long-lived radionuclides

2010-2015

Research Project: Complementary Isotopic Studies in the Northern Compartment of the Guarani Aquifer System (Brazil) – Groundwater Dating Along Defined Flow Paths

2017-2020

CRP Title: Complementary Isotopic Studies in the Southern, Western and Eastern Compartments of the Guarani Aquifer System (Brazil) - Groundwater Dating Along Defined Flow Paths'



Improve  ${}^4\text{He}/{}^{81}\text{Kr}$  chronometer

100 NG + 11  ${}^{81}\text{Kr}$  +  
Stable Isotopes +  
Hydrochemistry





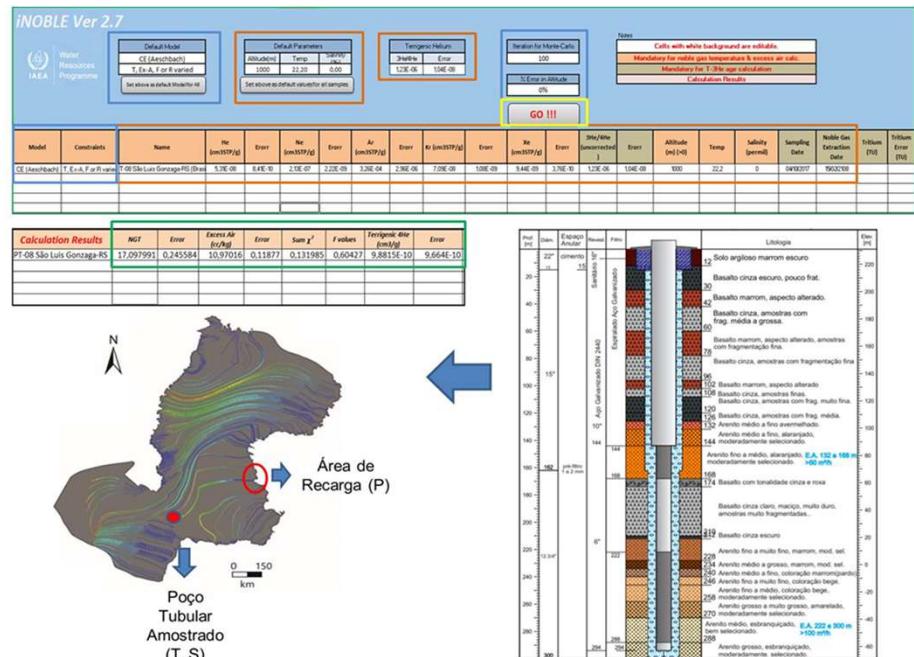
# METHODOLOGY

## Step 1: Sampling of representative and documented GAS deep wells



Constructive heterogeneity and uncertainties; difficulties in obtaining laminar flow; shipment challenges

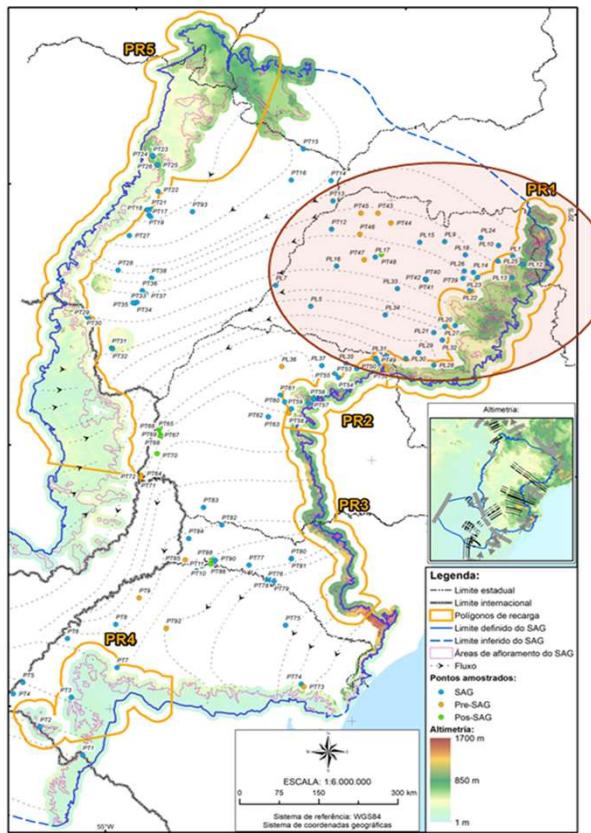
## Step 2: NG analysis # INOBLE2.7 modeling # GAS regional conceptual model



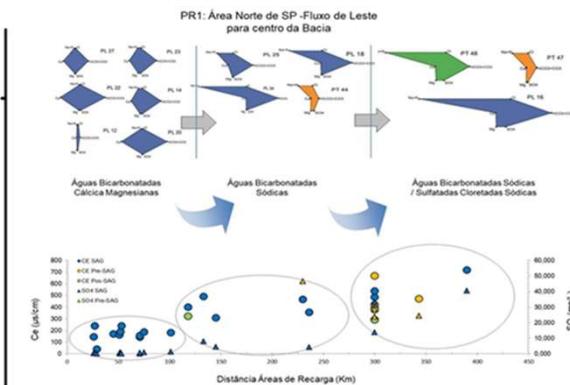
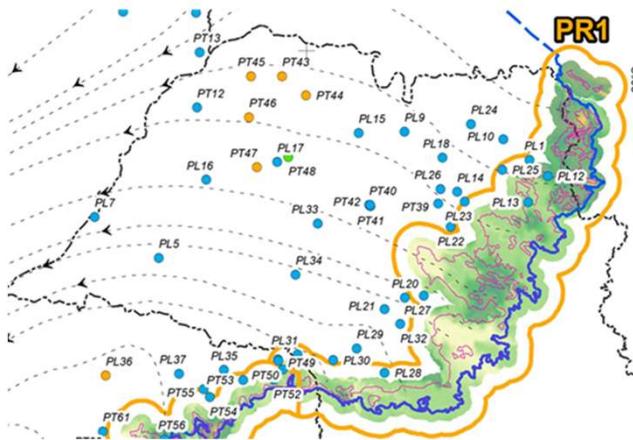
TDS, T, Altitude, NG concentrations



## METHODOLOGY



### Step 3: Delineation of recharge polygons



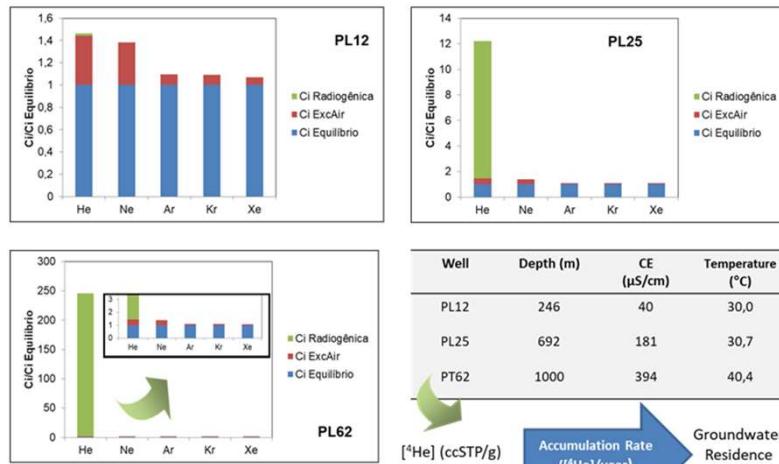
Hydrochemical evolution of the GAS waters  
>Na, SO<sub>4</sub>, Cl, CE, Temp





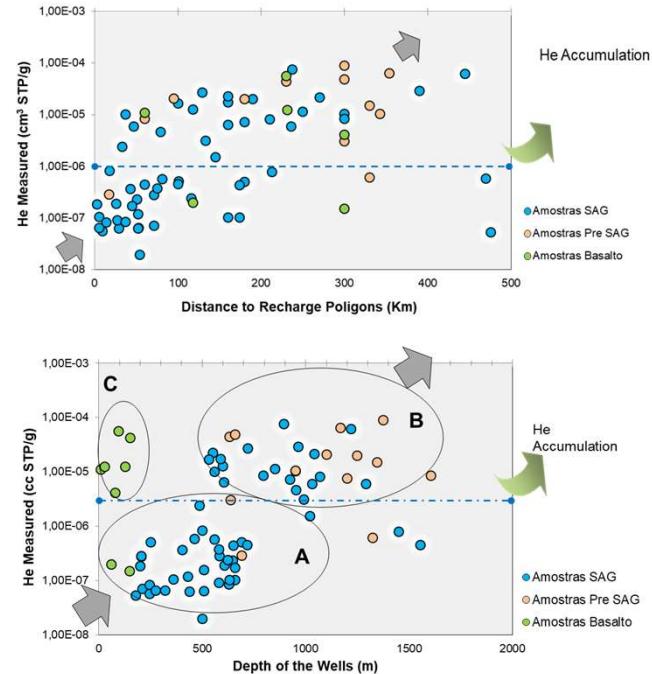
## METHODOLOGY

### Step 4: NG Component Separation



Significant gradients in  ${}^4\text{He}$  concentrations, proportional to residence time.

### Step 5: ${}^4\text{He}$ distribution across the SAG

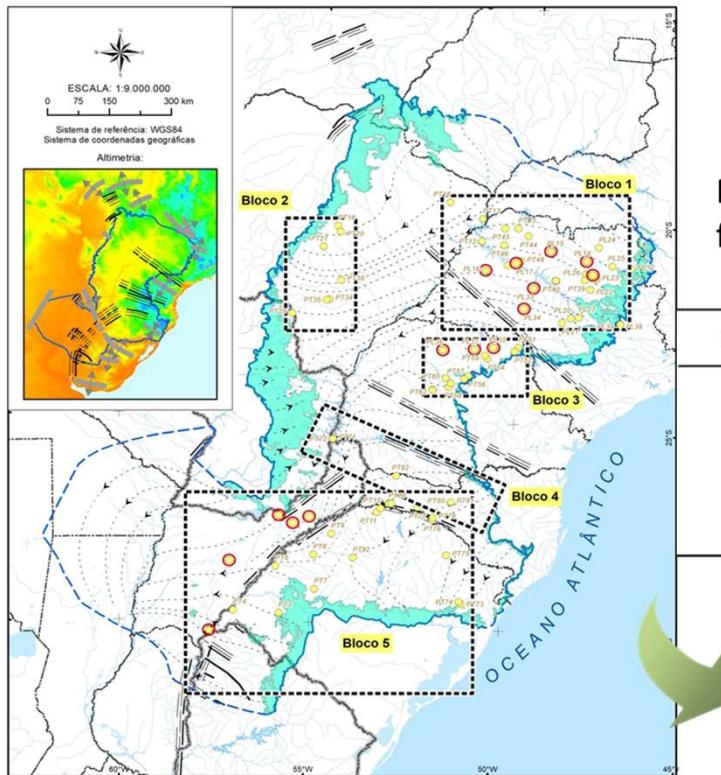


Increase of  ${}^4\text{He}$  rad and accumulation trends



## METHODOLOGY

Step 4: Estimate residence time: use of the chronometer  $^{87}\text{Kr}$ - $^{4}\text{He}$  rad.



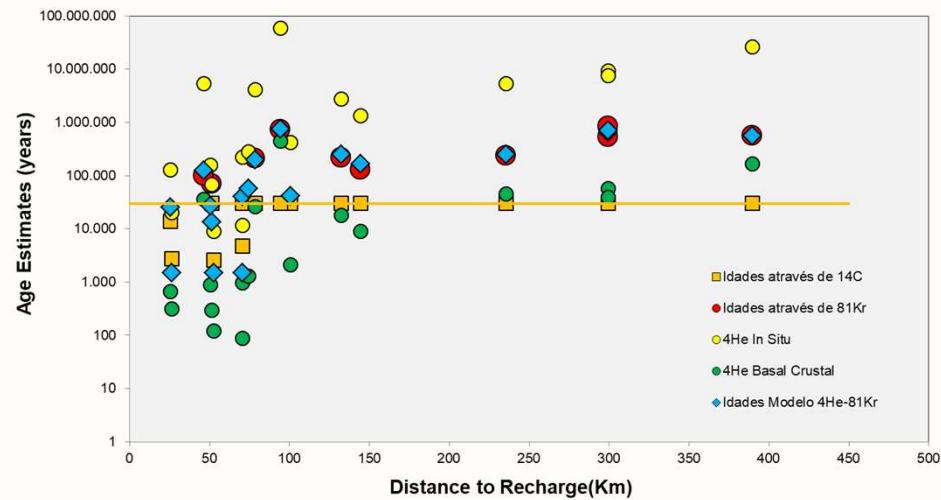
Block Discretization in order to find the best fit for the **Basal Fluxes and Vertical Diffusion**

Blocos	Agrupamentos de Blocos	F - Fluxo Basal ( $\text{cm}^3/\text{cm}^{-2}\text{ano}^{-1}$ )	$D_{\text{He}} - \text{Difusão Vertical}$ ( $\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ )
1	Aggarval et al., 2014	$2,3 \times 10^{-7}$	$1,0 \times 10^{-9}$
1 e 2	Norte	$1,8 \times 10^{-7}$	$5,3 \times 10^{-10}$
3	Central	$2,0 \times 10^{-7}$	$1,6 \times 10^{-10}$
4 e 5	Sul	$4,1 \times 10^{-8}$	$2,6 \times 10^{-10}$

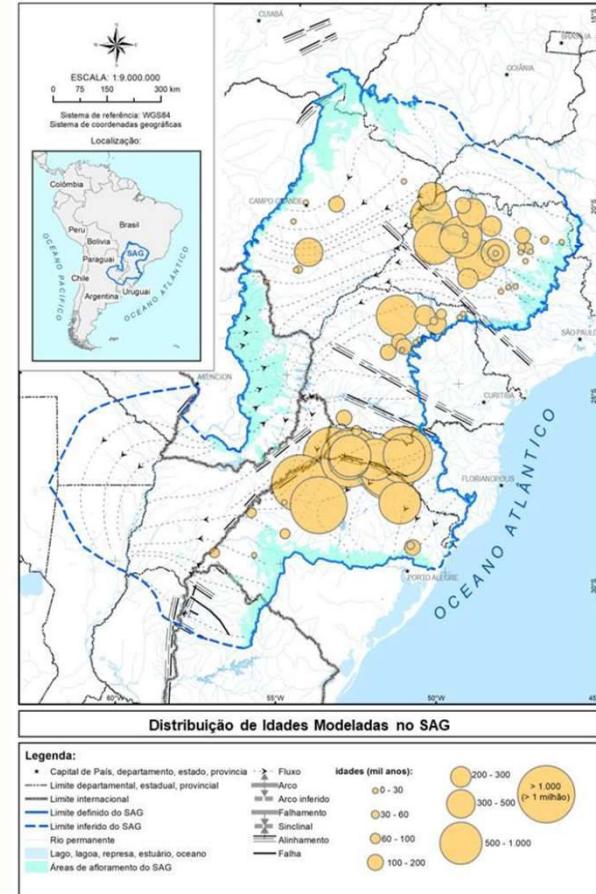
GAS block discretization to find best fit with  $^{87}\text{Kr}$  absolute ages  
(basal fluxes and vertical diffusion (Torgersen & Ivey (1985))



# RESULTS



Validating  ${}^4\text{He}$  dating method using  ${}^{81}\text{Kr}$



Modeled residence times with the  ${}^{81}\text{Kr}$ - ${}^4\text{He}$  rad chronometer

## CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ Agreement of 20% between the modeled ages  ${}^4\text{He}/{}^{81}\text{Kr}$  and the absolute  ${}^{81}\text{Kr}$  ages;
- ✓ He in situ accumulation rates proved to produce overestimated groundwater ages;
- ✓ Reference values for He crustal flows at craton areas resulted in underestimate ages;
- ✓ The dating technique with  ${}^4\text{He}$  can be considered a quantitative approach when model parameters can be calibrated with an absolute dating. In this case, the He- Kr chronometer proved to be efficient and sufficiently robust.
- ✓ The differences between NGT at the LGM and current temperatures shows average cooling ( $\Delta t$ ) on the order of  $4^\circ\text{C}$ .
- ✓ The new modeled age distribution, therefore, may be a huge step towards the sound management of this common transboundary aquifer.



# CONCLUSIONS



Apresentação

## Hidrologia

O Serviço Geológico do Brasil - SGB, através do Programa Nacional de Hidrologia do Departamento de Hidrologia - DEHID, realiza atividades de levantamento básico, administração de base de dados, estudos interpretativos e difusão de conhecimento hidrológico e hidrogeológico. Com atuação em todo o território nacional, proporciona, através de ações extensivas, o suporte à gestão dos recursos hídricos e a prevenção de desastres naturais.

O DEHID é composto por três unidades técnicas e executoras, conforme a seguir:

- Divisão de Hidrologia Básica - DIHIBA
- Divisão de Hidrologia Aplicada - DIHAPI
- Divisão de Hidrogeologia e Exploração - DIHEXP

[www.sgb.gov.br](http://www.sgb.gov.br)





## Hidrologia e Hidrogeologia



### » REDE HIDROMETEOROLÓGICA NACIONAL - RHN

Monitoramento Hidrológico

### » REDE INTEGRADA DE MONITORAMENTO DAS ÁGUAS SUBTERRÂNEAS - RIMAS

Monitoramento Hidrogeológico

### » SISTEMA DE ALERTA DE EVENTOS CRÍTICOS - SACE

Monitoramento, Previsão e Manchas de Inundação

### » SISTEMA DE INFORMAÇÕES DE ÁGUAS SUBTERRÂNEAS - SIAGAS

Gestão da Informação Hidrogeológica

### » ATLAS PLUVIOMÉTRICO E ESTUDOS DE CHUVAS INTENSAS

Isoetas, Equações IDF

### » CARTOGRAFIA HIDROGEOLÓGICA

Mapas para Download e WebGIS

### » MONITORAMENTO HIDROLÓGICO POR SENSORIAMENTO REMOTO

Investigação da Dinâmica Fluvial em Grandes Bacias Hidrográficas

### » ESTUDOS HIDROLÓGICOS E HIDROGEOLÓGICOS INTEGRADOS

PAN, Ucuruia, Áreas Metropolitanas, Estudos no Verde Grande e Carinhanha





**THANK YOU  
OBRIGADA!**

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