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INVESTIGATION MECHANISM

**ARGENTINA**  
**MICI-BID-AR-2019-0148**

**THIRD MONITORING REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION PHASE AGREEMENTS**  
**RECONQUISTA RIVER BASIN ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION PROGRAM**

**(AR-L1121)**

**(3256/OC-AR)**

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1. Original request (expansion of the lower basin) (available in Spanish only)  
<https://www.iadb.org/document.cfm?id=EZSHARE-447996201-158>
2. Case file of Request MICI-BID-AR-2019-0148 in the MICI-IDB Public Registry  
<https://www.iadb.org/en/mici/complaint-detail?ID=MICI-BID-AR-2019-0148>
3. Consultation Phase Report  
<https://www.iadb.org/document.cfm?id=EZSHARE-447996201-195>
4. Final agreement (available in Spanish only)  
<https://www.iadb.org/document.cfm?id=EZSHARE-447996201-203>
5. Program profile for the Reconquista River Basin Environmental Sanitation Program (AR-L1121) (available in Spanish only)  
<https://www.iadb.org/Document.cfm?id=EZSHARE-1557453903-2>
6. Loan proposal for the Reconquista River Basin Environmental Sanitation Program (AR-L1121) (available in Spanish only)  
<https://www.iadb.org/Document.cfm?id=38866412>
7. Environmental and social management report for the Reconquista River Basin Environmental Sanitation Program (AR-L1121) (available in Spanish only)  
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8. Update of the global environmental and social impact assessment for the Reconquista River Basin Environmental Sanitation Program (AR-L1121) (available in Spanish only)  
<https://www.iadb.org/Document.cfm?id=EZSHARE-735565658-207>

## ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	Autoridad del Agua (Water Authority)
Bank or IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
Board	The Board of Executive Directors of the IDB
COMILU	Comité de Cuenca del Río Luján (Luján River Basin Committee)
COMIREC	Comité de Cuenca del Río Reconquista (Reconquista River Basin Committee)
GELFI	Gestión de Efluentes Líquidos con Fortalecimiento Industrial (Management of Liquid Effluents with Industrial Strengthening)
INA	Instituto Nacional del Agua (National Water Institute)
Management	The IDB Group manager or managers in charge of the relevant IDB Group-financed operation or any delegate thereof
MICI or the Mechanism	The Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism of the IDB
MICI Policy	Policy approved by the Board of Executive Directors of the IDB on 16 December 2014 and updated on 14 April 2021, governing the work of the MICI regarding Requests related to operations financed by the IDB or the MIF (document MI-47-6).
OPDS	Organismo Provincial para el Desarrollo Sostenible (Provincial Sustainable Development Agency)
Parties	The Requesters, Management, the borrower, the client and/or the executing agency, if applicable
PGICRR	Reconquista River Basin Comprehensive Management Plan
Program	Reconquista River Basin Environmental Sanitation Program (AR-L1121)
SCEOCI	Subsecretaría de Coordinación con Estados y Organismos de Crédito Internacionales del Ministerio de Economía de la Provincia de Buenos Aires (States and International Credit Agencies Coordination Branch of the Ministry of Economy of the Province of Buenos Aires)
UCEPO	Unidad de Coordinación y Ejecución de Proyectos de Obra del Ministerio de Infraestructura de la Provincia de Buenos Aires (Works Coordination and Execution Unit of the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Province of Buenos Aires)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Reconquista River Basin Environmental Sanitation Program (loan AR-L1121) (“the Program”) is financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through a sovereign guaranteed loan operation under the multiple-works modality for a total amount of US\$230 million with US\$57.5 million in local counterpart funding. The executing agency is the States and International Credit Agencies Coordination Branch (SCEOCI) of the Ministry of Economy of the Province of Buenos Aires, and the Works Coordination and Execution Unit (UCEPO) of the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Province of Buenos Aires is the subexecuting agency responsible for technical coordination of the program. The operation was approved by the Board of Executive Directors on 23 July 2014 and is now in implementation.

The program objective is to restore the environmental quality of the Reconquista River Basin by implementing a Reconquista River Basin Comprehensive Management Plan (PGICRR) that prioritizes investments aimed at those living in health risk areas. These works will help: (i) increase water, sewer, and wastewater treatment coverage; (ii) enhance integrated solid waste management, primarily by closing open air dumps; (iii) improve connectivity and access to outlying neighborhoods in hard-to-reach areas; (iv) strengthen the operational management capacity of the Reconquista River Basin Committee (COMIREC) by developing management tools.

On 7 May 2019, the Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism (MICI) received a Request regarding the program from a group of individuals acting on their own behalf, who reside in municipios located in the Reconquista River Basin. The group of Requesters indicated that the basin’s current, highly polluted state not only causes environmental harm, but also poses serious health risks for the population of the islands of the Paraná Delta (San Fernando and Tigre), because what happens upstream affects the Luján, Carapachay, and Paraná rivers. According to the group of Requesters, their only water source has been severely affected by the pollution of the Reconquista River. Their concerns about the program relate to the potential harm that could arise, if actions are financed without considering the problems specific to the basin or approaching it comprehensively. In particular, they state that the construction of the Drainage Canal/National Rowing Course changed the hydrological dynamics of the lower basin, bringing the Reconquista River’s waters to higher grounds than the original outfall. Lastly, the Requesters said this situation has caused harm to their health and quality of life because the delta has become the final destination of the discharge of these highly polluted waters.

The Request was declared eligible by the MICI on 3 August 2019 and was transferred to the Consultation Phase. The MICI organized and facilitated two consecutive dialogue sessions including the group of Requesters, IDB Management, UCEPO, and COMIREC (“the Parties”) on 4 and 5 November 2019 at the IDB’s offices in the city of Buenos Aires. On 5 November, the Parties reached an Agreement that set forth a series of measures designed to address the pollution concerns described in the Request. In particular, the Agreement includes actions or works to mitigate pollution in the Drainage Canal and lists specific locations for water quality monitoring stations, effluent mapping, and controls on industries. Lastly, it requires an analysis of the cumulative impact on the delta be included for all works financed by the program. At the request of the Parties, the MICI performs monitoring tasks and facilitates monitoring meetings between the Parties to review progress toward compliance.

This report discusses the activities carried out during the third year of monitoring from June 2022 to July 2023. Over this period, two MICI-facilitated meetings of the Monitoring Committee were held, one in-person and one virtual. The MICI also remained in constant contact with the Parties through bilateral meetings to ascertain and jointly evaluate progress toward compliance with the commitments.

In the third year of monitoring, the MICI recorded progress on implementation of the commitments in the MICI Agreement. Specifically, 80% of the sampling points identified in the Agreement were monitored in the period reviewed by this report, and UCEPO shared one water quality monitoring report on the Reconquista River Basin, and one on the Luján River, with the group of Requesters, through the MICI. The reports were prepared by COMIREC and the Luján River Basin Committee (COMILU), respectively. In addition, the Water Authority (ADA), through UCEPO, shared an update on the program for Management of Liquid Effluents with Industrial Strengthening (GELFI), indicating the number of industries involved in the GELFI program in the first half of 2023 and the number of inspections and objections raised under the program with different industries in the delta during 2022 and the first half of 2023. An analysis of the cumulative impacts on the delta is included in the environmental and social impact assessments for all works that obtained IDB Management's no objection in the review period.

However, the MICI observed limited progress in relation to an action/work to mitigate pollution in the Drainage Canal. Based on the findings of a 2021 COMIREC flow analysis at the Reconquista River – Drainage Canal fork, which indicated that building a fixed crest overflow spillway with the tested heights may be incompatible, the Parties agreed in February 2022 to have an impartial party study alternatives: the National Water Institute (INA). Before the contract was signed, in September 2022 the INA submitted a plan to the Requesters for the “Study of the Water Dynamics of the Lower Reconquista River Basin” with the objective of performing a preliminary analysis of the impact of different works on the water quality of the area. The contract with the INA was signed on 1 June 2023 with an order to start on 22 June. During the period reviewed by this report, the INA carried out two gauging campaigns for the “Study of the Water Dynamics of the Lower Reconquista River Basin” under the contract.

The MICI acknowledges the efforts of IDB Management, UCEPO, COMIREC, INA, and the Requesters, which were central to resolving the issue blocking implementation of point 1 of the Agreement. The INA study of alternatives is a key step in finding and assessing solutions to the central concern of the Requesters living in the Tigre Delta. Adherence to the dates and activities of the work schedule shared with the executing agency, the IDB, and the Requesters is essential, so that specific options can be considered to address the problem before the end of the project. The IDB, after issuing its no objection to the proposed successful bidder in June, has reported that the PGICRR will incorporate the conclusions reached by the INA alternatives study as part of its implementation.

The MICI will continue its monitoring activities by organizing and facilitating monitoring sessions in the upcoming monitoring period from August 2023 to March 2024. The MICI will field at least one mission to Tigre and La Plata in the first half of 2024, to facilitate in-person monitoring meetings and evaluate progress toward compliance with the Agreement. The MICI will provide the Parties with ad hoc support as necessary and will continue to evaluate any circumstances that could weaken the process. In March 2024, it will issue the fourth Annual Monitoring Report, which will discuss the actions taken and the progress achieved.

## I. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Reconquista River Basin Environmental Sanitation Program (loan AR-L1121) is financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through a US\$230 million multiple-works investment loan operation with US\$57.5 million in local counterpart funding. The Ministry of Infrastructure of the Province of Buenos Aires is responsible for technical coordination of the program, through its Works Coordination and Execution Unit (UCEPO). The operation was approved by the IDB Board of Executive Directors on 23 July 2014 and is now in implementation.
- 1.2 The operation was designed as the continuation of a series of interventions related to the basin and financed by the IDB. In 1993, the Board of Executive Directors approved the “Reconquista River Sanitation” project (loan AR0038, loan 797/OC-AR), completed in 2006. That financing focused on: (i) flood control; (ii) decreased industrial and household pollution; and (iii) improved management and regulation of the Reconquista River Basin. The legal framework for the creation of the Reconquista River Basin Committee (COMIREC) was also developed under that program. Later, the Province of Buenos Aires requested IDB support through a technical cooperation operation, “Program for the Sustainable Management of the Reconquista River Basin” (operation AR-T1083, operation ATN/OC-12571-AR), approved in December 2010. That operation sought to produce technical studies for a future program in the Reconquista River Basin. More specifically, it involved the preparation of terms of reference and documents for design of the Reconquista River Basin Comprehensive Management Plan (PGICRR), as well as the development of an institutional strengthening plan for COMIREC.
- 1.3 The Reconquista River Basin Environmental Program (loan AR-L1121), which is the subject of the Request, was designed on the basis of two criteria: (i) to address the priorities for the basin identified by the Province of Buenos Aires, based on operation AR-T1083; and (ii) to supplement and expand the actions not carried out under loan 797/OC-AR. To address these criteria, the program has four components: (i) **water and sanitation**, which includes the construction and rehabilitation of water supply networks and sewer systems; (ii) **solid waste**, for the development of plans for the basin’s municipios and the closing and remediation of three open air dumps; (iii) **roadways, accessibility, and drainage**, for investments in road infrastructure and supplementary works; and (iv) **environmental and social management**, for the financing of environmental and social management actions, including the consulting engagement for development of the PGICRR and industrial and urban pollution abatement actions given priority during the plan’s preparation, as well as implementation of water, sediment, and air quality monitoring and early warning systems.
- 1.4 On 7 May 2019, the Independent Consultation and Investigation Mechanism (MICI) received a Request regarding the program from six individuals acting on their own behalf, all of whom reside in municipios located in the Reconquista River Basin.<sup>1</sup> On 25 July 2019, the Requesters submitted an additional document to

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<sup>1</sup> During the eligibility phase, one of the individuals who had signed the Request decided to withdraw due to a potential conflict of interest, and another eight individuals added their names to the Request.

supplement the original Request, providing further details on the allegations of harm, and another eight residents joined the initial group of Requesters.

- 1.5 The Request alleged that the entire basin's highly polluted state not only caused environmental harm, but also posed serious health risks for the population of the islands of the Paraná Delta (San Fernando and Tigre), because what happened upstream affected the Luján, Carapachay, and Paraná rivers. According to the group of Requesters, their only water source had been severely affected by the pollution of the Reconquista River. The Requesters' concerns about the program related to the potential harm that could arise from a possible intensification of adverse effects experienced in the lower basin as a result of their specific problems not being taken into account as part of a comprehensive approach to the basin. In particular, they stated that the construction of the Drainage Canal/National Rowing Course had changed the hydrological dynamics of the lower basin, bringing the Reconquista River's waters to higher grounds than the original outfall. According to the information provided by the Requesters, this situation had caused harm to their health and quality of life because the delta had become the final destination of the discharge of these highly polluted waters. Rising water levels often caused floods in certain parts of the municipios on San Fernando and Tigre islands.
- 1.6 The Request was declared eligible on 3 August 2019. The [Eligibility Memorandum](#) found that only 9 of the 13 Requesters<sup>2</sup> raised allegations that meet the definition of harm in the MICI Policy. Therefore, processing of the Request by the MICI would focus on potential noncompliance associated with those allegations specifically. With the issuance of the Eligibility Memorandum, the Request was transferred to the Consultation Phase.
- 1.7 During the Consultation Phase, IDB Management, UCEPO, COMIREC, and the group of Requesters expressed to the MICI their willingness to begin a process to explore sustainable solutions to the concerns raised in the Request. In light of the specific context, as Argentina was in the midst of its national, provincial, and municipal elections at the time of the assessment, the Parties indicated that they preferred to participate in the process after the 27 October 2019 elections had taken place.
- 1.8 Accordingly, the MICI organized and facilitated two consecutive dialogue sessions on 4 and 5 November 2019 at the IDB's offices in the city of Buenos Aires. During the first session, the Parties validated the rules for participation, to ensure the effective use of time and maximize participation. They also validated the agenda of topics, which had been drafted with the group of Requesters during the Assessment stage and shared with UCEPO, COMIREC, and IDB Management for comments prior to the dialogue session. The Parties then began to address the topics of the validated agenda. During the second dialogue session on 5 November, the Parties reached an Agreement that set forth a series of measures

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<sup>2</sup> Importantly, the MICI considers that the Request did not provide enough information to classify the Requesters from the upper and middle basins as parties who may be directly harmed, based on the definition of harm in the MICI Policy. Therefore, the processing of this Request focused on the allegations of potential direct harm raised by the other Requesters. Additionally, during the Consultation Phase Assessment, two of the initial Requesters from the middle basin officially notified the MICI that they did not wish to continue processing their allegations under the MICI framework. Later, two initial Requesters from the middle and upper basins notified the MICI that they also did not wish to continue with the MICI process.



designed to address the concerns described in the Request. In particular, the Agreement includes actions to mitigate pollution in the Drainage Canal by creating a water overflow spillway or another action that addresses the problem. The Agreement also includes measures to strengthen water quality monitoring and effluent mapping, as well as a requirement that an analysis of the cumulative impact on the delta be included for all works financed by the program.

- 1.9 The Parties asked the MICI to participate in the monitoring of the actions set forth in the Monitoring Plan and Timeline that was approved by the Board of Executive Directors on 16 December 2019 via the no objection procedure. Monitoring sessions are facilitated on the MICI's behalf by Eliana Spadoni, who is on the MICI's roster of facilitation experts and has worked on this case since she was selected in the Consultation Phase process.
- 1.10 In March 2021, the MICI issued its First Monitoring Report on the Consultation Phase Agreements, which covered the period from November 2019 to January 2021. The MICI noted that the analyses of the modeling required to prepare the alternatives study for Drainage Canal works were being done during that time. It observed that the water quality monitoring plan, which covers 70% of the locations listed in the Agreement, was in the final stages of preparation, and UCEPO and COMIREC had shared information on two water quality monitoring exercises conducted by COMIREC and the Water Authority (ADA) in 2020 at several points in the basin. Regarding effluent mapping and discharge control, UCEPO and COMIREC had shared a report on the inspections conducted by the Provincial Sustainable Development Agency (OPDS) at various industrial sites in the delta in 2019 and the first half of 2020. Regarding environmental and social impacts on the delta, IDB Management had reported that an analysis of the cumulative impacts on the delta was included in the environmental and social impact assessments for each of the three works that had obtained no objections in 2020. The MICI found that implementation of the actions described in the Agreement had taken longer than originally agreed. This delay was the result of a challenging context, with the restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and contractual challenges in the design of the Reconquista River Basin Comprehensive Management Plan (PGICRR) and delivery of the hydrodynamics model for the basin.
- 1.11 In June 2022 the MICI issued the Second Monitoring Report on the Consultation Phase Agreements, which covered the period from February 2021 to May 2022. In that time, the MICI recorded that 80% of the sampling points identified in the Agreement were monitored, and UCEPO and COMIREC shared two water quality monitoring reports on the Luján River, and two on the Reconquista River Basin, with the group of Requesters. In addition, the ADA, through UCEPO and COMIREC, had shared annual updates on the industries involved in the program for Management of Liquid Effluents with Industrial Strengthening (GELFI), as well as information on the inspections and objections raised with different industries in the delta. Regarding environmental and social impacts on the delta, IDB Management had reported that an analysis of the cumulative impact on the delta was included in the environmental and social impact assessments for six of the seven works that had obtained no objections in the review period. However, the MICI observed little progress in relation to an action/work to mitigate pollution in the Drainage Canal. The COMIREC analysis of hydraulic operations at the

Reconquista River – Drainage Canal fork indicated that building a fixed crest overflow spillway with the tested heights may be incompatible. The Parties agreed that an impartial party would study alternatives, to find a technical solution that addresses the problem of pollution in the Drainage Canal.

- 1.12 Background information on case MICI-BID-AR-2019-0148 and public documentation prepared during the process can be consulted in the [case file](#) on the MICI Public Registry.<sup>3</sup>

## II. MICI POLICY AUTHORITY FOR THE MONITORING OF AGREEMENTS

- 2.1 Paragraph 35 of the MICI Policy (document MI-47-8) states that, if the Parties have reached an Agreement during the Consultation Phase process, the MICI will develop, in consultation with the Parties, a monitoring plan and time frame for the agreement reached, when applicable. The duration of the plan is not to exceed five years.
- 2.2 Pursuant to paragraph 35 of the MICI Policy, the MICI will submit a monitoring report to the Board for information at least annually.

## III. ACTIONS DURING THE REPORTED MONITORING PERIOD

- 3.1 During the period reviewed by this report, the MICI used a hybrid methodology to monitor the case, meeting virtually and fielding a monitoring mission in December 2022. This report covers activities between June 2022 and July 2023. The activities during the fourth year of monitoring are as follows:
- 3.2 **Monitoring missions.** The MICI fielded a monitoring mission in December 2022, holding bilateral and plenary meetings with the group of Requesters, the IDB, UCEPO, and COMIREC.
- 3.3 **Bilateral and Monitoring Committee meetings.** The MICI facilitated two meetings of the Monitoring Committee—one virtual and one in-person—as part of the December 2022 monitoring mission to Argentina. All meetings of the Monitoring Committee were preceded by preparatory sessions with each Party, attended by the facilitator, the Consultation Phase Coordinator, and the Case Officer.
- 3.4 **Periodic contact between the MICI and the Parties.** During the period observed, the MICI maintained weekly contact with each of the Parties through phone calls, WhatsApp messages, and email exchanges. It also facilitated various meetings at the request of the Parties, when necessary. The MICI took advantage of these exchanges to solicit each Party's views on the status of compliance with the agreements, identify challenges for execution of the agreed activities, and propose possible actions to address them.
- 3.5 **Monitoring of media and relevant events.** During the period observed, the MICI regularly monitored the press, social media, online portals, and events to identify

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<sup>3</sup> The relevant public documents can also be accessed via the links section.

relevant contextual information that could have an impact on execution of the agreed activities and their monitoring.

- 3.6 **Status of compliance.** The following was observed as of July 2023:
- 3.7 Water overflow spillway in the Drainage Canal or another action that addresses the problem. Based on the findings of a 2021 COMIREC flow analysis at the Reconquista River – Drainage Canal fork, which indicated that building a fixed crest overflow spillway with the tested heights may be incompatible, the Parties agreed in February 2022 to have an impartial party study alternatives. That study will be done by the National Water Institute (INA), to find a technical solution that addresses the problem of pollution in the Drainage Canal.
- 3.8 At a meeting of all Parties on 15 September 2022, the INA presented a plan for the “Study of the Water Dynamics of the Lower Reconquista River Basin” to the Requesters. The objective of the study was a preliminary analysis of the impact of different works on the water quality of the studied area. On 7 December 2022, during the MICI field monitoring mission, UCEPO stated that the contract with the INA for the study had been reviewed by the province’s Ministry of Infrastructure and would be sent to the oversight agencies for review.
- 3.9 According to a 19 July 2023 official letter from IDB Management, the formal contract with the INA was signed on 1 June 2023 with an order to start on 22 June. On 12 July 2023, UCEPO sent the MICI a tentative work plan under the contract, which the MICI shared with the Requesters.
- 3.10 The INA carried out two gauging campaigns for the “Study of the Water Dynamics of the Lower Reconquista River Basin” under the contract. The first one, on 1 December 2022, analyzed the distribution of flows between the Reconquista River and the Drainage Canal at low water level. The second one, on 21 July 2023, sought to quantify the distribution of flows between the Drainage Canal and the Reconquista Chico watercourse, taking advantage of the influence of the falling astronomical tide. Representatives of the Requesters participated in both gauging campaigns as observers.
- 3.11 Location of water quality monitoring stations. On 7 July 2023 UCEPO shared two water quality monitoring reports with the MICI, containing 8 of the 10 sampling points identified in the Agreement. The other two, under ADA responsibility, were monitored in December 2020 and February 2021.
- 3.12 One of the reports, produced by COMIREC, corresponded to the seasonal sampling of the Reconquista River Basin for Summer 2023, with campaigns on 23 and 30 January 2023 at 25 stations in the river’s main watercourse. The other report, produced by COMILU, corresponded to the seasonal monitoring of the Luján River with sampling at 10 stations along its watercourse in the Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring of 2022.
- 3.13 Effluent mapping and discharge control. On 11 July 2023 the ADA reported through UCEPO that there were 26 industries involved in the GELFI program. In the same letter, it also reported that 175 inspections had been performed under

the program in 2022, with 70 objections raised, and 100 inspections in the first half of 2023, with 24 objections raised.

- 3.14 Environmental and social impacts on the delta. On 7 July 2023 IDB Management reported that an analysis of the cumulative impact on the delta is included in the environmental and social impact assessments for the six works that were issued a no objection in the review period. The works are: San Carlos pumping station; Arroyo Torres hydraulic drainage – Stage IV; Secondary water network – Tesei 3; Paving of parallel road to Camino del Buen Ayre and accessways; General Rodríguez Nature Reserve and Municipal Park; and Arroyo El Durazno Nature Reserve.

#### **IV. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 In the period reviewed in this report, the MICI observed the implementation of activities intended to comply with the MICI Agreement. The executing agency shared information on water quality monitoring at 8 of the 10 agreed points, as well as on the mapping of discharges based on the inspections and objections raised under the GELFI program. Additionally, the works approved by the Bank under the program included an analysis of cumulative impacts on the delta.
- 4.2 Although the decision by the Parties for the INA to study alternatives has resolved the issue blocking implementation of point 1 of the Agreement, progress has been limited on this central point of the MICI Request. The MICI noted that the contract with the INA took three months longer to sign than initially indicated at the 7 December 2022 meeting of all Parties. It found that the delay was because administrative processes within the ministry took longer than originally expected. The MICI therefore acknowledges the efforts of the INA team, which, to expedite preparation of the alternatives study, prepared and presented a plan for the “Study of the Water Dynamics of the Lower Reconquista River Basin” and carried out a gauging campaign under it, both before the contract was signed.
- 4.3 The PGICRR experienced contractual challenges with the independent firm in charge of its design, and the contract was terminated in 2021, when progress on the plan was 40%. According to a 19 July 2023 official letter from IDB Management, the PGICRR was put out to bid again in 2022, and the successful bidder was the same consultant who had implemented 40% of the program, now in a temporary business union with another consultant. In the same letter, IDB Management stated that the contract was completed in June 2023, and the Bank issued its no objection to the report in July of this year. The Bank also noted that the finalized PGICRR will incorporate the conclusions reached by the INA alternatives study as part of its implementation.
- 4.4 The MICI highlights the efforts and commitment of the Parties to advancing on compliance with the Agreement and resolving the issue blocking implementation of point 1. It acknowledges the efforts of the group of Requesters to participate in the MICI process and in the INA activities, and their indispensable role for monitoring the commitments reached within the MICI process.
- 4.5 The MICI will continue its monitoring activities by organizing and facilitating monitoring sessions in the second half of 2023 and first half of 2024. The MICI will

field at least one mission to Tigre and La Plata in the first half of 2024, to facilitate in-person monitoring meetings and evaluate progress toward compliance with the Agreement. The MICI will provide the Parties with ad hoc support as necessary and will continue to evaluate any circumstances that could weaken the process. In July 2024 it will issue the fourth Annual Monitoring Report, which will discuss the actions taken and the progress achieved.