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The main aim of this book is to contribute to a more transparent, objective, and unbiased information on the pros and cons of intensive groundwater development, based on the experience in many countries during the last decades. A first group of authors presents the positive and negative general aspects of intensive use of groundwater. A second group of authors provides an overview of the specific situation in some significant regions of the world where there is an intensive use of this resource.

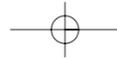
The book is written by authors from different countries and disciplines. The scope is not only to present the conventional hydrogeological aspects of the issue, but more importantly, the ecological, legal, institutional, economic, and social challenges and opportunities of such intensive groundwater use. It should be clear that different scientists, experts and stakeholders may interpret a given situation very differently. Perceptions also change through time, and possible solutions are not unique and may often involve trade-offs and accommodation to local circumstances, established policies and politics. Nevertheless, we intend to propose actions in order to assure a sustainable groundwater development. This book constitutes a step forward in helping to clarify the importance of groundwater and its far-reaching implications. Among these implications should be mentioned the general relevance of groundwater development to eradicating poverty through providing potable water and food to the poor in a cheap and fast way.

INTENSIVE USE OF GROUNDWATER

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**RAMÓN LLAMAS
EMILIO CUSTODIO**





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Editors
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**INTENSIVE USE
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INTENSIVE USE OF GROUNDWATER CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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**RAMÓN LLAMAS
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