

LA PLATA BASIN DIALOGUES

“WATER FOR LIFE”



DIÁLOGOS DA BACIA DO PRATA

ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY



PREPARATORY TO THE
4th WORLD WATER FORUM

IGUASSU FALLS – BRAZIL
11 - 14 SEPTEMBER 2005

IN ASSOCIATION TO
FAO/UN AND GREEN CROSS
INTERNATIONAL
“WATER FOR PEACE” PROGRAM



ITAIPU
BINACIONAL



GREEN
CROSS
Brasil
INTERNATIONAL



Comitê Intergovernamental
Coordenador dos Países da Bacia do
Prata -CIC

Under the high patronage of
His Excellency **Luis Inácio Lula da Silva**,
President of Brazil,
His Excellency **Oscar Nicanor Duarte Frutos**,
President of Paraguay,
the Regional Authorities, the Governor of the State of
Paraná and the Governor of the Province of Alto Parana.



DIÁLOGOS DA BACIA DO PRATA



In the presence of
His Excellency, Mr. Luis Inácio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil;
His Excellency, Mr. Oscar Nicanor Frutos Duarte, President of Paraguay;
His Excellency, Mr. Néstor Kirchner, President of Argentina;
His Excellency, Mr. Carlos Diego Mesa Gisbert, President of Bolivia;
His Excellency, Mr. Tabaré Vázquez, President of Uruguay and
Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, Chairman of Green Cross International and
Nobel Peace Price Laureate

Invited by
Mr. Jorge Samek, Brazilian Director General of Itaipu Binational
Mr. Bernard Garay, Paraguayan Director General of Itaipu Binational
Mr. Nelton Friedrich, Brazilian Director of Coordination of Itaipu Binational
Mr. Ramon Romero Roa, Paraguayan Director of Coordination of Itaipu Binational
Mr. Bertrand Charrier, Vice President of Green Cross International
Mr. Celso Claro de Oliveira, President of Green Cross Brazil
Mr. Helio de Macedo Soares, Secretary General of the Intergovernmental
Coordination Committee of the Plata Basin Countries-CIC

Presentation

The signs of a looming water crisis are evident. Since water is essential to every aspect of life, this crisis will affect everything - from health to human rights, the environment to the economy, poverty to politics, culture to conflict. Just as water defies political boundaries and classification, the water crisis is also well beyond the scope of any individual country or sector and cannot be dealt with in isolation. The need for integrated, cooperative solutions is particularly urgent. Competition over this precious resource has the potential to become a source of tension and even conflict between states and sectors. But history has shown that the vital nature of freshwater is also a powerful incentive for co-operation: it can compel stakeholders to reconcile their diverging views, rather than allow opposing interests to escalate into harmful confrontation.

The essence of “La Plata Basin Dialogues” methodology is the comprehension that what is missing is often the establishment of relations among water experts and policy-makers from the different riparian states and regions, the awareness of the public and local decision makers, the existence of mutually accepted and equitable agreements and treaties, and the setting up of joint institutions. The key factor is to encourage a shift in perceptions from seeing water as a source of competition and even conflict, to the realization that everyone stands to gain from co-operation.



General Objective

Based on dialogue between the five nations of the La Plata Basin, the objective is to prepare a strategy for the sustainable development of water resources in each territory in line with an agreed agenda aimed at promoting cooperation on water related issues. This strategy will take into account the opinions and involvement of communities, organized civil society, governments, universities and financial institutions by drawing on technical, scientific and policy documents, as well as successful practical experiences with tracts of water and its various uses, and will be presented to the 4th World Water Forum.



Specific objectives

- Identify the causes and characteristics of actual threats and potential conflicts related to water, based on existing studies;
- Identify obstacles, incentives and benefits related to the sustainable development of water resources;
- Increase public awareness of the value of sustainable and integrated water management;
- Strengthen dialogue between the different interested parties and increase networking through new information technology;
- Encourage States and productive sectors to search for practical, mutually beneficial and sustainable solutions;
- Strengthen mechanisms to prevent new conflicts arising out of changing circumstances;
- Pursue a strengthened systematic and integrated strategy for water management, particularly in relation to large hydropower projects in the La Plata Basin;
- Promote territorially-representative institutions to ensure the participation of civil society in the formulation of alternatives for the sustainable use of water, as well as in monitoring activities;
- Identify and promote collaborative approaches that respond to the challenges mentioned above;
- Increase territorial approaches throughout the Basin in order to foster improved relations, both within and between States and the different decision-making levels of civil society;
- Protect the integrity of nature;
- Identify and promote collaborative approaches at the local and regional level for projects that support the above objectives.

La Plata basin

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Relationship between La Plata Basin Dialogues and the 4th World Water Forum

The La Plata Basin Dialogues “Water for Life” have been officially designated a Regional Preparatory Event for the 4th World Water Forum which is to be held in Mexico City in March 2006. The programme can help develop proposals that advance integrated management of the La Plata waters by mobilizing the governments and society of the five countries of the area to engage in an organised permanent dialogue from May 2005 to March 2006 when the IV World Water Forum takes place.

The event will have added symbolic impact because it will take place in the first year of the “Water for Life Decade” declared by the United Nations to reduce by half the number of people who lack access to safe water and sanitation.



“La Plata Basin Dialogues” Calendar

	8/06/2005	11/09/2005	14/09/2005	06/04/2006		
	Permanent Dialogue	La Plata Basin Dialogues		Permanent Dialogues		
Official release of the “Dialogues of the Plata Basin”	Documents, projects presentation, proposals	1° Day	2° Day	3° Day	4° Day	Preparation to the IV World Water Forum
	Collaborative discussions, document and project formulation on line between the civil society and governments	Official Cerimony	Thematic panels	Closing	Collaborative discussions, document and project formulation on line between the civil society and governments	

“La Plata Basin Dialogues” communication strategy and international campaign

Prata Interativa Networking

La Plata River Basin Dialogues: a Continual process of Exchanges

The La Plata Basin Dialogues are part of a continuum that began with the Earth Dialogues initiated by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Honorary Chairman of Green Cross International Dr. Mikhail Gorbachev and the Chair of the Earth Council Dr. Maurice Strong in 2002 in Lyon, France, and were followed by the “Water for Life Dialogues” in Barcelona, Spain during the Universal Forum of Cultures in 2004.

Starting in May 2005 the La Plata Basin Dialogues “Water for Life” will be a permanent discussion forum, and will use an Information Technology system especially designed to gather opinions to be presented at the September Dialogues at Iguassu Falls and capable of continuing in a sustainable manner into the future.0

The La Plata Basin Dialogues are an innovative Forum. The originality of their approach is that they focus their work on large territories but base their analysis on local level experience. This is possible because of an IT tool called “Prata Interativa” (Plata Interactive Network System) which focuses on the inter-relationship between people and projects.

“Developping by sharing”

The need for integrated, cooperative solutions is particularly urgent.





This methodology is associated with the International Water for Peace Programme that emphasises obstacles, identifies incentives and promotes means to achieve an integrated, equitable and sustainable management system so that the Plata Basin watercourses can be truly natural pathways for stability and sustainable development in the world.

The La Plata Basin Dialogues are in the process of selecting five experts from each of the five countries of the Plata region who are specialised in each dimension of sustainable development, namely, Territorial, Environmental, Economic, Socio-Cultural, Institutional/Policy, as well as additional experts for each of the following sub-dimensions:

Territorial	Environmental	Economical	Socio-cultural	Institutional /Political
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Human settlements -Intermediate rural territories, -large cities, -eight sub-basins -La Plata international basin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Water -Forestry -Other natural Resources -Ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic infrastructure -Economic resources Management -Family economy -Regional and rural economy -International economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Education -Health -Social rights -Migration and immigration -Cultural integration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Governments -Financing institutions -Organized Civil Society -NGO's - Schools & Universities



Water for Life



These 125 experts from the region will identify projects that individually or collectively contribute to the integrated sustainable management of the vast La Plata Basin territory, and will work directly with technicians, politicians, water authorities, and governmental representatives and organizations.

The group of 125 experts will be able to use a methodology supported by “Prata Interactiva” to guide their analyses and perspectives on the five main themes of the 4th World Water Forum. They will also analyse two new themes specifically related to the La Plata Basin Dialogues.



Conecting people and projects discussing about water

The themes of the 4th World Water Forum are the following:

1. Water for Sustainable Development;
2. Strengthened Integrated Management of Water Resources;
3. Water Supply and Sanitation for All;
4. Water Management for Food and Environment;
5. Water Security



The specific themes of La Plata Basin Dialogues are:

6. Other Dimensions of Water: Ancestry, Culture and Spirituality;
7. Youth and Water: Dialogues among elementary, secondary and university students



Each one of these framework themes will be analysed from five crosscutting perspectives related to the 4th World Water Forum, including:

- a) New Models for Financing Local Water Initiatives;
- b) Institutional Development and Political Processes;
- c) Capacity-Building and Social Learning;
- d) Application of Technology of Science and Knowledge
- e) Implementation of Evaluation and Monitoring Processes, as well as themes related to the Global Convention on the Right to Water.



Organization:

- Green Cross Brazil / International
- Itaipu Bi-National
- Intergovernmental Coordination Committee of the Plata Basin Countries(CIC)



Intergovernmental Coordination Committee of the Plata Basin Countries-CIC

In partnership with:

- Ministry of External Relations of Brazil
- Ministry of External Relations of Paraguay
- Ministry of Agriculture of Brazil
- Vice Ministry of Agriculture of Paraguay
- Ministry of Mines and Energy of Brazil
- Vice Ministry of Mines and Energy of Paraguay
- Ministry of the Environment of Brazil
- Vice Ministry of the Environment of Paraguay
- Brazilian Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development (IBAMA)
- National Water Agency (ANA)
- National Electrical Energy Agency (ANEEL)
- International Agency for Agricultural Cooperative Development and International Organization of Volunteers for Cooperatives (ACDI/VOCA)
- World Water Council (WWC)



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Sponsorship:

Itaipu Bi-National
Caixa Econômica Federal



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