



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



Hydroenergy, Climate Change and Interdisciplinary Research:
Crafting an Action Agenda for the Uruguay River Basin
Workshop Report May 2016



Fuente: http://www.oas.org/dsd/WaterResources/Pastprojects/LaPlata_esp.asp

Andrea K. Gerlak (Joint-Principal Investigator)
Director of Academic Development, International Studies Association
Senior Policy Associate, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy
University of Arizona, United States
agerlak@u.arizona.edu

Marcelo Saguier (Joint-Principal Investigator)
Senior Researcher, Department of International Relations
Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Buenos Aires, Argentina
Research Fellow, National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET)
msaguier@flacso.org.ar

WORKSHOP: Crafting an Action Agenda for the Uruguay River Basin

Monday, May 16, 2016

Itaipu, Brazil

Project Overview

Advancing Good Practices in Building Interdisciplinary: Moving Toward User-Oriented Science is a project aimed at advancing good practices in building interdisciplinary for global change research. The overall goal of the effort is to reflect on and improve the current practices of knowledge generation, mobilization and use with respect to the social and environmental impacts of hydropower development and water-energy futures in South America.

The project began in 2014, funded by the Interamerican Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). The joint Principal Investigators are Marcelo Saguier (FLACSO Argentina) and Andrea K. Gerlak (University of Arizona, US), with the assistance of Nazaret Castro (PhD in IDES/UNGS, Buenos Aires).

This report aims to present a panoramic view on the project, to explain the design and results of the workshop, and to contextualize this into the next steps with research.

Workshop Overview

The workshop was held in the Parque Tecnológico Itaipú in Brazil on Monday, May 16, 2016. An underlying assumption of the workshop was that the science should influence the shaping of a Policy Brief and the Policy Brief should subsequently influence knowledge creation in future scientific work. Our focus was on identifying how best to manage or govern shared natural resources in the Uruguay River Basin. We asked: can the “basin” be a concept capable of guiding future action?

The workshop was designed to advance on the two parallel, but integrated pathways:

- 1) Science.** The first goal of our project is knowledge production. Participating scientists were divided in two groups to work in collaborate articles on two subjects: a) land use, water and infrastructure; and b) transboundary basin governance.
- 2) Policy Brief.** Producing new knowledge is required, but not sufficient: it is necessary to share our conclusions with relevant decision-makers and actors at different levels. To achieve this, we will design a Policy Brief and we will send to key **institutions**.

The Workshop Agenda can be found in Appendix A.

The Workshop Participant List can be found in Appendix B.

Workshop Findings

To progress in this two-track approach strategy, our workshop was articulated as following (see Appendix A for the complete agenda):

a) During the morning, the participants (see the list in Appendix B) expounded the principal ideas of their research work. The interventions were divided by groups:

First, the land-use group:

- Claudio Baigun, biologist, spoke around his work on fishes in the Uruguay basin, and bring the concept of “fishing sustainability”. He underlined the necessity of a ecosystemic approach.

- Alcides Farias, who works with social movements on dams and water management, insisted on the risks on the environment and the communities involving the waterway.

- Virginia Venturini, engineer, underlined the necessity of including the notion of uncertainty in scientific researching.

- Feline Schön, geographer, expounded the work that the ONG Redes/Amigos de la Tierra has developed on land use, especially the impacts of agriculture and livestock.

After this, it was the turn for the group that has been working on governance:

- Pilar Carolina Villar, expert on laws and governance, emphasized the fragility of some institutions and absence of dialogue between them.

- Victor Pochat, engineer, underlined the necessity of incorporate all corners of complex projects like the waterway, as well as the communities affected and other stakeholders.

- Albina Lara, geographer, explained that it is due to discuss the alternative with stakeholders and that is missing a integrating view between the academy. As Claudio Baigun noticed, a problem is the asymmetry in the scale of knowledge: while engineering is deterministic, environment is complex.

These different points of view where shared in order to have a panoramic view of that two articles that have been elaborating. It is important to notice that three participants on this work could not finally travel to Itaipú: Marco Aurélio dos Santos (UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro), Diego Rodríguez (M'Bigua, Entre Ríos) and Rubén Darío Quintana (UNSAM, Buenos Aires).

b) **The afternoon** was dedicated to discuss around the next steps for the project, focusing on the possibility to elaborate a Policy Brief. Some possible difficulties were exposed, and also, some ideas came up around institutions that could be interesting, among them:

- 1) International level: ECLAC and UN Conventions;
- 2) Regional/basin level: CARU, CIC, MERCOSUR;
- 3) National level: Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina (wetland inventories and environmental assessment processes);
- 4) Community level: society, NGOs, communities.

Linking to an International Seminar

Our workshop was celebrated in Itaipú taking advantage of the celebrating of the International Seminar on Environment and Development, with Focus on Water, Energy and Food Nexus, organized by Itaipú Technological Park and International Hydroinformatics Center – CIH/UNESCO, which took place on May the 17th and 18th. The first journey of this Seminar, Andrea Gerlak and Marcelo Saguier, with some of the members of the group that participated in the workshop, presented the project.

Also, some participants could expounded some of their work within the two days of the seminar:

- 1) Virginia Venturini (session on global Climate Changes and its Impacts on Natural Resources/Adaptation to Climate Changes and Extreme Events)
- 2) Albina Lara (session on Global Chagnes and Social Impacts / Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Changes)
- 3) Víctor Pochat (session on Water-Energy-Food Nexus for Sustainable Water Resources Management)
- 4) Pilar Carolina Villar (session on Public Policies and Regulations on Water-Energy-Food Nexus)
- 5) Marcelo Saguier and Nazaret Castro participated into the last session, which focused on Challenges in Teaching and Research on Water, Energy and Food Nexus.

Our participation into the seminar was an opportunity to interchange ideas with other speakers, and also an excuse to extend the group dynamics experience.

Images:

Workshop, 16 May



International Seminar, 17-18 May



APENDIX A. Workshop Agenda

Crafting an Action Agenda for the Uruguay River Basin

- 9am Welcome
Participant introductions
- 9:30am Review of project goals and efforts
Overview of workshop agenda & workshop goals
- 10am Presentation from Land Use & Infrastructure Team
*What are the present land use and infrastructure challenges in the
Uruguay River Basin?*
- 11:30am Presentation from Water Governance Team
*What are the present water governance challenges in the Uruguay
River Basin?*
- 12:30 pm lunch
- 1:30 pm Science-Policy Interactions Discussion
Idea of an “integrated basin perspective” (Marcelo and Andrea)
Outlining pathways for integration and transboundary basin
governance?:
- a) Scientific knowledge creation & sharing
 - b) Institutional and decision-making processes
 - c) Regional integration & multi-lateral cooperation
- 4pm Brainstorming ways to visualize and share an Action Agenda for the
Uruguay River Basin
- 5pm adjourn
- 8pm group dinner

APENDIX B. Participants

Andrea K. Gerlak
agerlak@u.arizona.edu
University of Arizona, USA
Tucson, Arizona

Marcelo Saguier
marsaguier@gmail.com
CONICET / FLACSO
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Nazaret Castro
Email: nazaretcastro@gmail.com
FLACSO / IDES-UNGS
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Virginia Venturini
vventurini@fich.unl.edu.ar / venturv@gmail.com
Facultad de Ingeniería y Ciencias Hídricas -Univ. Nac. del Litoral
Santa Fe, Argentina

Feline Schön
feline.schoen@gmx.de
Laboratorio de Desarrollo Sustentable y Gestion Ambiental, Facultad de Ciencias de la
Universidad de la Republica / Uruguay Sustentable REDES
Montevideo, Uruguay

Albina Lucía Lara
albinalara@gmail.com
Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Ciencias Económicas, Escuela de Posgrado
Buenos. Aires, Argentina

Claudio Baigun
cbaigun@gmail.com
Universidad Nacional de San Martin-CONICET
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Víctor Pochat
vpochatm@yahoo.com.ar
Instituto Argentino de Recursos Hídricos (IARH)
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Alcides B. Faria
alcidesf@riosvivos.org.br
ECOA
Campo Grande (Mato Grosso do Sul), Brasil

Pilar Carolina Villar Laine
pcvillar@gmail.com
Universidade Federal de São Paulo

São Paulo, Brasil

Fernanda Mello Sant'Anna
fernanda@franca.unesp.br

Faculdade de Ciências Humanas e Sociais – FCHS
São Paulo, Brasil