

# **FIRST INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL APPROACHES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF RESERVOIRS IN LA PLATA BASIN:**

## **FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS**

### **CONCLUSIONS**

In order to achieve an appropriate and sound process for the management of water resources in the Basin, the participants in the Workshop concluded that a unified and interactive information system for the entire region is essential so that experiences can be diffused and evaluated, and problems can be better understood.

Taking into account the objective of improving the effectiveness of management for sustainable development, it has been agreed that the application of scientific models is another important tool to attain this purpose. Models should be developed considering processes of permanent states, as well as sporadic events and necessary mitigating measures. Models are also useful for improving monitoring programmes. Testing the reliability and usefulness of selected indicators and collected data serves to confirm, improve or modify the information system. Many of the models to be applied should be necessarily specific to the region; they require basic research and further refinement.

The management of these actions should be coordinated by a regional network of institutions, supported by human resources development programmes, in order to improve and continuously update the activities. Systematic interchange of information among the nodes of this network should be specially programmed. This entire process should consider feed-back mechanisms.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

(1) To further encourage interdisciplinary collaborative activities, more opportunities for interaction among experts to interact are recommended to ensure better planning and environmental management in the Basin. For this purpose, a directory of key institutions and experts should be generated.

(2) To encourage the training of human resources at various levels with a basic, all embracing and unified criterion, emphasizing both multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary.

(3) To stimulate scientific and technological research with the view to developing local and regional approaches to water resources management and narrowing the gap between science and technology in the field of water resources management.

(4) To enable measures and actions which enhance the most diversified and efficient information dissemination, intensifying the dissemination of information and data so as to expand the knowledge about the La Plata River Basin, through the creation of

mechanisms of interchange and the regular publication of a newsletter or technical bulletin.

(5) To suggest international financial agencies to review their criteria for granting loans to reservoir development projects, so that financing may cover the respective requirements of those projects with significant social and environmental components.

(6) To confront issues of planning for hydroelectric power and other water projects, taking into account not only the economic efficiency objective (i.e. project optimization based on the cost-benefit analysis) but also the environmental, social, political and financial objectives, so as to attain an appropriate balance.

(7) To acknowledge the need of achieving an integrated, environmentally sound and sustainable reservoir development from the initial stage of idea generation, design and through implementation. The following should be especially-taken into account:

- (a) project implementation and monitoring (including potential project delays);
- (b) predicted environmental problems; participation of all the actors involved (nation, provinces -- states or prefectures -- and municipalities, international agencies, financial entities, non-governmental organizations, etc.); and,
- (d) encouraging dialogue, communication and joint actions among the different institutions and with local communities.

(8) To promote the harmonization of inter-jurisdictional legislation and the creation of new institutions that could appropriately take the lead in sustainable development processes and management. Moreover, when the undertakings reach significant dimensions, it is recommended that there be an organization of agencies, council, or committees with legal capability to determine priorities of action, control and use of resources.