WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

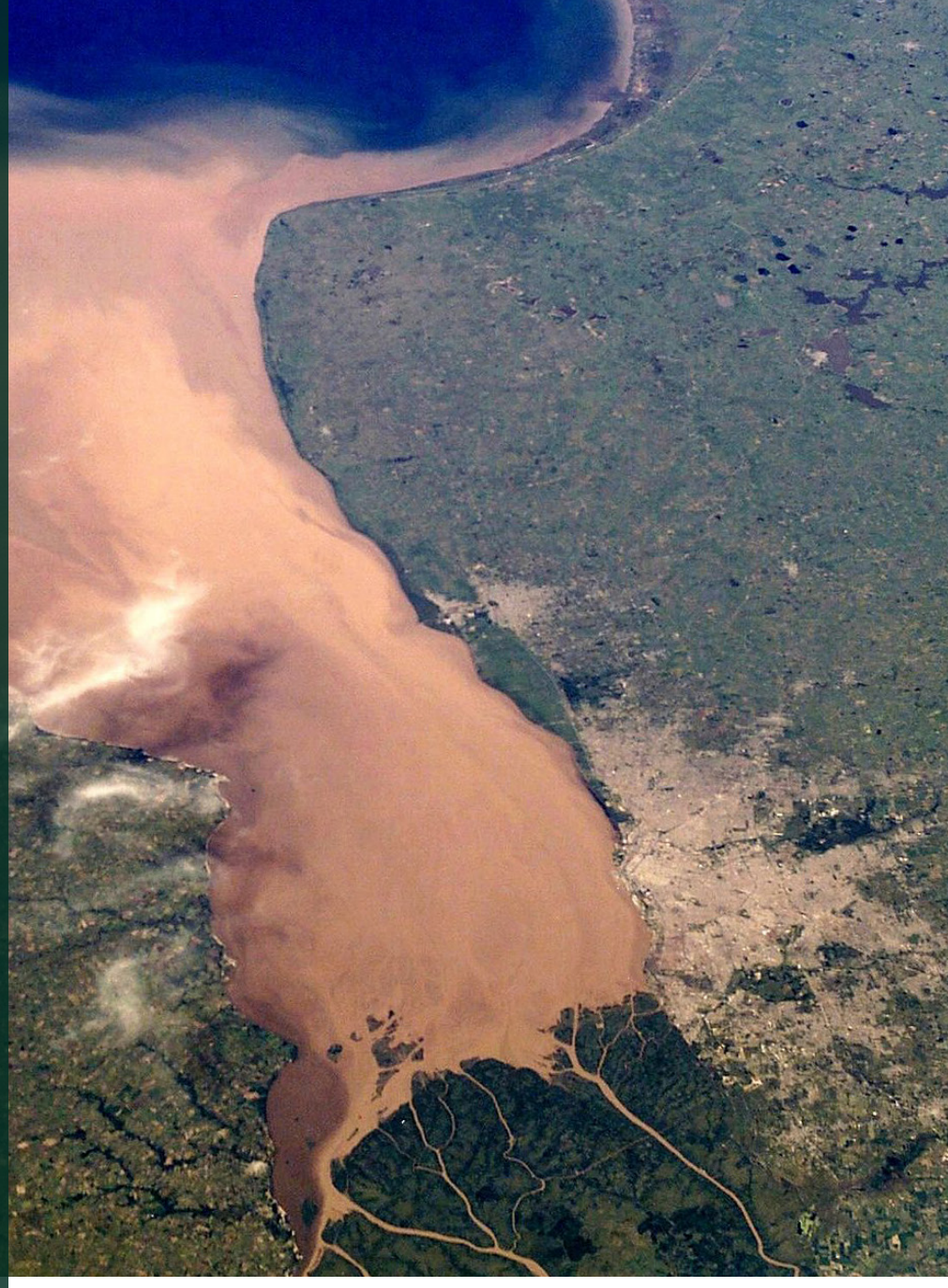
WMO HydroHub

Case Study

Implementation of the WMO Hydrological Observing System (WHOS) in the La Plata River Basin

Countries

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay



Summary of activity

Sustainable water management and disaster risk reduction require free and easy access to hydrological data. The WMO Hydrological Observing System (WHOS), initiated in 2014, supports hydrological data providers and users in gaining capacities in this field.

In the La Plata River Basin, hydrologists from five countries – Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay – make daily decisions on the water supply for their populations, the production of hydroelectric energy and food, navigation, and the protection of people's lives. Data-driven decisions are of great importance in the Basin, however, the transboundary context – data are often dispersed and not easily accessible across the riparian countries – exacerbates the challenge.

In 2018, with the support of WMO and international partners, the main hydrological and meteorological data providers in the La Plata River Basin established a regional centre in Brazil where WHOS is operated and sustained. Face-to-face IT expert trainings have been provided to staff in participating institutions to improve data sharing at national level. Furthermore, a Data Exchange Policy for the Basin is being developed for adoption at the national level to improve data and products sharing between the Basin countries. An awareness raising campaign on the benefits of hydrometeorological data sharing is also being conducted at the political, institutional and users' levels.

The Basin countries are already benefiting from free and easy access to and use of hydrometeorological data through WHOS.

Benefits

- Free and easy access to hydrometeorological data shared through WHOS by countries in the La Plata River Basin
- A Data Exchange Policy to improve data and product sharing among countries in the Basin is being developed for high level political adoption
- Improved knowledge and skill levels of relevant staff in participating institutions in the area of data sharing technologies and approaches
- More use of exchanged data by hydrologists through freely available hydrological applications to access, download and analyze the data shared through WHOS
- Improved hydrological metadata in participating institutions in support of building trust in shared data and products, and their more accurate use

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