

## Chapter 5. International cooperation

### 1. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN WHICH ARGENTINA HAS BEEN INVOLVED

Argentina has been involved in the following types of international cooperation in the field of the environment:

- (a) International cooperation at the global level: Participation in global treaties and UN and other global organizations;
- (b) Regional and sub-regional cooperation;
- (c) Bilateral cooperation with the enighbor countries; and
- (d) Development cooperation

### 2. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

It is said that under the military administration, participation in global cooperation were given higher priorities than measures for domestic environmental problems (JICA, 1995). Acutually Argentina has been parties to many global treaties as shown in Table 5.1. This attitude is reflected in the fact that it hosted international conferences such as the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1985. It will also host the 4<sup>th</sup> session fo the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) in November 1998.

With most responsibilities for natural resource management dispersed to provinces, the more active engagement of the natural government in global affairs is also natural. However, it can be noted that during the last few years particularly since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Brazil in 1992 the national government has been more and more concerned about domestic environmental problems and with this concern it has been making efforts to strenghen the institutional arrangements of the national government, particularly through giving more power and human resources to the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development and addition of the environmental provisions in the National Constitution.

Table 5.1. Global environmental treaties to which Argentina is a party (Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan, 1995 and Zeballos de Sisto, 1994)

- International Convention for the Regulation of Whiling
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl

Habit(Ramsar Convention)

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora(CITES)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine and Living Resources
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer
- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil (OILPOL)
- International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties (INTERVENTION)
- Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (LDC)
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78)
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty

Argentina has also been participating in the activities of UN agencies. In the field of water quality management, it has been actively playing a role in the GEMS/Water. (See Chapter 3, Section 3 by Oscar Natale and Chapter 4, Section 2 by Fernando Pedrozo)

### **3. REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION**

Argentina has been an active member of the Organization of American States (OAS). However, OAS has been concerned primarily with political affairs and the environmental problems have not been substantively covered by it.

Argentina is a member of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) which was established based on a resolution of the Second International Conference of American States in Mexico in 1902 and by a decision by an international convention subsequently held in Washington, DC in December in the same year. Its secretariat, called “Pan American Sanitary Bureau” is based in Washington, DC. Although it is an independent organization, it works also as a regional office of WHO. One of its agencies, Pan American Center for Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences (CEPIS), based in Peru, is the

environmental organ of the PAHO. As a member of PAHO, Argentina is also engaged in regional cooperation through the CEPIS.

In the field of the environment, the following subregional treaties have been signed by Argentina:

- Agreement on the Intergovernmental Coordinatiion Committee of the States of the La Plata Basin (Acuerdo de sede con el Comité Intergubernamental Coordinador de los paíse de la Cuenca del Plata) (1974)
- Convetion for the Conservation and Management of Vicuna (Convenio para la conservación y manejo de la vicuña) (1988)

Also, the first International Workshop on Regional Approaches to Reservoir Development and Management in the La Plata River Basin: Focus on Environmental Aspects was held at Sao Carlos e Itaipú, Brazil and Yacyretá, Argentina in 1991 to provide a forum for exchange of country experiences and policies in reservoir development and management. The Second International Workshop on Regional Approaches to Reservoir Development and Management in the La Plata River Basin: Focus on Lake Management (2do. Curso Taller Internacional sobre Enfoques Regionales para el Desarrollo y la Gestion en Embalses en la Cuenca del Plata) was co-organized by the Internatinal Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC), United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), United Naitons Environment Programme (UNEP), Technical Commission for Salto Grande (CMTSG: Argenitina and Uruguay), Joint ITAIPU Binational Entity (ITAIPU), Binational Entity of Yacyretá (EBY), Joint Commission for the Paraná River (COMIP: Argentina and Paraguay), National Direction of Water Resources (Argentina), National Institute of Water Science and Technology (INCYTH: Argentina), Argentine Institute for Water Resources (IARH), University of Sao Paolo, Foundation for Research Support (Sao Paulo State), Brazilian Society of Ecology and Brazilian Academy of Secineces at Salto Grande Reservoir, Cordoba and Buenos Aires in 1994. The successes of the two Workshps encouraged the researcher and practioners in furthering their efforts for sound development and management of the basin. It also led to the plan to launch a La Plata Basin Research and Management Network (RIGA) in 1999 with support from the Internamerican Development Bank.

In 1991 Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Uruguay formed MERCOSUR with a view to a subregional economic integration. However, so far it has not involved activities for environmental protection.

#### 4. BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBOR COUNTRIES

Bilateral cooperation with neighbor countries has been intensively sought particularly for water resources development and subsequent management of the resources.

The construction and subsequent joint management of the Salto Grande Dam and Reservoir between Argentina and Uruguay gives a good example of such bilateral cooperation. A Joint Technical Commission of Salto Grande was established by the two governments and has been engaged in the management of the dam and the reservoir. It should be noted that not only the construction and use of the dam and reservoir but also monitoring of the water quality and aquatic ecosystems have been consistently done by the Joint Commission (See Chapter 4, Section 3 by Ing. Otaegui).

Another example is the construction and management of Yacyreta Dam and Reservoir, the construction of which is now at a final stage. Even in the environmental assessment and associated studies and rescue activities of the terrestrial wildlife in the reservoir area bilateral cooperation between Argentina and Paraguay was done. Establishment of a bilateral commission has been proposed.

There has also been dialogues between Argentina and Brazil with regard to the management of Paraná River. Not only the management of the quantity of the water resources with many dams upstream in Brazil but also their quality are potential concerns of Argentina because there are huge populations in Brazil whose waste water has been discharged to the river mostly without any treatment.

Due to border issues, there has not been significant cooperation between Argentina and Bolivia or Chile. However, the resolution of the border issues during the last few years, there is now a prosperity of bilateral cooperation particularly with Chile with which Argentina shares the Andean border for thousands of kilometers where ecosystems and water resources are shared. There is also a potential possibility of cooperation in the field of tourism development and management in the Andean area where sound management of the ecosystems and the quality of the lake water is essential.

The following are the environment-related bilateral treaties signed since 1972 (Zeballos de Sisto, 1994):

- Agreement of Interconnection of Energy with Uruguay (Acuerdo de interconexión energética con el Uruguay) (1975)

- Treaty for the Exploitation of the Shared Water Resources of Uruguay River and its Effluent Repirí-Guazú River Stretching on the Boorder (Tratado para el aprovechamiento de los recursos hídricos compartidos de los tramos limítrofes del río Uruguay y de su efluente, el río Repirí-Guazú) (signed with Brazil)
- Convention on Cooperation signed with Uruguay for Prevention and Fight against Incidents of Contamination of the Aquatic Environment Caused by Hydrocarbons and other Harmful Substances (Convenio de cooperación suscrito con Uruguay para prevenir y luchar contra incidentes de contaminación del medio acuático producidas por hidrocarburos y otras sustancias perjudiciales) (1990)

## 5. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Because of its high per capita income and quality of human resources, Argentina is not subject to grant assistance. However, in order to ensure its economic recovery with liberal economic policies, official loans and technical cooperation are very important. In this regard, assistance from the World Bank and Interamerican Development Bank and co-financing from bilateral agencies have been provided to Argentina particularly in relation to its structural adjustment efforts in the financial and economic sectors. There is a tendency that the World Bank is engaged in more national programs while the Interamerican Development Bank is engaged in more provincial programs.

The World Bank has made the following contributions with regard to the environment and water resources:

- (a) Preparation of an “Argentina: Managing Environmental Pollution: Issues and Options” report, October 1995

This report is focused on the environmental pollution by industries, pollution by automobiles and solid wastes, not addressed to whole environmental issues. However, in the background information section it gives much information about the state of Argentina’s arrangements for overall environmental protection in the country.

- (b) Preparation of a “Staff appraisal report: Argentina: Flood protection report”, October 1996

Because flood control is associated with sound management of water resources and because the issues of the quantity and quality are closely related, this report has

some relevance to protection of the quality of water resources.

(c) Municipal Development project (already in the second tranche)

This project facilitates loans for cities and municipalities. Provision of waste water treatment systems in San Martín de los Andes has also been realized with a loan in this project.

(d) Grant funding through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to an NGO “Patagonia Natural” based in Porto Marilin.

Interamerican Development Bank has been engaged in several programs concerning reservoir, although there have not been any programs or projects for natural lakes. Recently the government and the Bank have agreed on establishment of an eighty million dollar fund for environmental conservation. Even NGOs are eligible for funding from this fund. A project proposal for the environment of the San Roque Reservoir has been submitted from the government to the Bank. Establishment of a bilateral commission for basin management by Argentina and Paraguay has been proposed. Preparation of master management plans for individual basins has been proposed by the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development. The Secretariat has already started preparatory arrangements for the project with a view to establishing coordination commissions for three basins and to capacity building of local governments.

UNDP has also been playing an important role in funding for technical cooperation. In the implementation, UNESCO has been playing an important role.

Bilateral and multilateral development cooperation to Argentina is summarized in Tables 5.2 and 5.3 in the order of the size of the amount of the funding.

**Table 5.2. Bilateral development cooperation to Argentina (US\$ million net)**

Year	1	2	3	4	5	Japan	Total
1993	Italy 115.8	Spain 42.2	Germany 34.2	Japan 31.2	France 7.1	31.2	229.2
1994	Italy 51.5	Germany 31.5	Spain 28.5	Japan 18.0	France 7.4	18.0	145.1
1995	Japan 41.7	Spain 38.0	Germany 20.5	France 9.1	Sweden 2.2	41.7	110.0

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 1997: Japan’s ODA 1997)

**Table 5.3. Multilateral development cooperation to Argentina (US\$ million net)**

Year	1	2	3	4	5	Others	Total
1993	UNDP 60.2	CEC 6.4	IFAD 2.5	UNICEF 1.6	UNTA 1.5	-17.2	54.9
1994	UNDP 79.4	CEC 5.2	UNTA 2.6	UNICEF 2.0	IFAD 2.0	-11.6	79.5
1995	UNDP 82.2	CEC 26.8	UNTA 4.1	UNICEF 2.6	UNHCR 2.0	-3.2	114.5

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 1997: Japan's ODA 1997)

## 6. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FROM JAPAN

Development cooperation from Japan has been limited due to the high financial and human resources capacities of Argentina. With regard to the ODA loan from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), the executing agency of the Japanese ODA Loans, one loan of 8,150 million yen in FY 1994 (approval on 31 March 1995) has been the only substantive loan since 1992. As the first ODA loan from Japan for a project it was to support the country for a Project for Improvement of Hygienic Environment of the Reconquista River Basin with the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires as the Executing Agency. (OECF, 1992)

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the executing agency of the Japanese Technical Cooperation, has been more active in technical cooperation. In particular, it conducted two Economic Development studies (Okita Reports) in 1985-1986 and in 1995 - 1996. The second study gave its focus on (a) strengthening institutional support for the expansion to and the promotion of direct investment from East Asia, (b) expansion of export capacity through improvement in productivity and quality, (c) development of Argentine small- and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises, and (d) transport infrastructure improvement for industrial development and trade promotion.

Although there has no environmental programs or projects supported by Japan's Official Development Assistance, JICA Argentine Office had an Argentine consultant to prepare a report on environmental conservation measures in Argentina in FY 1994 (JICA, 1995). Also, the technical cooperation for the rescue of the wildlife in the Yacyreta Reservoir area provided to Paraguay much contributed also to Argentina.

The Official Development Assistance from Japan is summarized in Tables 5.4 and 5.5.

With regard to basic studies with ODA budgets, the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC) conducted a study on the overall environmental cooperation in Argentina and Paraguay on behalf of the Environment Agency, Government of Japan in FY

1995. (Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan, 1996)

**Table 5.4. The amount of the development cooperation from Japan to Argentina (US\$ million)**

Year	Grant			Official loan		Total
	Grant Assistance	Technical Cooperation	Sub-total	Disbursement	Net amount	
1993	5.55	18.31	23.86	3.65	-0.13	23.73
1994	6.93	25.44	32.37	3.11	-1.19	31.38
1995	1.84	23.21	25.05	3.63	-7.07	17.98
1996	-	22.13	22.13	2.66	-3.11	19.03

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 1997: Japan's ODA 1997)

**Table 5.5. Specific Technical Cooperation from Japan to Argentina since 1991 (except provision of equipment)**

Year	No. of the trainees to Japan	No. of JICA Experts to Argentina	Total no. of the members to Japanese missions to Argentina	No. of Project-Type (integrated) Technical Cooperation projects	No. of the Development Study teams to Argentina
1991	133	42	89	3	3
1992	122	45	97	3	6
1993	113	40	82	3	5
1994	128	68	111	4	6
1995	135	71	60	6	3
1996	144	62	35	5	1

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 1997: Japan's ODA 1997)

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