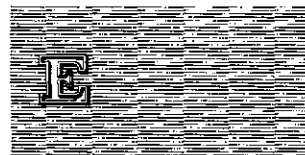


UNITED NATIONS



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL
E/C.PAC/G.1262
E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.3
28 November 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

E C L A

Economic Commission for Latin America

Twentieth Session
Committee on Water

Lima, Peru, 29 March-6 April 1984

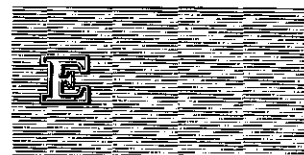


PROGRESS IN THE APPLICATION OF THE MAR DEL PLATA
ACTION PLAN AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Note by the Secretariat

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CEPAL/G.1262
E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.3
31 October 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

E C L A

Economic Commission for Latin America

PROGRESS IN THE APPLICATION OF THE MAR DEL PLATA ACTION
PLAN AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Note by the Secretariat

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
A. BACKGROUND	1
B. WORK IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES SINCE THE MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION	1
1. Review of progress in the region in the application of the Mar del Plata Action Plan	2
2. Support for the activities of PAHO/WHO and of governments in relation to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD)	2
3. Review and co-ordination of relevant aspects of the activities of international agencies in the region	3
4. Identification of suitable areas for horizontal co-operation and the promotion of such co-operation	4
5. Support for government activities designed to improve water resource management, including the incorporation of the environmental dimension	4
C. THE WORK PROGRAMME 1984-1985	5
1. Follow-up of the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan	5
2. Horizontal co-operation in the field of water resources	5
3. Support for the co-ordination of activities on water resources at the regional level	5
4. Promotion of achievement of the objectives of the IDWSSD ...	6
5. Water resource management in mountain watersheds	6
6. Water resource development in Central America	6
D. PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME 1986-1987	6
Notes	7
Annex 1 Information System on the Activities of International Agencies in the Latin American region	9
Annex 2 Documents prepared, 1981-1983	16

A. BACKGROUND

At the eighteenth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America, held in La Paz in April 1979, it was resolved to entrust the permanent responsibility for the promotion of the implementation in Latin America of the Mar del Plata Action Plan adopted by the United Nations Water Conference to a Sessional Committee which would have the following functions:

- a) to assume the central role referred to in the Mar del Plata Action Plan, by reviewing relevant aspects of the work carried out and planned in the various water programmes of the United Nations system and other international organizations;
- b) to encourage and undertake research to improve knowledge of water resources and the possibilities of developing them;
- c) to encourage and conduct training activities on topics related to water resources; (resolution 411 (XVIII)).

The second meeting of the Sessional Committee on Water took place during the nineteenth session of the Commission in Montevideo, Uruguay, in May 1981. At this meeting, the Committee considered and adopted the work programme to be followed by the Secretariat in continuing its activities in support of the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan at the regional level and recommended that priority should be given to activities in support of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade.

B. WORK IN THE FIELD OF WATER RESOURCES SINCE THE MEETING OF THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION

The work of the Secretariat since 1981 has been concentrated in the following areas within the general field of water resources: i) Review of progress in the region in the application of the Mar del Plata Action Plan; ii) Support for the activities of PAHO/WHO and of governments in relation to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD); iii) Review and co-ordination of relevant aspects of the activities of international agencies in the region; iv) Identification of suitable areas for horizontal co-operation and the promotion of such co-operation; v) Support for government activities designed to improve water resources management, including the incorporation of the environmental dimension.

/1. Review

1. Review of progress in the region in the application of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

During the last three years the Secretariat has carried out missions or visited the following countries of the region on one or more occasions: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. On the basis of these visits, together with other information supplied by governments and the reports of the specialized agencies and other international organizations, a report has been prepared on the progress made in the application of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in Latin America and the Caribbean.^{1/}

In general, it can be concluded from this report that some progress has been made in the region in the application of the recommendations and resolutions of the Mar del Plata Action Plan. In particular, advances can be noted in the assessment of water resources, in the areas of the environment, health and pollution control as related to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, as well as in regional and international co-operation. On the whole, although there are exceptions to this less progress has been made in the region in the improvement of efficiency in water use and in the reduction of risks from natural hazards. In policy, planning and management, innovations have been made in many countries of the region but few countries have as yet undertaken exercises aimed at the preparation of national water plans. Education, training and research have improved, both within national academic institutions and within the major water management institutions, but in most countries there are still shortages of trained personnel at all levels, although perhaps the most serious shortages occur amongst trained operators and other kinds of skilled workers.

2. Support for the activities of PAHO/WHO and of governments in relation to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD)

At its nineteenth session the Commission renewed its recommendation to the Secretariat to participate in the work carried out by PAHO/WHO and other international organizations, within the framework of a general recommendation calling upon governments to establish National Action Committees and to develop National Action Plans for the IDWSSD as well as "to ensure that adequate resources are made available to achieve their targets for the Decade".

Specifically, the Commission recommended the ECLA Secretariat to place emphasis, at the next session of the Commission, on the review, on the basis of country reports, of the progress made in the establishment and execution of national programmes to attain the targets set for the Decade.

This review has been prepared and circulated to governments.^{2/} It concludes that, although in most countries of the region national programmes for the IDWSSD have been established, many obstacles remain to the achievement of the targets set at the beginning of the Decade.

The Second Seminar on Horizontal Co-operation for the IDWSSD was held at the invitation of the Government of the Dominican Republic in Santo Domingo, from 11 to 14 January 1982.^{3/} As a follow-up to these seminars, and to continue the support for horizontal co-operation for the IDWSSD, a network of focal points has been established to facilitate co-operation among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Most governments of the region have now nominated an official or office to act as the focal point for their country and the Secretariat circulates a constantly updated list of these, together with other information on horizontal co-operation activities, twice yearly.

Finally, the Secretariat has continued to co-operate with the Pan-American Health Organization in joint activities related to the Decade.

3. Review and co-ordination of relevant aspects of the activities of international agencies in the region

The first meeting of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Water Resources in Latin America took place during the nineteenth session of ECLA. The Group was established in response to the request made by member governments at the eighteenth session that co-ordination of the relevant aspects of regional activities undertaken by international organizations in the field of water resources should be improved. At the Montevideo meeting it was suggested that the Group should meet once a year, as well as meeting during each ECLA session.

The major substantive activity conducted under the aegis of the Group with the aim of improving co-ordination of activities has been the creation of an information system on relevant aspects of the activities in the region in the field of water. A draft of the questionnaire was discussed at the Montevideo meeting and in the light of the comments received was simplified and revised by the Secretariat.

The new version of the questionnaire was discussed at a further meeting of the Group held in Santiago, Chile in August 1982. At that meeting, it was agreed that the questionnaire should be sent to all agencies in late 1982 and that they, in turn, should send their replies, based on their 1982-1983 programmes, within the following three months. Replies were received from the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency, World Meteorological Organization, Pan-American Health Organization and its Pan-American Centres for Sanitary and Environmental Engineering, the Organization of American States, Inter-American Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Caribbean Development Bank, and Commonwealth Development Corporation.

A sample of the processed information on the activities of these agencies, together with that of the Commission, is given in Annex 1.

/4. Identification

4. Identification of suitable areas for horizontal co-operation and the promotion of such co-operation

In addition to the assistance provided for the development of horizontal co-operation in support of the IDWSSD, the Secretariat has undertaken other activities related to the identification and promotion of co-operation between the countries of the region. Specifically, efforts have been made to promote co-operation in the area of the environmental dimension of the administration of large water resource projects and in the administration of water resources in general.

With a view to promoting co-operation in the environmental dimension of large water resource projects, a seminar was held at Concordia, Argentina in October 1981.^{4/} The seminar was attended by representatives of the administrations of the Chilean National Electricity Company (ENDESA), the Yacyretá Binational Entity (Argentina-Paraguay), the Joint Technical Commission of Salto Grande (CTM) (Argentina-Uruguay), the Paraná Medio Project (Argentina), the Company for the Development of the Sao Francisco Valley (CODEVASF) (Brazil), the Commission for the Study of the Development of the River Guayas (CEDEGE) (Ecuador), and the Tinajones Special Irrigation Project (Peru). The participants recommended inter alia that ECLA and the United Nations Environment Programme should seek ways and means of establishing permanent horizontal co-operation machinery with a view to promoting environmental management in connection with the implementation of large water resource projects.

Recently, at the suggestion of various governments, the Secretariat has begun exploring, together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the possibility of holding a workshop on horizontal co-operation in water management, economics and planning. It is hoped that this workshop will be held in 1984.

5. Support for government activities designed to improve water resource management, including the incorporation of the environmental dimension

In conjunction with the Regional Office for Latin America of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Secretariat is embarking on the preparation of a "Manual for the development and integrated management of upper watersheds in Latin America". The terms of reference for this proposed manual have already been prepared. It is intended that the preparation of the manual should proceed in parallel with a project, generously supported by the Government of Italy, on "The planning and administration of water resources in mountain watersheds in Latin America".

C. THE WORK PROGRAMME 1984-1985

The water-related activities foreseen for 1984-1985 are mainly aimed at the follow-up of the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the region, with particular emphasis on aspects of water resource planning, administration and conservation. These activities will include comparative studies of the levels of application of the Action Plan in the various countries and the promotion of horizontal co-operation among them, especially for fulfilling the goals of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. Other activities will include studies on the planning and management of water resources in high mountain watersheds in the Andes and on the development and management of water resources in Central America.

1. Follow-up of the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

In addition to the preparation of a report for presentation to the Water Committee at the twenty-first session in 1986, the main activity under this programme element is the undertaking by the regional advisor of missions, at the request of governments, to give assistance in the implementation of the Action Plan in the areas of policies, planning and rational use of water resources. Contributions will also be made to reports prepared for the Committee on Natural Resources of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

It is hoped that the report prepared for this session will provide the possibility of issuing a revised edition of the sales publication "The Water Resources of Latin America" originally published in 1977 and now out of stock. The original publication had a very high demand among professionals interested in water resource management in the region, and before it went out of print it became the most widely diffused of ECLA's publications in the field.

2. Horizontal co-operation in the field of water resources

Support for horizontal co-operation for the IDWSSD will continue and efforts will be made to extend and deepen the effectiveness of the existing network of national focal points.

The planned workshop on water resource administration should provide a firm basis for undertaking the development of horizontal co-operation in this area. As a contribution to these efforts the Secretariat will undertake a comparative survey of experience in water resource administration and planning in Latin America.

3. Support for the co-ordination of activities on water resources at the regional level

The activities in this area of the work programme will consist of the preparation of reports on the relevant activities of United Nations specialized agencies and other international organizations in the field of water resources in Latin America. In addition, periodic meetings will be held of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Water Resources in Latin America and staff members will attend the meetings of the ACC Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Water.

/4. Promotion

4. Promotion of achievement of the objectives
of the IDWSSD

The Secretariat will continue to inform governments on the progress made towards achievement of the objectives of the IDWSSD.

In addition, specific analysis will be undertaken of important social and economic parameters related to the achievement of the goals of the IDWSSD: for example, information on the provision of services to the dispersed rural population and on water pricing policies. Contributions will be made to the Inter-Agency Steering Committee for the Decade and to the reports prepared for the General Assembly, while ECLA will also participate in the activities of the Pan-American Health Organization and the Inter-American Association of Sanitary Engineers (AIDIS). Advisory missions will be undertaken at the request of governments.

5. Water resource management in mountain watersheds

With the generous financial assistance of the Government of Italy, a technical report will be prepared evaluating the difficulties and experiences in the management of mountain watersheds in Latin America. On the basis of an analysis of the experience of the countries of the region, provided by consultation with a group of government experts in the management of mountain watersheds, it is intended to prepare a set of recommendations for the application of improved techniques.

6. Water resource development in Central America

With the direct involvement of Central American governments and interregional agencies engaged in the planning, management or productive use of water resources, it is intended to prepare a series of technical publications on the planning and execution of multi-purpose water resource development projects.

The emphasis will be placed on development at the river basin level, with particular reference to irrigation and drainage and drinking water supply. As a first stage, special studies will be made in two selected river basins in this period. It is planned that additional river basins will be studied in subsequent years.

D. PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME 1986-1987

It is anticipated that the work programme for the biennium 1986-1987 will not differ significantly in content from that of the present biennium. In general, it is expected that the basic activities now being developed will be continued. In consequence, it can be foreseen that the work programme will consist of the following elements:

/1. Follow-up

1. Follow-up of the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan
2. Support for the co-ordination of activities on water resources at the regional level
3. Horizontal co-operation in the field of water resources
4. Promotion of achievement of the objectives of the IDWSSD, and
5. Promotion of water resource development in Central America.

Notes

1/ ECLA, The Water Resources of Latin America and their Utilization (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.6).

2/ ECLA, Progress towards achievement of the goals of the international drinking water supply and sanitation decade (IDWSSD), 1980-1983 (E/CEPAL/SES.20/G.4

3/ ECLA, Report of the Second Latin American Seminar on Horizontal Co-operation for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, E/CEPAL/G.1199, 5 March 1982.

4/ ECLA, Report of the Regional Seminar on Environmental Management and Large Water Resource Projects, Concordia, Argentina, 1-3 October 1981. E/CEPAL/L.262, 25 February 1982.

Annex 1

**INFORMATION SYSTEM ON THE ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES
IN THE LATIN AMERICAN REGION**

Table 1

N A M E	S E C T O R A L O R I E N T A T I O N O F B O D Y																
	D R I N K I N G W A T E R a n d S A N I T A T I O N		A G R I C U L T U R E , S T O C K R A I S I N G a n d F O R E S T R Y			H I D R O E L E C T R I C I T Y		(C o l l e c t i o n , U s e a n d / o r T r e a t m e n t)		F I S H E R Y (P i s c i c u l t u r e o r F i s h i n g)	T R A N S P O R T (R i v e r o r l a k e n a v i g a t i o n)	R E - C R E A T I O N a n d W I L D L I F E	P R E V E N T I O N O F N A T U R A L D I S A S T E R S				O T H E R
	U r b a n	R u r a l	I r r i g a t . D r a i n a g e	H i g h l a n d B a s i n	O t h e r	L a r g e P o w e r	S m a l l S t a t i o n s	I N D U S T R Y	M I N I N G	A q u i - c u l t u r e , F i s h i n g	n a v i g a - t i o n)	F L O O D S	D R O U G H T S	L A N D S L I D E S	O t h e r E R O S I O N / p h e n o m e n a		
ECONOMIC COMMISSION for LATIN AMERICA ECLA	####	####		####				####	####		####	####	####	####			
DEPARTMENT of TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION for DEVELOPMENT DTCD	####	####	####					####			####	####	####	####			
UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND UNICEF	####	####															
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UNDP a/	####	####	####	####	####	####	####	####	####	####	####	####	####	####	####	####	
UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY IAEA																####	
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC and CULTURAL ORGANIZATION UNESCO (Paris, France)	####	####		####		####		####	####		####	####	####	####	####		
UNESCO - REGIONAL OFFICE for SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY ROSTLAC / UNESCO		####	####	####		####						####	####	####			
PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION PAHO	####	####										####	####	####	####	####	
PAN AMERICAN CENTRE for SANITARY ENGINEERING and ENVIRONMENT SCIENCES CEPIS , PAHO/WHO	####	####			####											####	
WORLD BANK a/	####	####	####		####	####				####	####	####			####	####	
WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION Reg. Office : Asunción, Paraguay WMO - REG. OFFICE												####	####				

a/ Information based on annual reports and other sources.

Table 1

M A M E O F B O D Y	S E C T O R A L O R I E N T A T I O N O F B O D Y															
	D R I N K I N G W A T E R a n d S A N I T A T I O N		A G R I C U L T U R E , S T O C K R A I S I N G a n d F O R E S T R Y			H I D R O E L E C T R I C I T Y		C o l l e c t i o n , U s e a n d / o r T r e a t m e n t		F I S H E R Y (P i s c i c u l t u r e o r F i s h i n g)	T R A N S P O R T (R i v e r o r l a k e o r a i r)	R E - C R E A T I O N a n d W I L D L I F E	P R E V E N T I O N O F N A T U R A L D I S A S T E R S			O T H E R
	U r b a n	R u r a l	I r r i g a t . D r a i n a g e	H i g h L a n d B a s i n	O t h e r	P o w e r L a r g e	S t a t i o n s S m a l l	I N D U S T R Y	M I N I N G	A q u i c u l t u r e	n a v i g a t i o n	F I S H E R Y	F L O O D S	D R O U G H T S	L A N D S L I D E S (E R O S I O N)	
ORGANIZATION of AMERICAN STATES OAS	#####	#####	#####	#####		#####	#####			#####	#####	#####	#####		#####	
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK IDB	#####	#####	#####	#####		#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####		
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK Caribbean Basin Water Management Project CDB - CBWMP	#####	#####	#####			#####	#####			#####	#####		#####			
INTERNATIONAL FUND for AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IFAD			#####	#####	#####											
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REGIONAL OFFICE : SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA CDC	#####		#####			#####		#####		#####						

Table 2

N A M E O F B O D Y	REGULAR BUDGET a/ (thousand of US\$)	EXTRA - BUDGETARY FUNDS a/	MULTISECTORAL ORIENTATION OF THE BODY											
			EVALUATION OF WATER RESOURCES		DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIPLE - USE WATER PROJECTS				Analysis of Policies, Plans, Laws, Investments etc.	Training, Research, Dissemination	DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY (on Collect. Use & Treatm.)	COORDINATION FOLLOW-UP CONTROL or INTERNATIONAL [on activ.]	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	OTHER
			GROUND WATER	SURFACE WATER	Large Basins	High Moun- tain Basins	Internatio- nal Basins	Other						
ECONOMIC COMMISSION for LATIN AMERICA ECLA	740	190			*****	*****	*****			*****	*****		*****	*****
DEPARTMENT of TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION for DEVELOPMENT DTCO	1995	421	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****			*****	*****	*****		*****
UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND UNICEF	2603	1382								*****	*****			
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UNDP			*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY IAEA	1329		*****	*****						*****		*****		*****
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC and CULTURAL ORGANIZATION UNESCO (Paris, France)	1758	962	*****	*****						*****	*****		*****	*****
UNESCO - REGIONAL OFFICE for SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY ROSTILAC / UNESCO	274		*****	*****				*****		*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION PAHO	1060	154	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****			*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
PAN AMERICAN CENTRE for SANITARY ENGINEERING and ENVIRONMENT SCIENCES CEPIS, PAHO/WHO	1367	651	*****	*****						*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
WORLD BANK					*****	*****	*****					*****		*****
WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION Reg. Office : Asunción, Paraguay WHO - REG. OFFICE	160	2250	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****			*****		*****		*****

a/ In some cases the values are estimated from partial answers to the questionnaire.

Table 3

M A K E O F B O D Y	Number of Staff Participating in Activities in the Field of Water Resources											
	I O T A L			PERMANENT POSTS			Long-Term Advisors/Consultants			Short-Term Advisors/Consultants		
	Main Head quarters	Sub Head quarters	Field or Projects	Main Head quarters	Sub Head quarters	Field or Projects	Main Head quarters	Sub Head quarters	Field or Projects	Main Head quarters	Sub Head quarters	Field or Projects
ORGANIZATION of AMERICAN STATES	3	1	7	3	1	1						6
DAS												
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK												
IDB												
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK												
Caribbean Basin Water Management Project CDB - CBWP												
INTERNATIONAL FUND for AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IFAD	16			4					12			
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REGIONAL OFFICE : SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA CBC	21	4	10				1				20	4 10

Annex 2

DOCUMENTS PREPARED, 1981-1983

A. Publications

- Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation in Latin America, 1981-1990,
"Estudios e Informes de la CEPAL" series, No. 25, 1983.
- "The Andean peasant, water and the role of the State", CEPAL Review No. 19,
April 1983, pp. 145-166.

B. Documents

- Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Water Resources in
Latin America (E/CEPAL/G.1181, 1981).
- Aspectos ambientales de la gestión de grandes obras de infraestructura
(E/CEPAL/PROY.6/R.2).
- Second Latin American Seminar on Horizontal Co-operation for the
International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, Santo Domingo,
Dominican Republic, 11-14 January 1982:

Provisional Agenda (E/CEPAL/L.244);
Annotated Provisional Agenda (E/CEPAL/L.245);
Report (E/CEPAL/G.1199).
- Informe del Seminario Regional sobre Gestión Ambiental y Grandes Obras
Hidráulicas (E/CEPAL/L.262, 1982).
- Intersecretariat Working Group on Water Resources in Latin America,
Second Session, Santiago, 16-17 August 1982:

Provisional Agenda (E/CEPAL/SEM.6/L.1);
Annotated Provisional Agenda (E/CEPAL/SEM.6/L.2);
Co-ordination of Water Resources Activities in Latin America
(E/CEPAL/SEM.6/L.3).
- Environmental Management and Large Water Resource Development Projects
(E/CEPAL/G.1203, 1982).