

## **Water Quality Indicators for the La Plata River Basin**

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**ABSTRACT:** Selected water quality data from La Plata River Basin, shared by 5 South American countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), were employed to evaluate advantages and constraints for global water quality indicators development. Water quality state indicators from the UNSD/UNEP Questionnaire (2004) were considered at 5 sampling stations located on the Paraná (3), Pilcomayo and La Plata Rivers. Water pollution pressure indicators, also called driving forces, were estimated for the main emissions from the Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires into the La Plata River. Multiple and different monitoring programs and operating agencies limited the availability of continuous time series of water quality indicators for this large river basin. Further development of water pollution pressure and technological indicators is required to improve cause-effect water quality follow up. Attention was given to the need to develop criteria for statistics related to toxic constituents and to establish tools to assess periodically the state of water environments through water quality guidelines, standards and risks to the biota through the usage of potency factors.