

An aerial photograph of a large dam and reservoir. The water is a deep blue-green color, flowing through a landscape of green vegetation and brown earth. The dam structure is visible at the bottom of the frame. The sky is clear and blue.

*Fostering Cooperation:
A South American perspective
Global Network of Women in Water Diplomacy
Vienna, 2024*

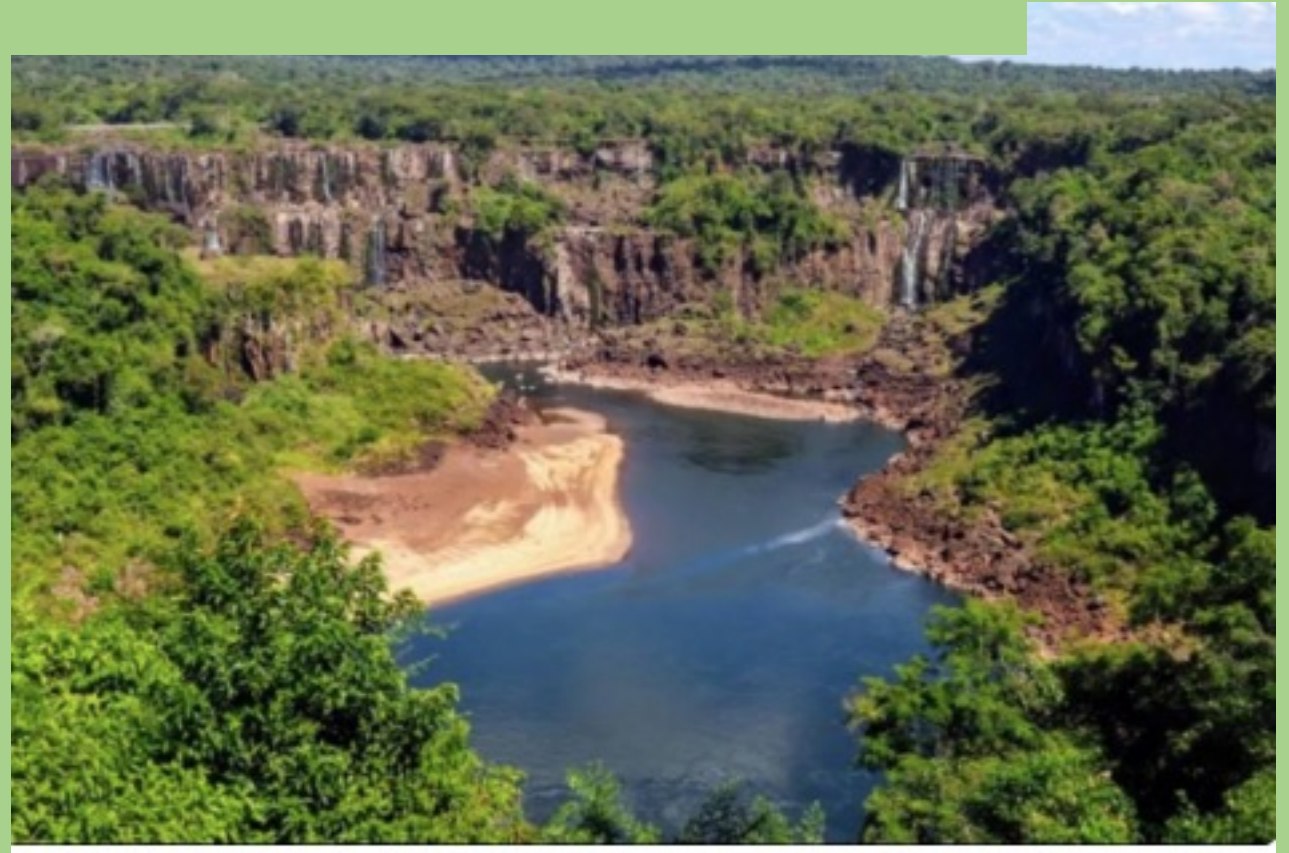
Dr. Maria A. Gwynn



Dr. Maria A. Gwynn appointment to Governing Council in 2019

Location:
Yguazu falls

Challenges: Hydrological Crisis



Lack of Rain
Draught

Activities of dams
in the upper river

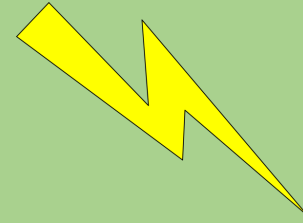
Yguazu Falls are left without Water

Climate Change

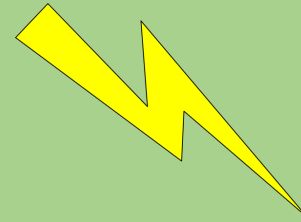
April 1, 2020

Different Uses of the International river Paraná

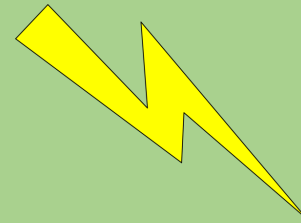
Brazil



Paraguay



Argentina



There had to be a negotiation.

Itaipu was requested to release water from the reservoir.

Governance structure of Itaipu: Board of Directors (executive) and Governing Council (general oversight of the executive actions of the Board of Directors).

Typically, only regional treaties and agreements are taken into consideration.

In this case customary international law was also taken into account.



Shared Natural Resource: The utilization of international waters is based on:

Reasonable and Equitable utilization

- taking into account rights of the other countries
- reaching a balance on the multiple uses

No significant harm

- Take appropriate measures to prevent or minimize significant harm

Procedural Obligations

- Exchange of data
- Notification, consultation

UN Watercourses Convention 1997; International Court of Justice cited as customary international law in several cases

South American Experience

Water release... to balance multiple uses of the international river, based on technical data and information from an ad hoc Intergovernmental Commission.

Practices in the region show successful practices of international cooperation in this area.



Baixo Iguacu Dam

**Special Operations
“Water Windows”**

May 18-29, 2020

Aug 3-16, 2020

May 21-31, 2021

CONCLUSION

- Continue to work on actions implementing the WEFE nexus and SDGs as they enable transboundary water cooperation.
- Operation “Water Windows” have shown successful examples of transboundary water cooperation *and the practical relevance of international law*.
- Benefits: Renewable energy provided for growing population demands.
- Environmental support and compliance with Paris Agreement.
- Sustainable Development.

Thank you!