Cover Letter

This article aims to demonstrate that the water resources utilization efficiency of an international basin depends on the need to consider it as an integrated ecosystem. Through a case study of a specific international basin (La Plata Basin), this article also demonstrates that the lack of use of the integrated water management model may have dangerous consequences for the entire basin, which are reflected in the relations between its riparian countries. The effects of the 2014 water crisis in the State of São Paulo, Brazil, are showed, beyond the effects of other possible local water crisis. Therefore, this article fits the scope of the journal *Water*, once it demonstrates to all its readers (academics, politicians, decision-makers etc.) the useful environmental policies to make an efficient management of an international basin, considering all the interests of those who share it, in order to act in cooperation, and avoiding any conflicts between the riparian countries.

* We confirm that neither the manuscript nor any parts of its content are currently under consideration or published in another journal.
* All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with its submission to (journal name).