

## Rescue of historical hydrometric data in the Paraná-Uruguay River basin

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The discharge of the Paraná-Uruguay River system (southeastern South America) is among the ten largest river flows in the world. Thus, extending the available Paraná-Uruguay hydrometric data (starting after 1900) back to the 19-th century would provide valuable information for studies not only on South American climate but also on the global water cycle. Here we rescue historical observations of daily Paraná and Uruguay water levels recorded since January 1884 and July 1886, respectively. Data rescue activities consist of imaging of original notebooks and digitising of level observations. The obtained data constitute the only Paraná and Uruguay water level records that cover part of the 19-th century. The potential of the recovered historical data for hydroclimate research is demonstrated by showing that the well-documented ENSO-water level link of the 20-th century is also detected in the 19-th century level observations. That is, El Niño (La Niña) events are associated with high (low) water levels.