Project Update: May 2013

Summary

The aim of the project is to develop spatial conservation planning strategies for subtropical Argentine High Andean wetlands based on the most pressing threats expected for the coming decades. For this, the activities proposed are: 1) to map and characterize High Andean wetlands, 2) describe the heterogeneity in their parameters, 3) map threats from climate change, grazing and mining; and 4) generate spatially explicit models of conservation strategies based on Marxan analysis. With the result will make a consensual conservation strategy, which will be presented to decision makers.

Project Update

In February 2013, a field trip of approximately 1.100km was made through the provinces of Salta and Catamarca. 40 peat bogs, saline and lakes were gone around and geo-referenced.

In addition, spatial information about mining presence was obtained to evaluate presence and impact in the environment of this human activity. Extractions of different minerals and mines in different states and magnitude were recorded. Currently, a whole spatial database is being completed to map one of the main threats for the ecoregions; it will be used as an input for the Marxan analysis.

Additionally, from 11th and 22nd of March 2013, I participated in the International Spring University on Ecosystem Modelling, which was organised by BC3 Basque Centre for Climate Change. The workshop was focussed on the use of ARIES, an open source of modelling software, which is being identified as a tool to create, run and analyse models and scenarios to evaluate the effect of the identified threats top High Andean wetlands.