Project Update: February 2016:

(1) August to September 2015. Sampling of hunted red deer and wild boar were performed from smokehouse plant in Bariloche, *Exquisitesis Patagonicas* and *Weiss*. Laboratory analysis was performed in collaboration with National University of La Plata (UNLP) and Malbrán Institute (Buenos Aires).

(2) November and December 2015. Field work was performed during spring season at Los Alerces National Park. Transects lines and registration data of huemul and livestock traces at Cerro Riscoso area were performed in collaboration with park-rangers. During this fieldwork, we also collected faecal samples for parasitological analysis. Laboratory analysis was performed in collaboration with the Argentinean National Institution of Agricultural Technology (INTA Bariloche).

(3) December 2015. I was invited by the Los Alerces National Park to participate in a meeting regarding the new polices to avoid entrance of pets (dogs and cats) in Argentinean national parks. I gave a talk about why pets should not entry with their owners in national parks and natural protected areas. It was exposed the risk of diseases transmission and potential spillover between wildlife and domestic animals.

(4) Meetings were carried out with staff of the Regional Delegation of Patagonia (DRP/APN) and the National Institute of Agriculture and Technology (INTA). The topics discussed concerned livestock and forest management, interface between wildlife and livestock and health management. We plan to carry out projects in collaboration between the two governmental institutions.

a) Publications. In September 2015, our work "*Astralagus* sp. potential intoxication in huemul *Hippocamelus bisulcus*. E. Chang Reissig; A. Quiroga; A. Massone; E. Gimeno; H. Pastore; E. Ramilo; M. Izquierdo; F. Corvalán; V. Lizardo; C. Ielpi; F.A. Uzal." was exposed as a poster during the 9th Argentina Seminar of the "Charles Louis Davis" Foundation and the 7th Meeting of the Permanent Forum for Veterinary Pathology Teaching, hold at the Catholic University of Salta, campus Castañares.

   A scientific manuscript describing our primary results in sarcocystosis was accepted for publication in the Parasitology Research which is titled "Sarcocystosis in wild red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) in Patagonia, Argentina. Elizabeth Chang Reissig; Gastón Moré; Adriana Massone; Francisco A Uzal" (Manuscript number, PARE-D-15-01353R1). The resume of this work was also presented as a poster during the Argentinean Parasitology Conference, hold at San Carlos de Bariloche, November 2015.

b) January 2016. The III Rufford Small Grant Conference South America was held in Lima (Peru) where our colleague Flavia Mazzine presented our abstract "Scientific collaboration network: a suitable platform to strengthen biodiversity conservation in latin America" E. Castiñeira, V. Zeidemann, E. Chang Reissig, M. Camino, M. P. Arbetman, D. Barragán-Barrera, N. Barreda, D. Donoso, S. Flechas, M. Hidalgo, F. Mazzini, A. Pineiro , V. Rodríguez, A. Salinas-Mendoza, and M. Specht[15]

The meeting included colleagues from different countries (Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Ecuador, Uruguay, Paraguay, Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, and Panamá) and was an excellent opportunity to share work and experiences. We are keeping in touch each other and defining a red-link between RSG Latin researchers.

c) Equipment purchase: Cameras traps and lockers were shipped from USA to Argentina in July. Unfortunately, CONICET could only take them from Argentina customs in Buenos Aires in late August and ship them to Bariloche in mid-September. For this reason, my fieldwork regarding monitoring huemul and exotic ungulates (livestock, wild boar, red deer) movement in Los Alerces National Park was delayed and started in November 2015.



Left: Fence design that adequately contains livestock and allows safe passage for huemul and pudu. We are working on livestock management for maintain native wildlife populations. Middle: Seminar about wildlife diseases and interaction with domestic animals. It was attended by national park staff and local people at Esquel city, near to Los Alerces National Park. Right: Setting cameras traps to monitor huemul and livestock movement. Los Alerces National Park.



Figure 1. Presence of wild boar at Cerro Riscoso area in the Los Alerces National Park (left and top photo). Cameras traps (n=16) were set in November 2015 and it will be continuing monitored during 2016. Transect lines were performed by park-rangers and the researcher Elizabeth Chang Reissig in order to register the presence and movement of huemul and exotic ungulates (livestock, wild boar, and red deer).