

## **Project Update: March 2016**

The educational program “Delfines del Río Negro” continues to grow thanks to Rufford Small Grant. During November and December 2015, 550 students and teachers of six schools from three cities nearby Río Negro Estuary were involved in the educational programme. This allow us to totalize 56 schools with more than 11,500 students and teachers that joined the program which include visits to the Río Negro Estuary, Patagonia Argentina.

In each school we conducted discussions on how to help to protect the Franciscana and bottlenose dolphins and their habitat. A prominent topic in each talk was to highlight the need to create the Río Negro Estuary Natural Protected Area and the threats these two species of cetaceans face

Continuing awareness campaign for tourists and residents of the estuary, during January and February 2016, 5,000 brochures were delivered to help in the conservation of dolphins and habitats in the region. Additionally, on December 29<sup>th</sup> 2015 we organised jointly with local government and others institutions, the second annual beach cleanup campaign in Balneario El Cóndor. Fifteen neighbors participated voluntarily and collaborate in the care of their coasts.

Coordinated in conjunction with the Undersecretary of Tourism of Viedma, during November 2015 a training course on main techniques and recommendations for land-based responsible dolphin watching, and conservation needs of the Franciscana and Bottlenose dolphins that inhabit there were given. The course was attended by 44 tourist informants and five experts from the Tourism Direction of Viedma.



**Students and teacher of a Primary School from Viedma visiting the Río Negro Estuary. Photo: Fundación Cethus.**



**Participants of the third annual beach cleanup campaign in Balneario El Cóndor Photo: Fundación Cethus.**