

Project Update: September 2018

In between the end of our Second Rufford Small Grant, and the first Rufford Booster Grant, we applied to propose Karukinka as an important area for the conservation of bats (AICOM) to the Latin-American network for the conservation of bats (RELCOM). On September 7th we received a certificate including this reserve as an AICOM, the southernmost AICOM of Latin America. This certificate will promote conservation, research and education about bats in Karukinka, we will include schools from local communities in our work to teach them about the importance of bats; we also encourage the Wildlife conservation society to include both bat species on their website and informative brochures.

In order to prepare for the work described in our third proposal to Rufford, we signed an agreement with the Rabies Department of the National Health Institute (ISP). This agreement will allow us to obtain skin samples from the bats they receive for rabies analysis to better understand how bat populations are linked genetically, and therefore how fast white nose syndrome could spread in Chile. In return, we will teach the ISP employees to analyse the presence of *Pseudogymnascus destructus* and from swabs, in order to be prepared in case the disease arrives to South America.



Karukinka received a certificate of important area for the conservation of bats (AICOM) because of our work since 2016.

En la Reserva Nacional Karukinka

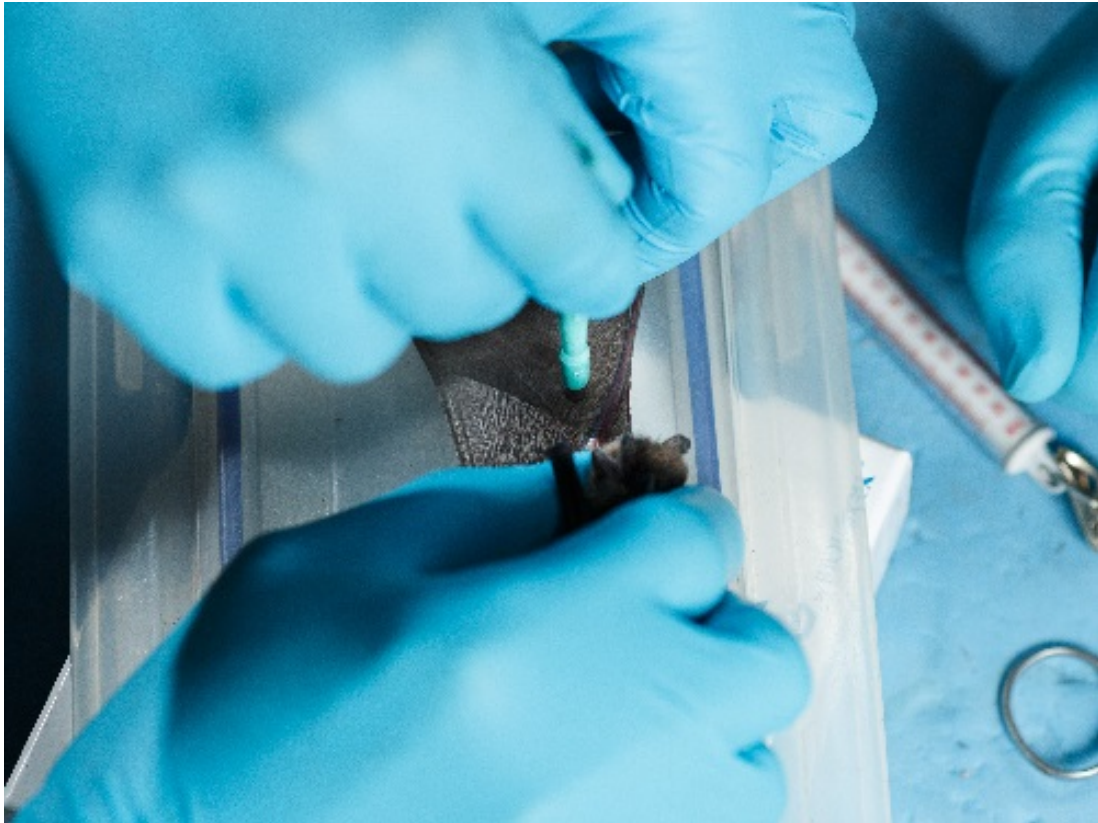
Al rescate de los murciélagos de Magallanes

- El 7 de septiembre se entregó el certificado de Area Importante para la Conservación de los Murciélagos (Aicom) a este sector de Tierra del Fuego, en la que un grupo de investigadores lleva dos años trabajando para estudiar las poblaciones de los murciélagos más australes del mundo, los cuales habitan en los bosques de lenga y coigüe, con el fin de prevenir un hongo que ha matado a millones de ejemplares en zonas frías de Norteamérica.



Our project appeared in the Sciences section of the most read Newspaper of Magallanes, southern Chile.

<https://laprensaaustral.cl/suplementos/2bab53554486dc7da0ff3f890473cc29681d546a.pdf>



Punches from *Myotis chiloensis* and *Histiotus sp* in the whole country will allow us to determine the connectedness of bat populations, and therefore the way how WNS could spread.