

Project Update: October 2022

We are happy to announce that we have completed our fieldwork with a successful scientific expedition to Monte Leon National Park (MLNP). It is essential to note that our expedition was the first scientific campaign development in the marine zone along the coastline of this national park (despite over 17 years having passed since its creation!). The results of our expedition will provide valuable information from this area scarcely known from a scientific point of view. We had to tackle several logistic challenges due to no scientific studies that had worked there before. We probably did not fully achieve all our scientific goals due to numerous logistic inconveniences (lack of boat, few hours of daylight, considerable differences in tides, distances to dive sites, water temperature, strong winds, etc.). However, we are satisfied with this expedition because we knew we were attempting something that had never been done before in this beautiful national park. We are currently processing all scientific data obtained.





Aerial views along the coast of MLNP.



Drone photo showing the extent of one of the kelp forest patches on the MLNP coast.



Cristian Lager, the team leader and responsible of the Rufford project, during the preparation of dive tanks with the RG flag.



Logistic and dive activities before and after each scientific sampling in the MLNP.



One of the diving spots along the MLNP coast.



The Rufford project team together with the chief of park rangers of MLNP.

On the other hand, it is also important to point out that there was no audio-visual content in the sublittoral zone of the Monte Leon National Park before our expedition. This project allowed us to fill this audio-visual gap in the marine region adjacent to the park. We created underwater audio-visual content (photos and videos) that will enable us to better diffusion and education of Argentina's Patagonian marine ecosystems. We are currently editing that audio-visual material.



Our group of scientific divers diving at one of the MLNP sampling sites.



An underwater photo showing the exact moment when a scientific diver collects biological material to study the marine biodiversity of MLNP.



Lessonia sp., one of the macroalgae species present along the coast of MLNP. This type of algae harbours a huge number of associated species.



Cristian Lager, team leader and head of the Rufford project, after a dive with the RG flag.