

Project Update: July 2011

We are happy to announce the creation of the “Arroyo Los Gauchos” Nature Reserve in the southern Pampas coastal zone (Coronel Dorrego district). This area has been recently declared by the provincial government as a new coastal protected area by Decree n° 469/11 and protects 700 ha of coastal dune ecosystems. It hosts populations of endemic species of flora (*Senecio bergii*, *Baccharis divaricata*) and fauna (a dune lizard, *Liolaemus multimaculatus* and a dune rodent, *Ctenomys australis*) of the Atlantic dunes of Argentina and an active dune system which is source of valuable ecological processes.

Arroyo los Gauchos Nature Reserve is part of a proposal on which we have been working from Proyecto Costas Bonaerenses since 2006, and hopefully it is a first step towards further and effective protection of the Pampean coastal ecosystems.

We celebrate this achievement and our next step we will be focused on rising awareness in local communities, which has proven to be a key issue.