

Project Update: September 2010

During this period we participated in meetings in Buenos Aires with the President and authorities of the National Park Administration (APN), and other key stakeholders, to start the planning process of the National Marine Park of Northern San Jorge Gulf. The information on marine mammal distribution produced by our project, as well as the results of the opinion poll, were presented and discussed, and its importance to tailor conservation strategies for this sensitive area was acknowledged.

In addition, we worked actively in our education programme. We participated in the “Clean Seabed Operation” in Rada Tilly, lecturing on marine wildlife and conservation of the San Jorge Gulf. We also gave talks for the 4th degrees of the primary schools “Rosa de Corea” and N°42 in Puerto Madryn; we lectured in the post-graduate course “The human dimension of Conservation”, directed to young, promissory marine conservation leaders; and we gave a talk to university students at the Universidad Nacional de La Patagonia, promoting their interest to work in marine conservation. Finally, we made our fourth donation of books on marine environment and ecology for school libraries, in this opportunity for the School “Rosa de Corea”, and we gave posters and books for each kid.

Right now, we are working with the Direction of Tourism of Camarones, organising the first training course on wildlife of the San Jorge Gulf in this town, named “Knowing our place”. It will consist in free conferences on marine mammals, seabirds, fishes, marine invertebrates, terrestrial mammals, and vegetation, lectured by Patagonian scientists, and will be addressed to all the local people, fostering their knowledge and appreciation by their natural resources.

