

## **UNESCO designated the BLUE PATAGONIA Biosphere Reserve, the largest one in Argentina**

**The Government of Argentina and the Global Penguin Society designed and proposed the Blue Patagonia Biosphere Reserve. It is an area designated by UNESCO to demonstrate innovative approaches to living and working in harmony with nature. This new one is located in Patagonia, Argentina and has 3.1 million hectares, 58% marine and 42% of land. It engulfs the coastal sector of Argentina with the highest biodiversity and rich paleontological, historical and cultural values.**

The UNESCO International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme approved the designation of the PATAGONIA AZUL (Blue Patagonia) Biosphere Reserve during the June session in Paris. This nomination was submitted by the national and provincial government and elaborated and supported by the Global Penguin Society with the contribution of a professional team lead by Dr. Pablo Garcia Borboroglu.

Mr Zonza Nigro, head of Tourism and Protected Areas, indicated that “Biosphere Reserves are experimental sites which aim to reconcile biodiversity and sustainable resource utilization, by promoting local solutions to the global challenges humanity is facing.”

Dr. Borboroglu said that “with a surface 3.1 million hectares, this new reserve has a size similar to Belgium. It includes 300 km of coastline and 3 core areas with rich assemblages of wildlife. It corresponds to the costal sector of Argentina with the highest biodiversity, including 31 species de terrestrial mammals, 36 species of marine mammals, 67 species of seabirds, 65 species de terrestrial birds, 83 species of fish, 130 species of algae and 197 species of marine invertebrates. It counts with archaeological and paleontological resources such as a petrified forest, and very valuable historical resources including many European ship wrecks.

This designation generates many opportunities for the area and its community, which is now part of The World Network of Biosphere Reserves that currently numbers 631 sites in 119 countries.

The Project was coordinated and co-supported by the Global Penguin Society, which is an internationally recognized leader in the conservation of penguins and the oceans. GPS' core work includes science-based conservation action, collaboration with multinational stakeholders, and education outreach for communities and governments. Visit [www.globalpenguinsociety.org](http://www.globalpenguinsociety.org) to support and learn more about the work and activities of The Global Penguin Society.

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