

SCHOOL FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS OF THE SOUTHERN CONE

Lessons learned and future projection



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<http://marpatagonico.org/proyectos/escuela-regional-de-areas-marinas-protegidas/>



SCHOOL FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS OF THE SOUTHERN CONE

*Summary of lessons learned in 2017 and the necessary steps
for program strengthening and continuity*

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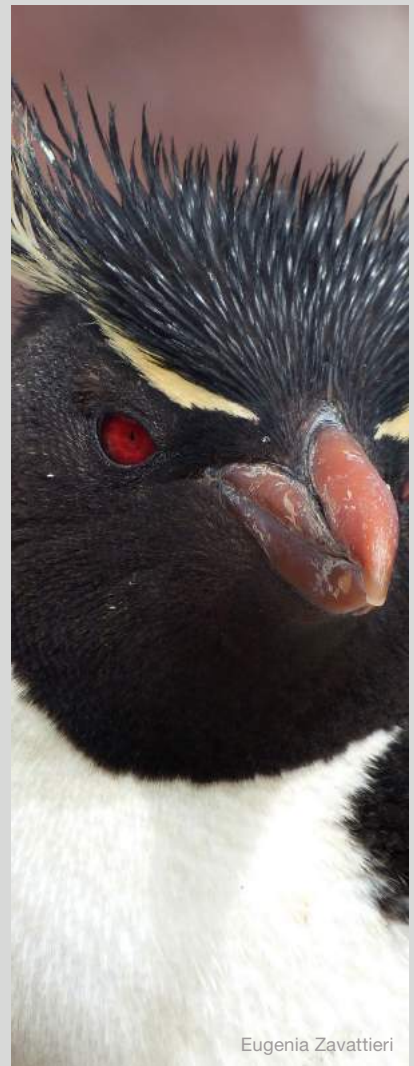




Eugenia Zavattieri



ProyectoSub



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Alejandro Vila (WCS)



ProyectoSub

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Effective marine protected areas are essential in biodiversity conservation policies

Countries in South America's Southern Cone Region are showing an increasing interest for conserving marine biodiversity and encouraging its sustainable use. Chile and Argentina have created important marine protected areas (MPA) and plan to establish new ones, trying to meet or exceed the goals agreed in international forums.

MPAs are defined and managed natural spaces intended to protect marine ecosystems, their wild species, and the geological elements including the seabed and its subsoil. There are different categories of MPAs, with particular management regimes and allowed activities. Strict marine reserves are areas where resource exploitation is prohibited; in multiple-use reserves some resources can be exploited, following guidelines of their management plans.

Management of marine protected areas must be effective and efficient in the fulfillment of their conservation and sustainable use objectives. Best practices in management of those areas could produce environmental and economic benefits, crucial for coastal human communities. Capacity development of personnel in charge of MPAs is a fundamental goal of this program of work.



Alejandro Vila (WCS)

TRAINING

Achieving effective management of existing and future marine protected areas requires training the managers of these areas

Many of the existing MPAs in the Southern Cone have not been very effective in achieving their conservation objectives. Assessments of management effectiveness carried out recently in Chile and Argentina indicate that there are important shortcomings in most of the areas. Additionally, Chile is in the process of establishing some new, very large MPAs while Argentina has announced the creation of two marine reserves that will be the largest in the country.

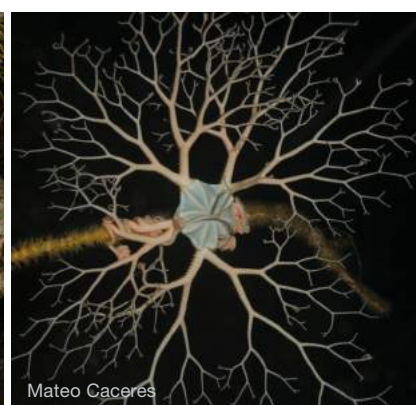
This context leads to a critical demand for specialized personnel. The training of managers, administrators or supervisors of MPAs to be proficient and confident in their roles is a key aspect for the development of institutional capacity for the effective management of such areas.



Revista Puerto



Mateo Cáceres



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PILOT COURSE (2017)

Course on Management of Marine Protected Areas of the Southern Cone, an unprecedented initiative with a regional focus

In response to the need to improve the effectiveness of the existing and projected MPA, in 2017 the Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea and Areas of Influence promoted and coordinated the efforts of public, private, and civil society organizations to implement a Pilot Course on Management of Marine Protected Areas of the Southern Cone, aimed at strengthening the professional capacity of MPA managers in Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay.

The main recipients are active Government officials: managers, administrators, and supervisors of marine protected areas, as well as biologists who often assist in the planning and management of the areas.



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REGIONAL SCHOOL FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The project aims to create a continuous training mechanism and a regional learning network

The course is part of a larger initiative, called “School for the Management of Marine Protected Areas of the Southern Cone”, which has been promoted by the Forum membership since 2015. The long-term goal of the School is to consolidate the effective management of protected areas in the Southern Cone seas. The vision of the project is to implement a mechanism for continuous training, within the framework of a collaborative effort between Governments, civil society organizations, and academic institutions in the region.

In this initial stage, the anticipated outcome is for key institutions to be mobilized to support a long-term, continuous training initiative for those in charge of marine reserves, including relevant capacity-building activities related to best practice.

The regional geographic scale of the initiative stems from the strong ecological connections that exist between the marine spaces of Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay. The three countries have common needs, so an integrated training scheme can be efficient and will be more likely to achieve a highly significant impact. The formation of a collaborative and integrated learning network for professionals from the three countries is an additional benefit of the regional approach.

CANDIDATES AND COMPETENCES

The necessary skills and potential candidates were identified during the previous planning stage

The demand for training on MPA management, as well as the needs perceived by potential beneficiaries, were evaluated by the Forum organizations. Between 2015 and 2016, surveys and workshops were carried out involving almost 50 institutions in the Southern Cone. It was estimated that there are at least 150 candidates in Argentina and 200 in Chile in need of training. The main competences that beneficiaries must put into practice to achieve effective management were also identified.

This initiative adopted a competence-based training approach, in which participants are expected to acquire and simultaneously exercise the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to fulfill their work duties in protected areas. The selection of the subjects for the 2017 Pilot Course was made taking into account the most elementary problems of the MPAs in the region, and the competences that the managers must have to face them well. The teaching team was made up of professionals with distinguished careers in their subjects.

*Assessment of Management Effectiveness and Project Planning:
key competences for the administration of marine protected areas*

Competences chosen for the Pilot Course 2017 were “Assessment of Management Effectiveness” and “Project Planning”, both with a focus on Marine Protected Areas. The rationale for this is that the managers must be able to evaluate the extent to which MPAs fulfill their conservation objectives. Once the effectiveness assessment has been carried out, it will be possible to select some important problems or challenges that cause the lack of effectiveness, and design strategic and feasible projects to solve them efficiently.

Other high-priority competences were identified for future training activities, encompassing the main areas of professional duties:

*Administration,
Planning,
Conservation,
Sustainable use of natural resources,
Control, surveillance, law enforcement,
Public use (tourism, recreation),
Communications, environmental education,
Governance,
Effective interpersonal and institutional relationships.*

FORMAT

A mixed modality of training, virtual and face-to-face, is adequate and feasible

The 2017 Pilot Course design included virtual and in-person components. The former were provided through the “remote classroom” system used by Argentina’s National Parks Administration, allowing for each participant to take the classes at their own convenience.

In-person components included classroom activities and field visits.



School for the Management of MPA

**Pilot Course 2017 Timeline:
Management of Marine Protected Areas of the Southern Cone.**

First stage: VIRTUAL
Assessment of Management Effectiveness
July 31st to August 18th, 2017

01

Readings, exercises,
and discussion forums.
Teaching materials:
videos and written guides.



Project Planning
August 28th to September 15th

02

Integrating module: FACE-TO-FACE
Puerto Madryn¹, Argentina
September 29th to October 5th

03

Classroom activities.
Interviews with experts.
Field trip and management
effectiveness assessment of P.
Valdés Natural Protected Area.



04

Second stage: VIRTUAL
Draft final projects
October 16th to November 3rd

Integrating module: FACE-TO-FACE
Las Cruces², Chile
November 6th to 10th

05

Coaching for participants
writing the final project exercises.
Lectures by experts. Visit to Navidad Municipality.
Interviews with local leaders on the management
of the "Bosque de Calabacillo Nature Sanctuary".



06

SUBMISSION OF FINAL PROJECTS
November 17th, 2017

RESULTS AND REACH

Pilot Course 2017 in numbers:

17

participants (9 from Chile, 6 from Argentina, 2 from Uruguay) completed the course, most of whom hold mid-level positions in central or regional offices as managers, supervisors, and scientific advisors; 70% accredited in the 2 competences.

10

institutions represented: students belong to 8 Government agencies and 2 civil society organizations.

5

professors with experience in public, academic, and civil society institutions designed the course and taught the contents (1 from Costa Rica, 1 from Chile, 3 from Argentina).

13

coastal - marine protected areas were benefited; in addition, 9 MPA and one emblematic species were the subject of realistic evaluation exercises, allowing for the identification of management gaps and opportunities to improve.

14

projects were developed to address the main management challenges identified. Some of these projects reflected interesting perspectives for their real implementation.



LEARNING COMMUNITY



WWF-Chile

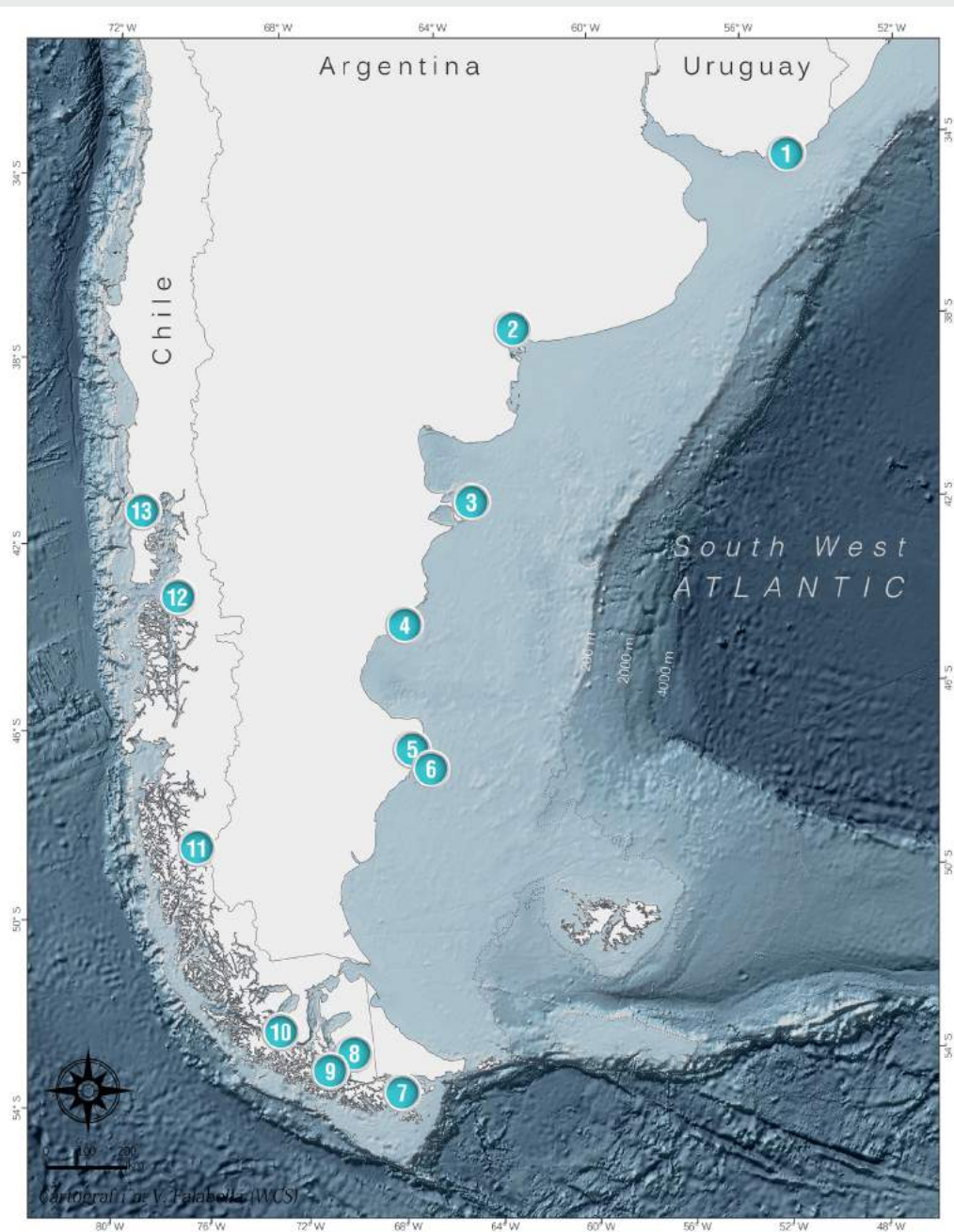
During the course, participants shared experiences, expanded their network of contacts, and reinforced ties for synergistic and collaborative work between organizations. In this way, the participating institutions have been strengthened and a learning community on the practice of marine conservation at the regional level was promoted.

“It was very useful that all the participants worked on marine issues and marine protected areas in particular, because we were able to draw on each other’s experience. (...) We are building a common vision of how to manage marine environments in the Southern Cone”.

— Martín Sotelo (Argentina), Park Ranger of the Directorate of Natural Protected Areas, Agency for Sustainable Development of Buenos Aires Province (OPDS).

“We learned many tools to improve marine protected areas management; now we have to implement them at the sites where we work. Sharing experience with managers from different countries is tremendously positive”.

— Juan Francisco Pizarro (Chile), Ministerial Regional Secretariat for the Environment of the Region of Magallanes and Chilean Antarctica.



REFERENCES

1. Laguna Garzón Protected Area
2. Islote de la Gaviota Cangrejera Natural Reserve
3. Península Valdés Natural Protected Area
4. Patagonia Austral Inter-jurisdictional Coastal Marine Park
5. Ría Deseado Provincial Reserve
6. Isla Pingüino Inter-jurisdictional Marine Park
7. Cabo de Hornos Biosphere Reserve
8. Seno Almirantazgo Multiple-use Coastal Marine Protected Area
9. Alberto de Agostini National Park
10. Francisco Coloane Multiple-use Coastal Marine Protected Area
11. Bernardo O'Higgins National Park
12. Pitipalena – Añihué Multiple-use Coastal Marine Protected Area
13. Pullinque Marine Reserve

Marine Protected Areas in which the participants of the Pilot Course 2017 work

Map: Valeria Falabella (WCS)



ORGANIZATION, COORDINATION AND FUNDING

Collaboration among public and private organizations made possible the 2017 Pilot Course

The project's general organization was led by Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina (FVSA), the Wildlife Conservation Society's (WCS's) Chile Program, and the World Wildlife Fund's (WWF's) Chile Program.

The Pilot Course was coordinated and convened by the Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea and Areas of Influence. The Training Coordination Office of Argentina's National Parks Administration (APN) housed the virtual stages through its "remote classroom" on the Internet. The Ministry of the Environment of Chile and the Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and Environment of Uruguay formally supported the initiative.

Funding of the Pilot Course was achieved with support contributed by several projects managed by the organizations of the Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea. Main donors were Oceans 5, the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) of the Netherlands, Aluar Aluminio Argentino SAIC, and the Waitt Foundation.

Full tuition, travel, accommodation and meals were provided for all students.

Total cost of the course was US \$85,000, approximately US \$5,000 per participant.

Acknowledgements

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Formal recognition

The Pilot Course 2017 was declared "Of Interest of the Honorable Chamber of Senators of Argentina" in November of 2017 (Expediente S- 3884/17).

COMMITMENTS AND CHALLENGES

The organizers of the Pilot Course 2017 are committed to continuous training

The organizations that promoted the demonstration course have secured a part of the necessary resources to carry out new training activities in 2018. They also maintain their interest in supporting governments, both in the technical aspects as well as in helping to identify new resources, to continue with the capacity development process oriented toward the effective management of MPAs. The success of this effort requires the participation and support of other institutions, especially those whose staff will benefit from the training.

Greater leadership of Government Agencies is needed in order to sustain and increase the scope of training efforts for the conservation of the sea

The 2017 Pilot Course demonstrated that collaboration between state institutions, civil society organizations, and donor entities from different countries is feasible and allows for the organization of effective training activities meeting common regional needs.

The challenge ahead will be to sustain a continuous training mechanism, supporting the capacity-building of a significant proportion of those personnel in charge of the MPA systems of the Southern Cone. The demonstration experience offers important “lessons learned”¹ that can be applied to the standardization of processes and the coordination of similar activities in the future.

In order to continue this effort and increase the number of trained personnel, it is necessary for Government Agencies to gradually take on the leadership of the initiative and contribute institutional, human, and financial resources on an ongoing basis.

It is also advisable that the beneficial effects of better trained managers of the marine protected areas could be measured and evaluated through sound monitoring of key indicators, allowing for adaptive management and improving future capacity-development activities.

¹ For additional information, please request a copy of the Extensive Report on the Lessons learned from the 2017 Pilot Course.



María B. Cabrera (Munic. Pto. Madryn)



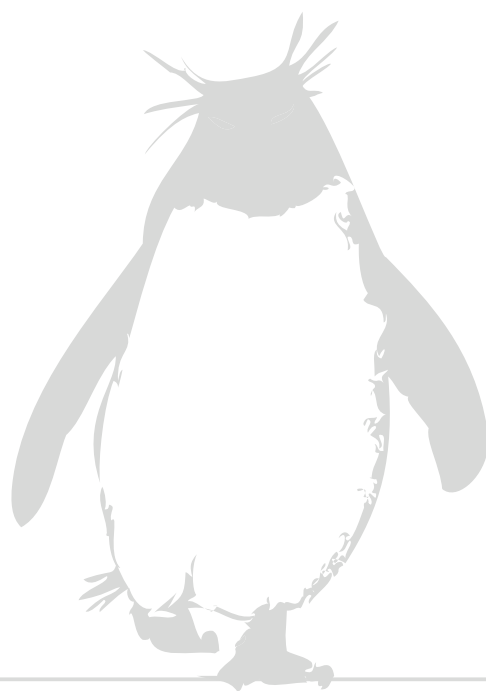
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Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea and Areas of Influence

