



November 2007 to October 2008 Data

During this period, 23 volunteers covered the length of the coasts from Reta to the South and Miramar to the North, recording seaturtles, seabirds and marine mammal's carcasses. It took one hundred and twenty three hours for ECOFAM volunteers to survey the beaches recording 282 carcasses that included 3 sea turtle, 17 seabird and 6 marine mammal species.

Even though every record has equal importance when it comes to species conservation, some of them are peculiar due to their rareness, size or threatening level of the specie. At the South Zone of ECOFAM, which covers the coast between Balneario San Cayetano and Quequén Grande River, certain outstanding records were analysed as they may expand the number of species compared to the first year, or because they respond to some of the characteristics mentioned before.

Rubén La Canale, from Orense, reported a Southern Elephant Seal which appeared at the central beach during holiday season. Quiroga family, volunteers of Balneario San Cayetano found a Loggerhead Sea turtle in May 2008 which, until now, turned to be the only one recorded for ECOFAM. Marisa Díaz and her husband Miguel Albanese recorded a leatherback turtle's carcass in September of the same year at the seaside of the south of Reta, place they usually survey.

Also during September 08 and at other beaches near this place, Mónica Maseda and her husband Marcelino García found a dead whale calf of Southern Right Whale around Médano Blanco. Soon after, in October, they also

IDENTIFIED CARCASSES	NOV 07- OCT 08	%
Green turtle	3	50.00
Leatherback turtle	2	33.33
Loggerhead turtle	1	16.67
Total seaturtles	6	100
Magellanic Penguin	213	84.86
Great Grebe	14	5.58
Great Shearwater	4	1.59
Black Browed Albatross	3	1.20
Albatrosses (<i>Thalassarche sp.</i>)	3	1.20
Stern (<i>Sterna sp.</i>)	3	1.20
White-chinned Petrel	2	0.80
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	1	0.40
Neotropic Cormorant	1	0.40
Olrog's Gull	1	0.40
Blackish Oystercatcher	1	0.40
Manx Shearwater	1	0.40
Sooty Shearwater	1	0.40
Petrel (<i>Pterodroma sp.</i>)	1	0.40
Rockhopper Penguin	1	0.40
Skua (<i>Catharacta sp.</i>)	1	0.40
Total seabirds	251	100
South American Fur Seal	11	44.00
South American Sea Lion	9	36.00
Southern Right Whale	1	4.00
Sperm Whale	1	4.00
Southern Elephant Seal	1	4.00
False Killer Whale	1	4.00
La Plata River Dolphin	1	4.00
Total marine mammals	25	100



found an enormous 12-metre-long Sperm Whale that appeared dead near the stream mouth.

In cooperation....CLEAN BEACHES

Clean Beaches Program Claromecó-Reta-Orense arises from the concern of different groups for keeping Tres Arroyos´ beaches clean. It is created from the understanding between CELTA (Cooperativa Eléctrica Limitada of Tres Arroyos), the Local State of Tres Arroyos through their departments of Environment and Tourism, resorts delegations and a group of businessmen from the district.

Clean Beaches Program seeks to collaborate in an organized way with the spreading of the coastal pollution dilemma by means of concrete and educative actions aiming to create awareness and form habits around tourists and local inhabitants of the coastal places.

During the summer of 2007-08, three continuous cleaning days at the beaches of Claromecó, Reta and Orense were carried out with a considerable number of participants. A large number

of waste materials –principally plastic– were found along a 10 km. coast as well as wheels, glass, clothes, fish nets, etc.

These activities were completed throughout the season giving out material that can ensure the diffusion and promotion of the program such as T-shirts, caps, stickers and rubbish bags for cars. ECOFAM and its participants have been invited to these events and, apart from collaborating in the diffusion of this kind of events; they also participate actively as volunteers during the cleaning process.

For more information visit <http://www.playaslimpias.com.ar>

Courses for volunteers

By the end of august the first course for volunteers was organized at the Library called ´A World of Books´ from Reta, being this the southern point of the project. A large number of people attended the course including many kids that paid as much attention as the adults to the presence of ECOFAM. The course was divided into two sections: the first one took place at the beach, making the most of the last hours of the afternoon. The objective was to have a little practice with the equipment and charts - necessary for the field work- by showing the way to identify and measure the species found, as well as the necessary safe way to make the job. Back in the classroom, we gave specific information about the project itself and the birds, mammals and turtles that could be found along these beaches. After that, some sets of ECOFAM equipment were given to the four volunteer teams that organized themselves to survey the coasts.





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We would like to emphasize the help offered by Rodrigo Miranda from his website www.el-reta.com.ar and the quick and organized way in which this group of volunteers began the survey. Congratulations Reta!

Education for Conservation

Several activities have been carried out during the last months aiming to inform to different groups of the community about the conservation of marine sources. A few examples are:

Between August 19 and 26th, 2008, the VI Science and Technology National Week took place along the whole country, promoted by Science, Technology and Productive Innovation National Ministry, and ECOFAM was present during the conferences that took place in Necochea and Tandil. The objective of these activities was the diffusion and approaching of the scientific work to the whole community in general and the school one in particular with the purpose of promoting the relationship among investigation, education and community. ECOFAM team cooperated actively with different proposals such as conferences, workshops, diffusion of scientific works and others suitable for the aim pursuit.

Also, during September 8 and 9th, 2008, the XV Science and Technology District Fair took place at Necochea. ECOFAM participated in this conference – known to be one of the most important at a regional level- as well as more than 180 students aged between 9 and 17 years.

During November 1st. and 2nd, 2008, the Mastozoology Chair of Technical in Support, Management and

Conservation of Biodiversity dependant of the Departament of Biological Science of the CAECE University, went on their annual study journey to Necochea. One of the activities developed by the students was to internalize with ECOFAM project. They were trained on the information to collect when finding a carcass of a beached animal, and they were supplied with all the material needed to cover the whole length of the coast. The transect starting point was located at Costa Bonita, 5km. far from Necochea. The students were impressed, not only by the quantity of carcasses found in such a short tour and the quality of the data collected, but also by the fact of having participated in a conservation project that focuses on the active participation of the local inhabitants who, along with a scientific group, are capable of carrying it out in a successful way. Those days



were the starting point for future activities shared between the universities and ECOFAM.

Observer´s profile

Rafael Sánchez Oliva is the youngest member of our project. Walking or in his baby stroller, he is always present when



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the coast is to be surveyed. With his 2 years, his five-year-old brother Alexis and his aunt Agustina aged 8, he helps his mother and grandmother –Melisa Sánchez Oliva and Patricia Impaglione, volunteers for ECOFAM- with the fieldwork. They are responsible for covering by feet the coastal stretch between Parador Rako´s and the stream mouth of El Gaucho from Balneario Reta, district of Tres Arroyos.

“Every trip is a good occasion to go for a walk with children, survey new information and even enjoy a good lunch or breakfast at the beach” said Melisa and Patricia, volunteers that have found

the way to collaborate with the project and, at the same time, join the young members of the family. Rafael, Alexis and Agustina will certainly keep on watching and learning more of their natural environment while they play with sand and water at the shore of the ocean...

ECOFAM is part of *Seabirds Project Argentina: Conservation through community involvement* supported by Conservation Leadership Programme.

ECOFAM activities as well as other related information can be read visiting: www.ecofamargentina.org



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