

Manejo sustentable de humedales y su biodiversidad, particularmente del recurso pesquero, en los Sitios Ramsar Jaaukanigás y Humedales Chaco

- Project Location

Jaaukanigás Ramsar Site

Appointed on 10th October 2001, with 492,000 hectares belonging to the Province of Santa Fe, covers an area of Middle Paraná river floodplain. Includes an extensive complex of rivers, lagoons, wetlands, seasonally flooded grasslands, forests and coastal islands. It provides an ideal habitat for many species, some vulnerable or endangered. There is a large population of ducks and migratory birds. There is a rich aquatic life with around 300 species of fish that are the key to the regional economy because 50% of the population lives in the area of the fishery. Also, sport fishing and ecotourism activities are important for the site. The area has a rich cultural tradition, values and historical sites of archaeological significance. This site is bordering the Ramsar Wetlands Site Chaco, both together forming a corridor of 1 million hectares of about 500 km in length.



Ramsar Site Humedales Chaco

Designated on February 2nd, 2004, with 508,000 hectares belonging to the province of Chaco, covers the confluence of the Parana and Paraguay river with its entire range of local tributaries and its floodplain. Making up a rich river system that gives it unique landscape features, both in its composition (high biodiversity) and their dynamics within the system. It is part of one of three highest biodiversity biomes of Argentine territory. As most of the jungles in the gallery hosts Chaco Humid Amazonian species lineage that coexist with type items Chaco. Riverine forests and depressed areas with high coverage of free floating vegetation are typical of this area. Among them, there exist more than 400 wildlife species. There are endangered species such as deer from the swamps and Jabirú; vulnerable, such as Lobito river, and the large toucan, the alligators; Rare species as the lepidosiren or "Lola", pulmonate fish of restricted distribution, density and very low reproductive rate. Some species of the Ornitofauna species of aquatic environments are presented with high

Manejo sustentable de humedales y su biodiversidad, particularmente del recurso pesquero, en los Sitios Ramsar Jaaukanigás y Humedales Chaco

population density, and are expected to exceed 20,000 specimen per species. The main channel of the system, is a migration route and important area for breeding and feeding of native migratory fish of large rivers, such the “Dorado” and the “Surubí”. The site is of great historical and cultural significance.

Both Ramsar sites are within Paraguay and Paraná rivers floodplains, forming a corridor of wetlands where converges an exceptional diversity of ecological characteristics of several bio-geographical regions (Gran Chaco, Pantanal, Atlantic Forest, Humid Pampa, among others). This explains the existence of species, functions and unique attributes and a high biodiversity only “comparable to the Pantanal of Mato Grosso” (Neff 2003). It is a mosaic of islands, mostly floodplain, which carry a large number of inland wetland environments that support an exceptional diversity: over 220 species of fish in the Middle Parana are a clear indicator.



This picture shows the area covered by the Corridor River Wetland.

Many of them are species with a sharp setback, as for example the “pacú” (*Colossoma mitrei*), “surubí” (*Pseudoplatystoma corunscan* and *P. fasciatum*) and the “Dorado” (*Salminus maxillosus*). Highlighted by its value is also the area of the swamp deer (*Blastocerus dichotomus*), the largest cervids in South America, species threatened with extinction because of poaching and the conversion of wetlands. Although very pressured by poaching there is another flagship species that is still in the river islands of the Parana river, it is the “carpincho” (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*) the world's largest rodent. There are two species of alligators (*Caiman latirostris* and *C. yacare*) and a giant snake, or “curiyú” or “southern anaconda” (*Eunectes notaeus*) of more than 4m in length, all considered vulnerable.

- **Project Description**

Manejo sustentable de humedales y su biodiversidad, particularmente del recurso pesquero, en los Sitios Ramsar Jaaukanigás y Humedales Chaco



This project seeks to continue contributing to enhancing the ecological, social and economic value of the Paraguay-Parana Wetlands system, mainly in the Ramsar Wetland Sites Chaco and Jaaukanigás.

It is being articulated with organizations and government agencies seeking to establish an environmentally, socially and economically coherent and coordinated way contributing to the sustainable use of resources.

This proposal includes working with the social and political stakeholders in order to integrate and give continuity to existing programs and projects.

Fishwork "Asociación de Pescadores del Chaco" (ASOPECHA) Ramsar Site "Humedales Chaco"

- **General Purpose**

Promote conservation and wise use of wetlands, primarily fishery resources of the area, strengthening the fishing communities and local governments, in coordination with the authorities, improving the quality of life and consolidating the aims already achieved.

- **Specific Targets**

Design and launch the implementation of management plans for the fishery in Jaaukanigás and Humedales Chaco Ramsar sites and strengthening participatory processes towards sustainable management in accordance with the guidelines of the Ramsar Convention.

Develop institutional, organizational and techniques capacities for adding value to fishery resources on the part of coastal communities, aimed at self-management and sustainability of productive trade fair activities and training.



"Manjares del Litoral" Group – Santa Fe

Manejo sustentable de humedales y su biodiversidad, particularmente del recurso pesquero, en los Sitios Ramsar Jaaukanigás y Humedales Chaco

Achieve a management model of participatory management to be replicated on scale at regional level, where riverside communities are effective stakeholders in building sustainable development options in the two Ramsar sites, in dialogue and coordination with the State and all sectors involved.

Raising awareness of society in general, on wetlands and their resources, conservation, added value, social and cultural importance of Ramsar Sites, among others.



Group of Fishermen, Florencia



Grupo de Fishermen, Tacuarandí



Group of Fishermen, Villa Ocampo, Isleta Norte

- **Expected Results**



Letter of Intention for the Sustainable Management of Fisheries Resources in the Ramsar Site Jaaukanigás

Train technicians and officials of Government at local, provincial and national levels, and members of associations of fishermen in ecosystem management of fisheries in floodplain rivers.

Manejo sustentable de humedales y su biodiversidad, particularmente del recurso pesquero, en los Sitios Ramsar Jaaukanigás y Humedales Chaco

Technical training to fishermen who take the catch data Commercial fish and other environmental variables of importance on Jaaukanigás and Chaco Ramsar Sites.



Participatory Workshop for the Building Management Plan for Fisheries Resources in Jaaukanigás, Municipality of Villa Ocampo, May 24th, 2008

Studies of ecological character and biodiversity in Ramsar sites and adequate data base for the development of participatory management plans.



REDEPESCA: Red de Asociaciones y Grupos de Pescadores del Litoral Fluvial de Argentina (desde Formosa a Rosario)

Identify training needs of staff and leaders of associations and community groups to monitor the state of conservation and use of wetlands and fisheries resources in the area.

Manejo sustentable de humedales y su biodiversidad, particularmente del recurso pesquero, en los Sitios Ramsar Jaaukanigás y Humedales Chaco

Preparation of a Management Plan for Fisheries, in Jaaukanigás and Chaco Ramsar Sites. starting with a commitment to implement participatory support of the State as enforcement authority.



Complete equipment for the Sustainable Production Center.

Signature of the Agreement with Municipality of Reconquista and PROTEGER to construct and provide equipment for a Center for Productive Value Added to Fish Resources.

Identify and train workers (food technicians, advanced students, among others) to support production groups.

Train riverside families, especially women, in sustainable production and fair trade of fishery products with added value.

Increase the production of preserved fish and fish products leather fish, according to market demands.

Achieve a Business Plan for products with added value of fisheries.

Systematize the experience as a model or case study as a report, useful for possible replication.

Inclusion of topics: wetlands, Ramsar, rational use and so on in school curricula.

A strong information campaign on wetlands conservation and management of these systems and their resources, in the mass media and informally.

- **Main Activities**

→ Training courses for technicians and government officials, members of associations and groups of fishermen, on ecosystem management of fisheries in the rivers of plain.

Manejo sustentable de humedales y su biodiversidad, particularmente del recurso pesquero, en los Sitios Ramsar Jaaukanigás y Humedales Chaco

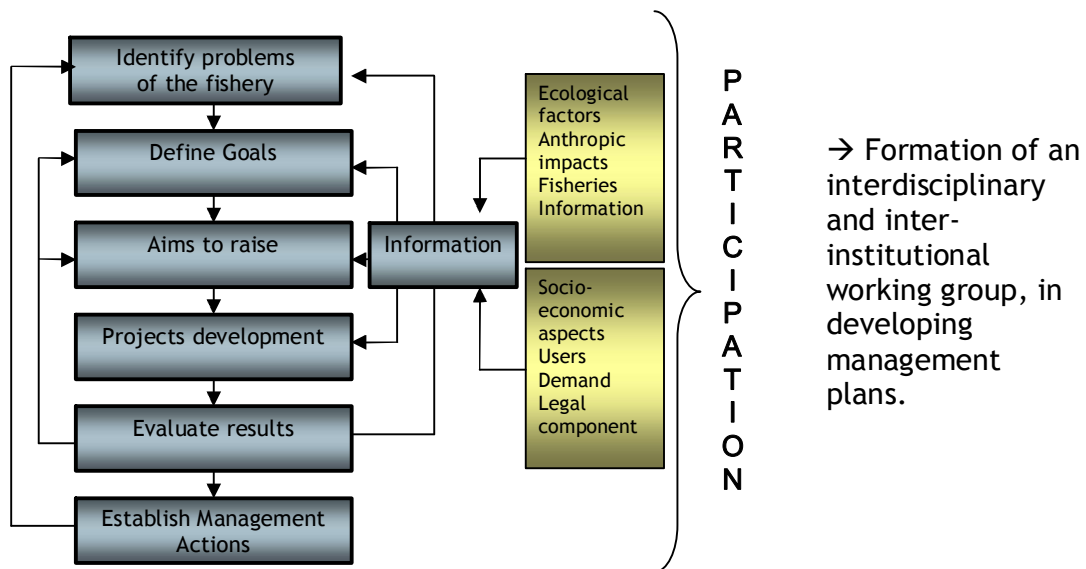


→ Artisanal fishermen and technicians take the data on catches of fish and other environmental variables of importance.



Community Monitoring commercial fishery. Members of Redepesca

Manejo sustentable de humedales y su biodiversidad, particularmente del recurso pesquero, en los Sitios Ramsar Jaaukanigás y Humedales Chaco



→ Studies on biodiversity and ecological characteristics in Ramsar Sites for the development of participatory management plans.

→ Technical preparation of Fisheries Management Plans "with the stakeholders."

→ Education and training for leaders and staff associations and groups for monitoring coastal community of the state of conservation and use of wetlands and fisheries resources.



Asopecha, Puerto Antequera, Chaco



Roberto Flores



Asociación Puerto Italia, Corrientes



Dionisio González

Manejo sustentable de humedales y su biodiversidad, particularmente del recurso pesquero, en los Sitios Ramsar Jaaukanigás y Humedales Chaco

→ Training to riverside families in sustainable production and fair trade of fishery products with added value.



"Sabores de Jaaukanigas"
Production Group - Pto Reconquista.



Training Group
Puerto Antequera, Chaco.



*Indigenous weenhayek
and fisherwomen of the
Paraná in a cultural
exchange and training*



→ Construction
and equipment of
Centers of
Production and
Trade Fair

Production Center
Puerto Reconquista -under
construction

Currently
24 families
are being
benefited.



" Work,
improvement of
quality of life,
preservation of
culture and
lifestyle"

Manejo sustentable de humedales y su biodiversidad, particularmente del recurso pesquero, en los Sitios Ramsar Jaaukanigás y Humedales Chaco

→ Market Study. Structural financing plan



Trainer in the leather tanning fish without flakes



Amor-Peixe. Trainers in the leather tanning fish flanes

→ Training in tanning, dyeing and processing of products with fish leather.



→ Communication activities, education and public awareness.



Exchange experiences and discuss strategies towards a sustainable program.

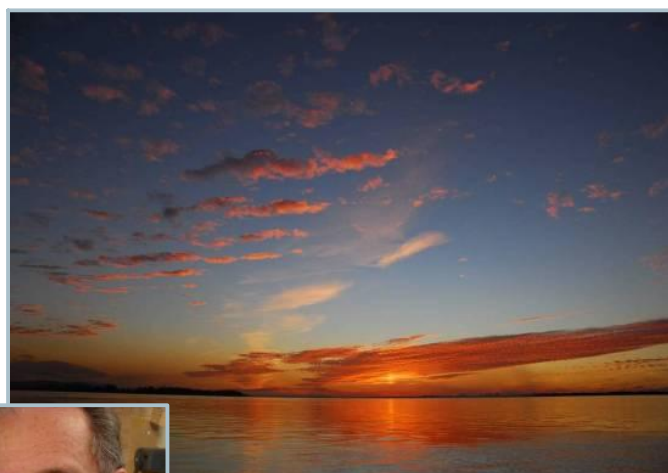
Agree on courses of action with local stakeholders, NGOs and governments at all levels.



Manejo sustentable de humedales y su biodiversidad, particularmente del recurso pesquero, en los Sitios Ramsar Jaaukanigás y Humedales Chaco



→ Working with the Department of Education for the inclusion of topics: wetlands, Ramsar, rational use and so on. in school curricula.



→ Teamwork: characterization guidance and guidelines for the management of priority areas for conservation.



Juan José Neiff. Educational Video on the Importance of wetlands and conservations systems.

- **Some project achievements**

During this period there have been conducted 5 workshops called "Toward the Construction of a Management Plan for Fisheries Resources in the Ramsar Site Jaaukanigás" bringing together the various stakeholders (government, representatives of associations, fishermen, etc.) and generating a commitment to work jointly in the achievement of objectives.

As part of these workshops there has been formed a working group that binds municipal governments, councilors, government agencies, associations and representatives of the scientific sector. This group is kept informed through a yahoo group creating a space to spread and share information and developments.

Manejo sustentable de humedales y su biodiversidad, particularmente del recurso pesquero, en los Sitios Ramsar Jaaukanigás y Humedales Chaco

During the month of September 2008 was held the "Evaluation Sub-Regional Workshop of the Fish River Plate: Paraguay and Argentina" which brought together 30 specialists from Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia and Argentina, who are considered gold standards in the thematic level the basin.

During this month also took place in Puerto Antequera, Chaco, a "Training Workshop on Approaches and Tools for River Fisheries Management". The workshop aimed to generate a level of discussion and training on the management of fisheries as a contribution to the construction of a participatory conservation and sustainable use of wetland resources.

4000 copies of the Bulletin "Protecting Our Wetlands" have been published, it was distributed to all schools in Santa Fe, a digital version of which can be found in CEPA Ramsar Site.

A video documentary and TV format of 25 minutes duration + a compact 3 to 5 minutes + 1 minute for a spot on "sustainable production, value added," including the 3 experiences that PROTEGER develops in Santa Fe, and Reconquista and Resistencia.

PROTEGER maintains constant contact with leading journalists and media of the Argentine coast river. Periodically, local, national and regional publishing information disseminated by PROTEGER.

It is estimated that some 50 media (digital and paper) permanently spread the news produced and distributed by the team of Press / PROTEGER. On average, members of PROTEGER receive between 20 and 40 calls per month to meet with them in radios, newspapers, magazines or television. For example, visit:

With 240,000 hits a month to its website, PROTEGER is the second socio-environmental organization most visited in Argentina, after Greenpeace. Almost 80% of the accesses to PROTEGER come from search engines such as google.

With keywords like "fishing crisis", "value added in fishing", "Ramsar site jaaukanigas" and more, PROTEGER is positioned among the top results.

Discussions and several meetings have been held several meetings with educational authorities and legislators to assess as quickly and effectively to incorporate inclusion of topics: wetlands, Ramsar, rational use and so on, in school curricula.

40 fishermen, women and youth from families of traditional fishermen from Puerto Antequera and Barranqueras-Province of Chaco, and also from Puerto Italia, Corrientes were trained in the development of preserved fish production.

The Center of Production located at the Port of Reconquista is at 60% of its construction, it is expected to be enabled by national and international standards in terms of food (bromatology) around February 2009; according all the requirements.

Manejo sustentable de humedales y su biodiversidad, particularmente del recurso pesquero, en los Sitios Ramsar Jaaukanigás y Humedales Chaco

A Business Plan for the feasibility study of commercial canned smoked fish and marinade is being developed. This study will be completed by February 2009 and consists, among other things, of a detailed economic and financial analysis of the commercial venture.

During the World Conservation Congress, it was approved the motion “Conservation and sustainable use of fish in the La Plata Basin” submitted by Fundación PROTEGER. The recommendation calls the State to support programs of cooperative conservation, management, participatory management and sustainable use of fisheries, with the value of fishery resources through fair trade based on the community as well as the access to information and participation in decision-making on the part of local communities, including support for demonstrative and replicable experiences of sustainable management of fishery resources.

Some Conclusions:

We have performed and continues to make a sustained exchange of experiences and lessons learned that enabled rescue and deploy (in some cases) good practices aimed at protecting labor and food safety. Significantly improved the level of dialogue in local communities with governments, thanks to sustained information and capacity building alongside the academic and scientific, and the promotion of community participation in decision-making bodies.

Now we successfully hope to implement productive activities and market-wide demonstration.

FUNDACION
PROTEGER

