

Project Update: August 20176

Educational talks for primary students, youth and local community leaders, based on “needs and actions for the Sanctuary”:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audiovisual presentations (using OCC’s videos and the educational version of the software <i>Prezi</i>), both live and using video-conference equipment to increase outreach and have a presence in schools (and maximise students directly and indirectly involved). 	<p>Presentation of the Campaign for the Reduction of Marine Debris.</p> <p>Total: six talks with 150 students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools from Punta del Este y Maldonado with 4th, 5th, 6th level. Including a special school which include children with different capacities (retrograde grow, autism).
Campaigns to reduce marine debris	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage, social media and communications on the importance of using a personal (non-disposable) bag and reducing the production of waste (promoting the 3Rs: reuse, reduce, and recycle). 	Design the first signs to promote use the personal bag.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A selection of reusable bags will be made as a gift to key local actors (and produced for sale, to maintain the OCC campaign). We will involve sponsors, supermarkets and local stores as partners, and will advocate with policy-makers on legislation reducing and banning the use of plastic bags in Uruguay. 	Design of the recycled bags for being replaced the plastic bags in supermarkets associated to the responsible program. In process to print.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A campaign on reducing solid and liquid marine waste in the three seaports (Piriápolis, Punta del Este and La Paloma) and key coastal enterprises (marine clubs, restaurants and bars), promoting marine good practices among the tourist operators, private ship captains and tourism business, with the support and participation of local authorities. 	<p>Start the list of recommendations to promote the good practices in seaports (proposed to the marine authorities to evaluate).</p> <p>Include some of these practices in the new brochure for the whale watching trips, and the special plastic one-sided brochure for the guides.</p>
Reinforcing and promoting responsible tourism and sustainable WW (high-quality)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop for ship captains and tourism business, with the 	A successful workshop was included whale watching captains, police authorities, local

<p>support and participation of national and local authorities. The protocol of marine good practice delivered in 2015 will be revised (it is expected that 75% of the 50 practices are being applied) for the awarding of “Certification of Responsible Whale watching 2016-2017” supported by the Ministry of Tourism, National Environmental Direction (Ministry of Environment) and the OCC.</p>	<p>municipality and marine, where discuss the Protocol of good marine practices on board.</p> <p>75% of the 50 practices were implemented.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific materials will be provided to business/enterprises who obtained the certification, such as: signage of good marine practices, a copy of the protocol, a small guide chart for identification of four main coastal cetaceans. 	<p>Delivered specific material, a special guide for the whale watching guide, including the principal cetacean species, good practices and others.</p> <p>One new brochure was printed with the same information for touristic operators.</p> <p>And the folder for the sanctuary materials for the next meetings.</p>
<p>Community participatory meetings and actions to advance with management plan</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type and duration (formal, informal) will differ, depending on each community, local leaders, civil society groups, national and local authorities, to draft community-based plans for the sanctuary. 	<p>Start the first’s contacts with different associations of fishermen chiefs (SUDEPA) and others in relation with the marine issues.</p> <p>The plan was supported by regional scientific panel to contribute in the design and subject-matter (Foro Patagonico).</p> <p>We’ve settle the OCC scientific panel of specialists to contribute to the plan, including biologists, veterinarians, and other disciplines.</p>
<p>Social media will make use of Facebook and the official OCC webpage.</p>	<p>At least four uploads by week with the advances in all the activities planned and their results.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/OCC.Uruguay/?ref=bookmarks</p> <p>Including the participation as assessor and co-production in a great documentary about whales in Uruguay and Argentina, called The Enchant of the Whales. This will be presented in December for international cinema fairs and TV programmes.</p>

<p>Public launch of the whale-watching season will include artistic events (dance, photographic exposition and local music), talks, and educational trips to Gorriti Island - where OCC will be establishing an interpretative trail on marine-coastal conservation, with national and local authorities.</p>	<p>A successful launch in four places were took (Montevideo, Piriapolis, Punta del Este y La Paloma). The trip in the island where been with local and national authorities to implement the historic and natural trail.</p> <p>Participation in the regional launching of the season in south Brazil (seaside of Torres) invited by the local authorities to reinforce the Route of the Whale, together authorities participating from Punta del Este.</p>
<p>Scientific research will involve working with the national University of Uruguay, and includes a new genetic research based on whale blows; also the continuation by OCC of a photo-ID catalog of whales and dolphins.</p>	<p>The firsts submarine acoustic sounds of the right whales in Uruguay (La Paloma) where recording by hydrophone (more than 30 minutes) with a collaboration of a specialist coming from University of Brazil. In process to upload on the social media.</p> <p>The flight coastal survey was approved by the Army to be in September, for the whale's photo-ID.</p>

2016-06-07 11:37 GMT-03:00 Rodrigo García <rodrigo@occ.org.uy>:

Towards community-based marine protected areas, for Uruguay's coastal and ocean waters: "Guardians of the Whale and Dolphin Sanctuary"

<p>Educational talks for primary students, youth and local community leaders, based on "needs and actions for the Sanctuary":</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audiovisual presentations (using OCC's videos and the educational version of the software <i>Prezi</i>), both live and using video-conference equipment to increase outreach and have a presence in schools (and maximise students directly and indirectly involved). 	<p>Presentation of the Campaign for the Reduction of Marine Debris.</p> <p>Duration: at least 45 minutes each/talk. Total: six talks with 170 students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · School N° 27 from Maldonado. One talk with 6th level (60 schoolchildren). With the same teacher Virginia Bassignana, who were in the Parliament in 2003. · Secondary College in La Paloma. Three talks (total 85 students) from 1st level, preparing for the beach clean-up.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary College in Piriápolis. One talk (total 75 students, teachers and local organizations), before the environmental day. Catholic University in Montevideo. Tourism master, level 3 (25 students).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training course: Cetacean and Marine Conservation. 	Montevideo and Punta del Este. 8 hours in total of course. 15 participants.
Campaigns to reduce marine debris	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beach clean-ups with local communities, engaging youth and secondary level students – accompanied by talks with a focus on the impacts caused by the plastic debris on all the marine life (including the zooplankton). 	LA PALOMA 06 June (with the first level classes of the Secondary public College, 80 students and 4 teachers) collecting 15 bags full of coastal marine debris on the beach, at least 300 lbs in weight.



School N° 27 from Maldonado. One talk with 6th level (60 schoolchildren). With the same teacher Virginia Bassignana, who were in the Parliament in 2003.



Secondary College in Piriápolis. One talk (total 75 students, teachers and local organizations), before the environmental day.



Beach Clean Up In La Paloma