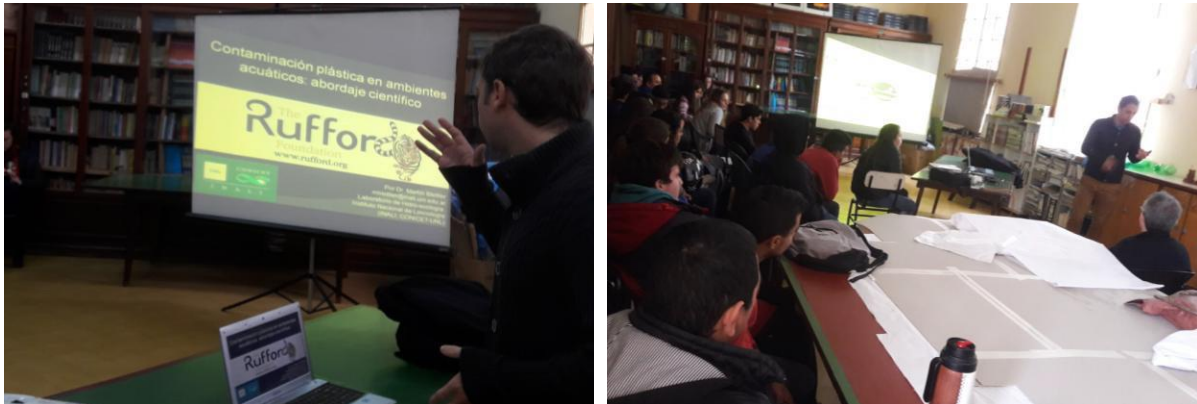


## Project Update: August 2017

### Last activities:

1) New results were disseminated through public conferences addressed to a general and specialised audience. For instance: the conference "Contaminación plástica en ambientes acuáticos: abordaje científico" (English: "Plastic pollution in aquatic environments: scientific approach") was presented by Dr M Blettler to students and professors of the "Escuela Normal Rural Juan Bautista Alberdi" (Facultad de Humanidades, Artes y Ciencias Sociales; Universidad Autónoma de Entre Ríos) (English: Juan Bautista Alberdi High School; Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences; Autonomous University of Entre Ríos, Argentina) in July 2017.



Picture 1. Dr. Blettler's lecture at the Juan Bautista Alberdi High School (Oro Verde, Argentina). The Rufford Foundation logo was showed several times during this conference.

2) We also performed a new sampling campaign. Location: Thompson's beach (Paraná city, Argentina). This is a public and extremely polluted beach situated on the left bank of the Paraná River (Figures 2 and 3). All samples were collected and processed according to standard protocols and they are been analysed. This time, the sampling was performed with help from volunteers (as it was proposed in the original project). Volunteers were recruited from local and public rowing/sailing clubs (Figure 4). This task was relatively simple due to the great interest of the public. Volunteers do not only provided scientific data and assistance during the field activities, but also represented an educational value, raise public awareness on environmental issues, increasing the social capital in participating groups.

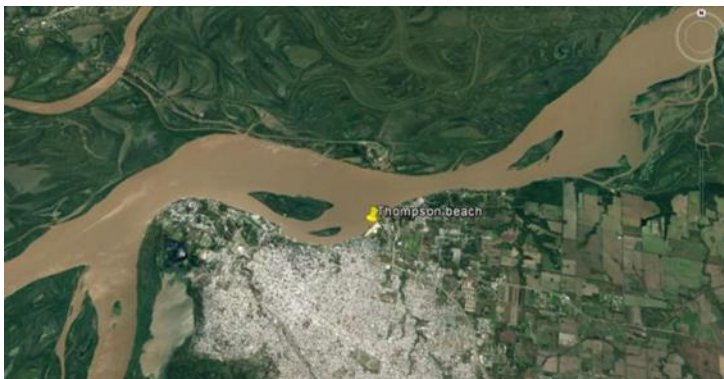


Figure 2. Location of the Thompson beach (sampling area; 31°42'55.33''S; 60°30'40.40''W) in relation to the Paraná city, Argentina.



Figure 3. Pictures from the Thompson's beach showing the extreme pollution recorded during the sampling campaign. Note that the pollution is mainly given by macro-plastic debris.







Figure 4. Group of volunteers coordinated by Dr. Blettler. The Rufford Foundation logo was showed in-situ during the sampling campaign.

3) On the other hand, we are in close contact with the local NGO “La Tribu del Salto” (as it was proposed in the original project). This NGO, led by Ing. Juan Manuel Pauletti <http://elsaltoparana.blogspot.com.ar/>, coordinates activities with local activist, government agencies and general public in order to protect and mitigate impacts on urban streams and creeks (all these urban stream discharge on the Paraná River). As we already have reliable scientific information about plastic pollution, we are discussing with this NGO mitigation measurements and future protection actions.