

## Project Update: January 2018

New results were disseminated through public conferences addressed to general public. Title of the conference: "El problema de la contaminación por desechos plásticos en el río Paraná: un elefante en la sala" (English: "The plastic pollution problem in the Paraná River: an elephant in the room") by Dr. M. Blettler. This conference was requested by the "Subsecretaria de Ambiente Sustentable" (Paraná city government). Place of the conference: "Casa de la Costa; Puerto Nuevo de Paraná", Paraná City; Entre Ríos Province, Argentina. December 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 (Figure 1).

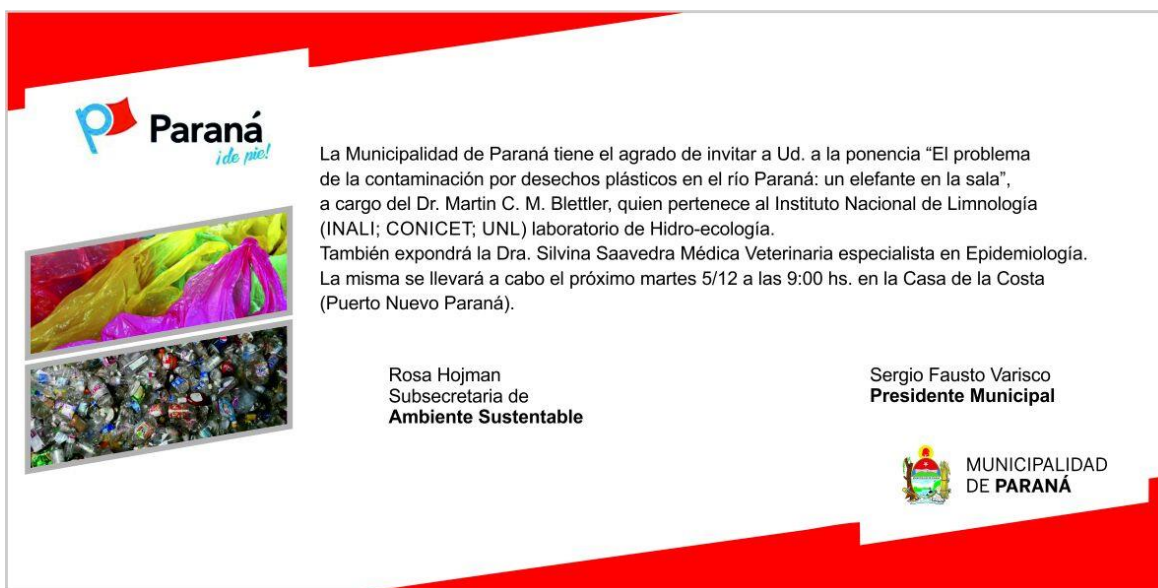


Figure 1. Flyer for the public conference.

Formal collaboration with the NGO "Taller de Ecología" (Rosario city, Santa Fe province, Argentina; Figure 2). This collaboration is based in sharing information, i.e. this NGO organised cleaning campaigns in beaches of the Paraná River, involving dozens of volunteers and a big effort. We participated of these campaigns



advising people about this task. Then, we classified and quantified all collected plastic debris. This action allowed us to increase our database about plastic pollution in beach sediments, obtaining very useful information (without economic cost).

Figure 2. First meeting with agents of the NGO "Taller de Ecología". Place of the picture: Ciudad Universitaria (Universidad Nacional Del Litoral, Santa Fe).

Remarkably, in the last months we obtained lot of attention from the media (local and national media). This boom in interviews was given after the publication:

Blettler, Martin C. M.; Ulla, Maria Alicia; Rabuffetti, Ana Pia and Garello, Nicolás. 2017. Plastic pollution in freshwater ecosystems: macro-, meso-, and microplastic debris in a floodplain lake. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, 189:581. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10661-017-6305-8>.

Interviews, news and social repercussions of our study:

**TV:**

i) 5R TV Rosario. Interview. Dorrego 627 1er Piso, Rosario, Santa Fe. Journalist: Salomé Crespo.

ii) TV EL LITORAL. TV show: "Arriba Santa Fe", Santa Fe, Argentina. Journalists: Priscila Enrique, Luis Amsler. [https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Nq5\\_6Ni8Dmc](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Nq5_6Ni8Dmc)

iii) TV 13 (Río Cuarto, Córdoba). Journalist: Mildred Nievas. TV show: Telediario Federal de Canal 13. [https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?v=approval&highlight=1995653810722610&notif\\_t=mention&notif\\_id=1514912048386339&ref=m\\_notif](https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?v=approval&highlight=1995653810722610&notif_t=mention&notif_id=1514912048386339&ref=m_notif)

iv) TV show: "Apto para Todo Público, ATP". 04.01.18. Santa Fe. <https://youtu.be/qO0v9UFREG4>

v) TV CABLEVISION S.A. TV show: "Somos Santa Fe" (Santa Fe). [https://www.facebook.com/CanalSomosSantaFe/?hc\\_ref=ARTE\\_oe7WvjTcFI66hqinI8jyX7ffrDJLsEwhwPMOL4bA2AXplqoHyGh5y79b-XEQ1w&pnref=story](https://www.facebook.com/CanalSomosSantaFe/?hc_ref=ARTE_oe7WvjTcFI66hqinI8jyX7ffrDJLsEwhwPMOL4bA2AXplqoHyGh5y79b-XEQ1w&pnref=story)

**Newspaper:**

i) Newspaper "Sin mordaza" (Santa Fe). <http://www.sinmordaza.com/noticia/460329-coordinan-acciones-para-la-gestion-y-tratamiento-de-los-residuos-solidos.html>

ii) Newspaper "UNO" (Santa Fe). <https://m.unosantafe.com.ar/medio-ambiente/contaminacion-casi-100-botellas-plasticas-kilometro-la-laguna-setubal-n1534215.html#fotogaleria-id-1853720>

ii) Newspaper "UNO" (Santa Fe). <https://www.unosantafe.com.ar/medio-ambiente/contaminacion-la-setubal-el-informe-la-laguna-es-la-punta-un-iceberg-n1534814.html>

iii) Newspaper "UNO" (Santa Fe). <https://www.unosantafe.com.ar/medio-ambiente/basurales-cielo-abierto-la-principal-amenaza-las-aguas-la-setubal-n1536799.html>

iv) Newspaper "El Litoral" (Santa Fe).  
[http://m.ellitoral.com/index.php/id\\_um/162200-alarmanete-contaminacion-en-la-laguna-setubal-100-botellas-plasticas-por-kilometro-area-metropolitana.html](http://m.ellitoral.com/index.php/id_um/162200-alarmanete-contaminacion-en-la-laguna-setubal-100-botellas-plasticas-por-kilometro-area-metropolitana.html)

v) Agencia CyTA. Instituto Leloir Foundation. Science and technology news.  
<http://www.agenciacyta.org.ar/2017/12/alertan-sobre-los-residuos-plasticos-en-la-laguna-setubal-de-santa-fe/>

**Radio:**

i) Radio show: "Aquí El Planeta". Radio Eco Medios AM 1220 (Buenos Aires, Argentina). Journalist: Maria Laura Del Rosso.

ii) LT9 Radio (Santa Fe). 2.1.2018. Journalist: Ignacio Donetti. Radio show: "A pura Radio".

iii) LT10 UNIVERSIDAD (Santa Fe). 2018-01-03.  
<https://www.lt10.com.ar/noticia/209311--preocupante-nivel-de-contaminacion-en-la-laguna-setubal>

iv) LT10 UNIVERSIDAD (Santa Fe). 2018-01-23. Radio show: "Primera Tarde". Journalist: Ileana Hotschewer.

v) Radio Nacional. 04.01.2018. Interview.

vi) FM SOL (Santa Fe). 3.1.2018. Interview. Radio show: "El imán". Journalist: Hugo Isaak.

This great repercussion and media exposition brought with political implications. Two politicians have contacted me to work together. One of them is the Councilor Franco Ponce de León (FPCyS-CC-ARI) and the other one is Mariano Gabriel Cejas (Secretario de Ambiente y Espacios Públicos). Currently, we are working with both in order to find a solution for the plastic pollution problem.

We strongly believe that this is a very positive point, since we feel that we are moving in the right direction (thanks to RF).

We are currently processing the samples obtained during the last sampling campaign (Location: Isla Puente; fluvial island located in front of Paraná city, Argentina) (see previous report). Laboratory activities involves: counting and measurements of plastic debris,

Peoples involved in this activity: project members and two extra collaborators (students from the Universidad Nacional del Litoral; UNL). A new international peer review publication is expected after finishing the activity.



