

Project Updates: June 2017

At the present we have performed two sampling trips in sandy sediments, the first of them in the Setúbal Lake (31°36'46" S; 60°40'0.1" W) and the second one in the Paraná River (31°42'0.9" S; 60°28'27" W). All samples were proceeding and data was analysed. Currently, as the Paraná River is notoriously raising the water level (flooding stage; see Figure 1). In this sense, we cannot perform new sampling campaigns because our sites (sandy beaches) are completely underwater. For this reason, we are focused on recruiting local team members (volunteers); this task is relatively simple due to the great interest of the public. At the moment, volunteers were recruited from The National University of the Littoral and from a public rowing club (Pescadores Club).

On the other hand, our results are being disseminated through public conferences addressed to a general or specialised audience. For instance: “Workshop on Environmental Education for Agrotechnical High Schools in the frame of the World Environment Day (WED)”. Organised by The General Education Council (CGE, Argentina) and The National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA, Argentina). Title: “The Problem of Plastic Pollution in Aquatic Environments. Case of Study: Paraná River, Argentina”. Lecturer: Dr. Martin Blettler (90min). Place: Integral Training Center (CECAIN; INTA), Oro Verde, Argentina. 7th June 2017 (Figures 2-5).



Picture 1. Rising water level recorded in the Paraná River (tendency registered since April 2017). Note that the water level is close to the “alert of evacuation” level.



Picture 2. INTA's building in Oro Verde, Entre Ríos province (Argentina), where the meeting occurred.



Picture 3. Audience attending the Workshop on Environmental Education for Agrotechnical High Schools in the frame of the World Environment Day (WED)



Picture 4. Dr. Blettler's lecture. Note the that The Rufford Fundation logo was showed several time during this conference.



Figure 5. Certificate of the lecture.