

Project Update: October 2017

Last activities:

New results were disseminated through conferences addressed to the general public. The title of the conference was: "El problema de la contaminación por plásticos en el río Paraná: un elefante en la habitación" (English: "The problem of plastic pollution in the Paraná River: an elephant in the room") by Dr. M. Blettler. This conference was given in the frame of the "Despierta festival" organised by Fundación Puente a la Vida (La Tribu del Salto) (<http://elsaltoparana.blogspot.com.ar>). Currently, we are working in close collaboration with this foundation in the frame of the RF project. Our current activities focused on public conferences and interviews with leaders of government agencies in order to sensitise people about plastic pollution in the Paraná River. Place of the conference: "Puerto Paraná", Paraná city; Entre Ríos Province, Argentina. September 16th 2017 (Figure 1).

FESTIVAL DE ALIMENTACIÓN CONSCIENTE

DESPIERTA

SÁBADO 16 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 11.00 A 19.00 HORAS

PUUESTOS DE COMIDA CHARLAS

PRODUCTORES REGIONALES MÚSICA PARA EL ALMA

AGRICULTURA TALLERES P/ NIÑOS Y GRANDES

SALA MAYO, PUERTO DE PARANÁ. ENTRADA LIBRE Y GRATUITA

Cocina MAINFUMBI Paiza Verde Shamballa EMPATUR Paraná MUNICIPALIDAD DE PARANÁ TRIBUDEL SALTO

El problema de la contaminación por plásticos en el río Paraná: un elefante en la habitación.

The Rufford Foundation
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17HS CHARLAS

EL PROBLEMA DE LA CONTAMINACIÓN POR PLÁSTICOS EN EL RÍO PARANÁ: UN ELEFANTE EN LA HABITACIÓN (MARTÍN BLETTLER).

PROPUESTA DE PLANIFICACIÓN URBANA SUSTENTABLE Y PRODUCCIÓN AGROECOLÓGICA A PARTIR DEL RECONOCIMIENTO DE NUESTRO TERRITORIO (PAULA ARMANDOLA, LEANDRO JACOB, MARIO DEN DAUW).

16 DE SEPTIEMBRE DESPIERTA
SALA MAYO, PUERTO DE PARANÁ.



Figure 1. Dr. Blettler's lecture (Puerto Paraná, Paraná city, Argentina). The Rufford Foundation logo was showed several times during this conference.

Other dissemination activities involved news paper and radio interviews:

i) <http://ww.santafe-conicet.gov.ar/la-setubal-muy-contaminada/>

Interview published in the official site belonging to The National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET), Argentina. Topic: High level of plastic pollution recorded in a floodplain lake of the Paraná River. Note that RF is mentioned in the article.

ii) Radio interview. *Lt10*. Radio Universidad Nacional del Litoral SA; 9 de Julio 3560; Santa Fe S3000EXB – Argentina. <http://www.lt10.com.ar/> (Radio belonging to the National University of Littoral, UNL, Santa Fe, Argentina). Radio program: "Sobre el agua" (English: "About the water") <http://www.arribando.com.ar/>. Domingo 13 a 14 hs. Journalist: Hugo Luis Bonomo. Sunday September 9th 2017: Interview of 30 min. with Dr. Martín Blettler. Topic: "The problema of plastic pollution in the Paraná River: first scientific results". Language of the interview: Spanish. See attached mp3 file.

We also performed a new sampling campaign. Location: Isla Puente (fluvial island located in front of Paraná city, Argentina). This is a public and partially polluted island (Figures 2 and 3). All samples were collected and processed according to standard protocols and they are been analysed in our laboratory. The sampling was performed helped by volunteers (as it was proposed in the original proposal), recruited from a public rowing club (ECENAA, Paraná city). This task was relatively simple due to the great interest of the public.



Figure 2. Location of the Puente Island, in front of Paraná city, Argentina (sampling area; 31°42'35'' S; 60°32'01'' W).



Figure 3. Pictures from the Puente Island showing plastic pollution, particularly beverage bottles, recorded during the sampling campaign.

Scientific publication in an international peer review journal of our first results.
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>.