PROTECTING
THE PATAGONIAN SEA

NO
OCEANS
NO
LIFE

PROGRAMA MARINO
SIN AZUL NO HAY VERDE

FUNDACIÓN REWILDING
ARGENTINA
In May, many legislators and candidates for legislators followed Ushuaia's example and put forward a bill for prohibiting this industry in the province. We are still working for the society to say #NoALaSalmonicultura.

Thanks to collaborative working between Tierra del Fuego's provincial government and civil society organizations, a bill was introduced for creating Mitre Peninsula Provincial Park.

**Bill: Mitre Peninsula Protected Area**

**Provincial Bill: anti-salmon farming**

17/05/ 2019

20/12/ 2018

CHANGING THE CURRENT PATH IS ON ALL OF US.
We also worked for putting the break on the establishment of salmon industry activities in the Beagle Channel. The #NoALaSalmonicultura campaign fostered the passing of a municipal ordinance which prohibits any salmon-related activity in Ushuaia's public land.

As a consequence of incidental captures, in Argentina 40% of the catch is returned dead to the sea.

Pollutants and fertilizers filtering through coastal ecosystems have produced more than 400 dead zones around the world. Humans have affected 66% of the marine ecosystem. By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the sea.

50% of corals and 1/3 of seagrass have been destroyed. 90% of the biggest fishes around the world have died out. Pollutants and fertilizers filtering through coastal ecosystems have produced more than 400 dead zones around the world. 50% of coastal ecosystems are at risk.

75% of fisheries experience overfishing. 50% of coastal ecosystems are at risk.

The area in front of our territorial waters is one of the zones with the highest density of illegal fishing in the world. IN ARGENTINA, WE THROW 1.3 MILLION OF PET BOTTLES EVERY DAY.
Due to the current global extinction crisis and in order to help the planet, in 2017, Rewilding Argentina launched a Marine Conservation Program called “No Blue, No Green”, aimed at protecting the habitats and species of the Argentine Sea and its coasts.
VISION

We imagine a network of marine and coastal protected areas, where the ocean’s biodiversity can be regenerated.

We want to explore new approaches, the result of which is protecting and restoring ecosystems and expanding justice through conservation.

MISSION

The Argentine Sea is among those with the richest biodiversity in the world, but it is also one of those facing the most threats. Overfishing, species extinction and marine pollution are just some of the perils. Preserving its habitats is an urgent task.

Our goal is to protect 30% of the Argentine Sea so as to preserve and regenerate its ecosystems through the creation of a network of marine and coastal protected areas.
IF BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE ARE LOST, WE ALL LOOSE.

HOW WE DO IT

We create networks of marine and coastal parks that offer long-term protection, hence allowing to work for restoring ecosystems and their biodiversity. Through the protection of large areas, we try to benefit local communities and generate new actors that become part of the transformation of today’s economic model.

We believe that, in order to fight the climate emergency and the accelerated degradation of ecosystems, it is essential to provide society with necessary tools. This is why we design campaigns aimed at informing people and hence raising awareness.

It is a great challenge. But we have seen that, if we focus on solutions and on the ability of generating changes in public policies with the support of society, current paradigms can be changed into a new collective vision, fairer to the planet we live in.
**PROJECTS**

**MPAs**

Strengthening the national system of Marine Protected Areas.

Nowadays, we are working in order to strengthen the National System of Marine Protected Areas as well as the managing capacity of each of the parties involved in the process, by providing them with the tools needed to preserve the areas.

**PENÍNUSLA MITRE**

Creation of the Mitre Peninsula Provincial Park

We are working for the bill for the creation of the Mitre Peninsula Provincial Park to be passed.

**SALMON FARMING**

Act prohibiting salmon farming.

We promoted a provincial bill in Tierra del Fuego so that salmon farming is prohibited in the Beagle Channel.

**BLUE PATAGONIAL**

Marine coastal protection corridor

We are working towards the creation of a network of Coastal Protected Areas along the Patagonia: the “Patagonia Austral” corridor would cover from Punta Tombo (Chubut) to Monte León (Santa Cruz).
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

BARELY 10% OF THE ARGENTINE SEA IS PROTECTED, THERE’S STILL A LOT TO DO.
This project comprises the adding of diverse fragile and slow recovery species, such as cold water corals, indicators of vulnerable marine ecosystems. It is also an important feeding area and a migration route for endangered species of seabirds and marine mammals.

An area of great biological productivity which offers a unique and isolated marine environment. It protects a drop with prominent maritime forests, represented by cold water corals, "soft corals", "fake corals", sponges, etc. It is a feeding area for endangered seabirds and marine mammals, such as fin whales and wandering albatrosses.

The encountering of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans creates an incredibly rich ecosystem in the waters of these protected areas. The abundance of nutrients defines these waters as important feeding areas for seabirds and marine mammals, which also use this corridor as migration route.
PENÍNSULA MITRE

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SOUTHAMERICA'S ULTIMATE WILD END
During the past 30 years, there were several proposals for the creation of a Provincial Park on the eastern end of the Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego. Finally, in 2018, and thanks to collaborative working between the government of Tierra del Fuego and local civil society organizations that took responsibility for this historic claim, the bill was consolidated.

If the park is created, 300,000 ha of land and coast would be protected, as well as 200,000 ha of sea (since it would include waters surrounding the peninsula and the Isla de los Estados). The coasts of the Peninsula and of the Island are the home of kelp forests, one of the most productive and dynamic ecosystems on Earth for they provide a unique habitat for marine life. It is one of Argentina’s 5 spots with the greatest diversity of seabirds, and one of the few areas in the world that has resisted the advancements of humanity, keeping its landscape mostly unaltered and pristine.

Archaeological remains of the Haush (tribe of hunter-gatherers, native people from Tierra del Fuego).

Colonies of seals, killer whales, humpback whales and other cetaceans. One of Argentina’s 5 most important seabirds’ spots. Southern rockhopper penguins.

The stories of thousands of wrecks lie on the coasts of the peninsula.
PROTECTING BEAGLE CHANNEL’S PRISTINE WATERS

SALMON FARMING
The Norwegian salmon industry, through the Argentine Government and the Province of Tierra del Fuego, is trying to set up cages for intensive salmon farming in the pristine waters of the Beagle Channel.

The Beagle Channel has an authentic explosion of marine life and also acts as a 280-meter long bridge, connecting the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean. On the other hand, it is the sustenance of thousands of Fuegians who depend on the Channel on a daily basis, being tourism, and, on a minor scale, traditional centolla fishing their main economic activities.

Cages for fattening salmons in the Beagle Channel would imply irreversible risks to the environment.

For this reason, by the end of 2018, we designed an activist campaign: #NoALaSalmonicicultura. The immediate result of such a campaign was the passing of a municipal ordinance prohibiting the establishment of any piece of infrastructure aimed at salmon farming in Ushuaia's public land. We are now working towards the prohibition of the activity all along the province of Tierra del Fuego, so as to preserve its original landscape and identity.
The Argentine austral Patagonia is characterized by its irregular coast, full of bays and small coves; by the beauty of its landscape; its many islands; and, above all, due to being full of life. Giant kelp forests, populations of thousands of marine mammals, and a great diversity of nesting colonies make this area a biodiversity hotspot.

This coastal ecosystem represents a valuable opportunity for the development of a multidimensional conservation program in which the creation of a network of land and sea parks propels the restoration of ecosystems and serves as shelter for endangered species. Starting with the creation of a network of national and provincial land and sea parks, its characteristics would allow for the ecosystems to be restored, boosting endangered or vulnerable populations.

A series of threats related to diverse activities such as fishing, mining and hydrocarbons extraction is putting the integrity of the area at risk. If the law protects coasts and waters, and by working with local communities so that they are benefitted from the parks, we’ll have the opportunity to preserve one of the Atlantic Ocean’s most productive marine ecosystems.

The most important seabirds’ shelter in Argentina. One fourth of the Patagonian populations of Magellanic penguins and imperial shags are found on the north coast of San Jorge Gulf. 13 out of 17 species of seabirds nesting along the whole Patagonian coast are also found on the north coast of San Jorge Gulf.
In May, many legislators and candidates for legislators followed Ushuaia’s example and put forward a bill for prohibiting this industry in the province. We are still working for the society to say #NoALaSalmonicultura.

Our efforts were put in propelling the act which created the first two Marine Protected Areas. Around 100,000 km² were protected, 75% of which are under the category “no take”. In this way, we were able to raise the preserved surface of the Argentine Sea from 1.3% to 9.7%, getting closer to the goal for having 30% of the sea protected by 2030.

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RESULTS

15/12/2018
Marine Protected Areas Act
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20/03/2019
Ordinance prohibiting salmon farming in Ushuaia
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