

Project Update: October 2016

Series of seminars enhance the knowledge of students and teachers in Canaan

As part of our aim to create a conservation plan for the estuary of Mundau River, we set up a series of presentations to the students of Padre Rodolfo High School, in Canaan. We invited Dr Ronaldo Filho, expert in ecology and taxonomy of marine invertebrates, to talk more about his PhD studies and discoveries. Dr Filho has a broad experience in taxonomy and the students were able to ask questions related to marine invertebrates, marine ecology, and how to achieve a PhD degree. After the presentation, Dr Ronaldo also accompanied students in collecting information of fish diversity of the estuary of Mundau River.

For our next presentation we invited Frederico Osorio MSc, environmental analyst of ICMBio (Chico Mendes Institution for Biodiversity conservation) and co-participant of our Rufford Project. Frederico currently works on the management and conservation of Rocas Atoll, in the Atlantic Ocean. In his talk, he showed amazing photos from where he works, picturing the history of the atoll, how it is formed, and the biodiversity found in that area. As many Brazilians, the students did not know that Brazil owns the only atoll found in the whole Atlantic Ocean. All students were so engaged with the talk and Frederico had to answer many questions after his talk.

Our third talk was presented by Dr Wander Godinho, director of EnviroMentor Australia, and co-director of our Rufford Project. In his talk, Dr Godinho brought a new perspective of conservation, showing the students the importance of marine parks, how they work in Australia, and the benefits of establishing a marine park along the coast of Ceara. During his PhD, Dr Wander worked in four marine parks in eastern Australia, collecting genetic samples from fishes of rock pools. More interesting is that he was awarded with a PhD scholarship in Australia after he published an international article about rock pool fishes from Flecheiras beach, an adjacent beach of the estuary of Mundau River. He concluded his talk emphasizing the need of establishing a conservation plan for Mundau and Flecheiras beaches.



