

Project Update: June 2005

To date we completed the first extensive faunistic survey, collecting more than 47 taxa of benthic invertebrates in the intertidal and subtidal zones of the study area. We are now working in the taxonomic determination of the species recorded, with the aid of specialists in the different taxa and local students. Some previously unreported species of invertebrates were found, increasing the knowledge about the coastal biodiversity of the Atlantic coast of Uruguay. In addition, the role of mussel species as ecosystem engineers is being evaluated. Emerging knowledge will be of outmost importance, providing a baseline for the evaluation of environmental impacts and contributing to the design of a MPA. Divulcation of the preliminary results will be driven through local meetings in September/December 2005