

## **Project Update: March 2021**

An important component of this project is to increase public awareness. Several activities have been developed to accomplish this objective of the project.

### **Land-based Whale-watching**

Since the beginning of this project, we have been working together with local tourism authorities to develop responsible whale-watching tourism activity. Our recommendation, to prevent any disturbance to the whales, is to establish land-based whale-watching. In order to increase local public awareness on this species and with the aim to strengthen the importance to set responsible whale watching from land, two information panels on Miramar's promenade were set in 2015. This year, with the collaboration of The Rufford Foundation and the Secretary of Tourism, Culture, and Sport of General Alvarado district, we replaced the old and damaged panels with new ones which include an improved design and new information.

### **Education programme**

We gave two virtual talks for a kindergarten from Neuquén province (Patagonia Argentina). Lectures were about whales and dolphins, and their sounds. Then the children made drawings to represent what they learned.



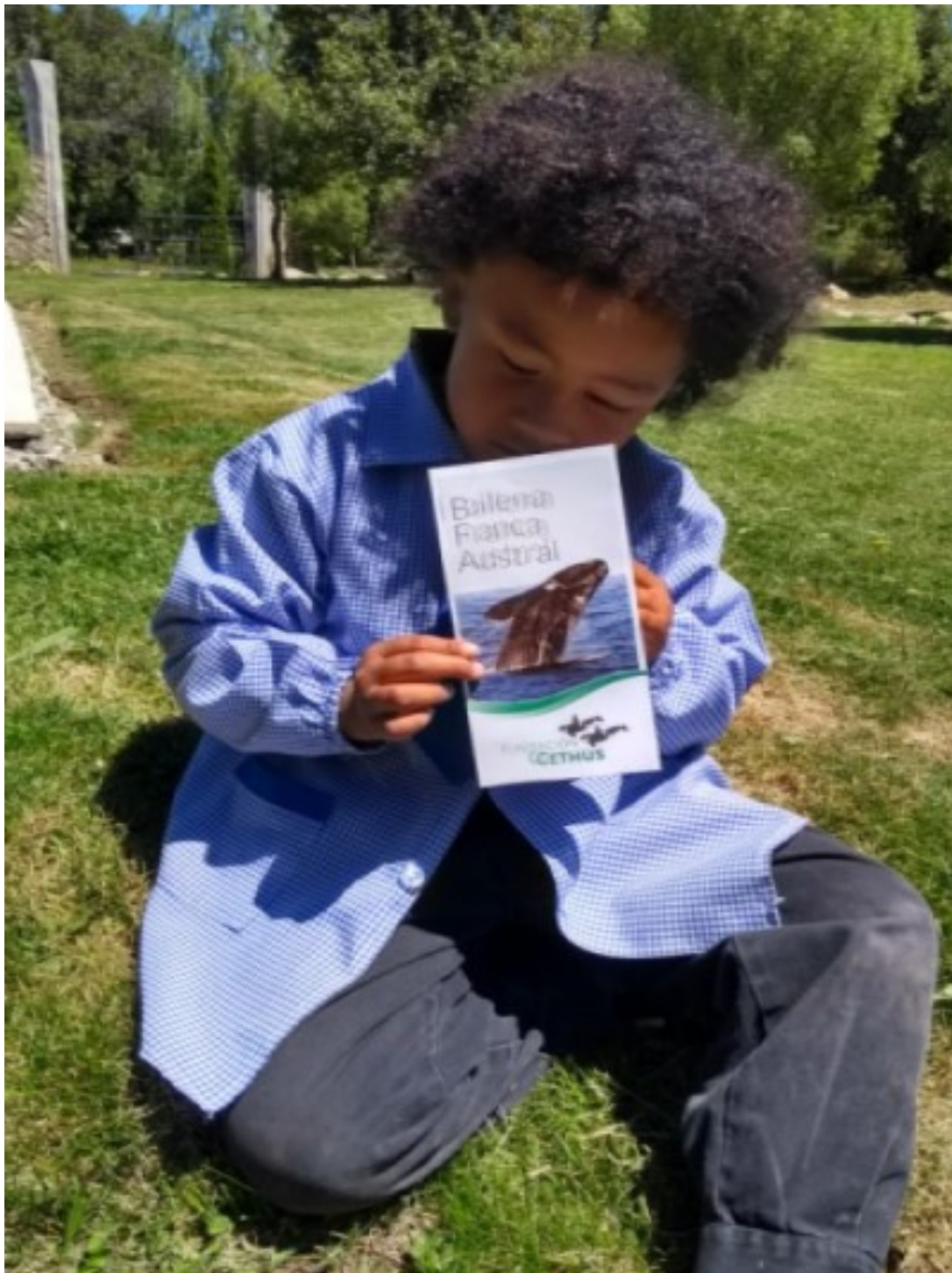
*New panel of Whale Watching on Miramar's promenade*

### **Whales and nautical activities**

On the Miramar' coast, nautical activities such as kayaking, surfing, kitesurfing, boat fishing among others, happen almost every day. During the whale season, these activities expose the people to close encounters with the whales and, although no accident has occurred at the moment, we thought that it is important to prevent any

disturbing, bring recommendations and guidance to the people involved. We talked with the local kayakers and the Fishing Club, and a poster/guidelines was made with recommendations based on the International Whaling Commission advices on how to respond when a whale is close.

We want to express our gratitude to The Rufford Foundation, IBM Argentina, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, and Fundación Cethus for the support to this project. Also, thanks to General Alvarado's Secretary of Tourism, Culture and Sports.



*Kindergarten student with our educative pamphlet*