

Project Update: November 2023

I am pleased to give you an update on the project "Analysing the role of pesticide residues during marsh deer mortality events in wetlands in Argentina, through a Participatory Monitoring network". The environmental sampling campaigns for both protected areas and seasons of the year were successfully carried out. All samples obtained were processed in the laboratory and analysed by high performance chromatography (HPLC). Currently, I managed to quantify 90% of the data obtained through the MassLynx software.

In parallel, I have been working on strengthening the surveillance network with workshops and training for provincial wildlife administrators, local veterinarians, national park staff and local residents. The importance of timely reporting of wildlife mortality events has been emphasised, which has contributed to obtaining samples of marsh deer in optimal conditions for analysis. This stage of the project is still ongoing, and the final fieldwork is planned for the coming months. The next phase involves processing the samples obtained, currently preserved at -80°C , to analyse the presence of pesticide metabolites and quantify their occurrence.

In regard to the budget, I propose to make certain adjustments to more effectively address the current requirements of the project. With upcoming necropsy trips and training sessions for the surveillance network, the predominant costs involve food, accommodation, and fuel. To address these essential needs, I propose reallocating the remaining funds initially allocated for "sleeping bags" and "disposable material for sample collection."



Rangers team in Iberá National Park .

Additionally, the university has recently acquired multi-parametric equipment that is now accessible for my Institute. In light of this, I suggest reallocating the budget initially designated for procuring this equipment towards the acquisition of laboratory essentials, such as a liquid dispenser. This addition will significantly streamline the tissue processing procedures. All the equipment purchased will be used exclusively for working with tissues from the field, thus reducing the risk of biological contamination of other equipment and people.



Extracting water samples by SPE in the laboratory.