



CENTRO DE CONSERVACION CETACEA

Annual Report 2011

Centro de Conservacion Cetacea
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Casilla 19178, Correo Alonso de Córdova, Vitacura
Santiago, Chile
(2) 228 2910 --- info@ccc-chile.org --- www.ccc-chile.org

Images from: Elsa Cabrera, Barbara Galletti, Priscila Escobar, Jaime
Conde, Future for Nature Award, Centro Ecoceanos

2011 marks our **tenth year** working on behalf of the conservation of cetaceans, their marine ecosystems and the sustainable development of coastal communities.

We can look back with satisfaction at the achievements; with tranquillity of acting with courage; and respect to carry out all projects and public compromises; and with deep gratitude for all the support and cooperation we have received from hundreds of institutions and thousands of people that have joined efforts with **Centro de Conservación Cetacea**.

Undoubtedly, the **cooperation** has been a pillar of the organization and a catalyst to ensure effective protection of our natural and cultural heritage.

The outstanding results in scientific research and conservation of cetaceans have positioned **Centro De Conservación Cetacea** as one of the most important marine Conservation organizations in Chile and Latin America.

Most notably the consolidation of a **State Policy** on conservation and non-lethal use of cetaceans in the country through the campaign *Chile 2008: Whale Sanctuary*; the classification of the **southern right whale** population of the South East Pacific as **Critically Endangered** by the IUCN; and strengthening conservation measures at national and international level by generating scientific information on blue whales and the promoting development of community-based sustainable marine ecotourism. Also the **first regulation** in the country for penguin watching in southern Chile; the wide support to the **Campaign Zero Whaling** and many more activities that involve organizations and stakeholders from Chile and Latin America. The work conducted during these ten years fill us with energy and strength to move forward in addressing the **growing threats** faced by these marine mammals.



Barbara Galletti, president of Centro de Conservación Cetacea

As a flagship species, the recovery and conservation of cetaceans is essential to promote effective conservation of marine ecosystems. This is an opportunity to plan the future activities of the organization over the next year and maximize the conservation benefits these animals provide to marine ecosystems. The projects and campaigns of **Centro de Conservación Cetacea** seek to continue to strengthen marine conservation policies at national, regional and international levels as well as ocean governance, especially in the Southern Ocean. To do so, we will further **extend our work areas** to include issues like marine debris, fisheries and underwater noise pollution.

We would like to **thank all the organizations that have supported our work** during the last decade: Directorate General of Maritime Territory and Marine Merchant (Directemar) from the Chilean Navy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Ministry of Education, Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Global Ocean, Cetacean Society International, Marisla Foundation, Rufford Small Grants, Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation, Future for Nature Foundation, the International Fund for Animal

Welfare, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, Humane Society International, Ford Foundation, Centro Ecoceanos (Chile) Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas (Argentina), Organización para la Conservación de Cetáceos (Uruguay), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States, PADI Foundation, International Whaling Commission, Oceanic Preservation Society, LEVIS, ISE Chile Seguros Generales, Ecoturismo Puñihuil, National Marine Fisheries Service and the Regional Museum of Ancud

And last but not least, I would like to express our **deep gratitude to the thousands of people that have supported our initiatives**, without them the positive changes achieved in the last ten years would not have been possible. We look forward to keep working with all of you during the upcoming decade.

Alfaguara Project



Thanks to the work conducted under the Alfaguara project, the blue whale population of Chile has become one of the best known populations of the species in the Southern Hemisphere.

The *Alfaguara* (blue whale) project is oriented to guarantee the long term protection of one the most important populations of this endangered species in the southern hemisphere; the development of community based marine ecotourism; and the effective conservation of the coastal and marine ecosystems of northwestern Chiloe Archipelago (southern Chile).

The project has the official support of the **Directorate General of Maritime Territory and Marine Merchant** (Directemar) from the Chilean Navy and the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.

It also has the strong support and active participation of coastal communities. Its innovative characteristics have consolidated the *Alfaguara project* as an initiative of national and international interest.

After eight years the project has also generated a significant amount of scientific information that is fundamental for the planning and development of conservation measures. Thanks to the scientific research program of the *Alfaguara project* this population is one of the most well known populations in the southern hemisphere.

In 2011, the project was internationally recognized when Barbara Galletti, CCC president, was awarded the **Future for Nature Award**, a prestigious international award, which celebrates tangible achievements in protecting endangered wild animal and plant species.

As flag species, blue whales are icons of marine conservation. The *Alfaguara project* has an innovative approach towards nature conservation that actively involves coastal communities while facilitating the development of responsible and high quality marine ecotourism.

Alfaguara Project

Scientific Research Program



Coastal observations were conducted by CCC staff and volunteers from a platform located more than 100 meters above the sea level.

Between February and May 2011 we conducted the **eight--field season** of the scientific research program of the *Alfaguara project*.

Observations from coastal platforms were conducted during **27 days**. An average of **six whales** were recorded daily, the **lowest number** since the study begun in 2004. Also, we conducted **15** marine surveys on board the *Alfaguara* vessel recording **77 groups** comprising 115 blue whales.

This is also the **lowest number** of whales recorded since the start of the project.

Marine surveys are oriented to individually photo identify the whales found in the area and collect data about group composition, behavior, weather conditions, associated fauna and sea surface temperature (SST).

Biological samples (biopsies) of skin and blubber of **blue and sei whales** were also collected with the

collaboration of Dr. Mariano Sironi, from the **Whale Conservation Institute** of Argentina. The samples were divic currently being led by Andrea Chir



Dr. Mariano Sironi and Bárbara Galletti prepare a biopsy taken to a blue whale for future analysis



Minke whale



Humpback whale

Blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), sei (*Balaenoptera borealis*), and minke whales (*Balaenoptera bonaerensis*) were recorded during the season, as well and Peale's dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus australis*).



Sei whale

Because we believe that cooperation is the best tool to increase our knowledge on cetaceans and design effective conservation measures, our individual photo identification catalogue - currently comprised of more than **360 blue whales** - is part of the Southern Hemisphere **Blue Whale Catalogue of the International Whaling Commission**.



Blue whale

Alfaguara Project

Promoting Sustainable Tourism



Between July and December 2011 we were in charge of coordinating the **Capacity Building Program** oriented to prepare local tourist guides for accreditation as **Fauna and Flora Tourist Guides**.

The cycle included nine modules that covered several themes as geography, oceanography, biology and conservation, non-lethal use of marine mammals and identification and biology of coastal and marine seabirds.



The initiative was part of a project granted to the local community sustainable tourism association **Ecoturismo Puñihuil** by the Technical and Cooperation Service (Sercotec) of the Chilean State.



The project seeks to **strengthen responsible tourism activities** related to the observation of coastal/marine fauna and flora around Puñihuil, one of the most beautiful surroundings of the Chiloe Archipelago in southern Chile.

According to national regulations, accredited fauna and flora tourist guides must have knowledge about the species found in the area of work, as well as conservation status, current threats, policies and regulations to protect them.



Specialized professionals (biologists, oceanographers, etc.), conducted the educational modules which are essential in **moving forward the accreditation of local tourist guides** as well as improving the quality of the services offered by Puñihuil operators.

Alfaguara Project

Third Blue Whale Week



The promotional poster was designed by students of UNIACC

fundamental to sustain the life of blue whales and hundreds of marine species.

In order to strengthen the cooperative work conducted between **Centro de Conservación Cetacea** and the local community, the **Third Blue Whale Week** also included the launching of the project **“Strengthening High Quality Marine Ecotourism”** that was granted in 2011 to the local tourist association Ecoturismo Pufihuil.

Environmental education is the cornerstone for building public awareness about the importance of marine conservation. The **Third Blue Whale Week**, conducted between February 20th and 25th was a unique opportunity to raise the attention of the people from northern Chiloe on this matter.

As in previous years the **Third Blue Whale Week** received the official support of the Municipality of Ancud, the Regional Museum of Ancud, the Regional Tourist Service and the local radio station Estrella del Mar. It also had the valuable support of UNIACC Center Studies, Centro Ecoceanos, Ecoturismo Puniuil and Oceanic Preservation Society.

The week begun with the release in Chile of the international awarded documentary **The Cove** (from director Louis Physoyos) that exposes the cruel slaughter of thousands of dolphins in Japan.

The **Third Blue Whale Week** also included the photographic exhibit **“Protecting Tiny Species to Conserve Huge Whales”** in the Regional Museum of Ancud. The exhibit included incredible images of the cetacean species found in northwestern Chiloe Island, their conservation status, emerging threats and the key role of krill, a small crustacean similar to a shrimp, that is abundantly found around Chiloe and that is

Southern Right Whale Project



Since 2003, **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** has conducted the **Southern Right Whale Project** with the aim to generate the necessary conditions for the long-term protection and recovery of one of the most Endangered populations of whales in the planet.

The **Southern Right Whale Project** has been essential to raise national and international awareness about the delicate status of the population of right whales in Chile and Peru. Thanks to the data collected under the project, in **2008** the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classified the population as **Critically Endangered**.

During 2011 we were able to collect **five records** of southern right whale sightings – all confirmed by photographs – including two mother and calf pairs.

Also and as with the Alfaguara Project, the **Southern Right Whale Project** was internationally recognized when Barbara Galletti, President of CCC, was awarded the **Future for Nature Award**, a prestigious international award, which celebrates tangible achievements in protecting wild animal and plant species.

Southern Right Whale Project

Workshop on Population Assessment



Southern right whale population of Chile and Peru was classified as Critically Endangered in 2008 by IUCN.

International efforts, conducted under the **International Whaling Commission (IWC)**, are currently being coordinated in order to guarantee the long-term conservation of the species in the Latin American region. In this context, Barbara Galletti, president of **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** and representative of Chile at the **IWC Scientific Committee**, participated in September 2011 in a workshop to assess the status of southern right whale populations in the region.

The workshop was conducted in Buenos Aires, Argentina and was attended by government representatives, scientists and members of the civil society. During the workshop Galletti made a presentation about the **sightings of southern right whales** recorded along the Chilean coast from **1975 to 2011**.

The conclusions of the workshop express **particular concern** about the **critical status** of the population of Chile and Peru and included several recommendations to increase scientific knowledge on the species and the implementation of conservation measures.

Southern Right Whale Project

Conservation and Management Plan



Scientists and specialists from six countries met in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to coordinate the development of Conservation and Management Plans for South American Southern Right Whales populations.

Thanks to the work conducted under the **Southern Right Whale Project** by Centro de Conservación Cetacea, in **2007** the government of Chile decided to propose the **inclusion of the Chile/Peru population** in the agenda of the **Conservation Committee** of the IWC. Also, in 2011 the government of Chile developed an **Action Plan for the Recovery of the Species in Chilean Waters** that was presented during the IWC annual meeting held in Jersey, Great Britain and endorsed by the Commission.

In **2011** the IWC nominated South American populations of southern right whales to develop **Conservation and Management Plans** oriented to guarantee the long-term protection of this species in the region. In this context, between September 19th and 20th representatives of the governments of **Argentina, Brazil, Chile** and **Uruguay** held a meeting in Buenos Aires in order to initiate the process to implement the Conservation and Management Plans. Officials from the government of Australia and the United States also attended the meeting. Civil society was represented in this important meeting by southern right whale specialist from **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** of Chile and Brazil, and **Instituto de Conservacion de Ballenas** of Argentina.

Southern Right Whale Project

National Marine Mammal Sighting Network



The threats of marine debris to ocean life were highlighted in Bulletin N14

In order to keep members informed, the **Marine Mammal Sighting Network** produced a bulletin that was distributed via e-mail to more than **500** people. Bulletin **number 14** included information on the importance of **The International Whaling Commission**, the presence of **Chilean dolphins** near the coast, The menace of **marine debris** and **sighting records** made by our members.

The **National Marine Mammal Sighting Network** established by **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** in 2003 has proven to be a cost effective tool to **generate public awareness** about the presence of cetaceans along the Chilean coast, **actively involve them in their conservation** and **collect important data** that is essential to plan and implement conservation measures.

Thanks to the official support of the **Directorate General of Maritime Territory and Marine Merchant (Directemar)** of the Chilean Navy, **coastal communities**, national and international **media** and national, regional and international **NGOs**, the **Marine Mammal Sighting Network** was able to collect in 2011 more than **170 sighting records** of at least 350 whales and 750 small cetacean species, including **southern right whales** and bottlenose dolphins. Also four records were collected of dead stranded great cetaceans, including



The sighting network also helps collect data on dead stranded cetaceans.

Cetacean By-catch Project



Priscila Escobar, veterinarian of CCC lead the preliminary assessment on cetacean bycatch in artisanal fisheries. The support of the fishermen of Puñihuil was essential to collect data during the fishing operations.

In order to make a preliminary assessment on cetacean by-catch in artisanal fisheries in northwestern Chiloe Island, southern Chile, **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** conducted in 2011 the project *Evaluation of cetacean interaction with artisanal fisheries in Isla Chiloe* with the support of **Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation**.

The preliminary assessment of the project aimed to evaluate the levels of interactions between different artisanal fishing gears and marine mammals – mainly cetacean species – In order to **propose recommendations and mitigation measures** at a local and national level.

As part of the project, representatives of **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** held numerous **meetings with local representatives of fishing unions** and **local authorities** of Chiloe island in order to establish contact, distribute informative posters and conduct a survey aimed to raise key information for the project.

Thanks to the artisanal fishers of Puñihuil, trained staff of **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** were allowed to participate in fishing operations as observers. They collected data on four common sea lions and one Burmeister's Porpoise caught incidentally by fishing nets.

The preliminary assessment of the project also generated important information that is currently being analyzed with the aim to design conservation strategies and plan the second phase of the project.

Campaign "Relocate Wind Farm"



The mega wind farm project of Ecopower, seeks to install dozens of wind towers along Mar Brava beach, threatening to destroy one of the richest coastal ecosystems in Chile as well as seriously affecting the flourishing tourism operations and its surroundings.

The campaign to relocate the mega wind farm project near the coast of Puñihuil **Parque Eólico Chiloe** unites civil organizations, tourist operators, fishers unions, etc., that seek the compliance of national environmental regulations – in particular the implementation of an **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** – due to the numerous negative impacts related to the magnitude and location of the project.

The project of the Chilean-Swedish firm **Ecopower** initiated its environmental process in October 2010, seeking to establish **56 wind towers** of more than **100 meters high** in Mar Brava beach, northwestern Chiloe Island, to generate 112 MW of electric energy that would be connected to the central interconnected system.

In addition to affecting one of the **first human settlements of America** (Quilo), this location will impact a wide variety of sea birds, including migratory species that migrate from Canada and elsewhere. It will also affect several endemic species of fauna as well as protected areas.

Also, the northwestern area of the island annually hosts the **largest concentration of blue whales** in the Southern Hemisphere. The species is classified as **Endangered** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Other cetacean species that would be negatively impacted by this project include **Peale's dolphins** (semi-endemic species) and **Chilean dolphin** (endemic species).

Campaign "Relocate Wind Farm"

Civil Society in Action



In **April 2011** the Mayor of Los Lagos Region, the representative of the regional Environmental Service, the regional director of tourism and the officer in charge of the Environmental Assessment Service, met in Ancud (Chiloe) with more than one hundred representatives of the civil society to address the concerns regarding the mega wind farm project **Parque Eolico Chiloe**.

During the meeting it was evident that the project generated a strong opposition from the civil society due to its **magnitude, location** and **irregularities** regarding the EIA process.

The people demanded local and national authorities to **comply with national regulations** and **relocate** the project in other area. **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** actively participated in the meeting.

Mar Brava is located in Cocotue Bay, an area with great potential for the consolidation of sustainable tourism activities related to nature and biodiversity. People from different areas united to work cooperatively for the relocation of the project.



The most important aggregation of blue whales in the southern hemisphere feed during the summer near and in Cocotue Bay

Campaign "Relocate Wind Farm"



Civil society from different areas united to present three appeals against the irregular approval of Parque Eolico Chiloe

International Concerns

The concerns related to the negative impacts of the mega wind farm project **Parque Eolico Chiloe** reached international community in **June 2011** when the **Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC)** – the maximum scientific international body in whale research – made a strong call to the government of Chile to urgently **conduct a complete EIA** in order to avoid possible negative impacts on whale populations present in the area and requested the relocation of the project farther from the coast.

Legal Actions

Despite the strong **national and international opposition** to the project and a number of **grave irregularities**, the **Environmental Commission of Los Lagos region** **unanimously approved** the mega wind farm project **Parque Eolico Chiloe** in August 2011.

The embarrassing approval of the project by local authorities was strongly **challenged by a coalition of NGOs, unions, local tourist operators**, etc., with the support of several **congressmen** who made a joint press conference in the **Chilean Congress** to inform the media and the government about the presentation of **an appeal** against the decision of the Environmental Commission of Los Lagos region.

As a result, the **coalition presented three appeals on environmental, economic and indigenous matters** in the regional Appeals Court of Puerto Montt as well as other legal measures.

Campaign "Relocate Wind Farm"

International call to President of Chile



In order to call the attention of the maximum authority in the country, Chilean president Sebastian Piñera, **Centro de Conservación Cetacea** and **Centro Ecoceanos** delivered in December 2011 a statement signed by nearly **fifty of the most important whale and acoustic researchers** in the world that expressed their **serious concerns** about the magnitude and location of the mega wind farm project; called president Piñera to **comply with national regulations** and conduct an **Environmental Impact Assessment**, and requested the **relocation of the project** to an area farther from the coast.

The action immediately called the attention of **dozens of international media correspondents** that attended a press conference made outside the presidential

palace La Moneda. As a result, representatives from **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** and **Centro Ecoceanos** were invited to meet that same day with a presidential advisor, who shared the concerns expressed in the letter and committee to have a response in the short term.

The pressure raised by different sectors of civil society that worked cooperatively during many months was fundamental to **stop the project in March 2012** (details will be included in our next annual report).



National and international opposition finally stopped the project in March 2012

Campaign "Zero Whaling"



Pacific protesters from Sea Shepherd, Women for Whales and Surfers 4 Cetaceans, among others, supporting Zero Whaling Campaign, outside the premises where the 63rd annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission, conducted in Jersey, Great Britain.

The **Campaign Zero Whaling** is a regional marine conservation initiative that has been conducted since 2010. It is coordinated by Elsa Cabrera, CEO of **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** and has generated the interest and support of thousands people from around the world, as well dozens of civil society organizations from Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and the Unites States.

In **2011** the campaign gathered nearly 30 thousand signatures to an online petition (www.cerocazadeballenas.cl) that called the **Buenos Aires Group** to have strong position against the increasing pressure of several members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to debilitate and even eliminate the global moratorium on commercial whaling. The petition was also supported by more than **30** national, regional and international **non-governmental organizations**.

The petition was handed to representatives of the **Buenos Aires Group** during the **63rd annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission** that was conducted in Jersey, Great Britain, in July 2011.

The monitoring of thousands of people that followed the IWC plenary meeting live through **Zero Whaling social networks** (Facebook and Twitter) was vital to guarantee the strong position of the Buenos Aires Group in the defence of the proposal for the creation of the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary as well as the protection of democratic processes within the IWC.

Campaign "Zero Whaling"

Lollapalooza 2011 Rock Festival



Centro de Conservacion Cetacea, along with several NGOs, was invited to participate in the international recognized rock concert **Lollapalooza 2011** that took place in Santiago between **April 2nd and 3rd**.

More than **100 thousand people** enjoyed more than 20 hours of music of 60 national and international groups, while learning about environmental issues that were presented by dozens of NGOs in the **"Green Town/Green Spirit"** produced by the organizers of the concert.



Centro de Conservacion Cetacea positively participated in this unique event looking forward to increase public awareness about the slaughter of whales and dolphins around the world and promote the campaign **Zero Whaling** conducted by our organization.



Campaign "Zero Whaling"

Call to Japan to Stop Whaling



Juan Carlos Cardenas, CEO of Centro Ecoceanos and Elsa Cabrera, CEO of Centro de Conservacion Cetacea, delivered a strong letter to the Ambassador of Japan in Chile demanding the ending of so-called "scientific whaling" operations in Antarctica and the North Pacific as well as the annual slaughter of thousands of dolphins in Japan.

In September 2011, **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** joined worldwide efforts to demand the government of Japan the immediate cancellation of the so-called "scientific" whaling program in Antarctica.

Along with Juan Carlos Cardenas, CEO from **Centro Ecoceanos**, our organization delivered a strong letter to the Ambassador of Japan in Chile, Wataru Hayashi, condemning whaling operations and denouncing the risks of consuming contaminated whale and dolphin meat.

The activity was conducted on September 2nd, under the framework of the **World Anti Whaling Day**.

As in previous years, the government of Japan never replied to the letter and whales are still being killed each year in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.

International Whaling Commission



Left: The annual meeting of the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission in 2011 was conducted in Tromsø, Norway.

Right: Fabia Luna from Brazil (left) and Barbara Galletti, president of CCC, during the scientific committee meeting in Tromsø.

Scientific Committee Meeting

As in previous years, Barbara Galletti, president of **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** attended the Scientific Committee meeting of the **International Whaling Commission (IWC)** as representative of the Chilean government. The meeting was conducted in the Norwegian city of Tromsø between June 4th and 11th.

During the meeting, she presented the following papers:

- ✦ **Abundance estimate of blue whales in Chile** with mark and recapture method (individual photo identification). This is the **first abundance estimate** made for the blue whale population of the South East Pacific.
- ✦ Scientific results of the research program of the **Alfaguara project** between 2004 and 2010. This paper is **currently in press** in the *Journal for Cetacean Research and Management* of the IWC.
- ✦ Advances made in the framework of the **Southern Hemisphere Blue Whale Catalogue**, coordinated by Barbara Galletti. The work includes the analysis of individual photo identification records made during the research cruise SOWER 1997/1998 along the Chilean coast and its comparison with CCC blue whale catalogue that resulted in the **first long term recapture** of blue whales in Chile.
- ✦ Background information on the **mega wind farm project** in the framework of the Environmental Concerns Subcommittee. As a result the Scientific Committee of the IWC recommended the **relocation of the project** and the conduction of an **Environmental Impact Assessment** in order to avoid negative impacts on cetaceans and other marine species.

International Whaling Commission

63rd Annual Meeting



During the 63rd annual meeting of the IWC, Japan and other pro-whaling countries sabotaged the Latin American proposal for the creation of the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary. The photograph shows the Buenos Aires Group (left) coordinating actions after the whaling countries left the room.

Barbara Galletti (president CCC) and Elsa Cabrera (Executive director CCC) attended the 63rd annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) conducted in Jersey, Great Britain, between July 4th and 14th.

Galletti participated as technical advisor of the delegation of Chile in working groups and plenary sessions. For tenth year, Elsa Cabrera participated as accredited observer and for several months before the meeting wrote several articles that were published in national and international media, calling attention about the increasing pro whaling policy of the United States and its possible influence in Latin America.

The work conducted by **Centro de Conservación Cetacea** in cooperation with dozens of regional and international NGOs was fundamental to stop a resolution lead by the United States and New Zealand oriented to revitalize a pro whaling deal known as the “*Future of the IWC*” and eliminate democratic processes within this international organization.



During plenary sessions, Cabrera constantly informed and interacted with thousands of followers through social networks in Facebook and Twitter (see details in Zero Whaling Campaign) that were following the meeting live from Great Britain.

Left: International NGOs meet the day before the meeting in Jersey to share information and coordinate strategies.

After the meeting, she wrote the article “The New Whale Order, Despotism Threatens the IWC” that was widely read and republished in several websites in Spanish, English and Japanese.



Middle: NGOs representatives from Europe, the United States, the Caribbean and Latin America protested outside the meeting against a proposal to eliminate democratic processes within the IWC. The proposal was withdrawal.



Bottom (left to right): Marcela Vargas (WSPA Latinamerica), Roxana Schteinbarg (ICB Arrgentina), Javier Rodriguez (Promar, Costa Rica), Elsa Cabrera (CCC Chile) and Jose Truda Palazzo Jr (CCC Brazil), members of ZERO whaling campaign, during a break in the IWC meeting.

International Whaling Commission

Japan's so-called "scientific whaling" in Antarctica

elmostrador.país

Portada País Mundo Mercados Cultura Vida en Línea Blogs y Opinión Sin Editar Kílole Multimedia Deportes
 CLAVES Cristián Latorre, Jonathan Negre, Cristina Navarrete, Revolución Digital, Elecciones Municipales

10 DE FEBRERO DE 2011

La Armada monitorea desplazamiento de ballenero japonés

La institución naval constató que el buque se desplaza "transitando a más de 150 millas de la Zona Económica Exclusiva" y que su navegación es observada por la Dirección de Mar para hacer cumplir la legislación nacional "relativa a la protección de los cetáceos que habitan en los espacios marítimos de soberanía y jurisdicción nacional".

por EL MOSTRADOR

COMENTARIOS 50000 NOTICIAS IMPRIMIR



La Armada informó este martes que, a través de su Dirección de Territorio Marítimo y Marina Mercante (Directemar) está monitoreando el desplazamiento del buque factoría ballenero japonés "Nisshin Maru".

La institución naval indicó que no son efectivas las versiones respecto a que la embarcación navegaba a en aguas nacionales, ya que los últimos reportes constataron que se encuentra "en aguas internacionales, 570 millas al sur oeste de las aguas jurisdiccionales chilenas".

Asimismo, se indicó que "de mantener su actual desplazamiento, el buque no ingresaría en aguas nacionales, transitando a más de

Recomendar 104
 Twitter 55

Concerned about another Japanese "scientific" whaling season in the **Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary**, in December 2010 nearly **fifty environmental and scientific research organizations** from Latin America and elsewhere made a strong call to the **Buenos Aires Group**, to lead diplomatic actions against the government of Japan.

As a result, in February 2011 the governments of **Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay**, published a joint statement that regretted the continuation of the so-called "scientific" whaling operations in Antarctica and called the government of Japan to end the slaughter.

National and international media followed with great interest the actions taken by the Chilean Navy to stop the Japanese whaling vessel, *Nisshin Maru*, from entering Chilean EEZ.

After the whaling fleet closed its season earlier, the factory ship *Nisshin Maru* tried to navigate the Drake passage when travelling back to Japan. Thanks to the implementation of the **National Whale Sanctuary in 2008** – an initiative led by **Centro de Conservación Cetacea, Centro Ecoceanos** and the **National Confederation of Artisanal Fishers** – the **Chilean Navy** alerted Japanese authorities that the vessel would have to be **retain and investigated if it entered Chilean Economic Exclusive Zone** because the transport of cetaceans is banned in all the national territory. As a result, the *Nisshin Maru* turned around and redirected its navigation route far from Chilean jurisdictional waters.

In October 2011, dozens of national, regional and international NGOs united once again to request the **Buenos Aires Group** to strengthen its opposition to Japan's "scientific" whaling operations in Antarctica in response to the aggressive behaviour of the Japanese government to include military Components in the Antarctic whaling season 2011/2012.

Although the Buenos Aires Group published a press release expressing concern regarding these operations, its **response was far from what it was expected**, considering the hostile measures adopted by Japan to safeguard whaling operations that are considered illegal due to its commercial character.

International Whaling Commission

Buenos Aires Group Meeting



The cooperative work conducted by regional and international NGOs has been fundamental in strengthening the conservation and non lethal use of whales in Latin America. *From left to right:* Dra. Yolanda Alaniz (Comarino, Mexico), Carlos Yaipén (ORCA, Perú), Elsa Cabrera (CCC Chile), José Truda Palazzo Jr. (CCC Brasil), Bárbara Galletti (CCC Chile), Roxana Schteinberg (ICB Argentina), Vanesa Tossenberger (Fund. Cethus, Argentina), Diego Taboada (ICB Argentina), Marcela Vargas (WSPA Latinoamerica).

Since 2005, representatives of Latin American countries that are members of the **International Whaling Commission (IWC)**, known as the **Buenos Aires Group**, meets regularly to coordinate strategies and policies for the upcoming meetings of the IWC.

In this context, Elsa Cabrera and Barbara Galletti, from **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea**, were invited as civil society representatives to a Buenos Aires Group meeting held in Buenos Aires, Argentina between June 21st and 22nd.

As member of the Scientific Committee of the IWC, Galletti made a presentation on the **results of the annual meeting of this scientific body** held earlier in Norway and its implications for the conservation and non-lethal use of whales in the next annual meeting of the IWC in Jersey, Great Britain, in July 2011.

Prior the meeting in Buenos Aires, Cabrera worked cooperatively with dozens of regional and international NGOs in a **joint statement** that was handed to the Buenos Aires Group during their meeting, requesting them to take into account the concerns, views and proposals of the Latin American civil society when adopting decisions during the annual meeting of the IWC in Jersey.



Buenos Aires Group usually meets before the annual meetings of the International Whaling Commission to coordinate actions and strategies. In the photograph, the group meets briefly during a break of the annual meeting in Jersey, Great Britain.

Future for Nature Award



The work conducted during its first ten years by **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** was internationally recognized in April 2011 when Barbara Galletti, president of CCC was awarded the **Future for Nature Award**, a prestigious laureate granted to young researchers and environmentalists that have reached **outstanding goals in the protection of endangered species**.

Along with Galletti, Corneille Ewango (Congo) y Ofir Drori (Cameroon), were the three laureates selected from more than **150 applicants from 60 countries**.

The award ceremony conducted in Arnhem, **Netherlands**, was attended by more than 500 people and was presided by Dr. Annete Lanjouw, director of the The Great Ape Program of Arcus Foundation. The ceremony also counted with the participation of the Dutch specialist Dr. Frans de Waal, who highlighted the award as a recognition to the work conducted by **innovative entrepreneurs that go against the status quo**, that know how to **work cooperatively** and that have made **positive and profound changes on species conservation** in their respective countries.

The **Future for Nature Award** seeks to support the work conducted by young environmental leaders, as well as give a platform for the international recognition of their achievements with the aim to generate new opportunities to facilitate the continuity of their long-term conservation projects.



During the ceremony award, Barbara Galletti, president of CCC made a presentation on conservation of blue and southern right whales in Chile.

Cooperation for Conservation

Campaign S.O.S Sea Lions Chile



"No more traffic, capture or slaughters". These are the objectives of the campaign S.O.S Sea Lions Chile, coordinated by the Chilean NGO Centro Ecoceanos.

In October 2011 the campaign was launched in a press conference attended by the Chilean senator Guido Girardi, Centro Ecoceanos and all the NGOs supporting the campaign.

Afterwards, more than **100 thousand signatures** were collected in less than three months calling the president of Chile, Sebastian Piñera, to stop the project.

The signatures were delivered in January 2012 and as a result, **no permits for killings or captures have been granted.**

More than one hundred thousand signatures from around the world were collected during the first months of the campaign, demanding president Sebastian Piñera to grant permanent protection to these marine mammals in the country.

The government of Chile is driving a proposal to **cull and capture live sea lions** along the Chilean coast with the supposed argument that they are responsible of fishing crisis.

In order to stop the adoption of this proposal, the Chilean organization **Centro Ecoceanos** is leading the campaign **S.O.S Sea Lions Chile** that is conducted thanks to the sponsorship of the **World Society for the Protection of Animals Latin America** with the support of national and international NGOs like Centro de Conservacion Cetacea, CODEFF, AnimaNaturalis and Sea Shepherd, among others.



Cooperation for Conservation

Sustainable Tourism and Animal Welfare



The First Forum on Sustainable Tourism and Animal Welfare conducted by WSPA Latin America in Costa Rica, was a unique opportunity to exchange experiences and strengthen practices and policies oriented to incorporate animal welfare in tourism.

Between November 30th and December 1st the **World Society for the Protection of Animals of Latin America (WSPA LA)** conducted in San Jose (Costa Rica) the **First Forum on Sustainable Tourism and Animal Welfare**. Specialists from Nicaragua, El Salvador, Uruguay, Chile, the United States and Spain, among others, were invited to share their experiences in their area of work.

Elsa Cabrera, CEO of **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea**, made a presentation on the legal measures adopted in Chile for the conservation and lethal use of whales and how these measures have helped develop **community based responsible marine fauna watching** operations in Chiloe Island, southern Chile.

The event was a unique opportunity to exchange experiences and information aimed to generate **positive changes in the tourism industry that incorporate animal welfare** as an added value of the experience.

Also, during the meeting the **Institute of Responsible and Sustainable Tourism of Latin America (ITSLA)** was officially launched. Its purpose is to **strengthen models of tourism management** that integrate processes and tools oriented to socially, environmentally and economically benefit local communities. **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** is proud to be a founding member of ITSLA.

Cooperation for Conservation

Cultivating Networks



Mariano Sironi, chief scientist of Instituto de Conservacion de Ballenas of Argentina and Barbara Galletti, from Centro de Conservacion Cetacea of Chile signed the cooperation agreement in Chiloe, southern Chile.

Since our creation in 2001, **Centro de Conservación Cetacea** has always believed that cooperation is the most effective way to make positive changes in the conservation of cetaceans and their marine environment.

In 2011 our organization and **Instituto de Conservacion de Ballenas** of Argentina signed a **Cooperation Agreement** oriented to strengthen and formalize several years of cooperative work among both organizations.

The cooperation between **Instituto de Conservacion de Ballenas** (ICB) and **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** begun in 2003 when our organization attended a Photo Identification Workshop on southern right whales conducted by **ICB** in Argentina.

Since then we have been working in several projects and regional initiatives oriented to **strengthen policies in Latin America** for the non-lethal use of whales.

More recently, ICB scientific director, Dr. Mariano Sironi joined our **blue whale research team**. The cooperative work has been fundamental in **collecting and analyzing biopsy samples** that are increasing our knowledge about the genetic structure of the blue whale population in southern Chile, as well as to identify **emerging threats** to these cetaceans, such as chemical pollution.

Cooperation for Conservation

Participating and Supporting



Children from Liceo Francés made a whale for the presentation on how the future of the whales is decided in the International Whaling Commission.

Informing and educating the public about the increasing threats faced by cetaceans is vital to generate the necessary pressure to make positive changes in marine conservation.

In May 2011, **Centro de Conservacion Cetacea** was invited to give a presentation in the **Mayor University**, organized by their Wildlife Conservation Group (**ACOVISI**). More than 200 hundred students attended the event.

In June 2011, we also gave a lecture to more than **150 school children** about of the International Whaling Commission in the **Liceo Frances**.



After the presentations people signed the petition to demand Latin American governments strong policies to eliminate whaling operations in the Southern Hemisphere.

In October 2011, Elsa Cabrera (CEO Centro de Conservacion Cetacea) made a presentation in a **seminar on wildlife photography techniques**, about the importance of individual photo identification of whales. The event was attended by approximately 200 hundred students.

CENTRO DE CONSERVACION CETACEA



www.ccc-chile.org