

# Final Report

## 1<sup>st</sup> Project Competition for Conservation of Wetlands and Shorebirds at the Arid-Semiarid Coast of the South American Pacific

The foundation Manfred-Hermsen-Stiftung is coordination partner of the Latin American Coastal Wetland Initiative and launched in cooperation with our regional partner Centro Neotropical de Entrenamiento en Humedales (CNEH) 2019 the 1st project idea competition.

The goal of this competition is to support local organization in the implementation of the Initiative's Action Plan for the Conservation of Wetlands and Shorebirds on the Arid/Semiarid Pacific Coast of South America, fostering collaboration between civil society organizations, academic institutions and decision makers in Chile, Peru and Ecuador.

In the scope of the 1st project competition, MHS funded together with the Lighthouse Foundation 10 projects out of a total of 27 proposals, evaluated by a committee of regional experts. The legal and financial administration of the 10 projects was taken care of by CNEH.

The timeframe for execution of the projects was initially set from 01. August 2019 to 01. August 2020, but as a consequence of the pandemic most of the projects suffered considerable delays, with some of the projects involving activities with school classes being extended up until early 2022.

The progress of the projects was monitored through project visits (where possible) and regular reporting intervals followed by individual debrief meetings (online) to discuss any problems, opportunities, and hence the need for modification of a project. This was particularly the case after the start of the pandemic, where modifications have been adopted to most of the projects. As a consequence of the pandemic, unfortunately a group meeting amongst the project leaders, planned to be conducted as part of a bilateral exchange on coastal wetland conservation with decision makers from Chile and Peru, organized by the Initiative, had to be cancelled. Finally, in late 2020, marking the official end of the project competition, presentation were given by each of the projects in the scope of three online events with participation of three members of the expert committee each.

This report provides a brief summary on each of the projects, including links to the final presentations and reports (in Spanish). Overall, we can say that 9 out of 10 projects have been executed to a satisfactory level. One project, focusing on the strengthening and management of governance structures on the regional level between Chile, Peru, and Ecuador, however didn't quite meet the aims set in the proposal.

Besides the overall very successful realization of the individual projects and the positive impact these projects have taken as a collective in terms of public awareness and appreciation of coastal wetland ecosystems, networking amongst different partners from NGOs, local authorities, academia, and private sector was also promoted. This has led to ongoing exchange and collaboration among different partners. Having obtained many positive results and feedback, a 2<sup>nd</sup> project competition was launched in early 2021, with another 10 projects that are currently being conducted.

## **Summary of the Projects conducted within the 1<sup>st</sup> Project Competition**

### **Strengthening local capacity for community monitoring of shorebirds in protected mangrove areas. -Ecuador-**

The project focused on an important area of mangroves and extensive tidal flats in a large estuarine region of the Gulf of Guayaquil, a key area for conservation of shorebirds as identified by per the national shorebird conservation plan. Alongside of environmental education and capacity training, members of the local fishermen association and the community have been trained in birdwatching and environmental monitoring, enabling them to work as tour guides and to take part in the annual census of shorebirds.

"Aves y Conservación" is a national BirdLife partner with the goal of supporting the conservation of birds, their habitat and biodiversity as a whole in Ecuador.

Final Presentation: [En Busca de la Protección de Aves Playeras de Ecuador - Aves y Conservación - YouTube](#)

Final Report: [Final Report Aves y Conservación](#)

### **Strengthening research, management and governance of the coastal wetlands of Pisco and San Andrés -Peru-**

By combining activities such as scientific fieldwork and the design and dissemination of educational materials with workshops, decision-makers and local stakeholders have been able to build knowledge and appreciation of these ecosystems and their biodiversity. In cooperation with local authorities, academics and other stakeholders, an environmental management plan for the wetlands has been developed as part of this project.

The association "Grupo de Aves de Peru (GAP)" consists of local working groups in different parts of the country dedicated to the conservation of birds in their natural habitats.

Final Presentation: [Promoviendo la Protección de la Costa Sur del Perú - GAP](#)

Final Report: [Final Report Grupo Aves de Perú](#)

### **Getting to know the wetlands of Peru's north coast through local festivals**

Through an awareness raising campaign and the realization of wetlands and migratory birds festivals, the project achieved to involve local key stakeholders and to highlight the importance of the wetlands of the Virrilá Estuary (Piura), San José and Eten (Lambayeque) as ecosystems in need of protection.

The Center for Ornithology and Biodiversity (CORBIDI) is a Peruvian NGO and works to promote science, disseminate knowledge about endangered species and fragile ecosystems, and carry out research and conservation activities.

Final Presentation: [Conociendo nuestros Humedales en los Festivales de la Costa Norte del Perú - CORBIDI](#)

Final Report: [Final Report CORBIDI](#)

## **The Guardians of the Wetlands**

In this project, young people from different academic backgrounds were trained to become "Wetland Guardians" through a specially developed training course, entailing a range of activities such as monitoring and environmental education.

The University "Científica del Sur" is one of the most important research institutes and knowledge brokers regarding coastal wetlands in Peru. Their project took an innovative approach to capacity building for research, monitoring and environmental education.

Final Presentation: [Guardianes de los Humedales - Universidad Científica del Sur, Perú](#)

Final Report: [Final Report Guardianes de los Humedales](#)

## **Pichilemu Coastal Wetlands: Towards their Conservation**

This project involved various stakeholders in scientific fieldwork and monitoring, and the development of an integrated conservation plan in the Cahuil and Petrel wetlands. Addressing the poor water quality in the Petrel Wetland, the project uncovered the illegal discharge of sewage from trucks emptying septic tanks, which consequently has been stopped by the local authorities.

The Center for Sustainable Development of Pichilemu (CEDESUS) is a local non-profit organization that promotes and supports the protection and restoration of the natural and cultural heritage around the small but tourist coastal fishing village of Pichilemu.

Final Presentation: [Humedales Costeros de Pichilemu Transitando Hacia su Conservación - CeDeSus](#)

Final Report: [Final Report CeDeSus](#)

## **Renaturation and Restoration of Biodiversity to Preserve the Mantagua Wetland**

The project entailed the restoration of the native vegetation with many endemic plant species and improvement of habitats of rare and endangered animals, improving the ecological condition of the Mantagua wetland and increasing biodiversity. Furthermore, local school classes and other members of the partly marginalized local communities (there is a highly controversial and contaminating industrial zone further up the coast) became involved in the restoration activities and obtained environmental education through the project.

The Foundation for the Integration of Natural and Cultural Heritage (FiPaNCu) brings together young professionals with a strong interest in environmental conservation who want to enhance natural and cultural heritage and connect local communities with their environment.

Final Presentation: [Fomentando Diversidad Biológica en el Humedal de Mantagua - FiPaNCu](#)

Final Report: [Final Report FiPaNCu](#)

## **Water in the Desert - Protection and Sustainable Management of the Wetland La Chimba, Antofagasta**

The project constructed an environmental education programme around a very small coastal wetland in the city of Antofagasta. In coordination with local schools and authorities, a comprehensive curriculum on wetlands and anthropogenic impacts onto these ecosystems was developed and finally brought into the schools, including outdoor classes.

The Kennedy Foundation focuses on wetland conservation and water protection as a vital resource. It leads conservation efforts in a number of important wetlands in Chile and actively promotes good stewardship, environmental education, research, and public awareness.

Final Presentation: [Proyecto Educativo Agua en el Desierto - Fundación Kennedy](#)

Final Report: [Final Report Fundación Kennedy](#)

## **Shorebird monitoring network to protect wetlands on Chile's semi-arid coast**

In combination with environmental education activities and practical measures to ensure breeding success at a number of sites, studies on shorebird populations, their diet, reproduction, and nesting sites are conducted, and the main threats to their habitat identified.

The mission of the Chilean Bird and Wildlife Observers Network (ROC) is to protect birds and wildlife in Chile through research, outreach, citizen science, and environmental education by working with ornithologists and an extensive volunteer network along the Chilean coast.

Final Presentation: [Red de Monitoreo de Aves Playeras para la Protección de Humedales Costeros - ROC](#)

Final Report: [Final Report ROC](#)

## **E-learning course for the conservation of coastal wetlands and shorebirds**

In this project, an e-learning course on Chileans coastal wetlands, their biodiversity, management, and conservation has been developed and disseminated through the online academy Adriana Hoffmann hosted by the Chilean Ministry for Environment.

The Chilean Foundation "Núcleo Nativo" was created in 2015 with the aim of strengthening the bond between people and the environment and promoting socio-ecological balance. Conceptual pillars include entrepreneurship amongst disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, environmental education, and the protection and restoration of the natural environment.

Final Presentation: [Curso E-learning para la Conservación de Humedales Costeros y Aves Playeras - Núcleo Nativo](#)

Final Report: [Final Report Nucleo Nativo](#)

## **Analysis and strengthening of management and governance related to coastal wetlands**

The project concerned the governance of coastal wetlands in Chile, Peru and Ecuador. A comparative study of the environmental legal instruments in the three countries has been carried out, providing a comprehensive overview of the pertaining legislation as of 2020. However, the project failed to produce a manual with tools for local NGOs looking to improve the enforcement of this legislation.

The University of Nottingham-Chile is a foundation established by the British University to facilitate collaboration with partner organizations in Chile and to support developments in Chile and throughout South America.

Final Presentation: [Gobernanza de Humedales Costeros - The University of Nottingham-Chile](#)

Final Report: [Final Report Universidad Nottingham-Chile](#)

### Financial Report

The financial report covers all expenditure and funds received by CNEH, with the financing of both MHS and LHF. The detailed report with the list of payments can be found attached, and below the resumed figures in Chilean Peso (CLP). The remaining amount of CLP 3.218.652 (approx. € 3.658,00) has been moved to the second project competition.

| <b>Resumed Financial Report (CLP)</b> |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Project Payments                      | 73.776.532        |
| Exchange, Evaluation and PR           | 11.609.333        |
| Webpage and Graphic Design            | 3.701.982         |
| Others                                | 1.597.040         |
| Overhead CNEH                         | 4.942.292         |
| <b>Sum</b>                            | <b>95.627.179</b> |
|                                       |                   |
| Total Funds                           | 98.845.831        |
| Moved to 2nd Project Competition      | 3.218.652         |