

## **Integrated Coastal Zone Management along Patagonia: an Opportunity for Success**

Seminar Presentation Abstract

Kateryna M. Wowk

November 10, 2005

The Patagonian coastline in Argentina is considered one of the largest and relatively best preserved coastal sectors in the world today, stretching 3,000 kilometers from the province of Rio Negro in the north, to the province of Tierra del Fuego in the south. A temperate marine ecosystem, the Patagonian coast includes a wide diversity of habitats supporting an extensive display of species. This includes over forty species of shorebirds as well as a rich marine biota, including a unique reproductive area for the Southern Right Whale. The area has high importance in Argentine society, with an annual economic output in oil of US\$ 1.1 billion, in commercial fisheries US\$ 400 million, and in tourism US\$ 50 million.<sup>1</sup> All of these industries are steadily growing – the South Atlantic is one of the fastest growing fisheries in the world.

In 1992 under the aegis of the Global Environment Facility, members of the local NGO Fundacion Patagonia Natural and the World Conservation Society drafted the Patagonian Coastal Zone Management Plan (PCZMP). The plan focused on the management of wildlife preserves, tourism, pollution and fisheries. Efforts continue today under Phase II of the PCZMP, which was signed by provincial government officials in March of 2004. Phase II focuses on integrated cross-sector participation and researched-based decision making. Yet while there are about thirty coastal protected areas in the region, most of the protected areas do not have sufficient infrastructure or effective protection. Additionally, rapid and accelerated growth in the area is leading to increased interests to expand the fishing industry, as well as the oil and mining industry. Tourism in the area is also ever expanding in a society that lacks the proper infrastructure to ensure this expanse does not damage the coastal ecology. Also of concern is the management of Patagonia's Large Marine Ecosystem (LME), which fully supports the majority of wildlife on the coast.

This research will focus on the integrated coastal zone management along the Patagonia Coast, and will identify the political, economic and scientific factors that can make coastal zone management effective, as well as those factors that hinder effective management along the coast. Consideration will also be given to whether or not the management of the Patagonian LME is desirable and feasible. Ultimately, this research will attempt to extrapolate the results found to other areas in the world in an effort to produce an effective management scheme that can be utilized by various nations.

This research will be conducted by analyzing and evaluating the evolution of existing coastal zone management efforts along Patagonia. Research will then identify the interests of stakeholders, where possible, in order to establish competing interests in the area as well as those issues that are highly resolvable or irresolvable. Based upon the evaluation of this research, efforts will concentrate on the identification of the most effective, desirable and above all, possible management scheme for the Patagonian coast of Argentina.

---

<sup>1</sup> UNDP Obtained from internet October 15, 2005 from:  
<http://www.undp.org/rblac/wssd/documents/argentina.PDF#search='patagonia%20coast'.com>