

# La bitácora del humedal

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## Editorial

As every year, at the international level, the Ramsar Convention invites us to participate in the celebration of World Wetlands Day. And this year, but this time the State Committee of Wetlands of Baja California was formed, by the Secretariat of Environmental Protection, within the activities of the First Congress of Environmental Protection, held in the city of Ensenada.

Also, as part of the celebration of Wetlands Day, Pro Esteros held the IV Photography Contest "Our Wetlands", in which people from the states of northwestern Mexico participated. As each year, the images shared by the contestants were magnificent and showed us the beauty and importance of these ecosystems.

Finally, in another attempt to send the public a message of identity and respect for the environment, the Cardumen group promoted the creation of murals in Bahia de Los Angeles by high-quality artists. The area, besides having a unique beauty, is within the framework of National Protected Areas, and includes two Ramsar sites (La Asamblea - San Francisquito and Isla Rasa), which we will begin to describe in this issue, with the purpose That you get know them through these lines and invite the general public to visit them.



# RAMSAR MESSAGE ED0MH 2017

**T**he World Wetlands Day is celebrated on February 2th of each year and marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2th, 1971.

Each year, the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands issues a theme related to the functions and benefits of these ecosystems. On this occasion, it adopted the theme "Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction" at its 52nd meeting, held in Switzerland in June 2016.



This theme has been selected to raise awareness of this issue and to highlight the essential functions of healthy wetlands in reducing the impact of extreme events such as floods, droughts and cyclones on communities and also Resilience of them.

Wetlands act as natural barriers to disasters, so they are valuable in protecting communities that are at greater risk and more vulnerable to the devastating effects of floods, droughts and storm surges.

This year, the Ramsar Convention again invites the general public to join in promoting actions that will lead to the conservation and sustainable use of the world's wetlands



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San Quintín, Baja California

# FIRST STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CONGRESS IN ENSENADA

On February 2th and 3th, under the motto "Adding actions, sharing achievements in Baja California", the 1th State Environmental Protection Congress began at the States Center of the Arts of Ensenada (CEARTE For its acronym in Spanish).

The main objective of the event was to create, maintain and strengthen a meeting and dialogue space that fosters alliances and strategies between civil society, academy,



Photography: Rubén Bautista



Photography: Rubén Bautista

business and government, which contribute to actions to protect and improve the environment in the state.

The congress brought together researchers, civil servants and representatives of civil society, who presented interesting topics in the areas of: resource utilization, protected natural areas, quality and environmental impact, communication and environmental education, environmental regulation as well as Biocultural landscapes.



Photography: Rubén Bautista



An excellent response was received after the call, and finally there were more than 40 papers and an equal number of posters. The latter were presented at the Casino Room of the Social, Civic and Cultural Center of Ensenada. The event lasted two days and, at the close of the meeting, Biol. Thelma Castañeda

Custodio, Secretary of State for Protection of the Environment, announced the commitment to hold a second Congress next year, this time based in Mexicali, to reinforce and promote Local efforts to consolidate environmental protection.

Rubén López Bautista  
collaborator



# STATE WETLAND COMMITTEE OF BAJA CALIFORNIA IS FORMED

On February 2, 2017, the State Committee for Wetlands of the State was formed. The protest took place during the opening ceremony of the 1st State Environmental Protection Congress, which was held in the facilities of the State Center of the Arts of Ensenada (CEARTE for its acronym in Spanish). This committee is composed of the Secretary of Environmental Protection of Baja California, the City of Ensenada and CONANP, civil society organizations such as Pro Esteros A.C. Pronatura Noroeste, Terra Peninsular A.C and Costa Salvaje, also by representatives of the tourist, aquaculture and agricultural sector.

The Secretary of Environmental Protection Thelma Castañeda, mentioned that "This Committee is the third that is conformed in our country, and that the members that conform it must promote actions of protection and sustainable use of this type of ecosystems that provide a series of Environmental services to humanity since they are home to a significant number of species of flora and fauna".

It should be mentioned that the Committee was formed precisely when World Wetlands Day was celebrated. Undoubtedly, it is an achievement of the interinstitutional work and in the matter of care and conservation of the wetlands of our state.



Photography: Rubén Bautista

**“The aim of the State Committee on Wetlands is to coordinate with the different actors the actions of protection, conservation and wise use of wetlands in our state.”**

working together effectively to carry out a good management of these Ecosystems and, at the same time, complying with the international treaty with the Convention on Wetlands, also known as the Ramsar Convention, signed by our country on 4 November 1986.

César Iván Manríquez Castro  
Educational Coordinator



Photography: Rubén Bautista



Photography: Rubén Bautista



# THE IV PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST "OUR WETLANDS".

To commemorate the 2nd of February, World Wetlands Day, Pro Esteros launched for the fourth consecutive year the invitation to participate in the "Our Wetlands" Photography Contest. This competition was aimed at residents of the states of Baja California, Baja California Sur, Sonora, Sinaloa and Nayarit.

***“The main objective of the contest is to promote knowledge and conservation of wetlands.”***

Where participants have the opportunity to show us the natural beauty of these places through an image and at the same time to make known the ecological importance that these ecosystems have for the flora and fauna that inhabit them. The photographs were divided into two categories, A) landscape and B) Flora and fauna of wetlands. We had a total of 46 participants, with 34 photographs of Flora and fauna and 44 of the Landscape category.



Photography: Liliana Ortiz

The results and awards of the contest were held on February 24 at the Ensenada Regional History Museum, better known as the Ex Jail, where an exhibition of 30 photographs from the participants was also staged, which will be exhibited in the museum throughout the months of March and April of the current year.

The winning photographs were evaluated by a jury composed of photographers Arturo Ríos and Benjamín Pacheco, biologists Claudia Leyva and Laura Martínez Ríos and a graphic designer, Ulises Serrano.

For each category the first 3 places obtained prizes, as well as honorable mentions to those photographs that were not winners, but that had a greater impact in the social networks. In the category of Landscape, the first place was obtained by José María González Villavicencio with his work titled "Wetlands in the Valley of Volcanoes". The second place, in this same category, was



**1st place in the Landscape Category:** Jose María Villavicencio  
For his work "Wetlands in the valley of volcanoes".

obtained by Diego Luis Delgado Álvarez with his work titled "Pairs" and the 3rd place was for Susana Alfaro Sánchez with his work titled "amongst volcanoes".

For the case of the Flora and Fauna category, we have Elia Cristina Benítez Reyes 1st place with her work entitled "American Avocet". In 2nd place, in this same category, we have Aldo Ignacio Romero Arce with his work titled "Green freedom" and in 3rd place is Héctor Saúl Riatiga López with his work titled "granite mimicry".





**1st place in the category of Flora and Fauna:**  
Elia Cristina Benítez Reyes for his work ``American Avocet.``

Thank you to all participants for showing us the natural beauty and ecological importance of the wetlands of our region. Thanks to Mario Acevedo Andrade and the Ensenada Regional Historical Museum for the great support during the awards event and the space for the photographic exhibition. Many thanks to the judges because they performed the most difficult task: Select the winners. And thanks to all who shared, gave us "like", followed closely, commented and accompanied us during the awards.

Liliana Ortiz Serrato  
Pro Esteros

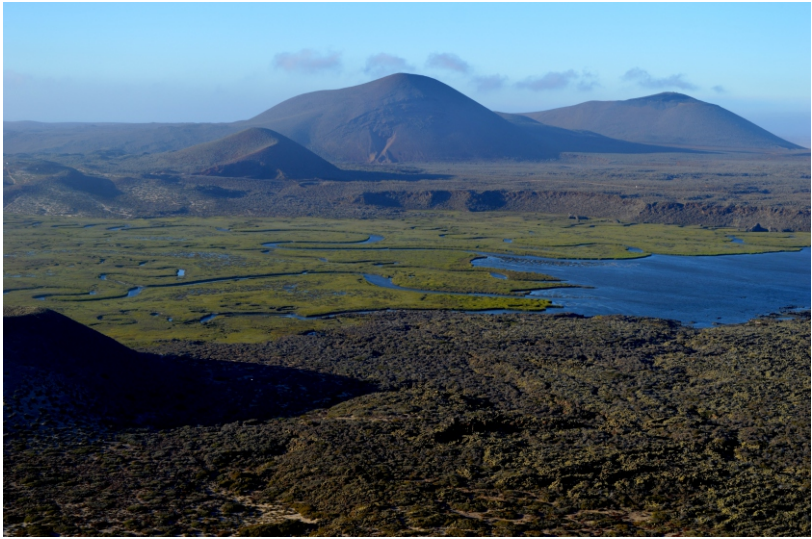
As every year the photo contest gives us the opportunity to reach out to more people and show them the importance of wetlands for us and for the flora and fauna that inhabit them. It has always been a very good experience, and we are pleased that more people have joined in this project which helps us to achieve the objectives.



2nd place, category: Landscape Diego Luis Delgado Álvarez  
With his work entitled "Peers"



3rd, category: Flora and Fauna: Héctor Saúl Riatiga López  
With his work titled "Mimicry Granite"



3rd place, category: Landscape Susana Alfaro Sánchez  
With his work entitled "Between volcanoes"



2nd place, category: Flora and Fauna, Aldo Ignacio Romero Arce  
with his work entitled "Green freedom"

# COMMUNITY MURALISM IN BAHIA DE LOS ANGELES



comu  
nidad/y  
arte/pú  
blico/  
bla



Photography: Liliana Ortiz

During the penultimate week of March, the Cardumen group coordinated the festival “community and public art” (CAP For its acronym in Spanish) at Bahia de Los Angeles. It was an effort of many people that in the end involved the community, civil associations, government agencies and businessmen, from both Ensenada and Bahia de Los Angeles, in order to create a series of murals that would give it identity and cohesion to the community.

*“the aim of connecting the community through urban art.”*

Photography: Liliana Ortiz



The first step was to select the sites where several artists would form their murals in different parts of the town. Subsequently (perhaps the most complicated part) was to make the selection of artists who would participate and who came from different states of the Mexican Republic.

The result: 11 murals distributed in strategic points of the community, each with a particular style. The muralists who participated were: Carlos Soto, Cyrielle Triemblay, Dherzu Uzuala, Diana Bama, Gangsby, Himed & Reyben, Mocre, Emerson Balderas, Mónica Loyola and JM Gómez, as well as Esther Gámez, who is also part of Cardumen.



Photography: Liliana Ortiz



Photography: Liliana Ortiz

During this week, people from the community were involved in various ways. Some of them, mainly children and young people, participated directly in painting the murals hand in hand with the artists. Others, through sponsorship of materials, lodging or food. Some more through promotion and support in logistics. The involvement of the people in the project was very important, as it led to the fulfillment of Cardumen's objectives.

The organizers were very pleased to have had more than expected support: young volunteers, academic institutions, local merchants, staff of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas, businesses of Ensenada, civil associations and of course the owners who provided their fence To make the murals.

To crown this effort, we will soon be able to enjoy a documentary that will be edited by professors of the Autonomous University of Baja California and that will show us the creative and community involvement process that took place during this week.

Our congratulations to the group Cardumen, since the coordination of the event was made even more difficult due to the area where it was carried out is lacking many services, where even internet or telephone communication is limited. They began their activities as a group "with the right foot". And the best part is that they assure us that they will repeat this type of events in other places of our peninsula.

César Iván Manríquez Castro  
Educational Coordinator

Photography: Liliana Ortiz



Photography: Liliana Ortiz

RAMSAR SITES OF BAJA CALIFORNIA:  
COASTAL CORRIDOR  
THE ASSEMBLY - SAN FRANCISQUITO.



Photography: Liliana Ortiz



The Coastal Corridor San Francisquito Assembly is located in the area known as the Great Island Region, on the coast of the Gulf of California or Sea of Cortez. Along the more than 150 kilometers of coast that covers this site, we can find marshes, beaches and dunes.

In the area you can find the last mangrove specimens of the peninsula of Baja California and the country, that is to say, this area marks the northern limit of distribution of these plants, as well as different endemic species of flora and fauna.

In the area you can see the whale shark, approximately from June to November,

within the waters that are located in front of the town of Bay of the Angels. This is taken advantage of by some settlers to offer tours that allow close observation of this imposing animal in its natural environment. An activity that represents an example of sustainable use of the natural resources of the zone.

Another local attraction is the landscape that, for lovers of photography, represents a fantastic opportunity to capture images of the contrasting environment of the area: the abundance and life that marine water implies and the aridity of the terrestrial zone in the same photograph.

Photography: Liliana Ortiz



Photography: Liliana Ortiz



Club de Fotografía: Tiburones Dorados

In different locations around the Ramsar site, local fishermen practice commercial fishing and visitors can practice sport fishing, with the respective permits.

some of the wonderful species that you can see if you visit this wetland of international importance, located approximately 550 kilometers south of the city of Ensenada

Sea turtles, local and migratory birds, marine mammals, terrestrial reptiles and more are

César Iván Manríquez Castro  
Educational Coordinator



sitio Bahía de las Animas especie Mangrove Rojo / Red Mangrove / Rhizophora mangle fotografía Enrique Fuentes

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES



Photography: Liliana Ortiz

One of Pro Esteros' main activities focuses on the promotion of wetland care through environmental education actions. **To this end we offer talks to school groups where we explain the importance of conserving and making good use of the wetlands of the region.** Our talks are aimed at students of all levels and are given free of charge on our part. We only require that they provide the appropriate physical space (classroom or auditorium).



Photography: Liliana Ortiz

On the other hand, we also offer guided tours to the main wetlands near the communities, such as the Punta Banda estuary, La Misión and La Lagunita, in the case of Ensenada. For these activities, we provide the optical equipment (binoculars and telescopes) as well as the field guides for bird identification, which are one of the main types of animals that inhabit the wetlands.

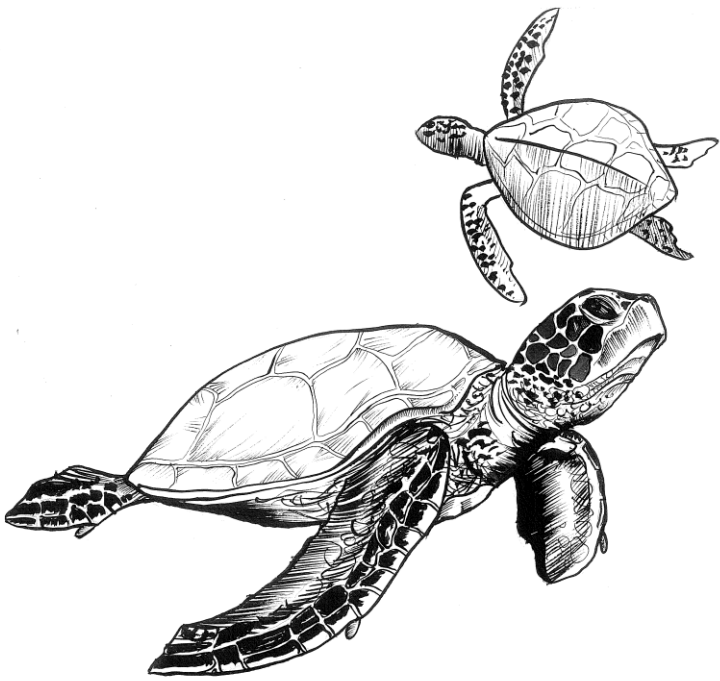
Our educational services are available year-round for school groups and the general public. For the field trips, it is especially attractive during the winter season, since it coincides with the rainy season and with the migration of many birds that travel from the north of the continent to spend the season in our state. If you are interested in any of our activities, contact us by phone, e-mail or Facebook. These data can be found in our directory, at the end of this bulletin.

César Iván Manríquez Castro  
Educational Coordinator

# WETLAND INHABITANT: TURTLE PRIETA

Name: Tortuga prieta  
Name in English: Green Turtle  
Scientific name: Chelonia mydas.

This turtle is under special protection in the official norm NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, which indicates which populations of wild species are at some level of risk in our country.



Photography: OSATURTLES

It is one of the five species of sea turtles that inhabit our country and is born on the coast of Michoacan, Oaxaca and Revillagigedo Islands. There is also nesting area in the Galapagos Islands.

It is one of the most common turtles on the coast of the Baja California peninsula. They can be seen in Pacific lagoons complexes such as Ojo de Liebre, San Ignacio and Magdalena Bay, as well as in Bahia de Los Angeles in the Gulf of California.

The shell of this turtle measures between 60 and 110 cm, is gray or dark green above and clearer in the ventral part. An adult can weigh about 130 kilograms. It feeds mainly on algae, although it is also known to eat some types of marine invertebrates.



## Electronic space:



If you are a lover of nature and photography, here you can learn about plants and animals from our country and the world, while sharing your observations and photographs and help increase knowledge of Mexican biodiversity.

You can create your own project with the type of organisms that interest you, plants, fungi or animals.

## About us:

<http://www.naturalista.mx/>

### **“La bitacora del humedal”**

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Pro Esteros is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the coastal wetlands of the Baja California peninsula.

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