

São Paulo School of Advanced Science on Scenarios and Modelling on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to Support Human Well-Being

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My name is Antonella Gorosábel and I am a PhD student of the University of Buenos Aires. I finished my Biology degree in 2013 at the same University with a thesis about population ecology of Capybaras. In the same year, I started working at the Buenos Aires Zoo and in a NGO called "Fundación de la Tierra", where I gained experience working on conservation projects of mammals and birds. In 2015, I obtained a full PhD scholarship from the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICET) to carry out my thesis at the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA). The principal aim of my thesis is to evaluate the ecosystem services provided by native species of birds and mammals, which are in conflict with the agroecosystems of the Pampas, Argentina. In order to achieve this objective, we identified the ecological functions and the potential services that native species of birds and mammals could be providing to the Pampas agroecosystem. As cases of study, we selected species that are immersed in a historical conflict with the agricultural activities: a group of gregarious birds, the three endemic species of sheldgeese (Chloephaga sp.); and a species of carnivore, the Pampas fox (Lycalopex gymnocercus). For these cases, I have been working with Geographic Information Systems and ecological modelling to estimate the species abundance and habitat use, and estimate the ecosystem services provided by them. We believe the identification and quantification of the benefits these species provide could increase the awareness of their importance and help its conservation.