

# **A brief report of Work Package 4 the "Marine Ventures" study trip to Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, 2012.**

## **WP 4: Legislation and Heritage management in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.**

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**Figur 1, Bahía Lapataia in Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego**

**Photo: K. Oftedal**

Marine Ventures is a bilateral collaboration project between CADIC, Argentina and NTNU Vitenskapsmuseet – SAK, Norway. The project owner is NTNU-Vitenskapsmuseet. Marine ventures is supported by the Latin America program, Research Council of Norway (project no. 208828).

“Marine Ventures” is aimed at a comparative study of archaeological sites i Canal Beagle, Argentinean Tierra del Fuego, and Mesolithic settlements in Western and Northern

Norway. Of particular interest are the circumstances around the initial developments of marine adaptations, and the dynamics between settlements, logistics and adaptation in marine environments. In line with the intentions of the Latin America program this bilateral collaboration- project has also taken on to compare Norwegian and Argentinian legislation and heritage management practice.

Marine ventures is divided in four work packages (WP 1-4). The core issue of the present report is WP 4, which is investigating how cultural heritage is defined, assessed and activated in contemporary cultural heritage management in Argentina and in Norway. In addition this sub-project will investigate how cultural heritage is presented to visitors and how is it perceived by such visitors?

The field studies were focused on Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego (PNTDF) and Museums in Ushuaia, together with interviews conducted mainly in Ushuaia. We also visited the excavating project partners in Cambaceres (from 19<sup>th</sup> to 22. February), where we worked with WP 4, but also took part in WP 1-3.

In addition to the Norwegian contingent Skar and Oftedal, Norway, our key partner Lic. Ernesto L. Piana took part in fieldwork and interviews in Ushuaia from February 23<sup>rd</sup> until February 26<sup>th</sup>. Pianas` introduction of the project to the various interviewees and his translation from Spanish to English was of cardinal importance in order for the WP4 fieldtrip to succeed.

The fieldtrip to Tierra del Fuego was undertaken in the periode 12.02-29.02.2012:

February 13: Arrival in Ushuaia

February 14: Visit to the museums in Ushuaia

February 15: survey to Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego + interview (Malmierca).

February 19: Departure for Cambaceres

February 21: Interview (Goodall)

February 22: return for Ushuaia

February 23: Interview (Rabassa, Reyes)

February 24: Interview (O'Byrne, Chaile, Vasquez)

February 25: Survey to Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego with Lic. Ernesto L. Piana

February 27: Departure for Buenos Aires

February 29: Arrival in Norway (Karen)

**Visits to the Museums in Ushuaia:** An essential part of the dissemination of the heritage in Tierra del Fuego is through museums and exhibitions. An interesting factor

was to see how the story of the Yámanas is presented at the various institutions, private and public. The project group had particular focus on three exhibitions:

1. The Museo Fin del Mundo which is the government run official museum, that holds authority both concerning caretaking of archaeological collections as well as archaeological excavations. Museo fin del Mundo focusses on Ushuaia's natural and indigenous history.
2. Museo Yámana is a small private museum in Ushuaia, which presents an interpretation of indigenous cultural heritage mainly through models and showcases and little additional text.
3. The exhibit in the second floor of the Tourist centre in PNTDF, which is mainly produced by the Maritime museum in Ushuaia with various consultants.

### **Preservation assessment and on-site presentation of cultural heritage in Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego.**

**Tierra del Fuego National Park** is a national park on the Argentine part of the island of Tierra del Fuego province, in the ecoregion of Patagonian Forest and Altos Andes – it is at part of the subantarctic forest. The park was established in October 15, 1960 under the Law 15.554 and expanded in 1966. The park was the first shoreline national park to be established in Argentina.

The park has dramatic scenery, with waterfalls, forests, mountains and glaciers. Its 630 km<sup>2</sup> include parts of the Fagnano and Roca lakes. The Senda Costera (Coastal Path), which was the main focus of our field study -connecting Ensenada Bay to Lapataia Bay on Lago Roca- is a popular hiking trail within the park. This part of the park also has a very high density of archaeological sites originating from Yamana settlement. The forests of Antarctic beech, lenga beech and coihue in the lower elevations of the park are home to many animal species. There are 20 species of terrestrial mammals, including the [guanaco](#), [Andean Fox](#), [North American Beaver](#), [European Rabbit](#) and [muskrat](#). Among the 90 species of birds are the [Kelp Goose](#), [Torrent Duck](#), [Austral Parakeet](#), [Andean Condor](#), [Blackish Oystercatcher](#), and [Magellanic Oystercatcher](#). Not all of these species are indigenous to the area and particularly the introduced rabbits represent a serious threat to the cultural heritage sites. The Official documents on the Park do not report on the marine resources adjacent to the park.

PNTDF is the southernmost national park in the world, it is listed as an [IUCN](#) category II park. The park stretches 60 km north from the Beagle Channel along the Chilean border. Ushuaia, the capital of Tierra del Fuego Province, is 11 km (6.8 mi) from the park

### **Methodology**

#### **The Survey**

Due to the high density of sites and the comprehensive traffic by foot tourists we chose to survey route 2 the Coastal Trail. We evaluated the physical condition of the heritage (mainly shell middens) in the park. A system of photo documentation and marking in GoogleEarth was established and an accompanying registration form with description of the damage degree and cause was filled in. The accessibility and the on-site dissemination of the culture heritage were also evaluated. Our effort was greatly

assisted by an already existing monitoring system developed by CADIC for the National Park authorities. During our stay we visited the park three times, first on our own and then with Ernesto Piana. An important factor was to experience the park on our own and then compensate with the rich knowledge from Piana on the management challenges of PNTDF heritage. In the Park the exhibition in PNTDF (at the tourist information) was visited. This exhibition was documented and evaluated like the two other mentioned museums.

**Use of Questionnaires:** Pre-made questionnaires in English had already before the field trip been sent to our collaborator Ernesto Piana in Argentina, these were in addition translated to Spanish. The guides of the PNTDF kindly handed out these to visitors of the park. While we were there we got some of the prefilled questionnaires back and the rest were scanned and sent by Piana after our arrival back in Norway. The questionnaires will be an important empirical background for analysis during summer/autumn 2012 particularly on how heritage is presented and perceived by visitors of PNTDF. A short report of the results will be sent to the national park, as requested – later this autumn.

**Use of Interviews:** During our fieldwork we conducted seven interviews with core actors within heritage management and management of the national park. This was to supplement the questionnaires with a professional perspective and to gain insight into how cultural heritage management functions in Tierra del Fuego. The individual interviews also helped to illustrate ideologies and possibilities regarding dissemination of cultural heritage in the PNTDF and the Museums. With permissions from the interviewees, interviews led by Birgitte Skar were recorded. The method emphasized on open dialog where the interviewees were able to elaborate and talk freely on different questions and subjects asked.

**Access and Maps:** Only the southern part of the park is open to visitors. This is also the area with most registered heritage.

**Illustrations:**



**Figure 2, Foreground -shell middens in Bahia Ensenada displaying modern impact, PNTDF near landing place for tourist boats, Beagle Channel and Chile in the background.**



Figure 3, Disseminated shell midden with warning sign, Bahía Ensenada, PNTDF.



Figure 4, Dissemination of the Yamana to the left, maritime history and colonization exhibited to the right. Museo Fin del Mundo, Ushuaia.



Figure 5, Typical pictogram with miniature models displaying Yámana lifestyle at the Yámana Museum, Ushuaia.



Figure 6, planches on Yámana information and lifestyle at the exhibition in PNTDF.