



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 21 April 2003

Programme No.852

Length: 3'09"

UN HELPS TO PROTECT PATAGONIA WILDLIFE

VIDEO

COAST (11")

ANIMALS (17")

PAN OF PORT (14")

BIRD/OIL (17")

AUDIO

NARRATION

The three thousand-kilometre coast of Patagonia, in Southern Argentina. It's home to one of the world's greatest concentrations of wildlife.

There are large colonies of Magellanic Penguins, South American Sea Lions, and Southern Elephant Seals, to name just a few. And one of the largest remaining breeding populations of the highly endangered Southern Right Whale. It's among the finest manifestations of nature on our planet.

But over the past few years, Patagonia has undergone dramatic change. The region has the world's fastest growing commercial fishery. This, plus oil production, tourism and population increase, threatens this biodiversity treasure trove.

The Global Environment Facility, a joint venture

of the UN Development Programme, the UN Environment Programme and the World Bank, is supporting Fundacion Patagonia Natural, a local non-governmental organization created to protect the spectacular wildlife and the environment of the region.

PAN TO HARRIS/INTRO (8")

The NGO has been successful in decreasing threats to the region's animals, especially in regard to oil production, says its president, Guillermo Harris.

GUILLERMO HARRIS ON
CAMERA (16.5')

HARRIS:

"The project has drawn attention to the problem of oiling at sea, and there has been a response. The oil tankers are now moving further offshore and the end result is that the wildlife has benefited. We don't have the oil problem that we used to have years ago."

FISHING (37")

NARRATION

Over-fishing in the South Atlantic is seriously depleting the fish stocks of the region. Fundacion Patagonia Natural has produced a coastal management plan with reserved zones for inshore fishermen, reducing competition from large offshore fishing fleets. In exchange, the fishers agreed not to work in sensitive areas. The project also produced information on coastal fisheries through on-board observers working together with the fishermen themselves. A balance must be found between economic

development and the protection of the environment, says UN Development Programme Representative in Argentina, Carmelo Angulo.

ANGULO: (in Spanish)

CARMELO ANGULO ON CAMERA
(13")

"I believe that environment management is the key to helping the country's economic recovery. This must be done within a framework of serenity and respect for the environment."

NARRATION

TOURISM (33")

Wildlife-based tourism has become a significant industry in Argentina. Fundacion Patagonia Natural has been working with whale-watching boat owners. They now only make trips with full boats, reducing the number of trips and trip costs. This maintains income and lowers the impact on the endangered Right Whales. The message from Patagonia is clear: wildlife has the potential to become a significant revenue generator for people everywhere. It makes economic sense to protect the environment.

LOGO (20")

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.