



AZARA

FUNDACIÓN DE HISTORIA NATURAL

Fundación Azara, an internationally prestigious Argentine institution for scientific exploration

Fundación Azara is an institution that Argentines can be proud of, since it is internationally renowned due to its contributions to the advancement of Life and Earth sciences as well as nature conservation.

Up to date, Fundación Azara —founded on November 13, 2000 in Buenos Aires, Argentina— is one of the most prestigious institutions dedicated to natural, environmental, and anthropological research.

In the past sixteen years, its researchers have contributed to science with the discovery of more than fifty new species, both fossil and living.

From its labs and offices, more than one hundred and fifty papers are written annually and then accepted and published in prestigious scientific journals, including *Nature* and *Science*.

Its invaluable scientific production up to the present —more than one thousand scientific papers, one hundred books and technical reports, and twenty undergraduate and graduate theses— is the reflection of the hard work of more than seventy scientists and field naturalists, some of whom are world leaders in their disciplines. This is the case, for example, of José F. Bonaparte and Sebastián Apesteguía, both palaeontologists.

Fundación Azara has developed and supported more than one hundred research and conservation projects of its own, and at least a dozen projects in cooperation with foreign researchers and institutions. Furthermore, it has provided support for projects conducted by more than two hundred researchers and naturalists from other research centres, universities, and non-governmental organizations.

With a team committed to the conservation and management of wildlife, Fundación Azara has rescued and looked after more than four thousand wild animals, victims of illegal trafficking and road accidents.

Fundación Azara also stands out for its work on the creation and implementation of nature reserves, which have added one hundred and fifty thousand hectares to biodiversity conservation efforts. Also, it has created, conferred value, and administered regional museums of natural history and archaeology, interpretations centres, geoparks, and paleontological and archaeological sites. As an example, the Inca archaeological site “El Shincal de Quimivil”, situated in the Northwest of Argentina, was restored in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Productive Innovation, and the Province of Catamarca.

In 2004, Fundación Azara started in Argentina the National Conference on Biodiversity Conservation.





Similarly, it has organized more than twelve national and Latin-American scientific meetings on a variety of specialties.

Its scientific collection —open to researchers from all over the world— treasures more than two hundred thousand pieces of geology, palaeontology, botany, zoology, archaeology, and ethnography.

Along with the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Productive Innovation, Fundación Azara manages an oceanographic ship called “Azara I”.

Scientific outreach is also a main objective for Fundación Azara and this is why it has supported the filming of documentaries such as “Jane and Payne”, filmed in the Argentine Patagonia and starring two world environmental leaders: Jane Goodall and Roger Payne. In addition, it has co-produced diverse audio-visual series along with educational channels, developed several itinerary exhibitions, and designed educational and didactic materials for schools.

More than three hundred thousand youths have participated of Fundación Azara’s different educational activities (workshops, talks, guided visits, science clubs) and more than five million people have visited its itinerary exhibitions in twenty countries across the globe.

More than four hundred university students from twelve higher education institutions have participated as volunteers or interns in both research and outreach activities.

Fundación Azara has signed more than eighty cooperation agreements with institutions around the world. Although its main focus of action is in Argentina, its scientists have conducted research in Spain, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia, Cuba, and Hungary.

The name Fundación Azara pays tribute to Félix de Azara, a true erudite from the 18th Century who always showed passion and commitment for acquiring new knowledge and improving the world around him. He indeed demonstrated these qualities during his work in the La Plata Basin between 1782 and 1801. During this period, he studied the zoology (in particular of birds and mammals), geography, cartography, ethnography, and history of the area. Félix de Azara became a forefather for South American naturalists.

The field of action of Fundación Azara within the natural, environmental, and anthropological sciences is conceived from an integrative and modern perspective that comprehends not only the exploration, research, management, and conservation of an important part of the cultural and natural patrimony of Argentina, but also knowledge transfer and application for the betterment of society.

Fundación Azara’s object of study is no less than the natural and cultural diversity of one of the most attractive places in the world, the extreme South of America, the same place that Félix de Azara dedicated almost twenty years of his life to.

More information:

www.fundacionazara.org.ar

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