

Outcomes of evaluation of the social, economic and cultural impact of the sustainable use program “Proyecto Yacaré”

Lucía Fernández¹ and Pablo A. Siroski*^{1,2}

¹“Proyecto Yacaré” – Laboratorio de Zoología Aplicada: Anexo Vertebrados (FHUC-UNL/MAyCC), A. del Valle 8700, Santa Fe, Argentina (la_lufernandez@hotmail.com)

²Laboratorio de Ecología Molecular Aplicada. Instituto de Ciencias Veterinarias del Litoral, ICiVet, UNL-CONICET, Kreder 2805, 3080 Esperanza, Argentina (pablo.siroski@icivet.unl.edu.ar)

Abstract: The use of natural resources is an important activity for local communities, since it generates an important economic income. Historically, the positive impact of sustainable use programs on species recovery and regional economies has been assumed, but it was necessary to *quantify* their effects on those variables related to local people such as their families’ structures, their community and the ecosystem. In order to evaluate the effects on the people living in rural areas where Proyecto Yacaré ranching program work, interviews and structured surveys were designed for gathering information and generate a system of indexes. Through the use of some specific tools, we were able to know many aspects about local people like the main and secondary occupation of the members of the families, medical insurance, education, the average of incomes, among others. We also obtained an overview of other specific needs in this area like type housing, elemental services, and their conditions, mechanisms to get water for consumption, electricity and gas services, among others. Finally, the interviews gave us information about their knowledge about caiman, their vision and representation around the Proyecto Yacaré sustainable use program.

Keywords: Local communities, Ranching, *Caiman latirostris*, Social and economic impact

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