

## Pampa Azul Initiative

### What is it?

Pampa Azul is an interministerial initiative of the government of Argentina, which encompasses actions related to scientific research, innovation and technological development in order to provide a scientific basis to support the country's oceanic policies, including the strengthening of Argentina's sovereignty over the seas, the conservation and sustainable use of marine assets, as well as the creation and management of marine protected areas.

Argentina has a 4725 km seacoast, plus a 11325 km coastline in Argentine Antarctica and the southern islands. Of the 6,683,000 km<sup>2</sup> occupied by Argentine continental, insular and Antarctic marine spaces, the Argentine continental shelf in the American mainland and islands alone occupies 3,744,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which accounts for 56% of the total marine spaces.

### Which are the goals of the initiative?

Pampa Azul fosters research, development and innovation to contribute to security and social, economic and environmentally sustainable development, with a focus on technological innovation, social inclusion with gender perspective, the protection of marine natural assets and the integration of marine and coastal environments, as well as the promotion of capacity building in related technological areas and scientific disciplines. It also aims at raising broader social awareness on the services and benefits provided by the sea, establishing a specific agenda for scientific communication and dissemination. To that end, we use mid- and long-term planning that promotes multidisciplinary approaches and inter-agency synergies.

The specific goals of Pampa Azul are as follows:

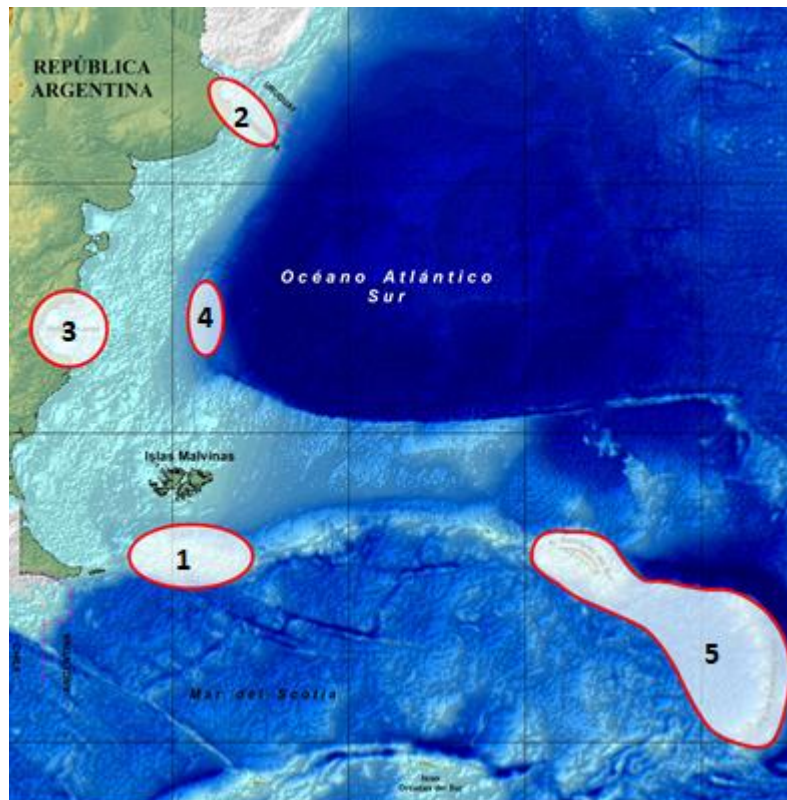
- Strengthening the capacities of the scientific-technological system to contribute to marine public policies (infrastructure, fleets, instruments, human capacities).
- Strengthening inter-agency capacities for research, development and innovation with a federal perspective.
- Advancing the agenda of projects that contribute to strategic issues, including:
  - Conservation of biodiversity and marine spatial planning
  - Climate change and climate variability
  - Management of environmental risk
  - Geological and geophysical survey
  - Fisheries research
  - Human activities and the coastal-marine environment

Pampa Azul also aims to promote technological developments and innovations that contribute to strength industries related to the sea and to the economic development of Argentina's maritime regions.

The National Programme for Research and Productive Innovation in Argentine Maritime Spaces (PROMAR) provides regular funding for scientific-technical research efforts in the South Atlantic, which is the backbone of the implementation of Pampa Azul.

**Where do activities take place?**

The initiative focuses its activities on Argentine marine spaces with a global perspective. It includes five geographic priority areas targeted in the research efforts, selected on the basis of their oceanographic characteristics, the importance of their ecosystems and the potential impact of human activities. These areas are: 1- Burdwood Bank / Namuncurá Protected Area; 2- Río de la Plata fluvial-marine system; 3- San Jorge Gulf; 4- Shelf break front (“Blue Hole”); 5- Sub-Antarctic Islands (Georgias and South Sandwich).



**Who is in it?**

Pampa Azul brings together the ministries of Science, Technology and Innovation; Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship; Environment and Sustainable Development; Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; Tourism and Sports; Defence; and Security.

The institutions that take part in Pampa Azul include the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET); national universities as well as science and technology institutions of the ministries of Science, Technology and Innovation; Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship; Environment and Sustainable Development; Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; Tourism and Sports; Defence; and Security.

### **How is it organized?**

The general guidelines for the work of Pampa Azul are established by an Interministerial Coordinating Committee composed of representatives of the seven ministries and coordinated by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. Research goals, lines of work and the training of human resources are determined on the basis of the proposals made by a Scientific Advisory Council, whose members are renowned researchers specializing in Marine Sciences. In addition, technological development goals, priority initiatives and projects, and possible mechanisms for building links with the production sector are established taking into account the proposals presented by a Technology Advisory Council comprising specialists in various areas. Both Councils have members from a wide variety of fields and from across the country, with broad representation in terms of gender.

The work carried out by both Advisory Councils is based on the activities of Working Groups, which channel the organization of research campaigns, the design of technological undertakings, responses to demands from the production sector and legislative and regulatory initiatives, among other actions.

### **International Cooperation**

Pampa Azul seeks to strengthen and increase international cooperation on marine scientific research and innovation, with a view to generating up-to-date scientific information that is relevant to expand the global understanding of oceans and their sustainability. In this regard, some objectives have been defined, such as:

- Combining national research actions with international initiatives on key thematic areas.
- Promoting the participation of Argentina in marine scientific research programmes together with other countries and supporting the exchange of information on this matter.
- Fostering the exchange of researchers and the training of human resources through agreements with other countries.

Although the main focus of attention is the South Atlantic, the Pampa Azul initiative is intended to promote research with a global and regional perspective as well. Thus, the goals and challenges related to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-

2030), within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, are taken into account.

### **Legal framework**

Pampa Azul was created under interministerial agreement MINCYT 061/14, which was signed by the seven ministries. The PROMAR was created under Law 27,167, enacted by the Argentine Congress in 2015. The enforcement authority for the National Fund for Research and Productive Innovation in Argentine Maritime Spaces (FONIPROMAR) is the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. The PROMAR annual budget is managed by a Board of Directors created under section 4 of the PROMAR Law, which comprises the seven ministries in Pampa Azul, CONICET and the Office of the Chief of Cabinet of Ministers.

### **Additional and contact information**

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