GOAL
Promoting conservation and sustainable development of the Mar Chiquita Ramsar site

PAST AND ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- **Book**: Bañados del Río Dulce y Laguna Mar Chiquita (National Academy of Sciences) (2006)
- **Field Station** “Mar Chiquita” (Miramar, 2005)
- **Research**:
  - Shorebird habitat conservation
  - Assessment of deforestation and selection of candidate areas for conservation
  - Flamingo ecology and conservation
  - Lake monitoring (water level, salinity, limnology, etc.)
- **Education**: Teachers training courses (primary and high school levels)
- **Policy**: Technical assistance to local municipalities
Who was involved?

- Researchers of the Master Program in Wildlife Management (Universidad Nacional de Córdoba)
- Teachers and students of the Mar Chiquita region
- Majors and local communities of the region’s municipalities

Measures carried out in relation to the management plan

- Publication of a book that summarize present knowledge about the protected area, including priority management needs
- Extensive outreach activity promoting the need for a management plan (media, public meetings, etc.)
- Support to the development of a local NGO: Fundación MAR
- Preparation of a compendium of legislation regarding water management in Mar Chiquita
- Technical support to municipalities in sustainable development projects (e.g. eco-turism activities)
Lessons learned

- Need to expand our outreach activities into a larger, regional scale including other key towns
- Presence in provincial or national mass media is important to install problems and management issues in the political agenda
- The Ramsar Convention is little known and mostly ignored at the provincial level