

Tackling pollution to achieve the KMGBF: environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America's Contribution



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CONVENTIONS

14 Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres

Established under Article 14 of the Basel Convention, the Centres support countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe and other States.



- Training and technology transfer for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, and the prevention and minimization of their generation.
- Autonomous institutions operating under the authority of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Convention's decision-making body.
- Hosted by national or intergovernmental institutions with the expertise and capacity to provide regional technical assistance and capacity-building.
- Framework agreements between the host government or institution and the Basel Convention Secretariat, acting on behalf of the COP.

Technology Transfer and Capacity-Building in South America

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for South America (CRBAS) has been hosted by Argentina's National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) since 1999, under a Host Agreement. Based at INTI, CRBAS provides technical assistance and strengthens regional capacities in:

- Environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes.
- Technology transfer.
- Development and implementation of regulatory frameworks.
- Training for authorities and stakeholders in productive sectors.
- Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.



BCRC Argentina Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework



The Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America supports the implementation of the Framework through environmentally sound waste management, pollution prevention and regional capacity-building.

- **Target 7 | Reduce pollution:** Implementing projects on plastic waste and hazardous substances, including POPs in e-waste, to reduce pressures on biodiversity, with activities in mountain ecosystems and remote areas.
- **Target 16 | Promote sustainable consumption:** Raising awareness activities and sharing good practices to prevent waste generation, extend product lifespans, and promote repair and reuse.
- **Target 20 | Strengthen capacities and cooperation:** Providing training, technical assistance, technology transfer and opportunities for regional knowledge exchange through specialized institutions and laboratories to strengthen the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes.
- **Target 21 | Generate and share knowledge:** Monitoring activities, developing technical guidance, and disseminating information to support decision-making and environmental awareness.

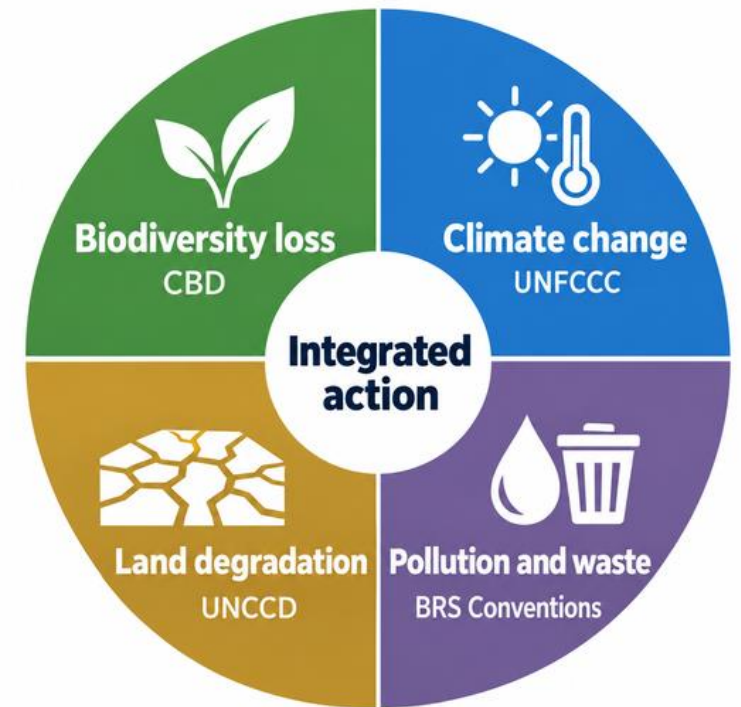
Addressing the Planetary Crisis

Biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution are interconnected challenges that require coordinated action.

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions support this response through the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes.

- BCRC Argentina contributes through:
- Pollution prevention: addressing plastic waste and hazardous chemicals, including POPs in e-waste.
- Biodiversity protection: promoting sound waste management in sensitive ecosystems.
- Climate action: promoting waste prevention, repair and reuse to reduce resource demand and associated emissions. Technical assistance, capacity-building and regional cooperation connect these efforts.

Interconnected Environmental Crises



Plastic Waste in Remote and Mountainous Areas

Argentina and Chile | February 2025–June 2026

Implemented by BCRC Argentina | Grant: USD 80,000

Objective: Prevent and reduce plastic waste and strengthen its environmentally sound management in fragile mountain ecosystems.

- Research and monitoring: Assess plastic litter and potential microplastics, establishing a comparative baseline across four mountain environments in Argentina.
- Awareness and prevention: Promote responsible visitor behaviour and locally adapted waste prevention practices.
- Cooperation and participation: Engage authorities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), academia and the private sector.
- Responsible field activities: Secure access and sampling permits from relevant authorities and obtain prior informed consent from IPLCs, where applicable.

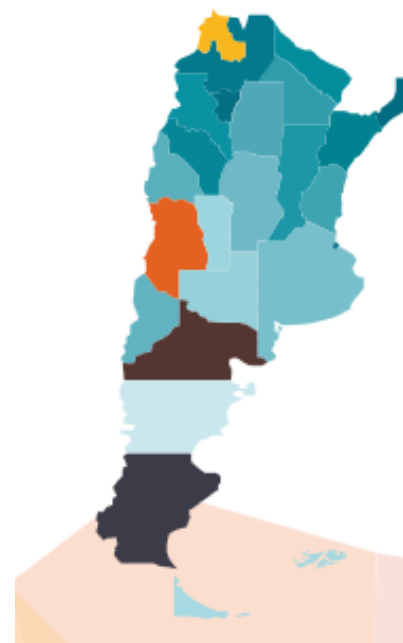
Argentine pilot sites:

Patagonia: Cerro Catedral, Bariloche (Río Negro), and Los Glaciares National Park, El Chaltén (Santa Cruz).

Central Andes: Aconcagua Provincial Park (Mendoza).

Argentine Puna: Susques and Paso de Jama (Jujuy).

Pilot Sites in Argentina



Jujuy

June 2026

Paso de Jama - Susques

Mendoza

November 2025

Aconcagua Provincial Park

Río Negro

November 2025

Cerro Catedral, Bariloche

Santa Cruz

April 2026

Los Glaciares, National Park,
El Chaltén



Norwegian Retailers'
Environment Fund

Plastic Waste in Remote and Mountainous Areas

From Evidence to Action: Key Results

- Plastic litter baseline: Plastics accounted for 22–45% of the total litter mass collected across four Argentine pilot sites.
- Monitoring capacity: Field and laboratory activities strengthened skills in sampling, contamination control and analysis. Preliminary microscopy identified particles consistent with potential microplastics; polymer confirmation is still needed.
- Visitor awareness: 36 bilingual signs installed along 48.3 km of trails and routes in Los Glaciares National Park promoted responsible behaviour and “Leave No Trace”.
- Local engagement: Workshops and community participation connected scientific evidence with local knowledge to identify practical prevention measures.
- Preventing plastic pollution helps protect mountain biodiversity, wildlife and water resources.



Microplastics in Mountain Waters: Monitoring for Biodiversity Protection

Field campaigns: November 2025–June 2026 | Argentina

- **Sampling and analysis:** Surface-water sampling using the MappA protocol, followed by laboratory processing and microscopy, with controls to assess contamination.
- **Preliminary findings:** Fibres, film-like material and other particles consistent with potential microplastics were observed. Polymer identification is needed for confirmation.
- **Biodiversity relevance:** Microplastics may be ingested by aquatic organisms, including invertebrates, potentially affecting feeding, growth and reproduction and entering food webs.
- **Scientific cooperation:** Collaboration with universities also analysing heavy metals in invertebrates supported knowledge exchange on pollution in mountain ecosystems.
- **Why monitoring matters:** Establishing baselines and tracking changes helps identify pollution pressures, guide prevention and protect freshwater biodiversity.



Macroplastics in Mountain Waters: Monitoring for Biodiversity

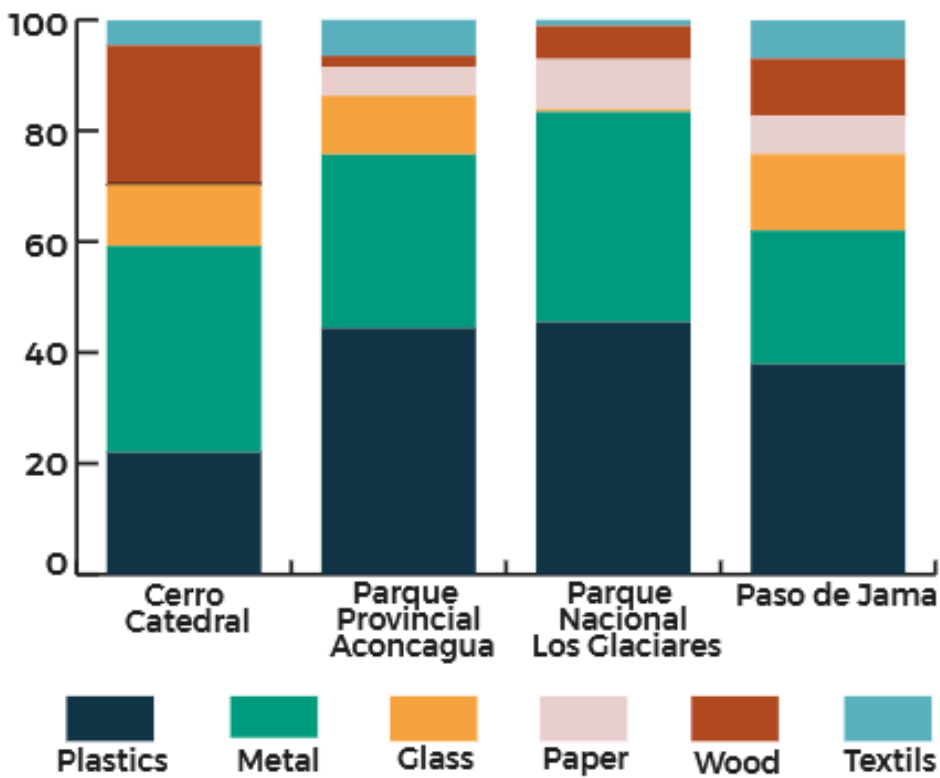
Protection Field campaigns: November 2025–June 2026 | Argentina

How samples were collected and processed: Litter was systematically collected along predefined transects at each pilot site, classified and quantified by material type. The plastic fraction was then individually characterized by size, mass, presumed use and potential source, with polymer composition identified by ATR-FTIR spectroscopy.

Predominant activities and potential sources of litter generation at the pilot sites.

Site	Predominant Activity	Main Sources of Litter Generation
Cerro Catedral	Winter tourism	Visitors and ski resort infrastructure
Aconcagua Provincial Park	High mountain tourism and international transport corridor	Visitors, mountaineers, and international freight transport
Los Glaciares National Park	Nature tourism	Visitors, urban infrastructure, and waste management activities
Paso de Jama	International border crossing	International freight transport and users of the transport corridor

Predominant activities and potential sources of litter generation at the pilot sites.



Thank you!

Bcrc-argentina@inti.Gob.ar



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