

## **FARN PRESENTED ITS 2011 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND EXPOSED THE MOST IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FOR ARGENTINA'S ELECTORAL YEAR**

- ✓ In an event attended by close to 250 participants, the Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN) presented its 2011 Annual Environmental Report at the University of Buenos Aires' School of Law (Facultad de Derecho, Universidad de Buenos Aires). The publication brings together articles on the most important aspects of environmental policy and sustainable development in Argentina and the Latin American region. The publication can be downloaded at: <http://www.farn.org.ar/informe2011.pdf>
- ✓ In the framework of this important electoral year, the Report covers key themes such as renewable energy, protection of glaciers, cleanup of the Matanza-Riachuelo River Basin, implementation of the National Forest Law, sustainable management of the Patagonian Sea, the impacts of mining, the encroachment of agricultural and cattle-raising activities and use of agrochemicals, integrated waste management, the deepening crisis of climate change, and biodiversity loss.
- ✓ Journalist Sergio Elguezabal hosted the event, while FARN's Executive Director, Maria Eugenia Di Paola, presented the 2011 Annual Environmental Report. The event also featured the distribution of awards to the winners of the Annual Adriana Schiffrin Monograph Contest. The topic of the call from 2010 was "Climate Change: The Transformations Needed at a National and Regional Level." The prize's judges, Pablo Canziani and Mable Müller, presented the award.
- ✓ The morning also included a roundtable debate among national and regional level politicians. Participating public officials included the following: Miguel Bonasso (National Deputy); Norma Morandini (National Senator); Jorge Kerz (Provincial Representative from Entre Rios); Fernanda Reyes (National Deputy); and Javier Corcuera (President of the Environmental Agency of the City of Buenos Aires).
- ✓ **Maria Eugenia Di Paola, Executive Director of FARN**, stressed in her presentation, *"our natural system is circular and integral, but unfortunately the decisions that impact it are generally made in a linear and fragmented fashion. We cannot keep thinking that the planet has no limits, and to this end personal, private, and public attitudes must change. If our leaders and public authorities do not incorporate these notions into their strategic decisions and their implementations, we will have serious difficulties in achieving sustainability."*

## **ROUNDTABLE DEBATE THE ENVIRONMENT IN AN ELECTORAL YEAR**

During the roundtable debate held in the framework of this year's presentation, **National Deputy Miguel Bonasso** remarked that *"Argentina lacks of a model for sustainable development. It cannot be that the Secretary of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation is almost nonexistent; We have converted ourselves into a country exclusively dedicated to monoculture when, in reality, diversification is the key to sustainable development."* He also referred to the new debate that has emerged in the public agenda in relation to nuclear energy, saying that *"this year the Commission of Natural Resources of the Chamber of Deputies plans to convene different scientists and specialists in the field in order to promote a deep and open debate about nuclear energy in Argentina."*

For her part, **National Senator Norma Morandini** said that, *"luckily the environmental issue is not an electoral theme, because otherwise it would run the risk of being converted into propaganda during election season. The environmental agenda demands participation, which in turn urges for a transition from inhabitant to citizen. In this sense, it is extremely important to coordinate the analyses among sectors and promote deep dialogue, so that solid environmental laws can be constructed, like last year's Glacier Protection Law."*

In her exposition, **National Deputy Fernanda Reyes** made an allusion to Argentina's model, affirming that *"we have an extractivist and short-term model, and because of this we are damaging our country by only thinking about the next four years."* In relation to the Glacier Protection Law, she affirmed that *"time costs us water, so the longer we wait to audit current mining ventures, the longer they will continue using thousands of liters of water and contaminating glaciers through aquifers."*

**Jorge Kerz, Provincial Representative from Entre Rios**, remarked on *"the importance of the recent Environmental Code of Entre Rios, which has already been passed in one chamber of the provincial congress. The drafting of the bill was carried out in a participatory manner, taking into account important tools such as Land Use Planning, Strategic Environmental Evaluation, and Environmental Impact Assessment, which are indispensable for analyzing a wide variety of projects, for example those relating to agriculture and cattle, as well as the management of agrochemicals."*

**Javier Corcuera, President of the Environmental Agency of the City of Buenos Aires**, said that *"there exists an enormous incapacity on the part of the National Government, for generating more open dialogues, with external controls and that include civil organization. There should not be fear of existing interests, but rather they should be confronted in a transparent manner and with better equilibrium in the discussions. The challenge is to develop the capacity for dialogue."*

## PICTURES OF THE EVENT

For more photos, please write to: [prensa@farn.org.ar](mailto:prensa@farn.org.ar).



**From left to right: Sergio Elguezabal, Jorge Kerz, Javier Corchera, Fernanda Reyes, Norma Morandini and Miguel Bonasso**



**María Eugenia Di Paola, Executive Director of FARN**

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