

**Company:** Pan American Energy, Ciudad de Buenos Aires  
**Company Description:** PAE is the leading private and integrated energy company in Argentina. It has become the main private producing, employing and investing company within the Oil&Gas industry in this country. It also operates in Bolivia, Mexico and Brazil. It explores and produces oil and gas. It refines oil, commercializes fuels and lubricants (AXION branch), and participates in the renewable energies.  
**Nomination Category:** Sustainability Categories  
**Nomination Sub Category:** Sustainability Initiative of the Year - in Mexico, the Caribbean & Central and South America  
**Nomination Title:** Guardians of Marine Life



1. Which will you submit for your nomination in this category, a video of up to five (5) minutes in length about the achievements of the nominated organization since 1 January 2023, OR written answers to the questions for this category? (Choose one):
- Written answers to the questions
2. If you are submitting a video of up to five (5) minutes in length, provide the URL of the nominated video here, OR attach it to your entry via the "Add Attachments, Videos, or Links to This Entry" link above, through which you may also upload a copy of your video.
3. If you are providing written answers for your submission, you must provide an answer to this first question: Briefly describe the nominated organization: its history and past performance (up to 200 words):

**Total 170 words used.**

Pan American Energy (PAE) is the region’s leading energy developer. As the top private producer, employer, and investor in the Argentine energy sector, it operates also in Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The company is active across the upstream, midstream, and downstream segments, promoting sustainable practices by fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors to generate social, economic, and environmental value for the communities where it operates.

Recently, PAE reaffirmed its commitment to the Golfo San Jorge (located along the coasts of Chubut and Santa Cruz provinces) by implementing over 50 sustainability programs. A notable example is the "Guardians of Marine Life: Knowledge for Conservation" program, aligned with SDG 14 and Aichi Targets. Since 2015, PAE has supported scientific research and awareness-raising efforts to protect endangered species in the Argentine Sea. These include the broadnose sevengill shark, Magellanic and Southern Rockhopper penguins, sei and humpback whales, and five dolphin species. These species are not only vital to marine biodiversity but also serve as key indicators of ecosystem health.

4. If you are providing written answers for your submission, you must provide an answer to this second question: Outline the organization's achievements since the beginning of 2023 that you wish to bring to the judges' attention (up to 250 words):

**Total 245 words used.**

PAE's Guardians of Marine Life program results demonstrate scalable, science-driven conservation by integrating research, policy, and community action to protect marine ecosystems in the San Jorge Gulf. Here are some of the accomplishments of the program:

BROADNOSE SEVENGILL SHARK CONSERVATION:

- More than 300 sharks were tagged and released.
- Conducted first-of-its-kind ex situ studies at Temaikèn Biopark to study the reproductive cycle of this species, including hormone fluctuations and follicular development.
- Presented findings at the 8th Argentine Symposium on Ichthyology (2024), including a study on otitis in sharks under human care, informing future welfare protocols.
- More than 400,000 visitors learnt about the shark at the biopark aquarium, including more than 4,000 locals and children from 700 schools and 300 preschools.

PENGUIN POPULATION INSIGHTS:

- In the face of deteriorating environments, surveys of over 50,000 penguins in five colonies supported long-term population health evaluations.
- 34 penguins were tracked using geolocators, exposing important foraging behaviors: females secure early survival, while males travel further to feed young.
- 100 events were organized to raise awareness among the community.

CETACEAN BREAKTHROUGHS:

- In 2024, the team was able to successfully satellite-tag six sei whales to investigate their feeding grounds and migrations. This information complements the first program's cetacean identification guide, which lists 12 species based on 3,000 sightings and is currently used as a tool for creating sustainable tourism plans that prioritize environmental stewardship and species well-being.
- 500 residents engaged, with outreach to 10 schools and 3 community clubs.

5. If you are providing written answers for your submission, you must provide an answer to this third question: Explain why the achievements you have highlighted are unique or significant. If possible compare the achievements to the performance of other players in your industry and/or to the organization's past performance (up to 250 words):

**Total 238 words used.**

The initiative is notable for taking a creative, scientifically grounded approach to solving important conservation issues in the San Jorge Gulf. The accomplishments of the program are noteworthy for three main reasons:

FIRSTS IN SCIENCE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THREATENED SPECIES

- The first attempt to comprehend the reproductive biology of this endangered species under human care is represented by the hormonal investigations of broadnose sevengill sharks. A population that has decreased by 80% in Argentine waters may find a lifeline thanks to this work, which could make assisted reproduction techniques possible.
- Sei whale satellite tagging, which began in April 2024, fills in knowledge gaps about the movements of this vulnerable species. The whale was almost hunted to extinction.

SCALABLE FRAMEWORK FOR CONSERVATION DRIVEN BY INDUSTRY

- PAE's program incorporates:
  - Extended observation (since 2015)
  - Partnerships across sectors (CONICET, 8 universities, 5 NGOs)
  - This comprehensive strategy illustrates how energy corporations can operationalize biodiversity commitments beyond compliance through direct policy applications (such as the cetacean ID guide used by tourism operators).

METRICS OF TANGIBLE IMPACT

- The program produces quantifiable results:
  - Species-level: 12 cetacean species were recorded, 50,000+ penguins were surveyed, and 300+ sharks were examined. At the community level, 500+ locals were trained and 400,000+ people were educated at Temaikèn. Scientific output includes managerial procedures, peer-reviewed research, and policymaker tools.

These achievements are particularly notable given the program's focus on understudied species in a region where marine research remains underfunded.

6. You have the option to answer this final question: Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination (up to 250 words):

**Total 108 words used.**

- The program is described in detail in the PDF "250509B\_Guardians\_Marine\_Life\_PAE," which covers topics like the background that inspired the program, details about each species under study, including their status, distribution, and primary threats; the particular goals for each species, the approach taken, the execution, and the outcomes of the scientific, preservation, and community awareness-raising activities.
- The outcomes are described in more detail in the paper "Report\_Guardians\_of\_Marine\_Life\_November\_2024".
- The first cetacean identification guide released in the area is the PDF "cetáceos\_del\_golfo\_san\_jorge."
- One of the didactic materials used in school activities to teach about the broadnose sevengill shark and promote awareness about its preservation is the document "juli\_y\_el\_tiburón\_material\_complementario."

Attachments/Videos/Links:

[Guardians of Marine Life](#)

[REDACTED FOR PUBLICATION]