



**Visitors in the urban wetland
Mirasol of Algarrobo: A threat or an
opportunity for resilience?**

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Report 2 of 3



Report 2

In order to gain more perspective on the project of human waste in Mirasol, the Fundación Kennedy team and I continued conducting interviews with the Mirasol visitors, the local community group, and Chile's Municipal department of environment and operations (DIMA0).

I learned that in 2020, Chile enacted the first law in South America aimed at protecting urban wetlands. While this was a large step towards progress, the national government has not been able to establish a consistent budget to properly manage, monitor, or preserve the wetlands they declare protected. Additionally, getting a wetland officially recognized by the law is a long bureaucratic process and real estate developers have historically tried to block this process.

The Mirasol wetland is considered an urban wetland but is not yet officially declared so by the Ministry of the Environment despite public efforts. As such, there is very little protection, management, or relevant research being done. Due to a lack of government action, concerned residents from the local community of Algarrobo had taken matters into their own hands and formed a neighborhood association, one of their goals being the conservation of the Mirasol wetland and beach. Talking with the members of the neighborhood association made me emotional as I saw the dedication they held towards protecting Mirasol as well as their frustration at federal inaction. We met with DIMA0 to learn more about the barriers to municipal action.

DIMA0 informed us that they did not have the funding nor employees for the proper maintenance and monitoring of Mirasol. These political and financial barriers were hindering any progress towards getting Mirasol officially declared as an urban wetland.

With rampant issues of poverty and corruption around the world, environmental issues are rarely a top priority for individuals and municipalities. Ultimately, the issues at Mirasol reflect the systemic issues and barriers that breed a society that does not understand or care for the value of our environments.

After a week of conducting interviews, surveys, and filming, we left to board the Oosterschelde and begin creating our films addressing these issues.



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