

# 10 YEARS OF PUELO PATAGONIA

PUELO  
PATAGONIA 

CORPORACIÓN PUELO PATAGONIA | Cuenca del Río Puelo, Patagonia Norte, Chile

# 10 YEARS WORKING IN THE COCHAMÓ AND PUELO VALLEYS

## WHAT IS PUELO PATAGONIA?

**Puelo Patagonia is an independent non-profit organization that works with conviction to conserve the natural and cultural heritage and landscape of the County of Cochamó, promoting responsible and integral development for all of its inhabitants.**

We are convinced that the Puelo and Cochamó River basins have environmental and cultural characteristics that must be cared for for future generations.

We develop and support projects focused on conserving ecosystems while preserving local traditions and culture.

Our work aims to contribute to the overall well-being of communities and promote harmonious development between people and nature, with the goal of serving as a replicable and inspirational model for the world.

# TIMELINE



**2013**

**BEGINNINGS OF PUELO PATAGONIA**

With 9 initial partners, ONG Puelo Patagonia begins its activities to defend the Puelo River from the Mediterráneo hydroelectric project.



**2014**

**PUELO WITHOUT TOWERS**

The principal socio-environmental issues in Puelo are identified and communicated through workshops conducted in collaboration with local communities. Support is sought from authorities and organizations from within Chile and from around the world. Legal actions are initiated against Mediterráneo. Progress is made to boost small-scale economic activities in the county.



**2015**

**SUPPORT**

The socio-environmental conflict in Puelo gains prominence as a significant issue. Support from authorities and organizations is secured, leading to an order to halt the construction of the Mediterráneo project.



**2019**

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**

A stronger emphasis is placed on community work and social empowerment. Informative talks and signature collection campaigns are initiated to establish a Water Reserve in the Puelo River. The Cochamó Valley welcomes its first volunteers to mitigate the impacts of mass tourism, and information is gathered to justify the continuation of the ZOIT. Puelo Patagonia succeeds in gaining more than 100 members supporting the organization.



**2018**

**CONSERVATION**

The study of Puelo's huemules is initiated, along with research on the impacts of tourism in the Cochamó Valley. A comprehensive inventory of publicly-owned, environmentally valuable properties for conservation purposes is conducted, and the local community is informed about these opportunities.



**2017**

**DIVERSIFICATION**

Puelo Patagonia takes steps toward responsible tourism, yielding positive outcomes in the Cochamó Valley and a larger "Zone of Touristic Interest" (abbreviated ZOIT in Spanish). They continue developing new proposals for research and wildlife protection projects. The revocation of Mediterráneo's environmental permit is confirmed.



**2016**

**TRIUMPHS**

The community rides horseback to lobby the local municipality, regional government, the Senate, and Chamber of Deputies, demanding the suspension of the hydroelectric project. Mediterráneo loses its environmental permit. Puelo Patagonia diversifies its initiatives, continuing to work in environmental defense while also developing new conservation projects.



**2020**

**REINVENTING OUR WORK**

During the summer season, research and tourism regulation efforts continue. However, the pandemic distances us from fieldwork, prompting us to adapt and support families affected by a drastic reduction in income from tourism. We continue our work remotely, maintaining regular communication with authorities to make progress. Fieldwork continues to investigate the huemules of Puelo.



**2021**

**PUELO WATER RESERVE**

A campaign is carried out to secure the water reserve in the Puelo River, and a proposal is submitted to request the Cochamó Valley Nature Sanctuary. In response to the desires of the local community, signs are installed during the summer to help prevent forest fires, and a volunteer initiative is launched to assist the elderly. A heritage preservation project is also initiated.



**2022**

**PROTECTION OF THE COCHAMÓ VALLEY**

In 2022, the second season of volunteering for the elderly is conducted, and progress is made on other community empowerment projects. Throughout the year, continuous efforts are made to support the creation of the first protected area in the commune of Cochamó.



**2023**

**WE CELEBRATE 10 YEARS WITH 11.741 HECTARES CONSERVED**

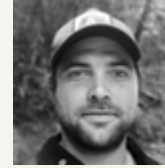
In early 2023, the declaration of the Cochamó Valley Nature Sanctuary is accomplished. This positive development boosts ongoing efforts to protect the Cochamó Valley. However, a few months later, a new threat emerges in the form of a real estate project in the valley, causing significant alarm in the community and leading to the initiation of efforts to secure the property for conservation purposes by July 2023.



# ABOUT US

## WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF OUR ORGANIZATION?

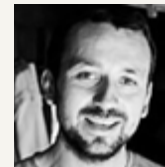
### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**José Claro**  
President



**Andrés Amengual**  
Director



**Rodrigo Condeza**  
Director



**Klaus Kosiel**  
Director

### EXECUTIVE TEAM



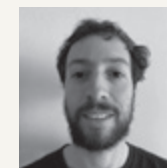
**Andrés Diez**  
Executive Director



**Benjamín Monckeberg**  
Administrative Manager



**Josefina Vigouroux**  
Communications and Community Manager



**Gabriel Gómez**  
Territorial Planning Manager



**Gabriela Barriga**  
Legal advisor.



**Leyla Musleh**  
Designer



**Nicolás Amadori**  
Operations Manager

### COLLABORATORS



WEEDEN Foundation



PEW Environmental Trusts



PATAGONIA MAR Y TIERRA



Defensores del Puelo



LEONARDO PICARINI FOUNDATION



leyla musleh / DISEÑO INTEGRAL



TROPERA



GARUGA - EN TODO CHILE -



LADERA SUR



Marisla Foundation



AMNESTY CHILE



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



FUNDO COMUNITARIA CASA



Patagon Journal



frisbi



1% FOR THE PLANET



WILD PATAGONIAN WHISKEY GIN & SODA



patagonia



WILD LAMA



FREYJA FOUNDATION

### MEMBERS

We have **189 members** who are dedicated to monthly contributions for the conservation and responsible development of the Puelo and Cochamó River valleys. Thanks to the support and dedication of our partners, we have become a self-sustaining and independent NGO.

### WORK GROUPS AND ALLIANCES

Grupo Patagonia Mar y Tierra / Alianza de Agua Dulce / Red de ríos libres / Organización Valle Cochamó / Defensores del Puelo / ZOIT Cochamó Hualaihué

### PUELO COMMUNITY ON SOCIAL NETWORKS



**21.350**  
followers on Instagram



**11.000**  
Likes on Facebook



**2,159**  
Newsletter subscribers

## WHY PUELO AND COCHAMÓ?

**The waters of the Puelo and Cochamó Rivers and the associated ecosystems are globally significant in the context of the socio-climate crisis. This is due to the good state of conservation of their natural elements and the way of life developed by local communities in harmony with their surroundings**

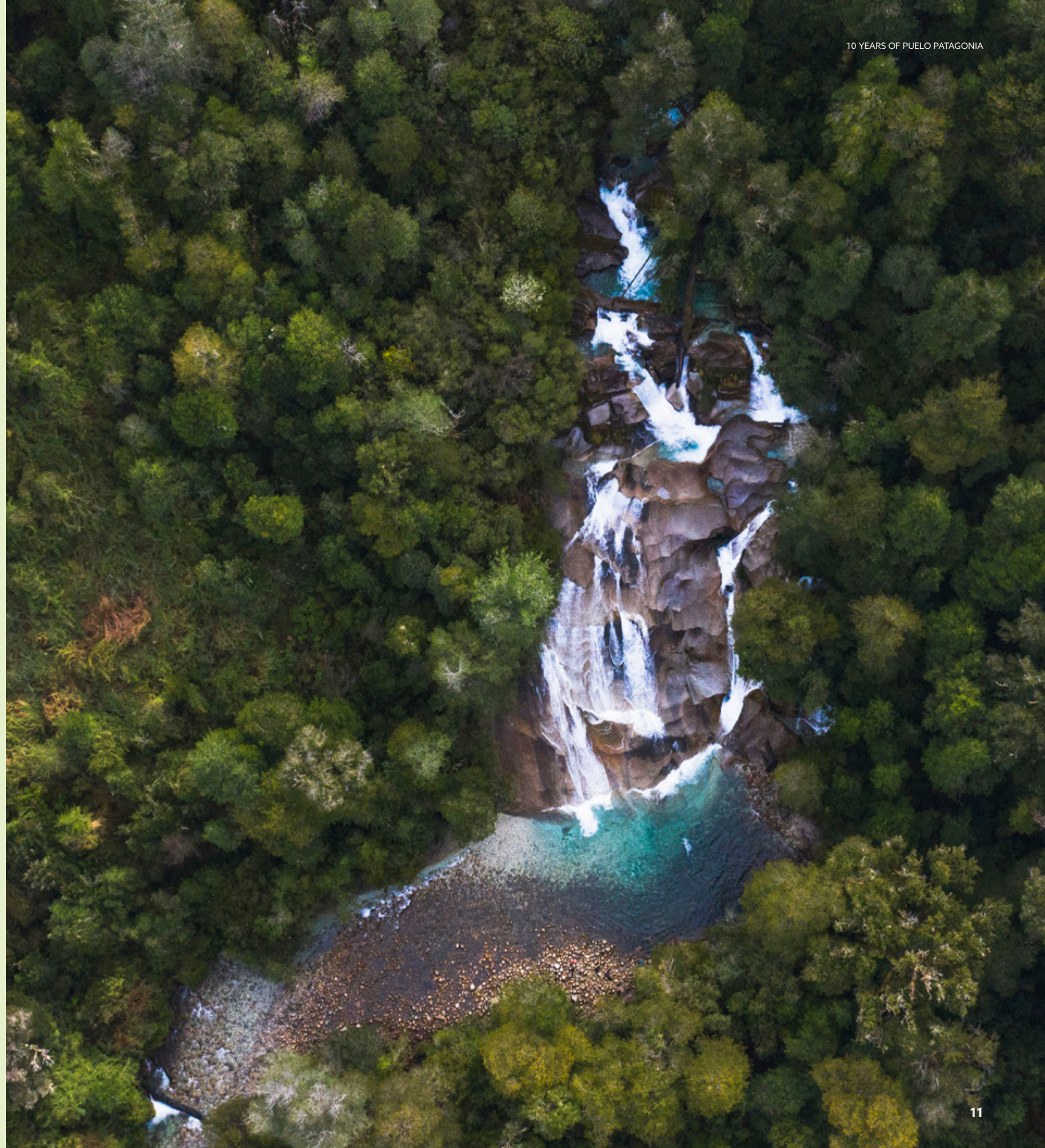
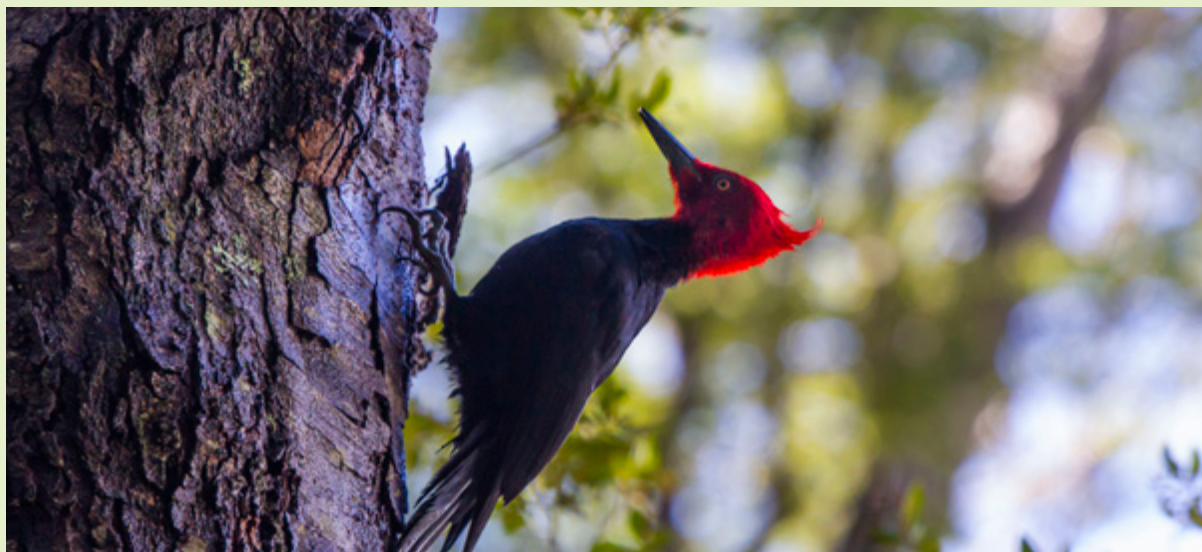
For more than 30 years, these unique features have faced threats from proposed hydroelectric projects, which, fortunately, have not been successful. This is due to the efforts of empowered communities and civil society organizations that have come together to safeguard the rivers and their ecosystems. Nevertheless, these threats still loom in the region, emphasizing the urgent necessity of finding a legal mechanism to ensure the effective protection of the Puelo River and its tributaries.

Both the Puelo and Cochamó watersheds have unique and distinctive features, yet share many characteristics in common. Both basins are situated in the Andes mountain range, and their rivers flow freely from their source to their deltas. They are known for their high biodiversity and minimal human intervention, with approximately 76% of their surface covered by native forests. Additionally, they are part of the temperate rainforests of the Southern Andes Biosphere Reserve.

Furthermore, this territory serves as a haven for endangered plant and animal species. Notably, it is home to the alerce (*Fitzroya cupressoides*), a conifer endemic to South American temperate forests and one of the world's longest-living species, capable of living for over 3,600 years. Approximately 20% of the remaining alerce forests in the country are located in the Cochamó commune. Additionally, the region hosts the huemul (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*), an endemic deer of the Andes, with a total population of less than 1,500 individuals and a declining status according to the IUCN.



The isolated nature of this region has given rise to a distinctive rural gaucho culture, evident in typical expressions, ways of life, and traditional crafts deeply rooted in the territory. Currently, the commune is home to around 4,023 people, with their primary economic activities being livestock farming and subsistence agriculture. Both basins have witnessed rapid growth in nature-based tourism, including activities such as sport fishing, hiking, kayaking, rafting, and camping, among others, all of which rely on the pristine state of nature.



# KEY DATA FROM COCHAMÓ AND PUELO

*Two valleys of significant environmental and cultural value*



Over one-third of the Cochamó commune is covered by primary forests.



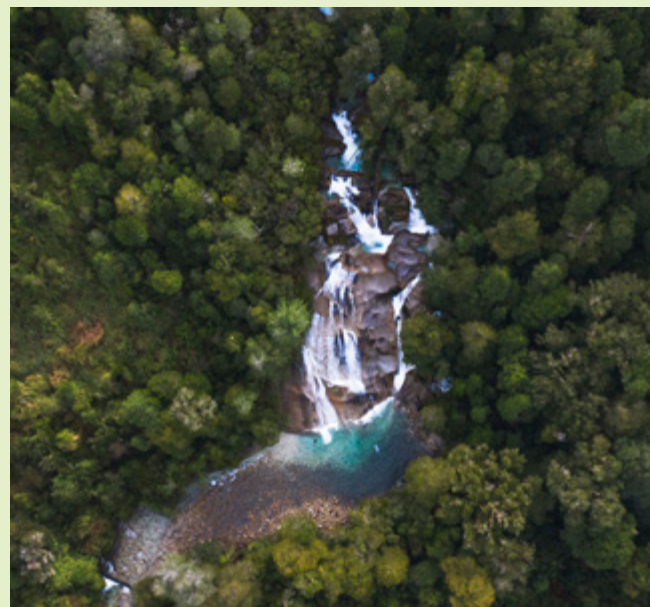
43,700 hectares of the commune are alerce forests, one of the world's oldest and most endangered tree species.



The Cochamó Valley is home to around 21 animals prioritized under various conservation categories.



The Puelo River is one of the top 5 most voluminous rivers in Chile and one of the few worldwide that flows freely from the mountains to the sea.



The Cochamó commune boasts 50 rivers that flow freely from the mountains to the sea.



The gauchos "Arrieros Cordilleranos" of Paso El León have been considered a Living Human Treasure since 2013 (UNESCO).



Within the Cochamó Valley, there are 5 geo-touristic sites of interest, and a total of 11 within the commune.



The Puelo and Cochamó Valleys are part of the temperate rainforests of the Southern Andes Biosphere Reserve.



In 2009, a reserve was decreed for environmental conservation and local development in the Cochamó River.



The Puelo and Cochamó valleys are surrounded by 7 protected areas including those that exist on the Argentine side of the Andes.



The Puelo River basin acts as a biological corridor linking the Argentine steppe with the Pacific Ocean, making it a strategic area for conservation.



The basins of the Cochamó and Puelo Rivers are part of an official Zone of Touristic Interest (ZOIT).



It is estimated that there are 1,500 huemuls worldwide and one of the last populations lives in the Puelo Valley.



The Puelo River was declared a Free-Flowing River by WWF, due to its relevance worldwide.



The road is part of the Interlagos Scenic Route of the Ministry of Public Works.



# THREATS

The geographical isolation of this region has allowed the rivers to flow freely, nurturing extensive areas of native forests. Sustainable ways of human existence, in harmony with the environment, have evolved in these areas. However, with the advent of a road, there have been transformations, including the influx of city-dwellers to these rural areas, development projects lacking in proper planning processes, and mass tourism. Additionally, rising atmospheric temperatures have introduced new threats to the region, such as water scarcity and extreme hydro-meteorological events.

The pressure from extractive industries on the commune's natural resources has been a persistent threat, further exacerbated by the road's arrival. Climate change effects have led to an overall temperature increase, reduced snowfall, isothermal shifts, and summer droughts. River dry spells have been extended, diminishing freshwater input into the Reloncaví estuary, which in turn fosters harmful algal blooms with adverse impacts on estuarine ecosystems as well as the local economy.

Apart from the heightened risk of summer forest fires, climate change has accelerated biodiversity loss and a reduction in ecosystem services. Climate projections for the coming decades in the Puelo River basin indicate decreased precipitation and temperature increases, altering thaw processes and leading to soil desiccation and reduced river flow.

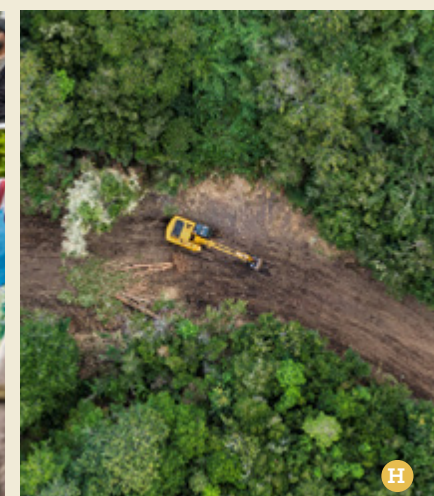
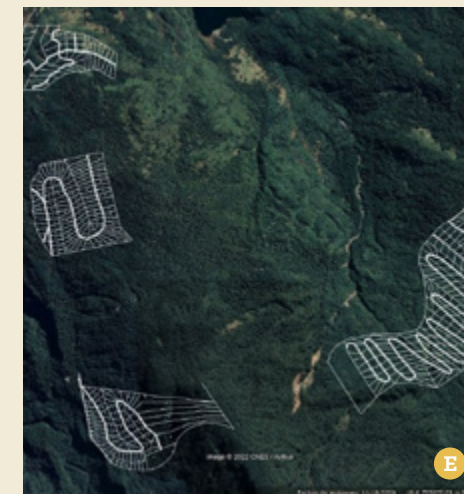
For decades, speculation over water rights in the Puelo River has posed a significant threat, particularly regarding the potential installation of hydroelectric power plants. Although ENDESA (ENEL) recently relinquished its water rights due to the high social conflict associated with the Mediterráneo Hydroelectric Project, which ultimately had its environmental permit revoked, the constant threat of new plants looms over a legally unprotected river.

Endangered species, such as the huemul deer, are also imperiled due to habitat degradation and loss. Considering that the Puelo River basin is one of the last refuges for this particular species, it is essential to protect its

habitat in the short, medium, and long term, involving local communities to ensure sustained efforts over time.

While tourism presents an opportunity to appreciate and preserve natural elements, uncontrolled mass tourism without planning becomes a threat to the territory. This increases the risk of wildfires and promotes real estate development, resulting in direct social consequences, including the collapse of basic services and loss of cultural heritage.

- A Water scarcity and drought**
- B Habitat fragmentation of at-risk species**
- C Unregulated tourism**
- D Wildfire risk**
- E Rural single-family subdivisions**
- F Deforestation**
- G Hydroelectric power projects**
- H Works associated with projects without environmental planning or permits**

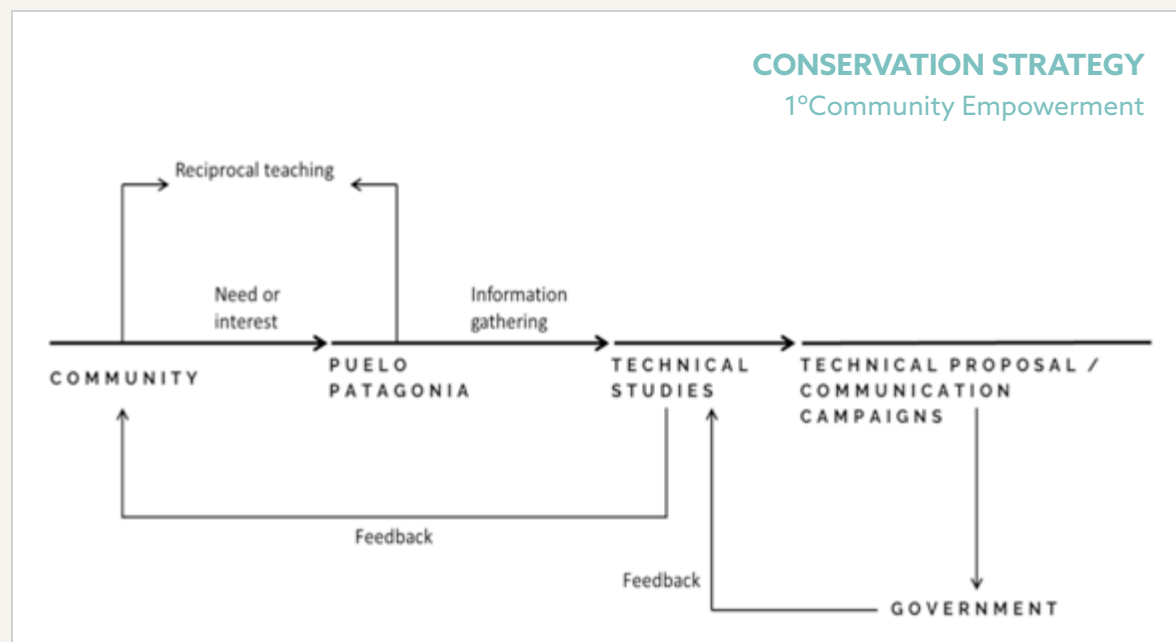


# PROJECTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## HOW DO WE WORK TO PROTECT NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE?

We are convinced that the local community is the best guardian of high-value environmental places. That is why we promote social empowerment and responsible development projects that take the needs of the residents into account.

Our team is dedicated to conducting studies and producing technical reports that can influence the opinions of decision-makers in order to advance **conservation programs** and **protect local ecosystems**. Puelo Patagonia has four distinct and closely interconnected areas of work:



### CONSERVATION PROGRAM

We promote conservation programs that engage local communities to elevate land protection standards in the Cochamó commune. Our efforts are directed towards safeguarding biodiversity, scenic attributes, and strengthening local culture, contributing through technical expertise and environmental education.

### RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

Our projects aim to highlight the unique characteristics of the Cochamó commune by preserving its natural attributes and fostering planned and responsible social development. We promote an image of a destination that goes hand in hand with nature stewardship, supporting local entrepreneurs engaged in small-scale economic activities such as organic farming, sustainable harvesting or morel mushrooms, artisanal craftsmanship, beekeeping, and special interest tourism.

### SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

We offer tools and create opportunities for engagement with the local community, with the goal of empowering them with the principles of nature conservation and the promotion of local culture and traditions.

### PROTECTION OF THE TERRITORY

Through our technical and legal expertise, we protect the territory from investment projects that would impact natural and cultural heritage, the landscape, and the responsible and comprehensive development of its communities.



# PROJECTS IN ACTION

Year after year, we implement projects that contribute to the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage, as well as the landscape of the Cochamó commune, fostering responsible and comprehensive community development.



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 12** total projects
- 7** international foundations donating to our work
- 22** volunteers and 15 families benefited from our program.
- 1** all-terrain wheelchair for inclusive tourism
- 19** legal appeals filed
- 21** fire safety awareness signs installed
- 39** local organizations supporting a petition for a water reserve
- 23,000** signatures for the creation of a water reserve
- 9** investigative studies in the territory
- 27** informative workshops for local communities
- 12** expeditions to investigate Huemul deer populations and trail infrastructure
- Over **50** meetings with regional and national authorities
- 10** years of maintaining the Puelo River free of hydroelectric plants
- 90** families supported directly during the Covid-19 pandemic
- 6** years supporting the local community to control the influx of tourists to the Cochamó Valley
- 3,000** copies of our book Puelo Reserva de Agua delivered to authorities and decision makers
- 1,000** copies of our guide for the protection of Patagonian rivers delivered to authorities and community members
- 1** Zone of Touristic Interest declared

# CONSERVATION



## INVESTIGATION AND CONSERVATION OF HUEMUL DEER

The huemul (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*) is a native deer found in southern Chile and Argentina. Its current population is estimated to be fewer than 1,500 individuals. Habitat modification and loss have pushed the remaining deer into increasingly remote areas, including the mountains of the Cochamó commune.

This project successfully captured the first images of huemul deer in the northern Patagonian watershed of the Puelo River, in the Los Lagos Region. Field discoveries and images obtained through camera traps have reinvigorated conservation efforts and have promoted collaborative work between Chileans and Argentinians to ensure the preservation and protection of vital ecosystems within the transboundary Puelo River basin.

Through this project, we maintain continuous monitoring of the species and its habitat, and the data collected will contribute to the future protection of this highly threatened species.



**Project Name:**  
Huemul Monitoring and Conservation Program

- Objectives:**
1. Identify the distribution and number of huemul deer in the Puelo River basin.
  2. Identify threats to the huemul in its distribution area.
  3. Advance a long-term conservation program for the species.

- Project Progress:**
- Conducted 12 field trips for huemul monitoring.
  - Managed and organized a binational workshop on huemul conservation.
  - Participated in the design process of the RECOGE plan for huemul recovery, conservation, and management.



# CONSERVATION



## PUELO RIVER WATER RESERVE

The Puelo River is one of the few rivers that flows freely from the mountains to the sea, maintaining its natural elements in excellent conservation and preserving ways of life and traditions developed by local communities around the river and its tributaries. Protecting the Puelo River is urgent in the face of the global climate crisis and the increasing scenario of water scarcity affecting Chile and northern Patagonia.

The objectives of this project are to raise awareness about river and watershed conservation, secure water rights for local communities, and advance a more comprehensive protection of the Puelo River as well as other Chilean watersheds.

In parallel to this local objective, we work at the national level with other NGOs to ensure the creation of comprehensive laws that protect watershed ecosystems and their neighboring communities.

- Objectives:**
1. Establish a flow reserve in the Puelo River.
  2. Raise awareness about river and ecosystem conservation.
  3. Ensure the availability of water rights in the Puelo River for local use.
  4. Advance comprehensive protection tools for Chile's rivers.



- Progress:**
- Launch of the #PueloReservadeAgua communication campaign.
  - Meetings with the Regional Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment, Regional Governor, Director General of Water, Director of Water for the Los Lagos Region, Mayor of Cochamó, and other local authorities.
  - Initiation of strategic knowledge transfer and alliances to request flow reserves for the Puelo and Futaleufú Rivers.
  - Preparation of a follow-up report on water rights applications and non-use patent payments.
  - Community information workshops.

# CONSERVATION



## COCHAMÓ NATURE SANCTUARY

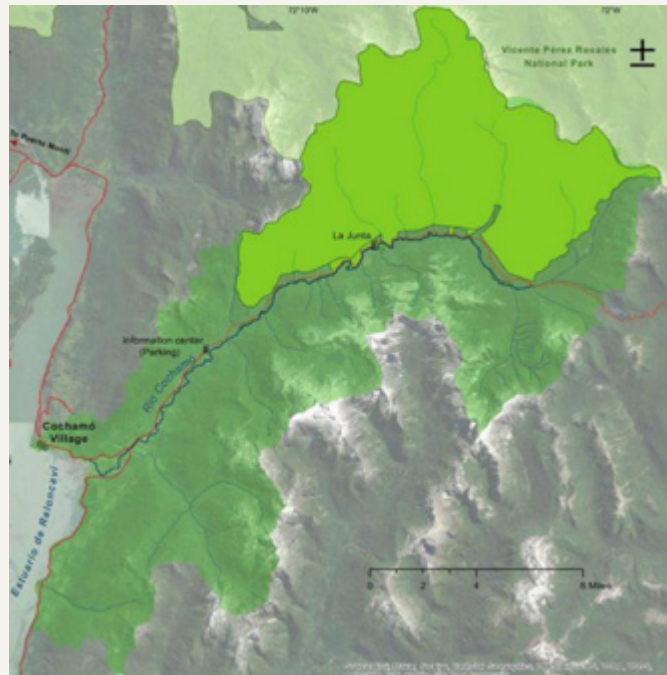
In January 2023, the Council of Ministers for Sustainability and Climate Change unanimously approved the creation of the Cochamó Valley Nature Sanctuary.

This milestone marks the culmination of a process led by Organización Valle de Cochamó and the NGO Puelo Patagonia, who prepared the technical dossier justifying the creation of this protected area and brought together various local organizations and institutions to implement this conservation initiative.

These actions, along with a series of meetings with relevant authorities, made this protected area a reality. Currently, Organización Valle de Cochamó is working on a governance plan to address the challenges that this protected area will face in order to ensure sustainable local management and administration into the future.

### What is protected with the nature sanctuary?

With the creation of the Cochamó Valley Nature Sanctuary, more than 6,500 hectares of primary native forest are protected, of which 1,800 hectares correspond to ancient alerce trees. The sanctuary safeguards the rivers and riparian wetlands that contribute nutrients and life to the Reloncaví Estuary, as well as the geological her-



itage of Patagonia, with the Cochamó Valley being its main example. Furthermore, it preserves the ways of life in the mountains of this part of Chile, which are reflected in a historic road connecting Cochamó with Argentina and in the gaucho-cowboy culture.

### Objectives:

1. Protect the environmental and cultural values within the Nature Sanctuary.
2. Achieve effective conservation of the Nature Sanctuary through a collaborative governance model.

### Progress:

- Preparation of the technical dossier for the Cochamó Valley Nature Sanctuary application.
- Support for informative workshops with local neighborhood associations.
- Facilitation of meetings between the organizations leading the process and the authorities.
- Declaration of the first protected area in the Cochamó commune.
- Support for the Organización Valle Cochamó to advance in governance.

# CONSERVATION



## PROTECTION OF 309 HECTARES IN COCHAMÓ

This year, we celebrate the protection of 309 hectares in Cochamó Valley, which will be destined for conservation. This achievement adds to other conservation successes that have been realized through collaboration between different stakeholders and the local community, with technical support from Puelo Patagonia.

The property recently acquired by the Freyja Foundation was originally intended for a real estate project of 79 lots. Its location was quite strategic due to its 8 km of the historic road to Paso El León. Following the acquisition, this foundation committed to using legal tools to protect the land, such as implementing a "Derecho Real de Conservación" (DRC) in the short term and adding this property to the Cochamó Valley Nature Sanctuary.

Puelo Patagonia's role in this project is to ensure that conservation objectives are met while respecting the uses and ways of life of the local communities.

### Objectives:

1. Put an end to the threat of real estate development in Cochamó Valley.
2. Achieve the conservation of the property.
3. Ensure that conservation objectives are met in the short, medium, and long term.

### Progress:

- Facilitated a meeting between the landowner and local communities.
- Organized meetings between local organizations, the owner, and potential donors.
- Sought funding and a donor to purchase the property.
- Established the terms of the donation to ensure the protection of the site.



# RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT



## COCHAMO VALLEY RESERVE

Cochamó Valley is part of a National Zone of Touristic Interest and is located within the Biosphere Reserve of the Temperate Rainforests of the Southern Andes. Its granite walls, ancient alerce trees, and the exemplary state of conservation of its landscapes make this valley a favorite destination for adventure tourism enthusiasts.

To mitigate the effects of mass tourism, the Organización Valle Cochamó (OVC), which brings together gauchos, tour operators, social organizations, and lovers of the area in general to work in collaboration for sustainable development. The self-management carried out by the community has been actively and consistently supported by our NGO, working to mitigate the negative effects of mass tourism.



### Objectives

1. Promote planned and conscious entry into Cochamó Valley.
2. Control the carrying capacity.
3. Educate visitors to respect the landscape, biodiversity, and the way of life of local residents.
4. Maintain a visitor registry for safety and relevant data.
5. Support fundraising efforts and resources for project management.

### Progress

- Participation of two directors from Puelo Patagonia in the Organización Valle Cochamó (OVC).
- Support from the Puelo Patagonia executive team in the management and execution of OVC projects.
- Research on the state of the trails in Cochamó Valley.
- Digitization of records and support for the implementation of a visitor center.

\* For more information about the Organización Valle Cochamó visit [www.vallecochamo.org](http://www.vallecochamo.org)

# RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT



## TOURISTIC INTEREST ZONE

Tourism is an activity that has improved the quality of life for local communities by stimulating economic development and promoting the preservation of environmental and cultural values.

Zones of Touristic Interest are territories with special conditions to attract visitors which require conservation measures and comprehensive planning to ensure the long-term sustainability of this activity.

Puelo Patagonia has worked to keep this tool current, allowing the planning of tourism that directly benefits local communities and the conservation of the region's nature and culture. To achieve this, we actively participate in public-private working groups and maintain active oversight of law compliance.

### Objectives

1. Keep the boundaries of the Zone of Touristic Interest in force.
2. Actively participate in the public-private working group.
3. Monitor progress in the Action Plan of the ZOIT.

### Progress

- Regular attendance at meetings with local, regional, and national tourism authorities.



- Development of the public awareness campaign 'Am I ZOIT or Not?'
- Support for the delivery of a letter of complaint to the Subsecretariat of Tourism, signed by local organizations.
- Participation in citizen initiatives to update the declaration.
- Organization of the panel discussion 'Am I ZOIT or Not?' hosted by the NGO Destino Cochamó and Puelo Patagonia.

# RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

# COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING



## FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

In the Puelo River basin and the Cochamó commune, the effects of the climate crisis have led to a 20% reduction in precipitation, causing a significant decrease in the river's flow, along with an increase in atmospheric temperatures, which can reach over 40°C in summer. This poses a risk to the valley's residents, its wildlife, and the native forest that covers 70% of the landscape.

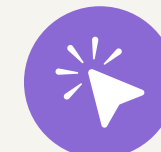
To prevent fires in the Cochamó commune, three different types of signage (roadway, informational, and end-of-route) were installed and distributed at 21 strategic points in areas such as the Manso River, Segundo Corral, Lake Tagua Tagua, Cochamó River bridge, Puelo River bridge, El Queche sector, and Lake Azul, among others.

### Objectives

1. Reduce the risk of wildfires.
2. Raise awareness among the community and visitors about the climate crisis and rising temperatures.

### Progress

- Design and installation of 21 signs.
- Maintenance of signs.



## ONE CLICK TO COCHAMÓ

The commune of Cochamó is constituted in the territory under historical geographical isolation that has forged a community with a unique material and cultural character. The general objective of this project is to identify, record, systematize, and map this cultural heritage of the Cochamó Commune and transfer it to the community through an interactive digital platform.

The process involved the participation of the communities of Cochamó, El Bosque, Pocolhue, Río Puelo, Llaguepe, Llanada Grande, and Segundo Corral, where participatory mapping activities and interviews with various local cultural practitioners were conducted. Simultaneously, bibliographic information and data from previous heritage research projects were collected.

The collected information has allowed for the identification of cultural and natural landmarks significant in the realm of heritage, including elements of the territory, landscape, history, culture, traditions, knowledge, trades, and techniques. These heritage landmarks have been documented in records with systematic information and have been placed in various historically significant periods for the territory.

This project was funded by the National Cultural Heritage Service.



### Objectives

1. Identify the cultural heritage of the Cochamó commune.
2. Systematize heritage information into technical records.
3. Design an interactive multimedia cartography based on the collected heritage information.
4. Transfer heritage information to local educators and touristic service providers.
5. Train local educators and service providers in the use of interactive multimedia cartography.

### Progress

- Identified 27 landmarks of natural heritage in the Cochamó commune.
- Identified 56 landmarks of cultural heritage.
- Conducted 9 community workshops in 7 localities of the Cochamó commune.
- Launched the website [www.cochamoanclick.cl](http://www.cochamoanclick.cl)

# COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING



## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The program involves the accompaniment of families and assistance with fieldwork. Each volunteer is assigned a host family to contribute to domestic activities and those related to rural life for a month.

The Cordillera de Puelo volunteer program provides an opportunity for support and connection with the traditions that enable a life closely tied to the land and the nature of these remote places. This activity aims to be a platform for learning and sharing experiences among families, highlighting the cultural richness of rural life and fostering lasting connections over time.

### Objectives

1. Support families and elderly individuals in preparing the supplies they need for the winter in the mountains.
2. Provide a platform for learning and exchanging experiences that highlight the cultural richness of rural life.
3. Foster cooperative relationships between nature enthusiasts and local communities.

### Progress

- 2 seasons of volunteering.
- Participation from 20 volunteers from various parts of the country.
- 15 families of the elderly have benefited from the program.



# TERRITORY PROTECTION



## REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN

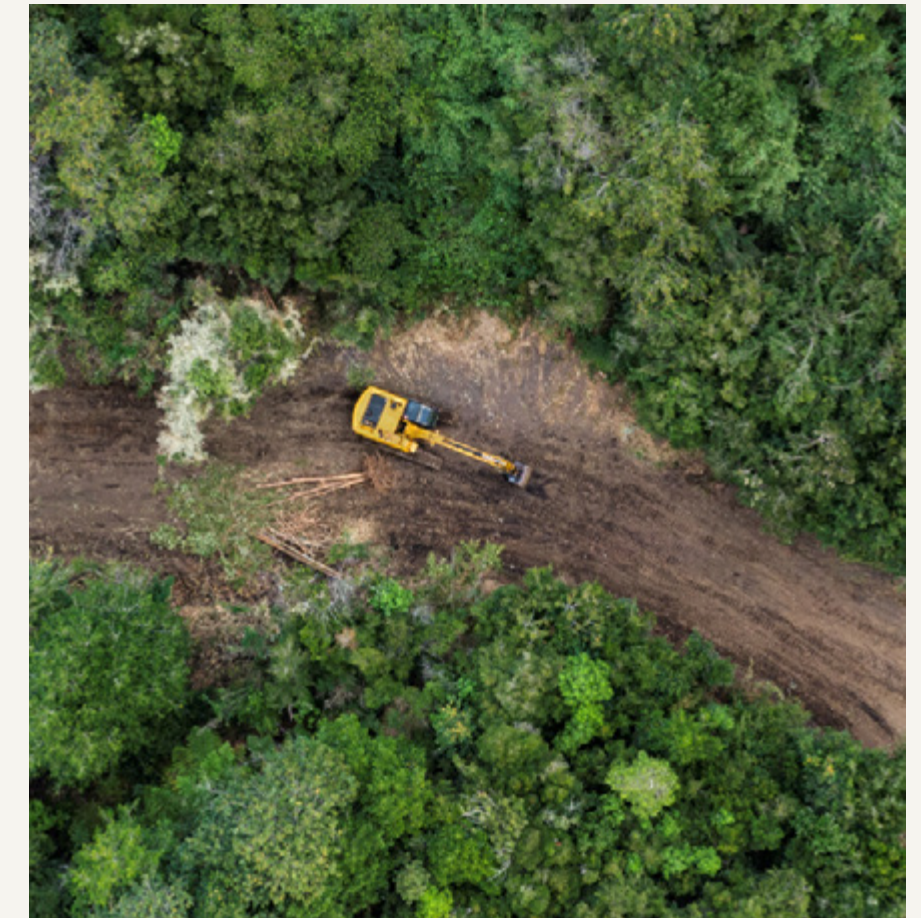
The migration from the city to the countryside has grown dramatically in recent years creating a boom in the real estate industry. In this context, multiple complaints have been filed due to the lack of regulation on this issue in the country. To halt one of the projects with tremendous potential impact in the Puelo River basin, Puelo Patagonia supported the filing of citizen complaints for environmental and social reasons.

### Objectives:

1. Support the local community in filing complaints against real estate companies that fail to comply with the law.
2. Raise awareness about the issue of real estate development in rural and highly conservation-worthy areas.
3. Promote sustainable ways of living in nature.

### Progress :

- Conduct a media campaign to raise awareness about the issue and educate potential buyers.
- Submission of 27 citizen complaints.





## OUR DREAM

We dream of Cochamó as a place where nature and its communities can thrive in balance and respect. We envision a territory with flowing rivers and wild mountains, where the habitat of the huemul is preserved, and where the forests of alerce, wetlands, glaciers, fjords, and rivers are protected for future generations. Finding a new balance that allows us to coexist better is the challenge.

### Where are we going:

1. Achieve the protection of the huemul's habitat through a community-managed conservation area, coupled with other protective mechanisms to reduce its main threats, where the Puelo mountains represent one of its last refuges in the world.
2. Safeguard Cochamó Valley, including public and private lands, and formalize community governance and self-financing to make it an example of local, national, and international conservation.
3. Definitively protect the Puelo River and its tributaries to mitigate the effects of climate change, promote responsible local development, and ensure water availability for its residents.
4. Empower local communities to become champions of their culture and natural environment.





**PUELO**  
PATAGONIA

CORPORACIÓN PUELO PATAGONIA | Imperial 680, Puerto Varas, Los Lagos. Chile  
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