

# 2024

ANNUAL  
REPORT



# DEAR FRIENDS AND ALLIES OF PUELO PATAGONIA



For decades, the biodiversity and communities of Cochamó have coexisted in a relationship of interdependence, where nature has provided sustenance and people have known how to make good use of its resources without compromising its continuity. However, the growing pressures of the modern world—such as climate change, lack of planning policies, and unregulated development—have begun to threaten this delicate relationship, impacting not only ecosystems but also the communities that depend on them. Today, as we reflect on the progress made in 2024, we recognize that conservation faces new challenges that require us to rethink our strategies.

***This year, we took a solid step towards a new way of conservation: one that places people at the center and recognizes that protecting nature also means building well-being.***

Land conservation can no longer be seen solely as an act of environmental protection; it must also be a strategy for local development. Cochamó faces structural realities that cannot be ignored: the median household income is below the minimum wage and 64% of the population does not have formal access to water. Without comprehensive solutions, conservation loses strength and people's well-being is compromised.

In this report, you will find the progress made in 2024 toward our mission to protect the ecosystems of Cochamó, strengthen the social fabric, and promote a model of sustainable development. From the consolidation of Conserva Puchegüín to the strengthening of

international alliances and the creation of opportunities for responsible tourism development, each initiative reflects our commitment to conservation that places communities at the center.

***Cochamó continues to show clear signs that an alternative model is possible: one where conservation does not conflict with development, but rather imposes it forward.***

Of course, this work has not been without its challenges. If we thought climbing mountains was difficult, raising funds and managing territories in one of the most remote areas of Chile is truly an adventure. But if there is one thing that characterizes this team, it is perseverance. So we press on, with muddy boots, map in hand and a big smile, to show that conservation and development can go hand in hand.

We are deeply grateful to every single person, organization and community that has been part of this process. Caring for the environment is a collective journey, and together we are building a future where nature and people thrive in harmony.



With gratitude and commitment,  
Andrés Diez  
Executive Director,  
Puelo Patagonia

# WHO ARE WE?



Puelo Patagonia is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the natural, cultural, and scenic heritage of the Cochamó district. With an independent approach, we strive to promote responsible and comprehensive development for local communities.

# OUR IMPACT IN 2024



**+11,400**  
hectares protected in  
the Cochamó Valley

**+133,000**  
hectares to be protected  
in the district

**+34**  
species monitored

**+15,000**  
kilometres travelled  
by the team

**+8,000**  
hours of monitoring

**+26**  
participants in  
wildlife monitoring

**+8**  
workshops in  
local schools

**+19**  
volunteers who  
supported 9 families  
from the mountains

**+150**  
meetings and  
informational events  
with local communities  
and the general public

# OUR TEAM

We are a team driven by the mission of conserving the natural, cultural, and scenic heritage of the Cochamó district, while fostering responsible and holistic development for its community.

## BOARD



**José Claro**  
President



**Andrés Amengual**  
Director



**Rodrigo Condeza**  
Director



**Klaus Kosiel**  
Director

## EXECUTIVE TEAM



**Andrés Diez**  
Executive Director



**Josefina Vigouroux**  
Director of Communications



**Tatiana Sandoval**  
Community Engagement Manager



**Nicolás Amadori**  
Project Manager



**Rodrigo Hevia**  
Conservation Manager



**Leyla Musleh**  
Graphic designer



**Bernardita Ortiz**  
Content Coordinator



**Sofía Riveros M.**  
Research Coordinator



**Benjamín Monckeberg**  
Administrative Assistant



**Fernando Novoa**  
Wildlife Specialist

## COLLABORATORS



## 150 MEMBERS

committed to making monthly contributions toward the conservation and responsible development of Puelo and Cochamó. Thanks to the support and commitment of our members, we remain an independent and autonomous NGO.

## WORKING GROUPS AND ALLIANCES

- Conserva Puchegüín
- Grupo Patagonia Mar y Tierra
- Organización del Valle Cochamó
- Defensores del Río Puelo
- ZOIT Cochamó Hualaihué
- Club Andino de Cochamó
- Coalición Ríos Protegidos

## PUELO COMMUNITY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- +37,000**  
Instagram followers
- +14,000**  
Likes on Facebook
- +4,000**  
Newsletter Subscribers

# 11 YEARS PRESERVING THE NATURE AND CULTURE OF COCHAMÓ 2013-2024



## DEFENDING THE PUELO RIVER

Puelo Patagonia was founded in 2013 to protect the Puelo River from the threat of a large hydro-power project, which endangered the biodiversity and tourism development of the basin and its communities. Thanks to legal actions, strong community pressure, and the technical support of the NGO, the project was halted in 2016.



## FROM THREAT TO OPPORTUNITY

This propelled Puelo Patagonia to continue its work in the district, diversifying its lines of action and turning threats into opportunities for conservation and local development.

## A THIRD OF THE DISTRICT UP FOR SALE

The owner of Fundo Puchegüín, a 133,000-hectare private property in the district, listed it up for sale in New York. This news caused concern among the local community, who feared that a buyer with no conservation intentions could acquire the land.



## PROTECTING COCHAMÓ FOREVER

In response to the potential sale of Puchegüín, Puelo Patagonia saw an opportunity and began seeking strategic partners that same year to make the dream of a conservation and local development project a reality: Conserva Puchegüín. By 2024, support was being mobilized in Chile and around the world to purchase Puchegüín and protect it forever.



## CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS

At the same time, after years of collaborative work in the community with the Organización del Valle Cochamó, we succeeded in creating the district's first protected area: the Cochamó Valley Nature Sanctuary, adding over 11,000 hectares for conservation.



# HOW DO WE WORK? OUR MODEL



# WHY PUELO AND COCHAMÓ?



The district of Cochamó is a unique place, featuring ecosystems rich in biodiversity, breathtaking landscapes, and a culture that reflects the history and spirit of its communities. This territory is not only valuable to those who live there, but also to the world as a model of harmony between nature and humanity.

## 44,000 HECTARES OF ALERCE TREES | REFUGE FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

Patagonia is South America's second largest carbon reservoir, capable of storing nearly twice as much carbon per hectare as the Amazon thanks to its primary forests. The district of Cochamó is home to 20% of the world's Alerce trees, ancient trees that are crucial for mitigating the effects of the climate crisis.

## ENDANGERED SPECIES | UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY

The Cochamó and Puelo basins are home to endemic and endangered species such as the Huemul, Pudú, Vizcacha Patagónica, Ranita de Darwin, Güiña and the Monito del Monte, one of the few remaining marsupials in South America. With its vast and pristine mountain range, Cochamó is not only a biological corridor that allows wildlife to move throughout Patagonia, but also a vital refuge for their survival.

## 1,800 KM OF RIVERS, LAKES AND LAGOONS | FRESHWATER RESERVE

Cochamó is home to nearly 2,000 hectares of glaciers and over 10,000 hectares of wetlands and peatlands, which are vital for the world's freshwater supply and are powerful carbon sinks.

## ARRIERO-GAUCHO CULTURE | LOCAL COMMUNITY

The district of Cochamó is home to communities with a rich arriero-gaicho culture, recognized by UNESCO, which subsists on agriculture, livestock farming and nature-based tourism.

The descendants of settlers who came to live here almost two centuries ago have preserved many of the traditions of the "antiguos" (elders), as they call them, and keep this legacy alive through *mate*, rural life, and self-sufficiency.

# 2024

## ON TRACK TO FULFIL THE DREAM OF PROTECTING COCHAMÓ FOREVER



### IT'S OFFICIAL! PART OF THE COCHAMÓ VALLEY IS DECLARED A NATURE SANCTUARY

Chile's Office of the Comptroller General has formalized the protection of 11,400 hectares of the Cochamó Valley, making it the first protected area in the district. This territory is key to conservation in Patagonia and sets a precedent for consolidating new protected areas that coexist harmoniously with local lifestyles.

### 19 VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT FAMILIES IN THE MOUNTAINS FOR 21 DAYS

The third edition of the rural volunteer program is underway, benefiting more than 10 families of elderly people living in isolated areas of Río Puelo.



### LAUNCH OF INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT 1/3 OF THE COCHAMÓ DISTRICT

An article in the New York Times puts Cochamó back in the spotlight, this time with good news: Conserva Puchegüín is raising funds to acquire the Fundo Puchegüín property and implement a conservation plan for 133,000 hectares of outstanding natural and cultural value.



### COMMITMENT TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

We crossed almost the entire district to meet with more than 150 community members to learn about their visions for Puchegüín and the Cochamó Valley.



### PARTICIPATORY WILDLIFE MONITORING IN PUCHEGÜÍN

In collaboration with community organizations, we conducted monitoring expeditions to study endangered species, recording important sightings of the Güiña, Vizcacha Patagónica and Monito del Monte.



### STUDENTS FROM COCHAMÓ AND PUELO VISITED LA JUNTA FOR THE FIRST TIME

We launched our first environmental education program in partnership with community organizations, seeking to connect young people from local schools with Cochamó's natural heritage and inspiring future generations to become guardians of their territory.



### WE ATTENDED CLIMATE WEEK IN NYC

We participated in 15 events in Chile and abroad, including Climate Week NYC 2024, to highlight the urgency of protecting Puchegüín.

### THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM 17 COUNTRIES SUPPORTED CONSERVA PUCHEGÜÍN

We received donations from more than 17 countries and 4 continents, bringing us closer to 50% of our US\$78 million goal to permanently protect Puchegüín.





### WE WERE AT LADERA SUR FEST 2024

We took part in one of the most important conservation and nature events in Chile, strengthening our network of allies and raising awareness of the project at our booth and as speakers before an audience of thousands of people who were part of this festival.

### WE STARTED THE SEASON IN THE COCHAMÓ VALLEY AND LA HERRADURA CIRCUIT

At the end of the year, we opened the high season after months of preparation, infrastructure maintenance, and wildlife monitoring. In addition, we supported mountain tourism by adding 16 volunteers along areas of the La Herradura Circuit.



### INTERNATIONAL CLIMBERS VISITED COCHAMÓ

Tommy Caldwell, Dörte Pietron, Sean Villanueva, and Timmy O'Neill climbed the great walls of the Cochamó Valley to emphasize the urgency of preserving and ensuring access to iconic climbing routes.

### WE SUPPORTED TOURISM IN THE LA HERRADURA CIRCUIT

We installed 158 signs along the historic trail, which welcomed more than 60 visitors this year. In addition, for the first time ever, 16 volunteers supported tourism across different sections of the circuit for over a month, making a crucial contribution to promoting responsible tourism in the area and strengthening the sustainable development of families in the mountain range.





# INSIDE PUCHEGÜÍN



Conserva Puchegüín is an initiative led by an alliance of five organizations seeking to acquire and implement a conservation plan to protect 133,000 hectares located in the district of Cochamó, in the Los Lagos region.

The area we want to acquire and protect is a nearly untouched ecosystem and combines ancient Alerce forests, granite walls, glaciers, wetlands and crystal-clear waters that shelter endemic and endangered species. Generations of rural communities have lived here, with a way of life deeply intertwined with the land.

Since 2022, this place has been for sale, and today we are taking action to protect it forever.

## OUR PROCESS

We are mobilizing support in Chile and around the world to secure the future of the Fundo Puchegüín. Conserva Puchegüín combines environmental protection with local economic development. With US\$78 million, a seven-year conservation and management plan will be implemented, improving infrastructure and creating new economic opportunities in nature-based tourism. This will help reduce poverty and strengthen traditional livelihoods.



## A UNIQUE PLACE AT RISK



## COMMUNITY AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Conserva Puchegüín will implement an innovative and participatory conservation model that empowers the local community. Puchegüín is home to a unique mountain community with a deep-rooted gaucho rural culture sustained by small-scale agriculture, livestock farming and nature-based tourism. The initiative not only seeks to protect the area's natural ecosystems, but also to ensure the community's economic development and the preservation of its traditions, culture, and ways of life.

The purchase of Puchegüín will create a unique opportunity to promote a model of local economic development rooted on conservation and nature-based tourism fostering sustainable trade connected to a new protected area. This model ensures financial sustainability, poverty reduction, improved community well-being, strengthening of the social fabric, and safeguards local culture, traditions and ways of life.



Photo: Participatory workshop on the Puchegüín Conservation Action Plan

## UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS IN THE WORLD

### Climate refuge and carbon reservoir

- » It holds 58,000 hectares of unique primary forest, which is increasingly scarce in the world.
- » It is home to almost 18,000 hectares of Alerce (the longest-living species on the planet, representing around 10% of Chile's Alerce forests.
- » It contains 1,463 hectares of Andean cypress, a key species of Patagonian temperate forests.
- » It forms part of the largest temperate forest expanse in South America, one of the last climate refuges on the planet.
- » It is the continent's second most important carbon sink, after the Amazon.

### Refuge for species

- » It provides habitat for numerous endemic and endangered species.
- » It protects emblematic species such as the Huemul, the Vizcacha Patagónica, Ranita de Darwin, the Monito del Monte and the Alerce.
- » It fosters ecological balance by sustaining flora, fauna and fungi within a healthy ecosystem.

### Freshwater reservoir

- » It contains 507 hectares of glaciers, which are essential for hydric regulation.
- » It includes 41 km of lake and lagoon shorelines and 372 km of riverbanks, ensuring water availability for ecosystems and communities.
- » It has 150 hectares of wetlands and peatlands, which are key to water filtration and carbon storage.

### Living culture and traditions

- » Since the 20th century, it has been home to farming and herding communities with a strong cultural identity.
- » Its arriero-gaucho culture, rooted in agriculture, livestock raising, and nature-based tourism, has been recognized by UNESCO.

### Connection between protected ecosystems

- » Surrounded by 1,640,000 hectares of protected areas in Chile and Argentina.
- » Its conservation would enable the creation of one of the most important biological corridors in Latin America, ensuring ecosystem connectivity and wildlife mobility.

# PUCHEGÜÍN ALERCE TREES

Spreading awareness of their crucial role in mitigating climate change effects.



Can you imagine that the key to slowing climate change lies in these ancient Patagonian trees? From the Conserva Puchegüín project, present at Climate Week 2024, we emphasized the importance of protecting 133,000 hectares of the Fundo Puchegüín, located in Cochamó, which is home to more than 10% of the world's Alerce population.

This global event brings together environmental leaders, politicians and philanthropists from around the world every year to discuss solutions and strategies to help combat climate change.

With the presence of renowned primatologist Jane Goodall; Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus and Chile's Minister of Environment; Maisa Rojas, this year's Climate Week featured an intense program of conferences, workshops, panel discussions and activities, including an event organized by the New York Times called 'Take a Seat on the Table', a forum for conversation where environmental leaders present creative and inspiring solutions to address this new climate reality.

There, Rodrigo Condeza, director of Puelo Patagonia and spokesperson for the Conserva Puchegüín project, presented how the conservation of the Alerces on the Fundo Puchegüín property represents a key opportunity in the fight against climate change, due to their capacity to store large amounts of carbon, crucial for the future of our planet.

## More than a climate archive: a carbon refuge

Within the 133,000 hectares that make up this large estate in Cochamó, 10% of the world's Alerce trees are found.

This majestic tree (scientifically known as *Fitzroya cupressoides*) can live for more than 5,000 years and is not only an emblem of Patagonia: it is living testimony to the climatic history of our planet.



"Imagine a tree that existed when civilizations were just beginning yet continues to thrive today, silently recording the passage of time through its rings. Each ring tells a story of climate change, environmental transformations and the resilience of nature," said Condeza in front of those present.

According to the study '*Alerces, millennial witnesses of the planetary climate*', published in 1994 by Chilean scientists, the alerce acts as a climate change archive that has allowed researchers to reconstruct the planet's temperatures 3,260 years back. For Condeza, these ancient trees are not only witnesses to history, they are key players in our future. 'These trees are among the most efficient carbon sinks on Earth, capable of retaining hundreds of tonnes of carbon in their enormous trunks and roots,' he said at the international forum to discuss climate change.

Another study published in 2022 in the journal *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change* states that Alerces can store more than 500 tonnes of carbon per hectare in the Andes Mountains, far more than many other temperate forests, acting as long-term carbon sinks. 'So by protecting the Alerce, we are not only preserving millennia of ecological knowledge, but we are also actively mitigating climate change', Condeza reaffirmed.



## Be part of the solution for the future of our planet

Protecting the Alerce tree is a commitment of the Conserva Puchegüín campaign. Currently, the Puchegüín property has no formal protection status and for years has been threatened by a number of high-impact projects. It has been listed for sale since 2022, and today this initiative seeks to raise US\$78 million to acquire this important property and create a conservation and local development project which involves, for example, research and active conservation of this endemic tree.

Along these lines, Condeza closed his presentation by inviting the rest of the attendees to get involved and be part of a concrete opportunity to secure the Earth's future: '*By supporting this campaign, you are not only contributing to conservation, but you are also becoming part of a global solution: preserving 133,000 hectares of critical land that will continue to absorb carbon, protect biodiversity and empower local communities*', he concluded.

Following this event, Conserva Puchegüín will continue its fundraising efforts to reach its goal before July 2026. Part of this work will involve presenting the initiative to various philanthropists in the United States and Chile, offering talks at Patagonia stores in New York, San Francisco, and Pucón, as well as continuing to work in the field to build community support, working with neighborhood associations in the Cochamó district, gathering opinions and challenges facing the region. To learn more about this initiative, visit Conserva Puchegüín ([conservapucheguín.org](http://conservapucheguín.org)).





# WHAT WE DO

PROJECTS AND   
PROGRESS 2024

## CONSERVATION

# CONSERVA PUCHEGÜÍN

Following the listing of the Puchegüín property in 2022, Puelo Patagonia recognized an opportunity to protect a place that had historically been under threat. This journey began with the decisive support of long-standing donors to Puelo Patagonia—including The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Marisla Foundation, and the Weeden Foundation—who provided the initial impulse to move forward with this mission.

To turn this dream into an initiative with global impact, we sought allies who shared our vision of protecting Puchegüín and Cochamó forever, thus achieving a strategic alliance with national and international organizations. United by this common dream, we were able to seek out and lead an alliance that today combines the local knowledge and expertise of Puelo Patagonia with the international experience of The Nature Conservancy, Freyja Foundation, Patagonia Inc., and Wyss Foundation.

During 2024, we made progress in implementing a strategy that combines fundraising from major and minor donors in Chile and abroad as well as close collaboration with local communities to develop a long-term conservation plan.

For the fundraising campaign, the plan included attracting large and small donors from around the world through strategic alliances, presence at key events, meetings and trips with major donors to Puchegüín, and communication campaigns that highlighted the global relevance of this cause.

Simultaneously, sustained work was carried out with local communities, under the Open Standards for Conservation, which provide and compile information on their visions, knowledge and aspirations for the future of the territory. During the process, we conducted interviews, workshops and meetings with neighborhood organizations to lay the foundations for a management

model that combines high standards of conservation with the strengthening of sustainable livelihoods.

The third pillar has been to implement a comprehensive plan for the conservation of flora, fauna and fungi, based on science, the compilation of socio-environmental reports and the constant monitoring of key species such as the Huemul.

This work seeks to ensure the participation and involvement of people in conservation, generating ecological, cultural and social benefits for the entire region.

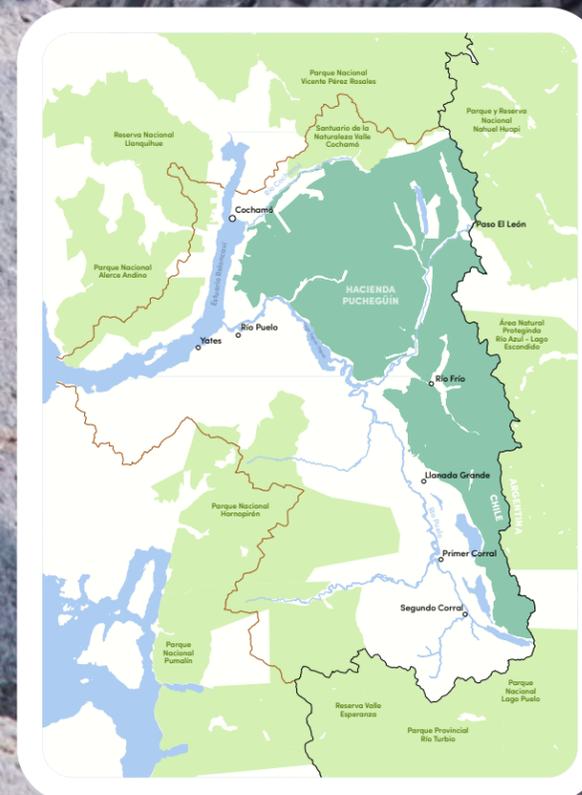
## GOALS

- » Protect Puchegüín, and therefore Cochamó, from any present or future project that threatens its scenic beauty or biodiversity.
- » Safeguard the essential role played by the Puchegüín ecosystem in mitigating global climate change.
- » Promote sustainable economic development in the Cochamó community through nature-based tourism and conservation, enhancing local well-being and contributing to regional development.
- » Connect nearly 1,640,000 hectares of protected areas between Chilean and Argentinean Patagonia, creating one of the most important biological corridors in Latin America.
- » Improve infrastructure and services in the area, contributing to local economies.



## PROGRESS 2024

- » Strategic alliances to carry out the initiative.
- » Community engagement: interviews with 150 people and meetings with 22 neighborhood associations before and after launch.
- » National and international media campaign (front-page story in The New York Times).
- » Around 70 meetings with donors from Chile and around the world.
- » Site visits with 54 potential donors to Puchegüín (resulting in confirmed donations).
- » Presence at 15 events to promote the initiative in Chile and internationally (including Climate Week in New York and the Ladera Sur Festival in Santiago).
- » Over 50% of the amount raised in one year of campaigning.
- » Donations received from 17 countries
- » Visit by international climbers to Puchegüín to promote the initiative, along with the creation of a short film to support fundraising.
- » 16 volunteers supported tourism in the La Herradura circuit for the first time
- » Discovery of three endangered species in Puchegüín
- » Installation of 18 camera traps to monitor huemules





“ This achievement represents significant recognition for a community that, through dedication and effort, has overcome its challenges, paving the way for the promotion of responsible tourism in the region.”

Tatiana Sandoval, President of the Organización del Valle Cochamó and Community Engagement Manager at Puelo Patagonia.

## CONSERVATION

# COCHAMÓ VALLEY NATURE SANCTUARY

After many years of collective work involving the local community, civil society organizations, and public institutions, the creation of the Cochamó Valley Nature Sanctuary was approved. The area covers a total of 11,432.8 hectares and protects 6,500 hectares of mature forest and 1,800 hectares of ancient Alerce trees, rivers and riverside wetlands that provide nutrients and life to the Reloncaví estuary, and a geological heritage that is highly representative of Patagonia, with the Cochamó Valley as its main exponent.

In 2024, we supported the financing for the implementation of the Cochamó Valley Nature Sanctuary's Action Plan, which consists of developing a participatory governance model that will enable the implementation of a management plan that can reconcile the recreational uses of the thousands of tourists who visit the site each year with the conservation of its natural and cultural qualities.

Other projects that complement the work of the Sanctuary include participatory wildlife monitoring with local organizations and the environmental education project in the schools of Puelo and Cochamó, *'Discovering the natural wealth of my community.'*

### GOALS

- » Create a Nature Sanctuary in the Cochamó Valley governed by the local community.
- » Protect natural and cultural heritage, safeguarding resources for future generations.
- » Achieve planned and conscious tourism that respects conservation goals and the area's carrying capacities.

### PROGRESS 2024

- » Publication of the project in the Official Registry.
- » Support in fundraising to implement the action plan.
- » Community outreach program with schools: environmental education.
- » Support in regulating tourism to mitigate its effects.
- » Wildlife monitoring in the Sanctuary.

## CONSERVATION

# WILDLIFE MONITORING

The district of Cochamó is home to biodiversity that is unique in the world, with ecosystems ranging from ancient alerce forests and primary forests to rivers, wetlands and glaciers. To protect this natural heritage, a comprehensive wildlife monitoring program gave impetus to understand, protect and map the ecological wealth of the territory with a long-term perspective.

As part of the program, scientific data is collected on the presence, distribution and threats faced by key species such as the Huemul, the Vizcacha Patagónica, the Güiña, the Monito del Monte and Darwin's frog, among many others. At the same time, it promotes the active participation of local communities, integrating their knowledge and strengthening their capacities as fundamental actors.

The methodology involves the combined use of tools such as camera traps, acoustic recordings, transects, visual censuses and specialized traps for small mammals, applied at different times of the year. This diversity of techniques allows for the collection of robust information that will be key to designing effective conservation strategies in the short, medium and long term.

In addition to recording species and detecting threats, the program allows for the identification of biological corridors, priority areas and trends that will be essential for the design of protected areas, the regulation of tourism and on land use decision-making.

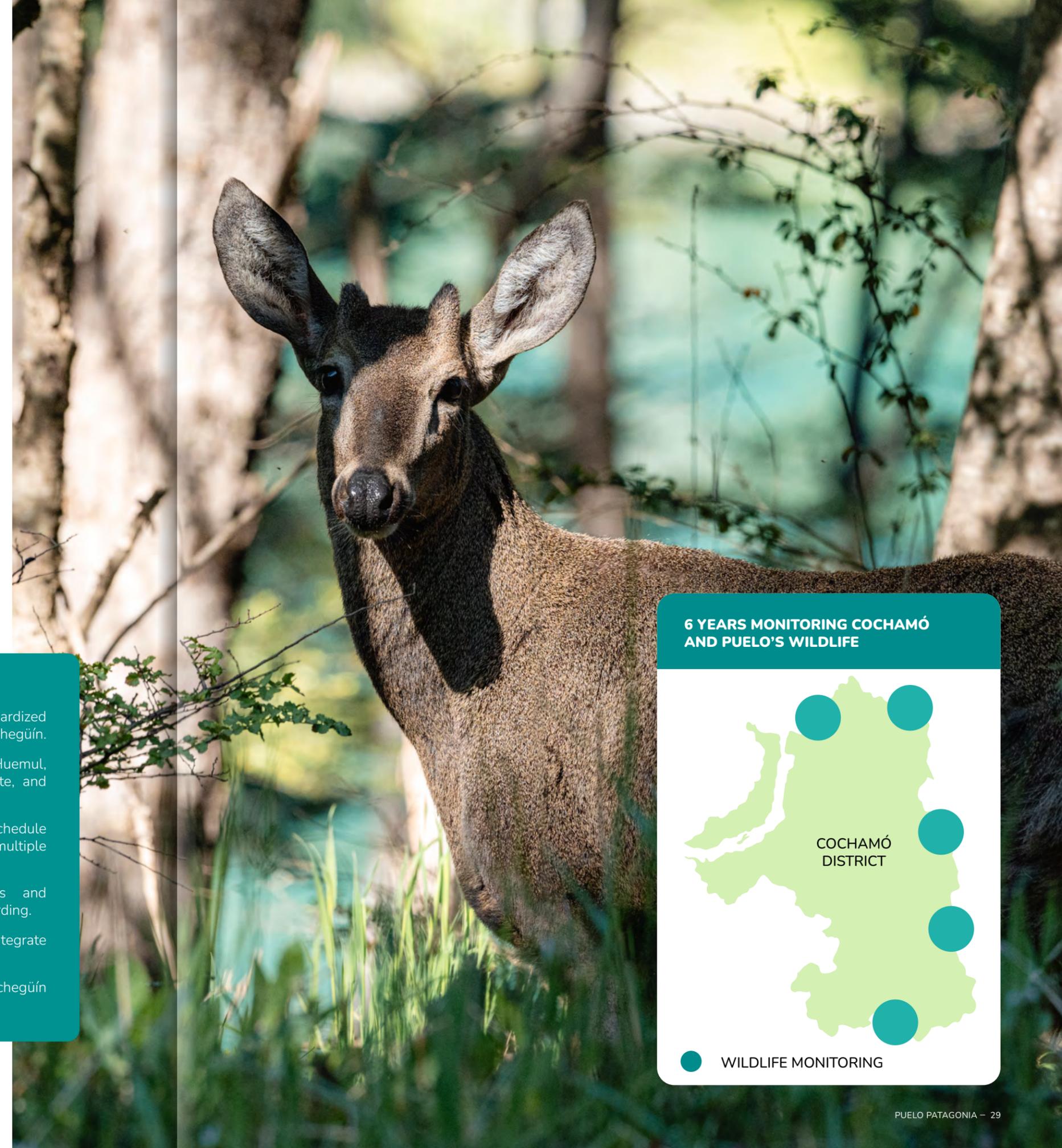
This program is a decisive step towards positioning Cochamó as a reference point in participatory conservation, where local knowledge and science come together to protect, fairly and effectively, the ecosystems that sustain the community's life and well-being.

### GOALS

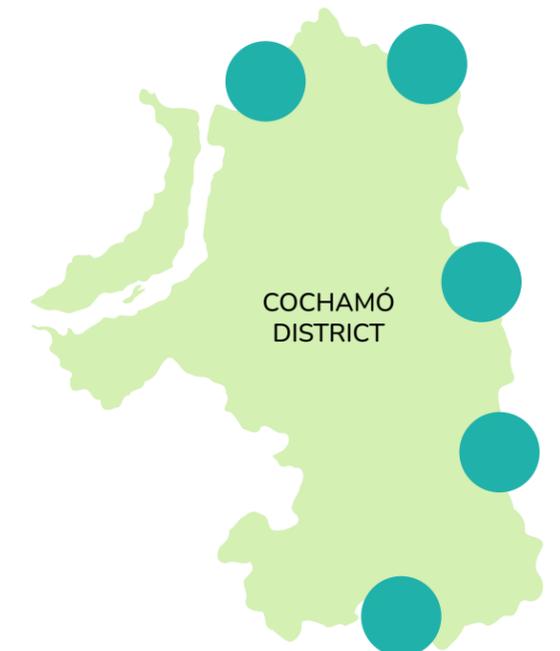
- » Describe the biodiversity present in the Puchegüín property, with special emphasis on species in conservation categories.
- » Identify key areas and potential biological corridors within the property.
- » Assess threats to biodiversity, including the impact from human activities.
- » Strengthen local capacities through training in community-based wildlife monitoring.
- » Establish a baseline for a long-term monitoring program.

### PROGRESS 2024

- » Design of a comprehensive and standardized methodology for biodiversity monitoring in Puchegüín.
- » Prioritization of critical species such as the Huemul, Ranita de Darwin, Güiña, Monito del Monte, and Vizcacha Patagónica.
- » Development of a 12-month sampling schedule that will include seasonal campaigns and multiple monitoring techniques.
- » Identification of 13 threatened species and compilation of a list of target species for recording.
- » Proposal for training local monitors to integrate territorial knowledge into the process.
- » Planning for Huemul monitoring at Fundo Puchegüín by January 2025.



### 6 YEARS MONITORING COCHAMÓ AND PUELO'S WILDLIFE



● WILDLIFE MONITORING

## CONSERVATION

# WATER RESERVE

The waters of the Puelo River and associated ecosystems are of global importance in the current context of socio-climatic crisis. The Puelo is one of the few rivers that flows freely from the mountains to the sea, maintaining its natural elements in an excellent state of conservation, supporting ways of life and traditions that local communities have developed around the river and its tributaries.

Both the temperate rainforests surrounding the Puelo River basin and the presence of glaciers in the area are of global importance given their contribution to climate change mitigation and their role as freshwater reservoirs.

This is why local communities have been advocating for the Puelo to be declared a Water Reserve for years, an effort that we have supported technically since the very beginning.

The objectives of this project are to raise awareness of the conservation of rivers and their basins, to ensure the availability of water rights in the Puelo River for local use, and to advance toward more comprehensive protection of the Puelo River and Chile's rivers.

The declaration of a Water Reserve, the only existing form of protection for rivers in Chile, significantly limits the granting of water use rights, protecting it from industries, such as mining and hydropower projects, that seek to exploit their special conditions. And we consider this to be a first step. We are currently awaiting the declaration of the Comptroller General Office to accomplish the dream of protecting the Puelo River forever. Parallel to the local work to protect the Puelo River, we have participated at a national level, alongside our allies, to ensure that a law is created in the future that comprehensively protects the strategic basins ecosystems and their surrounding communities.

### GOALS

- » Create a Water Reserve in the Puelo River.
- » Raise awareness about the conservation of rivers and their basins.
- » Ensure the availability of water rights in the Puelo River for local use in.
- » Advance toward a more comprehensive protection of the Puelo River and Chile's rivers.

### PROGRESS 2024

- » Participation in the drafting and creation of a new protection law for rivers in Chile.
- » Meetings as members of the Protected and Restored Rivers of Chile alliance.
- » Monitoring of water rights in the Puelo River.

**“ The role that the community has taken regarding this request for a Water Reserve has been well-argued and has a solid basis, which will benefit the area, the community, and the entire country.”**

Darío Urrutia, resident of the Puelo River.



“By learning about the richness and biodiversity of the valley, as well as the species inhabit it, we can figure out the most effective ways protect them.”

Patricia Almonacid, member of the Organización del Valle Cochamó and Club Andino de Cochamó.

## COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

# PARTICIPATORY MONITORING OF WILDLIFE

This project is a collaboration between Puelo Patagonia, Club Andino de Cochamó and Organización del Valle Cochamó, focused on strengthening local capacities and conserving the area's rich biodiversity.

This monitoring program goes beyond simply collecting scientific data. It fosters a deeper connection between the community and its natural environment, actively involving residents in the conservation of their natural heritage. Through their participation, local inhabitants are empowered and gain greater understanding of biodiversity and the dynamics of local ecosystems.

In an initiative to record and monitor wildlife, 25 camera traps have been installed at strategic points in the valley. With special attention given to the Vizcacha Patagónica.

### Community participation and local knowledge

Local community members have played a crucial role in the monitoring system's installation and maintenance. Their knowledge of the terrain and fauna has been fundamental to the project's success. Participants received prior training on camera handling and on the selection of optimal sites to capture a wide range of species, including invasive ones.

### Long-term preservation

The project not only seeks a better understanding of the fauna of the Cochamó Valley, but also to identify potential threats to its conservation. The data collected is key for developing effective management and conservation strategies. The project also seeks to strengthen alliances among local organizations to support conservation and promote responsible tourism in the Sanctuary.

### GOALS

- » Train local community members in the installation of camera traps and identification of tracks, in order to build local knowledge and skills in wildlife monitoring.
- » Gather evidence on the presence of species in the Cochamó Valley to advance conservation-oriented programs.
- » Strengthen alliances between local organizations.

### PROGRESS 2024

- » Installation and removal of 25 camera traps in the Cochamó Valley.
- » Discovery of Vizcacha Patagónica, Guiña, Monito del Monte among 28 other species.
- » First year of camera installation and removal in the Cochamó Valley during the winter-spring season
- » Report and presentation event on monitoring results in the Cochamó Valley.

## COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

# CORDILLERA PUELO VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

In the most isolated mountainous areas of the Cochamó district, our rural volunteer program has become a concrete tool for community support and a unique opportunity for cultural connection.

This collaborative experience between rural communities and nature lovers was created with the aim of supporting families and elderly people who, during the summer, prepare the supplies that will allow them to cope with the rest of the year.

During each volunteer cycle, people from different places join in an immersive experience of rural life. Each volunteer is welcomed by a host family, whom they support with domestic and agricultural tasks for two weeks, while also providing companionship for many elderly people who live alone in the most remote areas of the district. This coexistence generates a valuable exchange: volunteers learn through hands-on experience about the history, local ecological knowledge, and resilience of those who have lived their entire lives in harmony with nature.

The testimonials left by participants attest to the transformative impact of this experience. It is as much a practical as it is an emotional and cultural learning experience, shifting perceptions of the effort required in rural life and strengthening respect for nature and those who inhabit it.

### GOALS

- » Support families and elderly residents in preparing supplies that will sustain them through the winter in the mountains.
- » Provide an opportunity for learning and exchanging experiences that highlight the cultural richness of rural life.
- » Foster cooperative bonds between nature enthusiasts and local communities.

### PROGRESS 2024

- » Expansion of the initiative with more than 1,600 applicants from Chile and around the world.
- » 19 volunteers supporting 9 families of elderly people in the Río Puelo area.

“The volunteers leave happy because we teach them what we know and what they didn't know before. And we value that as much as they do.”

Domingo Urrutia, resident of Puerto Urrutia.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

# DISCOVERING THE NATURAL WEALTH OF MY DISTRICT

“Discovering the natural wealth of my district” is an educational initiative that seeks to connect children and young people from rural schools in Cochamó and Río Puelo with the biodiversity, history, and landscapes of their local environment. Through classroom workshops, hands-on field experiences, and a three-day educational camp in La Junta—the heart of the Cochamó Valley—this program offers a transformative experience that not only raises awareness about the importance of conserving this unique environment, but also strengthens local identity and the skills of future generations.

This first edition, held between July and December 2024, included workshops on biodiversity, local geography, camping, first aid, and hiking techniques. The program concluded with an immersive camp led by members of the local community, where students experienced firsthand what it means to live alongside the nature that so many tourists come to visit, yet remains largely unknown to local residents. Collaboration among local actors has been essential to its implementation: muleteers, guides from the Club Andino de Cochamó, teachers, volunteers, Puelo Patagonia and the Organización del Valle Cochamó joined forces to make it possible.

Beyond environmental learning, the project aims to reduce youth migration to urban areas by showing them that nature-based tourism, conservation, and rural life can offer real development opportunities. “We want new generations to see their environment as a place where they can grow, learn, and stay,” explain its promoters. Following its successful pilot, the organizations are already working on new versions for 2025, seeking to expand its impact reaching more schools and areas within the community, and to connect young people even more deeply with the territory they inhabit.

## GOALS

- » Strengthen local identity: Connect young people with the history and biodiversity of the Cochamó Valley.
- » Build local skills: Provide practical training in camping techniques, first aid, and managing the natural environment.
- » Foster community partnerships: Promote collaboration between local organizations, schools, and families to support conservation in the valley.

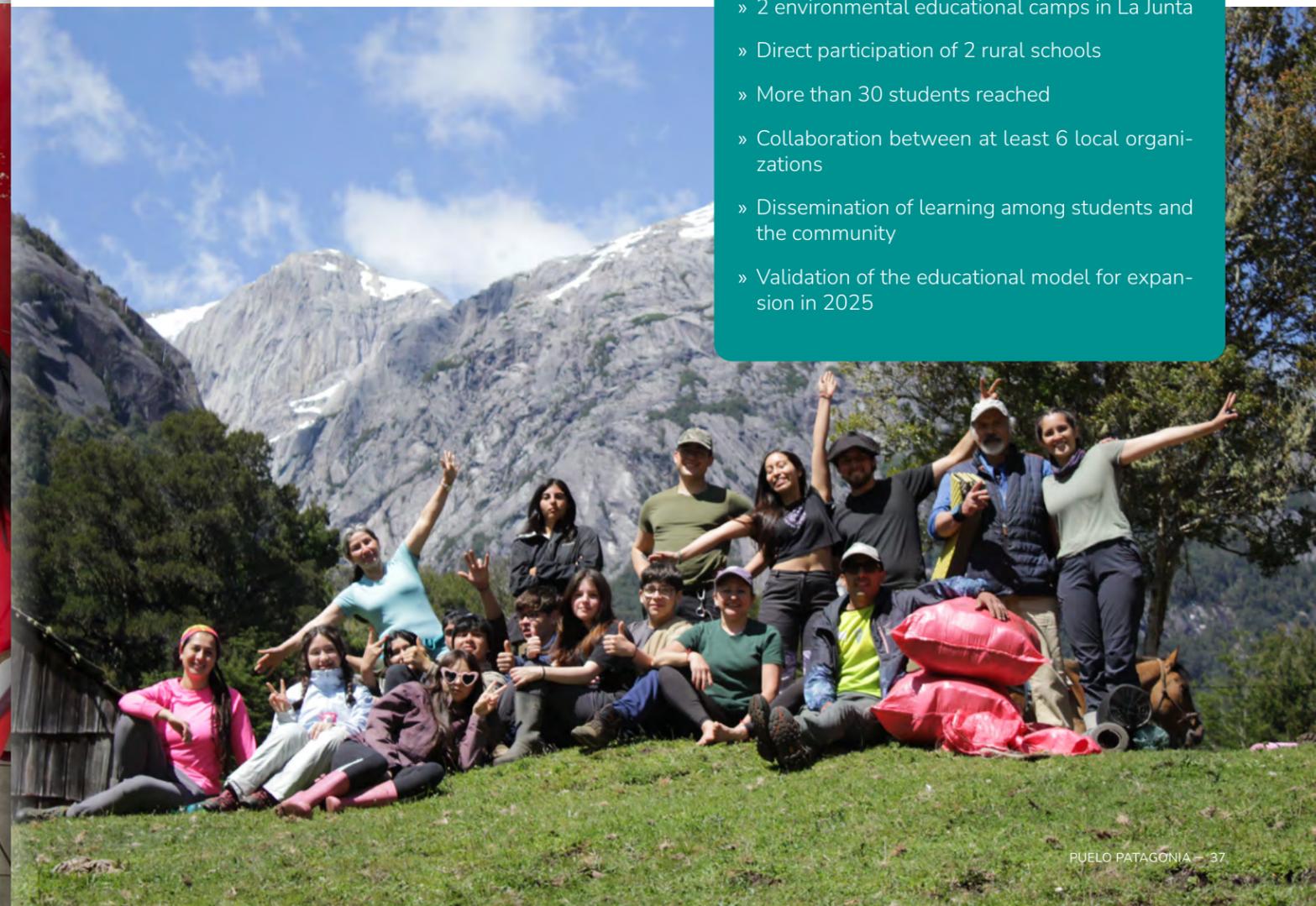
## PROGRESS 2024

- » 8 educational workshops completed
- » 2 environmental educational camps in La Junta
- » Direct participation of 2 rural schools
- » More than 30 students reached
- » Collaboration between at least 6 local organizations
- » Dissemination of learning among students and the community
- » Validation of the educational model for expansion in 2025



“ My experience was excellent, as the landscapes were beautiful and it was clear how much care is given to the nature and surroundings of the place. I would definitely do it again”

Maximiliano, student at Río Puelo Rural School.





“ We want to guide visitors, contributing to education on good practices through the Leave No Trace Principles and the respect they should have towards the communities that live in these areas.”

Dominga Hasbún, Volunteer at La Herradura circuit.

**RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT**

# TOURISM REGULATION IN COCHAMÓ VALLEY AND LA HERRADURA CIRCUIT

This project aims to create planning tools and manage the thousands of tourists who visit Cochamó Valley each year in order to mitigate the impacts of tourism. This initiative began in 2016 as a concrete response to the growing interest in visiting this iconic mountain destination, which was already showing signs of impact on the area, endangering its environmental and cultural values. Thanks to the collaboration between local organizations such as the Organización del Valle Cochamó, the NGO Puelo Patagonia, the Club Andino de Cochamó, and the Association of Muleteers, a reservation system has been implemented to organize visits and protect the carrying capacity of the territory. These measures have been key to reducing water pollution, trash accumulation, camping in unauthorized areas, and the risk of forest fires, promoting a safer and more conscious experience. In addition to regulating the visitor flow, the project includes permanent actions such as infrastructure maintenance, volunteer training, wildlife monitoring, and the presence of park rangers at different points throughout the valley.

The 2024-2025 season began with high demand, which is why we supported local organizations in improving the Visitor Center and trail signage, among other measures. Forty volunteers were in charge of registration and monitoring strategic areas such as Vidal Gormaz Lake, Torrentoso Lake, and El León Pass, strengthening the protection of the La Herradura circuit.

The goal is not only to conserve the natural environment, but also to contribute to local economic development, creating opportunities for families living in isolated areas of the mountain range who depend on nature tourism for their livelihoods.

In the long term, this management strategy aims to transform the Cochamó Valley into a model of total conservation, coordinating efforts across both public and private lands, including the 133,000 hectares of Conserva Puchegüín.

**GOALS**

- » Create planning tools for local organizations.
- » Manage mass tourism in Valle Cochamó.
- » Support tourism in La Herradura Circuit.
- » Promote local development in mountainous areas through responsible tourism.

**PROGRESS 2024**

- » Accommodation rental for 40 volunteers at the Valle Cochamó Visitor Center
- » Installation of 158 signs and improvements to the main trail
- » 40 volunteers in Cochamó Valley and La Herradura Circuit.

# HEADLINES THAT MARKED OUR 2024



**APRIL 30, 2024**

## HOW A “HANDFUL OF HIPPIES” ARE SAVING SOUTH AMERICA’S YOSEMITE

A decade-long battle between a wealthy businessman and a group of activists led to a surprising \$63 million transaction.

SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES

**MAY 22, 2024**

## MONITORING AT FUNDO PUCHEGÜÍN REVEALS NATIVE SPECIES IN DANGER OF EXTINCTION

The discovery of the Güiña, the Monito del Monte, and the Vizcacha Patagónica in the Cochamó Valley highlights the importance of protecting this valuable ecosystem and strengthening conservation initiatives in the region.

SOURCE: CNN FUTURE 360

**JULY 5, 2024**

## FUNDRAISING TO ACQUIRE FUNDO PUCHEGÜÍN IN COCHAMÓ REACHES 27%

The campaign, which was announced by DF MAS last April, has already raised US\$21.2 million of its US\$78 million goal.

SOURCE: DIARIO FINANCIERO

**OCTOBER 29, 2024**

## APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE CORDILLERA PUELO VOLUNTEER PROGRAM: 21 DAYS OF COOPERATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH PATAGONIA COMMUNITIES.

In the heart of the Andes Mountains, in the district of Cochamó, families of elderly people take advantage of the summer season to prepare the supplies for the harsh winter.

To support this work, the NGO Puelo Patagonia invites young people from all over Chile to take part in the 4th edition of this volunteer program, which aims to be an experience of collaboration between local communities and nature lovers, emphasizing the cultural richness of rural life.

SOURCE: AUSTERRA SOCIETY

**AUGUST 12, 2024**

## THE DEFENSE OF COCHAMÓ

Chilean and international conservation organizations have formed an alliance to acquire Fundo Puchegüín, which covers more than 130,000 hectares in the district of Cochamó, Chile. This land, located in the Cochamó Valley Nature Sanctuary, possesses great ecological and cultural value. Its acquisition, they say, would enable the protection and preservation of its rich biodiversity.

SOURCE: DEUTSCHE WELLE

**DECEMBER 13, 2024**

## RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: HIGH SEASON BEGINS IN THE COCHAMÓ VALLEY

After months of preparation, infrastructure maintenance, wildlife monitoring, and training for volunteers and tour operators, the high season has officially begun in the Cochamó Valley, one of the country's main mountain destinations. The organizations responsible for managing tourism in this area, which is mostly made up of private land, anticipate the arrival of more than 15,000 visitors between December and March. They also urge tourists to book their stay in advance and respect the area's rules.

SOURCE: LADERA SUR



## WHAT'S COMING UP

# UPCOMING PROJECTS

- » Final fundraising for the purchase of Fundo Puchegüín
- » Continuity of the participatory wildlife monitoring program
- » New seasons of rural volunteering in new sectors of the district
- » Environmental education program in more local schools with a focus on other sites of high natural and cultural value in the district
- » Work on establishing a water protection law
- » Strengthening responsible tourism in Cochamó
- » Oversight and monitoring of projects that threaten biodiversity



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), and represent the comprehensive, explicit and unreserved adoption of this standard.

The financial statements are presented in Chilean pesos (CLP), which is the Organization's functional and reporting currency.

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

31-12-2024

31-12-2023

\$

\$

### Assets

#### Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	328.473.187	270.187.978
Trade and other accounts receivable	2.934.458	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>331.407.645</b>	<b>270.187.978</b>

#### Non-current assets

Property, plant and equipment	1.083.047	505.556
<b>Total Non-current assets</b>	<b>1.083.047</b>	<b>505.556</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>332.490.692</b>	<b>270.693.534</b>

### LIABILITIES

#### Current Liabilities

Current trade and other accounts payable	354.822.236	357.079.287
Current employee benefits provisions	6.159.802	4.099.267
<b>Total Current liabilities</b>	<b>360.982.038</b>	<b>361.178.554</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>360.982.038</b>	<b>361.178.554</b>

### NET EQUITY

Contributions	100.000	100.000
Surplus (deficit) Cumulative	(28.591.346)	(90.585.020)
<b>Total Net Equity</b>	<b>(28.491.346)</b>	<b>(90.485.020)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Equity</b>	<b>332.490.692</b>	<b>270.693.534</b>

<b>STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b> For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023	31-12-2024	31-12-2023
	\$	\$
Donations	600.479.432	175.802.214
Employee Expenses	(99.375.683)	(84.461.372)
Depreciation	(125.199)	(108.333)
Professional Fees	(268.802.866)	(118.172.433)
Lease and operating expenses	(158.555.397)	(38.988.012)
Other expenses	(18.018.731)	(2.581.975)
Financial costs	(2.860.230)	(2.255.189)
Financial income	2.677.750	-
Foreign exchange translation	5.159.000	-
<b>Surplus (deficit) for the year</b>	<b>60.578.076</b>	<b>(70.765.100)</b>

<b>STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY</b> For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023	Contributions	Surplus (deficit) Cumulative	Total Equity
		\$	\$
Opening balance for the fiscal year as of January 1, 2024	100.000	(90.585.020)	(90.486.020)
Surplus (deficit) for the year	-	60.578.076	60.578.076
Adjustments for prior years	-	1.415.598	1.415.598
Adjusted Surplus (deficit) for the year	-	61.993.674	61.993.674
<b>Closing balance for the fiscal year as of December 31, 2024</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>(28.591.346)</b>	<b>(28.491.346)</b>
Opening balance for the fiscal year as of January 1, 2023	100.000	(19.819.920)	(19.719.920)
Surplus (deficit) for the fiscal year	-	151.999.783	151.999.783
Adjustments for prior years	-	(222.764.883)	(222.764.883)
Adjusted Surplus (deficit) for the year	-	(70.765.100)	(70.765.100)
<b>Closing balance for the fiscal year as of December 31, 2023</b>	<b>100.000</b>	<b>(90.585.020)</b>	<b>(90.485.020)</b>

<b>STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW</b> <b>DIRECT METHOD</b> As of December 31, 2024 and 2023	31-12-2024	31-12-2023
	\$	\$
<b>Cash Flows from (used in) operating activities.</b>		
Donations received	586.115.598	479.117.541
USD balance recognition - Banco de Chile.	-	(34.217.284)
Project expenses	(393.454.039)	(127.827.817)
Payments to and on behalf of employees	(88.957.469)	(76.363.983)
Payment of current monthly taxes	(41.670.200)	(15.998.466)
Bank charges	(4.053.741)	(2.255.189)
Lease payments	(1.680.000)	(1.680.000)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>56.300.149</b>	<b>220.774.802</b>
<b>Cash flows from (used in) investing activities</b>		
Acquisition of property, plant, and equipment	(702.690)	-
Interest and adjustments on fixed-term deposits	2.687.750	-
<b>Net cash flows used in investing activities</b>	<b>1.985.060</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net increase in cash flow and cash equivalents</b>	<b>58.285.209</b>	<b>220.774.802</b>
vwww	270.187.978	49.413.176
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>328.473.187</b>	<b>270.187.978</b>

# FUNDING SOURCES AND EXPENSES

<b>DONATIONS RECEIVED</b>	31-12-2024	31-12-2023
	\$	\$
Income from members	19.728.846	22.932.238
Donations for completed projects	576.415.567	151.872.564
Occasional donations	4.335.019	997.412
<b>Total</b>	<b>600.479.432</b>	<b>175.802.214</b>

<b>DETAILED COSTS AND EXPENSES</b>	31-12-2024	31-12-2023
	\$	\$
<b>Employee expenses</b>		
Salaries and wages	(95.226.495)	(80.900.720)
Employer contributions	(4.149.188)	(3.560.652)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(99.375.683)</b>	<b>(84.461.372)</b>
<b>Professional Fees</b>		
Puelo Team	(214.772.766)	(58.057.538)
Advertising and Communications	(28.886.782)	(7.589.640)
Legal advisor	(2.996.841)	(24.789.856)
Consulting	(6.915.722)	(14.781.612)
Field support	(11.134.927)	(7.057.732)
Accounting services	(1.179.393)	(1.008.880)
Other	(2.327.239)	(4.887.175)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(268.802.866)</b>	<b>(118.172.433)</b>

<b>DETAILED COSTS AND EXPENSES (CONTINUED)</b>	31-12-2024	31-12-2023
	\$	\$
<b>Lease and operating expenses</b>		
Arriendos	(3.382.475)	(1.680.000)
Various project expenses	(155.172.922)	(37.308.012)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(158.555.397)</b>	<b>(38.988.012)</b>
<b>Other Outflows</b>		
Fees paid	(10.304.515)	-
Other expenses	(7.714.216)	(2.581.975)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(18.018.731)</b>	<b>(2.581.975)</b>
<b>Financial Costs</b>		
Checking Account fees	(2.860.230)	(2.255.189)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(2.860.230)</b>	<b>(2.255.189)</b>
<b>Financial income</b>		
Interests earned	2.677.750	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.677.750</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Currency Exchange rate adjustment</b>		
Exchange rate adjustment	5.159.000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.159.000</b>	<b>-</b>

**PUELO**  
PATAGONIA 

# PROTECTING COCHAMÓ FOREVER STARTS TODAY

11 years working on the  
conservation of nature and  
culture Cochamó and Puelo.

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