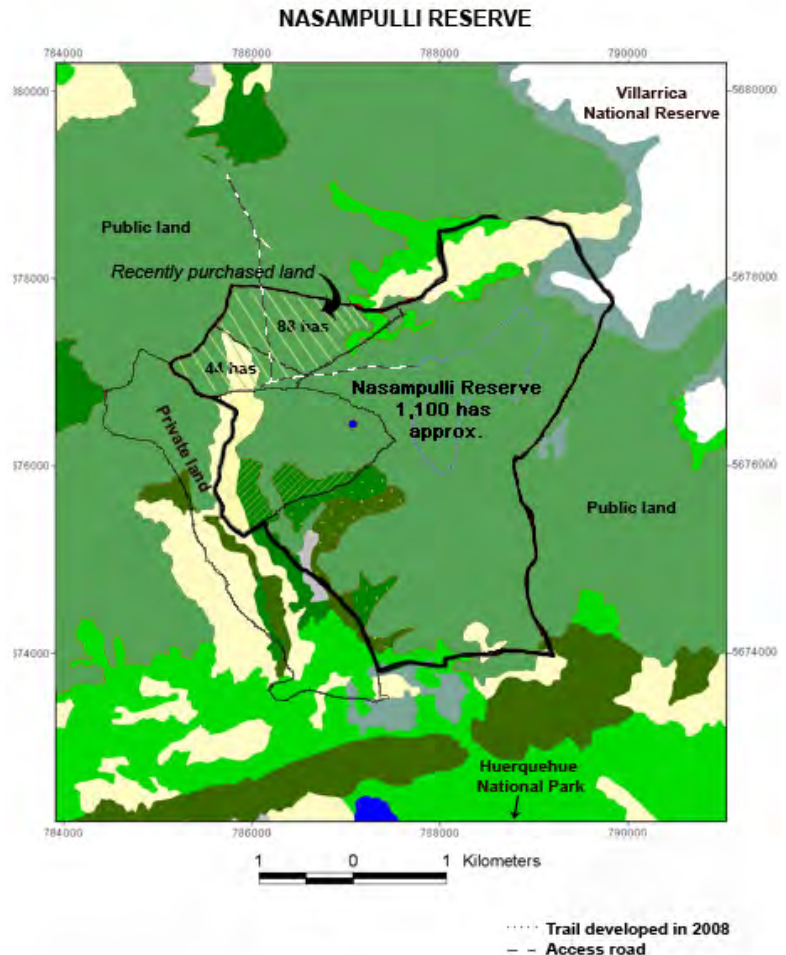


## Nasampulli Reserve finally completed

by Prof Antonio Lara, Christian Little and Fernando Bustos

Last year we made important progress in the protection of the *Araucaria araucana* forests in the Nasampulli Reserve. This is the result of the collaboration between Rainforest Concern and Universidad Austral de Chile since 2003. In 2008 Rainforest Concern purchased 160 hectares of pristine monkey-puzzle forest bringing a total area of 1,100 hectares under protection within the reserve and, crucially, forming a connection to the Villarrica National Reserve.

We have now completed the long awaited original goal and plan, on the basis of collaboration, trust and hard work. Last year, we accomplished several other goals in addition to land purchase. With the collaboration of many people and colleagues we protected the area, improved road to access the reserve, opened and improved several trails, and repaired fences to prevent browsing of *Araucaria* seedlings by cattle. Our partnership with our neighbour Mr. Joel Balboa has been key for the development of our project, and involvement of local people in developing the reserve has strengthened our relationships with the community. Charlie Watson, a Rainforest Concern volunteer, spent several weeks with us last summer and was a



**The magnificent Araucarias trees in the reserve**

big help in the field as well as in the office. In the future we face important challenges that require hard work to assure the long-term success of the Nasampulli reserve. These in-

clude strengthening general protection of the Reserve, especially against human-set fires during the dry summer months (January through March), building and improvement of trails to provide access to the various areas and the building of a rustic shelter. Another challenge is the development of a biological corridor connecting the southern portion of the Reserve with Huerquehue National Park.

Through focused and hard work and a combination of land purchase and conservation partnership with landowners it would not only link Huerquehue National Park with Nasampulli, but also Villarrica National Park to the north, creating an important corridor vital for the connectivity of wildlife in the area. Home to native species such as the Puma (*Puma concolor*), the Pudu (*Pudu pudu*) and the Monito del Monte (*Dromiciops gliroides*), the corridor would create a vast habitat of continuous *Araucaria* forests. Deforestation of these old-growth

forests in the region has left many small isolated areas fragmented – this corridor would link three large areas of protected land together, preserving this stunning landscape and the rich biodiversity within it. As well as the corridor the opportunity to purchase a new 28-ha parcel that would enlarge Nasampulli towards the north including riparian areas along the beautiful Pichapinga river is also of high interest.

Summarising, achievements in 2008 and in the previous years have only been possible due to the trust, partnership and close relationships between Rainforest Concern and Universidad Austral de Chile forming the basis on which to inspire future collaboration required for the protection of the *Araucaria* forests. We should also mention the role of the Planet Foundation for their generous efforts in making the purchase of the remaining parcels in 2008 possible. We are very grateful for their on-going help.