



Involving local communities in reforestation and restoration can create new income sources in geographical and environmentally challenging areas where no other alternatives other than non-sustainable exploitation of local natural resources is possible.

A small project like this can have a long-lasting impact on the local environment because it directly involves indigenous communities and 'campesinos' in reforestation and restoration, developing environmental awareness through a hands-on approach to conservation and sustainable forestry. Carbon sequestration is something that benefits all of humanity, but if reforestation is developed in ways that exclude local stakeholders, little social and long-term environmental change will occur.

**Identifying key biodiversity areas**

Even though a large part of the Araucarias Biosphere Reserve is protected by National Parks and Reserves, the great majority of these areas do not contain over-winter habitat for fauna species such as the Pudú deer. Parques para Chile continues to stress the importance that low and mid-elevation habitat has in safeguarding the survival of native and endemic species.

Prioritisation for the establishment of new protected areas, within the Araucarias Biosphere Reserve, is needed because resources available for conservation efforts are scarce and therefore need to be invested in strategic ways

to ensure that the greatest contribution to preserving biodiversity is being made.

The Centre for Biodiversity of Parques para Chile is following two main conservation-planning variables developed by Dr. Chris Margules and Dr. Bob Pressey of the University of New South Wales, Australia. At the centre of this methodology are how vulnerable and irreplaceable a particular geographic unit is and the consequences of what might happen if that site were degraded or permanently lost. This approach evaluates how much a particular site found within the Biosphere Reserve contributes towards achieving conservation objectives. Previous conservation decisions are also factored into the decision making process to ensure the most effective and efficient use of resources.

We have begun research on the distribution and home ranges of endangered species. This process involves the use of Geographic Information Systems, existing literature reviews, local knowledge, regional committees, and international experts and Chilean Red List species expert commissions.

At the end of 2009 we will be submitting a report on the state of Red List species within the Reserve accompanied by a conservation priority-setting agenda agreed upon by international, regional and local-level stakeholders and experts.

**Red List species monitoring in Latin America**

In December 2009, Parques para Chile will be hosting an intensive three-week seminar aimed at training up-and-coming conservation leaders in the monitoring of Red List species. Red List species are important for conservation because they are most at risk of extinction. The seminar will train NGO leaders from across South America in the techniques, standards and scientific methods necessary for the long-term monitoring of trends in distribution, population size, home ranges and ecological condition of the habitats they depend upon for survival. Several International organisations will be participating in this important event including Rainforest Concern, IUCN, Birdlife International, Audubon Society, WWF, ESRI, Pacific Biodiversity Institute, as well as several Chilean and International Universities and Research Institutes.

**Conservation and public participation in the Namoncahue Biological Corridor**

In December 2008, Parques para Chile began research on the spatial distribution of endangered species within the Namoncahue Biological Corridor. The over-wintering habitat for the Pudú deer and Magellanic woodpecker, as well as several species of sensitive bird species will be studied. Since several land parcels still need protection within the corridor, additional knowledge that accurately describes habitat use of species of conservation concern is a valuable indicator of the relative overall conservation value of each land parcel. Acquiring this information will allow us to justify protection of these areas.

Local school groups and Regional Universities are already signed up to participate in field visits to the Corridor during the summer months. We look forward to their visits and hope that through research and contact with species we can help influence students to pursue careers in conservation and conservation science.

We would like to thank Rainforest Concern and all of their supporters for appreciating the important role that local organisations play in the conservation of biodiversity and development of sustainable economic agendas for local peoples. With your support we can reach out to local people and continue to transform the economic and natural landscape of the Araucania, Chile.



**Development of economic alternatives is a project priority**