

Australis, wildlife research group of the Catholic University of Chile, with support from the Darwin Initiative, UK and project partners like Rainforest Concern. Sites within the Namoncahue biological corridor and large remnant forest fragments in the area have been studied. This three-year project aims at assessing the presence of fauna by conducting transects to observe tracks, signs and scats (droppings), as well as camera trapping. Some of the native species captured by the cameras have been Puma (*Puma concolor*), Kodkod (*Oncifelis guigna*), Pudú (*Pudu pudu*), Chingue (*Conepatus chinga*), Culpeo fox (*Pseudalopex culpeus*), and the Gray fox (*Pseudalopex griseus*).



The vulnerable Monito del Monte

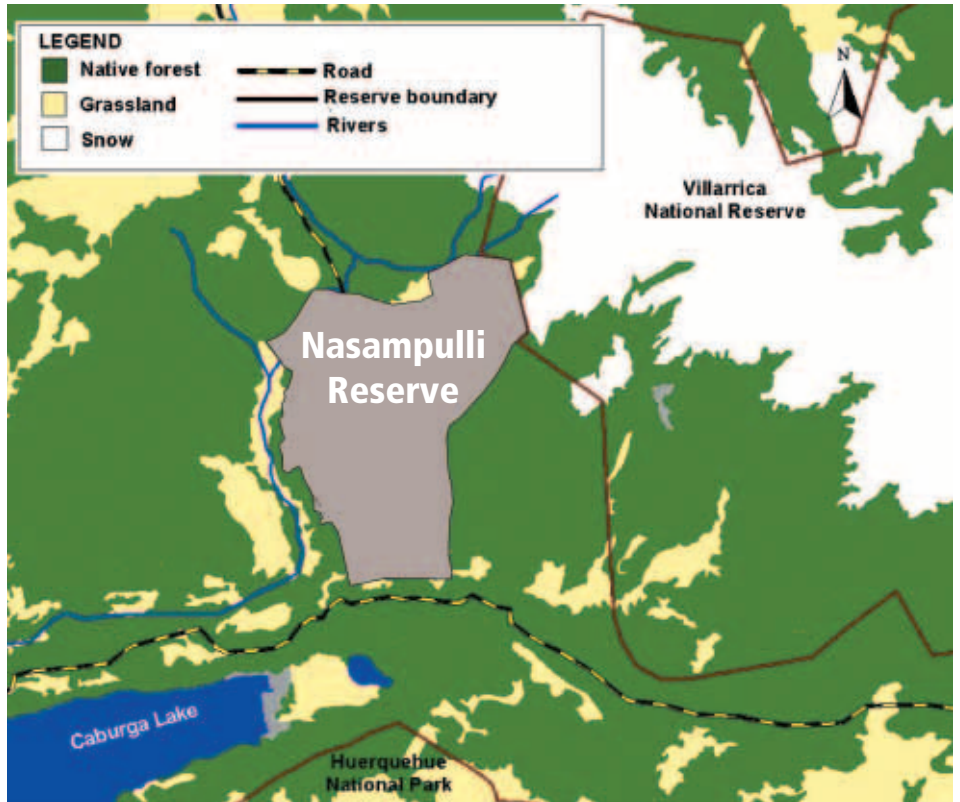
Results so far have shown that the quantity of species and individuals found at lower altitude sites are significantly higher than at higher altitude sites, indicating the importance of lowland forest habitats in the area. Initial results have been useful for the development of a long term monitoring scheme to analyse the importance of lowland forest habitat in the Namoncahue biological corridor, giving vital evidence to back up the theory that low and midland forest habitats found within places like the Namoncahue Biological Corridor are critical to the maintenance of biodiversity within the bioregion.



Monkey puzzle forest (*Araucaria araucana*)

Nasampulli Reserve almost completed

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Over the last year, more new hectares of pristine forest of Monkey-puzzle (*Araucaria araucana*) have been added to the Nasampulli Reserve Project, thanks to the support of Rainforest Concern. The Reserve is located approximately at 39° 01' S and 71° 38' 32" W, north of the Caburga Lake, and contains continuous areas of *Araucaria* forests that create a unique landscape in the region. The Reserve is close to the Villarrica National Reserve, which is managed by CONAF (the Chilean National Forest Service).

In January 2007, two additional purchases of land were conducted enabling the expansion of the Reserve by 346 hectares. At present, the total area under protection is 983 hectares, including 160.4 hectares owned by the Fitzroya Society, another conservation organisation. In addition to the purchases of the parcels, we have been working on the access to the Reserve by upgrading the road. We have also maintained permanent contact with the neighbouring landowners who have collaborated in the accessibility and monitoring of the Reserve.

The new purchase has enabled us to connect Nasampulli Reserve with the Villarrica National Reserve that is managed by the National Forest

Service (see map). This increase in the connectivity of *Araucaria* forests will allow improvement of mobility and survival of fauna and flora existing in these unique forests. In particular, the Black Woodpecker (*Campephilus magellanicus*) is a threatened bird that occurs only in temperate forests in Chile and Argentina. Unfortunately, the deforestation and forest fragmentation has had a severe impact on its habitat, reducing its chances of survival. Similarly, the habitat of the diverse fauna species such as the world's smallest marsupial (*Dromiciops gliroides*) that occurs in *Araucaria* forests, have been altered by human actions. The expansion of the Nasampulli Reserve and its connection to the Villarrica N.R. will also enable the expansion of the habitat of the fauna and flora associated with monkey puzzle forests.

Both the continuous support of Rainforest Concern and the collaboration of the lawyers Alberto Pulido and Macarena Montero have been essential in carrying out this initiative for the conservation of monkey puzzle forest in the Andes Range of Chile, and we are grateful for their ongoing assistance.