

INTERNATIONAL LAND CONSERVATION NETWORK

Funding for biodiversity conservation in Chile cannot wait, says a new report

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In Chile, the gears are grinding on conserving some of the world's most biodiverse landscapes. The nation has been <u>exploring and innovating</u> private and civic land conservation mechanisms for decades and has had some success leveraging ecotourism and other funding tools. But with increasing pressure on nature, globally, conservation needs to be nimbler than ever, and that means having ample fuel to power the machine. Establishing a ready source of funding designated for high-impact conservation projects is an urgent priority in Chile, according to a new report.

"Effective conservation of biodiversity: 30 urgent actions for 2030" was released in August 2023, by the Commission for



CEP Committee; Credit: Centro de Estudios Públicos (CEP)

by the Commission for Conservation, Institutions and Philanthropy of the Chilean Centro de Estudios Públicos (CEP), a nonprofit academic foundation based in Santiago, Chile. The initiative is the result of more than three years of collaboration by a diverse working group comprised of experts from across disciplines, interests, and political sectors. The report provides an exhaustive

diagnosis of the current state of conservation and conservation funding in Chile, as well as proposals for policies that are crucial to strengthening the nation's institutional framework and raising awareness for its striking terrestrial biodiversity.

Thirty proposals are presented in the report and further organized under eight strategic objectives and five transversal principles. In relation to financing, one of the most urgent measures is for

Fondo Naturaleza Chile, the first institution in the country to address the historical lack of government financing for biodiversity conservation in Chile, to achieve its endowment fund goal of at least \$100,000,000 (USD).

"[This document] is a great contribution of the CEP to advance the urgent need to implement conservation policies in accordance with the urgency and magnitude of the triple environmental crisis that we face in terms of climate change," said former Minister of the Environment of Chile, Carolina Schmidt, at a well-attended presentation of the report. Current Minister of the Environment, Maisa Rojas, also praised the document, calling it a roadmap for the nation to reach its 2030 biodiversity goals.

The full report, available in Spanish, can be read <u>here</u>.