

CREATION

March 2016

SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Some 300 km south of the city of Coyhaique, OHMi Patagonia-Bahia Exploradores is located in the Aysén region of Chilean Patagonia, at the mouth of the Exploradores River and the Pacific fjords, far removed from any human settlement. The remote situation has induced the conservation of a unique ecosystem where the main forcing factor was, until now, based on the influence of climatic conditions.

DISRUPTING EVENT

In 2009, the creation of a significant communication channel led to the acceleration, intensification and spatial expansion of a developing tourist and productive economy (including intensive salmonid aquaculture).

KEY TOPICS

- Territorial dynamics of socio-ecological systems
- Impact of climate change and biodiversity dynamics in a context of rapid transformation
- Productive activities (intensive salmonid aquaculture, forestry and mining) and contamination
- Biological invasions
- Sustainable development in extreme environments



TERRITORY

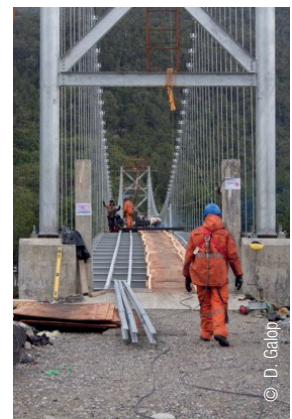
Made up of a southern maritime space and supposedly pristine *Nothofagus* forests, the territory of the OHMi Patagonia-Bahia Exploradores lies in a periglacial zone and is subject to the dual influences of Campo Hielo Norte (Northern Patagonian Ice Field, the second largest continental glacier in the southern hemisphere) and the south Pacific. These various characteristics make the sector exceptional as a territory, both in terms of the environment and the threats it faces due to current climate change. For this reason, the entire area is subject to protection measures with the presence of several national parks (Laguna San Rafael Park, a Biosphere Reserve).



SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

The territory provides the ideal framework for observing the transformations brought about by an ongoing process of anthropization: namely the development of a tourist and productive economy (livestock) combined with the development of transport channels over land and sea, with increasing impacts on an ecosystem that had previously remained untouched.

Firstly, OHMi will strive to acquire comprehensive knowledge of the Bahia Exploradores region and its area of influence and, secondly, to facilitate decision-making in the field of conservation and sustainable development in a context of territorial transformation; it will apply an integrated approach in close liaison with national institutional stakeholders and the local socio-economic fabric (industry, tourism, livestock farmers).



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