



# Chile Conservation Corridor: demonstrating a new model for conservation in Chile

**A project to implement new conservation legislation will help achieve conservation goals within a corridor of Chile's most threatened ecosystem.**

The core of the Chile-Mediterranean habitat of central Chile stretches from El Boldo on the Pacific coast to Altos de Cantillana, located just outside the capital city of Santiago. Almost all of the habitat's 435,389 hectares are privately owned. With less than 3% of Central Chile in protected status this is Chile's most threatened ecosystem.

## **Transforming conservation in Chile**

In 2016, the Chilean Congress unanimously passed a law to effectively change the definition of private property ownership. The Derecho Real de Conservación (DRC) is a legally binding agreement which gives private landholders the right to protect land that they own for its conservation and natural heritage attributes and characteristics. The protected land remains private and could also support sustainable land uses such as forestry, agriculture and tourism.

DRC has potentially profound implications for land conservation in Chile, other countries in South America and around the world, providing a blueprint for creating

conservation legislation that applies to private land and is grounded in civil law.

With the support of the BHP Foundation's Environmental Resilience Global Signature Program, this project's central goal is to demonstrate how the DRC can help achieve important, scientifically supported and monitored conservation goals which will protect and sustainably manage the habitat.

Fundación Tierra Austral (FTA) is Chile's first land trust, a non-governmental organization that focuses specifically on protecting private conservation land through partnerships with landowners.

### Implementing Chile’s new conservation legislation

In this first two-year pilot phase of the project, FTA will collaborate with willing landowners and stakeholders who live and work in the region, including those whose livelihoods depend on their property, to implement the DRC at three high priority sites. In addition, memoranda of understanding which could lead to future DRCs will be entered into with three additional landowners.

The intent is to document and encourage best practice in the use of DRC and increase awareness about the importance of threatened and priority sites in the Chile-Mediterranean habitat.



At the conclusion of the pilot, scientifically validated outcomes will be disseminated, enabling FTA to work towards a longer-term goal of at least 30% of the El Boldo to Cantillana Corridor (approximately 130,000 hectares) being protected under DRC agreements, with a focus on areas of the highest ecological value.

The activities and outcomes of this pilot phase will also seek to strengthen FTA’s organizational capacity and role as a recognized land trust and suitable counterparty to a DRC.

Through the implementation of the DRC at pilot sites, this project is working to conserve the region’s fragile ecosystems and scenic landscapes, while respecting and nurturing cultural traditions including the sustainable management of forests and farmland.

### Conserving the environment for future generations

BHP Foundation’s Environmental Resilience Global Signature Program was developed to drive new ways of conserving and sustainably managing natural environments for the benefit of future generations. We do this by investing in large-scale projects which aim to improve how the environment is valued, enhance conservation planning, and share learnings with others.

The projects we support bring together international institutions, governments, civil social and business, aligning our aspirations behind a common goal to achieve lasting change by seeking to:

- Deliver high-impact, enduring interventions in areas of international significance
- Engage with people who live in the landscapes to involve them in our efforts, build their capacity and support their livelihoods
- Use these projects to pilot new approaches and share our learnings so that others can take them on with confidence
- Develop replicable environmental policy frameworks to advance the future of conservation.

The Chile Conservation Corridor will support Chile’s bold new land conservation law, while also increasing the protection of significant Chile-Mediterranean habitat. The dual approach of supporting policy frameworks and place-based demonstration are key elements of the Foundation’s Environmental Resilience Strategy.

For more information on the BHP Foundation and the Environmental Resilience Global Signature Program, visit [bhp.com/foundation](http://bhp.com/foundation)

**‘We recognize the urgent need to preserve and sustainably manage priority landscapes in a manner that will improve the health and resiliency of both natural and human communities in the region, especially to the impacts of climate change.’**

Victoria Alonso  
Fundación Tierra Austral