



*Chiloe National Park, Chile*



*Coconino National Forest, United States*

## **U.S.-CHILE COOPERATION ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN PROTECTED AREAS OF PATAGONIA**

**Chilean Patagonia** is home to remarkably high biodiversity of both flora and fauna, and one of the largest reserves of pure drinking water in the southern hemisphere. As Patagonia’s popularity as a tourism destination has increased, so too have environmental pressures from development and industrial projects, which threaten its unique and bountiful natural resources.

The United States and Chile are working together to develop sustainable tourism in Patagonia under the **U.S.-Chile Environmental Cooperation Agreement**. With support from the U.S. Department of State, the International Programs (IP) division of the US Forest Service (USFS) and Chile’s National Forest Corporation (CONAF), are developing a framework for designing and developing new park infrastructure, while minimizing negative environmental impacts and increasing benefits to local communities and their economies.

Through this program, park guards, regional managers, and CONAF’s executive leadership in protected area management have learned best practices and cutting edge techniques in public use planning and outreach to the communities in and around Patagonia’s protected areas. As a result of these courses, seven protected areas covering over 6 million hectares in Patagonia now have new or improved public use plans.

### **Best Practices highlighted in USFS/CONAF workshops and study tours:**

- Public Use/Recreation Planning
- Interpretation, Signage & Visitor Center Development
- Trail Design and Management
- Buffer Zone Management
- Encroachment Issues
- Indigenous and Community Relationships
- Concession Management
- Business Planning for Local Entrepreneurs
- Landscape Planning
- Social and Marketing Research

