


**Summer Field School [Online] on
 MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
 Ivano-Frankivsk Region, Ukraine :: 19-28 September, 2021**

DELEGATE PARTICIPANT'S PROFILE

	<p>Mr. Fernando Iglesias Letelier <i>Executive Director</i> Conservación Andina & Chile Director Round River Conservation Studies</p> <p>Las Palomas 8 San Juan de Pirque, Stgo, Chile Mobile: +56975415631 Email: fernandoiglesias@musica.cl</p>
Highest Education	MS, Conservation Biology and Protected Areas Management
Personal Statement	<p>Dear All,</p> <p>I am a senior conservationist with 13 years of experience in the field of Protected Areas management and development. I started my career after finishing my Bachelor in Natural Resources Management as the developer of the Parque Andino Juncal, a private protected area located in the headwater of the Aconcagua Valley, that after the four years of my work become the first private Ramsar site of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well a key conservation area for the glaciers and mountains that nourish one of the most populated valleys of Chile.</p> <p>That life-changing experience push me to starts a Master's degree in Conservation Biology and Protected Areas Management, as a Grad Student, I started to dream to create the first National Park of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago, Chile. The Parque Nacional Río Clarillo, that dream that become a reality just last year, after 10 years of work.</p> <p>After I finished Graduate, I join Round River Conservation Studies to develop an academic program of Conservation</p>

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	<p>Biology in Chilean Patagonia, I have been leading since then the program. The academic world has given me a wonderful experience to teach and share a perspective of current conservation challenges from theory to practice, encouraging my students in their own views and research, using our work to help real people in the real world in the communities we work.</p> <p>besides the academic work, my work with Round River in Patagonia has given me the opportunity to develop new protected areas and new models of conservation planning and management, based on the local ecological knowledge of the communities that have been living immersed in the harsh nature of these austral landscapes.</p> <p>Currently, I'm developing two new public protected areas in Patagonia, the first one is in an early stage and is protecting an old herders trail used by the first pioneers to connects different towns, although the main subject of this project is to preserve the cultural heritage of Patagonians, the place is located in the middles of pristine mountains with unique ecosystems, surrounded by the old-growth forest and glaciers of the San Lorenzo mountain range.</p> <p>The second PA'a is also developed in public lands and includes the entire basin of the Pascua river, one of the major rivers in Chile and the largest that remains pristine. this river used to be threatened by a mega-dam project. after five years of research, we discovered one of the most abundant populations of the huemul deer worldwide, a specie that is key culturally and biologically and is in serious risk of extinction, with no more of 1500 individuals around the world. I will be presenting the results and the states of the arts of this basin-based conservation initiative.</p>
Paper/Presentation Title (Unpublished Research or Review or Field Work)	<i>Toward the Effective Conservation of the Pascua River Basin in Chilean Patagonia</i>

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Keywords	Southern Patagonian Ice field, Protected Area Creation, Community-based conservation, conservation planning, river basin conservation
Abstract (100-300 words)	<p>The Southern Patagonian Ice Field is the third largest ice mass on the planet and the largest in the Americas. It stretches from north to south over 350 km, from 48°20' S to 51°30' S. It has an extension of 16,800 km², of which 85% belongs to Chile and the rest to Argentina. Although the “Campo de Hielo Sur” and its surroundings are perhaps the best-preserved territory in Patagonia, the Lake O'Higgins basin is its only portion that currently lacks formal protection of any kind. As such, it is highly vulnerable to megadevelopment - roads, dams, and mining. In order to face these threats and promote a community vision of conservation in Chilean Patagonia, we are proposing to expand the lands under legal protection through the creation of a new protected area under the category of Bien Nacional Protegido (National Protected Good) the most recent category of the National system of public Protected Areas in Chile, which we have named “Río Pascua”, which encompasses around 80,000 hectares of the O'Higgins Lake basin and its imposing drainage the untamed Pascua River.</p> <p>By protecting the Pascua, it would be possible to effectively conserve the biodiversity and the ecological and hydrological processes of the northeast portion of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. In addition, it would be possible to protect public access to the Bernardo O'Higgins National Park (BONP), the largest National Park of the country, ensure the landscape and ecological integrity of a fragile ecosystem with increasing pressure for tourist use, develop a plan for the conservation and sustainable management of this buffer zone. BONP and carry out scientific research to protect one of the most important populations of the endangered huemul deer worldwide.</p> <p>This article reviews the history of the process of the scientific and community-based conservation work to create this new</p>

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	<p>protected area at the same time all the administrative steps to declare the first river basin under legal protection in Chile and its state of the arts on its sixth year increased in recent past compared to long time ago. Further, most of the farmers reported crop failures, migration to other places and flooding' as three major consequences of climate change. Unfortunately, most of the households were unaware about the scientific sustainable approaches to combating impact of climate change. The study findings will help in preparing a roadmap for policy formulation as well as undertaking mitigation measures besides helping the agriculture extension agencies to design and plan locale specific adaptation strategies and agriculture development.</p>
More Information (weblinks)	<p>https://www.linkedin.com/in/fernando-iglesias-letelier www.conservacionriopascua.cl www.roundriver.org www.andeanconservation.org</p>