

IMPACT AT A SYSTEM LEVEL: STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS FOR THE INSTALLATION PROCESS OF THE CHILEAN BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS SERVICE (SBAP)



Drafted by
the Naturaleza Chile Fund

Recently, Chile passed a Law that will enable the creation of the Chilean Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service (SBAP), the first national agency with a special focus in preserving biodiversity and part of the Ministry of the Environment. This Service and its corresponding legal reforms constitute a key enabling aspect for implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and fulfilling 30x30 targets.

The structural part of the SBAP is the National System of Protected Areas, which encompasses public and private protected land and marine areas, and seeks to incorporate, within a single system, all of the country's existing protected areas. It will define standards, develop abilities and manage the country's protected areas in a modern way, including involving civil society in its management. It will contain solid instruments and regulations for biodiversity management within and outside Protected Areas, including the management of invasive exotic species, the restoration of degraded ecosystems, amongst others.

The installation of the SBAP sets various challenges from an institutional, administrative, technical and labor perspective and by law, the terms for this process are limited, and will be effective from the day of the Law's official announcement next September 30th, and extend for approximately two years.

Oddly enough, Chile is the last American nation to create its own "Park Service". This could be perceived as a weakness, but is a unique opportunity to learn from the experiences and mistakes made by neighboring countries and to establish one of the most modern protected area systems out there.

But this is a one-shot opportunity! Creating a new public

service puts forth aspects that afterwards may be difficult to change: matters of structure and organizational efficiency, selection of internal management tools, agreements with workers and training staff for the new scenarios that will directly affect the working environment, the establishment of standards, prioritizing the instruments to be developed during the first years, amongst many other crucial matters.

Chile may or may not take advantage of this opportunity. A lack of resources for meeting necessities at this moment is the main obstacle that will determine whether the process of developing and installing this new "institution for nature" is successful.

The most relevant specific mandates in the installation process of the SBAP include:

- Creating the regulatory decrees of the new Service, a task that falls exclusively upon the Legal Team at the Ministry of the Environment.
- Creating decrees to regulate the transfer of employees, protected areas and assets from different ministries to the Ministry of the Environment, a task that falls primarily upon the Legal Team at the Ministry of the Environment and requires great execution of political management in order to obtain an adequate integration of the staff, assets and goods that have belonged to other agencies and ministries.
- Developing 21 regulations with the participation of relevant internal actors from the different State agencies, as well as other societal and territorial actors relevant to conservation and to the forthcoming SBAP.
- Specific technical studies and analyses with relation to the update of priority sites, classification of ecosystems,

conservation plans for threatened species, restoration plans for degraded areas, adequate biodiversity compensations, monitoring of exotic invasive species, payment system for ecosystemic services, regulations for private protected areas; procedures for grants and permits, amongst others.

- Socialization and promotion of the SBAP throughout different territories, underscoring its value for the current and future well-being of Chilean society, through actions related to strategic communications, designed and directed for different sections within the political, business, trade-union, social, academic and other fields.

Some potential interventions where there is an urgent interest and need for their implementation.

- Contracting a Strategic Team (three individuals with political, administrative and technical abilities)
- Strategic Assessing Committee for the Installation Stage (ad honorem, with participation from the NCF, NGOs amongst others).
- Consultancy for the optimization of working areas, recommendation of internal management systems, proposal of efficient organizational structures, development of the public officer degree, amongst others
- Building an inventory and a baseline for the current scenarios of all State-protected areas, including maintenance systems and the renovation of infrastructure and technical equipment.
- Preparing the transfer of more than 100 protected areas from the current SNASPE system, equal to ca. 18 million ha.
- Documentary organization and Reclassification of current Protected Areas (175 Units, covering nearly 1,658,000 ha).
- A review made along with social participation from current Priority Conservation Sites for the purposes of their inclusion in the SBAP (328 Units, for a total of ca. 13 million ha)
- Preparing current work teams to be transferred, through coaching and guidance for the transfer process of Employees from the Ministry of the Environment and the SNASPE from CONAF (a total of ca. 1028 employee).

Implementing these commitments is a complex task and will be led by the Ministry of the Environment. It requires available staff and adequate funding, both its own and in the form of third-party contributions, particularly from those specialized organizations that have been ongoing collaborators in developing the SBAP as well as in general terms the conservation endeavors of the Ministry of the Environment. The installation process of the SBAP must be designed and executed strategically, and efficiently assembled in tandem with the collaborators, who may be beneficial in the face of technical and regulatory challenges.

About the Naturaleza Chile Fund

A special role within this process is the one played by the Naturaleza Chile Fund, whose mission is to mobilize and administer financial resources for the conservation of Chilean nature. The Naturaleza Chile Fund was born out of a collaborative effort between global environmental NGOs (WWF, TNC, WCS, Oceana) and State agencies (Ministry of the Environment, CONAF, SERNAPESCA). It's a public-private organization that aspires to have a large-scale impact in Chile, a purpose for which it requires the most prompt and adequate installation of the SBAP, whose future director will form part of the Board of the Naturaleza Chile Fund.

During this foundational stage, the Naturaleza Chile Fund will seek to channel sufficient financial resources to efficiently support the creation of the SBAP, from a comprehensive, strategic, effective and efficient standpoint, in order to tend to the country's conservation targets.

The breakdown of the budget for developing these activities is calculated in (USD):

Item	Purpose	Target	Estimate Amount
Governance Institution, Process and Executive Team	To strategically design and lead the process, through political skills, and by contracting three individuals to work under the Direction of Human	To have a High-level Technical/Political/ Managerial team, which can work as a Task Force for designing and executing the process, monitoring	600K (100K x 3 x 2 years)
Transfer of staff and territorial assets to SBAP	To develop inventory of all movable and immovable assets from Chile's protected areas, to review the maintenance protocols that will be transferred to the SBAP and to prepare, execute and guide its	To contract ad hoc technical/legal staff and psychological guidance and coaching	USD 3 MM (USD 125,000 monthly, includes salaries, consultancies, trips and work sessions.
Design of administrative/legal regulations	21 regulatory sections that must be designed through participatory and territorial	To design and contract specific consultancies for designing regulations	2,500K (120K x 21 consultancy, including staff and work on the territories)
Proposals for the conservation of Priority Sites	A strategic and participatory Update of Priority Conservation Sites for the purposes of their inclusion	To contract specialized consultancy.	2.000 K (328 Units, for a total of ca. 13 million ha).
Reclassification of protected areas	To standardize the public/private/marine/land protected areas in Chile for the IUCN.	To contract specialized consultancy, which must include visits to the protected area and work	2.100 K (calculates 12 million pesos per PA, including consultancy HH, transport, accommodations and other
Classification of Chile's Ecosystems	To develop a national system for Chilean ecosystems, whether land, aquatic or marine, over which to develop and apply conservation management instruments related to representation, the design	Specialized consultancy	200K

<p>Conservation plans for Threatened species</p>	<p>To generate the abilities for activating development processes of management plans for priority threatened species by following conservation standards, defined in the Strategic Assessment Committee for the SBAP Installation Phase.</p>	<p>Specialized consultancy</p>	<p>2500 K (50K x 50 species or groups of priority species).</p>
<p>Other SBPA regulations/ guidelines such as private protected areas, compensations, payment for ecosystem services, invasive exotic species plans, amongst others.</p>	<p>To define principles, standards, establish communities of practice that allow for progress in the initial design of the regulatory parts that will form the future SBAP, standard and integration of protected private areas, compensations, management of invasive species, amongst others.</p>	<p>Specialized consultancies, assessed comprehensively and coherently by the Strategic Assessment Committee.</p>	<p>400K (80K x 5 consultancies)</p>
<p>Total</p>			<p>USD\$13.3 M.</p>