PUMALÍN

DOUGLAS TOMPKINS

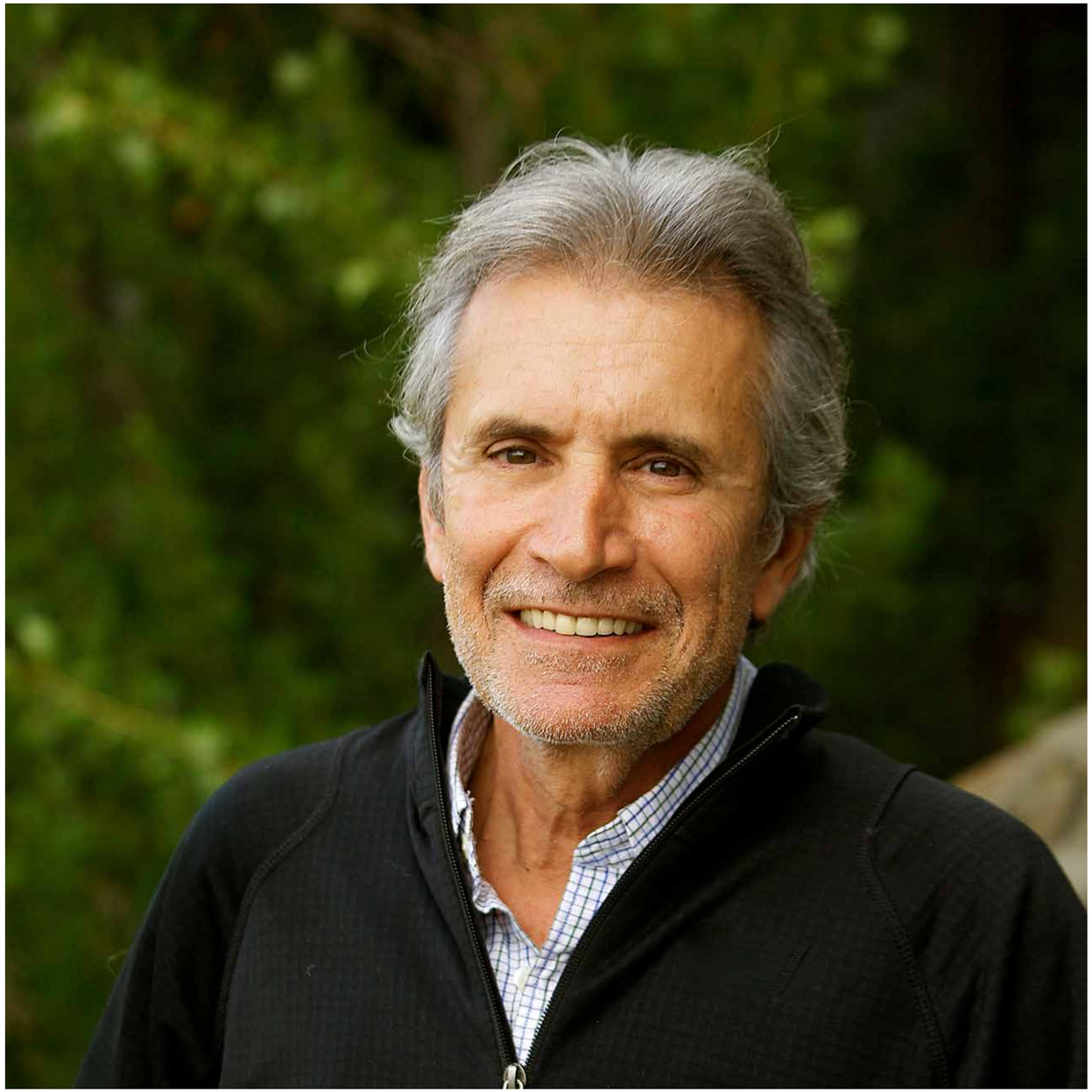
NATIONAL PARK

TOMPKINS

CONSERVATION

For Douglas Rainsford Tompkins (1943–2015)

As embodied in Pumalín's forever-wild future,
his work for beauty will have no end.



In memoriam, Antonio Vizcaíno (1952–2019)

With his peerless eye and boundless energy,
Antonio Vizcaíno communicated nature's diversity through photography.
His unexpected death just prior to this book's publication
makes it his last word in devotion to beauty,
and to the wild world he loved and served through his art.

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PREFACE

Edward O. Wilson

Pumalín. Its gentle name gives no hint of the majesty of this place. It doesn't speak about sculptured faces of coastal mountains, the lines of waterfalls fed by heavy rain, the awesome heights of the interior Andean mountain range. Nor does it mention boulder-strewn pristine streams, and meadows and lakes equaling the best of Alaska and the Rocky Mountains.

Added to beauty is the richness of fauna and flora. Pumalín is a botanist's paradise. Its thousands of plant species, many unique to the area, comprise in sum the Valdivian rain forest, which covers the land from the mountain slopes, over the valleys, and down all the way to the edge of the sea, a primeval continuity rare in the rest of the world. Reaching above its canopy is the alerce or Patagonian cypress (*Fitzroya cupressoides*), an iconic and endangered conifer that is extraordinarily long-lived. Some individual alerce trees in Pumalín Park are nearly 4,000 years old.

Pumalín has another, crucial distinction. Prior to its recent designation as a national park it was widely recognized as the world's largest private nature reserve open to the public. Moved by a deep and abiding love of the southern Chilean wilderness, Kristine Tompkins and her late husband Douglas worked for decades through their nonprofit foundation to acquire and aggregate approximately 725,000 acres of conservation land, thereby securing its beauty, wild character, and remarkable biodiversity. In 2018 the parklands were donated, along with their public-access infrastructure, to the people of Chile. With the addition of adjacent government land, the newly designated Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park forms a terrestrial nature reserve of nearly 1 million acres, safeguarding some of the most pristine habitat on Earth.

In the preservation of nature, and in particular its biodiversity, size matters. There exists a well-established mathematical relation between the number of species of plants and animals and the area of the reserve in which they are allowed to live undisturbed. Recognition of this principle has led to the Half-Earth Project, which is generally accepted by the global conservation community. If half the area of the land and half of the sea can be set aside from exploitation as a reserve, or at least managed with biodiversity made the primary goal, most of the wildland species can persist indefinitely. Permanently protecting Pumalín as Chile's newest national park is a small but significant step for fulfilling this vision. By example it can serve as the gold standard of South American biodiversity conservation.

For the long term, for centuries and millennia to come, there can be no greater service to humankind than to preserve the living environment we were bequeathed.

FOREWORD

Michelle Bachelet

Only a couple of decades ago in our country, environmental protection was not a concern of the majority, as it is today. Conservation was the focus of few people and organizations. In general, it was seen with distrust, even among many opinion leaders. The dominant national narrative claimed that it was important to grow first, and then start worrying about things that seemed more like concerns of the developed world.

But global understanding and public opinion in Chile have changed. And it has been the facts themselves, rather than words, that have prompted the shift. Climate change, pollution, the scarcity of water for human and industrial consumption, loss of biodiversity around the globe, and devastation of many natural resources have transformed our awareness of humanity's relationship with the natural world. Today we know that development without thought of sustainability is bread for today and hunger for tomorrow. Or at least, bread for those of today, but at the expense of economic opportunities and possibly even survival of generations to come.

But, as at other times throughout the history of human civilization, international cooperation is rising to face a challenge. The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals recognizes that economic, environmental, and social considerations must be indivisible and considered simultaneously. This is very positive, but it must be accompanied by concrete actions and with a sense of urgency to become a reality. Today global conscience must be embodied in immediate actions at the local level.

Chile is a small country, and it would seem to have few resources to confront the enormous ecological challenges facing the whole of humanity. But when there is a long-term view and political will, significant change can be made. We have acquired this learning process in environmental matters and it has attracted the world's attention. With recent progress to transform our energy matrix (which will help us meet international commitments ahead of schedule), reduce pollution, and dramatically expand protected areas—both marine and terrestrial—Chile is on its way to becoming a "small giant" of environmental care. The key is to create conditions for our citizens to live in a high-quality environment and have sustainable development opportunities.

The advances are tangible: At the beginning of 2014 Chile had 85,300 square miles under conservation in national parks or marine protected areas. As of 2018 we have reached 618,000 square miles—we have gone from protecting 4 percent of Chile's sea and land area to protecting 36 percent.

Marine conservation efforts have shown that some species that were overexploited or whose populations collapsed can recover, allowing the economic activity linked to them to endure. Therefore, if more than 60 percent of our fisheries are overexploited, clearly protection of just 4 percent of Chile's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Pacific was insufficient. That is why my administration worked

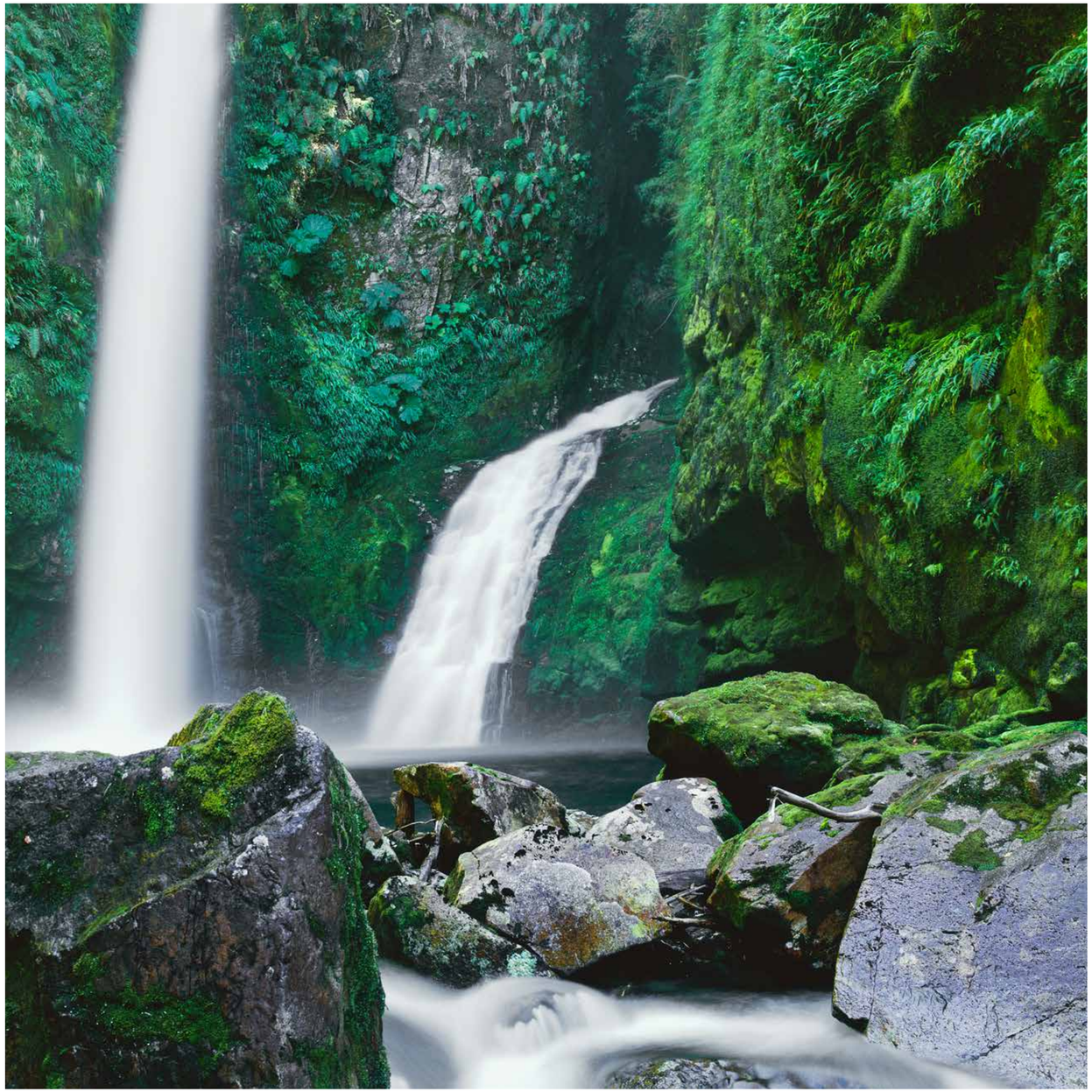
with all stakeholders to carry out an historic expansion of marine protected areas including marine parks. We approved the creation of marine parks in Nazca-Desventuradas (the largest in the Americas), Juan Fernández, and Cape Horn, which total more than 270,000 square miles of conservation. And we also added the gigantic marine protected area of Rapa Nui (Easter Island), under indigenous consultation, which will only allow fishing with traditional methods. Fifteen marine protected areas that conserve a total of 42.4 percent of our sea are now designated.

Historically, Chile has had longstanding incremental progress in conserving protected areas, and we have worked from that tradition. The creation of national parks began in 1926 with the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park. During the government of President Frei Montalva more than 12 million acres of new national parks were created. Past Chilean presidents across the political spectrum established national parks and reserves, and by 2016 Chile had about 18 percent of its land territory protected. In 2018, along with partners from the private sector, we worked together to implement the largest expansion of Chile's national parks in more than half a century. The result was the creation of more than 10 million acres of national parks, establishing a new Network of Patagonia Parks.

This monumental achievement was born from the vision of Douglas and Kristine Tompkins, who recognized the unparalleled opportunity for large-scale conservation in Patagonia; they believed that such efforts could benefit local communities as well as all of humanity. The global value of this conservation action is embodied in the more than 900 million tons of CO_2 that will be naturally sequestered in the vegetation and soils of this parklands network, and thus saved from entering the atmosphere to exacerbate climate change. The intact forests and grasslands of the parks will be capturing carbon, sustaining the hydrological cycle as well as the exceptional ecosystems and the wildlife they support.

Two decades ago some people looked suspiciously at Doug for this dream. But he wanted to donate these lands to Chile, so that we would always take care of those places that he loved and recognized as a global ecological treasure. That dream prompted the largest donation by a private entity to a State in the world's history. While we could not honor Doug during his lifetime for his conservation philanthropy, we can say that the park that he loved so much, the one that initiated his dream, is now called Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park. And while many know that in the United States there were great conservationists such as John Muir who contributed to conservation history, many in the future will know that there was a couple in Chile, Doug and Kris, who helped build an unprecedented national parks legacy through the Tompkins Conservation Foundation.

This book reflects the enormous significance of their dreams and efforts. Chile is grateful. Pumalín Park is not only a territory of incomparable beauty, as the book shows, but it is an example of the idea that, even when facing adversity, we can act decisively—and strive to live in harmony with the rest of life on this wonderful, diverse planet. Doug Tompkins's greatest legacy is having made hope a reality.



PUMALÍN, SEEN AND UNSEEN

Kristine McDivitt Tompkins

April, 2019. 5:30 in the morning, taking off as the first pale signs of light curl over the steep Andean mountaintops of Pumalín Park, off to work at Patagonia Park, 500 miles to the south. As the plane climbs sufficiently to clear the looming Michimahuida Volcano, the dawn's half-light allows the pristine forests below to slowly come into focus. I sit quietly staring out the window as the terrain begins to unfold.

This is the power of flight, mixed with the power of light and, with the exception of the steady drone of the engine, our silence. This is what prompted photographer Antonio Vizcaíno to visit Pumalín over and over for more than a dozen years, working to record the land's beauty for this book. And this is how Doug, and later I, began to read landscapes and form ideas for our conservation projects. From above.

Doug's father, Jack, a glider pilot on the U.S. runs into Germany during WWII, kept flying until his 80th birthday. Doug inherited that love of flight and flew light planes his entire adult life. When he was just beginning to educate himself as a conservationist, in 1989 Doug took a landmark trip with activist Doug Peacock, flying north from California into Canada. And on that trip Doug saw how the forests of the Northwest were being hacked to pieces, he saw giant clear-cuts spreading across the British Columbia wilderness.

From the air it was impossible to hide and ignore the massive clear-cutting of pristine forests which the "beauty strips" along the highways hid so well. I believe this was an epiphany for Doug and certainly a turning point that would influence his budding conservation interest in the south. He had found a use for the thing he loved, flying, and realized that he could use this to see and understand the lay of the land and what was happening to it. He could imagine working to help change the end of this story of nature's loss and degradation. The combination of Doug's background—pilot, entrepreneur, mountaineer and kayaker who'd traveled in wild places across the globe, self-taught architect/designer—formed the foundation of the conservation work that would come to dominate the last third of his life.

By the time Doug and I were committed to one another he was spending big chunks of time in south Chile, while also focused on his new foundation based in San Francisco. Doug had first traveled to Chile in the 1960s when he was a young ski racer and had been going back ever since for climbing and kayaking expeditions. As he was finishing up his business life and becoming more interested in ecological activism, he was introduced to the area that would become Pumalín Park by the American conservationist Rick Klein. They took a trip into the area to see primeval alerce trees, the massive conifers of southern coastal Chile, cousins to California's giant sequoias. In 1991 Doug purchased a run-down farm an hour's flight in a small plane south of Puerto Montt, at the mouth of the Reñihué River where it spills into a long and often turbulent fjord.

When I first visited Doug in Chile in early 1993, his work on the Pumalín project was under way but the long-term vision was still quite vague. The following

year, in 1994, one of Doug's foundations, then called the Conservation Land Trust and today part of Tompkins Conservation, acquired a key property for the future park. Comprising roughly 445,000 acres, the tract, which was purchased from foreign owners, formed the heart of the new protected area that would in 2019 be declared Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park. In the 1990s it was becoming clear to us that Chile had incredible potential for parklands conservation and that large-scale conservation projects could benefit wild nature, the local people of the region, and the nation.

As I write this decades later I have the clarity of hindsight. I see now how the early years' excitement about creating a new park were also about the giddiness of starting over, of pioneering our new life together in the middle of one of the greatest wilderness areas between Alaska and the tip of South America. We were in a vast roadless area, surrounded by hundreds of thousands of acres of impenetrable Valdivian rain forest. No phones, no internet, only High Frequency radios to connect the people occupying small farms along that stretch of coastline. The radio was our lifeline to the outside world.

At Reñihué, the project base, we had generator-produced electricity from 7–10 pm only, water direct from the river, and no refrigerator. We kept milk, cheese, and meat from spoiling by immersing them in the stream next to the house. The only way in or out, then and still today, is by bush plane or a boat ride 12 miles up the fjord to what is today the center of Pumalín. Of all the protected areas that we've helped create, Pumalín presented territory and conditions that were the least habitable for people and most difficult to hone into a park. Cold and wet and muddy. A temperate rain forest that receives an average of 137 inches of precipitation annually, with steep, unforgiving valleys and nearly impenetrable vegetation; these factors challenged us from the beginning right up to the park's completion.

Of course, to create a world-class national park you must assemble high-quality construction, administration, and operations teams, and we knew from the beginning that Spanish had to become our working language. To this day I appreciate the patience of everyone around us as we worked our way to a bilingual life. For the first years we were more comfortable speaking about construction details than conducting everyday social interactions in Spanish.

It was working during these early years that I first experienced what it feels like to be in landscapes that are largely pristine with few or no signs of human activity. Where I grew up in central California and where Doug grew up in New York's Hudson River Valley the land had long been settled and subdued. Conservationists typically focused on protecting the last islands of wild or seminatural habitat in a sea of domestication.

In Chilean Patagonia the situation was reversed: The vast bulk of the landscape was intact, with small human communities in a sea of wildness. It was a revelation to us that it was still possible to find natural habitat at this scale and that it was possible to conserve for all time. This was a tectonic shift in our thinking, and it became the bellwether of our approach: Work to stitch together expansive protected areas that will confront the global extinction crisis by assuring secure habitat for wildlife and natural processes to run free. And this in turn helps create a new cultural and social understanding that it is possible for dignified, vibrant human communities to live alongside of and benefit from new national parks.

I have always thought that we cut our conservation teeth on Pumalín and Chile cut its teeth on us. In the early years there was deep suspicion about our motives. Who would buy up large tracts of forest and not cut down the trees? We faced tremendous opposition from the country's political and industrial leadership. Lacking any experience with this kind of backlash, I took it very personally. Only later, when I read the histories of several national parks in the United States, did I realize that our situation was not unusual. An initially negative reaction to proposed parklands conservation is quite common. That we were foreigners created its own set of prejudices. The description of us as "the couple who cut Chile in half" was deeply distressing to me. I'd grown up in a small town where I was raised to always be a good neighbor and this characterization of our conservation work as somehow antisocial was exactly the opposite of what we believed and were trying to accomplish.

Doug approached the audacious idea of making a huge new park with the same drive and attitude ("nothing is impossible" and "no detail is small") that he'd displayed so many times before in his life. Although it seemed we did indeed test the impossible on many a day while flying from one part of the park to another. Often the weather was terrible for flying or taking the boat down the fjord to the ferry landing at Caleta Gonzalo, where one could drive the road to the nearest town, Chaitén. (And in those days the road was terrible, too.) When I look back on those early years of our life together and the immersion into our work developing conservation projects in Chile and later Argentina, I confess, it was a whirlwind.

Doug was driven. Our conservation and agricultural projects poured forth and he was in a constant state of rushing to oversee existing projects or initiate the next one. He was designing buildings, trails, campgrounds, maps, signage . . . layering up the thousands of details that were required to create a great public-access park. Though our marriage was young in those days, we slipped into an unspoken division of labor. Doug focused on the design, construction, and master plans for the park, as well as environmental activism. I, not unlike my former role at the Patagonia Company, focused on keeping the trains running on time and working with the members of our team.

There would be no Pumalín Park today without the extraordinary men and women who, through many years and often extreme conditions, shaped the countless details of the park into the beauty that it is today. Several of those people who have given so much to the Pumalín project have been on the team since the very beginning and were present when we transferred the park to public administration. We honor them today, through this book—their determination and level of commitment is the reason that tens of thousands of people visit Pumalín every year and marvel at what has been created there for all to enjoy. We celebrate them and the excellence of their work—a hand-carved sign at a trailhead, handsome bathrooms and cook shelters at a campground, a delicious meal at the restaurant. However, as much beauty as there is for a human visitor to see at Pumalín, there is far more that is unseen. There are undisturbed, evolutionary processes that stretch back thousands, even millions, of years. The character of the place suggests a mysterious and inscrutable diversity of life.

The park is home to countless creatures, but it's not a landscape where wildlife is easy to see. We may be lucky enough to witness birds singing in the treetops or marine mammals along the coastline. Perhaps we spy a pudu deer or a puma—but these glimpses only hint at the richness of the life unfolding here. I love Pumalín for all the things you cannot see. Some 26 years ago I became entranced with its obvious beauty, but what I've learned since is how to listen to the community of life that remains unseen. I love that this place is intact and that Chileans everywhere, from the park's neighboring communities to Santiago, increasingly share a sense of ownership of and commitment to the land now protected forever as Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park.

For me this is enough. We don't have to understand everything. We will never know and understand the full biotic community in this place, which pleases me no end. It's enough to catch sight of the residents who so briefly make themselves known, and to hear, in our deep imaginations, the wild chorus of the unseen.

Today, with Pumalín complete and formally donated to Chile's national park system, I am humbled by the scale and beauty of this million-acre protected area and gratified to know that the wild creatures who belong there are safe, the rivers run free and clear, the land's beauty protected forever. And I am deeply appreciative to see how the communities nearby Pumalín and the other parks we've helped create are finding their own voices and sense of identification with and pride in Chile's natural masterpieces.

We may have breathed life into these parks, but it is Chilean society and all those who visit the parks who will bring them to their full potential as the natural jewels of a country.

DOUGLAS TOMPKINS: VISIONARY, REBEL, ECOLOGIST

Juan Pablo Letelier

The ideas and actions of Douglas Tompkins left an indelible footprint, not only in Chile but in the world. Douglas revolutionized the way we see and understand national parks in Chile. Not only did he teach us that to create them is everyone's task, but he also demonstrated that to progress in this field, a public/private alliance is possible and necessary.

Chile's first national park, Vicente Perez Rosales, was established in 1926, in the Lakes District. Half a century before, with Yellowstone, the United States had pioneered a new category of protected area called "national park."

In our country before the creation of this first park in 1926 there had been preceding conservation actions. These include a legal initiative in 1872 that aimed at regulating deforestation; in 1879, the publication of a decree about "state forest reserves"; as well as an important advance in 1907 when the "Malleco State Reserve," Chile's oldest, was established.

The reasons for creating national parks evolved over time. Early in the twentieth century the establishment of protected areas in Chile was primarily associated with the goal of consolidating our national borders.

In 1941 Chile became a party to the "Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemispher," the first international tool that installed conservation as a shared regional objective. The dominant concept of the convention was to encourage the designation of certain territories as parks or national reserves, and to hire local people to act as rangers; however, no budget was included to build infrastructure for public access or to support ecological restoration.

During the 1960s, and particularly during Eduardo Frei Montalva's government, great steps were taken to protect important lands in different conservation categories. During the year 1966 alone, five new national parks were created, encompassing some 274,287 acres: Los Cisnes Lagoon, Los Pingüinos, and Monte Balmaceda in Magallanes; Punta del Viento, in Coquimbo; and Lautaro in Cautín.

By the end of the 1960s, 26 national parks had been created, covering approximately 28 million acres. During the 1980s, Chile established a "National System of Wild Areas Protected by the State" (SNASPE in Spanish), administered by the National Forest Corporation (CONAF), and regulated by a law that classified the types of territories which were put under state protection.

Even if this was not made explicit, parks and reserves were protected territories whose main objective was not public use; on the contrary, during many years park rangers thought nobody should enter the protected areas. For other specialists, the main goal was to safeguard in the SNASPE some samples of Chile's

ecosystem variety, that is, to establish a system of protected lands "representative" of our national territory.

In general, unlike the early national parks movement in North America, conservation in Chile was not associated with people having the right to access protected areas. Conservation was not acknowledged as a social need and right in itself, and neither the political nor economic establishment understood that this social acceptance and involvement is the most effective way to achieve the proactive preservation of natural areas and their associated biodiversity for future generations.

The end of the military dictatorship in 1990 coincided with a new planetary-level debate about climate change and the serious environmental challenges facing humanity. These issues were then little-known and poorly understood in Chile.

In 1990, obviously, the restoration of democracy was the main concern of Chileans; this new language of "environmentalism" was a marginal conversation in public life. In this context, few noticed the North American conservationist Rick Klein's initiative to protect Chile's native forest. Through his NGO, Ancient Forest International, and with a handful of friends, Klein worked to create Chile's first private protected area: the El Cañi Sanctuary, close to Pucón, in the 9th Region. Klein recruited Douglas Tompkins and other private donors to the campaign that successfully acquired the Cañi property.

Meanwhile, Douglas had his own wider plans. Through an environmental foundation that he'd established after leaving his business career, he began purchasing the first pieces of land for what later became Pumalín Park. Over time his vision for large-scale land conservation projects in Chilean Patagonia expanded. He took the lead on private conservation in our country; one could say that he was a true pioneer. Contrary reactions came fast. Negative responses poured forth, a storm of disqualifications and accusations based on ignorance, mistrust, xenophobia, and chauvinism fell on the Pumalín project.

Part of this overreaction to Douglas's conservation activity originated in the national media, which echoed peculiar conspiracy theories, such as that the Tompkinses intended to establish either a Nazi or Zionist enclave in Patagonia, or that they were stealing the land of humble peasants. Other fanciful notions were more geopolitical, asserting that with the Pumalín Park project this foreigner wanted to divide the country into two halves, who knows what for.

In the same way, among the "elite" of Chile few thought it possible that a rich foreign businessman and environmentalist would invest a large part of his wealth to purchase huge expanses of land to create protected areas for nature. And the idea that these lands, purchased and assembled through private action, might be *given*—as national parks to enable all Chileans to better know and love their country's unmatchable scenic beauty and landscape patrimony—was unthinkable.

Persons do not buy land to create parks. This is what you read in national papers. Pure philanthropy? Impossible. Chile was quite behind in terms of private philanthropy for conservation. Even today few Chileans know about the tradition of national park-oriented philanthropy, which historically has been a tool to create parks in North America, Europe, Australia, and even in our neighboring Argentina.

It was in the mid-1990s when I first ventured along the Carretera Austral. Without intending to, my family and I arrived at Caleta Gonzalo, the northern entrance of today's Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park. With the little we saw, I was already pleasantly surprised.

Regarding the accusations about the Tompkinses' nefarious intentions, we had reasons not to believe them. First, because we knew that philanthropists in different parts of the world had collaborated with local communities on conservation projects, and that it wasn't the people in general but mainly the elite who saw conservation as a threat to industrial development who cast the doubts.

The first time I heard Douglas speak was in Valparaíso, in the National Congress before a commission of the lower chamber. He was relaxed, informed, and knowledgeable—solid in the defense of his right to buy private properties to create Pumalín Park.

Some years went by before I had the honor to spend time with, and to get to know better, this foreign couple who loved Chile. I met Douglas first, then Kristine. I was privileged to witness directly how he, with his convictions and commitment, started changing the way Chilean people thought about conservation and national parks, while demonstrating with tangible actions how private individuals and organizations can create public-access parks.

Second, Doug showed that it is often necessary to struggle to defend wild places. His work made clear that creating large, nature-focused parks would often provoke opposition from other interests. Particularly from those who do not understand ecosystem conservation and that landscape beauty is the external expression of ecological integrity.

This is what happened during the epic "Patagonia Without Dams" campaign, which successfully fended off an unnecessary, massive hydroelectric development project in Chilean Patagonia.

Third, Douglas, through his own vision and the efforts of the team he and Kris assembled, was able to create a public-access private park model that would become a global conservation milestone. Prior to its donation to the State, Pumalín had become the world's largest private protected natural area.

Those of us who have had the joy of visiting Pumalín Park know that the trails and campgrounds are of great quality, that a harmony has been achieved between conserving the land's beauty and the infrastructure facilitating visitors' access to the park.

But Pumalín has not only been a tremendous effort of conservation—of taking care of what exists. Douglas brought to us and implemented a new concept in Chile, necessary for the twenty-first century: restoration. The Tompkins Conservation team also worked to acquire and then restore areas where past land uses had degraded them.

Fourth, thanks to the Pumalín project, Doug and Kris introduced a new model of public/private collaboration for creating protected areas during President Ricardo Lagos's government. After working with Lagos to receive an official Nature Sanctuary designation for Pumalín, Douglas proposed to give private lands around the Corcovado Volcano to the State for a new protected area. This was the genesis of Corcovado National Park, when state-owned lands were merged with private property donated from a Tompkins-led foundation and fellow philanthropist Peter Buckley. This instance of public/private collaboration built trust among the parties.

Using the same model, but this time with President Sebastián Piñera's government, Tompkins promoted the establishment of "Yendegaia" in the southernmost part of continental Chile. Here was a second national park prompted by a gift of private lands to the State from his foundation, where adjacent government lands were added to form the new protected area.

These projects had set the stage for what would become the largest private land donation for conservation in the history of both Chile and the world: an effort to establish the "Route of Patagonian Parks" extending from the Lakes region through Aysén and to the Magallanes region. This was possible thanks to the will of President Michelle Bachelet, and to the donation of approximately 1 million acres by Tompkins Conservation.

Clearly, Doug's premature and unexpected death in a tragic accident in General Carrera Lake in 2015 did not slow down the materialization of his dream, thanks to the work and leadership of Kristine Tompkins.

The private land donation from Tompkins-led foundations to the Chilean State for the creation of these new parks, and the State's commitment and action to leverage the gift with various public lands in different conservation categories, in sum added more than 10 million acres to national park designation in 2018.

Douglas's attitude and actions without a doubt mark a before-and-after for Chilean environmentalism. As few persons have, Doug taught us to love our land. A transformative figure, he leaves an unparalleled legacy in Chile's conservation history—above all else, as a visionary and proactive dreamer.

LESSONS IN ACTIVISM

Carolina Morgado

It is impossible to conserve a territory without defending it from threats. This was one of the first lessons I learned from Douglas Tompkins, whom I met at the beginning of the 1990s, when I organized a trip to the Upper Biobío River in south-central Chile for him. He saw in me an activist inclination that not even I knew existed! and he motivated me to participate in the "Action Group for the Biobío" which was then fighting a hydroelectric complex proposed for that exceptional watershed. (Despite vigorous opposition by conservationists and local indigenous people, three dams were ultimately constructed there.) Five years after this initial link I was working for the foundations led by Kristine and Douglas Tompkins.

Today, roughly a quarter-century later, I look back and think that one of the most remarkable things about having worked with great visionaries such as Doug and Kris is to have had the opportunity and the necessary resources to do what one considers ecologically ethical and correct; in other words, to effectively protect nature. With activism as a duty and conservation as goal.

When the Pumalín Park project started we were not afraid to confront the salmon farming industry due to the serious ecological consequences that became apparent as industrial salmon operations invaded the fjords around Pumalín. Our opposition to their destructive practices, including water pollution and killing of marine wildlife, was a turning point that changed our history and relationship with Chile's political world. It triggered numerous difficulties for our efforts in developing conservation projects. We also firmly opposed the devastation of Chilean native forests via clear-cutting and other industrial forestry practices.

Despite challenges, we never stopped. We kept working tirelessly in alliance with individuals and organizations of the Chilean environmental movement, with Douglas often leading and helping fund campaigns. He had a unique capacity to transform difficulties into opportunities. He said that controversy put a microphone in his hands. Doug was an innate questioner and argumentative person, and assiduous writer of letters to newspaper editors; those communications became our showcase to influence public opinion.

He saw this emerging discussion about nature conservation, which was new for Chile, as what our society needed to wrestle with some crucial questions, such as: What is "development"? What kind of country do we want to live in? How can public/private partnerships advance both social and environmental welfare? At that time, some sectors of Chilean society attacked his philanthropic conservation project to create Pumalín Park while applauding a similar-scale project called Trillium, a profit-oriented scheme to exploit the fragile ancient forests of *lenga* and *coihue* in Tierra del Fuego. A grassroots activist campaign ultimately stopped that proposed logging development. With time, citizens have reached their own conclusions about the value of protecting versus exploiting Chile's native forest.

But nevertheless, the road was long. In a country with no tradition of environmental philanthropy and with a dominant view of development that is anthropocentric and extractive—putting nature in a condition of unrestricted servitude to humanity—it was fundamental to help install what Doug called the "intellectual infrastructure," the scaffolding of necessary ideas for systemic analysis of the profound causes of the socio-environmental crisis in which we find ourselves at a planetary level. This was the reason why, in parallel to the support of the environmental campaigns being developed by Chilean organizations, Tompkins-led foundations deployed an intense public education agenda including research, presentations, articles, open dialogues in diverse forums, as well as the publication of numerous books about pressing environmental issues and photography books portraying nature's beauty. We wanted to contribute to the cultural shift towards environmentalism that was happening in Chile and around the world.

And when the mother of all campaigns arose in our country to fend off proposed hydroelectric development on some of Chile's most spectacular wild rivers, the media strategy of the "Patagonia Without Dams!" coalition was largely designed by Doug (and proved very effective). With his support and participation, the critical vision of Chilean activists about Chile's development model, which had been brewing since the early 1990s and the Biobío defense campaign, reached another level of maturity. This time the campaign was not only about stopping hydroelectric dams and saving Patagonia, but also about modulating the orientation of energy and economic development in Chile.

To create national parks, to protect the natural patrimony and fight what threatens it, to promote public education as a tool for social awareness, are all forms of activism developed in a masterly way by this man of infinite talents. After decades of effort, the 2019 ceremony transferring the new Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park to the Chilean State was an emotional moment. When the mayor of Chaitén said that Douglas taught us to see nature in a different way, I could not help but smile with pride and nostalgia.

This dream we realized, the largest land donation from a private organization to a State in history, which has shown Chile as a global leader in the realm of conservation, will be an eternal homage to Douglas Tompkins. A brave man, with impeccable environmental and personal ethics. An opinion leader, builder of systemic thought, and positioner of innovative ideas. But, above all, a man of action—an activist in the best sense of the word.

ASSEMBLING PUMALÍN PARK

Ingrid Espinoza

To have worked hand in hand with a visionary conservationist like Douglas Tompkins is an experience that has profoundly shaped my life. In 2015, before he died, I spent one of my last meetings with Doug looking at the preliminary contents of this book. Many of Antonio Vizcaíno's photographs had been selected, but we didn't know precisely *when* the national park designation would occur or how the park's final borders would be drawn. We were simply convinced that its designation should occur during the administration of President Michelle Bachelet.

We felt that the moment for Pumalín was in the air, and this sensation led us to believe that our dream about the park would be finally realized. After Pumalín became a national park, Doug wanted to publish a book that would reflect the preserved land in photos, a volume that would remain as a witness of a long history. It was an exciting moment that day when Doug told me that I had to tell the story, from the year "zero" until the national park became a reality, about how this "land puzzle" for conservation was put together.

Before briefly recounting the history of how properties were acquired and assembled, I think it is fundamental to understand the characteristics of the land that has become Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park.

Pumalín is basically formed by the Andes mountain range; deep, narrow valleys, islands and coastal fjords. We could describe this territory as a place of "intricate nature"—of vast mountains and heavy rains, with evergreen forests that in some cases literally hang from these mountains, abruptly falling toward the fjords. It is still possible to see the modeling effect of glaciation in this landscape, in the rock formations and headlands carved by the ice, in the U-shaped valleys and the thin, young soils. These formations are very susceptible to landslides. In the intermediate zone of the mountains there are large, hanging valleys and in the higher elevations some valleys with glaciers and lakes, which give origin to rivers that run through Chile's southern territory to finally reach the sea.

To have an adequate image of the landscape, it is useful to mention some of the statistics of the area. Fifty percent of the territory of Pumalín Park has a grade of more than 60 percent (extremely steep); only a small fraction of Pumalín is rolling or flat terrain, which mostly corresponds to the valley bottoms. Given the abrupt geography and high slopes and thus the difficulties for the installation of settlements and roads, Pumalín is nearly pristine, containing almost untouched ecosystems of great dynamism, reasons that amply justify its national park designation.

The park officially encompasses 994,332 acres located in the Lakes Region: 95 percent in Palena Province (in Chaitén, Hualaihué, and Palena counties), and 5 percent in Llanquihue Province (in Cochamo county). The original properties were concentrated in the Chaitén (63 percent) and Hualaihué (29 percent)

counties, and small portions in its extremes in Cochamo (5 percent) and Palena (3 percent) counties.

The story of the park's origins begins at the end of 1989, when Doug visited the area to see the alerce (larch) forests. Impressed by the wild, forest-clad mountains, he later purchased the first 42,000 acres, at a place named Reñihué. Thereafter, he gradually began considering a large-scale conservation project to protect the temperate forests of the area.

Between the years 1991 and 1994, through his nonprofit foundation, Doug acquired roughly 80 percent of the territory that would become Pumalín Park. In 1994, with a single large purchase, more than 445,000 acres were incorporated into the puzzle, contributing 60 percent of what would become the park. The greatest challenge was not buying properties from mostly absentee landowners but transforming these lands into a protected area, managed as a top-tier public-access park.

In the following fourteen years, the remaining 20 percent of the territory was assembled by purchasing various smaller plots, distributed in about twenty-five transactions. Although smaller, these tracts were strategic, giving access to the different areas of the park, and allowing the development of key areas for public use. Generally, these were places that had already been heavily altered by human activities and were in need of restoration.

Within the Pumalín project area there were some settlers who did not have clear titles to the lands they occupied. This situation required substantial legal work and engagement with government officials, to give stability to land ownership. Many challenges arose, such as recognizing the titles of coastal inhabitants, reaching agreements with the Ministry of National Assets and the different governments that passed through the office, to regulate the situation of the inhabitants on the lands acquired. These were carried out between the years 1997 and 2004 by means of restructurings in accordance with the Law Decree 2695, 1979, a procedure that ended with the inscription of the properties in the Real Estate Registry.

Between 2003 and 2007, we focused intensely on technical-administrative work to achieve both a designation of Nature Sanctuary status for Pumalín Park and the creation of Corcovado National Park. Extensive cartographic work, along with the marking of milestones on the ground, to update and improve the geographic information system was fundamental to this success. During this phase, to create Corcovado National Park, we secured something that few thought possible: the transfer of roughly 500,000 acres of fiscal lands under the tutelage of the military to the new park, through an unprecedented agreement with the Chilean Army.

On May 2, 2008, the eruption of the Chaitén volcano had a great impact on the ecological and human history of the area. Along with the massive amount of work related to helping restore Pumalín Park from the effects of this event, particularly on public-use infrastructure such as roads and campgrounds, in 2009 we started working on the first drafts of what would become the definitive proposal for the current Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park and the network of national parks in Chilean Patagonia. It was a bold and daring proposal which seemed incredible even to us: It expanded the boundaries of Pumalín and Corcovado National Parks, and also included a large extension of the Alacalufes National Reserve as well as its upgrade to national park status (now Kawésqar National Park).

We were requesting that the Chilean State designate nearly two and a half million acres of fiscal lands as national parks, a request far above previous conservation proposals. The goal was high, and we knew it, but it was a dream which we had shared with Doug as we were flying over the mountain range of Lake Yelcho, when, taking pictures of that landscape, we imagined expanding Pumalín Park by approximately a quarter-million acres that are a wild nature paradise. For this, we had to re-study and rediscover every part of this vast and sinuous territory by aerial reconnaissance, roaming over it to focus and carefully detail our project. From 2013 to 2015 we worked intensely on our dream.

By 2015 Doug was able to personally present the proposal that he called the "Route of Parks" to the Bachelet government in La Moneda. It was a development project for the region stretching from the Lakes Region to Cape Horn: a way to improve local economies, where the central axis would be the national parks. Our intention was to donate about 1 million acres of land to the State and with the addition of fiscal lands, we would create five new national parks (some of them recategorized from national reserves) and three existing national parks would be expanded. It was no longer just about donations, but a vision of development with an ecosocial focus for the entire territory.

After Doug passed away, there was an unexpected acceleration of negotiations and agreements with the Chilean government and the various ministries involved. Kris led the projects in this new phase, with decisive steps to reach the target and realize a dream that we all shared with Doug. Thanks to his audacity and the perseverance he transmitted to us, to Kris's leadership, to the professionals of the Ministry of National Assets' good work, to the political will of President Michelle Bachelet and her ministers, and to each of the green hearts that we found along this hard path toward conservation, we achieved, on October 2, 2017, the signing of the decree, in Villa Cerro Castillo, of the recategorization of the Cerro Castillo National Reserve to National Park, and the extension of the Magdalena Island National Park. Then, on January 29, 2018, the signing, in Valle Chacabuco, of the decree for the expansion of Hornopirén and Corcovado National Parks, the creation of the Melimoyu and Patagonia National Parks, and the recategorization and expansion of the Kawésqar National Park.

Finally, on February 28, 2018, the decree for the creation of the Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park was signed and, some months later, on August 9, published in the Official Gazette. On that day Doug's vision was finally achieved: Pumalín became a *national* park, prompting great pride for the Tompkins Conservation team. The park is a tremendous natural gift for Chile and the world, a grand dream come true.

THINKING LIKE AN ALERCE

Tom Butler

In one of the most famous passages in conservation literature, Aldo Leopold recalled a formative experience as a young forest ranger in the American West. On a September day in Arizona Territory in 1909 he and a companion were eating lunch when they spotted a group of wolves in the canyon below them. The men opened fire, striking two of the animals, a mother and her yearling pup.

Decades later, recalling the incident in "Thinking Like a Mountain," Leopold wrote about reaching the momma wolf in time to watch a "fierce green fire" die in her eyes. He used the story to comment upon the necessary dance between predator and prey—how wolves kept the deer population from becoming excessive and overgrazing the vegetation, the roots of which helped hold the mountain's soil in place. Fewer large carnivores meant more soil erosion.

Leopold understood that soil health was the foundation of vitality in what he variously called "the biotic community" or "the land community" or just "the land." Uncountable creatures—the microorganisms in the dirt, the wolves roaming the forest, the hawks soaring over the Gila River wildlands region—all interact in a web of life-affirming relationships. All contribute to the health of the whole. All would be diminished if overgrazing caused the soil to erode. As a young man Leopold shared the prevalent anti-predator attitudes of the day. Later in life, as his ecological understanding deepened, Leopold's writings would fully embrace the central idea of ecology: Everything is connected.

That idea of connection, of reciprocity, of webs of interaction that diversify and evolve over long periods of time, is everywhere apparent when walking in the primeval rain forest of Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park. For a visitor, the experience is slightly magical. All of one's senses communicate a feeling of abundance. Trees tower overhead. Through mottled light, the world appears overwhelmingly green and wet and wild. An aroma of earthy decay imbues the scene. The ground underfoot is mossy soft, the shrubs and understory plants sharp. The land seems like a place that time forgot, an example of wildness that calls to mind Henry David Thoreau's line about untrammeled country, "here was no man's garden."

The Valdivian rain forest of southern Chile is characterized by dense vegetation that deters off-trail movement. The almost impenetrable tangle of shrubs in the forest understory combined with Pumalín's designation as a national park assure that the land will remain a true stronghold of wild nature. This million-acre expanse of wildlife habitat, largely unfragmented by human infrastructure, offers some of the most secure habitat for wildlife on Earth.

In a world that is largely gridded and plotted, developed and commercialized, a place like Pumalín is rare and precious. There is delightful public-use infrastructure at the park—campgrounds and hiking trails and a small farm that grows fresh organic food for guests at the *hostería* at Caleta Gonzalo, where the ferry lands.

But the vast bulk of the park is roadless, the interior forest mostly unmarred by past logging, the lakes and mountains inland from the coast unvisited by any but the most intrepid adventurers.

In short it is a wilderness park. Unfortunately, the word "wilderness" has no precise equivalent in Spanish, and the idea to English speakers also is often confusing. That idea, however, is worth considering not only because it is notable in the history of conservation (and therefore in the development of our ideas about the relationship between humanity and the Earth that supports human life) but also because it may be a key guidepost in our future.

Wilderness can be thought of as a "land laboratory," to invoke again the words of Aldo Leopold, one of the intellectual giants of the conservation movement. By which he meant that areas intentionally left unmanaged, not logged or grazed or mined, offered a scientific "control" or baseline that helps us understand how the land community maintains its health and resilience over time. Gaining such knowledge also may help us to manage more sustainably the lands we use to produce timber or forage or food for human communities.

The etymological roots of the word "wilderness" have been interpreted to mean "will of the land." Thus, wilderness is self-willed land, a place not yoked to humans' idea of what the terrain should be but allowed to flourish in its own way. A place where nature, not human desire, directs the ebb and flow of life. Immersed as we are in modern civilization, we forget that wilderness—and the natural processes that operate freely in wilderness—are the context that produced the diverse flowering of life on Earth, including people. Conservationist Dave Foreman captured this idea in his phrase "wilderness is the arena of evolution."

Pumalín Park's size and pristine character give it exceptionally high potential to sustain ecological and evolutionary processes. That is a somewhat abstruse way of saying that the park supports *life* in all its buzzing, blossoming, verdant, and rain-soaked splendor. Its value for nature does not abrogate Pumalín's value to people, however.

Here is a landscape offering the familiar experiential values of national parks—a place to enjoy hiking or camping with friends, a place to experience stunning natural beauty, a place to enjoy spiritual regeneration and contemplate humanity's membership in the community of life. Added to these experiential attributes for individual visitors, as a *national* park Pumalín reflects a societal commitment to keep some parts of the globe inviolate, places where evolutionary processes may proceed unhindered. It is a landscape of freedom for all, people and our wild neighbors and relatives.

There is also the related, intangible benefit of what academics who think about such matters call "existence value." Over the decades and centuries to come, millions of people, Chilean citizens and visitors alike, will enjoy Pumalín Park. Countless more who may never visit will still benefit from its existence, not only because of the idea that they might one day see its snow-covered mountains and shimmering fjords, but also because it simply exists, and is permanently protected. Over time Pumalín and the other approximately forty parks in Chile's national park system will become part of the shared cultural heritage of the people, including people who never set foot in them.

Of course, the park offers the direct and very practical value, too, of helping to address climate change. In this period of rapid climate change precipitated by human activity, every hectare protected as wild forest or grasslands helps to naturally sequester carbon in the soils and vegetation. Saving a million acres of temperate rain forest is an extraordinarily valuable act of mitigation against future climate chaos.

Pumalín Park seems a land out of time, or at least that is what I have felt when strolling among the majestic trees of the Alerce Trail. The grove of forest giants here was spared from early logging when the area was settled. Their size and gnarled aspect conjures up Tolkien's Middle-earth. Alerces are among the oldest living creatures on Earth; their life spans are known to exceed 3,600 years. These arboreal giants are our elders in the grand pageant of life. Not only can individual trees live 45 times longer than an average human lifetime, their kind emerged long, long before (so many millions of years as to be an abstraction) our ancestors first roamed the savannas of eastern Africa.

Icons of the Valdivian rain forest ecosystem, alerces provoke, at least in me, profound admiration. They may stand, grow, and persist, century after century patiently enduring the storms that sweep off the Pacific. They soak up carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, for which those of us who enjoy breathing should be mightily grateful.

Recent research on how trees communicate with each other, recognizing kin and even offering mutual aid, is amazing. For people accustomed to thinking of trees as merely "natural resources," a source of lumber or fuel, it may require a shift in perception to acknowledge that trees in a forest "talk" to their companions via these underground networks of mycorrhizal fungi.

But the alerces and their arboreal neighbors in the primeval forest of Pumalín Park are speaking to each other in a language older than words. Of course, to think like an alerce is not possible, literally; it requires some imagination on our part. But even if we cannot join into their chemical form of conversation, we can admire their perfect rootedness, their well-practiced neighborliness as members of a particular community of life on Earth. We can learn from their example.

When I have stood at the base of an old-growth alerce and gazed heavenward, it almost seemed that this fellow Earthling was issuing a challenge to take up the cause of rootedness, to take a longer view of things. An individual human life, so short compared to an alerce's and even less when measured against the comings and goings of glaciers or rise and fall of mountains, can seem trivial when thinking about the "deep time" history of Earth. And yet some individual human lives are so extraordinary, so monumental in their impact, they rise to prominence in our time and can even affect the trajectory of life far into the future.

Douglas R. Tompkins lived such a life.

Doug's intensity and ambition were apparent from an early age. While still a teenager, a magazine profile about his skiing and rock climbing accomplishments reflected his ego: "Everything in life is becoming push-button . . . we take the easy way, physically and mentally. I always take the hardest way possible on purpose."

Future biographers will surely attempt to recount Doug's extraordinary life—the mountaineering and kayaking expeditions around the globe, the business career that made possible his later and wildly successful national park-oriented philanthropy—but we'll consider here only his conservation legacy. (And even that superficially, as it would require a book in itself to illuminate Doug's evolution into one of the foremost wilderness defenders on the planet.)

Just as today, more than a century after John Muir's death, the great prophet of American wilderness preservation is still influential, so too Doug Tompkins will surely be celebrated a hundred years hence. Those of us who knew and admired him may be biased by our proximity, both chronological and emotional, to the

living, breathing presence that was Doug Tompkins—who truly was a force of and for nature. Still, we can speculate about the scope of his legacy.

Clearly, Doug is among the greatest conservationists of our era. Consider scale: Through the various nonprofit organizations established and led by Doug and Kris, roughly 2 million acres of habitat in Chile and Argentina were acquired and then incrementally donated to the public for national parks and other protected areas. Those land donations leveraged additional government lands severalfold. This work was collaborative, accomplished by the Tompkins Conservation team assembled by Doug and Kris and in partnership with other philanthropists, conservation activists, and political leaders including several different presidents of Chile and Argentina. As anyone who has worked in land conservation knows, building strong partnerships is a key to success.

But as anyone who ever worked with Doug, or climbed a mountain with him, or paddled a wild river on an expedition with him can attest, he was not a man naturally inclined toward collaborative decision-making. He had strong views, one of which was the opinion that his opinion was correct. This trait was amplified by a personal devotion to argumentation. He delighted in verbal sparring, and even sought out intellectual jousting partners with contrary views, simply to be in the fight and to keep his mind sharp.

Doug's inclination in this realm makes his partnership with Kristine McDivitt Tompkins all the more remarkable. A second marriage for both, begun in middle age, Kris and Doug were both successful business people. As outdoor industry royalty, they moved in similar social circles of climbers, skiers, surfers, and adventurers. When their acquaintance blossomed into romance, some mutual friends thought the pairing unlikely. But the union turned out to be both durable and synergistic, a grand love affair as a marriage and a conservation partnership unprecedented for its success in birthing new national parks.

Perhaps future historians will choose to assess the Tompkinses' conservation work jointly, as it would be difficult to tease out their separate contributions. Or maybe their stories will be told separately, especially given the fact that Kris likely has decades of work ahead to extend her influence on global conservation. In any case, the new protected areas across Chile and Argentina, including Pumalín Park, that resulted from Tompkins-led efforts are testament to the effectiveness of their complementary skills. When Kris and Doug turned their entrepreneurial talents toward saving nature, the result was incredible because they had the ability to manage disparate and wildly ambitious parklands projects, had the financial capacity to support them, and had the charisma to attract political and popular support.

The results, at this writing, are eleven new national parks created, three other national parks expanded, and various other protected areas, including provincial parks, established. In aggregate, more than 14 million acres of new parklands have been conserved due to the efforts of Doug and Kris Tompkins, their partners and collaborators, and the Tompkins Conservation team. And the organization's work goes on.

The conservation partnership of this couple could be deemed mutualistic and synergistic for their individual skills were complementary; the whole was more than the sum of the parts. To stretch the biological metaphor, we might compare their mutualistic relationship to that of the lichens that grow in Pumalín Park. Lichens are formed from a photosynthetic partner, an algae or cyanobacteria, in symbiosis with a fungal partner; the association makes possible a kind of being in the world that would be impossible without the union. Coincidentally, Pumalín is nothing short of a paradise for lichens and ferns and spleenworts and epiphytes of various kinds, a botanical paradise supporting myriad plants that thrive in the cool and wet habitat.

And so, a metaphor of symbiosis applied to Doug and Kris seems apt; without both of them and the team they led together, Pumalín would not have become a national park. How that story evolved over time cannot be fully told here, or anywhere perhaps; like the landscape, the story may be too rich for comprehensive understanding. Dozens of journalists through the years have written about the Pumalín project, typically with an outline that goes like this: Climber and adventurer Doug Tompkins quits his successful business career, sells his stake in the Esprit clothing company that he cofounded with his first wife, take his millions and starts buying tracts of wilderness in South America. He marries Kris McDivitt, former CEO of Patagonia, Inc. Their conservation efforts are misunderstood and prompt a negative political and public reaction in Chile. Their foundations later begin giving privately assembled lands to the State, creating new national parks. Public opinion turns, and Chile's international profile as a conservation leader rises as a result of public/private collaboration with Tompkins-directed nonprofits.

That storyline has a dramatic arc. When Doug died from hypothermia following a kayaking accident in 2015, another facet was added to the media narrative. And then, in 2018, when Kristine Tompkins collaborated with President Michelle Bachelet to formally donate Pumalín (then the world's largest private nature reserve) to the nation, have it expanded by adjacent government lands, and designated as Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park, the story reached an emotional conclusion.

This typical storyline of Pumalín from genesis to formal protection as national park is fair enough but superficial. There is much left unremarked. Although the early political opposition to the Tompkinses' work was highly visible, the strong support of many Chilean ecologists, environmentalists, and NGOs went mostly unnoticed in the press. Also untold was the sheer *work* involved, the years of struggle, the heartache of character slander based on misunderstanding, and setbacks like the Chaitén Volcano eruption that damaged park infrastructure, requiring years to fix. Think of the heroic labors by unsung individuals who don't typically get incorporated into the account.

Only Kris and the team members who lived that story can tell it with appropriate nuance. The constant work and pressures of being foreigners developing a huge conservation project in a country that was unfamiliar with nature-oriented philanthropy certainly took a personal toll on the principals.

And what of the unheralded heroes of the project? It was the mostly local people from Palena Province who experienced the endless rain and mud and remoteness as they built the campgrounds and roads and fences. It was these amazing people in the background of the story who constructed hiking trails and wooden signs, who built ranger housing and tourist cabanas, who baked bread and changed linens and served meals . . . it is they who birthed the park and tended it thereafter. They brought Doug's initial vision to life and yet figure nowhere in most of the journalism that has described the "gringo millionaires" who bought up paradise and turned it into a national park.

If one spends time in the park, however, and notices the details it becomes clear how much effort went into creating Pumalín Park's physical infrastructure, to say nothing of the crucial communications and political work that prompted its designation as an official nature sanctuary by President Ricardo Lagos in 2005, its decree as a national park in 2018 by President Michelle Bachelet, or the park's formal, legal codification later that year during the administration

of President Sebastian Piñera. That governmental relations work was accomplished by key staff members including Carolina Morgado, Hernan Mladinic, and Ingrid Espinoza, who along with attorney Pedro Pablo Gutierrez spent countless hours doing the political and logistical interface with the government to negotiate and consummate the agreement to make Pumalín a national park. The consummation of the deal, however, ultimately depended upon the relationship Kris forged with Michelle Bachelet—two powerful female executives putting together the largest public/private partnership to expand a national park system in history.

The Pumalín project story, moreover, did not just include the lands assembled for a future park. During the initial decades of the Pumalín effort, Doug was personally funding the acquisition, restoration, and operation of numerous small farms adjacent to the conservation land being assembled for a protected area. These nearby properties were managed with organic farming practices, employed local people, and produced meat, wool, honey, and other products for the market. Most importantly to the overall conservation effort, they helped to buffer the park from negative impacts, including timber theft. In effect the farms became de facto ranger stations for the protected area. The men and women who tended the gardens and the sheep flocks, built the fencing, deterred the occasional puma, grew exceptional berries for jam, and even raised thousands of alerce seedlings in a tree nursery to help replant into coastal regions where they had been logged out, are also key actors in the Pumalín success story.

It is well known that Doug Tompkins's early efforts to assemble what would become Pumalín Park generated deep suspicion in Chile. The residue of that opposition remains in some quarters. The controversy, however, about the American businessman and devotee of "deep ecology" who wanted to buy land and prevent development had one major benefit. Controversy equals news. Controversy, as Doug often said, put a microphone in his hand. He used his prominence in the media to prompt the first sustained discussion in Chilean society about biodiversity conservation. The specific topics that arose—industrial forestry, salmon aquaculture, proposed dams in Patagonia, energy policy, national parks, etc.—helped inform policy makers and broader Chilean society. As one prominent Chilean environmentalist has said, it took an outsider, Doug Tompkins, to be the "John Muir of Chile," the prophet of wilderness railing at nature's despoilers and developers.

Ultimately, of course, whether or not history remembers Doug in this way is less important than the actions he accomplished for the wildlands he loved and worked to protect and the wild creatures who are at home there. Douglas was a man who believed in personal scholarship, a person of boundless energy for the topics and campaigns that interested him. Like earlier conservation luminaries who communicated the "everything is connected" insight of ecology—Doug melded an ecological worldview with action.

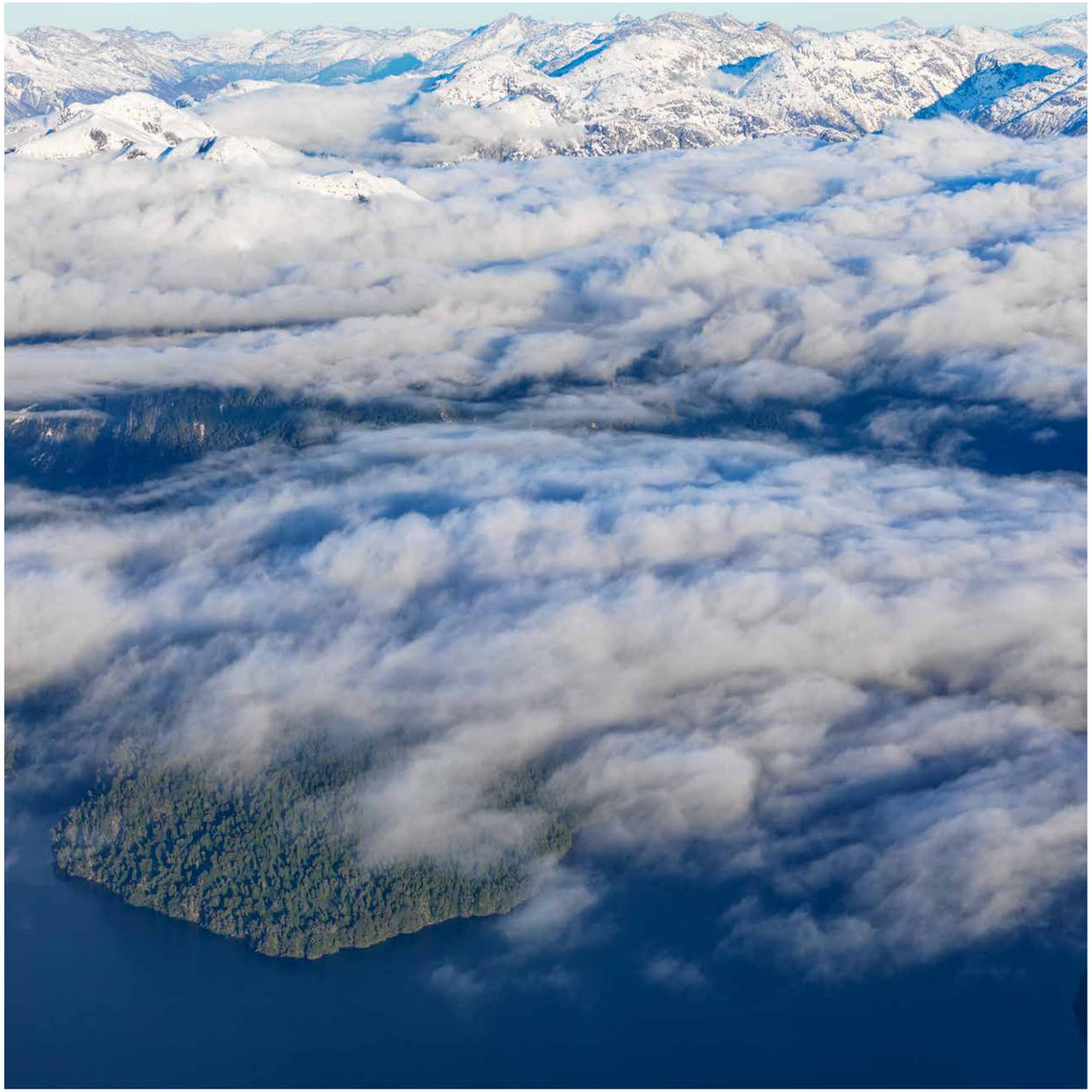
In Doug, though, there was an especially broad focus: He didn't just make parks, he designed the infrastructure for them. His array of interests—parklands creation, restoration/rewilding, ecological agriculture, aesthetics, technology criticism, economic transformation, architecture, activism—were all grounded in a personal ecophilosophy developed over decades of reading and interacting with leading thinkers.

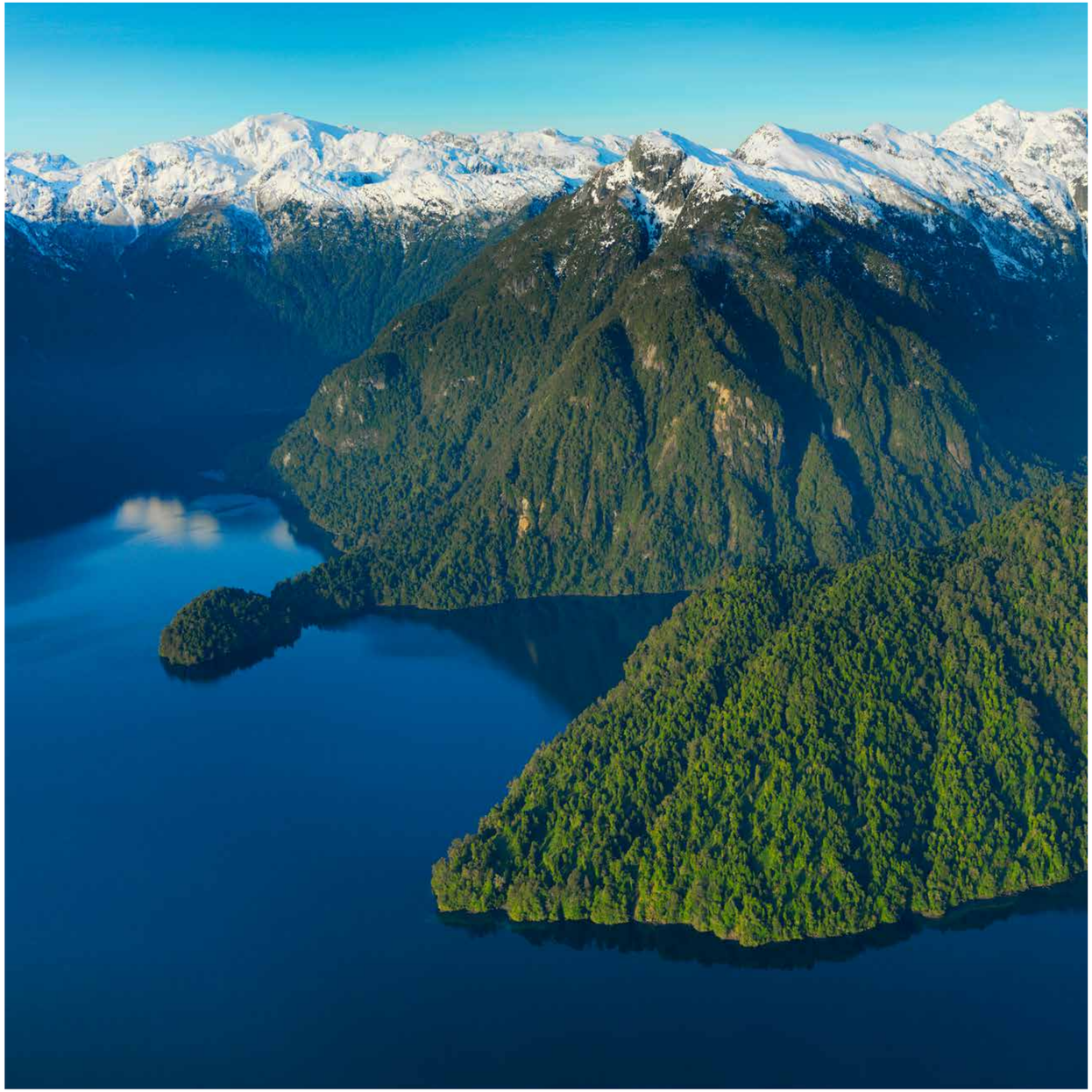
And this is what the historians of the twenty-third century may say, if there are historians around then to write such books—that Doug's brilliance was less as a pioneering thinker like Aldo Leopold or Arne Naess (the Norwegian philosopher whose writing and friendship so deeply influenced Doug), and primarily as a synthesizer and activist. In this realm he was peerless. Action informed by ideas. In death as in life, his ideas and actions are still exerting influence, are still working to save the world because the struggle for beauty, for health, for integrity and wildness goes on. Each of us is invited to join that grand cause in whatever capacity we can, inspired by Doug's example.

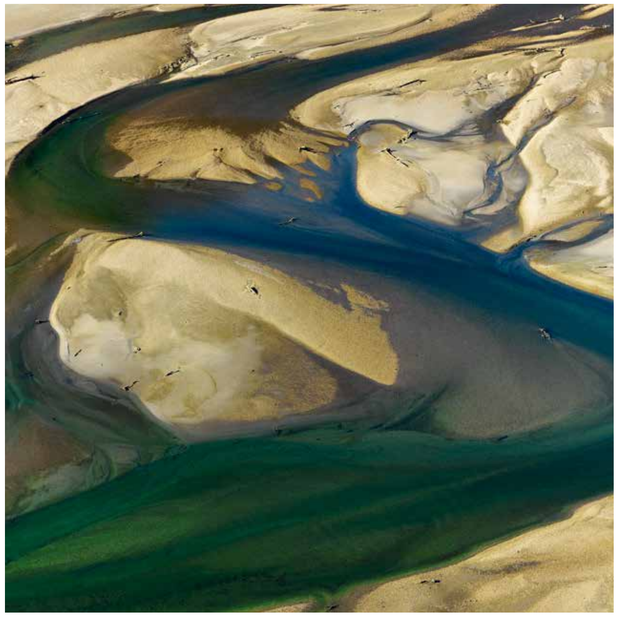
On some distant morning, when today's seedlings are thousand-year-old alerce trees stretching skyward in Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park, when jaguars roam freely in Iberá National Park in Argentina, when great herds of guanacos fill the Chacabuco Valley of Patagonia National Park, Doug's brief moment on this once-and-future wild Earth will be reflected in these habitats and creatures. His vision and action will have helped sustain their genetic lineage and evolutionary potential. His work—for beauty, for wildness—will have no end.

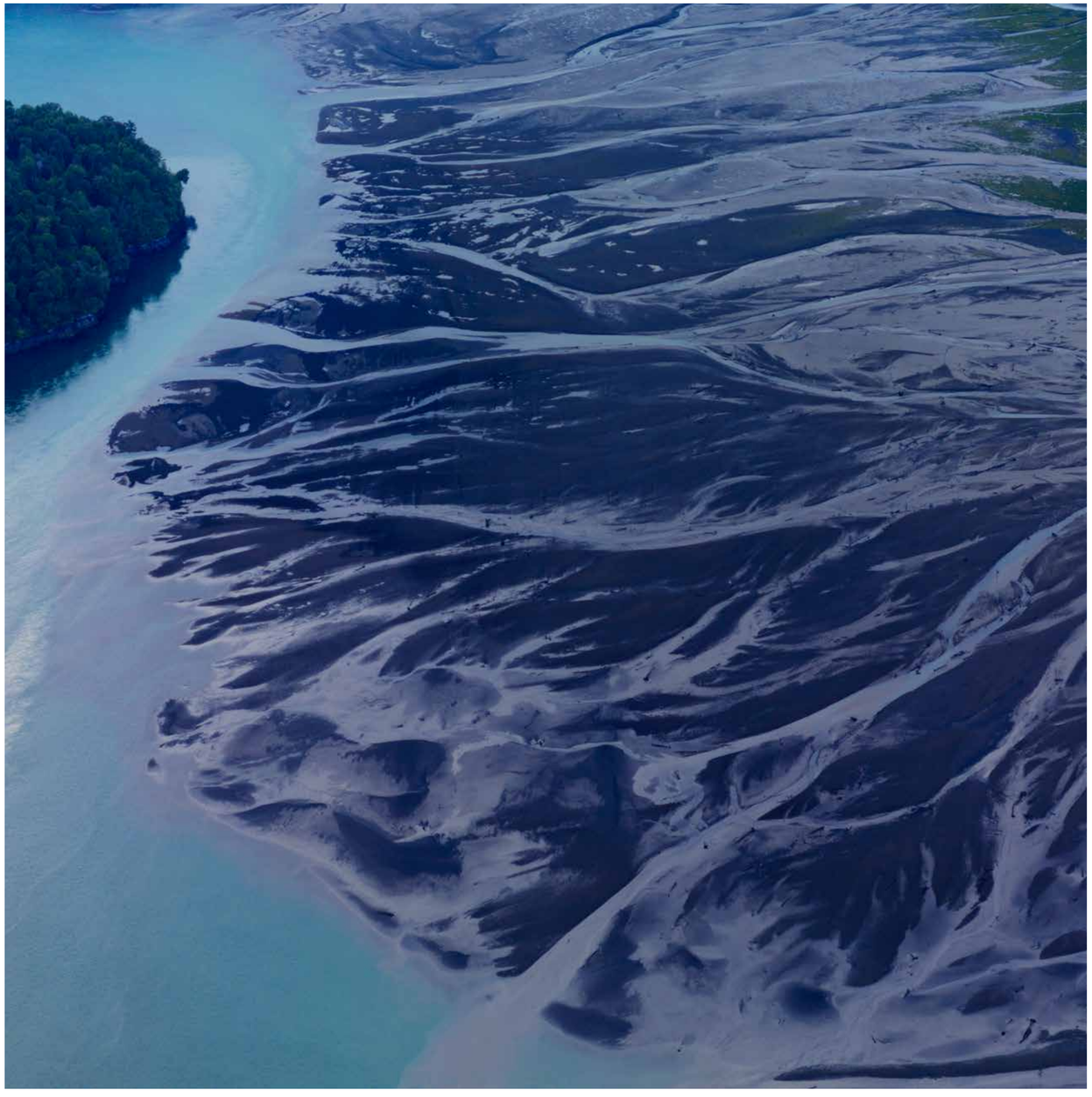
I have so many things I'd like to do before my hourglass runs out.
Although in my heart of hearts I know nothing will stop the apocalypse,
it gets me charged up to oppose it. Something in the system, almost genetically,
propels you to work for beauty, life, positive visions, etc.
I am realizing that beauty (aesthetics) is, in a way, the sum total of it all.
If I could encapsulate the crisis we're all ensnared in,
I'd say it comes down to . . . the absence of beauty.

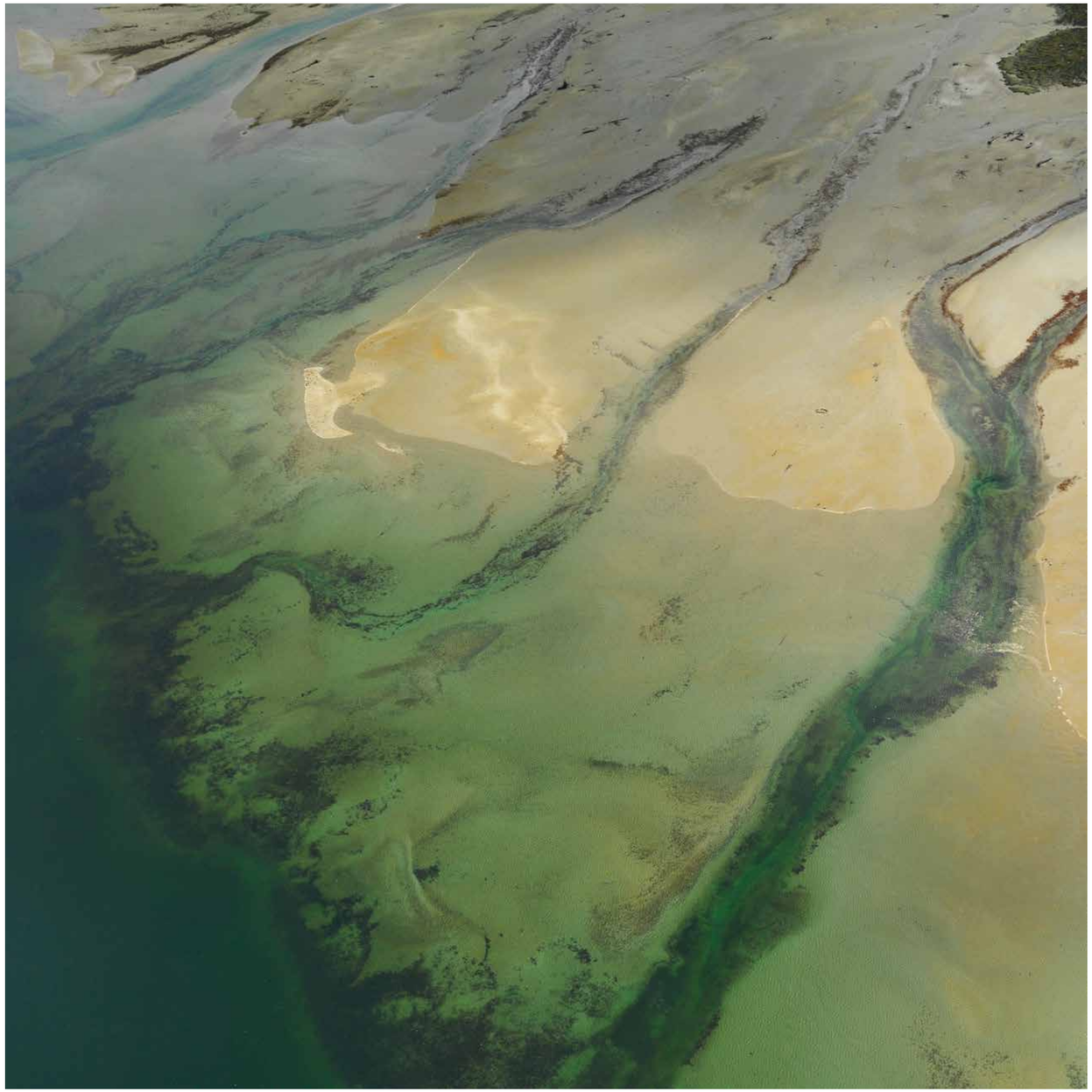
Doug Tompkins

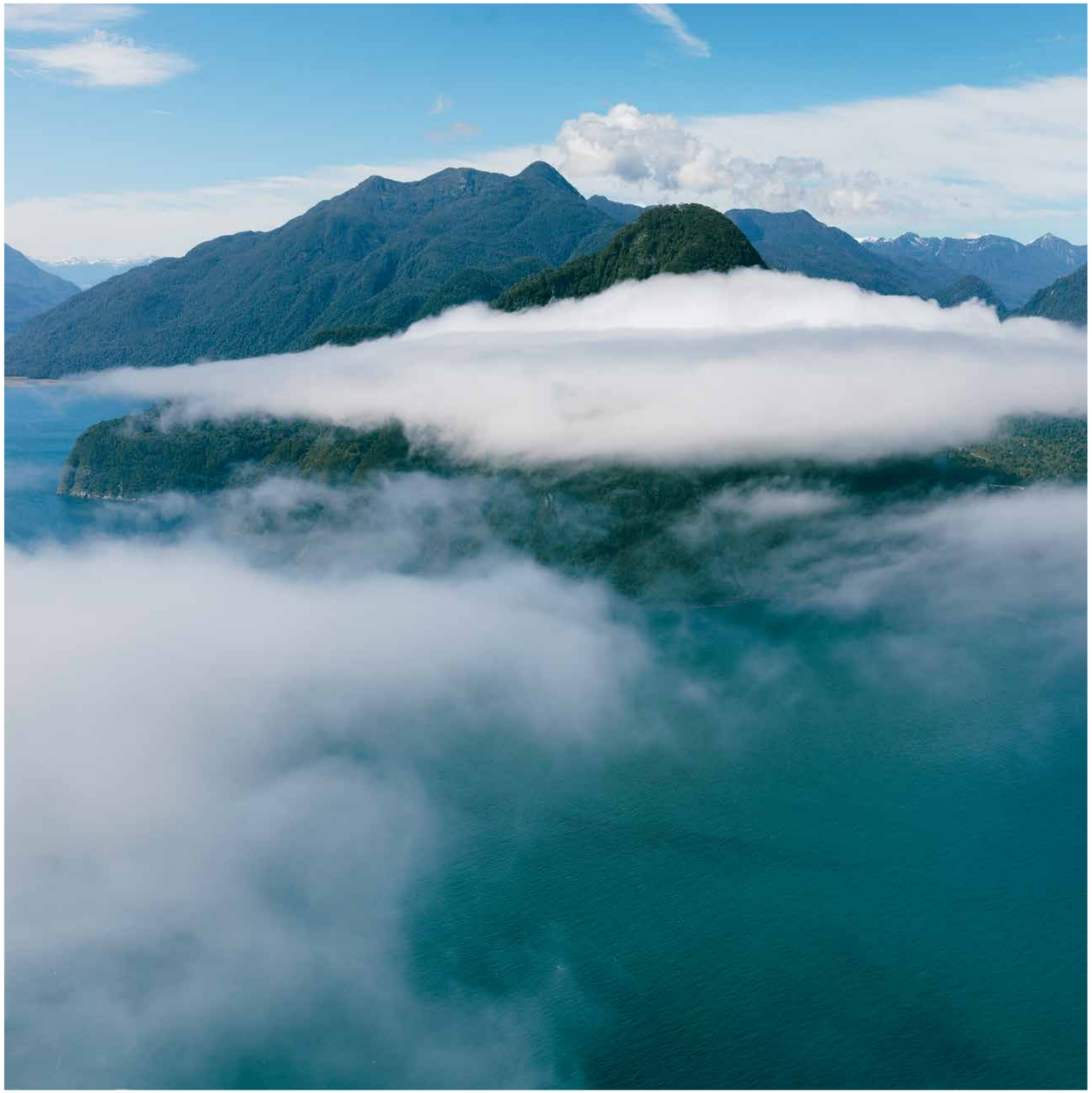


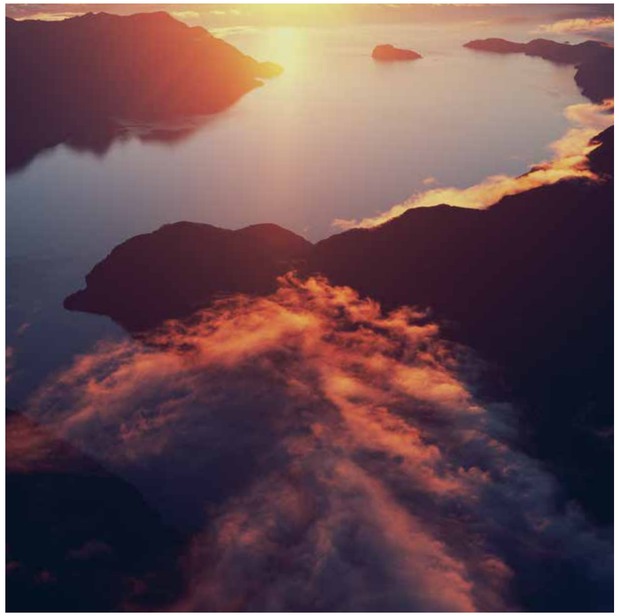


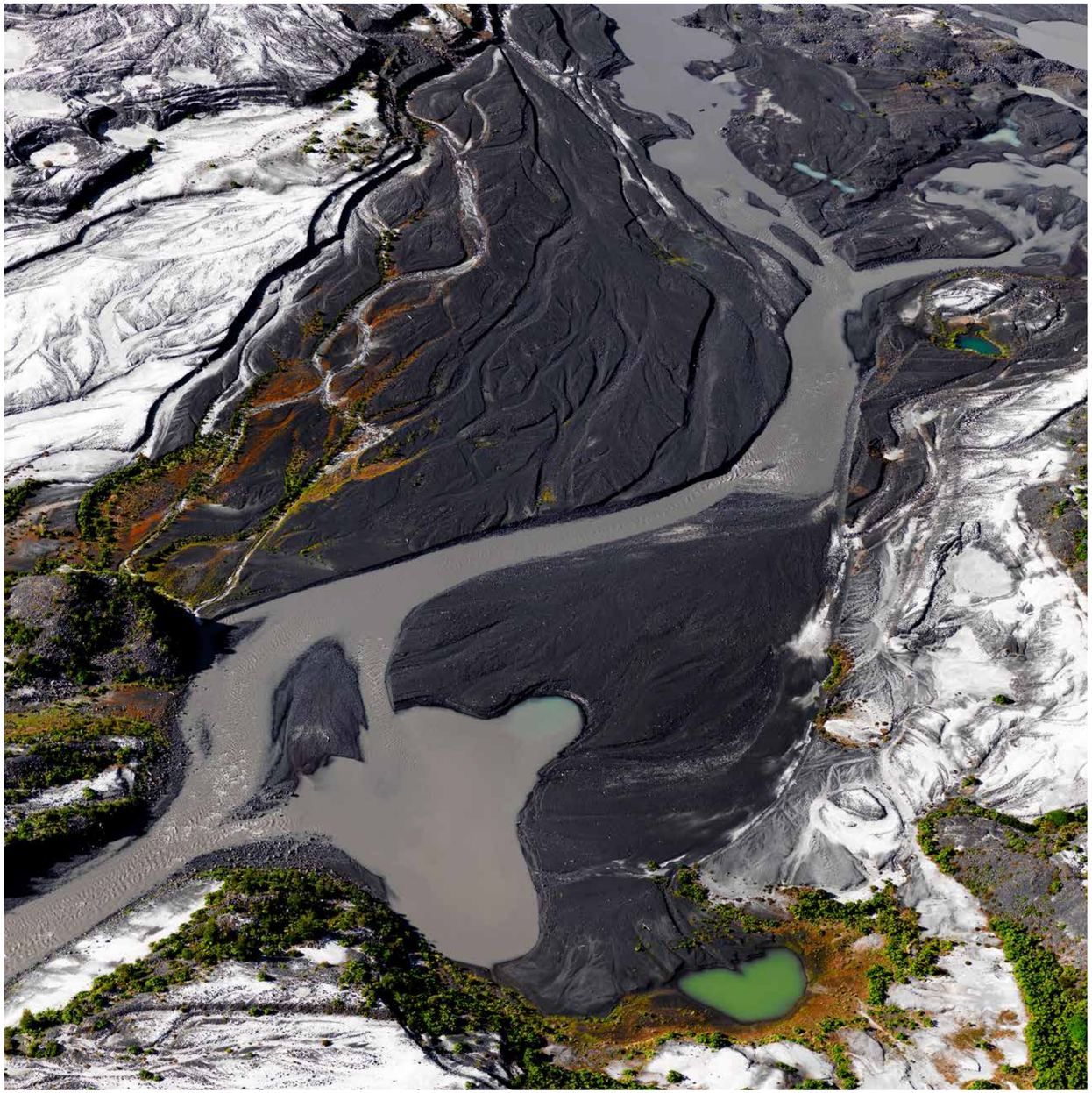












The arrival of Douglas and Kristine Tompkins in Chile, at the end of the twentieth century, marks a before-and-after in the history of our national parks. By acquiring significant lands, and tending to them, they established an administration standard with their first initiative, Pumalín Park. They created a vanguard model for managing such a vast territory, in a place where trees in the forest can be 4,000 years old, with the thought that millenary trees are also destined to be part of human enjoyment.

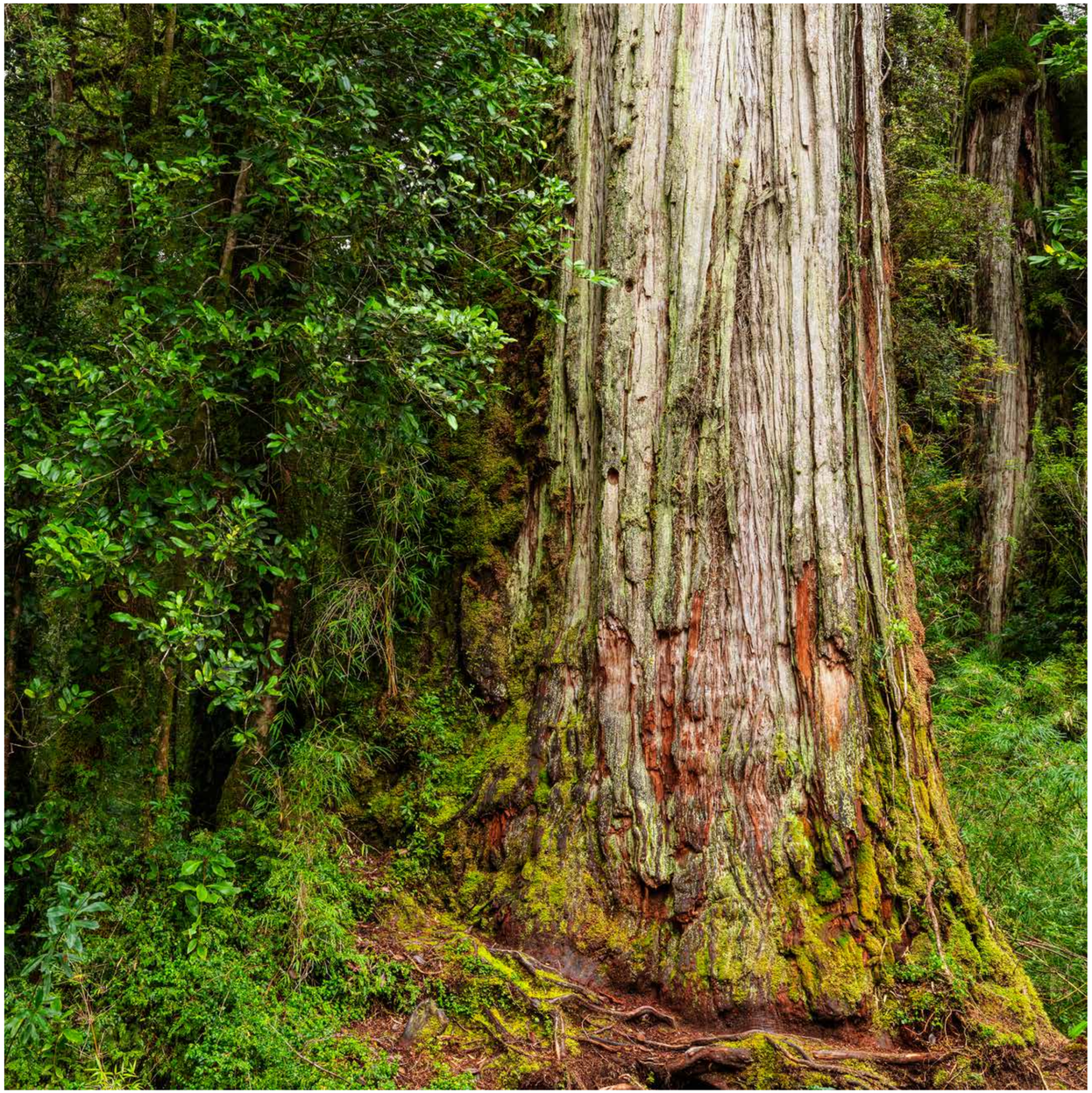
I met Tompkins while serving as Minister of Public Works, when we were improving the Carretera Austral road that passes through Pumalín. We wanted the highway to cause as little harm as possible to that landscape, which was largely unexplored and very beautiful. Later, after becoming President, it seemed important to me to grant Nature Sanctuary status to Pumalín, to preserve the advances that Douglas had introduced. It was in that same period when we started to have a more personal relationship.

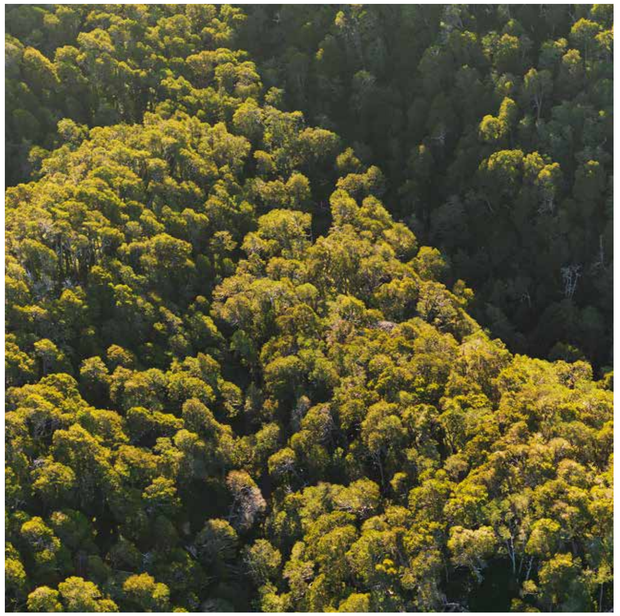
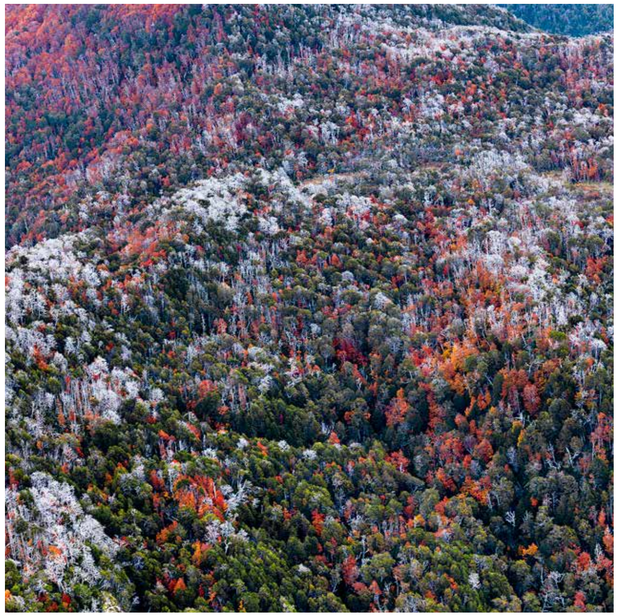
Together we promoted a land donation by the Chilean State and the Army, leveraging the donation of conservation properties in the region assembled by Tompkins and colleagues, gathering the lands together to create Corcovado National Park. That was the starting point of long walks in the Corcovado area, where we went by helicopter, and from there to Pumalín to celebrate the collaboration between Chile's government and Doug and Kris Tompkins.

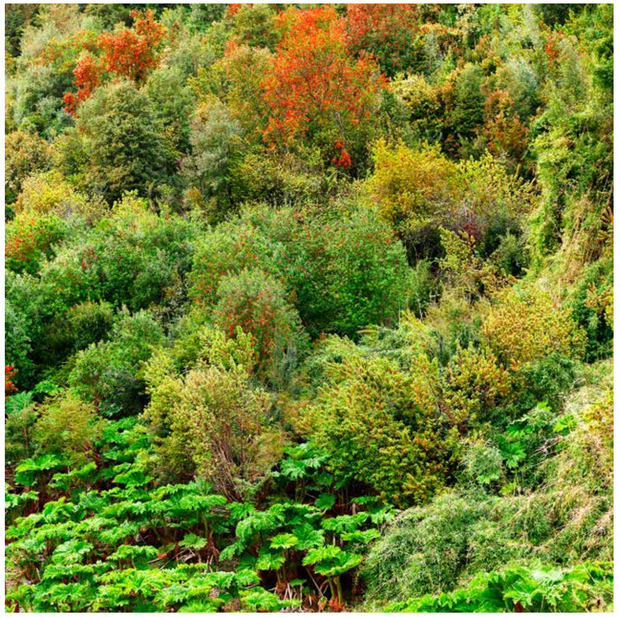
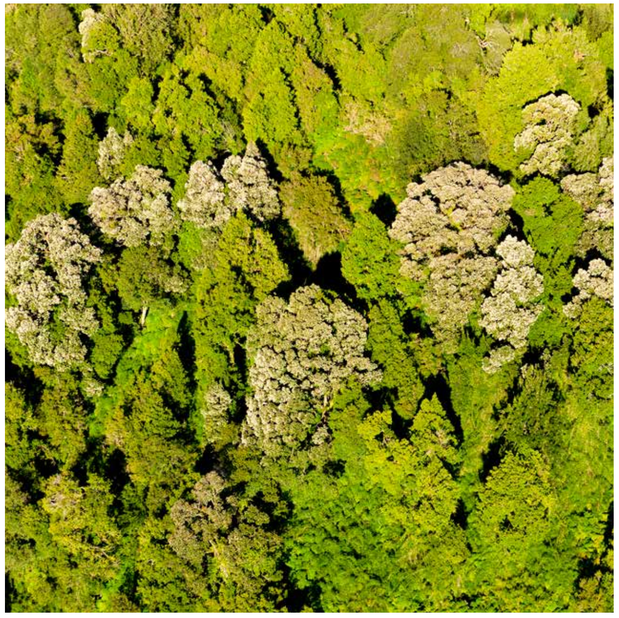
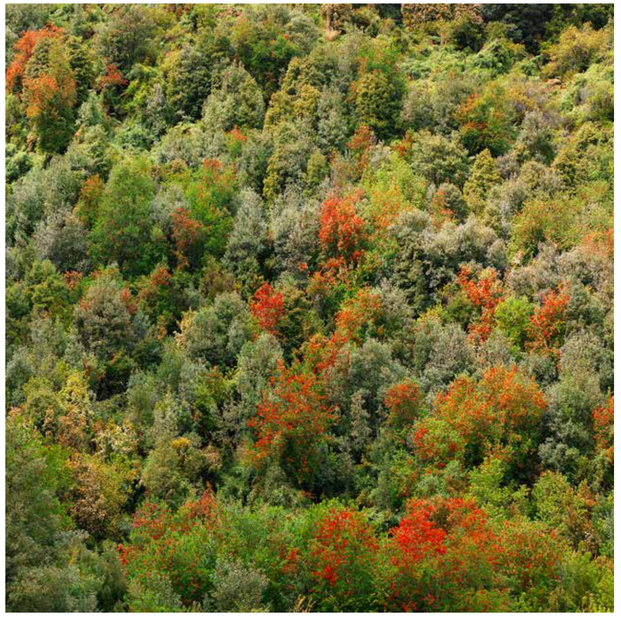
Today, when we celebrate the granting of national park status to Pumalín, we are culminating the Tompkinses' dream of having a great chain of national parks in Chilean Patagonia, something which would have been impossible without their generous contributions. Now Pumalín will be the model that helps establish new environmental management standards for our national park system.

Pumalín's designation as a national park is an expression of a country which is striving to develop in a sustainable way, preserving its natural heritage for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. We are grateful to Doug and Kris for their perseverance toward achieving this dream and for generating consciousness about the importance of taking care of our deepest wealth: the nature in which we live.

Ricardo Lagos
President of Chile, 2000–2006




The "Valdivian" forest is a singular southern ecosystem, harboring tree communities typical of rainy temperate forests, with high diversity of flora and fauna. Southern temperate rain forests—such as those found in Chile and well represented in Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park—are structurally complex. Here broad-leaved angiosperms predominate, particularly of the genus *Nothofagus*.

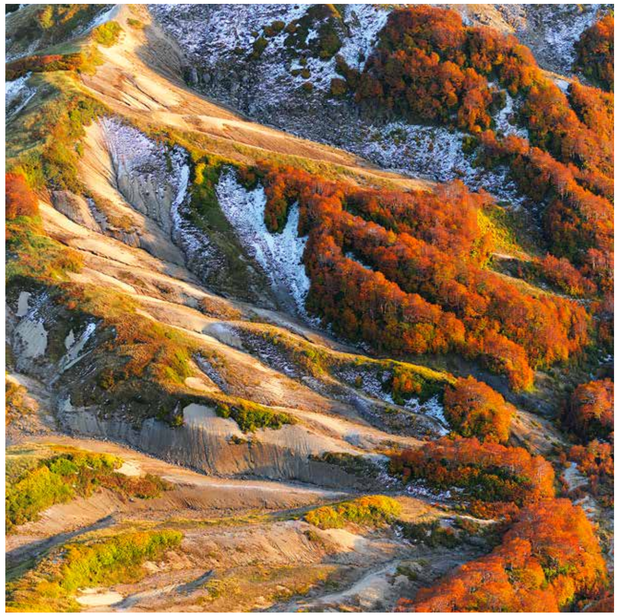
Across the rugged geography of southern Chile, the Valdivian rain forest extends through narrow coastal zones located between the Pacific Ocean on the west and the mountains and valleys of the Andes Cordillera on the east. This ecoregion is of high ecological significance given the endemism of its flora and fauna and the mix of diverse components of ancient forest remnants, dating back to the end of the Tertiary Period. It is the product of millions of years' dynamic change during which great tectonic and climatic events took place affecting all the biota of America's southern cone.

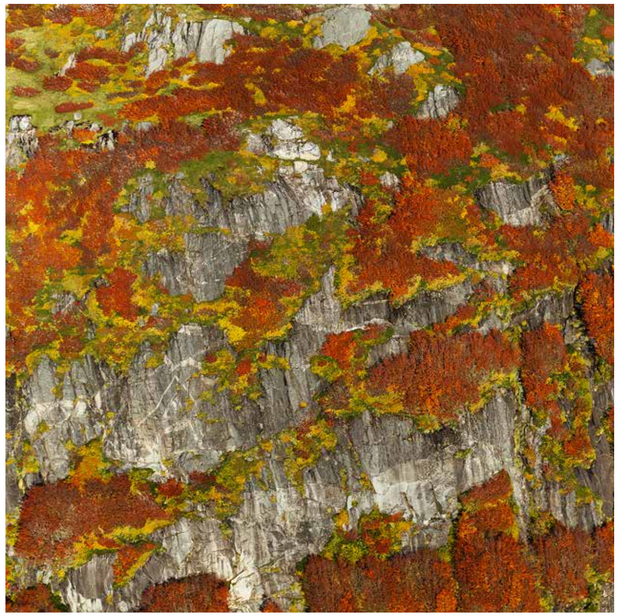
The first ancestors of the southern biota appeared after extensive glaciation and deglaciation periods, and alternate very dry or very rainy periods. The rise of the Andes Cordillera separated the temperate southern forest of Chile and southern Argentina from other similar forests in South America.

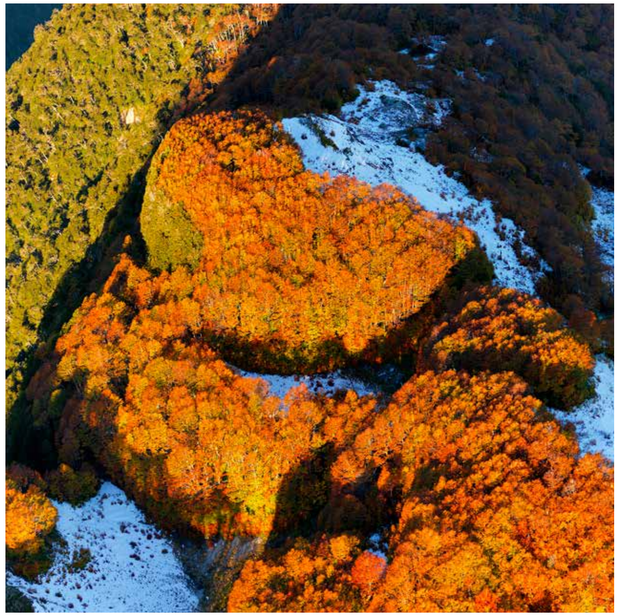
Today this territory harbors forests that for several thousand years have grown in the same places, in refuges originated by the last glaciation which occurred approximately 14,000 years ago. The component species have varied very little, and the presence of flora from diverse biogeographic origins is remarkable. Pumalín Park's abundant and varied forest has not been significantly altered by humans, making it globally notable.

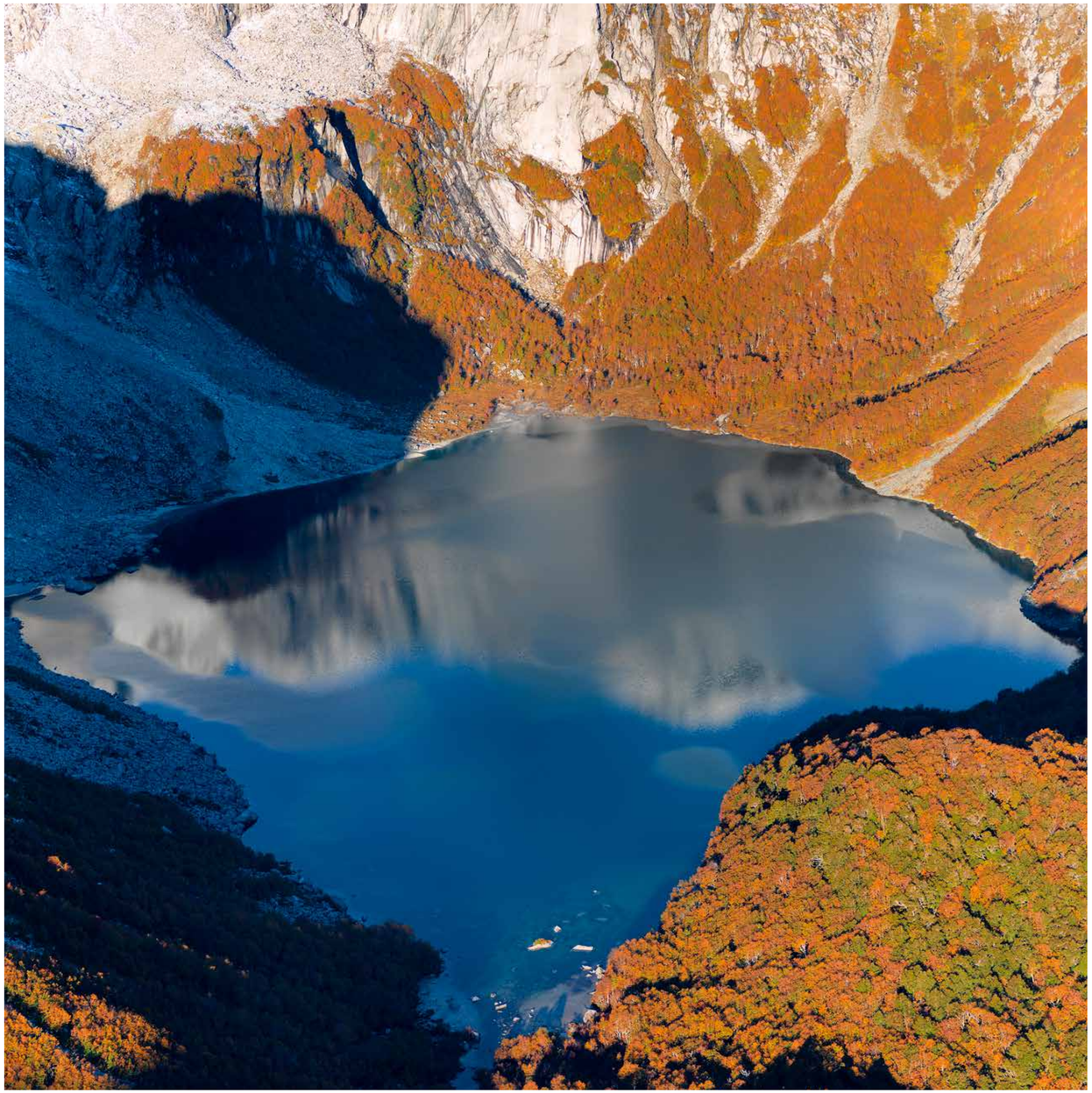
Most of Pumalín Park is characterized by steep mountains with active volcanoes, lava flows, and volcanic scree of diverse time periods affecting the soils. The landscape offers rivers, lakes, waterfalls, snowfields, wetlands, landslides with abundant regeneration giving rise to new forests, as well as marshes, wet terrain with deficient drainage forming *ñadis* (rich volcanic soils) and peat bogs, distributed in a mosaic of natural communities supporting diverse plant associations in active states of ecological succession. The diversity of habitats is principally determined by topography, the kind of soil and nutrients, the slope, water availability, and altitude. Overall, it is a landscape of exceptional diversity and beauty.

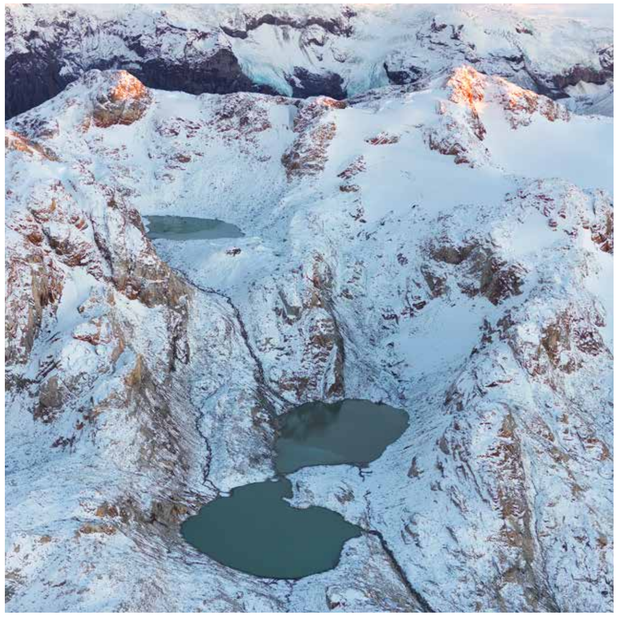
María Teresa Serra V.
Professor of Biology, University of Chile

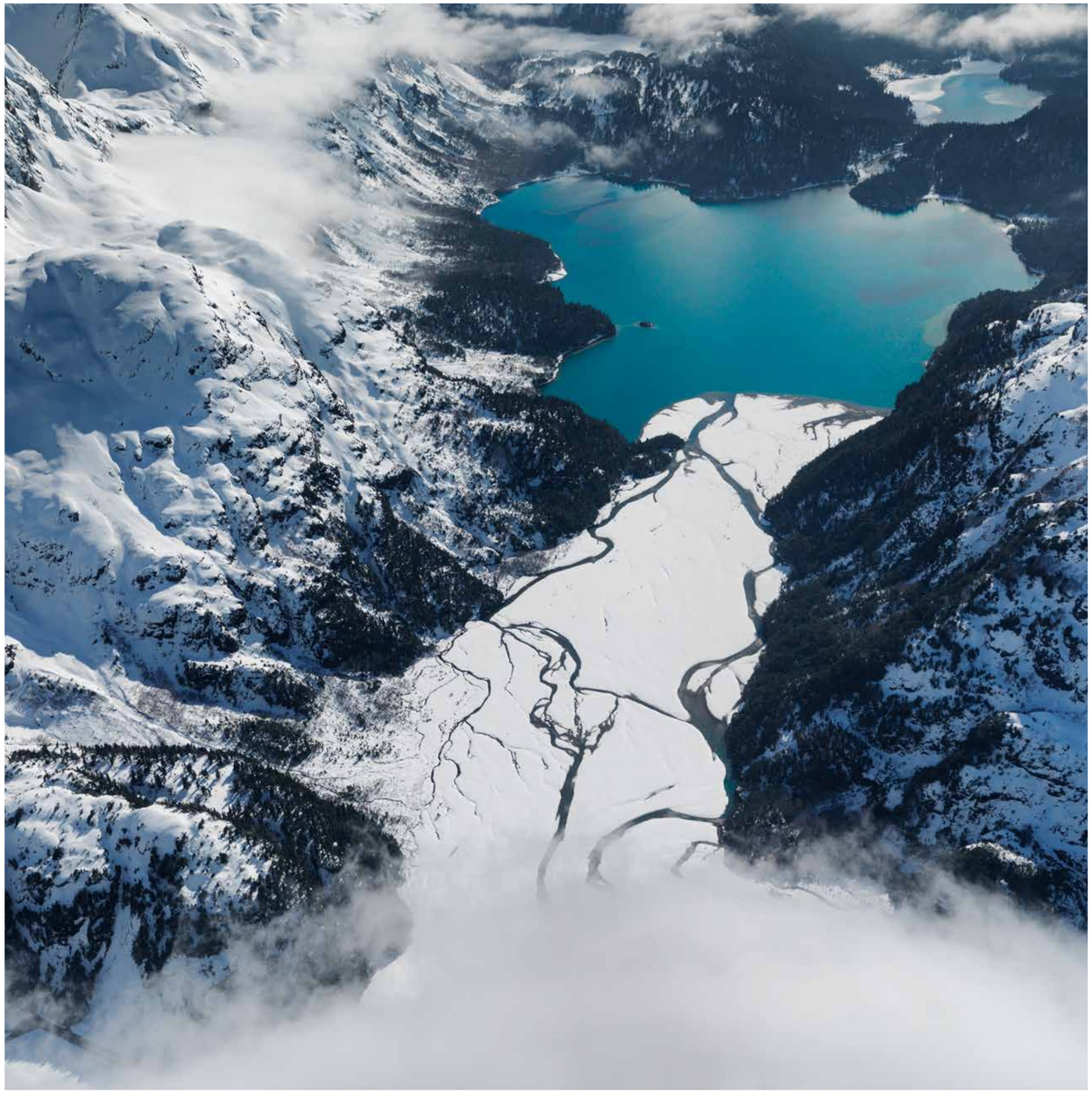






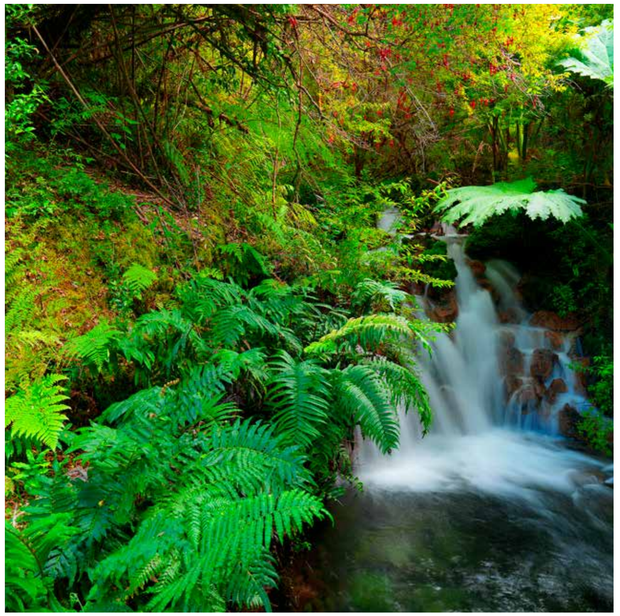


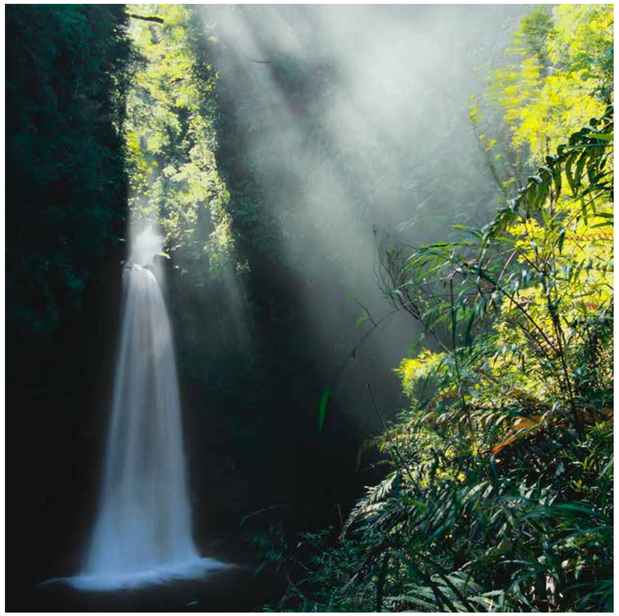


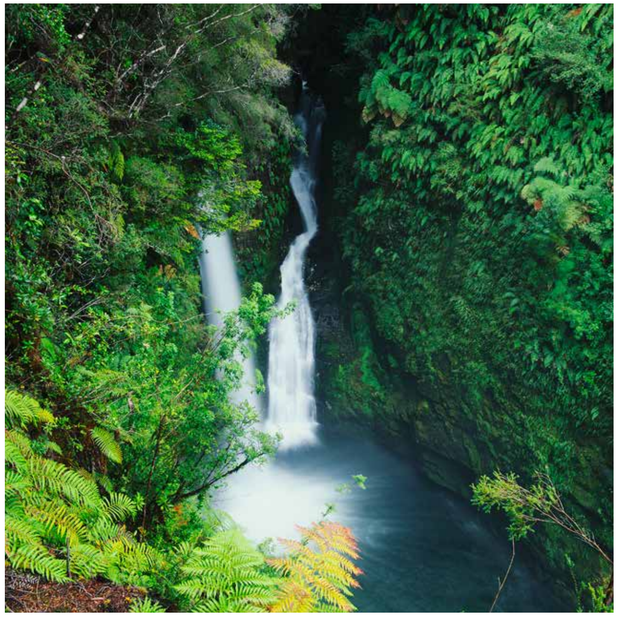


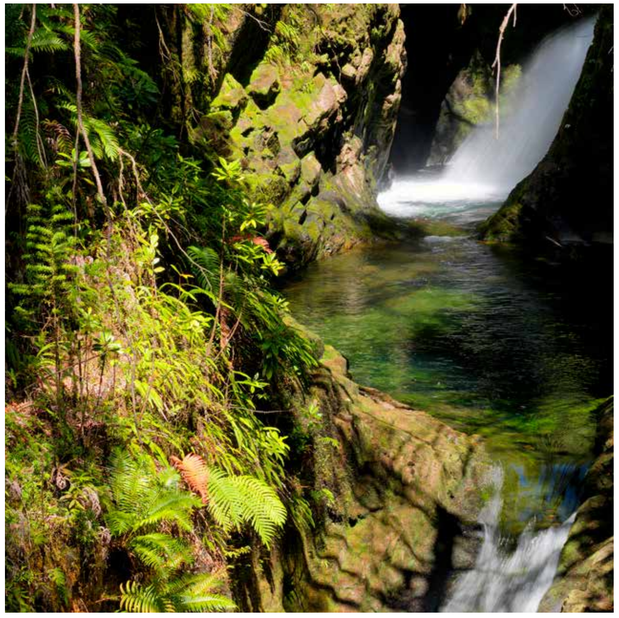
Nature, life, and beauty cannot be untangled. The philosophical attempt to do so has done great harm to the world. What makes wilderness wild is the great "willful" effort exerted by the abundance of life residing in relation. And where there is much life, there is the potential for great beauty. Indeed, beauty and biodiversity are concurrent, the multiplicity of life yielding patterns of living vibrancy.

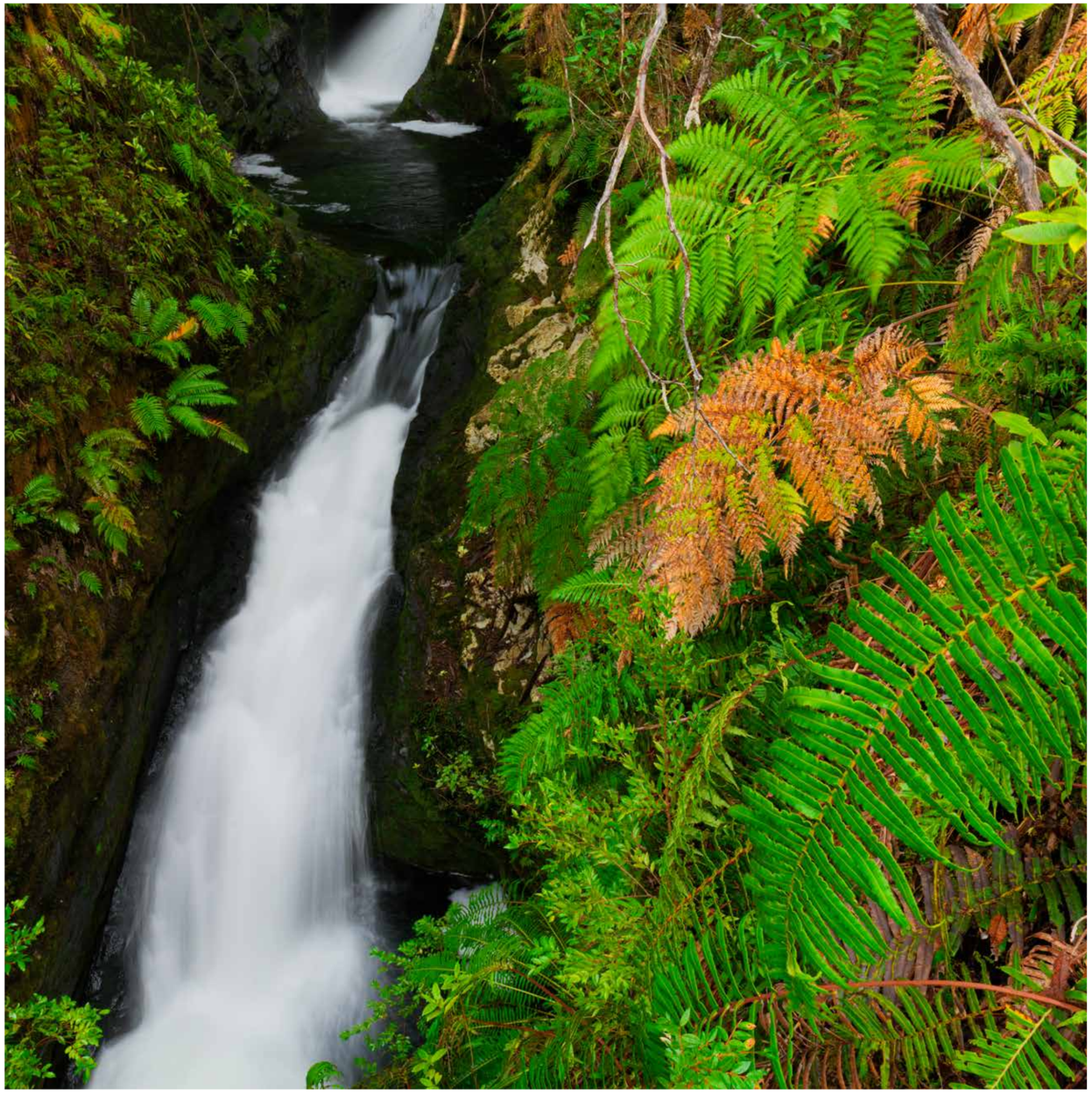
Sandra Lubarsky

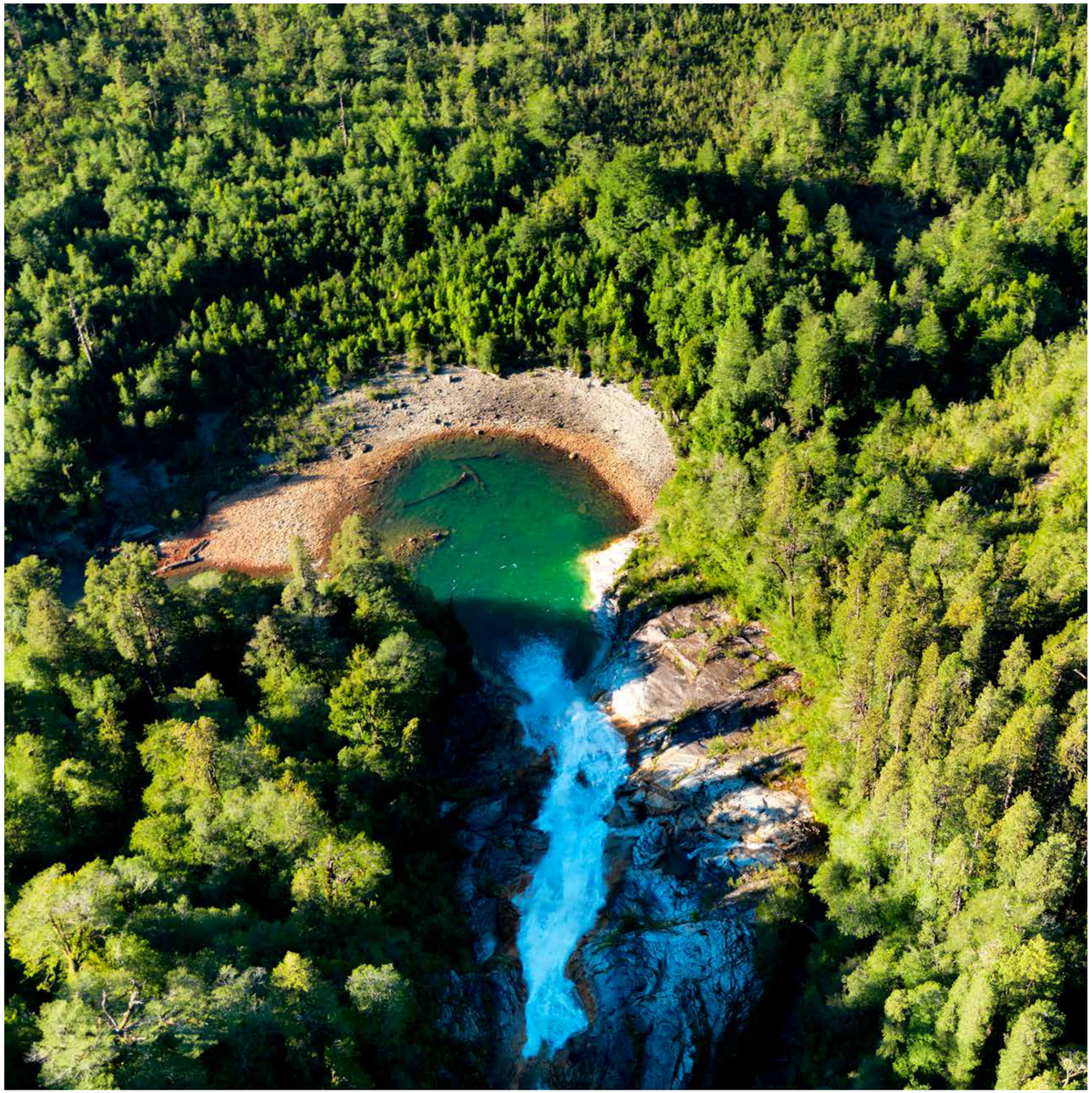


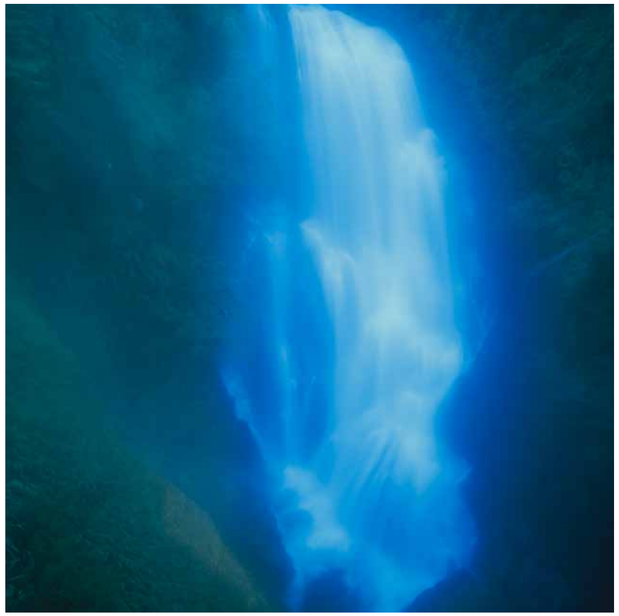


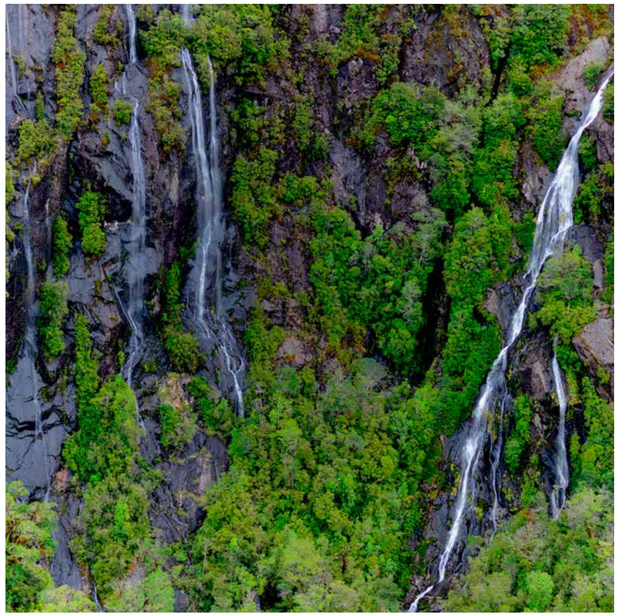


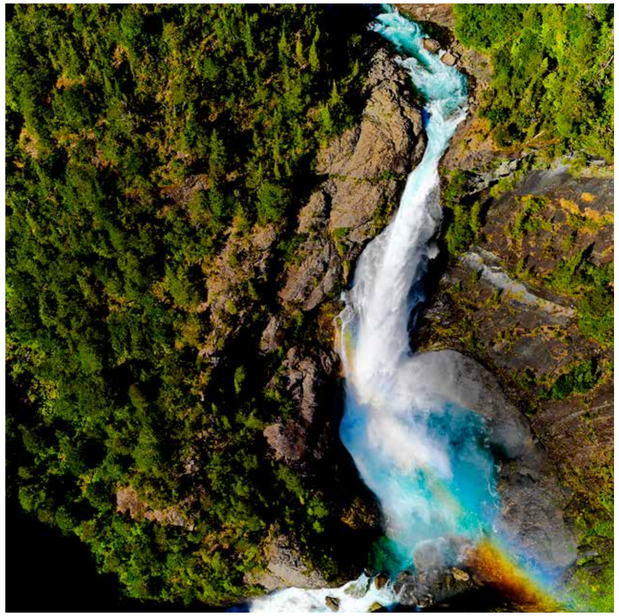


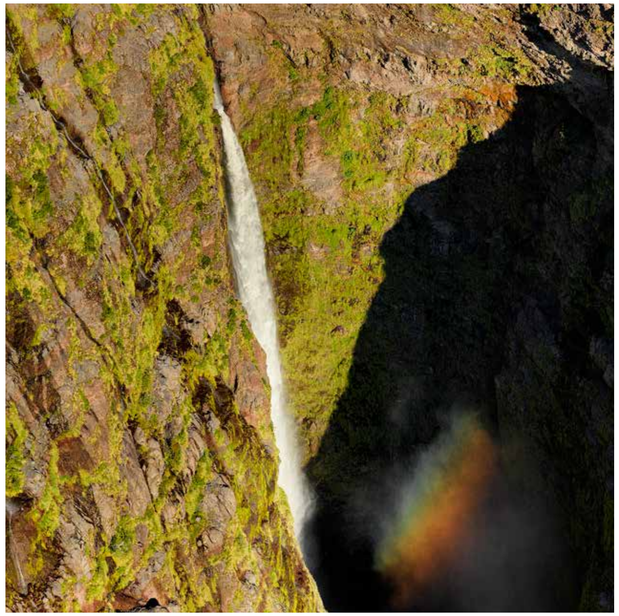












Our years of experience in Chile have shown that local resistance to conservation is a temporary opposition that must be seriously addressed through clear programs that can win over the trust of the local populace. We have observed that conservation projects are conflictive by nature, but over time local opposition becomes unconditional support.

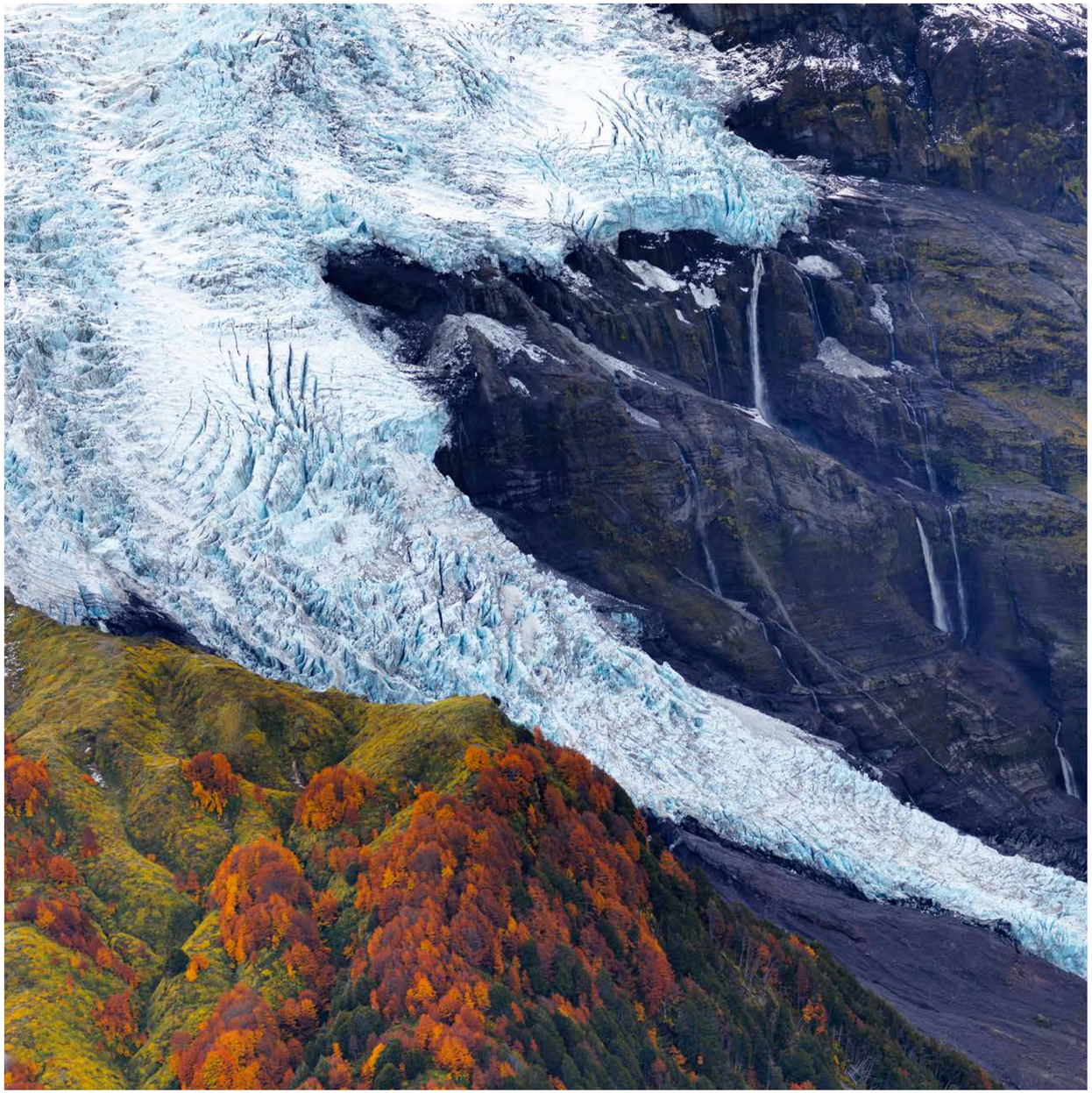
Today nobody would even think of disaffecting Nahuel Huapi, Los Glaciares, or Iguazú national parks in Argentina, for example. Iguazú falls, the amazing scenery of Perito Moreno National Park—these protected areas are now national treasures well engraved in the nation's psyche. They are *patrimony*.

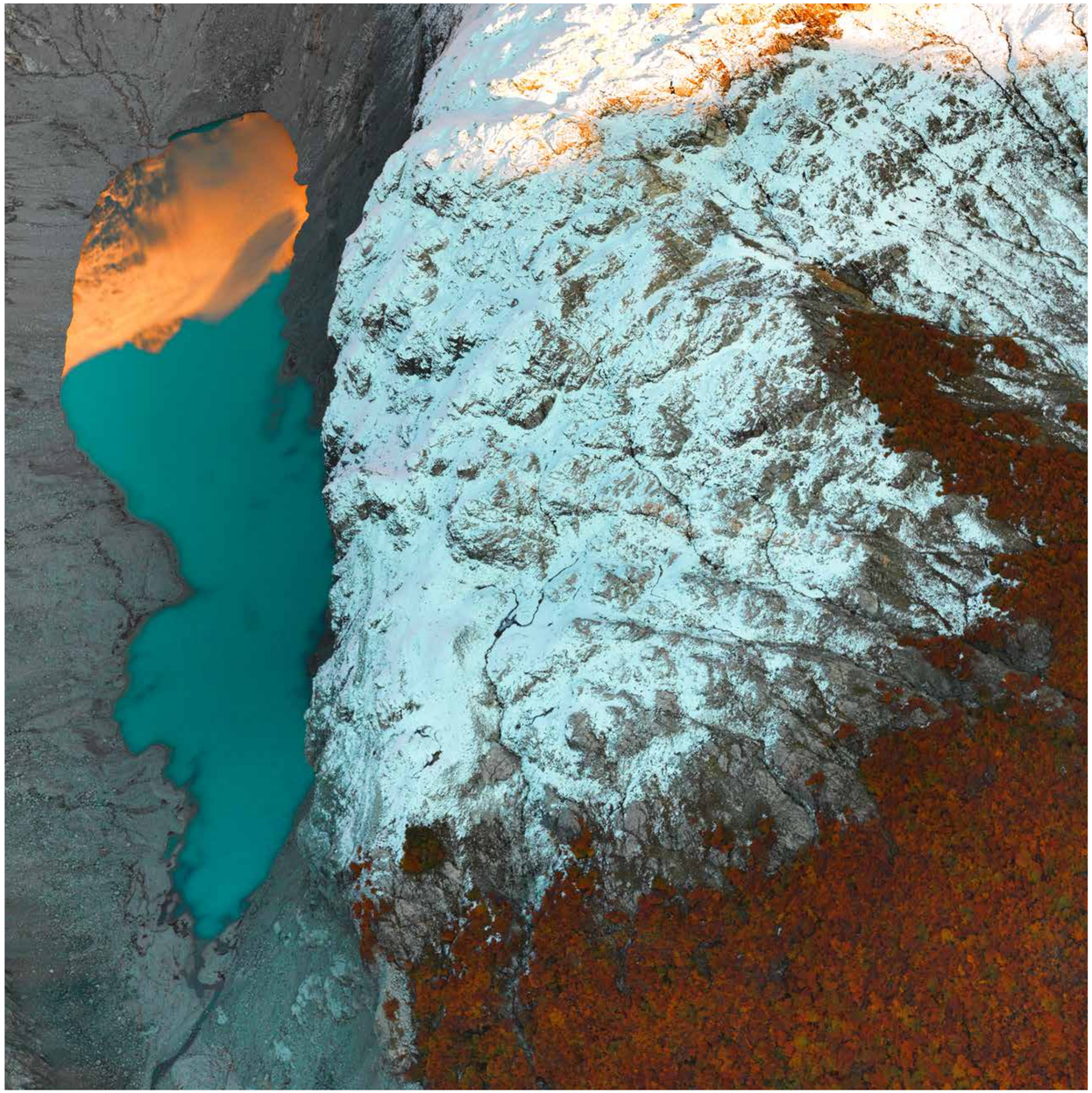
The real meaning of patriotism is loyalty toward the land on which a nation is settled, and conservation, as writer Richard Nelson said, "is the most elemental form of patriotism." Even though it takes time for this concept to take root in the national conscience, it first arrives in those who recognize the profound humane necessity of having a healthy, vibrant natural environment. This is now a pressing subject that concerns all societies, both urban and rural.

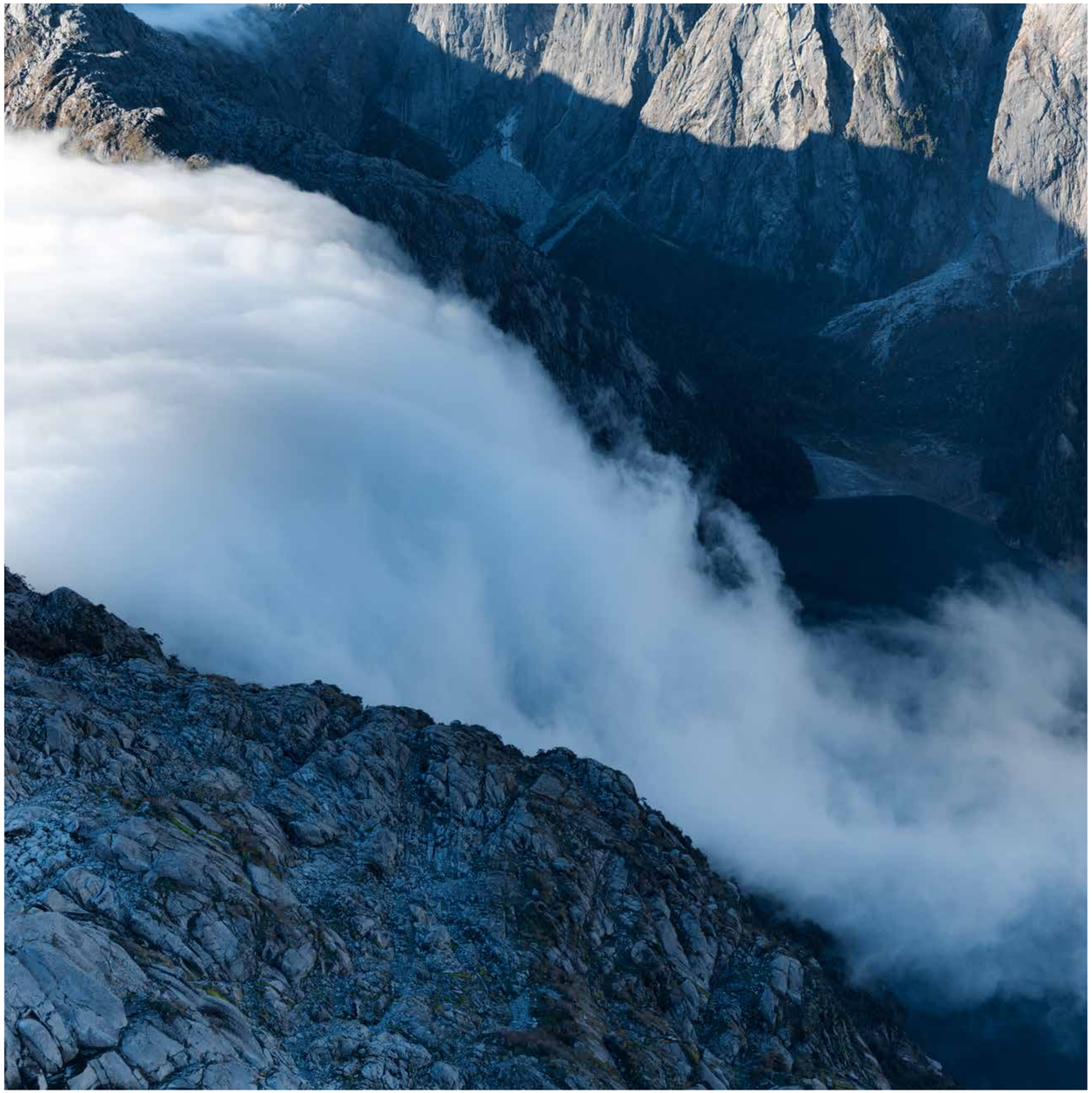
In creating the national parks of the United States there have been conflicts and opposition from a diverse range of developers and established economic interests. Some of these oppositions took more than fifty years (!) to be overcome before establishment of the park was possible.

It is important to understand that this local opposition is normal; it comes attached to the land itself and, in a sense, is part of the process. In many cases conservationists—especially those who are unaware of conservation history in other places or countries—feel intimidated by the conflicts they generate and lose confidence in the idea that their projects are viable. It is our wish that the members of our team and those who support us be aware of this—not only so that they feel confident but that they understand that it is part of the challenge to find the particular arguments that will help us gain local support for conservation projects. Local support is the key to success, but it requires time, patience, and good manners as well as perseverance and dedication.

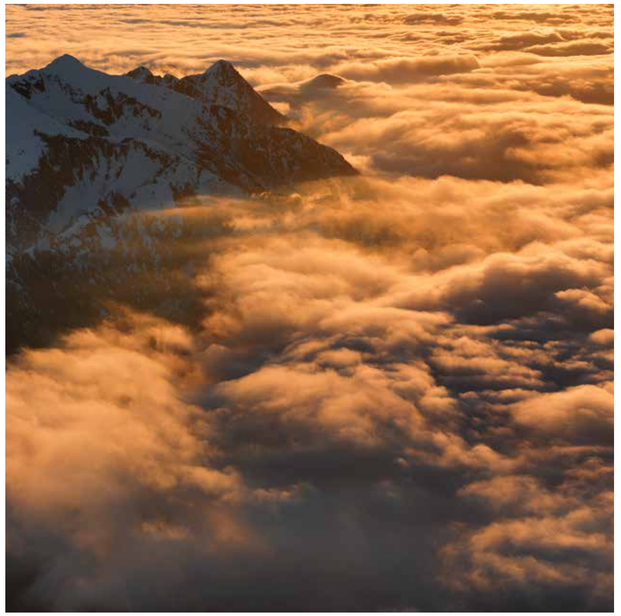
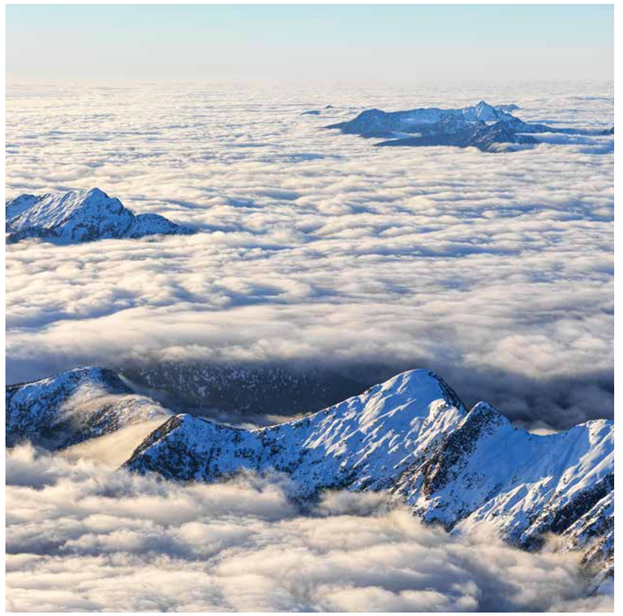
Doug Tompkins

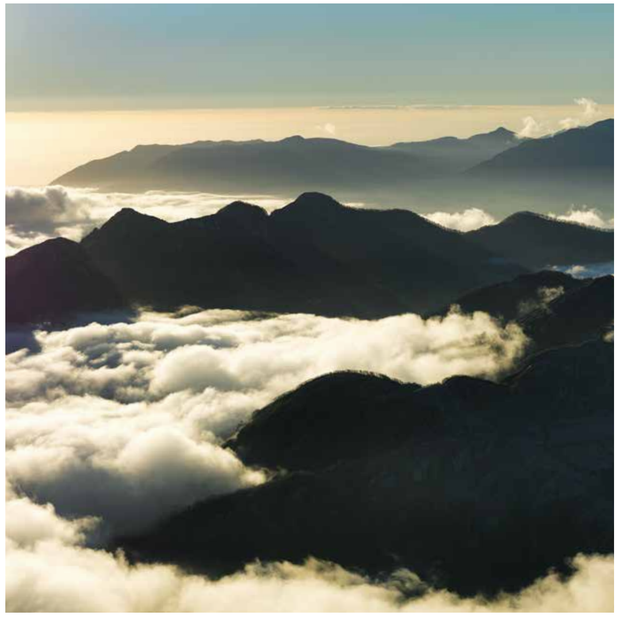
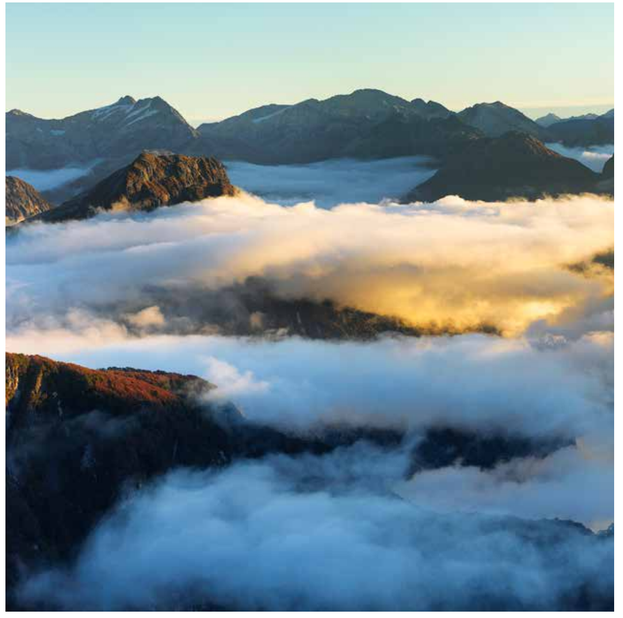




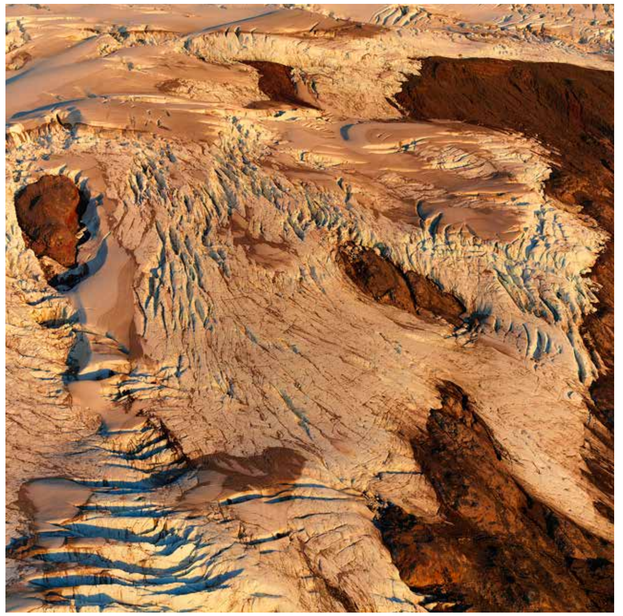






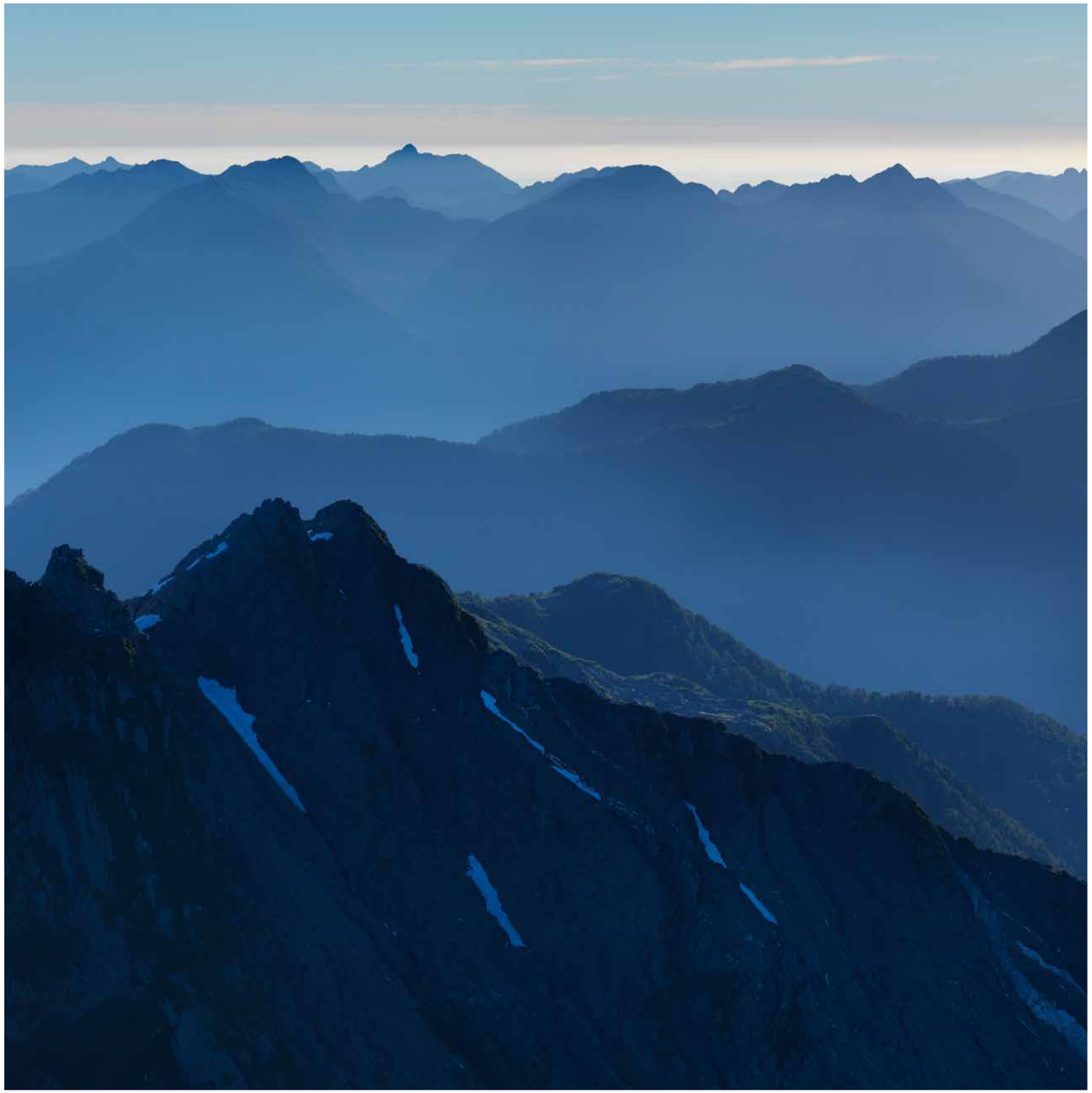



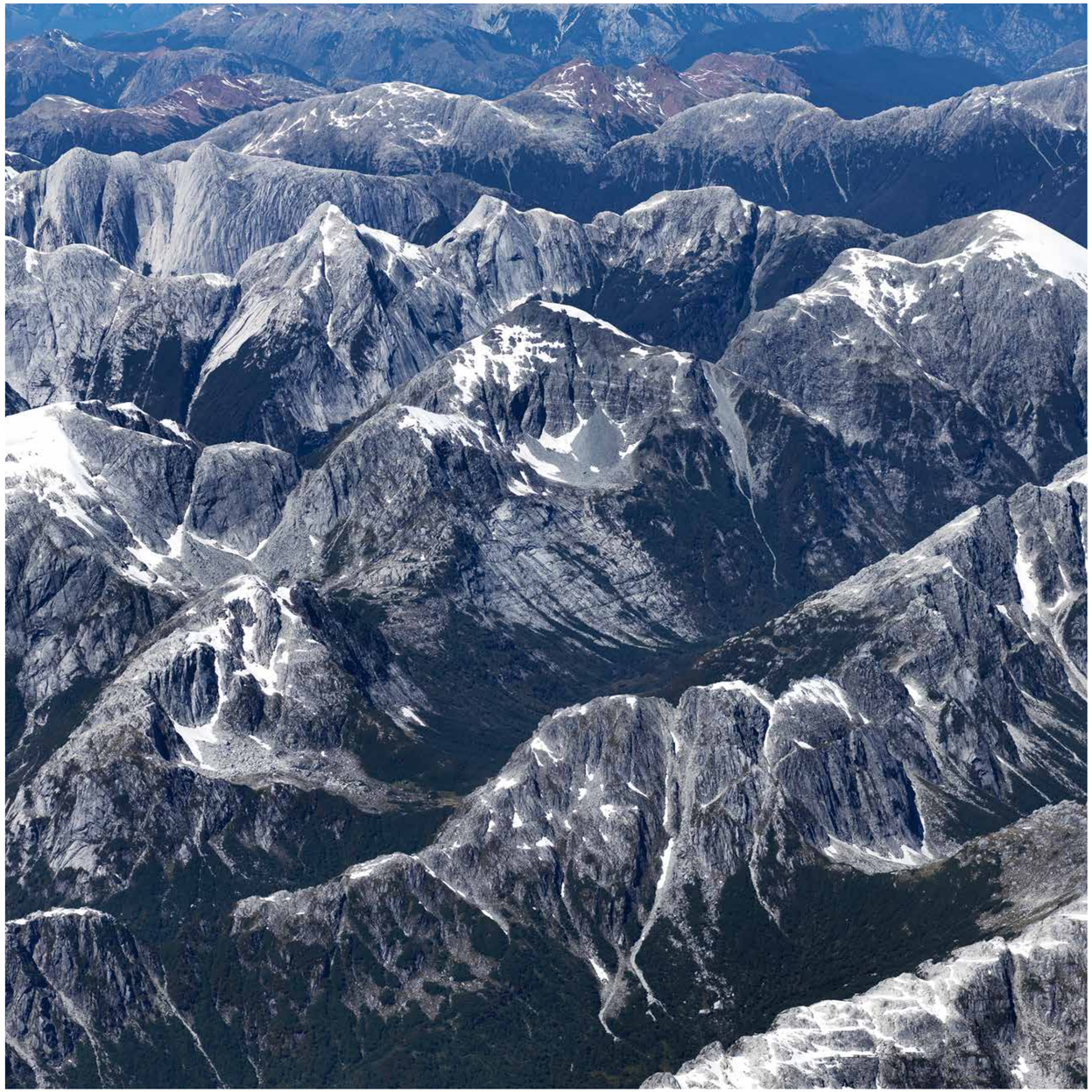


Douglas Tompkins seemed immune to fear. Or, rather, he was brave. Sometimes he seemed not to weigh the consequences of his words and acts, but later we discovered that it was part of his strategy to provoke reaction and thus elevate the social dialogue regarding ecological topics. Both his fearlessness and strategic capacity aligned with his life as an extreme sportsman and pilot. To fly a Husky through storms, to climb unclimbed mountains, to navigate a fierce river in a kayak, to pilot a Chilote barge by an austral fjord at low tide you need to have "cold blood" and to carefully plan your moves. Doug's business success and personal energy leveraged his audacity. Trying to follow him on foot uphill or through a prairie in restoration, I said to myself, "He is extraterrestrial": He walked, acted, thought, and wrote too fast, and too tirelessly. He ascribed to Edward Abbey's "sentiment without action is the ruin of the soul."

Underlying his activism, two traits stood out: His lucidity regarding humanity's planetary predicament, and his conviction that we all need to do something to "pay the rent" to nature for being alive, for the air, the water, and all the other blessings that freely pour over us, that so many people take for granted. One of the fundamental reasons for Doug's gratitude toward nature is the beauty it generously bestows on us—beauty of the wild landscapes which he discovered from on high, as a pilot, and of the diverse life they sustain. "Really see what you are looking at," he said, alluding to the capacity to see the history of ecosystems leading to their present state. This is a painful invitation today. So much ugliness . . . yet, Douglas chose to see and confront the systemic roots of ecological degradation. He wasn't afraid of being provocative, to get "between the legs of the horses" when articulating his ideas about biodiversity, conservation, and development. Visionary with deep convictions, activist and strategist—a powerful mélange. And the doses of humor and gentleness were increasing with age. We miss him. For few persons can we so aptly apply the biblical "by his fruits you shall know him." Doug not only shaped the course of conservation in Chile—he is vividly portrayed in the astounding landscapes he helped to protect.

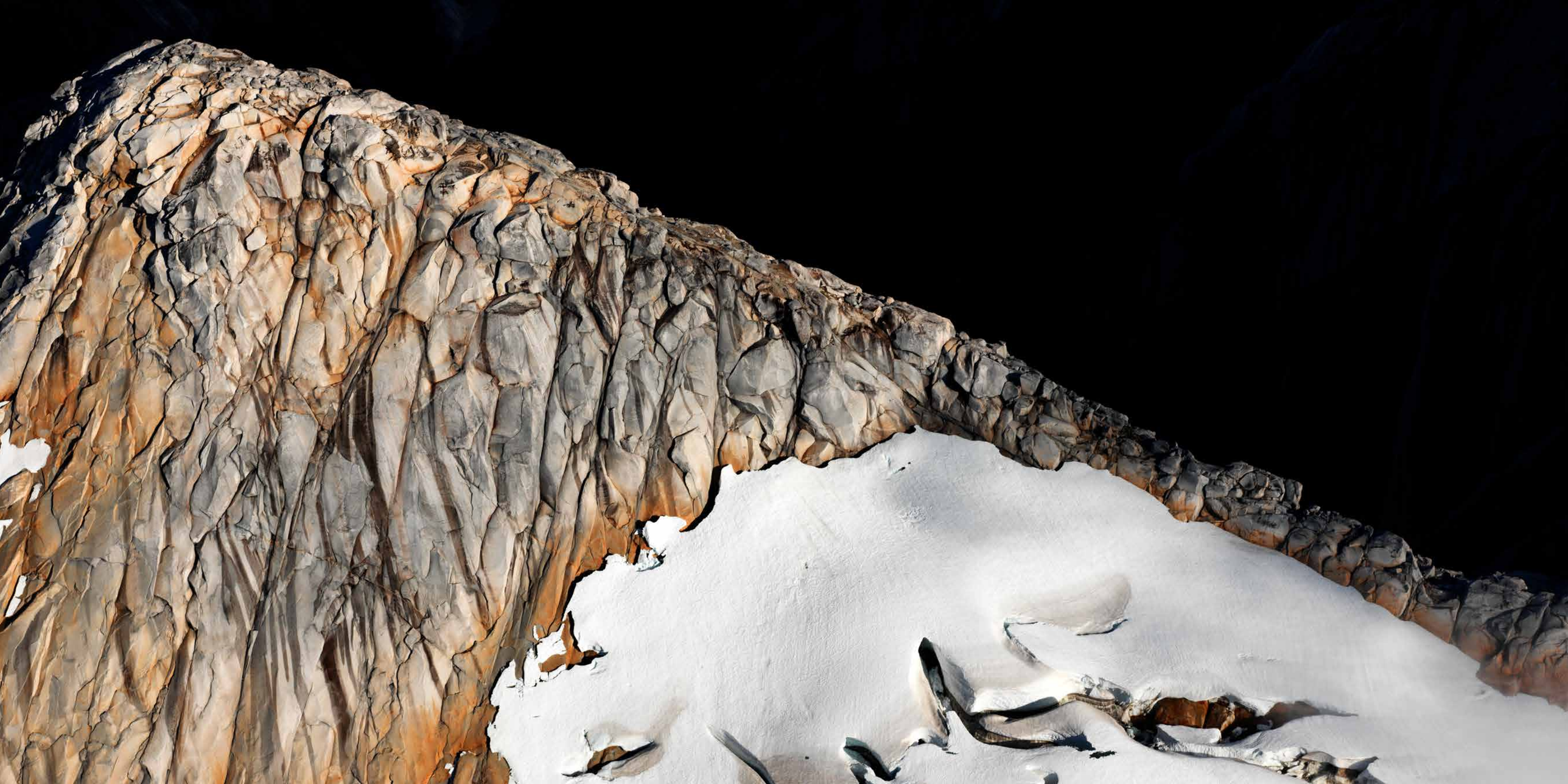
Juan Pablo Orrego
President, Ecosistemas

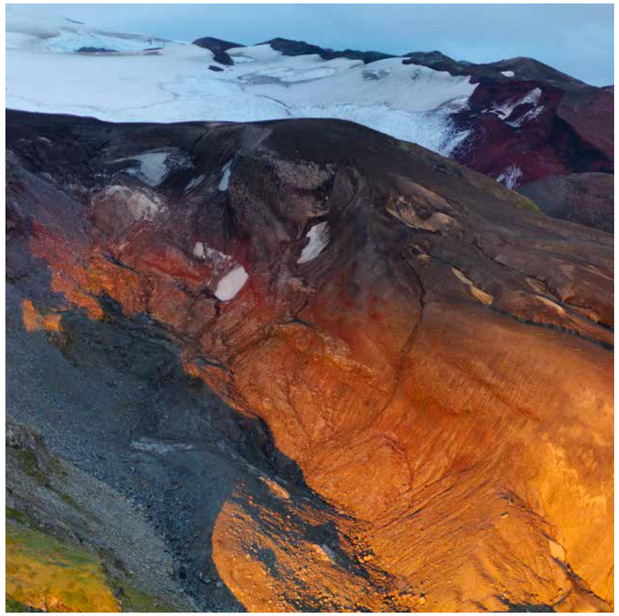


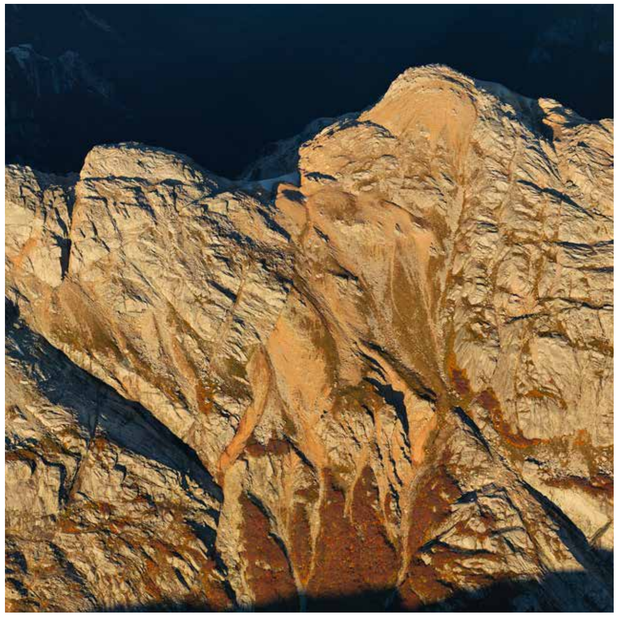


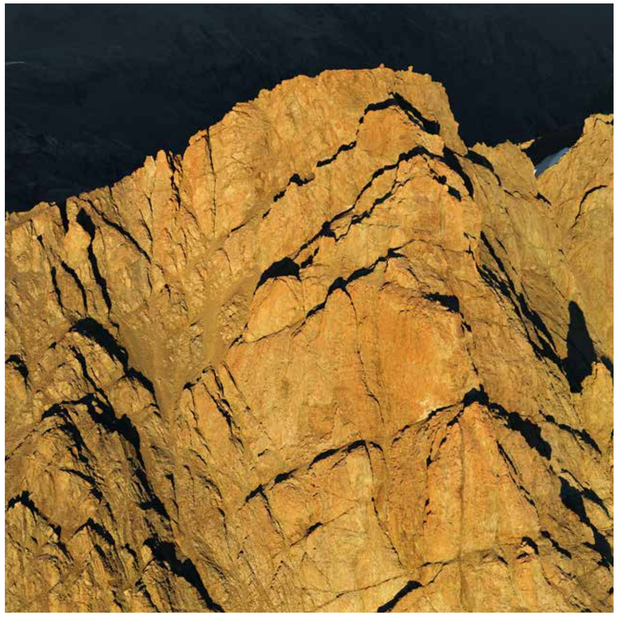
I look to combine environmentalism (policy change through activism) with land conservation, which works to preserve and conserve biodiversity. It is a two-pronged approach and one helps the other. The activism informs conservation and vice versa. Plus, one is very tangible (conservation) and the other (activism) often more abstract and with many losses and setbacks. Land conservation when done in the private sector is very real—you can see it, even walk around on it. Changing policy takes time, is never very precise, is a slippery fish and can squirt out of one's hands and be lost. So, to maintain one's balance of mind, I find doing both is satisfying and hopeful.

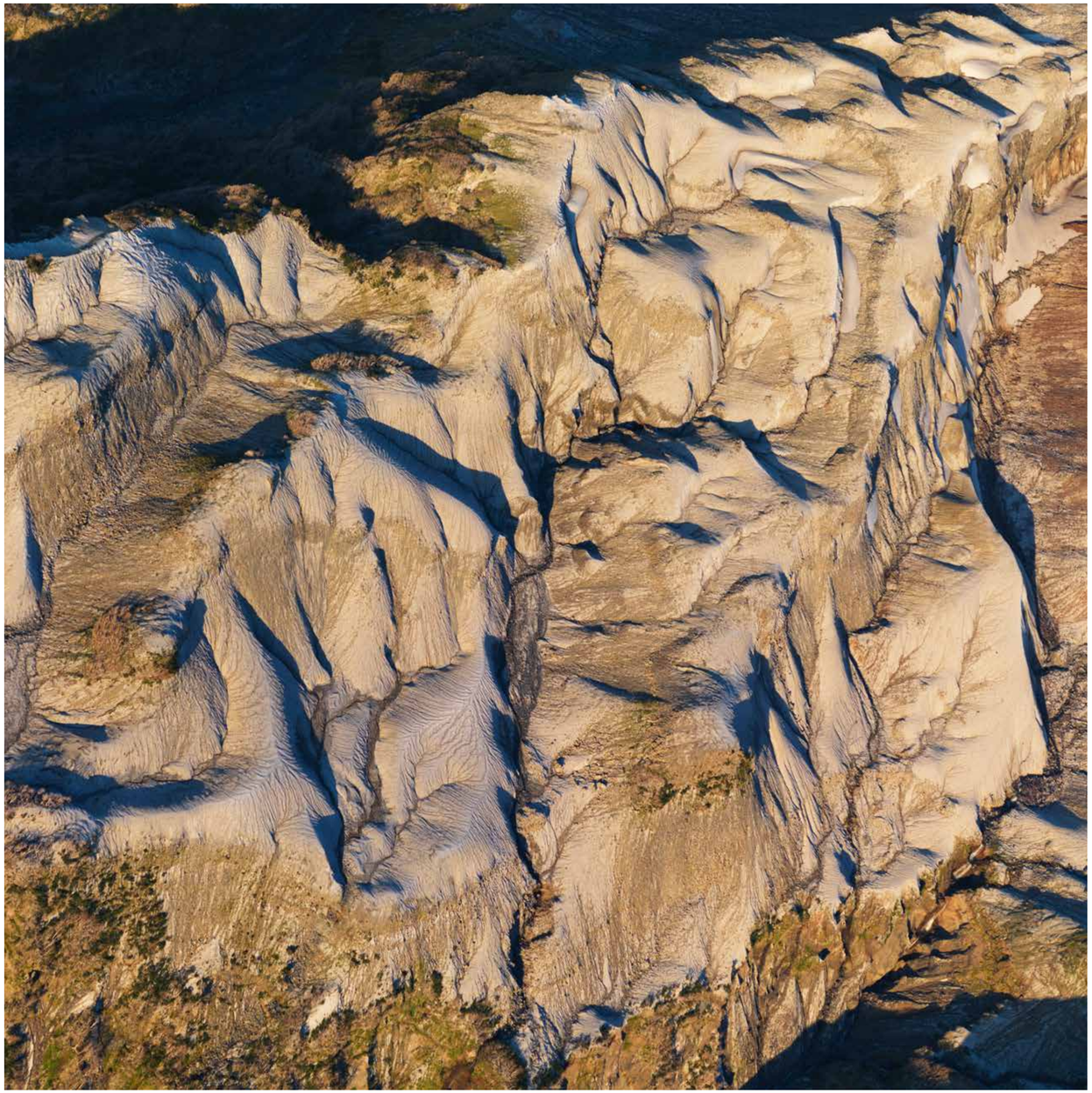
Doug Tompkins

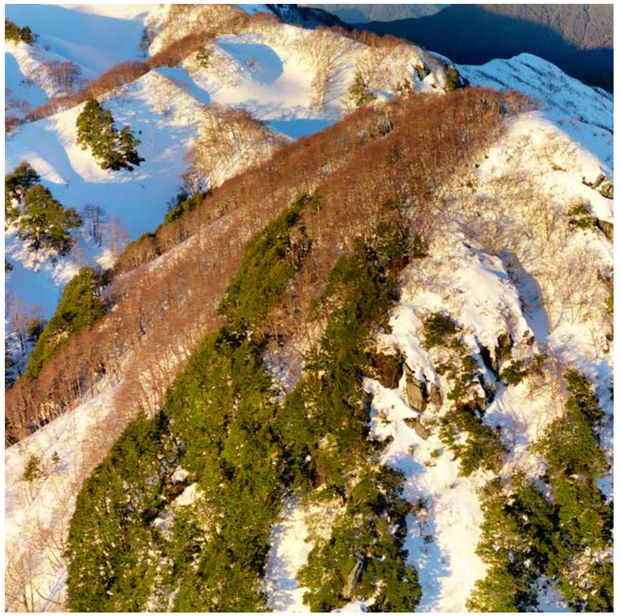


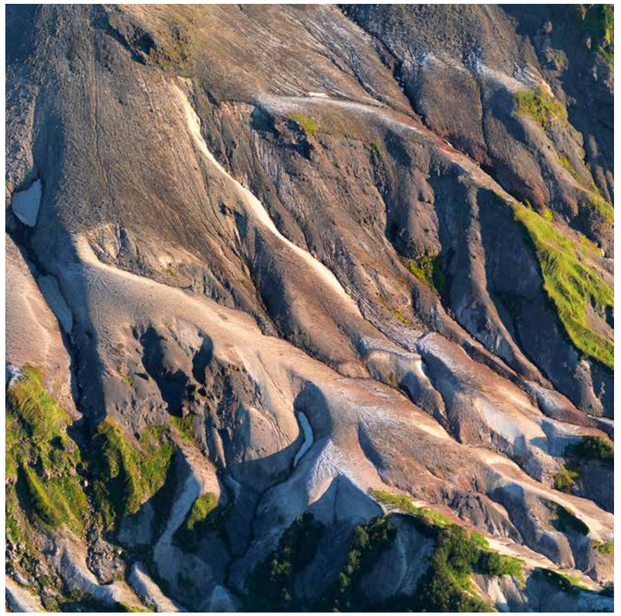
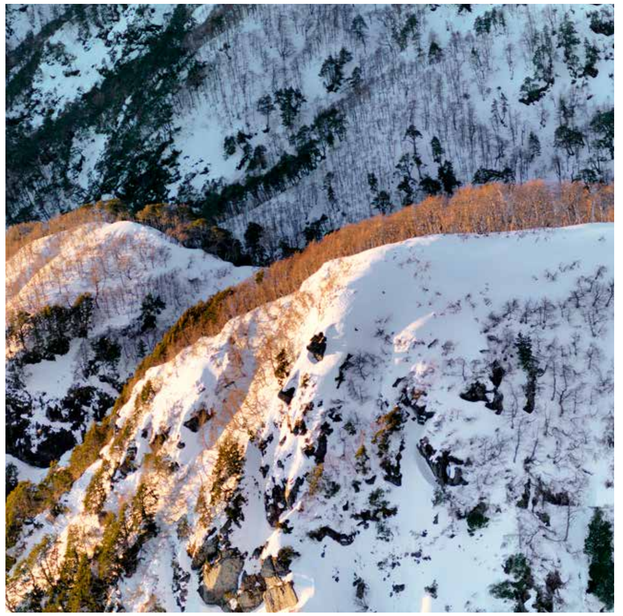


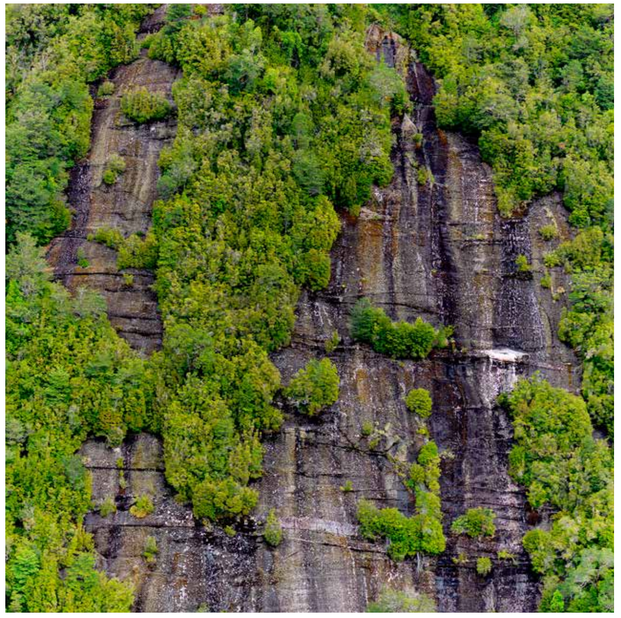
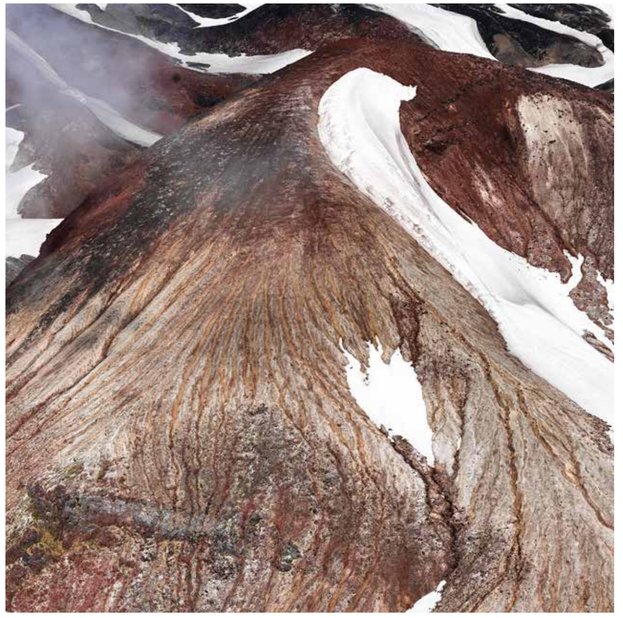








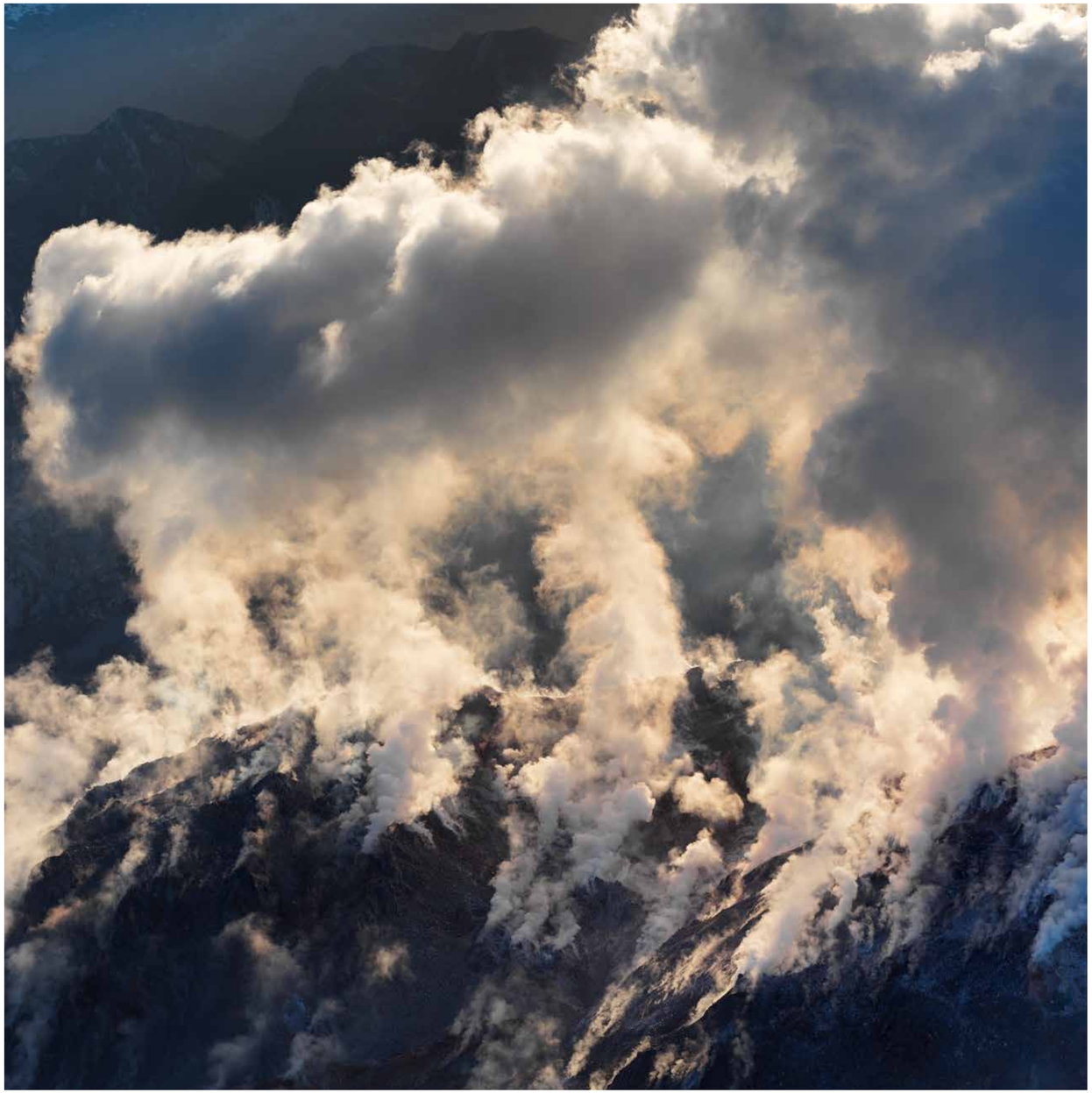
May 2009, when the Chaitén Volcano erupted, seems eons away to me now but those few years are nothing in geological time. Exactly where the volcano erupted had been an old crater containing an alpine lake and lush forest. As the pilot for the Pumalín Park project, I flew over the place hundreds of times because it was on our flight path between Reñihué—Doug and Kris Tompkins's farm on the edge of Pumalín—to El Amarillo, the village that is the gateway community serving the park's southern sector. The mountain's beauty always captured my attention on those flights.

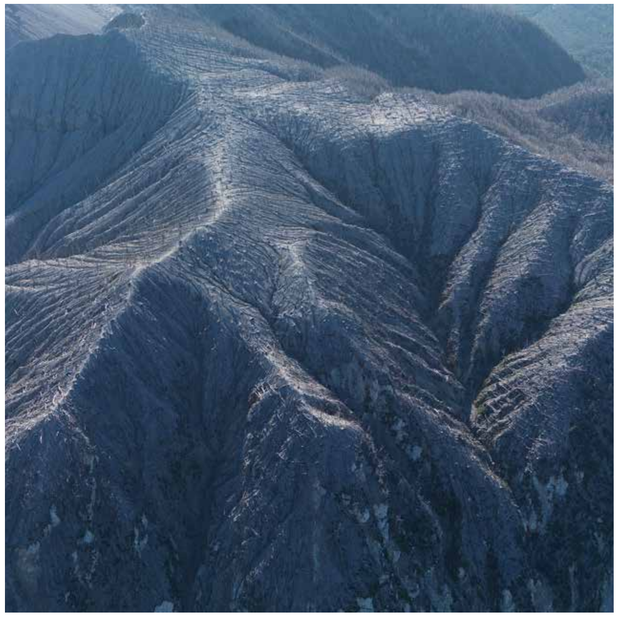
I was ferrying a light airplane to Chile from the United States when I received an emergency call. I was needed to assist in Pumalín Park. I was back within a week of the first eruption. A thick gray carpet covered what used to be rich Valdivian rain forest. The devastation was apocalyptic! Not only was the shape of the Chaitén Volcano altered, large areas of forest were leveled, and massive amounts of ash had been deposited, which changed the course of rivers. In a couple places, the only road connecting Chile had been cut.

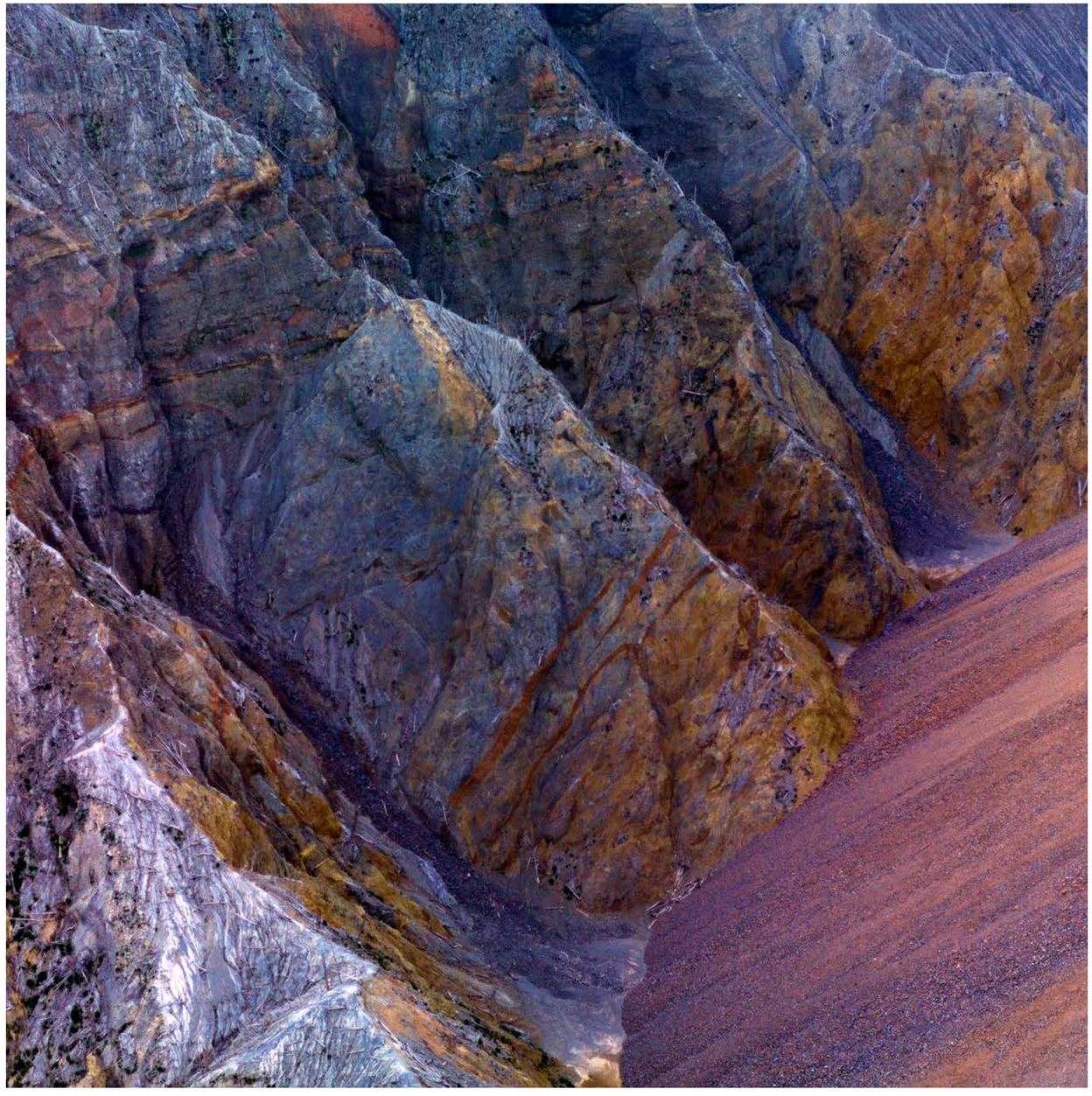
At that time, I lived in Pillan, a small farm located twenty-five kilometers from the volcano. My family witnessed firsthand how a 30,000-foot column of ash went into the atmosphere. Evacuation of the region was executed swiftly by sea and no human lives were lost. Cattle, sheep, and beehives were also taken to a safer place. It took years of work by a team led by Doug and Kris to restore damaged infrastructure and return Pumalín to its prior beauty.

During the years since the eruption, having spent hundreds of hours flying over the park, I've had the unique vantage point of seeing the recovery of areas affected by the eruption. The forest affected by the hot ash began to recover, with ferns and lichens turning formerly gray areas to green again. Nature has its own cycle: The mountain, dormant for thousands of years, came to life in dramatic fashion, then went quiet again. Other natural processes continued on as they always have, and those of us engaged in creating and safeguarding Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park got to watch an amazing demonstration of nature's resilience.

Rodrigo Noriega
Pilot for Tompkins Conservation

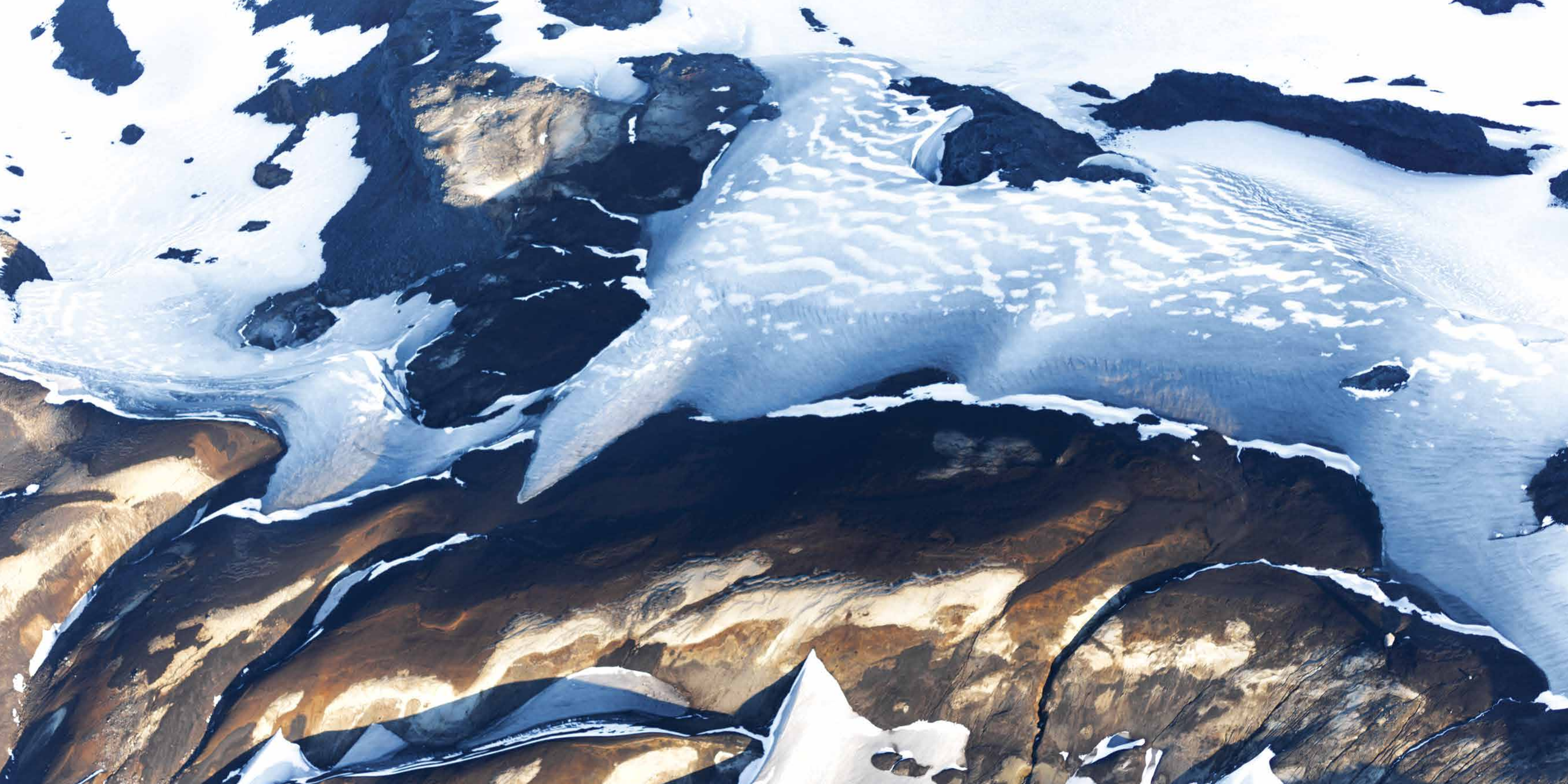


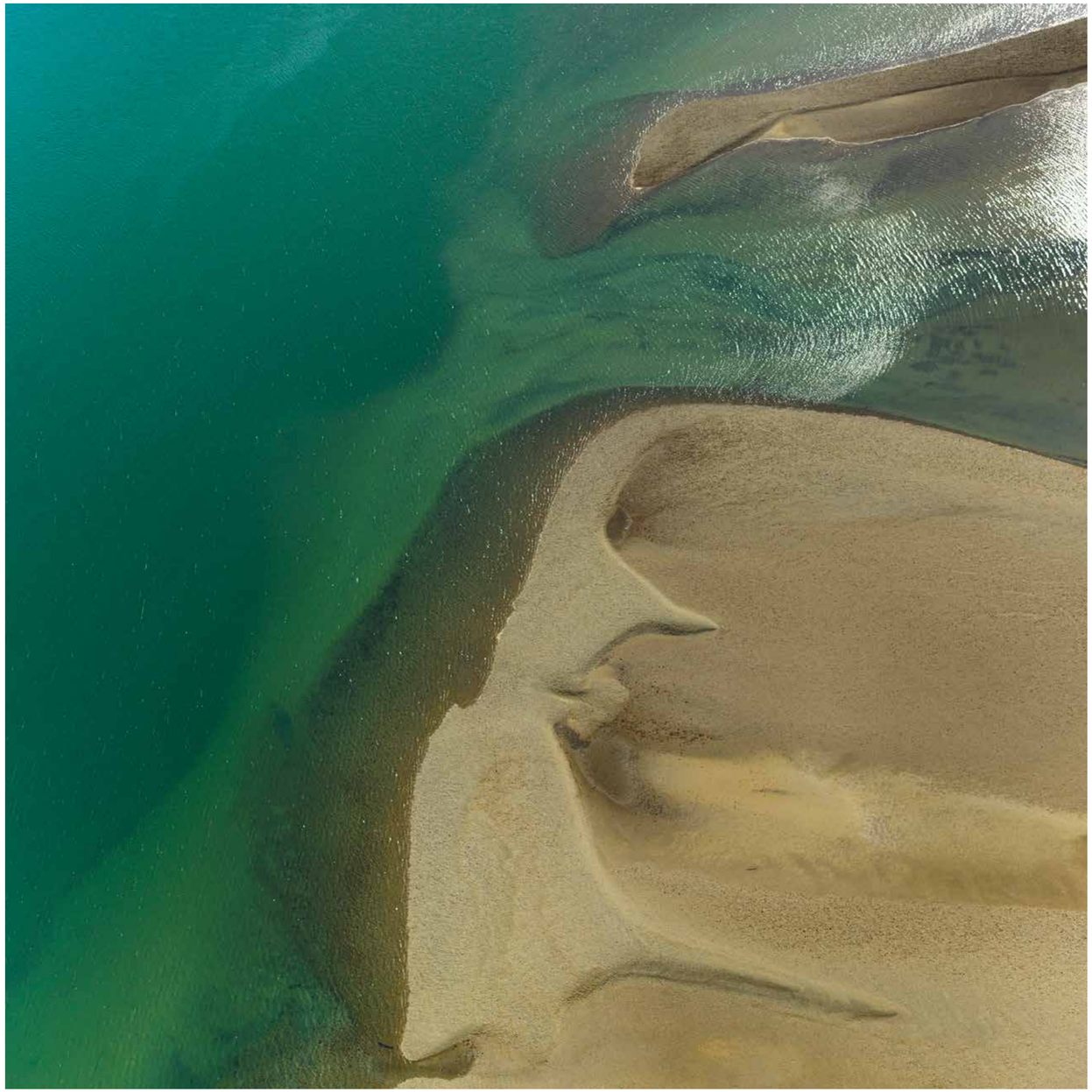




Pumalín is a gift, not only for Chileans, but for the whole world. Today it lies in the hands of the State, which must be a worthy caretaker of the effort of dozens of workers and dreamers. Of one in particular: Doug Tompkins, who felt that it was a duty to pay his bill for the privilege of living on this small blue dot in the cosmos.

Dagoberto Guzmán Fuentes





I cannot stand to see beauty defiled, and things done badly. Aesthetics have always figured into my thinking as a guiding principle. The imposition of human artifacts into the landscape can either appear harmonious, if done thoughtfully, or be a disjunctive to our sense of beauty if executed badly. The saying "If it looks bad, it is bad, and if it looks good, it (most likely) is good" has become my foundation for any quick analysis of whether a landscape is healthy or not.

Doug Tompkins

To make a park, you begin with the land. In the case of Pumalín, there is incredible diversity with high peaks on the Andean crest, more than eighty-six lakes, coastal fjords, sea-level valleys of old-growth forest, and rivers that empty into the sea. The park stretches from the coast of Chiloe Continental over the glaciated Andes and down into the Patagonian foothills.

To build public-access infrastructure you need people with a wide variety of experience and capability—you need craftsmen with the skills to use local materials in harmony with the regional style. And you need good design applied to everything—information centers, bathrooms, trail networks, signage, and tourist facilities. There is much more to building a park than meets the eye. Roads must be very carefully set in the landscape, and they should be few and kept to a small scale; not only does this require skill, it is an art. Housing for park employees should be functional yet beautiful. Tourist lodging must also fit the landscape and be cozy and comfortable. Parks require campgrounds, of course! In Pumalín there are many camping facilities, constructed from native materials, which fit harmoniously into the landscape. All of this requires years and years of work.

A well-maintained and orderly park, however, brings great appreciation from visitors. Parks provide to all citizens a chance to renew the spirit in a stressful world. Parklands provide a place for reflection and contemplation. Pumalín hosts thousands of visitors each year, many coming from urban areas to get out into nature and to have adventures, experience good companionship, and camp out under the stars, where the real experience is, to see the beauty of wild nature.

Each time a new park is created anywhere in the world, we can feel confident that it will contribute to helping society understand the deep necessity to share the planet with other creatures and serve biodiversity.

Doug Tompkins

DESIGNING PUMALÍN PARK WITH DOUGLAS TOMPKINS

Francisco Morandé Ruiz-Tagle

In September of 1998, as a young architect, I was employed by the most prestigous firm in Viña del Mar, working on large building projects and with apparent limitless professional possibility. And then I received an invitation to visit "Fundo Reñihué," a remote farm at the end of the Reñihué fjord in Palena Province, a property that could only be accessed from the sea by boat or from the air by light aircraft.

From Reñihué Douglas and Kristine Tompkins were directing their project to assemble Pumalín Park, and also developing small-scale organic farming practices complementary to nature protection. By October I was already settled there, working with Doug. We lived for three years in that beautiful place together with scattered local families engaged in agricultural work.

I'd been recommended to Doug by the Chiloé Island-based architect Edward Rojas, a winner of Chile's national architectural prize. Rojas, a master of creating buildings influenced by the vernacular style of the region, had worked with Doug to reconstruct the main farmhouse at Fundo Reñihué.

My original invitation was for a "design internship" with Doug for a year, which extended into almost twenty years of professional collaboration. It was a very close and familiar relationship. We shared many adventures, and many life stories close to the warmth of Kris's woodstove, and her exquisite preparations of food there.

During my first year with Doug we jumped by sky, sea, and land—literally—from one site to another, visiting the numerous projects which were being developed in different sectors for the park's infrastructure. We spent hours talking to administrators, beekeepers, and mechanics, listening to their problems.

Each area required architectural solutions: sheep barns, facilities to process beeswax and honey, cabins, greenhouses, sheds to house composting and vermiculture (worm composting). We had to understand how each new element, whether of park infrastructure or for the farms, would operate and serve the Pumalín project's overall conservation objectives.

In Doug's small plane we flew between mountains, over glaciers and forests, going up rivers, while we planned where to locate buildings, evaluating the dynamics of each place to better conserve its natural harmony. From this "aerial macrovision" we progressed from the sketches to the general blueprints, and, finally, to the details. Though the macrovision was fundamental, it was also Doug with his "no detail is small" who taught me to value and consider even the smallest ones as they all contribute to the whole.

The time living at Pumalín was my second university. What an amount of things to attend and solve! From the birth of individual projects to reviewing budgets, supervising construction, purchasing recycled furniture, and decorating the houses down to the last cushion to achieve a pleasant environment for the occupants.

Doug was very generous, and a personal mentor at the level of my father. Always inviting us to "jump and fly," appealing to the best of the entire team. Whatever the particular task—masonry or carpentry, landscaping or interior decoration, all effort was toward perfection and beauty—dignifying elements of our humanity.

About architecture and design Doug said that styles are only fashions, sometimes they're up and other times down, just like a wheel, but that we always have to search for genuine beauty because it does not go out of fashion, and that "if something is beautiful, it is good" and vice versa.

During the last years of my formal schooling in architecture, modernism was dominant, and it was not to my taste. In this, Doug and I were in tune. During his time in the fashion business he'd worked closely with modernist designers and architects including Tadao Ando and Sir Norman Foster while developing Esprit products and buildings. But by the time he was working at Pumalín his shift toward an ecological aesthetic was well advanced.

For all of the new construction, we employed the Chilote vernacular design aesthetic, incorporating local wood and stone, and employing recycled timber and other construction materials where possible. Borrowing a line that greatly influenced his thinking, Doug sought to "consult the genius of the place," making every design choice the opposite of modern styles, which impose a technological aesthetic upon natural settings. We wanted the Pumalín architecture to emerge from and reflect the beauty and character of a particular place—the wild coast and mountains of southern Chile.

Doug traveled widely and studied intensively, soaking up examples of traditional architecture that fit with harmony into its surroundings and decrying the opposite. As his conservation projects expanded to include more public-access infrastructure he was influenced by the work of early national park architects such as Alejandro Bustillo of Argentina and the designers of rustic-style buildings in early U.S. national parks. But even in the beginning days of the Pumalín project it was clear that Doug's design choices would reflect his ideas about economic transformation toward "eco-localism" and away from a globalized, techno-industrial society.

I am just beginning to value in depth what I learned alongside Doug during the process of creating what is now Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park and Patagonia National Park. Every visitor to these places, whether they realize it or not, will experience how Doug's vision influenced all of the infrastructure—the signage, campgrounds, trails, even the restrooms, everything intended to be part of a cohesive design aesthetic that is welcoming and beautiful.

Now, each time that I am imagining or designing a detail, it is impossible not to hear his words, his advice regarding how to improve or correct things. The work together with him continues. And his commitment to park facilities that enhance the visitor experience and reflect broad societal commitment to national parks will set a high standard for Chile's park system into the future.


EL VOLCAN
GUARDA PARQUE
PARQUE PUMALIN
LIBROS MAPAS
INFORMACION


GUARDAPARQUE
EL VOLCAN
PARQUE PUMALIN


GUARDAPARQUE LEPTEPU
PARQUE PUMALIN


PLAYA VERDE
PLAYA VERDE
PLAYA VERDE


CAFE
CALETA GONZALO
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CENTRO
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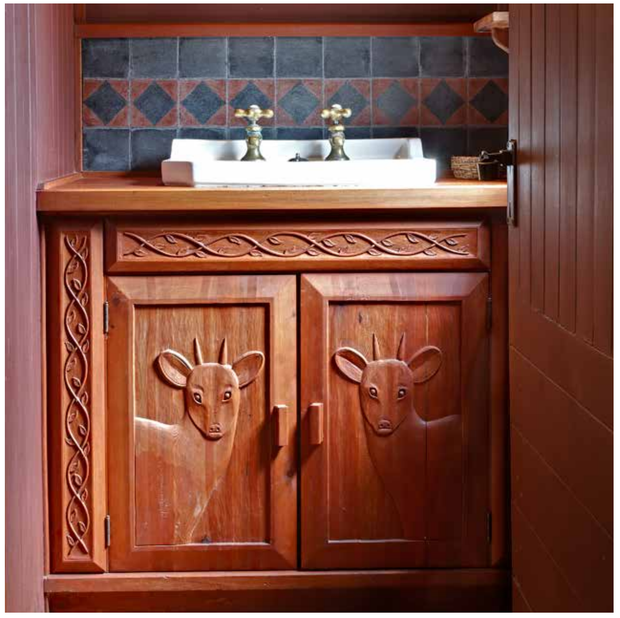
ARTESANIA



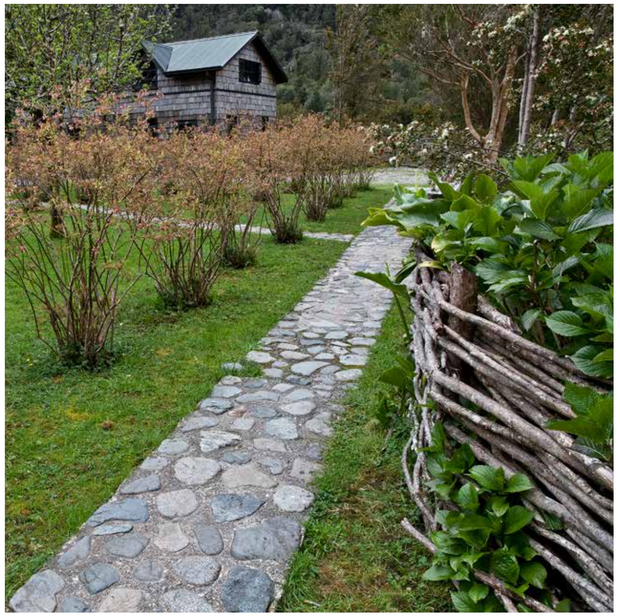
We often speak of the "built" and "natural" environments as though they were allergic opposites rather than comfortable neighbors. Doug Tompkins and his essential partner Kris Tompkins knew how to build places for human habitation in such a way that the natural systems around them were protected and even enhanced. Kris has often been kind enough to say that she and Doug were taking a leaf from the work of my ancestors (Laurence and John D. Rockefeller Jr., in particular), and that is very kind, but the Tompkinses have taken earlier models of parkland preservation to another level of scale and of sensitivity on behalf of some of the most spectacular landscapes on Earth. Pumalín is such a place, and it is now another jewel in the glittering string of national parklands which they have played the lead role in preserving in Chile and Argentina.

Doug and Kris have always been infatuated with the beauty of nature, but they were never intimidated by it. As a result, the human structures they designed and assembled in the midst of nature have always been a deeply felt and painstakingly designed complement to their surroundings. To be in them is to live in another of nature's perfect nests.

The rationale for any system of national parks, as has been dramatically developed across the United States and Canada, is a careful blend of ecological conservation and human access. Without conservation, those places of beauty and intricate history could well be trampled and transformed by the visitors. But without visitors, those natural wonders would not be known and—as a result—would not have developed a constituency of support for their very preservation. Nor would they have become a source of such wonder and learning and pleasurable appreciation by their human admirers.

During my own work on behalf of the National Park Foundation in the United States, I came to appreciate both the achingly beautiful landscapes across our nation and the people who helped those places "speak" to the visitor—old or young, veteran or first-timer—and give rich context to such complex systems, just as a great historian brings alive a battlefield or a monument. Doug and Kris and their team have analyzed what is worth preserving, have worked feverishly to achieve conservation on a monumental scale, and then have made certain that these places can be touched and traversed by other seekers of truth and beauty. There can be no greater gift.

David Rockefeller Jr.
Philanthropist




PARQUE
PUMALIN
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EL AMARILLO


PASARELA
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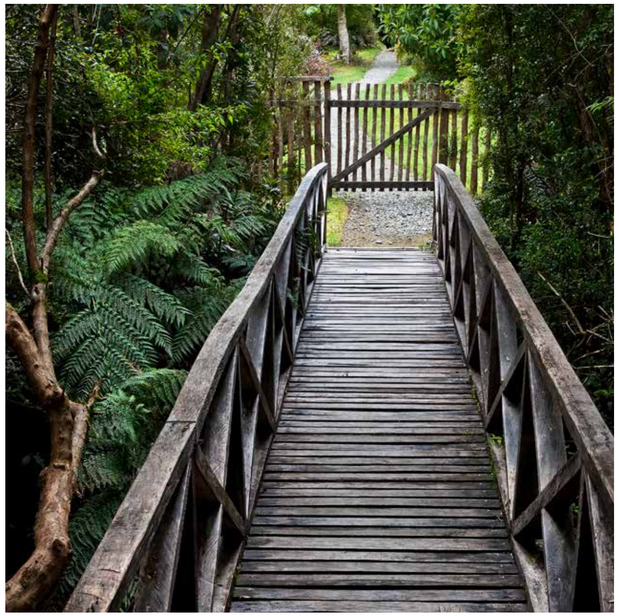
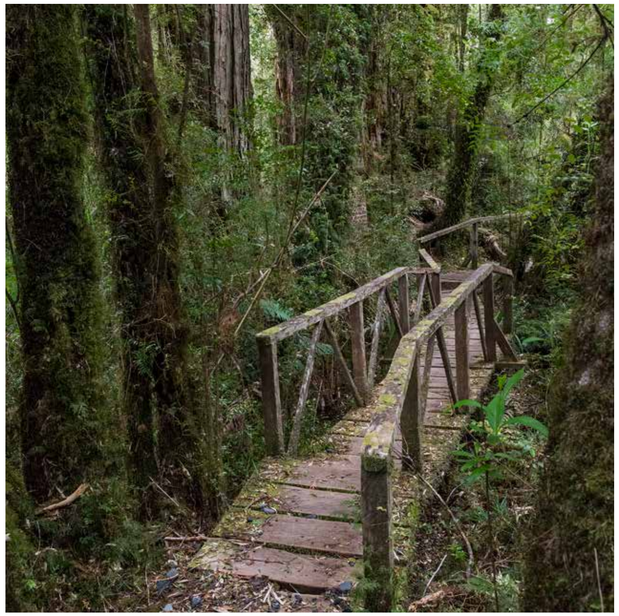
GONZALO



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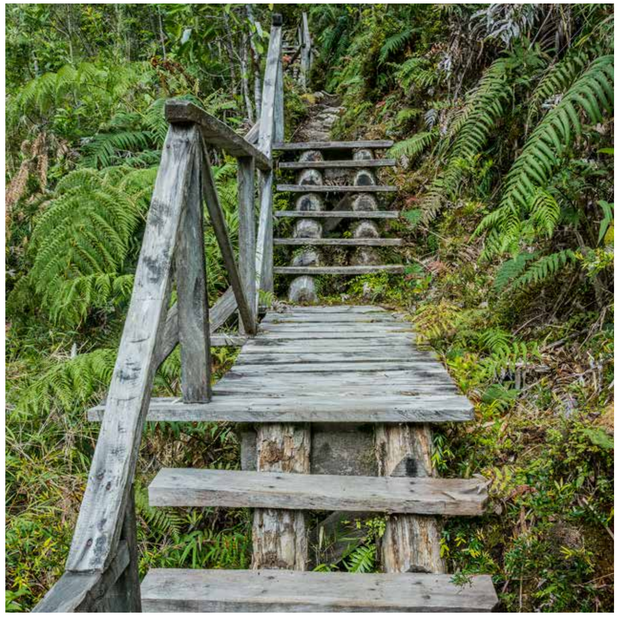


CAMPING
LAGO
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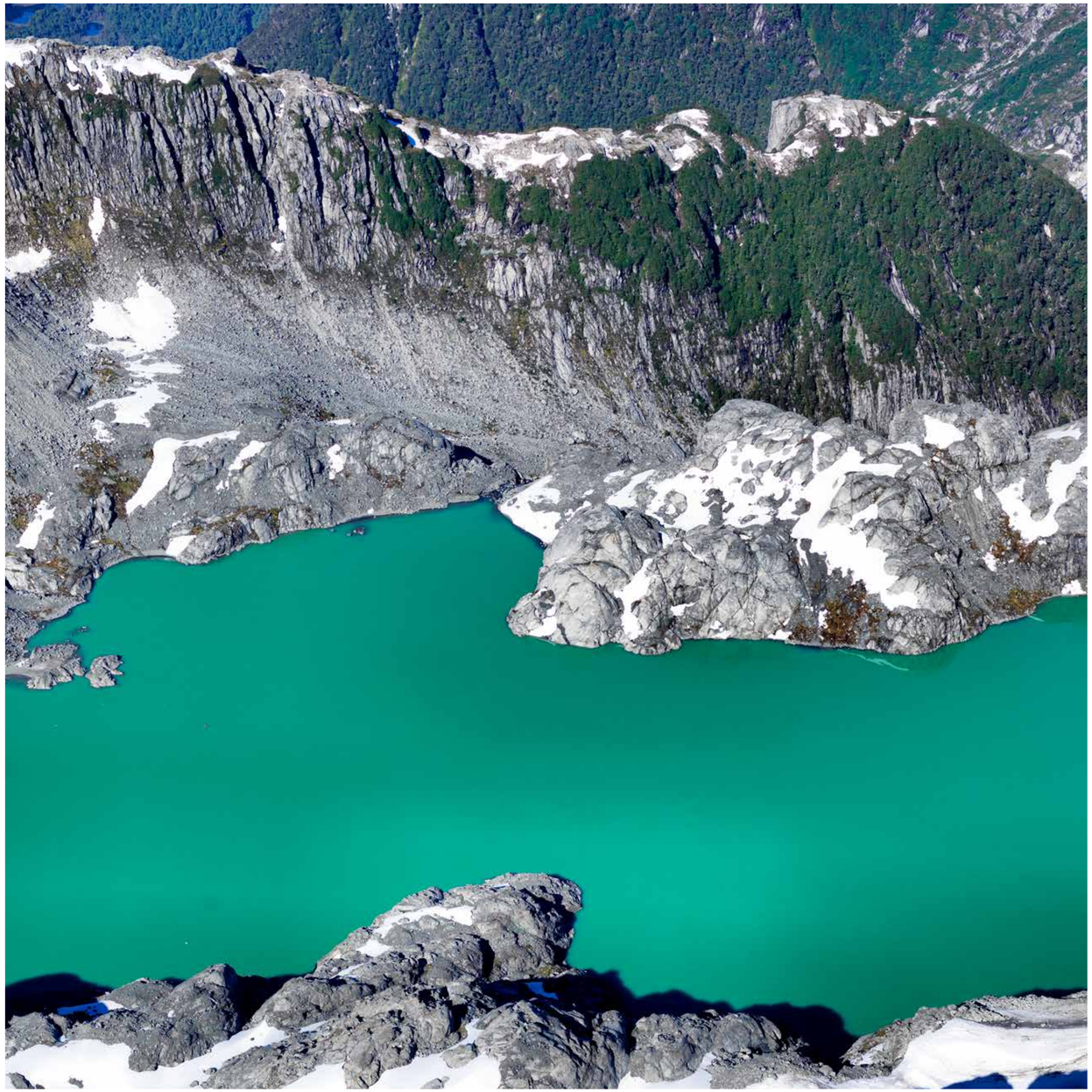


PHOTOGRAPHING NATURAL BEAUTY: INSPIRATION AND HOPE

Antonio Vizcaíno

Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park is an expression of grandeur—both its pristine nature where the landscape has been sculpted by geological forces during millions of years and the grandeur of the vision translated into action by this magnificent territory's protectors, Douglas and Kristine Tompkins.

My first visit to Pumalín was early in 2003. I'd accepted Kris and Doug's invitation, extended a few weeks before, when they mentioned that photographers were well treated there. My program was to visit for a week, during which Doug would show me the park from above, flying his cherished two-seater Husky airplane. But the famously unpredictable weather of southern Chile had other plans. After I arrived, it rained for twenty days in a row, so we passed time indoors, with reading and conversation.

During many hours of discussion, one topic was recurring: the power of photos of natural beauty as a tool for sensitizing people to nature's intrinsic value, as well as the power of beauty to motivate, foster reconnection with nature, and spur conservation activism. From our first conversations it became clear that Doug, Kris, and I shared a devotion to wild nature and our lifelong friendship began.

For the next fourteen years I photographed Pumalín, while also photographing and helping publish large-format books about the various parks that Tompkins Conservation was creating. Doug was central to this publishing program. He approached book production details—photo editing, art direction, etc.—with the same passion for excellence that he put into conservation work and designing the parks' infrastructure. To Doug, no detail was small.

We were fully aligned in our commitment to nature conservation and dedication to making the photography books we produced attain the highest quality possible. During hundreds of hours of flights around Pumalín Park, Doug and I witnessed amazing beauty, discovering new vistas and returning to already known sites where the light and weather presented them to us in a totally different way. We enjoyed every minute connected to Pumalín's diverse terrain, synchronizing our gaze to get the best images.

Nothing can be better than when the creator of a park is also a pilot and to top it all he looks at the landscape as a photographer. We explored from the air the huge expanse of the park. Each image taken was the result of collaboration between us; we always had our eyes on the same objective. On one occasion Doug commented to a mutual friend, the well-known conservationist Vance Martin, that when he and I flew together doing aerial photography, we looked upon the Earth as with one set of eyes. We returned again and again to certain spots at different seasons or years, seeking to perfect images we already had.

Doug's skill and audacity placed us at unbelievable view angles. I have flown and taken photos with many pilots in many countries and with none have I lived so strongly the experience of amazement at wild nature's beauty as with Doug. When he was not in Pumalín, I flew many times with Rodrigo Noriega, staff pilot for Tompkins Conservation and one of the best bush pilots in Patagonia. It has been a privilege to fly with Rodrigo over the years photographing the wondrous stretch between Puerto Montt and Tierra del Fuego.

With this Pumalín book project we had the necessary time to find beauty, to discover the extraordinary within extraordinary landscapes, through light and composition. My intention, with each photo, has been to get closer to the spirit of the place. The external elements of the landscape follow the natural law of impermanence and constant transformation, the spirit manifests itself through movement. The sentiment I most enjoy when photographing nature is that of being constantly open to change.

Every landscape offers multiple visual options, but as a photographer I choose the features that I want to include in the picture. My intention is not just to document the characteristics of the landscape, because this would result in merely descriptive images. What I strive for is to make evocative photos, to capture images that reveal the spirit of the place and the connection achieved between landscape and viewer. The spirit of the landscape is life's spirit, the same which breathes in all of us, as well as in all of the other species with which we share this planet.

The connection I feel with nature is what motivates me to live and to keep exploring the Earth's wildest remaining places in search of beauty. Photography is my language. What I need to express about nature or a landscape, I do through images—through them, I share what I feel and communicate what life is for me. My humble challenge is to be able to translate the immensity and beauty of a landscape created during millions of years via this human means of expression called photography.

My intention when creating photographs is to share feelings of harmony, peace, tranquility, equilibrium, and the respect I feel when connecting with nature's wisdom. Through this medium I wish to stimulate consciousness that each of us are manifestations of the great miracle which is life. A photograph of nature is just a small look which represents totality, as a glacier is to the mountain or a tree to the forest. One hopes to capture not the obvious but the deeper, inherent beauty. To photograph nature is not only to create art for its own sake. The photographer who manages to find natural beauty assumes a commitment, and photography becomes an instrument with which to promote conservation.

For more than thirty years I have lived close to nature. In 2001 I initiated a personal project called America Natural which continues to this day. The objective is to photograph the natural areas of greatest beauty and ecological integrity and utilize the images to promote biodiversity conservation across the Americas. During my voyages I have been a witness to the fast degradation of wild habitat. Nevertheless, my decision has been to photograph beauty because it is disappearing. I want my photography to be a source of inspiration and hope.

Today the continuity of life as we know it is at risk, due to the environmental impact of humanity's present way of living. We still have time to reduce our negative effects and enter an era of ecological restoration or *rewilding*. Each one of us can contribute to this in our daily lives. It is an urgent priority to conserve and restore large and connected wild areas where the natural cycle of life continues. More diversity brings more life options far into the future. The work that Douglas and Kristine Tompkins and their team have accomplished, conserving and restoring vast wild parklands, is a hopeful action for the future. Many future generations of people and our wild neighbors will thank them.

To collaborate with Kris and Doug has been for me the most enriching experience during more than thirty years of being a photographer, artist, conservationist, and book editor. Most of all, I am grateful to Kris and Doug for helping protect the continuity of life as we know it.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Edward O. Wilson, emeritus research professor at Harvard University, is an entomologist who has pioneered various lines of inquiry in ecological and evolutionary theory. Widely published in the scientific and popular literature, Wilson's books have received many accolades including two Pulitzer Prizes. His recent works include *The Meaning of Human Existence* (which was a finalist for the National Book Award), *Half-Earth*, and *On the Origins of Creativity*.

Michelle Bachelet, the first woman elected as Chile's president, served in that position for two terms, 2006–2010 and 2014–2018. Trained as a physician before entering politics, Bachelet also served as the Minister of Health and Defense Minister during the presidency of Ricardo Lagos. A champion for the rights of women and the oppressed, Bachelet was named in 2018 as the United Nations' High Commissioner for human rights.

Kristine McDivitt Tompkins, former CEO of the Patagonia clothing company, is the cofounder and president of Tompkins Conservation. She was a key figure behind the establishment of Monte León National Park in Argentina, Patagonia National Park in Chile, and other conservation projects that have resulted in more than 14 million acres of new parklands in Chile and Argentina. She serves in various positions of global leadership in conservation, including as the United Nations' Patron of Protected Areas and as Chair of National Geographic Society's Last Wild Places campaign.

Juan Pablo Letelier represents the 6th region as a senator in Chile's National Congress. He received an undergraduate degree in economics at Georgetown University in the United States, and an international policy masters degree while studying in Mexico City. Letelier was first elected to the lower house in Congress in 1990 and became a senator in 2006. He is a member of the Socialist Party of Chile. Since the mid-1970s he has worked with the human rights project of the Institute for Policy Studies, a progressive think tank based in Washington D.C.

Carolina Morgado, is the executive director of Tompkins Conservation–Chile and board president of the Pumalín Foundation. For more than 20 years she has worked at the right hand of Doug and Kris Tompkins, serving a central role in the creation of seven national parks and the expansion of three others. Morgado led the effort to transfer administration of Pumalín and Patagonia National Parks to the government and is also a founding board member of Amigos de los Parques, a nongovernmental organization that works to increase public support and appreciation for Chile's national parks.

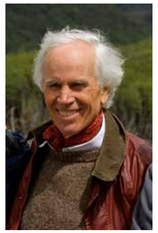
Ingrid Espinoza trained as a forestry engineer at the University of Chile before beginning her work with Doug and Kris Tompkins in 2001. As the Director of Conservation for Tompkins Conservation–Chile, Espinoza has worked on dozens of land protection projects in the region. She was a crucial team member in the work to assemble properties for Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park, and also helping to develop and execute the landmark agreement with the government that resulted in more than 10 million acres of new national parklands in Chile.

Tom Butler is the vice president for conservation advocacy for Tompkins Conservation and past board president of Northeast Wilderness Trust. He is author or volume editor of more than a dozen books including *Wildlands Philanthropy*. Butler co-curated the exhibit "Douglas R. Tompkins: On Beauty" at the David Brower Center in Berkeley and coauthored the companion book *On Beauty: Douglas R. Tompkins—Aesthetics and Activism*, about the way that beauty was an animating force in the life and work of Doug Tompkins.

Francisco Morandé Ruiz-Tagle is an architect based in Puerto Varas, Chile. After finishing his studies at the Viña del Mar University, he worked in his father's architectural firm before traveling abroad to experience Europe's cultural and architectural diversity. He moved to the south of Chile in 1998 and began working with Doug Tompkins to design the infrastructure of Pumalín and Patagonia National Parks, as well as numerous private houses and farm buildings. His devotion to beauty and regional vernacular style is embodied in the dozens of buildings and more than 23,000 square meters of built space he's helped to create during decades of work.

Antonio Vizcaíno (1952–2019) was a landscape photographer, editor, and conservationist. He published more than 30 books of nature photography including *Water*, *Forest*, *Mountain*, *Wildlands Philanthropy*, and several volumes on the national parks established by Douglas and Kristine Tompkins. Through his photographic expedition "América Natural: Tierra del Fuego–Alaska," Vizcaíno explored exceptional natural areas of the Americas to capture their beauty and contributed to campaigns that sought to preserve biological diversity.

Linde Waidhofer is a landscape photographer who splits her time between Colorado and Chilean Patagonia. Her published works include books on the wildflowers and aspen forests of the Rockies, three large-format volumes on the desert southwest, and four books about Chile's wild beauty including *Unknown Patagonia* and *Chelenko, the Thousand and One Faces of a Patagonian Lake*. Along with her husband, Lito Tejada-Flores, she is the creative force behind WesternEye Press.



Douglas Tompkins (1943–2015) was a wilderness advocate, mountaineer, organic farmer, conservationist, and businessman. He sold the company he cofounded, Esprit, in 1990 and devoted the rest of his life to helping protect the diversity of life. Working alongside his wife, Kristine McDivitt Tompkins, he spent a quarter century creating new national parks in Chile and Argentina, restoring degraded agricultural lands into model organic farms, and supporting various campaigns to protect wilderness and wildlife, both as an activist and funder. Through a suite of nonprofit organizations, now consolidated as Tompkins Conservation, Doug assembled roughly 2 million acres of privately acquired conservation lands in Chile and Argentina, which were incrementally donated into public ownership—typically leveraging complementary public lands for grand new protected areas. As of 2019, in aggregate this conservation legacy has helped establish or expand 15 new national parks in Chile and Argentina, in total safeguading more than 14 million acres. Central to Doug's vision was the idea that beauty could be a powerful motivator for positive change, to benefit humanity and the community of life of which we are a part. "If anything can save the world," Doug said, "I'd put my money on beauty."

PUMALÍN DOUGLAS TOMPKINS NATIONAL PARK
in Brief

A land of striking beauty, Pumalín is a world-class protected area and a highlight of Chile's Route of Parks. Stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Andes Mountains, the elevational gradient results in a stacking of natural communities, making for exceptional diversity. Temperate Valdivian rain forest is the park's dominant ecosystem, characterized by wet conditions and cool temperatures year-round. This part of southern Chile has an exceptional capacity to store carbon in its vegetation and soils, making it globally important for helping mitigate climate change.

Size
994,332 acres (402,392 hectares)

Location
Lakes Region of southern Chile, Palena and Llanquihue Provinces, Cochamó, Hualaihué, Chaitén, and Palena counties

Park gateway communities
Chaitén, El Amarillo, Hornopirén, Península Huequi, Coastal Chaitén communities

Landscape features
Mountains (Cordillera of the Andes), small mountain valleys, forests, Pacific coastline with deep fjords, wetlands, lakes, rivers, estuaries

Altitude gradient
Sea level to 2,404 m (8,040 ft.) at the summit of Michinmahuida Volcano

Notable species
Alerce, Guaitecas cypress, Coihue or Nothofagus, ulmo, arrayán, luma, tepa, pudu deer, puma, culpeo fox, condor, black-necked woodpecker, kingfisher, chucao, flamingo, Chilean dolphin, sea lion, black-necked swan, Humboldt penguin, Darwin's frog, chungungo (sea otter)

Values
Scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, climate change mitigation via carbon storage, wilderness recreation, welfare for the neighboring communities, regional economic vitality, nature study, scientific research, intrinsic value

Key actors in the park's creation
Douglas and Kristine Tompkins
Presidents Ricardo Lagos, Michelle Bachelet, and Sebastián Piñera, and their administrations
Staff of The Conservation Land Trust (now Tompkins Conservation Foundation, Chile)
Fundación Pumalín
Ministry of National Assets
National Forestry Corporation (CONAF)
Environmental Ministry
Tourism Subsecretariat
National Monuments Council

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Douglas Tompkins envisioned this book many years ago. Like the park it portrays, the book was going to be big and grand, a landmark in his foundation's publishing program. For neither he nor photographer Antonio Vizcaíno to see its day of publication is bittersweet.

When Doug and Kris Tompkins became friends with Antonio in 2003, they recognized in him a kindred soul—a person who was also devoted both to beauty and to conservation. Thereafter Antonio collaborated with the foundation on numerous editorial projects. He also returned to Pumalín again and again for more than a decade, photographing the landscape's many moods and seasons, for this volume.

When Doug died in December 2015, Antonio's landscape photography and Linde Waidhofer's architectural images for this book were mostly complete. Doug had been insistent that we would not publish the Pumalín book until the land was formally donated into Chile's park system. He wanted to see the words "Pumalín National Park" on the cover. The ambitious proposal for parklands expansion that Tompkins Conservation had been discussing with the government at that time included Pumalín as part of the roughly 1 million-acre donation that was being offered to the State. In hindsight, it seems clear that Doug's death accelerated the political momentum for that public/private agreement to be accepted and executed, and thus add Pumalín to Chile's world-class array of national parks.

When Antonio died unexpectedly in May 2019, he, Kris, and I had just spent two days together working on the book, reviewing and finalizing the photo sequence, considering cover images, and discussing the remaining editorial tasks. Antonio's passing was a shock to his family and friends. For decades Antonio had traveled the world, photographing wild places and using those images to advance conservation efforts. Like Doug, he was a force for nature, charismatic and seemingly tireless. The body of work he leaves as a landscape photographer is a testament to his skill and devotion.

This book would not exist without the vision and commitment of Doug and Antonio. They are greatly missed.

And the park it chronicles would not exist without the leadership and commitment of Kris Tompkins, as well as that of former Presidents Bachelet and Piñera and their administrations, because executing the parks deal stretched over both governments' time in office. This is notable, for these leaders came from different political parties, but the result is a park that benefits all Chileans. Chile has become a global leader not only in protecting its natural treasures but also in demonstrating that nature conservation can and should be a priority for citizens across the political spectrum. The park also benefits human visitors from near and far, and migrating wildlife, and the area's wild residents—the creatures who are at home there.

It is impossible to list here all of the hundreds of people who contributed to the park project through the years, who worked tirelessly to build Pumalín and to operate, for many years, Doug and Kris's private farms that buffered the park and demonstrated organic farming practices. Every one of these women and men, however, can feel pride in Pumalín's successful birth.

As the park effort neared the finish line, there were myriad details to negotiate and coordinate with the government. Carolina Morgado, Hernan Mladinic, and Ingrid Espinoza from Tompkins Conservation were central to this monumental effort, along with outside counsel Pedro Pablo Gutiérrez. So, too, were the financial and administrative teams both in San Francisco and Puerto Varas, including Debbie Ryker, Esther Li, and Luis Toro.

Similarly, many people contributed to producing this book. They include photographer Linde Waidhofer and her indispensable partner (and friend to Tompkins Conservation) Lito Tejada-Flores, designer Jorge Sandoval, translator and copy editor Juan Pablo Orrego, proofreaders Mary Elder Jacobsen and Carlos Decap, production coordinator Ximena de la Macorra M. (who selflessly joined the editorial team at a crucial moment), bush pilot Rodrigo Noriega, photographers James Q. Martin and Jay Short, and collegues at the E. O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation. Our thanks go to all of the writers who contributed to the volume, including Edward O. Wilson, Michelle Bachelet, Kristine McDivitt Tompkins, Juan Pablo Letelier, Carolina Morgado, Ingrid Espinoza, Francisco Morandé, Ricardo Lagos, Maria Teresa Serra V., Sandra Lubarsky, Rodrigo Noriega, Dagoberto Guzmán Fuentes, David Rockefeller Jr., and Juan Pablo Orrego.

A pioneer of Chile's environmental movement, Juan Pablo Orrego's contributions to defending Chile's wild nature and rivers are legendary. We're grateful for his tireless advocacy and intellectual leadership, and also for his long friendship with Doug and Kris, and indispensable help on various Tompkins Conservation projects through the years, including the publishing program.

Ultimately, all of the people who have helped create and safeguard Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park—and to celebrate it through this volume—are part of a global national parks movement that offers hope for the future. If the profound challenges before humanity are to be met, it will be because people with a commitment to beauty, integrity, health, and wildness worked together to sustain wild places and creatures across the planet, and in doing so, saved ourselves.

Tom Butler

COLOPHON

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Linde Waidhofer, *Architecture*

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Michelle Bachelet
Kristine McDivitt Tompkins
Juan Pablo Letelier
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Tompkins Conservation, a publicly supported charity incorporated in California, works to create and expand national parks in Chile and Argentina. For more than a quarter century, Tompkins Conservation (and its antecedent foundations run by Kristine Tompkins and the late Douglas Tompkins) has developed innovative projects in South America that preserve wilderness, conserve biodiversity, protect imperiled species, and restore degraded ecosystems. Working in partnership with governments, fellow conservationists, and other funders, Tompkins Conservation has conserved more than 14 million acres of new terrestrial parklands and helped secure the first two marine national parks in Argentina's portfolio of marine protected areas.

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Park Milestones

1991–1994	Through his charitable foundation, The Conservation Land Trust, Douglas Tompkins buys several properties in Palena Province, representing the bulk of the land purchases for the future park; most of the acquisitions were from absentee owners.
1994	Kristine McDivitt and Doug Tompkins marry, and begin joint work developing and managing large conservation projects in Chile and Argentina.
1997	A "Basis for an Agreement" is signed with the Chilean Government, in which it was agreed to adopt different actions with the objective of creating Pumalín Park. This agreement included a process to regularize property titles, and to complete the necessary steps to grant property titles to settlers who did not have them.
2003	An agreement is signed with the government of President Ricardo Lagos, which establishes the technical and legal aspects to give viability to Pumalín Park.
2005	Pumalín receives official Nature Sanctuary status from the government of President Ricardo Lagos.
2007	The Conservation Land Trust donates its landholdings to the Chile-based Pumalín Foundation.
2008	Chaitén Volcano erupts, prompting evacuation of the town of Chaitén and causing major damage to park infrastructure.
2009–2014	Pumalín Park infrastructure is reconstructed, the El Amarillo community undergoes improvements, and a proposal for expanded national parks in Patagonia is developed.
2014	Douglas Tompkins presents a proposal for the Route of Patagonia Parks to the Interior and Environment Ministries, in La Moneda.
2015	Douglas Tompkins dies after a kayaking accident in Chilean Patagonia.
2017	Kristine Tompkins and President Bachelet sign a protocol agreement for Pumalín Park, the world's largest private nature reserve, to be donated to the State for a national park.
2018	Kristine Tompkins and president Bachelet sign the decrees for new national parks.
2018	The Comptroller General's Office gives final sanction to the Pumalín Douglas Tompkins National Park decree, and park administration is assumed by CONAF.