

This case study is one of several produced by the **CLARA** network to coincide with the publication of the IPCC Special Report on Land. We're showcasing **CLARA** member climate solutions which demonstrate the **rights-based, low-emission development pathways** needed for reducing emissions while **promoting livelihoods** and **ecosystem integrity**.

This case study is based on one of over 60 participatory assessments carried out with communities in 22 countries through the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI).

Chilean Chanlelfu community conserving biodiversity and ancestral culture in face of industrial forestry

Community calls for decentralised decision-making, self-determination and recognition of indigenous land rights

Organisations and individuals involved

Colectivo VientoSur

Eduardo Gisen

eduardo.giesen@gmail.com

Global Forest Coalition

Souparna Lahiri, Climate Campaigner and Advisor

souparna.lahiri@gmail.com

Location

The Chanlelfu community is located in the Araucanía Region of Chile, 26 km to the east of the city of Loncoche in the Cautín Province.



CAROLINA LAGOS FOR GFC/CCRI

CHANLELFU IS A PLACE of great historical, cultural and spiritual value for the Mapuche communities of the area. Two centuries ago during the invasion of the Chilean army into Mapuche territories in the so-called “Pacification of the Araucanía”, it was the place of last resort for the Mapuche resistance. Today, communities are impacted by a different invasion, the expansion of industrial pine and eucalyptus plantations, that threaten local biodiversity and places of cultural and spiritual importance.

The Mapuche Indigenous People of the Chanlelfu community practice diverse, traditional and small-scale agriculture, without using pesticides or other agrochemicals. They keep traditional species of bees, which are resistant to bee colony collapse disorder, and wild edible mushrooms are also collected in a way that facilitates spore distribution. The places where they gather herbs and medicinal plants (*‘menocos’* in Mapudungun, the Mapuche language) are protected by the communities, who take and propagate plant material for domestic use and to control gully erosion. They also focus on the importance of

agroecology and agricultural schools, and would like to establish their own educational centre. Priorities for the community include planting native trees and protecting riverbeds.

However, the traditional agricultural practices of the Chanlelfu community are currently hindered because of water shortages and pollution caused by the forestry industry. Pesticide contamination of the air and rivers and a dramatic decline in biodiversity are leading to imbalances in the native forest food chain. In response, the community must protect its soils, native forests, and cultural and ceremonial sites.

At the same time, the Mapuche of Chanlelfu are concerned about the loss of ancestral knowledge and discrimination against people speaking Mapudungun. The community also want their lands to be returned to them and land rights restored. They want decentralised decision-making, self-determination and self-government. They are calling for constitutional recognition of the Mapuche people and their language, and for education and schooling to be based on Mapuche values.

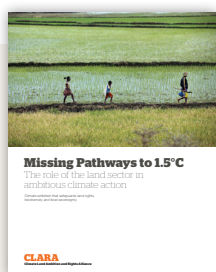
Testimony

Mauricio Caquilpan, Chanlelfu's Community Lonko (Chief)

"The forestry industry has not only affected our peace, because of the intense noise of the logging machinery, and the transportation trucks. It has also affected the amount of water in our rivers, it is polluting our sources of water, it is polluting our *menocos*, it is changing the balance of animals, plants, and mushrooms. In the past, it was very easy to find *changles* [an edible mushroom that grows under the canopy of native Patagonian oak trees], now they are very difficult to find."

'Missing Pathways' to climate action

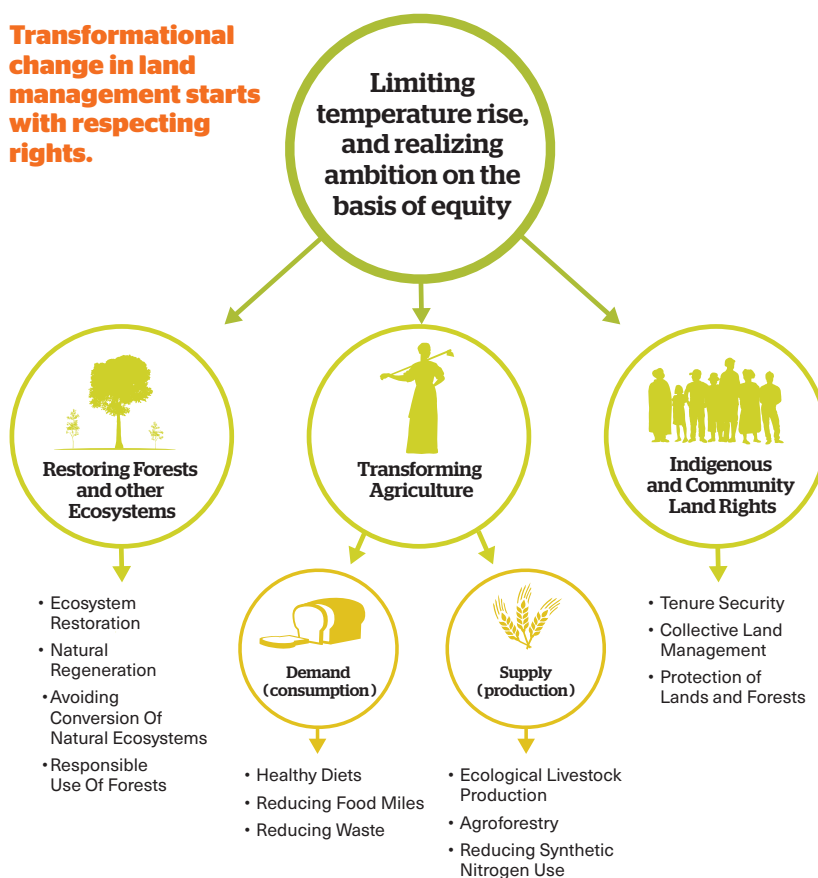
Last year, CLARA published the report 'Missing Pathways', identifying areas of global mitigation ambition rooted in land rights, restoration, agroecology, and food system change.



The climate actions that are needed to support the efforts of this community are...

first and foremost a recognition of their rights to use and be the stewards of the land and forests they ancestrally owned. Hand-in-hand with this is decentralised decision-making, so that the decisions over land use and conservation are community-led. The community also requires support for their transformative agricultural practices, based on an agroecological approach and emphasis on small-holder farming that increases climate resilience and food sovereignty, and protects biodiversity. In stark contrast, the support given to industrial forestry operations that threaten their way of life must end. Similar conclusions to the Chile CCRI assessment were drawn in CLARA's Missing Pathways report.

Transformational change in land management starts with respecting rights.



Contact CLARA

Media: Don Lehr (CLARA) / dblehr@cs.com / +1 917 304 4058

Network Coordination:

Peter Riggs (Pivot Point) peteriggspivotpoint@gmail.com / +1 360 426 0959

Twitter: @CLARA_Alliance