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2



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Editors in Chief

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EDITORS IN CHIEF

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CAPE HORN BIOSPHERE RESERVE

The Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve (CHBR) protects one of the world's most pristine ecoregions, the Magellanic subantarctic rain forests, at the southern end of the Americas (Rozzi et al. 2004). It includes the archipelagos south of Tierra del Fuego, and the fjords, ice fields, and glaciers on Darwin Cordillera, just 1,000 kilometers north of the Antarctic Peninsula. With five million hectares of marine (three million ha) and terrestrial (two million ha) ecosystems, it is the largest biosphere reserve in southern South America. The CHBR has at least three attributes that are relevant to environmental philosophers.

First, its creation in 2005 resulted from a six-year collaborative effort between the regional government and an interdisciplinary team of ecologists, artists, and humanists led by the Chilean philosopher and ecologist Ricardo Rozzi. The creation of the CHBR involved ten guiding principles, which can be adapted for interdisciplinary research and conservation work in other regions:

1. interinstitutional cooperation,
2. a participatory approach,
3. an interdisciplinary integration of environmental philosophy, sciences, arts, and policy,
4. networking and international partnership,
5. communication through the media,
6. identification of flagship species,
7. "direct encounters" with human and nonhuman beings living in their habitats,
8. economic sustainability and ecotourism,
9. territorial planning and administrative sustainability,
10. "conceptual sustainability" based on continuous long-term *in situ* research (Rozzi et al. 2006).

Second, the Research, Education, and Conservation Center of the CHBR is in the Omora Ethnobotanical Park. In 1999 Omora Park inaugurated a program in field environmental philosophy and biocultural conservation that integrates comparative ethnecology, ecotourism, and environmental ethics. In 2004 this program was further projected through a partnership with the Department of

Philosophy and Religion Studies at the University of North Texas (University of North Texas 2008).

Third, the CHBR is located in a remote region of the Americas, only 1,000 kilometers north of Antarctica. With its location at the end of the continent, it is home to a uniquely rich biological and cultural diversity (Callicott et al. 2006). For example, more than 5 percent of the world's species of mosses and lichens are found here in less than 0.01 percent of the earth's land surface. This high diversity of small flora was critical in making the case to UNESCO representatives for the establishment of the CHBR. Lichens and mosses, although very small organisms in comparison to charismatic megafloora and megafauna, can play important roles in promoting conservation when their ecological and aesthetic values are understood by the general public and by policy makers (Rozzi et al. 2008). Such a shift in the "cognitive lenses," which allows a keener assessment and greater appreciation of biodiversity, has both scientific and philosophical value.

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Ricardo Rozzi

developing countries by 2015, to achieve universal primary education in all countries by 2015, to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by

2005, to help countries implement a national strategy for sustainable development by 2005, and to reverse current trends in the loss of environmental resources by 2015.