

COORDINADORA SOCIO AMBIENTAL BIOBÍO



Brief Report on Existing Social, Environmental, and Territorial Conflicts in the Province of Biobío

**Chile
2025**

I.- Introduction

The people living in the Province of Biobío are losing their traditions and customs in a disconcerting way due to the lack of effective laws and regulations aligned with the guiding principles on business and human rights.

It is distressing to see entire farming families being displaced to urban areas, further contributing to the collapse of cities that are already overwhelmed. The increase in energy, agro-industrial, forestry, and mining projects is causing a loss of land, and there has also been a significant reduction in access to drinking water in semi-rural and rural areas. Over the past seven years, a social movement has emerged to protect the province's ecosystem—its forests, mountains, rivers, lakes, and inhabitants. We have succeeded in coordinating efforts across the 14 municipalities, which are:

Antuco 4.073	Alto Biobío 5.923	Tucapel 14.134	Quilaco 4.379	Quilleco 9.587	Yumbel, 20.948	Santa Barbara 14.551
Mulchén 31.122	Los Ángeles 223.751	Negrete 10.574	Nacimiento, 26.315	Cabrero, 28.287	Laja 23.921	San Rosendo 3.918

We will provide context for the situation in the province based on the information gathered about the current state of its territories.

II.-This document offers a brief summary of this reality, which includes a diversity of cultures, communities, and individuals.

1.- Commune of Tucapel

a) Characteristics:

The commune of Tucapel is geographically located in the pre-Andean mountains of the Biobío Province. It has various bodies of water, primarily the Huépil and Laja rivers, which provide this vital resource to its inhabitants. The area also features ancient native forests and the beautiful Biological Corridor, where remote areas allow for sightings of the huemul (South Andean deer). The commune is composed of four towns: Polcura, Trupán, Huépil, and Tucapel, with Huépil serving as the civic center. It has family health services, a basic emergency hospital, primary and technical secondary schools, theaters, subsidized private transportation, supermarkets, a fuel station, and police stations (Carabineros).

b) Economy:

The local economy is driven primarily by Chile's large forestry companies, followed by the agro-industrial sector, public employment, family farming, local trade, export-oriented commerce, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Unfortunately, the cost of having forestry as the main economic force includes the recurring risk of wildfires, droughts, and the loss of usable land, which becomes overexploited and degraded after harvesting cycles. This has also led to a noticeable depletion of underground water reserves, requiring the supply of water to rural areas via water trucks. Additionally, the agro-industrial sector repeatedly causes episodes of air and water pollution, which has contaminated aquifers that once supplied rural drinking water systems (APR

- Aguas Potables Rurales). This has caused a serious conflict in the commune, as the companies—often of international origin from EU member states—justify themselves by claiming they are job creators, while failing to effectively implement preventive programs to avoid these pollution events.

On the other hand, the development of a circular economy is being undermined by the arrival of stores selling mass-produced, low-quality imported goods, which hampers the growth of local artisans and small retailers. The construction sector is broad and well-executed, providing some degree of economic stability; however, many workers must leave for extended periods to work on distant job sites.

c) Social:

As mentioned at the end of the previous paragraph, the fact that heads of households must leave for several weeks at a time often leads to emotional detachment within families, contributing to various mental health issues. This is reflected in the recurring cases of suicide reported in the commune, along with high rates of drug use and rising crime. The lack of effective prevention and reintegration programs is evident, resulting in school or job dropouts in some cases. Furthermore, although the commune has primary healthcare services, access to specialist care is never timely, leading to prolonged illnesses and medical leaves that ultimately result in job dismissals, resignations, or even deaths. Energy, forestry, agro-industrial, and river aggregate extraction projects are triggering a water crisis that could soon lead to severe water scarcity. River contamination may provoke a mass exodus toward large cities, which would lead to housing, food, water, health, and security crises.

d) Culture:

Cultural development in the commune is undefined. Although local traditions are still present, they are not clearly tied to a particular area, leading to a loss of identity in urban zones. The municipality does not prioritize the implementation of programs that promote the arts and sports, nor does it support traditional rural customs. These traditions are instead sustained and funded by civil and religious organizations or by the very companies that are contributing to the loss of identity, public health issues, and the breakdown of the circular economy.

2.-Commune of Alto Biobío

a) Characteristics:

Geographically located in the Andes Mountains of the Biobío Region, the commune covers a large territory inhabited by Pewenche communities who strive to protect their traditions and worldview. Its main water bodies are the Queuco and Biobío rivers, as well as a number of mountain-born rivers and high-altitude lagoons, in addition to the imposing Callaqui Volcano. The commune has basic family health services, schools, a fire department, small businesses, a police station, and a museum.

b) Economy:

The local economy is mainly Pewenche and rural, based on livestock farming, family agriculture, pine nut harvesting, and handicrafts. A small-scale tourism sector is also emerging. However, geopolitical isolation hinders the development of the local economy.

c) Social:

Social development is centered around programs managed by the municipality and various organizations. These are aimed primarily at the mostly Pewenche population. The municipality promotes programs for community participation, cultural heritage protection, and local economic development. However, these measures often do not address the real needs of the communities. Territorial and cultural conflicts caused by the dispossession experienced during the so-called “Pacification” (military actions carried out by the Chilean state aimed at eradicating the Mapuche people), which has lasted for centuries, have not been recognized by the Chilean State. Consequently, there have been no policies that truly respond to the demands of the Mapuche Pewenche people, who have lived in this territory since the existence of the *pewen* (monkey puzzle tree), centuries before colonization.

d) Culture:

The Pewenche culture predominates in the commune. It is reflected in handmade weaving and textiles, extensive silversmithing, and, to a lesser extent, leatherwork. Traditional Mapuche Pewenche medicine is practiced by the *Machi*, who serves as the spiritual and earthly intermediary. They gather *lawen* (medicinal plants) in the forests and along rivers. Sadly, the Biobío River has suffered severe alterations due to hydroelectric power plants, causing irreparable damage to the territory and the spirituality of its inhabitants, whose lives and rituals are intimately connected to the river and its banks. The Mapuche worldview teaches that biodiversity and symbiosis must be conducted harmoniously and with respect—principles that have not been followed. Hydroelectric plants such as Ralco, Angostura, Longopangue, and the largest currently under construction, Rucalhue, have caused the loss of cultural, social, and economic development among the communities. These activities have their own identity and are not reflected in international development indicators. Discrimination remains present, invalidating and discrediting the Pewenche and their cultural practices.

3.-Commune of Antuco

a) Characteristics:

A small commune geographically located in the Andes of the Biobío Region, Antuco is known for the imposing Antuco Volcano and the beautiful Laguna del Laja National Park. It has primary family health services, local commerce, one high school, and three rural schools (which help preserve rural life), a fire department, and a police station. Its two main rivers are the Rucue and the Laja. The Pichachén international pass attracts many tourists during the winter due to snowfall.

b) Economy:

The economy is mainly based on local commerce, public sector jobs, and tourism. Tourist arrivals have quintupled in recent seasons. The commune offers cabins, restaurants, family-run hotels, and adventure tourism, all of which are being promoted by the municipality. Two hydroelectric plants are currently operational—Central El Toro and Central Antuco—though they generate minimal employment. Central Abanico is currently out of service. These plants, along with glacial melt from the Sierra Velluda Glacier, have altered river flows, causing severe flooding during heavy rains in the high mountain areas. This affects labor conditions for farmers, ranchers, and those in tourism. Due to the climate crisis, water levels in Laguna del Laja drop significantly in summer and rise dramatically in winter due to excessive rainfall. Large agro-industrial companies have proposed projects that would significantly impact the

commune's tourism development. Fortunately, these have not moved forward. The same cannot be said for forestry companies, which in recent years have begun operating on mountain slopes (though to a lesser extent than in other communes of the province), planting monocultures of pine and eucalyptus. This has damaged the ecosystem's symbiosis, which local efforts aim to restore. Unfortunately, there has been no corporate accountability or resilience, only the implementation of administrative policies and regulations to protect the environment. Although poverty has decreased, it remains a concern due to the commune's geopolitical isolation.

c) Social and Cultural:

The commune has programs supporting women, minors, adolescents, and the elderly (the majority of residents are over 65). Events include the Winter Fair and various traditional fairs. The beautiful National Cueca Championship "Mártires de Antuco" is held annually to honor the young soldiers who died in the Antuco tragedy. Activities to preserve Mapuche culture, such as Trafkintu (knowledge exchange), are also organized.

The figure of the arriero (muleteer) has been elevated as a symbol of living heritage, in recognition of their historic and vital role.

Geographical isolation constantly threatens the commune's social development. There is an urgent need to improve roads and to secure appropriate funding for the construction of essential infrastructure—such as gyms to protect residents from winter rains and extreme cold, and from volcanic winds and intense sun in the summer—as well as community centers, cultural spaces, and social gathering places.

Due to lack of funding and isolation, some activities are occasionally suspended. The lack of a well-equipped, climate-adapted venue also hinders these efforts.

In recent years, climate resilience efforts have strengthened, highlighting the hard work of the park rangers at Laguna del Laja Park.

4.-Commune of San Rosendo

a) Characteristics:

San Rosendo is a small commune in the Province of Biobío, originally founded as a railway town. It is bordered by the Laja and Biobío rivers. The commune has a Family Health Center, fire department, schools, and a police station. Approximately 80% of its land is used for forestry.

b) Economy:

The main sources of income are commerce, microenterprises, and tourism. Unfortunately, more than 80% of the land is overexploited by the forestry industry, which generates no local employment and does not pay taxes in the commune. This has led to increased poverty due to soil degradation and the loss of small-scale family farming. Currently, there is an ongoing land dispute in an area known as *La Antena*, involving one of Chile's major forestry companies. This conflict is triggering a housing crisis in the commune and further impoverishing families in this rural area. Most men work in the northern regions of the country, which sometimes leads to emotional disconnection and stagnation in the local circular economy. There is also small-scale family farming and artisanal winemaking.

c) Social:

At present, the commune is experiencing a serious violation of housing rights. Residents of *La Antena* are being ordered to vacate their homes due to a reported risk of landslides (based on incomplete reports from government agencies SERNAGEOMIN and SERVIU). The eviction process has been unclear, lacking both permanent and provisional solutions, and has involved threats and intimidation. This has tragically led to the suicide of one resident. It's important to note that this community has lived there for over 50 years. Many are elderly and possess legal property deeds. The eviction process has been ineffective, with no state protection for those being displaced based on SERNAGEOMIN and SERVIU's findings. The situation is further aggravated by rising threats and repression. Several individuals have stated they are willing to take their own lives if evicted without a clear and permanent solution.

d) Cultural:

San Rosendo is a small commune full of festivities—a cheerful community that values social life. It is rich in culture and tradition, shaped by its railway and agricultural heritage. The commune has a unique and extensive network of cultural, historical, and heritage sites. There is strong artistic development in areas such as folklore, music, dance, muralism, mosaic art, and pottery, to name a few.

We denounce and explain this complex situation based on the wind power projects, as an example of the pattern repeated by companies in various initiatives to enter these territories, and how these entities neither promote nor respect what has been established._

III.- Why Are Industrial Wind Complexes—Wrongly Referred to as “Wind Farms”—Fragmented in the Biobío Region?

1.- In Chile's Biobío Region (Region VIII), there is a fragmented mega wind power project that aims to cover approximately 80,000 hectares of densely populated rural agricultural land across three different municipalities—Mulchén, Los Ángeles, and Laja—each with its own administrative jurisdiction. The project involves the installation of wind turbines as part of these so-called “wind farms,” which are more accurately described as industrial wind complexes. What makes this troubling situation particularly concerning is the involvement of the transnational company AES Chile (formerly AES Gener), which, in 2014, submitted three of its “wind farm” projects in a fragmented manner.

<https://www.cne.cl/wpcontent/uploads/2021/02/Instructivo-Criterios-de-Fraccionamiento.pdf>:

2.- Los Olmos in the municipality of Mulchén, and Mesamávida and Campo Lindo in Los Ángeles, were submitted using a simple Environmental Impact Declaration (DIA), without the corresponding studies, thereby bypassing the official systems for project admission: the Environmental Impact Assessment System (SEIA/SEA) and the Superintendency of the Environment (SMA)—government bodies responsible for safeguarding and protecting the environment, as established by Basic Law 19.300. Therefore, it is important to highlight a relevant precedent: a public official who worked in both of these government agencies until 2013 moved to the private sector in 2014, joining AES with full access to privileged

information on how the state systems operate and respond to energy projects—taking on a strategically influential role within the company.

<https://portal.sma.gob.cl/index.php/2012/06/01/juan-carlos-monckeberg-asume-como-superintendente-del-medio-ambiente/>

3.- Therefore, the aforementioned projects swiftly passed through the administrative evaluation process and obtained a favorable Environmental Qualification Resolution (RCA) in 2015, allowing them to move forward with execution. However, the company delayed construction for up to five years, as was the case with Mesamávida and Campo Lindo. Subsequently, it submitted two additional projects—“Don Álvaro” and “San Matías”—again using a simple Environmental Impact Declaration (DIA). As a result, the corresponding complaints were filed with the Superintendency of the Environment (SMA); however, to date, the agency has not taken action on these complaints. Meanwhile, AES submitted yet another project—this time an intercommunal one called “La Rinconada,” which spans two municipalities, Laja and Los Ángeles, and connects to the Campo substation. Therefore, with an Environmental Impact Study (EIA) now required due to previously unconsidered impacts, this project has not yet been able to obtain the Environmental Qualification Resolution (RCA).

<https://www.cne.cl/wpcontent/uploads/2021/02/Instructivo-Criterios-de-Fraccionamiento.pdf>:

<https://portal.sma.gob.cl/index.php/2012/06/01/juan-carlos-monckeberg-asume-como-superintendente-del-medio-ambiente/>

IV.- What is the SEIA?

1.- It is a preventive environmental management instrument, regulated by Law No. 19.300 on General Environmental Framework and its Regulations. It is defined as a procedure, managed by the Environmental Evaluation Service, which—based on an Environmental Impact Study (EIA) or Environmental Impact Declaration (DIA)—determines whether the environmental impact of an activity or project complies with current regulations. It has been in force in Chile since April 3, 1997. Currently, the procedure is processed electronically through the SEIA system. Projects listed in Article 10 of Law 19.300 and detailed in Article 4 of its Regulations are subject to the environmental impact assessment procedure. Modifications to these projects are also subject to evaluation, as long as they are deemed significant (according to Article 2, letter g of the Regulations).

2.- Projects or activities that generate significant impacts—i.e., effects, characteristics, or circumstances outlined in Article 11 of the Law and detailed in Articles 4 to 10 of the Regulations—must be submitted as **Environmental Impact Studies (EIA)**. All other projects are submitted as **Environmental Impact Declarations (DIA)**. The procedure is handled by the regional offices of the Environmental Evaluation Service (SEA), or by the Executive Directorate in the case of interregional projects

3.- **Environmental Impact Studies (EIA)** always include a **Public Participation Process (PAC)**, and when applicable, an **Indigenous Peoples Consultation Process (PCPI)** is also considered. The procedure for **Environmental Impact Declarations (DIA)** may include a PAC when it is requested by the public and granted by the regional offices of the Service or by the Executive Directorate, as the case may be.

4.- The classification of a project as approved, approved with conditions, or rejected is decided by the Environmental Evaluation Commissions for regional projects, and by the Executive Directorate of the Environmental Assessment Service (SEA) for interregional projects. The procedure concludes with an Environmental Qualification Resolution (RCA).

- a) If the RCA is favorable, upon approving a project, it certifies that all applicable environmental requirements are met, including any necessary mitigation, compensation, and remediation measures, as well as the criteria for subsequent monitoring of its commitments and oversight by the Superintendency of the Environment (SMA). Once a favorable RCA is obtained, no state agency may deny the subsequent relevant environmental authorizations.
- b) If, on the other hand, the RCA is unfavorable, the project cannot be carried out nor can it obtain environmental permits. The project owner or developer must comply with the conditions established in the RCA(s) throughout its construction, operation, and closure phases. It is important to note that projects which, according to Article 10 of Law No. 19.300, must be submitted to the SEIA, cannot be executed without first obtaining a favorable RCA. Executing them without one constitutes a violation punishable by the SMA.

5.- The SEIA is administered by the Environmental Assessment Service (SEA), whose main functions are to manage the Environmental Impact Assessment System (SEIA) and to promote and facilitate public participation in the evaluation of projects.

6.- Link of AES wind projects submitted to the SEIA, ordered chronologically by year of submission and RCA approval:

- a) **Los Olmos 2014-2015**
<https://seia.sea.gob.cl/busqueda/buscarProyectoAction.php?nombre=parque%20eolico%20los%20olmos>
- b) **Mesamávida 2014-2014**
<https://seia.sea.gob.cl/busqueda/buscarProyectoAction.php?nombre=parque%20eolico%20mesamavida>
- c) **Campo Lindo 2014- 2015**
<https://seia.sea.gob.cl/busqueda/buscarProyectoAction.php?nombre=parque%20eolico%20campo%20lindo%20>
- d) **San Matías 2020-2021**
<https://seia.sea.gob.cl/busqueda/buscarProyectoAction.php?nombre=parque%20eolico%20san%20matias>
- e) **Don Álvaro 2021-2023**
<https://seia.sea.gob.cl/busqueda/buscarProyectoAction.php?nombre=parque%20eolico%20don%20alvaro>
- f) **Rinconada 2021- En calificación**
<https://seia.sea.gob.cl/busqueda/buscarProyectoAction.php?nombre=parque%20eolico%20rinconada>
- g) **Denuncia Reportaje ingreso de proyectos al sistema y las afectaciones que están viviendo las comunidades**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1z6i4D9Xx3s&list=PLMF42b5bkAR890Tq62F3MT7Le_q9aP8P1&index=1

7.- The prohibition on splitting projects is regulated in Article 11 bis of Law No. 19,300, introduced by the 2010 reform, which establishes that: "Proponents may not knowingly split their projects or activities for the purpose of changing the assessment instrument or circumventing entry into the Environmental Impact Assessment System. The Superintendency of the Environment shall be responsible for determining violations of this obligation and requiring the proponent, following a report from the Environmental Assessment Service, to properly enter the system. The provisions of the preceding paragraph shall not apply when the proponent proves that the project or activity is one that will be carried out in stages."

8.- First, it should be noted that dividing (splitting) a project/activity into different projects is illegal when the purpose of such a decision is to circumvent the Environmental Impact Assessment System, which occurs in the following scenarios:

- a) The entry route is being changed, i.e., a project that should be submitted through an Environmental Impact Study is submitted for evaluation through two or more Environmental Impact Statements.
- b) It should be noted that this form of circumvention of the SEIA has significant consequences, particularly in relation to citizen participation, since citizen participation is not mandatory in the case of DIA submissions, and this is often the objective sought in energy projects that are usually strongly rejected by the population, such as wind farms.
- c) Entry into the SEIA is avoided; therefore, the project will not be environmentally assessed. This occurs when the overall project is divided into different "micro-projects" that do not meet the entry requirements established in Article 10 of the LBGMA. In this case, we would have a project or activity that is completely outside the scope of the SEIA.

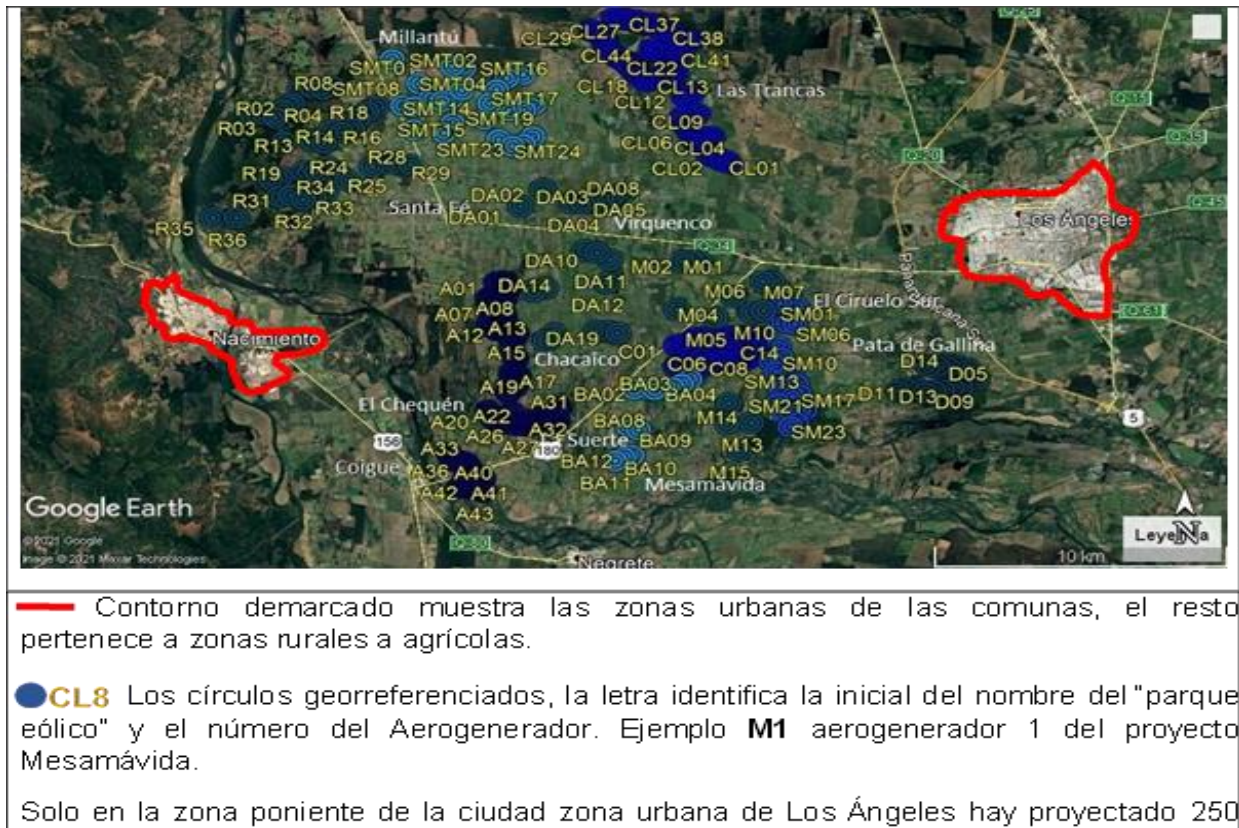
9.- In this case, the parent and controlling company AES GENER S.A. has sought to vary the environmental assessment instrument applicable to its business activity, since the four projects identified in Section II above have the following characteristics that give them functional, economic, technical, temporal, and territorial unity:

- a. They are located in the same geographical territory.
- b. The four projects have been modified by the companies listed as owners in the SEIA entry for each project, and these modifications have not been subject to the corresponding environmental assessment.
- c. They have an interaction or infrastructure link in the distribution of the electrical energy they seek to generate.
- d. There is a functional unity between all the parts, works, or actions of the three projects, which together are intended for the same economic and productive purpose: the generation of electricity through wind turbines.
- e. The defendants seek to build the four projects in the same time period, so that they begin operating simultaneously or at least within a similar time frame.
- f. The four projects are geographically contiguous, allowing for convenient operation and administration.

- g. The four projects will be linked in terms of the transmission lines for the electricity they generate, all of which will flow into the same run-of-river power plant.
- h. The owners of the four wind projects are companies that form part of a pyramid-shaped corporate structure, with an intermediate company (NORGENER RENOVABLES S.p.A) that is the sole shareholder and owner of the companies that own each of the four projects in question and, in turn, the sole owner of NORGENER RENOVABLES S.p. A. is the parent company AES GENER S.p.A., as we will explain in the following section.

From a subjective point of view, it is clear that the parent company AES GENER S.A. and its four subsidiaries are certainly aware that the splitting of projects is an illegal form of environmental circumvention, and they could not fail to be aware of this, as they have sufficient technical and legal assistance to be aware of this express legal prohibition contained in Article 11 Bis of Law No. 19300.

10.- This leads us to the only possible conclusion that can be drawn from the objective facts presented by the defendants: All of them—the parent company and its subsidiaries - certainly knew and were aware that by submitting the four projects in a fragmented manner through simple Environmental Declarations, it would be easier and faster for them to obtain the corresponding Environmental Qualification Resolutions than to opt for an Environmental Impact Study, which would impose environmental requirements, conditions, and mitigations that they clearly could not meet given the enormous impact that this wind megaproject will have. Something is undoubtedly happening in our Biobío region, as we already have “wind farms” in operation in areas of this type (rural agricultural areas), and the effects and alterations that people suffer on a daily basis in their quality of life can be seen in the projects that are already in operation (Mulchén, Negrete, Los Ángeles). Therefore, we citizens view with great concern and confusion how more energy projects continue to be submitted to the SEIA.



11.- We can refer, for example, to the municipality of Los Ángeles, which has a tiny population and urban area, as opposed to the territory covered by the western zone (rural population), where 10 "wind farms" are planned, meaning more than 250 wind turbines, six of which belong to the AES company. It is terrifying how they are transforming a productive region, the use of water and agricultural land, into a region of large-scale industrial energy production. We are becoming an Environmental Sacrifice Zone (a concrete garden). Unfortunately, this pattern is repeated in many communities in our country with other companies such as WPD, Engie, Acciona, CMPC, Consorcio Eólico, StatKratf, Enel, Cielo Wind Maiesntrean, Forestal Arauco, etc.

12.- *Why do the State, governments, national and transnational companies operating in our country forget, ignore, and/or simply not care about promoting and complying with the United Nations GUIDING PRINCIPLES on Human Rights and BUSINESS and the SDGs?*

Why does the German company WPD have so many guarantees for developing its energy projects in rural areas?

"WPD Chile is a company founded in Bremen, Germany. We began operations in Chile in 2009 with the aim of developing and operating sustainable wind farms that integrate the socio-environmental and economic aspects of the territory, thus enabling conscious management in our relationship and communication with the environment. The knowledge acquired from the WPD group has been essential and has allowed us to offer the highest quality standards and to act in an agile, comprehensive, professional, and effective manner in the development of local projects. In addition, we have distinguished ourselves by maintaining ongoing relationships with the communities where our projects are located, acting responsibly toward the environment. This is our line of business, and as a company we are focused on continuing to develop wind

projects that contribute to the country's energy matrix and the surrounding communities. As WPD Chile, we adhere to the Chilean government's Energy 2050 policy, we are an active member of the Chilean Renewable Energy Association (ACERA), we belong to the Chilean-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CAMCHAL), and we are partners of Acción Empresas”.

This is what the company states and promotes on its official website; however, it does not distinguish itself through “territorial relations and responsibility for the environment.” There are complaints and lawsuits filed by communities that have been abruptly invaded and violated by its projects, which install wind turbines less than 300 meters from homes, without complying with any of the German regulations referenced in its projects. In our region, they have two wind farms in operation, Negrete and Los Ángeles, which entered the SEA (Environmental Impact Assessment) system with a simple EIS (Environmental Impact Statement), meaning that there are no thorough and real anthropological or environmental studies.

https://seia.sea.gob.cl/expediente/ficha/fichaPrincipal.php?modo=normal&id_expediente=2128951039

13.- Both projects obtained RCA Environmental Qualification Resolutions without the corresponding permits for negative easements, high-voltage power lines, and underground cables crossing rural properties. They also do not have final project approval, among other things, and they modify the project as such. We detail this in the document Why are there Industrial Wind Complexes, misnamed “Wind Farms,” divided into sections in the Biobío region?. The company violates essential rights: “The right to live in an environment free from pollution, including the preservation of nature, the protection of environmental heritage, and the conservation of cultural heritage.” Development cannot go hand in hand with the destruction of the ecosystems with which we coexist and our quality of life. The Energy Transition is not being developed fairly, seeking a harmonious balance, with thorough studies over a period of time and scope appropriate to each context, without transcribing reference “models” that do not resemble the different territorial realities. The use and quality of the soil must be respected. Projects cannot be developed in inhabited areas, but why have these situations been overlooked?. Here, too, there is the key figure of a public official, the former Seremi of Energy for Biobío, who was involved with this company. As he was involved in the implementation of these and other projects, he placed special emphasis on downplaying the complaints, delegitimizing the visibility of this aberrant environmental problem, and dedicated himself to promoting the development of energy projects, with great interest in establishing production alliances for Green Hydrogen, arguing that everything was going well without recognizing the violations against the affected communities.

14.- Links are shared with background information on how this former SEREMI moved from the public sector with privileged information (influence peddling) to the private sector, positioning WPD in the promotion of green hydrogen in our country to transnational companies and investors.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ff4u9dr-0gs&list=PLMF42b5bkAR890Tq62F3MT7Le_q9aP8P1&index=21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0X4tbn3F0K8&list=PLMF42b5bkAR890Tq62F3MT7Le_q9aP8P1&index=20

<https://amp.df.cl/empresas/banca-instituciones-financieras/bancos-europeos-y-firma-alemana-viajan-a-chile-para-evaluar-avances-ante>

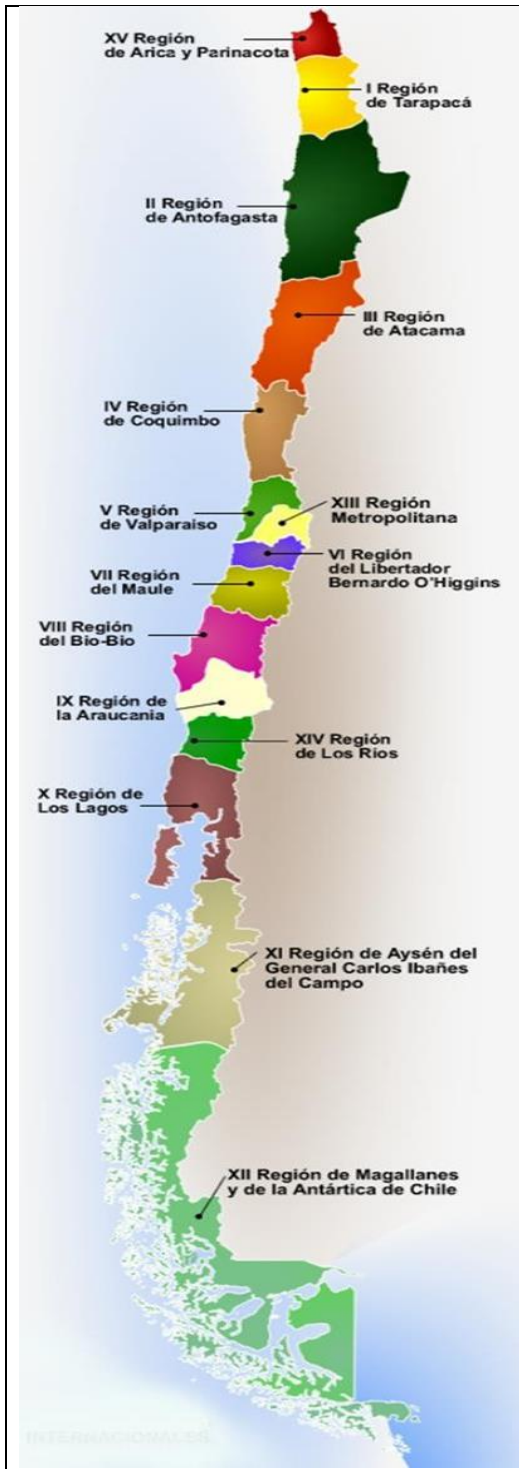
https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1037917901081615&id=100045097923984&sfnsn=wa&mibextid=VhDh1V

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02iZia4V2y5qZ26q1pWeYZ8bhTT5pCeD6PbinEJ9zee6faDPUVTYBLY8CAkUJyKWutl&id=259669794235304&sfnsn=wa&mibextid=VhDh1V

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/tPeXh5bbS6vTjMpe/>

V.- Biobío Provincial Analysis and Report

1.- Geopolitical characteristics



- a) Chile is a long, narrow country stretching along the western edge of South America, with more than 6,000 km of coastline on the Pacific Ocean. As such, the territory has a diverse climate that allows for the development of varied and unique ecosystems in the country, with an ancestral wealth of indigenous peoples in the territories, grouped and divided into regions according to the characteristics of each human settlement.
- b) The Biobío Region is the third most populated in the country, with an area of 24,021 square kilometers, representing 3.2 percent of the national territory. According to the 2017 Census, the population reached 1,556,805 inhabitants and a density of 64.8 inhabitants per square kilometer.
- c) From a climatic point of view, the region marks the transition between the dry temperate climates of central Chile and the rainy temperate climates that develop immediately south of the Biobío River. It is of great importance in terms of the wide variety of native species: on the one hand, both in the upper section of the Biobío River and in the Nahuelbuta Mountain Range, there is the Araucaria forest, which is usually associated with species such as coigüe (*Nothofagus dombeyi*), lenga (*Nothofagus pumilio*), and ñirre (*Nothofagus antártica*). In addition, in Nahuelbuta itself, you can see species of typical national fauna and birdlife, such as the pudú (*Pudu puda*), the chucao (*Scelorchilus rubecula*), the black woodpecker (*Campephilus magellanicus*), the pitío (*Colaptes pitius*), the Darwin or Chilote fox (*Lycalopex fulvipes*), and the puma (*Puma concolor*).
- d) From an administrative point of view, the region is made up of the provinces of Concepción, Biobío, and Arauco. It also includes 33 municipalities: Florida, Penco, Tomé, Talcahuano, Hualpén, Chiguayante, Concepción, Hualqui, Santa Juana, San Pedro de la Paz, Coronel, Lota, Arauco, Cañete, Contulmo, Curanilahue, Lebu, Los Álamos, Tirúa, Los Ángeles, Cabrero, Tucapel, Antuco, Quilleco, Santa Bárbara, Quilaco, Mulchén, Negrete, Nacimiento, Laja, San Rosendo, Alto Biobío, and Yumbel.
- e) Likewise, Biobío is home to important economic activities such as steel manufacturing, traditional agriculture, the cellulose industry, various forestry activities, energy generation, tourism, ecotourism, and fishing, among others.

2.- Provincial Analysis

- a) With regard to the province of Biobío, we would like to highlight the complicated situation it is currently experiencing due to the extractivism affecting the region. The excessive installation of wind farms without current regulations and without an institutional framework to effectively monitor them has destroyed the development of family farming and led to an exodus to the city, collapsing services, housing land, and commercial spaces.
- b) Let us consider that Chile has promoted decarbonization and has promoted this type of “clean” energy, which has ultimately proven to be too costly. Our organization, together with neighbors and rural organizations, has worked on technical reports that demonstrate the urgency of effective legislation for the implementation of a law, but the personal interests of politicians involved in leasing land to these energy companies have hindered progress, as has the failure to submit the technical report prepared in conjunction with the provincial delegation of Biobío.
- c) The situation of rivers in the province of Biobío has changed significantly following the construction of hydroelectric power plants and run-of-river power plants. These hydroelectric power plants have altered the natural river regime and generated environmental and social impacts, such as the alteration of the hydrological regime, which has affected the dynamics of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, the alteration of water quality, the loss of biodiversity and the impact on natural habitats, the relocation of indigenous communities, and the impact on traditional economic activities.
- d) It faces a complex situation in terms of evictions, since although these are spaces that have been occupied for generations, human and indigenous rights are being violated. These cases show that the eviction situation in the province of Biobío is critical and requires urgent attention from the authorities to find solutions that respect the rights of those affected.
- e) The situation regarding human rights violations and lack of resilience is distressing, and the processing of the Sectoral Permits Law in Congress paints a bleaker picture for the region and southern Chile.

VI.- Applications

- 1.- We recommend that the Committee request a report from the Chilean State justifying the situation of the extensive Constitutional State of Emergency in the Southern Macrozone of Chile, initially established by Supreme Decree No. 189 of 2022 and currently established by Decree No. 156 of 2025.
- 2.- We recommend that the Committee analyze the incompatibility of the Draft Framework Law on Sectoral Authorizations Bulletin No. 16566-03 with the current Framework Law on Climate Change No. 21455.
- 3.- We recommend that the Committee request information from the Undersecretary of Justice and Human Rights regarding progress made in relation to the Agreement on Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights.
- 4.- We recommend that the Committee request information from the Ministries of Economy, Mining, Environment, Agriculture, Energy, Social Development, Education, Culture, Health, Public Works, and Labor regarding the application, guarantee, and protection of ILO Convention 169, ratified by Decree No. 236 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2008, as the Mapuche communities have not been able to develop their economy and work due to various circumstances related to projects in the aforementioned areas or due to a lack of up-to-date and accurate information about the territories and their inhabitants.
- 5.- We recommend that the Committee request information from InvestChile, the Central Bank, and Global Compact Chile regarding studies, analyses, repair, and resilience in the territories where foreign investment projects governed by FTAs are located, from the following countries: China, Germany, Denmark, Italy, the US, Canada, Norway, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, Israel, and Argentina.

The following regional organizations in the province of Biobío send their warmest regards.

Malen Leubu/ Alto Biobío
Comité Ambiental Comunal Tucapel/ Tucapel
Comunidad El Ciruelo Sur/ Los Ángeles
Comunidad El Agro/ Negrete
Agrupación cultural y artística Agua Dulce/ San Rosendo
Antuko Resiste/ Antuco

COORDINADORA SOCIO AMBIENTAL BIOBÍO

Chile, Biobío Province, August 7, 2025