

MILLENNIUM NUCLEUS OF APPLIED HISTORICAL ECOLOGY FOR ARID FORESTS, AFOREST

Impact Area: Social sciences and natural sciences and humanities
Speciality: Anthropology, paleo-socioecology; phylogeography and ecology

The Millennium Nucleus of Applied Historical Ecology for Arid Forests, AFOREST (For the acronym in Spanish), seeks to attract attention and knowledge to a relevant but undervalued ecosystem: the forests of the Atacama desert. Considering a deep temporal scale and a multidisciplinary perspective, it will bring together academia, citizens, and public policies to promote sustainable management of these arid forests in a critical state of conservation threatened by water scarcity, illegal logging, and low regeneration of endemic species.

Historical Ecology emphasizes human agency in constructing landscapes, reading them as a text or palimpsest created by natural and cultural agents. It is based on a series of files, registries, and proxies combined and assembled to determine its characteristics and changes over time. The study of the interaction between humans and the forests of the Atacama desert from 13,000 years ago would allow us to propose that the conservation of these forests must include humans, not exclude them.

The results of AFOREST will be an unprecedented advance, being the first interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary study to systematically focus on these arid forests and their inhabitants on a millennial scale. The narrative built from the social and natural sciences and the local communities will allow us to generate informed management strategies and consider variables little explored until now.

Research Lines:

- Structure and dynamics of arid forests on a millennial scale.
- Traditional ecological knowledge on forest management and perception.
- Phylogeography of tree species in the Atacama desert.
- Characterization of current forest ecology and its associated richness
- Participatory Monitoring of Forests with communities and local institutions.



Millennium Nucleus

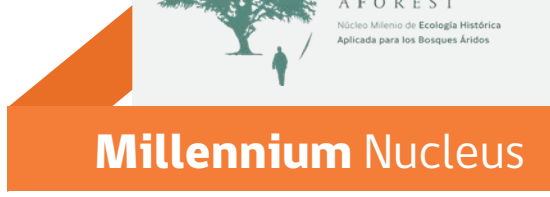


>> PUBLICATION PRODUCTIVITY:

Recently awarded Millennium Nucleus, no publications have been reported

*Data updated by Millennium Centers to June 2023





>> CONTACT INFORMATION:

Director:
Virginia McRostie

Deputy Director:
Francisca Díaz

Contact email:
contacto@aforest.cl

aforest.cl



>> RESEARCHERS:

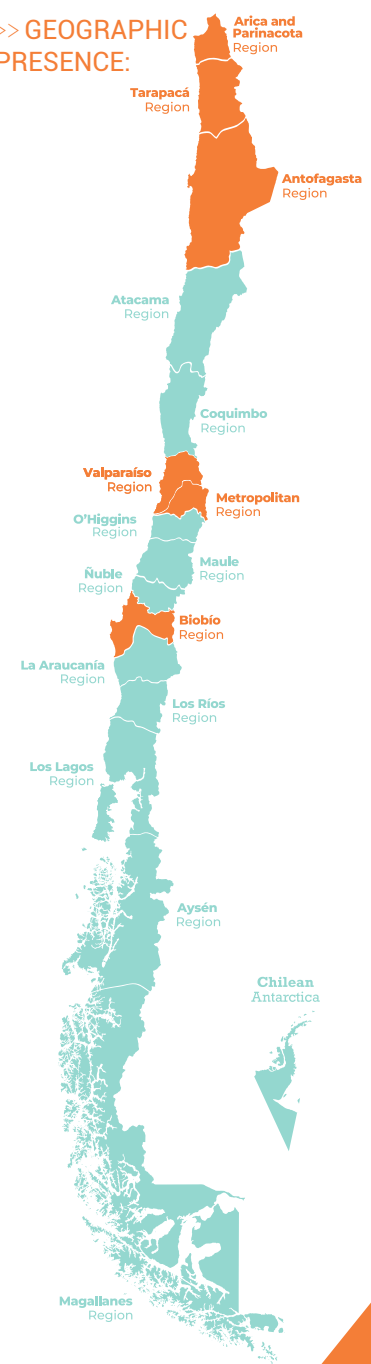
Main researchers:
Consuelo Biskupovic, Alejandra Vidal, Felipe Carevic, Calogero Santoro, Magdalena García, Matías Frugone.

Assistant Researchers:
Roberto Contreras, Claudio Latorre, Mauricio Uribe, Patricio de Souza, Soledad González, Roberto Chávez, Eugenia Gayó.

Junior Researchers:
José Francisco Blanco.

Senior Researchers:
Cecilia Bessegga, Renee Fortunato, Aylen Capparelli, Norma Ratto, Eliana Belmonte, Francisco Gallardo, Carole Crumley, David Beresford Jones.

>> GEOGRAPHIC PRESENCE:



>> MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Recently awarded Millennium Nucleus, no major achievements have been reported.



>> OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:

- Recently awarded Millennium Nucleus, no outreach activities have been reported.

Information updated to June 2023