During my excursions in the South during those years . . .
I was struck by landscapes of exceptional beauty, and on more than one occasion I put forward the idea that the Nation should retain ownership of a few of them for the greater benefit of present and future generations, following the example of the United States and other nations that possess superb national parks.

—Francisco “Perito” Moreno

PERITO MORENO NATIONAL PARK

The Conservation Land Trust
The Conservation Land Trust (CLT) is a nonprofit private operating foundation headquartered in California, whose mission is to create and expand national parks in Chile and Argentina. Since its founding in 1992, CLT has developed innovative projects to help conserve the remarkable biodiversity, scenic beauty, cultural heritage, and wilderness values of the Andes and Patagonia. CLT’s projects include the world’s first national park in Chile—Laguna Almenara National Park—and the world’s largest national park—Parque Nacional Patagonia Norte. CLT’s projects are supported by contributions from private citizens, corporations, philanthropists, and governments.

Antonio Vizcaíno
Antonio Vizcaíno is a photographer of natural landscapes and an editor. In the last two decades, he has published 28 books of his photographs, including Agua (Water), Bosque (Forest), Montaña (Mountain), Wildlands Philanthropy, Parque Nacional Monte León (Monte León National Park), and México: Paisaje y espíritu (Mexico: Landscape and Spirit). In 2001, he embarked on the photographic expedition America Natural: Tierra del Fuego–Alaska, which focused on documenting the best-protected natural areas and communities throughout the Americas. Through his work, he has contributed to the preservation of biological diversity across the Americas.

Claudio Bertonatti, Adolfo Fabricio Del Castillo, Eduardo Ramilo, Alejandro Serret, Rafael Smart, Douglas Tompkins, Antonio Vizcaíno, Emily Wakild

PERITO MORENO NATIONAL PARK

Photography
Antonio Vizcaíno

Essay
Charlie Bertoni, Adolfo Fabricio Del Castillo, Eduardo Ramilo, Alejandro Serret, Rafael Smart, Douglas Tompkins, Antonio Vizcaíno, Emily Wakild

The Conservation Land Trust
The Conservation Land Trust (CLT), a nonprofit private operating foundation incorporated in California, works to create and expand national parks in Chile and Argentina. Since its founding in 1992, CLT has developed innovative projects in South America that preserve wilderness, conserve biodiversity, protect endangered species, and restore degraded ecosystems. CLT has conserved more than 1.6 million acres to date through partnerships with government agencies and other non-governmental organizations to establish multiple new protected areas.

In Perito Moreno National Park, photographer Antonio Vizcaíno captures the sublime beauty of this world-class protected area. Complementing his photographs are essays by experts on park history, the Park’s region, and Perito Moreno’s storied life and conservation legacy. Through his words and images, this book invites the reader to come closer, and to experience—through photos and text—the region’s wild spirit and allow for a greater understanding of its inhabitants. 

CELEBRATING PROGRESS: PANAMERICANA TRAVEL_Página_012

During my excursions in the South during those years . . .
I was struck by landscapes of exceptional beauty, and on more than one occasion I put forward the idea that the Nation should retain ownership of a few of them for the greater benefit of present and future generations, following the example of the United States and other nations that possess superb national parks.

—Francisco “Perito” Moreno

The Conservation Land Trust
The Conservation Land Trust (CLT), a nonprofit private operating foundation incorporated in California, works to create and expand national parks in Chile and Argentina. Since its founding in 1992, CLT has developed innovative projects in South America that preserve wilderness, conserve biodiversity, protect endangered species, and restore degraded ecosystems. CLT has conserved more than 1.6 million acres to date through partnerships with government agencies and other non-governmental organizations to establish multiple new protected areas.

In Perito Moreno National Park, photographer Antonio Vizcaíno captures the sublime beauty of this world-class protected area. Complementing his photographs are essays by experts on park history, the Park’s region, and Perito Moreno’s storied life and conservation legacy. Through his words and images, this book invites the reader to come closer, and to experience—through photos and text—the region’s wild spirit and allow for a greater understanding of its inhabitants.
PERITO MORENO
NATIONAL PARK
It is difficult to state briefly what ought to be understood by the expression “Patagonian Region” in its general characteristics. . . . Within its 300,000 square miles, the landscapes offer striking contrasts. To the east, from the sea, are seen coasts with smooth horizontal surfaces, with slight prominences between parallels 44° and 47°, caused by eruptive formations; a coast which is the cliff of the traditional table-land, streaked with grey, yellow and white bands, of dreary aspect, with perpendicular walls, and a scarcity of ports.

On the western side, the scenery is utterly different: a number of islands, with abrupt and wooded coasts, fringe the precipitous coast-line of the continent, which is indented by numerous fjords that penetrate to the very heart of the Cordillera . . . a coast similar to that of Norway, or, better still, to that of Alaska, with glaciers reaching down to the sea . . . and three-quarters of the mountains covered with ice and snow.

—Perito Moreno
DEDICATION

Francisco P. "Perito" Moreno
1852–1919

Pioneering naturalist, conservationist, and founder of Argentina’s national parks.
May his legacy continue to grow and flourish.
We forget that if defending the integrity of our native soil is a question of national honor, then it must also be a question of national honor to grant this soil its full value, and thus forestall the need of having to defend its integrity.

—Perito Moreno
Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.
Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees.
The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy.
—John Muir
At last, Patagonia! How often had I pictured in imagination, wishing with an intense longing to visit this solitary wilderness, resting far off in its primitive and desolate peace.

—William Henry Hudson
Despite all the hardships, I find it very pleasant to be able to give free rein to my thoughts and contemplate this majestic setting. Nothing impresses a traveler more than great wilderness; the stern Nature of these places fixes itself in my imagination, so that I will always count these moments among the most pleasant of my life.

—Perito Moreno
There is nothing in the world that is not mysterious.

—Jorge Luis Borges
This book celebrates one of the world’s great wild places, Perito Moreno National Park, a landscape of exceptional beauty and wildness. This volume also represents an ongoing effort to celebrate the very idea of national parks, both in Argentina and around the globe. Since the first parks were conceived and born in the latter part of the 19th century, virtually the whole world has followed the lead of the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and what was then Southern Rhodesia (today Zimbabwe), in creating national parks. Argentina and Chile were also early leaders in park protection. Argentina’s Nahuel Huapi National Park had its origins in a 1903 gift of land to the state by Francisco P. “Perito” Moreno himself, and the Chilean and Argentine national park systems were established in the 1920s and 1930s, respectively. Today, one can hardly visit a country anywhere that does not have national parks.

For conserving biodiversity, parks have been a godsend and a must, critical to the now roughly 12 percent of the land surface of the planet in some form of designated conservation status. National parks, the peak of the protected-area pyramid, total a much smaller figure, but conservationists on every inhabited continent are urging governments to designate new parks, and, in many cases, to elevate existing protected areas to national-park status. National parks (and in some countries, wilderness areas) are the gold standard of protected areas and usually represent a broad array of ecosystems within the nation and some of its most spectacular landscapes.

Along with celebrating the idea of national parks, this book gives readers a visually sumptuous photographic tour of one of Argentina’s most dramatic Patagonian parks, and for me, having visited almost all the parks in both Chile and Argentina over the last 50 years, a personal favorite. My interest in Perito Moreno National Park began in 1968 when I was on my way to a mountaineering expedition to climb a new route on Mount Fitz Roy with several climbing companions. We drove along Highway 40, which was then a rough dirt road but today is being paved in a piecemeal fashion and will within the next few years be completely paved, making access to the remote Perito Moreno park much easier and faster. As we traveled through the flat steppe we could look west and see the impressive Mount San Lorenzo and its formidable south face quite clearly from 60–70 miles away. For climbers, this was one of the most spectacular faces of all the Patagonian Andes, fabled already among elite alpinists who had heard of or perhaps even seen it. That year our focus was on Fitz Roy, a legend in its own right, and so we pressed on south to that adventure.

Not until 1991 did I return, with my close friends and climbing partners Yvon Chouinard and Rick Ridgeway; we hoped to get a close look at San Lorenzo’s massive south face quite clearly from 60–70 miles away. For climbers, this was one of the most spectacular faces of all the Patagonian Andes, fabled already among elite alpinists who had heard of or perhaps even seen it. That year our focus was on Fitz Roy, a legend in its own right, and so we pressed on south to that adventure.

Not until 1991 did I return, with my close friends and climbing partners Yvon Chouinard and Rick Ridgeway, we hoped to get a close look at San Lorenzo’s massive south face and were not disappointed. As we hiked in and spent some days in the Lacar Valley, we were rewarded with a stunning view of this 11,500-foot wall with its hanging glaciers periodically calving off cliffs of ice high up on the
face. As we watched repeated ice falls, some so large they swept across the entire face, we understood why no one had climbed onto the face itself, and only one expedition had come close to it. In 1988, famed Italian alpinist Camillo Ferrai and a crack team of young heston did an impressive route on the east ridge, where they got a bird’s-eye view of the south face just to the left of their climb.

Since then, there have been no successful attempts on the south face itself. Other climbers have looked at it and even made unsuccessful attempts, but no one has been high up on the great wall itself. It may remain unclimbed for a good while yet, and if and when it does get climbed, I certainly will make a sweeping bow to the successful team.

During that 1991 trip we met and were graciously hosted by René Negro, owner and operator of Estancia Lago Belgrano, which lies near the main entrance to the park. In subsequent years, my wife, Kris Tompkins, and I have become good friends with René, sharing several pleasant times together from Patagonia to Corrientes province, when René treated us at our home. (As we rounded the corner to see the first close-up views of San Lorenzo, which is mostly hidden from sight at first arrived to the park, I wondered how it was that the park had been created without the most spectacular area, the Lácteo Valley and its stunning view of San Lorenzo included. It was like having a Yosemite National Park without Yosemite Valley. Thinking about it all the way down the valley as we walked back to the road, I vowed to myself and to my companions that this missing piece of the park, where they got a bird’s-eye view of the south face just to the left of their climb, we had just camped for four days, would be acquired somehow to expand the park.

We had just camped for four days, would be acquired somehow to expand the park. From the moment I got back to civilization, I began doing research and started the process of acquiring Estancia Negro. From the moment I got back to civilization, I began doing research and started the process of acquiring Estancia Negro. I vowed to myself and to my companions that this missing piece of the park, where they got a bird’s-eye view of the south face just to the left of their climb, we had just camped for four days, would be acquired somehow to expand the park. Making this claim, the establishment of a new national park is a political act that is as much about the health of the planet and the Patagonia landscape in particular. May the park continue to grow in size and health as the years go by, a beacon of beauty and wildness under the wide Patagonia sky.

Conservationists on multiple continents are beginning to speak of a national-park renaissance, a new golden age for park creation and expansion. While cause for celebration by all who helped to add this crucial piece to Porto Moreno, it is but one example of a growing momentum for national parks in Argentina around and around the globe. The oldest and best-loved conservation tool, national parks provide a range of traditional values including beauty, solitude, and muscle-powered recreation. But today they are also seen as the anchors of systems of protected areas that sustain biodiversity and help mitigate climate change. Conservationists on multiple continents are beginning to speak of a national-park renaissance, a new golden age for park creation and expansion.

Unfortunately, this groundswell for more national parks is driven in large part by the extinction crisis, global climate change, and a long list of environmental threats. Already, we modern humans have overshot our only home’s carrying capacity. The planet’s land and oceans are way too small to keep feeling the voracious appetite of the techno-industrial growth economy that is eating our poor Mother Earth alive. We are recklessly upping the climate through deforestation and emission of pollutants beyond the limits of what nature can regenerate and recycle. The Human Project has run amuck; the planet must come under strong legal protection if we are to have hopes of a rich and beautiful home for future generations.

Many scientists now fear that we are nearing an irreversible tipping point, yet our political leaders worldwide are either ignorant of the depth of this crisis, or have no ethical grounds upon which to find immoral and unacceptable the human-induced extinction of species. Limitless economic growth is all that counts for these politicians, even as species after species disappears. Extinction is forever, yet we just keep cutting limbs after limbs off the Tree of Life. It is a pity that the deep, possibly irreversible ecological crisis is driving the quest for new parks, and not a much-needed ethical conversion from an anthropocentric to an ecocentric worldview, whereby we humans would consider ourselves a “plain member and citizen of the biotic community,” as the great conservationist Aldo Leopold proposed. Unless we learn to share the Earth with all the other creatures on the planet, our own days are numbered. For this reason—while showing the generosity to share—we need more national parks, and to expand also other kinds of protected areas in every country, to help stanch the bleeding of extinction. We need to teach our children that each person must pay his or her “rent” for living on the planet, and that means demanding of our governments to make biodiversity conservation a priority. The primary means to this end will be more protected areas and, of all, more national parks.

Let Porto Moreno National Park be a symbol of the effort to think systemically about the health of the planet and the Patagonia landscape in particular. May the park continue to grow in size and health as the years go by, a beacon of beauty and wildness under the wide Patagonia sky.
Writing about Perito Moreno National Park is a great challenge. Its importance and worth are, in every sense, monumental. To understand the implications of how this protected area will be managed in the future, it is necessary to know something of its history, current situation, and value to Argentina and to the world.

By way of introduction, we must note the park’s crucial roles in biodiversity conservation and the study of geological processes that took place in this region thousands of years ago. Also of great value are the material and spiritual legacies of the cultures that preceded us, whose artistic representations may be seen even today on the walls of rock shelters and caves. There is the emblematic value of the ruins of old estancias established in the region in the late 1800s (such as those of “Roble,” “La Oriental,” “El Rincón,” and “Lago Belgrano”), attesting to the various historical visions and uses of this territory. These are some of the aspects of the protected area that constitute its importance and distinguish it from other areas in Argentina’s national parks system.

In December of 1935, the national government created four commissions to explore the mountainous regions of the current provinces of Neuquén, Río Negro, Chubut, and Santa Cruz, with the objective of creating new national parks. The criteria for selecting the new protected areas emphasized natural features and scientific potential. To that end, in May of 1937, the then Argentinian president General Agustín P. Justo created by decree Perito Moreno National Park. The same decree also established Lanín, Los Alerces, and Los Glaciares national parks. A subsequent law in 1971 established the boundaries of Perito Moreno National Park. It was only in the 1970s that a trailer-like structure was installed at the park, and a staff of rangers was assigned on a semipermanent basis to an area considered inhospitable and remote.

The first ranger stations were constructed in the 1980s, assuring an effective presence for the National Parks Administration, with the mission of safeguarding the natural and cultural assets of the park. The experiences of these early pioneers in the prevailing harsh climate of the region gave Perito Moreno a reputation among rangers for being tough duty. Although current living conditions are not nearly as rugged as those experienced by the first rangers, this reputation endures.

Thanks to the work of those who preceded me as park supervisors and administrators, Perito Moreno National Park has been improving steadily in terms of infrastructure, equipment, and staff, although we are still far from reaching the optimal levels for protecting the park.

In 1999, an independent administrative unit was established for the park, which up until that point had been managed by the administrators of Los Glaciares National Park, which is located in the same province. This change in its administrative structure constituted a turning point in the effective management of the protected area.

Perito Moreno National Park and, more broadly, the Patagonia region are still undergoing significant changes, among which are:

- The former Estancia El Rincón’s recent transfer to the park.
- The approximately 17,000-acre property had been acquired by...
Mr. Douglas Tompkins, who later donated it to the Conservation Land Trust—Argentina, intending that it would ultimately be annexed by the park. This gift both augments the protected area and also facilitates access to the mythic peak of San Lorenzo, located in the adjacent provincial reserve of the same name.

• The paving of National Route 40, adjacent to the park, which will facilitate access and increase visitor numbers.
• The creation of new protected areas and the expansion of existing ones (Malvinas National Park, Interjurisdictional Marine Park Isla Pingüino, Patrolled Forests of Isla de Fraile Land National Park). There are also plans for the creation of new protected areas (Patagonia National Park), and the incorporation of a protected marine zone into Monte León National Park. These developments in sum will make Santa Cruz the province with the highest number of areas either nationally or interjurisdictionally protected.

These times bring new challenges. We must take stock of where we are now and align the conservation objectives of Perito Moreno National Park with the guidelines established by the park’s Institutional Management Plan, and also with local and regional needs and problem areas. This must be done in a way that contributes to the development of the neighboring communities and assures that they are the principal beneficiaries of the demand for environmental goods and services generated by the protected areas. And we must do this within an open and participatory management framework, providing increased opportunities for recreation and tourism while preserving the distinctive cultural identity of Patagonia.

The current situation provides an opportunity for generating collaborative development strategies for the region. These strategies must be based upon conserving natural and cultural resources, and they will need to rely on new models of environmental management and/or new legal frameworks. Because San Lorenzo Provincial Reserve and Perito Moreno National Park share a common border, there is an excellent opportunity to manage both protected areas as one integrated conservation unit. Of course, this must be done jointly with the provincial authorities, so as to coordinate efforts in terms of control and oversight, biodiversity monitoring, and the implementation of sustainable practices regarding resource utilization in areas where this is permitted. With regard to tourism, for example, it will be necessary to agree on limits to the number of visitors and the types of activities permitted, to protect the safety of the visitors and the quality of their experience while also minimizing visitor impact on the landscape.

The biggest challenge facing humanity in the immediate future will be satisfying the needs of the coming generations in a sustainable manner. To confront our current socio-environmental problems and transform the present era of environmental degradation, it will be necessary to develop strategies based on specific local factors, thereby achieving efficient use of natural resources within a framework of sustainable development. Transforming our present reality, however, is a complex task. It demands that we open our eyes to the current condition of the biosphere, to the changes that are occurring there, and to the opportunities that can and should be utilized to sustain the health of the planet and all the people who live on Earth.

In closing, I would like to offer a personal reflection. When I was invited by the Board of the National Parks Administration to assume the management of Perito Moreno National Park, I felt the enormous responsibility that comes with guiding the future of the protected area that bears the name of the person who spearheaded the creation of the National Parks of Argentina. It is a privilege to help protect a national park that is part of this rich heritage—which has become an icon because of its extreme geographical conditions, the experiences of the park rangers who have explored and studied it, and the descriptions and memories of its few, adventurous visitors. My gratitude goes out to all those who passed through and left their mark on Perito Moreno National Park, because it is they who have made this bastion of wilderness conservation what it is today.
PERITO MORENO NATIONAL PARK was established by law in 1937, at the same time as other large national parks of Andean Patagonia. However, whereas most of the others were rapidly implemented, it took several decades for the 300,000 acres of Perito Moreno to receive the adequate institutional presence and protection enjoyed by the park today.

A visitor, arriving for the first time at Perito Moreno in the late 1980s, felt a special sense of achievement, of being one of a chosen few, of being part of something mysterious. There was no permanent staff at that time, when the park was administered from Los Glaciares National Park, which then periodically sent out staff members for a visit. More was made of the park’s isolation, of the difficulties in getting there, of the severe climate, of the windy conditions, than of its environmental assets. An article published in a Buenos Aires newspaper at the time described it as “lonely, and of a coarse beauty.” This image created a different set of expectations in those who traveled to the park.

It was around that time that interest in and concern for the huemul, or south Andean deer (Hippocamelus bisulcus), contributed to a greater presence of national park staff at Perito Moreno, as well as of people linked to conservation programs. Six sightings of Andean deer by park rangers some years before had factored into the park being selected for the conservation initiatives begun in 1988 by Programa Huemul of Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina, then headed by Alejandro Serret. It was also around the same time (1991) that two rangers were for the first time assigned to the park on a permanent basis.

A visitor, after traveling west for the 50 miles separating the park from National Route 40, will first view a scene evocative of the African savanna with its herds of large herbivores. Then, after creating a few soft slopes, the sight of an enormous expanse of plains appears, where groups of guanacos (Lama guanaco) typically graze nonchalantly along the side of the road, while others may cross, unafraid, right in front of the visitor’s pickup truck. A little farther away, the choique, or Darwin’s rhea (Rhea pennata), appears in clusters that number as many as 50 or more individuals. These plains are covered with sub-Andean grasslands of enormous conservation value that span the whole eastern section of the park. Originally one large floodplain, the area was broken up and reformatted into distinct plains as a result of the advancing and melting of glaciers and their attendant flooding. These plains are crossed by the Biele River, which drains Lake Buenos Aires toward the South Atlantic, and contain various lagoons that make up the habitat having the greatest concentration and diversity of waterfowl in the park. This area is also home to marine fossils dating from the oceanic incursions that took place during the Tertiary Period.

To the west rise the slopes that signal the beginning of the slow transition from steppe to forest. Traveling west along the banks of lakes whose eastern shores border the grasslands, a visitor will experience a landscape dramatically shaped by glacial action through the ages. Steep mountains and a series of interlinked lakes bordered by wooded slopes combine to form an incomparable array of diverse and magnificent landscapes. Particularly striking are the varying colors of the glacier-fed waters. Rivers such as the Penitentes, San Lorenzo, and Lácteo, which...
Originate in the glacial valleys of nearby Mount Pinturas and Mount San Lorenzo, flow from the north into this series of lakes, which, from Lake Nansen, empty into the South Atlantic Ocean, and the only one that has reported salmonids. In all the other lakes and rivers, the absence of these endemic predators allows the native aquatic communities to maintain their pristine condition. It is amazing to see large schools of native fish, such as puyenes (Lepomis spp.), thriving in the lakes of the park. Nowadays, that is a very rare occurrence in Patagonian lakes. Let's hope that the downstream geography will always keep non-native fish out of these lakes, and that the human inclination to introduce salmonids where they don't already exist will not succeed in this basin.

The largest environmental changes in the area, however, resulted from forest clearance. The earliest signs of human habitation, in rock shelters and caves in the park, date back 9,700 years. It's possible these were used initially as temporary encampments, by groups of foragers or pions. The same advantages of the shelter they provided during hunting expeditions. Among the prehistoric habitation sites found in the park, archaeologists highlight Mount Casa de Piedra, located in the steppe zone just south of the Roble River, for its history of early occupation and for exhibiting the highest concentration of archaeological evidence. Tools of everyday use have been found there, as have fragments of guanaco and huemul skins, various vegetables, and rock paintings, all indicating prolonged domestic activity when people took advantage of the site's shelter and habitability. Studies indicate that people inhabited this place at two separate times: 4,600 years ago, and again 2,300 years ago.

This region, encompassing the Pinturas River and the central high plateau of Perito Moreno National Park, is known for its rock paintings. Archaeologists believe that this region was a center for the expression of "animalistic art," in which the guanaco was the predominant figure. Multiple scenes portray guanaco tracking, capture, and butting, reflecting the animal's crucial role in human subsistence in Patagonia. Second only to the guanaco in the paintings is the chupe. The huemul, in contrast, is very seldom depicted. Nevertheless, this, in Casa de Piedra some images of female huemuls have been identified among the guanacos in the rock paintings. This might suggest that at some point during the year the huemul and the guanaco—in spite of the differences in the food and habitat they require—shared this same zone of the park (that is, before domestic sheep took over the grasslands and sheepdogs put a stop to any attempts by the huemul to come down the slopes onto the sub-Andean grasslands).

This bucolic, scarce in the forest region and difficult to observe, is the emblematic species of Perito Moreno National Park. Among the major species present in the park, it is the most threatened on a national level. The huemul population in the park was the first in Argentina to be intensely studied, and it continues to be monitored under a specialized program. But the sub-Andean grasslands of the park are also home to the most charismatic herbivores of the steppe, the guanaco and the chupe. In the grasslands surrounding Casa de Piedra and Gorra Puedo (two sites whose rock art depicts these species), guanacos and chupes can be seen in large groups, providing an image of what the place was like for thousands of years, even before the time that humans also came to live there, almost 10,000 years ago. Other representative animals, among a varied cast of some 140 vertebrate species, include the condor—with its well-established occurrence, or gathering places, within the park—as well as Wollishofen's viscachas (Lagidium wolffsohni)—found only in Santa Cruz and contiguous parts of Chile—and the most famous predators of Patagonia: the puma, the culpeo, or Andean fox (Lycalopex culpaeus), and the South American gray fox (Lycalopex griseus). Perito Moreno National Park has another unique feature among the protected lakeside areas of Patagonia: All of the lakes that make up its South Pacific watershed lack salmonids (such as salmon and trout). Lake Retamón is the only lake in the park that flows into the South Atlantic Ocean, and the only one that has reported salmonids. In all the other lakes and rivers, the absence of these endemic predators allows the native aquatic communities to maintain their pristine condition. It is amazing to see large schools of native fish, such as puyenes (Lepomis spp.), thriving in the lakes of the park. Nowadays, that is a very rare occurrence in Patagonian lakes. Let's hope that the downstream geography will always keep non-native fish out of these lakes, and that the human inclination to introduce salmonids where they don't already exist will not succeed in this basin.
While remaining exceptionally beautiful and wild, the park also experiences its share of challenges and problems, such as the previously noted threat of an eventual salmonid invasion of the lakes in the South Pacific watershed and their principal tributaries, among them the Lácteo River, and additionally the recently undertaken construction of National Route 41, which will come down from Lake Posadas passing very close to the national park. This will increase, in an unprecedented way, the number of visitors, and thus pose a great challenge to the management and protection of the park.

Preserving Perito Moreno’s sub-Andean grasslands in their entirety is perhaps the greatest aspiration of conservationists concerned about the park. The grasslands were subjected, since the first decades of the past century, to intensive livestock production. Four commercial enterprises, none of which owned land there, nevertheless used the grasslands to pasture sheep. One, the only current livestock operation, is at Lago Belgrano and, through a permit granted after the creation of the national park, it occupies 60–65 percent of the steppe with cattle and horses. Of the three others, one is now dedicated to tourist activity, and two are properties the National Park Administration was able to acquire several years ago. In the sectors that have been freed from livestock, it is comforting to witness the notable recovery of the grasslands. A wave of optimism heartened the park staff when, in December 2009, a huemul appeared very calmly in an area of bushy steppe at the former estancia of El Rincón. This took place almost 20 years after sheep had been removed and the properties transformed into the Ranger Station and Museum El Rincón. No doubt these expanses of sub-Andean grasslands are part of the territory the huemul requires throughout the year, but exploitative activities such as extensive livestock production turned out to be incompatible with the presence of this deer in this part of its native range for almost a century.

The great pending next step is to find a way, mutually beneficial for all parties involved, to free the park entirely from the burden of livestock grazing. This would constitute a significant accomplishment. Then Perito Moreno would become the first livestock-free national park in the continental zone of Argentina’s Andean Patagonia—the best way to honor the creator of Argentina’s national parks, most fitting precisely because it would be within the park that bears his name. At the same time, eliminating grazing would be a great boost to grasslands conservation, would further the national park’s overall ecological integrity, and would help to advance recovery of the huemul, the south Andean deer that has been declared a “Natural Monument” of Argentina.

It is our duty and our privilege to conserve in perpetuity this exceptional cultural and natural legacy, and to allow Nature—at least within the confines of Perito Moreno National Park—to follow its wise course.
The park presents a complex system of eight large and strikingly beautiful lakes whose waters empty into both the South Atlantic and South Pacific Oceans. Set among majestic mountains, these lakes are the result of the retreat of glaciers that dominated this area several millennia ago. On one side, an interconnected group of multicolored lakes—Mogote, Península, Volcán, Escondido, Belgrano, Azara, and Nansen—drain their waters into the Carrera River, on their way to the South Pacific Ocean. On the other side, Lake Burmeister sends its waters on a long journey through the Roble River, crossing the wide Patagonian Plain on its way to the South Atlantic Ocean. The harshness of the climate is explained by the far southern latitude and the high elevation. The lakes are some 3,000 feet above sea level. The coldest winter temperatures reach as low as –22°F (–30°C), at which point Lake Belgrano freezes. Since non-native trout and salmon have not been introduced in the majority of these lakes, native fish such as the puyén and the peladilla find here one of the few sites in Argentina free from the pressure of exotic species.

The park is home to magnificent expanses of forest. The trees known as lenga (Nothofagus pumilio) and Steve (Nothofagus antarctica) are common here, as well as some coihues, or Magellanic beech (Nothofagus betuloides), well-developed specimens of which are found in humid, wind-sheltered spots in the western part of the park. The lenga is the principal arboreal species, and the most resistant to cold of the Nothofagus found in the region. It adopts different forms according to the altitude at which it grows. In deep soils it produces large individuals that grow to more than three feet in diameter. Higher up, it grows in a stunted, bushy form up to 3,500 feet (the altitudinal limit of arboreal vegetation). At that level, where the trees face strong and constant winds that “comb” their canopy, they exist in the form of “flag” trees.

As for steppe landscapes, the park harbors tall grasslands where species such as the coirón (Festuca gracillima) predominate, as well as bushes such as matorral (Stillingia patagonica), neneo (Mulinum spinosum), and senecio (genus Senecio).
various points of interest, on established paths. This is all done with the support of low environmental impact, such as hiking, mountain climbing, and vehicle tours to Perito Moreno National Park is based exclusively on activities with low environmental impact. Also, fossilized remains of hands and silhouettes of guanacos, as well as “cutting sites,” with shards of deer and boars have notably not been introduced into Perito Moreno.

At various locations throughout the park, especially in the steppe sector, there are also important archaeological sites that include rock paintings with representations of hands and silhouettes of guanacos, as well as “cutting sites,” with shards and remains of stones made of obsidian and other materials. Also, fossilized remains of the large extinct mammals known as ammonites have been discovered at various locations within the park.

There is broad agreement that activities such as hiking and mountain climbing should be identified and publicized, and only those activities encouraged that are nature-friendly and have a low environmental impact. Specific restrictions and regulations should be established for each area, be it state-owned or private, taking into account that area’s suitability to various tourist activities, in fragile, and its value as a natural resource. In all cases, certain common criteria should be applied, such as guaranteeing the safety of tourism, safeguarding the quality of their visit, and limiting activities to those most likely to avoid or minimize negative impacts.

Currently, in 2014, several of the ranches neighboring protected natural areas in Patagonia see in tourism an opportunity that complements their original, traditional economies. Tourists spend the night there, which obviates or reduces the need for building additional lodging infrastructure within the park and serves to visit. It would not appear impossible or even far-off, then, for the government and the private sector to find some common ground. It is necessary to come to an agreement on policies that will be favorable to both, promoting a type of tourism that will assure an enduring strong wildlife area, and limiting activities to those most likely to avoid or minimize negative impacts.

In recent years, various local communities have supported and even sought the creation of new national parks in their area, and several have already come to an agreement on policies that will be favorable to both, promoting a type of tourism that will assure an enduring strong wildlife area, and limiting activities to those most likely to avoid or minimize negative impacts.

A few examples will serve to reinforce this idea. Many of the animals previously mentioned constantly pass through the park’s borders. Rhinos, condors, guanacos, lamas, and other species maintain large territories, regularly moving beyond the park proper, offering it additional protection for its roaming wild fauna. The same would be true for many of the watershies, since rivers do not always begin and end within a park. Rather, it is more common for the headwaters or the downstream outlets to be located outside the park.

It is very important, then, to offer recreational opportunities for the public not only inside the park, but also in those bordering areas that possess natural, historical, and cultural resources of great interest. People could enjoy these areas through forms of tourism and recreation that are consistent, both in character and in scope, with the conservation values of the core area known as Perito Moreno.

To that end, the harmful tourist activities that are to be excluded should be identified and publicized, and only those activities encouraged that are nature-friendly and have a low environmental impact. Specific restrictions and regulations should be established for each area, be it state-owned or private, taking into account that area’s suitability to various tourist activities, in fragile, and its value as a natural resource. In all cases, certain common criteria should be applied, such as guaranteeing the safety of tourism, safeguarding the quality of their visit, and limiting activities to those most likely to avoid or minimize negative impacts.
into being (for example, Monte León, near the towns of Puerto Santa Cruz and Comandante Luis Piedrabuena). Others are following suit, such as the towns of Los Antiguos and Perito Moreno, which are lobbying for a Patagonia National Park on the plateaus of Lake Buenos Aires. These towns seem to understand how conserving large areas of outstanding interest may positively affect the general well-being of neighboring populations, and increase opportunities for job creation. It should therefore not be considered utopian to think about, plan, and put into practice ideas such as those expressed above. National Route 40 will be completely paved, and the number of visitors will increase significantly over the next few years. For this reason it is urgent to search for environmentally friendly tourist alternatives that will satisfy the new influx of visitors and direct them toward activities compatible with conservation goals.

In the autumn of 1902, five huemules were hunted for their meat near Lake Nansen by the border commission. Around the same time, the Swedish expedition led by Carl Skottsberg arrived at the shores of Lake Belgrano and made the first biological observations of the huemul, describing its vocalization. It’s been more than 100 years since those historical events. Today, huemul antlers—manifesting the former splendor of this species—litter the grasslands and scrublands of the plateaus adjacent to the park. These neighboring ranches include steppe environments now almost completely avoided by Andean deer. Just recently, there was the heartening sighting of a young male huemul in the middle of the steppe, far from the forest, almost making its way out of the park. This was the first huemul sighting in such an environment for many decades in all of Argentina. This deer has thus made known its positive response to the management measures adopted by the National Park Administration in the area. This sighting is, without a doubt, a hopeful sign for the huemul’s future. No less notable is the amazing tameness of the felines that grace freely within sight of the park ranger stations or a few feet away from visitors, hardly taking notice of them. A respectful tourism, one that takes into account the requirements of these and other species, is vital in order to reinforce and enhance these behaviors, and to achieve any other conservation objective that may be proposed.

Finding common ground is possible and hinges on the commitment and service-mindedness of all responsible parties. Each one should take on its particular role with a willingness to listen and to compromise in the search for points of agreement, and should support those agreements once reached. If this could occur, it should then be possible to establish a vast swath of continuous lands, integrating properties under different ownerships and jurisdictions, where a responsible tourism based exclusively on conservationist principles would be practiced. There would also be an opportunity to build upon those agreements with other basic environmental guidelines; for example, rational management of “problem species” such as the puma and the culpeo; adequate control of domesticated dogs; attention to animal health; use of fencing that does not harm wild fauna; outlawing the use of toxic pesticides and leg-hold traps; proper care of meadows and wetlands; and rational management of grasslands.

We could in this way connect the rainy west of the borderlands with the dry lands of the east—through the Andean-Patagonian forest ecoregions, the transitional secuene, and the Patagonian steppes—all under the protection of a green banner that fosters the well-being of all, reconciling conservation with low-impact tourism development.
Francisco Pascasio Moreno was born in 1852, on the thirty-first day of the Month of the Homeland, or the Greatest Month, as May was referred to during the time immediately following the fight for Argentine independence. As Leopoldo Lugones would say, Moreno was born with “eyes more capable of envisioning the Homeland,” of recognizing what it ought to be, and he consequently dedicated himself to science, public education, and nature conservation. He believed that “the Republic must not remain stationary, nor content itself with its fame for wealth—a fame more or less well deserved.” It needed to go further, and it was toward these horizons that he aimed his efforts.

The story of a nation’s historical evolution will often feature, almost exclusively, military men and politicians as its protagonists, and it will tend to ignore or minimize the contributions of persons of culture or of science, whose work is often done quietly, though no less heroically. As Héctor Fasano put it, Moreno was a hero in a sense of the word that has almost been forgotten. In the word hero one hears an echo of the name Eros, the Greek god of love, and fittingly we are reminded that a hero is one who labors for the love of a noble cause, having been moved by a desire to support the common good.

Beginning in childhood, Moreno felt clearly called to the natural sciences. As he put it, “childish curiosity has not disappeared in the man, but rather lies sleeping, and it is awakened when he comes face to face with something unknown or unexpected; . . . thus, a fragment of bone or a shapeless stone . . . reveals to him things that he never dreamed of, things that feed his human imagination, the mother of all knowledge.”

From an early age, Moreno collected natural objects during his explorations of both banks of the Río de la Plata, of the still rural landscapes of Palermo (in the Argentine capital), and along the coast near the Uruguay River and these allowed him to put together his own museum, in 1867. That same year, he met Karl Hermann Burmeister, whom Domingo Faustino Sarmiento had named to direct the public museum that became the “Bernardino Rivadavia” Argentine Museum of Natural Sciences. This wise Prussian encouraged the young man and guided him in his vocation. Upon identifying a fossilized armadillo jawbone which the young Moreno had found, the master classified it, giving it the name Dasypus moreni, “because it is new to science and this lad deserves that it be named after him.”

The youngster had enjoyed an additional privilege: His honorary tutor had been that teacher of teachers, Sarmiento himself. In his old age, Moreno recalled that the illustrious son of San Juan would often gather a group of children around him, to instruct them in various subjects. At the end, he would hand out sweets and send the group home saying, “And now, boys, let’s all shout out: ‘Long live Argentina!’” It is easy to imagine the impact of those gatherings, to which were added the teachings of another great figure, Juan María Gutiérrez, one of the greatest promoters of Argentine culture, and head of the University of Buenos Aires. While visiting the family household, Gutiérrez encouraged young Moreno to study diverse aspects of the country. Judging by Moreno’s accomplishments, those teachings bore fruit.
What were Moreno’s accomplishments? To begin with, he donated the collections of his personal museum to found the Museum of Natural Science of La Plata, the largest in South America, in a city founded only two years before as the capital of Buenos Aires Province. The museum existed in blueprint only. Although construction on the museum began in 1884, it was beset by economic difficulties that would have caused many a man to abandon the project, and meanwhile the new city grew around it. Suffice it to mention that shortly after starting work on the foundations, the project ground to a halt due to lack of public funds. Moreno then decided to sell some of his private landholdings to keep the project moving, although before construction was completed, the newspaper La Nación said of the museum: “This scientific institution is the true work of Moreno,” to which Moreno responded by restating publication of a letter (dated April 22, 1887) in which he recognized the provincial governor, Carlos D’Arminio, for having offered assistance and financial support to the project. With disarming humility, he merely acknowledged that, “at times I have made use of my own funds, it has only been to move the project forward.”

The museum opened on November 19, 1888, and it should be noted that the buildings did not follow the original plans signed by Henrik G. A. Aberg and Carl L. W. Heynemann. These plans envisioned a three-building complex, of which the only sections that were completed were the space of a year, responding to their wishes and constituting the most up-to-date expression of science.

Moreno served as the museum’s first director, from 1884 until 1906. He had to handle multiple tasks, from filling in for the curator to “mopping the floors on more than one occasion, all the while looking for the means to carry on his project, which was always on the verge of failing.” That is why one of our greatest naturalists and encyclopedists, the illustrious Eduardo L. Holmberg, said of Moreno that he “built a castle from which no one can dislodge him, though some towers and battlements may be knocked down if it is attacked.” Such an attack could be undertaken only by archconservative critics who judge the past by today’s standards, with “next Monday’s paper” close at hand, fighting for causes which they rarely promote through their own example.

At around that same time, from 1896 to 1903, Moreno filled an honorary position on the commission to help establish Argentina’s international boundaries. A series of prior expeditions had qualified Moreno for such a position:

- From April 1873 (at the age of 19) until March of 1880, he travels throughout Patagonia, with only two interruptions: one, very brief, in mid-1876 (a period which he devotes to studies in Santiago del Estero and Catamarca); and another between March of 1877 and October of 1878.
- He travels to Paris, where he receives various distinctions: one, very brief, in mid-1876 (a period which he devotes to studies in Santiago del Estero and Catamarca); and another between March of 1877 and October of 1878.
- He travels to Paris, where he receives various distinctions: The Geographic Society admits him as a member and awards him the Gold Medal; the Society for Commercial Geography honors him, respectively, with the Polar Star and the Cross of Olaf.

In 1909, it was resolved by law to “grant to Francisco P. Moreno, . . . as extraordinary recompense for his services, which have been carried out pro bono for twenty-two years, title to 25 [square] leagues of public land in the territory of Neuquén.”

In 1902, King Edward VII of England signed the arbitration pact between Argentina and Chile setting the boundary between the two countries. In July of 1903, it was resolved by law to “grant to Francisco P. Moreno, . . . as extraordinary recompense for his services, which have been carried out pro bono for twenty-two years, title to 25 [square] leagues of public land in the territory of Neuquén.”

- Between 1893 and 1895, the explores the Plateau, from the border with Bolivia to the Department of San Rafael, in the 16 de Octubre Valley. (Based on this expedition, Moreno would later propose a railway line joining the South Atlantic with the Andes.) At the end of the expedition, Moreno says with pride that it was “the most ambitious and fully realized mission ever undertaken.”
- In 1896 (from January to June) he carries out another expedition, along with more than 20 professional and technical specialists from the Museum of Natural Science of La Plata, the goal is to survey an area of 65,000 square miles between San Rafael (Mendoza) and Lake Buenos Aires (Santa Cruz), with the purpose of developing a map with a scale of 1:400,000. The party traverses 4,500 miles on horseback and calculates 3 longitudes, 128 latitudes, and 201 azimuths; sets up 560 stations with theodolite and 180 with prismatic compass; carries out 27 trigonometric altitude readings, takes 960 photographic images, and gathers 6,270 rock and fossil specimens. The team draws the first map of Lake Nahuel Huapi and the 16 de Octubre Valley. (Based on this expedition, Moreno would later propose a railway line joining the South Atlantic with the Andes.) At the end of the expedition, Moreno says with pride that it was “the most ambitious and fully realized mission ever undertaken.”

Moreno served as the museum’s first director, from 1884 until 1906. He had to handle multiple tasks, from filling in for the curator to “mopping the floors on more than one occasion, all the while looking for the means to carry on his project, which was always on the verge of failing.” That is why one of our greatest naturalists and encyclopedists, the illustrious Eduardo L. Holmberg, said of Moreno that he “built a castle from which no one can dislodge him, though some towers and battlements may be knocked down if it is attacked.” Such an attack could be undertaken only by archconservative critics who judge the past by today’s standards, with “next Monday’s paper” close at hand, fighting for causes which they rarely promote through their own example.

At around that same time, from 1896 to 1903, Moreno filled an honorary position on the commission to help establish Argentina’s international boundaries. A series of prior expeditions had qualified Moreno for such a position:

- From April 1873 (at the age of 19) until March of 1880, he travels throughout Patagonia, with only two interruptions: one, very brief, in mid-1876 (a period which he devotes to studies in Santiago del Estero and Catamarca); and another between March of 1877 and October of 1878.
- He travels to Paris, where he receives various distinctions: The Geographic Society admits him as a member and awards him the Gold Medal; the Society for Commercial Geography honors him, respectively, with the Polar Star and the Cross of Olaf.

In 1909, it was resolved by law to “grant to Francisco P. Moreno, . . . as extraordinary recompense for his services, which have been carried out pro bono for twenty-two years, title to 25 [square] leagues of public land in the territory of Neuquén.”

In 1902, King Edward VII of England signed the arbitration pact between Argentina and Chile setting the boundary between the two countries. In July of 1903, it was resolved by law to “grant to Francisco P. Moreno, . . . as extraordinary recompense for his services, which have been carried out pro bono for twenty-two years, title to 25 [square] leagues of public land in the territory of Neuquén.”

- Between 1893 and 1895, he carries out another expedition, along with more than 20 professional and technical specialists from the Museum of Natural Science of La Plata; the goal is to survey an area of 65,000 square miles between San Rafael (Mendoza) and Lake Buenos Aires (Santa Cruz), with the purpose of developing a map with a scale of 1:400,000. The party traverses 4,500 miles on horseback and calculates 3 longitudes, 128 latitudes, and 201 azimuths; sets up 560 stations with theodolite and 180 with prismatic compass; carries out 27 trigonometric altitude readings, takes 960 photographic images, and gathers 6,270 rock and fossil specimens. The team draws the first map of Lake Nahuel Huapi and the 16 de Octubre Valley. (Based on this expedition, Moreno would later propose a railway line joining the South Atlantic with the Andes.) At the end of the expedition, Moreno says with pride that it was “the most ambitious and fully realized mission ever undertaken.” (Its accomplishments remain un-equaled and would be difficult to replicate.)

Bartolomé Mitre said of Francisco Moreno: “Exploring the unknown, he widened the field of science.” The most prestigious institutions of the era agreed to honor Moreno. In 1899, the Royal Geographical Society invited him the Gold Medal; the Society for Commercial Geography honored him, respectively, with the Polar Star and the Cross of Olaf.

In 1905, Moreno sold the remainder of his lands to finance works of social assistance: a soup kitchen and the backing for a movement to establish schools aimed at society’s most vulnerable children, so that they might eat and learn. Moreno explained: If the State compels children to attend school, children have the right to be fed by the State if their parents are not able to feed them. Funding all hungry children is, without a doubt, a duty of the State, since children who have not yet reached school age need to be fed in order to reach it. Children are our great national capital; the State must protect them, aid them, and put them on the right path. . . . I know from more than ten years of personal observation how thousands of children of the proletariat in our own capital city suffer for lack of food, in most cases through causes not attributable to their parents.

In keeping with those ideals, he also drafted a project (approved in 1914) to create the first night schools for adults. As part of the same project, he proposed...
modifying the curriculum of schools to incorporate, among other things, music instruction, for a more well-rounded education of the students.

For a period of three years (1910–1913), Moreno served as national representative. His neighbors in Buenos Aires had nominated him: “We consider that you, our longtime neighbor and one who knows the area as well, are the ideal candidate to exercise the position of Representative.” Moreno accepted and, once elected, worked on determining the zoning of Buenos Aires, establishing norms for the placement of factories, residential districts, and large green parks in the city. He also supported education because, as he said, “It is known that, where work and school reign, the prisons are closed.” In 1912, in the midst of all this work, he created and presided over the Association of Argentinian Boy Scouts, to encourage in young people a love of nature through exploration.

Moreno drafted projects to expand the railway lines in the national territories (1910), to acquire the collections of the late Florentino Ameghino from his heirs (1912), to create experimental agricultural stations and tree nurseries under the national Ministry of Agriculture (1912), and to expand the protected areas (1912). As part of this last project he called specifically for raising the grade around Lake Nahuel Huapi and Lake Traful, as well as for the appropriation of:

- 100,000 acres in the territory of Misiones, between the Paraná and Iguazú Rivers;
- 60 acres in each of the old Jesuit missions;
- up to 50,000 acres characteristic of different national landscapes (in parts of Jujuy, Tucumán, Córdoba, Mendoza, Corrientes, and La Pampa);
- up to 500 acres around each site with ruins of ancient cultures.

Included in the project was a proposal to create a national park in San Lorenzo, in Santa Fe Province, to celebrate in this way, “in memory of the humble soldiers’ sacrifice,” the hundred-year anniversary of that legendary, though brief, battle.

Moreno had a strategic vision for protecting the country’s natural and cultural patrimony, and he backed it up with every effort he could muster. In line with these projects, he sparked and was then part of the commission to create the Monument to the Army of the Andes atop the Cerro de la Gloria, generating several of its artistic details. He also directed the project for the Monument to Fray Luis Beltrán, a monk who had accompanied the liberation army of José de San Martín and fought alongside him, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Héctor L. Fasano, one of Moreno’s best biographers, has reflected:

While his works and contributions to the country were certainly extraordinary, it is his exemplary conduct that makes him an icon, a model: Honesty, the absence of self-interest, love, and generosity characterize all the actions of his life. Another emerging intellectual, Pedro Luis Barcia, concurred, enumerating Moreno’s attributes:

Values such as integrity, patriotic feeling, the idea of national identity, the mastery of several fields (not just geography), the aesthetic sense of personal sacrifice for his country, the capacity to give of himself, which makes him one of those “invisible Argentines” of whom Eduardo Mallea spoke, and so many more attributes of his moral physiognomy.

Theodore Roosevelt himself once said to Moreno, “You have accomplished work that only a very few men in each generation are capable of carrying out.”

Francisco Pascasio Moreno dedicated his life to the service of his country. Argentines are forever indebted to him. His civic example is a model for all those who desire a future that offers equal educational and cultural opportunities for all citizens, which is the foundation of justice. His concern for conserving the natural and cultural patrimony, and his resolve to do so, should be emulated by all municipal, provincial, and national functionaries. Unlike many public men, he avoided those social events which people attend in order to just “be seen,” but he accepted...
every invitation to visit a poor school, because he knew that every teacher needed his encouragement in the effort to help disadvantaged children. As his secretary, Clemente Onelli, put it, Moreno always believed himself to be “a protector of abandoned children.” Only two days before his death, in fact, he had accepted an invitation from the principal of the school in Barracas to help celebrate the end of the school year.

On November 22, 1919, Moreno died in Buenos Aires, at the age of 67, suffering from angina pectoris after a period of physical decline. The news spread rapidly among the scientific and cultural communities of the time. On that day there happened to be an annular solar eclipse. But the memory of Francisco Moreno continues to shine, illuminating, inspiring. In his memory both Geography Day (November 22) and Tour-Guide Day (May 31) are celebrated. One of the most spectacular national parks in Argentina and one of the most emblematic glaciers of another park (Los Glaciares) bear his name.

Because of the significant debt Moreno had accrued in order to finance his philanthropic activities, the banks (including the National Bank of Argentina) ordered his belongings to be auctioned off after his death. His last wish was to be cremated and to have his ashes scattered either at the foot of the aguaribay tree that still stands in the Bernasconi Institute or in the region of Lake Nahuel Huapi. In 1944 that wish was carried out, and today his remains are in Centinela Island, on Lake Nahuel Huapi.

Broadly speaking, Francisco Moreno was a “normal” person, with hopes and dreams, sorrows and joys, virtues and defects, frustrations and accomplishments. What makes him extraordinary is his reputation for acting in accord with his ideals, forging ahead with perseverance, honesty, and courage. His life story teaches a powerful lesson: Ambitious undertakings are achieved neither easily nor rapidly, and it is possible, as happened in Moreno’s case, that the sought-after result may never come about during the lifetime of the people who are striving for it. I suspect that Moreno was aware of the unlikelihood of his seeing Argentina’s first national park formally established (despite his gift of land to the state for that purpose), but I am convinced that, even knowing that he might never see it, he would have carried on just the same.

Those who have followed his example of donating private land for park creation or expansion in Argentina (Carlos Blaquier with Calilegua, Tröels Pedersen with Mburucuyá, and the Tompkins family with Monte León and Perito Moreno) have gone through similar experiences. On more than one occasion they must have been put in the position of having to impress upon various public officials in various government agencies to accept the donation of lands to expand the area of our national park system, as if the officials would be doing them a favor by accepting. In a way, this makes clear that people who undertake these kinds of public-spirited actions must be more thick-skinned than most, because the reception one would expect to such generous gestures is the opposite of the indifference, lack of interest, or ingratitude with which they are often met.

One additional modest comment: There is no record of Moreno—or of any other great benefactor of Argentina’s national parks—ever having boasted about his or her acts of generosity. We can hope that their example will inspire others here and around the world. Our most noble mission demands clarity, generosity, honesty, mettle, and steadfastness. Let us bet, then, on our success.
One frigid, blustery morning just before sunrise in March of 1877, a young man not yet twenty-five years old rose from his camp on the southern edge of the glacier-fed and iceberg-filled Lake Viedma to make a topographical sketch of that body of water. Armed only with a prismatic compass in a leather case strapped to his chest, he bundled himself in a poncho made of guanaco hides and began to walk. Scarcely outside camp, a female puma sprang from behind and knocked the young scientist to the ground, lacerating his face and back with her powerful paw. She tumbled with him, then lost her balance before she could sink her teeth into him. In a flash, he sprung up, dropped off the poncho (hoping that the cat had perhaps mistaken him for a meaty camelid), and was holding the compass case at the ready when the puma pounced again. He managed to stun her by hitting her in the head with the case, and she slunk off, puzzled. The frightened man made his way back to camp, periodically yelling and shaking the poncho as she followed in dour pursuit. When they reached the camp, the puma took refuge in a patch of bushes nearby, and the man raised the alarm, resulting in the puma being tracked down and “brained” with a set of Indian bo-

las (traditional weapons made of two wooden balls joined together by a braided leather cord). The scientist, Francisco Moreno, then rested, relieved that, despite the pain, his injuries would not be fatal.

At the time of this attack Moreno had spent more than six years in the wilds of Patagonia. Born in Buenos Aires in 1852 to the daughter of a British immigrant and an Argentine father, he was on his second southern expedition, this one to the Santa Cruz River. Moreno had already surveyed the paleontology of the littoral in Buenos Aires province when, in 1872, he set out on his first southern expedition, carrying the flag of field science. In that year (the same year the U.S. Congress declared Yellowstone a national park), Argentines founded the Sociedad Científica Argentina (Argentine Scientific Society) with the mission of creating a museum and funding an expedition to fill it. Moreno was entrusted with the expedition and with what would become the destiny of Patagonia. Besides the collection of specimens, other objectives for the expedition included finding a passage across the Andes, through territory hardly subject to the laws and institutions originating in Buenos Aires. Each trip begot further trips until Moreno spent nearly twenty years exploring the region. He, more than any other single person, is credited with affirming Argentine national sovereignty over thousands of square miles of Patagonia. His time on the frontier molded his approach to the world; as an obit-

uary claimed, “To the University, he would prefer the Universe.” His reputation
was not only the Christopher Columbus but the St. John the Baptist of all the pography, "naming and claiming" the region, that one article reasoned, “Moreno eloquently attracted British and Chilean interest. Moreno took his pen to so much to the region for development and to stake Argentine claim to lands that had increas-

(climbing mecca of a peak after the British captain of the)

(He learned many Indian customs, “from Mamuelches, to Ranqueles or Ranquelches, from Mapuches to Pehuenches, or

(Moreno’s actions were much more moderate than those of his contemporaries in the government and the military. Julio Argentino Roca’s famed Desert Campaign, which began in 1879, showed how quickly patience with native peoples recalib-

(Moreno remarked on native peoples’ generosity, rationality, and eagerness for ed-

He also remarked on native peoples’ generosity, rationality, and eagerness for ed-

He remained firm in his com-

in Latin America. This seemingly straightforward solution had a difficult

waters flowed toward the South Pacific would be Chilean territory; toward the terminus of the boundary according to the flow of the waters—points at which

infrastructure—roads, railways, water systems—that would support settlement,

acceptance that the federal government should play a role in developing the basic infrastructure—roads, railways, water systems—that would support settlement, leaving the rest to indigenous colonies. In the 1880s a series of proceedings
took place to determine the demarcation of the boundary lines between Chile and Argentina. The two nations signed a treaty in 1881 establishing a preliminary de-
termination of the boundary according to the flow of the waters—points at which

were declared to London and New York.

went far—he was a recognized member of scientific societies from Paris and Rome to London and New York.

Argentina was a nation dominated by the eastern riverine capital and province of Buenos Aires. Its transition out of colonial rule to become a unified country came with many fits and starts, and frontier exploration played heavily into the process. Despite a declaration of independence in 1816, the region remained a loose confederation of provinces facing internal power struggles, including the succession of Buenos Aires. Bartolomé Mitre was finally elected in 1862 as presi-
dent of a unified country; government power was consolidated and new forms of state-making took shape. Visions of culture and progress that embraced European liberalism in a New World context were debated amidst the tensions between the supposedly backward provinces and the metropolitan city.

Moreno was part of this process, as one of many scientists and explorers sent south from Buenos Aires (and from Santiago, in Chile) to bring back information about the natural resources, native populations, mining prospects, watercourses, and settlement possibilities in the sparsely settled lands of Patagonia. Moreno compiled a series of important films on these expeditions through the interior, including a national flag at Nahuel Huapi in 1876; renaming today’s lakes and hills of Patagonia. But he did more than just patriotically rearrange the

Moreno’s pursuit of knowledge caused him to link ignorance about Patagonia to its lack of development. Fearing wasteful loss—to other national competitors, mainly, but also to general underutilization—he advocated that Argentina should create them himself. Moreno remained curious about the lives of the Indians and their antecedents, yet refrained from political action or personal participation in their defense. He instead focused his energies on science and development, with the hope that answers to the struggles with native peoples would follow.

Moreno’s pursuit of knowledge caused him to link ignorance about Patagonia to its lack of development. Fearing wasteful loss—to other national competitors, mainly, but also to general underutilization—he advocated that Argentina should take its place “among the concert of nations.” He remained firm in his com-

The specimens became the basis of the La Plata Museum of Natural Sciences, founded in 1886, and his linguistic abilities came in handy when he was kidnapped by a band of Tehuelches in 1880, hardly escaping with his life.

A staunch champion of scientific inquiry, Moreno was neither a pacifist nor a champion of indigenous peoples. He had more than his share of contacts with native peoples during his expeditions, with mixed results. Moreno’s aim of establishing a route through the Andes—where Chilean liquor was smuggled in

He also remarked on native peoples’ generosity, rationality, and eagerness for ed-

Moreno’s actions were much more moderate than those of his contemporaries in the government and the military. Julio Argentino Roca’s famed Desert Campaign, which began in 1879, showed how quickly patience with native peoples recalib-

Yet, Moreno discussed the nearing extinction of native peoples in Patagonia as a foregone conclusion, remarking that “the Eskimos, like the Aborigenes or Patagones, are destined to rapid extinction; their character, their customs are com-

(Moreno served as the primary Argentine expert during the proceedings, reporting frequently from London in a national newspaper col-

As a scientist, he may have collected skulls as specimens, but he did not forcibly create them himself. Moreno remained curious about the lives of the Indians and their antecedents, yet refrained from political action or personal participation in their defense. He instead focused his energies on science and development, with the hope that answers to the struggles with native peoples would follow.

Argentina was a nation dominated by the eastern riverine capital and province of Buenos Aires. Its transition out of colonial rule to become a unified country came with many fits and starts, and frontier exploration played heavily into the process. Despite a declaration of independence in 1816, the region remained a loose confederation of provinces facing internal power struggles, including the succession of Buenos Aires. Bartolomé Mitre was finally elected in 1862 as presi-
dent of a unified country; government power was consolidated and new forms of state-making took shape. Visions of culture and progress that embraced European liberalism in a New World context were debated amidst the tensions between the supposedly backward provinces and the metropolitan city.

Moreno was part of this process, as one of many scientists and explorers sent south from Buenos Aires (and from Santiago, in Chile) to bring back information about the natural resources, native populations, mining prospects, watercourses, and settlement possibilities in the sparsely settled lands of Patagonia. Moreno compiled a series of important films on these expeditions through the interior, including a national flag at Nahuel Huapi in 1876; renaming today’s lakes and hills of Patagonia. But he did more than just patriotically rearrange the

(Moreno’s pursuit of knowledge caused him to link ignorance about Patagonia to its lack of development. Fearing wasteful loss—to other national competitors, mainly, but also to general underutilization—he advocated that Argentina should create them himself. Moreno remained curious about the lives of the Indians and their antecedents, yet refrained from political action or personal participation in their defense. He instead focused his energies on science and development, with the hope that answers to the struggles with native peoples would follow.

Moreno’s pursuit of knowledge caused him to link ignorance about Patagonia to its lack of development. Fearing wasteful loss—to other national competitors, mainly, but also to general underutilization—he advocated that Argentina should take its place “among the concert of nations.” He remained firm in his com-

The specimens became the basis of the La Plata Museum of Natural Sciences, founded in 1886, and his linguistic abilities came in handy when he was kidnapped by a band of Tehuelches in 1880, hardly escaping with his life.

A staunch champion of scientific inquiry, Moreno was neither a pacifist nor a champion of indigenous peoples. He had more than his share of contacts with native peoples during his expeditions, with mixed results. Moreno’s aim of establishing a route through the Andes—where Chilean liquor was smuggled in
restrict the use of the rest. In one of his final diary entries, he lamented that, having obtained vast territories for the Argentine nation, and even having donated his own property for the creation of Nahuel Huapi National Park, he did not have available even a plot of land large enough for his children to bury him. In fact, in his final wishes he asked his children to lay his remains within the boundaries of the park—an honor finally arranged by his son nearly twenty-five years after Moreno's death, driven by faith in fair development and perpetually warning about the ill effects of the concentration of land ownership. Moreno’s commitments shifted quietly in the course of his life. He went from a rugged frontiersman fending off wild animals to an advocate for the conservation of wild places for his countrymen.

Men like Moreno did not acknowledge a hard line between natural and human sciences. “Science could not keep itself from advancing,” he explained, “and soon established the community of the entire human family.” He participated in a global network of investigation, exchanging results across the South Atlantic and throughout the hemisphere. National parks, for these men, were one tool in a full toolkit. Never static, ideas about conservation and its benefits drew from the changing scientific understandings of both nature and society.

Moreno held in great esteem the park model of the United States. So did his successors, such as Exequiel Bustillo, the first head of the Directorate of National Parks, created in 1934. Bustillo drew much from the U.S. system, not least his belief that parks should be supported by the state, especially with regard to infrastructure. But the parks also drew heavily from Europe, turning to Germany for their attention to rural landscapes, and to Italy as a source of inspiration for ski hills and cable cars.

Contact among park managers was frequent—if erratic—but never hegemonic. Moreno, Bustillo, and other Argentines selectively chose from an array of available strategies to protect nature, in a pattern that fit their national development trajectory, their political situation, their methods for social integration, and their temperate (rarely desert or tropical) landscapes. Moreno was eager to share the wealth and wonder of Patagonia with his fellow Argentines, with immigrants, and with visitors; his desire to create a park came from his wealth of personal experience and his deeply nationalist affinities. Through the park he birthed, Nahuel Huapi, through the park named in his honor, Perito Moreno, and through the system of national parks around Argentina that are the fruit of his conservation vision, Moreno’s living legacy continues into the future.
GRASSLANDS
An accurate depiction of the natural landscape of Patagonia—terribly arid in some places, in others so luxuriant as to bring to mind the tropics, but always impressive, as much in its inhabitants as in its dry plateaus, its immense volcanic mantles, its steep snow-clad mountains, its volcanoes, its lakes, its rivers and floodwaters, its forests—calls for the pen of a Humboldt or a Darwin. As a simple admirer of these our scarcely visited lands, my only aim in this narration is to give my fellow countrymen some idea of the features of this great portion of our homeland, so often denigrated by those who limit themselves to observing it mentally from the confines of a library.

—Perito Moreno
GEOLOGY
Science lends grandeur to man. It allows man to mentally bring his inanimate surroundings to life. It reconstructs the history of epochs during which mankind most likely did not yet exist, and during which the vital forces that created mankind fluctuated undiminished in other elements of nature. Science provides man with a magnificent intellectual telescope. Man’s mental lenses make that which no longer exists appear, and show in this jumble of plateaus and gorges, of steep black slopes and immense stones scattered as if by chance, the constant action of natural forces that continue to elicit our wonder. The fossils of the Tertiary period, the basalts of the Quaternary, the glacial mantle that enveloped the cradle of the present age, all offer marvelous examples of this action.

—Perito Moreno
A national parks system is a victory by a people’s culture over its drive for profit; but it is a conquest that is never final, one that requires continuous vigilance by the citizenry to make sure that it is not stripped away.

—Francisco Erize
I have gazed upon mountains of eternal snows,
Hushed, untainted, untamed, enigmatic . . .

   All my composure dashed at their feet,
   Their silence undoing my sorrows,
Hushed, untainted, untamed, enigmatic . . .
I have gazed upon lakes fed by those snows,
Brilliant in the springtime sunshine,
Hushed, untainted, untamed, enigmatic . . .

—Matilde Maisonnave
Yes, Moreno, the scene has changed, our wilderness advances with your people. As it drew you from the city it will draw them, and kindred spirits will learn the lessons of Nature as you learned them and will steel their manhood as you steeled yours in hardihood and daring. Beyond the pleasure grounds that attract the soft and self-indulgent there still are wilds to be explored, canyons to be threaded, mountain peaks to be scaled.

—Bailey Willis
The phenomenon of a dividing-line of waters flowing into opposite oceans, which partly rise in plains and glens hardly higher than the level of the sea, and which overcome such formidable obstacles as the Andean Cordillera, piercing its crystalline axis and the enormous mass of rocks which have accumulated upon this axis, constitutes, in my opinion, a fact which is unique in the world.

—Perito Moreno
AUTUMN
The fact that in the modern era we have tried to understand the world and ourselves apart from beauty is neither an oversight nor a minor philosophical decision. And the fact that we have lived as if beauty doesn’t matter in the “real world” is not unrelated to the callous ways in which we have uprooted places of great beauty and life.

— Sandra Lubarsky
The mystery of the forest is summed up
In the stentorian voice of the chucao,
In the stealthy tread of a huiña,
In the flower of the amancay or the aljaba,
In the wine-colored fruit of the michay.
It is the mournful voice of the huala,
And the repeated song of the fio-fio,
And the stealthy step of the pudú
Through the yellow canebrakes.
The mystery of the forest is in a hollow,
Seeking shelter, like my heart.
—Juan Carlos Chébez
The landscape is wild, solitary, and the silence of nature enhances the sublime solemnity of the place.
—Perito Moreno
WINTER
Another Patagonian contrast is the white and blue ice on the black basalts, crenellated peaks, and cliffs of monumental shape, reflecting themselves in the waters of the western shores of the lakes, mingled with the leafy garlands formed by the woods, so rich and varied in their flora; whilst to the east, bare of arboreal vegetation and monotonous, rises the precipitous plateau.

—Perito Moreno
PATTERNS AND FORMS
So many vivid memories! How difficult it is knowing that life draws to a close so quickly!
But: Is it not even worse to have lived without serving?
There is so much more I wish to do, so much more to be done for my country!
—Perito Moreno
If the landscape is varied and the biodiversity impressive, the sky is the perfect mirror. Cigar-shaped lenticular forms, eerie mushrooms and vaulting cirrus clouds swirl surreally over the Andes, while the vast dome of the sky above the lowlands is often busy with flocks of cumulus clouds that seem to drift far more slowly than the dust-devils below.

—Chris Moss
It is in Perito Moreno National Park, and particularly in the area around El Rincón, where I have most fully felt the landscape as a spiritual realm. I explored this park for the first time in December of 2002. The day after my arrival, while gazing toward the Lácteo River Valley from high up on some rocks, I instantly felt a tremendous impulse, and the desire to lose myself exploring the farthest reaches of this valley. A few days later, I followed this impulse and walked to the San Lorenzo Outpost in what used to be Estancia El Rincón. After that first exploration, I returned many times to this marvelous valley, and discovered new vistas on every visit.

This year (2014) marks the twelfth since I first traveled through Patagonia, exploring and photographing its natural beauty. I can say that among all of the places I visited on those journeys, my hikes in the Lácteo River Valley have been my most authentic experience of the Patagonian territory. The trail runs mainly through the valley, following the riverbed as it makes its way between two lines of mountains. From there I have gazed in wonder at the immensity of the Patagonian horizon, the majesty of its mountains, the dual softness and ruggedness of its valleys sculpted by the movement of glaciers. I am infused with a sense of limitless grandeur, and I feel moved simply by being in a landscape where geologic time expresses itself independently of human rhythms. In that valley, as nowhere else, one experiences freedom and the amazing power of the wind.

Since my first visit to Patagonia, I have returned often to photograph the many faces of the park that the changing seasons offer. I have walked over the thick white carpet of winter snow that keeps the park isolated for months on end; I have seen the trees change colors in autumn; I have experienced the winds of spring; I have revelled in the green summer. I could continue to explore this park indefinitely without exhausting its possibilities. Its geography will always yield new and unexpected discoveries.

It was on that first visit that I met Doug Tompkins; I had met Kris, his wife, a few weeks earlier near the coast, at what is now Monte León National Park. Doug was staying at the house of his friend René Negro, from whom he had bought Estancia El Rincón. Doug invited me to tea at René’s house on December 31, and there we talked about nature, the importance of conservation, and the idea of fostering conservation by the diffusion of images that capture the beauty of nature.

In 2013, Doug and Kris, through a nongovernmental organization they founded, the Conservation Land Trust, donated the lands of Estancia El Rincón to be added to Perito Moreno National Park. This gift creates a protected corridor joining the park with the San Lorenzo Provincial Reserve. Because of this, the donation of El Rincón does more than simply add acres to the park; it becomes a valuable link that synergistically enhances the protected wildlife corridor. Such is the vision of Doug and Kris—generosity put into action, informed by great foresight, always seeking to leverage environmental interventions to improve the chances that this unique landscape will remain, in the future, a realm of life and of the spirit.
Adolfo Fabricio Del Castillo was born in the town of La Cumbre, in the Sierras de Córdoba region of Argentina, in 1967. He moved with his family to the province of Salta in 1977, where he lived until 1986. In that year, he enrolled in the Park Ranger Training Center of the National Parks Administration. He has served at Iguazú National Park (Misiones), Campo de Los Alisos National Park (Tucumán), and Tierra del Fuego National Park. Since 2013 he has been head of park management at Perito Moreno National Park.

Claudio Bertonatti, a museologist, naturalist, and teacher with a postgraduate degree in Environmental Management, has published more than 30 books and 300 articles. Since 1983 he has been devoted to the conservation of the natural and cultural patrimony, working as a consultant for zoos, national parks, museums, businesses, and nongovernmental organizations. He has acted as director of the World Wildlife Fund Argentina, the Southern Coast Ecological Reserve, and the Buenos Aires Zoo. As a postgraduate instructor with UNESCO, in the Argentine School of Naturalists, and for the Punto Mosca Foundation.

Rafael Smart resides in Bariloche and for the last 15 years has worked for Cielos Patagónicos, an Argentinean real-estate company that works to preserve the environmental, cultural, and historical heritage of Patagonia. Cielos Patagónicos created the first model of a private nature reserve bordering national protected areas in Argentina and Chile. Previously, Smart has worked in various commercial and investment banks in Buenos Aires and New York.

Douglas Tompkins is a wilderness advocate, mountaineer, organic farmer, and conservationist. For more than two decades, he has worked alongside his wife, Kristine Tompkins, in restoring degraded landscapes and to create large-scale protected areas, including national parks in Argentina and Chile. Through a family foundation, Doug Tompkins supports activist campaigns in North and South America and has helped produce numerous conservation-related books.

Emily Wakild is an associate professor of history at Boise State University, in Idaho, where she researches and teaches Latin American and Environmental History. She is the author of Revolutionary Parks: Conservation, Social Justice, and Mexico’s National Parks, 1910–1940, and is currently working through a grant from the National Science Foundation to write a comparative history of transnational conservation and scientific research in Amazonian and Patagonian South America.

CONTRIBUTORS

Eduardo Ramilo is a veterinarian. His activity as a naturalist and birdwatcher began when he was 11 years old. His lifelong interest and career in conservation date from a few years later. He worked at the Museum of Natural Sciences of Buenos Aires, and is currently with the National Parks Administration. He has devoted much of his work to the conservation of the Andean deer species of Patagonia—the pudú (Pudu pudú) and the huemul (Hippocamelus bisulcus)—and their environments.

Antonio Vizcaíno is a photographer of natural landscapes, an editor, and a conservationist. In the last two decades, he has published 28 books of his photographs, including Agua (Water), Bosque (Forest), Montaña (Mountain), Wildlands Philanthropy, Pueblos: National Parks in southern Latin America and Mexico, Peace and Spirit (Mexico: Landscapes and Spirit). In 2001, he embarked on the photographic expedition América Natural: Tierra del Fuego–Alaska, with the goal of photographing the best-protected natural areas in America and contributing, through images and campaigns of environmental education, to the preservation of the continent’s biological diversity.
PERITO MORENO NATIONAL PARK
In Brief

Natural and Cultural Area
General wild and remote character, Líneas River Valley, waterfowl forest, insect breeding populations, gray foxes, and white-tailed deer; archaeological remains at Casa de Piedra and Güera de Víncos, dating from 4,000 and 2,300 years ago, a network of free of national ownership.

Climate
Windy, cold, and dry, with maximum temperatures rarely exceeding 15°C and minimum temperatures sometimes reaching –1°C. Yearly possible year-round. Wind speeds of 80 miles per hour are common.

Date of Official Designation
May 11, 1937, by Executive Decree 105433

Notable Wildlife
Gray foxes (Lycalopex griseus), deer (Cervus spp.), Andean condors, guanacos (Lama guanicoe), huemul (Hippocamelus bisylbenus), black bear (Ursus americanus), and many aquatic birds.

Notable Mountains

Patagonian Andean forests, with their typical senecio (Seneceio spinosum), and Senecio (Seneceio spp.).

PERITO MORENO NATIONAL PARK

ARGENTINA

T he enlargement of Perito Moreno National Park through the incorporation of the former Estancia El Rincón has been possible thanks to the help ofCarlos Enrique Meyer, Minister of Tourism, Carlos Chechébar and Simón Cuminetti, of Delegación Patagónica; Laura Malmierca, of Patagonia Austral; the park rangers in Perito Moreno National Park; and the National Parks Administration of Argentina and its president, Carlos Cabrall, who not only enthusiastically accepted the idea of the donation of the Estancia El Rincón property, and excitedly told us about it on the day of the formal handover.

Thanks to park ranger Adrian Falcone, who strongly and enthusiastically spearheaded public awareness, investigation, and conservation of the area in those years, we echo thank you. Thanks also to Tony Olson and to Sharon Falcone, who worked alongside him. It is paramount to mention and extend our gratitude for the legal work carried out by Sebastián Infante, of Messa, O’Reilly & Matala, due to former Executive: Campo and Sierra Torres, and the political and administrative initiatives carried out by the staff of the Conservation Land Trust–Argentina, without whose probity would have been impossible to make our way through the multiple bureaucratic obstacles that often crop up in these kinds of local situations.

Special thanks to the pilot Rodrigo Norgaard, for the constant and dedicated help in assisting the Spanish essays for this volume, for selflessly working against the clock while putting his own work on hold. Elsa Clar, Edwin Harvey, Alejandro González, Mary Elder Jacobsen, Carolina Morgado, and Emily Wicks made valuable editorial contributions.

Special thanks go to René Negro, owner of Estancia Lago Belgrano and former owner of Estancia El Rincón. We especially value his extraordinary hospitality, and his narrative and historical contributions during one of our visits to see Estancia El Rincón and during the writing of the book, helping us understand and respect those pioneers who populated this area of Patagonia.

To the Lada family, who were pioneers in the region of the present-day park and who have figured how to integrate themselves into the new economy afforded by the conservation of nature. To Carlos Reyes of Estancia El Rincón and Horacio Gutiérrez of Estancia Torres, neighbors on the southern borders of the national park, who live in and love this landscape, helping one day to see the public value and agreeing those lands as much as they could themselves do.

To the employees of the service stations and run out of Blue-Caravans, who have always been there for us, welcoming us and providing us with the supplies we needed to make our way through the inhospitable Patagonian landscape on our way to our final destination.

Thanks to the hospitality of the people of Santa Cruz, who on more than one occasion have added to us the warmth and opened their doors to us, guiding us cheerfully and calmly back into the natural wonders of their province.

Antonio Vincas would like to express his special thanks to Claudia Aprea, Pedro Aguirre, Tom Butler, Elsa Clín, Paloma Diez de Sollano, Sharon Donovan, Julia Dubrach, Gabriela Da Motta, Aramara Vizcaino, Matías Vizcaino, Joel Zambrano, and Mikael Zambrano.

Tom Butler, Elsa Clar, Paloma Diez de Sollano, Sharon Donovan, Julia Dubrach, Gabriela Da Motta, Aramara Vizcaino, Matías Vizcaino, Joel Zambrano, and Mikael Zambrano.

We wish to thank Claudio Bertocchi for his skilled and dedicated help in assisting the Spanish essays for this volume, for selflessly working against the clock while putting his own work on hold. Elsa Clar, Edwin Harvey, Alejandro González, Mary Elder Jacobsen, Carolina Morgado, and Emily Wicks made valuable editorial contributions.

To Carlos Patagónicos, with special thanks to Ruti, Jazmin, and Agustín Smart, their staff at Emestina Malmierca, for dreaming of and working toward a national park known and enjoyed by all, and for running an excellent lodge that strives to serve as a portal and continuation of the protected areas of nature reserves and commitment to biodiversity and to the colonial heritage of the Argentine Patagonian. Thanks to René Negro, Pedro Aguirre, and Claudia Aprea for the constant and dedicated help in assisting the Spanish essays for this volume, for selflessly working against the clock while putting their own work on hold. Elsa Clar, Edwin Harvey, Alejandro González, Mary Elder Jacobsen, Carolina Morgado, and Emily Wicks made valuable editorial contributions.

To Carlos Patagónicos, with special thanks to Ruti, Jazmin, and Agustín Smart, their staff at Emestina Malmierca, for dreaming of and working toward a national park known and enjoyed by all, and for running an excellent lodge that strives to serve as a portal and continuation of the protected areas of nature reserves and commitment to biodiversity and to the colonial heritage of the Argentine Patagonian. Thanks to René Negro, Pedro Aguirre, and Claudia Aprea for the constant and dedicated help in assisting the Spanish essays for this volume, for selflessly working against the clock while putting their own work on hold. Elsa Clar, Edwin Harvey, Alejandro González, Mary Elder Jacobsen, Carolina Morgado, and Emily Wicks made valuable editorial contributions.

To Carlos Patagónicos, with special thanks to Ruti, Jazmin, and Agustín Smart, their staff at Emestina Malmierca, for dreaming of and working toward a national park known and enjoyed by all, and for running an excellent lodge that strives to serve as a portal and continuation of the protected areas of nature reserves and commitment to biodiversity and to the colonial heritage of the Argentine Patagonian. Thanks to René Negro, Pedro Aguirre, and Claudia Aprea for the constant and dedicated help in assisting the Spanish essays for this volume, for selflessly working against the clock while putting their own work on hold. Elsa Clar, Edwin Harvey, Alejandro González, Mary Elder Jacobsen, Carolina Morgado, and Emily Wicks made valuable editorial contributions.

To Carlos Patagónicos, with special thanks to Ruti, Jazmin, and Agustín Smart, their staff at Emestina Malmierca, for dreaming of and working toward a national park known and enjoyed by all, and for running an excellent lodge that strives to serve as a portal and continuation of the protected areas of nature reserves and commitment to biodiversity and to the colonial heritage of the Argentine Patagonian. Thanks to René Negro, Pedro Aguirre, and Claudia Aprea for the constant and dedicated help in assisting the Spanish essays for this volume, for selflessly working against the clock while putting their own work on hold. Elsa Clar, Edwin Harvey, Alejandro González, Mary Elder Jacobsen, Carolina Morgado, and Emily Wicks made valuable editorial contributions.
The Conservation Land Trust (CLT), a nonprofit, private operating foundation incorporated in California, works to create and expand national parks in Chile and Argentina. Since its founding in 1992, CLT has developed innovative projects in South America that preserve wilderness, conserve biodiversity, protect endangered species, and restore degraded ecosystems. CLT has conserved more than 1.6 million acres to date and has partnered with government agencies and other nongovernmental organizations to establish multiple new protected areas.

The Conservation Land Trust
1606 Union Street
San Francisco, California 94123
(415) 229-9339
www.theconservationlandtrust.org
www.tompkinsconservation.org
© 2014 The Conservation Land Trust
ISBN: 978-1-939621-18-4
Distributed by Goff Books, an imprint of ORO Editions
www.goffbooks.com
info@goffbooks.com

“Moreno’s Living Legacy, Parks for Patagonia and Beyond” by Emily Wakild has been adapted from a chapter entitled “Conservation on Tour: Comparing Nations, Scientists, and Parks in the Americas” that will appear in a forthcoming book from the University of Oklahoma Press and include a bibliography and additional source material.

The excerpt from the poem “Oda al sur” by Matilde Maisonnave that appears in this book is used by permission of the author.

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means without permission in writing from The Conservation Land Trust.

This publication conforms to the official cartography established by the National Executive Power through the National Geographic Institute, Law 22.963, and was approved by File No. GG140998/5 on July 16, 2014.