FUNDACIÓN
CERRO GUIDO
CONSERVACIÓN

FUNDACIÓN CERRO GUIDO CONSERVACIÓN

Location: Chile

Wilder Rangelands Case Study



Grasslands & Rangelands Working Group,
Global Rewilding Alliance

Rewilding
THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE

Photo credits: Fundación Cerro Guido Conservación

Table of contents

OVERVIEW 03

APPROACH: CULTURE AND COEXISTENCE 04

OUTCOMES & IMPACT 07

PART OF A LARGER EFFORT 09



A Ñandú (Darwin's Rhea), Patagonia's largest bird, once heavily hunted for its valuable feathers. Photo credit: Fundación Cerro Guido Conservación.

Overview

The Global Rewilding Alliance has convened Alliance Partners — including Fundación Cerro Guido Conservación — and cross-sector experts through its Grasslands & Rangelands Working Group to launch the Rewilding Rangelands Initiative: a coordinated effort to restore ecological function and foster coexistence across the world's grasslands and rangelands.

Rooted in the unique heritage of Estancia Cerro Guido, Chile, Fundación Cerro Guido Conservación is working to regenerate unique ecosystems while **celebrating the cultural heritage of the region**. In this landscape that has been managed as a sheep and cattle ranch for more than a century, long-standing conflicts with native wildlife, particularly Pumas, have defined and altered natural ecological processes.

The foundation was created to demonstrate that **productive ranching and biodiversity conservation can coexist** within the same landscape.



A gaucho and his sheepdogs driving the flock — every gaucho works with at least three or four of these essential herding dogs. Photo credit: Fundación Cerro Guido Conservación

Rather than removing livestock altogether, Fundación Cerro Guido Conservación is developing a model where wildlife, livestock, and people share the landscape through science-based management, restoration, and coexistence initiatives.

APPROACH:

Culture and Coexistence

Fundación Cerro Guido Conservación works within an **active livestock operation** covering nearly 100,000 hectares. Its strategy combines ecological restoration, scientific research, wildlife monitoring, conflict mitigation, and cultural heritage conservation to create a landscape where **biodiversity conservation and sustainable livestock production reinforce one another.**

Human-Wildlife Coexistence

A central objective is reducing conflict between livestock and native predators, particularly Pumas. Rather than relying on predator control, the foundation trains and deploys **livestock guardian Dogs** that protect Sheep through their presence, vigilance, and barking, significantly reducing encounters between livestock and predators. The programme demonstrates that livestock losses can be reduced while allowing native carnivores to persist across working landscapes. The foundation is also testing GPS collars on guardian Dogs to improve livestock management and better understand their effectiveness.



Mirko Utrovicich, former hunter turned trainer, leads the guardian dog programme — a new tool we dream of in every gaucho's skillset. Photo credit: Fundación Cerro Guido Conservación

APPROACH:

Culture and Coexistence

Applied Science and Wildlife Monitoring

Scientific research underpins all restoration actions. Fundación Cerro Guido conducts **long-term ecological monitoring** using camera traps, GPS technology, field surveys, and collaborative research to better understand wildlife populations, predator-prey dynamics, and the functionality of this ecosystem. This evidence is used to guide adaptive management and develop practical conservation solutions for productive landscapes. For example, in the past 7 years, they have accumulated over 3,500 hours of direct Puma sightings.

Habitat Restoration and Species Conservation

The foundation carries out habitat restoration and rewilding projects aimed at **recovering ecological integrity while maintaining productive land use**. Conservation efforts focus on protecting native flora and fauna, including **Pumas, Andean Condors, Guanacos, Huemul Deer, and numerous other Patagonian species.** By maintaining habitat connectivity adjacent to Torres del Paine National Park and reducing human-wildlife conflict, Cerro Guido contributes to the preservation and rewilding of one of Patagonia's most important wildlife corridors.



Raya, one of the monitored Pumas, yawning in Las Condoreras — we have seen more than 6 litters of this Puma and believe she has a special connection with the team.
Photo credit: Fundación Cerro Guido Conservación.

APPROACH:

Culture and Coexistence

Conserving Cultural Heritage

Alongside biodiversity, the team focuses on protecting the area's rich cultural heritage, recognising that **Patagonia's history of Indigenous peoples, livestock ranching, and human settlement** forms an integral part of the landscape.

Through publications, research, education, and interpretation, they seek to preserve both the ecological and cultural legacy of Cerro Guido for future generations.



An ovejero tending his flock — sheep are a gaucho's livelihood, which is why the conflict with predators runs so deep. Photo credit: Fundación Cerro Guido Conservación.

Knowledge Sharing and Education

Fundación Cerro Guido serves as a hub for conservation science, bringing together **researchers, practitioners, and local stakeholders** to generate and share knowledge. With its research facilities, educational activities, publications, and partnerships, it promotes practical approaches that can be replicated across other working landscapes in Patagonia and beyond.

Outcomes & Impact

- **Reduced conflict** between Sheep farming and native predators through livestock guardian Dog programmes.
  - Went from 80–100 Pumas hunted each year to 0 starting from 2019 — which increased the Puma population.
  - With the protection from the Dogs (and increased predator populations), attacks on Sheep have gone down by more than 50%.

- **Long-term monitoring** generates scientific evidence to improve conservation management and coexistence strategies:
  - 72 individual Pumas identified — one of the most extensive individual monitoring efforts recorded for the species.
  - 15 Pumas collared.
  - Over 3,500 hours of direct observation and nearly 5,000 camera trap events since 2019.
  - Pumas feed mostly on Guanacos.

- **Protects and restores habitats** supporting iconic Patagonian wildlife, including Pumas, Guanacos, Condors, and Huemul Deer.

- **Conserves both the natural and cultural heritage** of one of Chilean Patagonia's largest estancias.

- **Provides a replicable model** for integrating conservation, scientific research, tourism, and sustainable livestock production across productive landscapes.



The foundation's tracker team at work on the estancia, studying Puma behaviour to guide better conservation decisions. Photo credit: Fundación Cerro Guido Conservación.

Outcomes & Impact



Sunrise over Las Condoreras conservation area with Torres del Paine beyond — the heart of the foundation's research. Photo credit: Fundación Cerro Guido Conservación

Fundación Cerro Guido Conservación demonstrates that rewilding can merge regeneration of landscapes with productive and sustainable land uses.

By combining applied science, ecological restoration, predator coexistence, and sustainable ranching, the organisation is creating a practical model for rewilding Patagonia's wildlife, including maintaining viable rural livelihoods. Rather than separating nature from production, it shows how both can thrive together in a shared landscape.

Learn more about them here.

Part of a larger effort

These case studies are part of the the **Rewilding Rangelands Initiative —** a collaborative effort to restore ecological functionality and uplift coexistence across grasslands and rangelands through coordinated action across disciplines, sectors, and geographies.

A growing coalition of the Global Rewilding Alliance, Alliance Partners and experts have joined the Grasslands & Rangelands Working Group.

Explore other **case studies** and learn more about the **Initiative**.

ABOUT THE GLOBAL REWILDING ALLIANCE

The Global Rewilding Alliance is a worldwide organisation catalysing the rewilding movement by bringing together an active network of over 300 partners, working on every continent to help nature heal herself and secure a thriving future for people, nature and planet.

Our mission is to mainstream rewilding in science, policy and practice.

The core support of our Global Rewilding Champions is enabling us to build the hopeful, growing, global rewilding movement.

Rewilding
THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE

Published August 2026

© Global Rewilding Alliance
www.globalrewilding.earth

Partner of

HIGH AMBITION COALITION FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030