



Characteristics of the actors present in Central Chiloé¹

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Executive Summary

The present study takes place within the framework of the Rural Territorial Dynamics Programme implemented by the Latin American Center for Rural Development (Rimisp). After mapping the dynamics of changes in well-being during the 1990s in Chile, it was observed that Chiloé is an area that is highly heterogeneous in terms of the evolution witnessed in income, poverty and inequality. It is proposed that these differences allow us to identify three territories based on their historical, economic and demographic characteristics: the north, centre and south of the island, characterised by their concentration of a high proportion of the population of Chiloé in their respective municipalities (Ancud, Castro and Quellón - home to over 60% of the island's inhabitants), in contrast to the island's other districts.

The major growth witnessed in Central Chiloé, formed by the districts of Castro, Chonchi, Dalcahue, Curaco de Vélez, Puqueldón and Quinchao, is of particular interest; this is an area of inter-dependent settlements with functional links to Castro, and is the territory that witnessed the most prolific and visible economic and social changes following the arrival and consolidation of the salmon industry.

Through the use of qualitative research methodologies, we wish to illustrate the social make-up of the territory, separating the different actors into three main categories: the industrial sector, traditional sector and cross-cutting

¹ This working paper has been originally published in Spanish: Ramírez, E. Modrego, F. Macé, J. C. y Yáñez, R. 2009. "Caracterización de los actores de Chiloé Central". Documento de Trabajo N° 55. Programa Dinámicas Territoriales Rurales. Rimisp, Santiago, Chile. This document can be accessed through the following link www.rimisp.org/dtr/documentos.

actors. Based on this classification, the aim is to highlight the problems associated with the actual process of development on the island, observing within the characterisation and relationship of these actors different forms of evaluating such processes, identifying the elements that form the basis of their discourse and the interests that determine the movements of different forms of capital (social, political, economic, etc.) in the area of decision taking, so helping to shape different development strategies.