



# Territorial dynamics in Central Chiloé: the strength of extra-territorial coalitions<sup>1</sup>

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## Executive Summary

The present study forms part of the Rural Territorial Dynamics programme, and analyses the situation regarding the territories of Central Chiloé, located in the Los Lagos (lakes) Region of Chile.

The report establishes that the dynamics of economic development in Central Chiloé obey a much wider process, representing the way Chile's general strategy for economic growth is reflected at the local level: an accelerated process of industrialisation on the basis of the comparative advantages of natural resources, and a dynamic external market. The report highlights the extensive and rapid economic, social and environmental transformations that have taken place in the territory since the arrival of the salmon industry a few decades ago, and identifies two opposing development strategies: one based on the value attributed to local heritage and identity, along with the natural resources located in the territory, and the other founded on the concept of modern development and which sees, particularly in terms of the aquaculture industry, the way forward for the island and the end of its historical underdevelopment, exclusion and abandonment.

Through the use of qualitative and quantitative research methods, our aim is to illustrate the problems associated with the island's current development process, the formation of interest groups related to the different perspectives about the future of Chiloé, the elements that form the basis of their discourse,

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<sup>1</sup> This working paper has been originally published in Spanish: Ramírez, E. Modrego, F. Macé, J. C. y Yáñez, R. 2009. "Dinámicas Territoriales en Chiloé Central: La Fuerza de las Coaliciones Extra Territoriales". Documento de Trabajo N° 54. Programa Dinámicas Territoriales Rurales. Rimisp, Santiago, Chile. This document can be accessed through the following link [www.rimisp.org/dtr/documentos](http://www.rimisp.org/dtr/documentos).

and the various interests that determine the movements of different forms of capital (social, political, economic, etc.) in relation to the decision-taking area. Using this background information, we wish to identify those elements that can help us better understand the conditions needed to propose a development strategy for the aquiculture sector, and which would be able to coexist and be in synergy with those strategies founded on the island's rich cultural identity. This would help guide policies that encourage the territory's harmonious development, and not subordinate local projects to the demands of industry.