

SPECIAL INTEREST TOURISM AND NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT
Relationship between Special Interest Tourism and National Park Management

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Because of Chile's unique and singular nature, its natural resources are important attraction for the development of special interest tourism (SIT) based on nature. This nature is primarily within of national protected areas system in which National Park are strong related with SIT. In the present study we identified and characterized the nature SIT activities that support the management of the National Parks in the Region of La Araucanía, in which there are five national parks: Nahuelbuta, Tolhuaca, Conguillío, Huerquehue and Villarrica. To fulfill the goal was reviewed scientific and technical literature, identifying and contextualizing nature tourism activities according to local conditions, which was generated by a list of activities, which were subsequently classified according to the physical environment in which it is practiced (water, soil, air, mixed). Then, we analyzed the management plans of each national park considered in this study to analyze the compatibility between SIT activities based of nature and objectives of management of these types of units. We conclude that national parks of the Araucanía Region allow only SIT passive activities based on nature, because they do not involve the use of implements of adventure, special equipment or motor vehicles, all of which are considered to be incompatible elements for protecting nature.

KEY WORDS: *special interest tourism, national park, wilderness management, Temuco, Chile.*