

July 2026 — Project Update

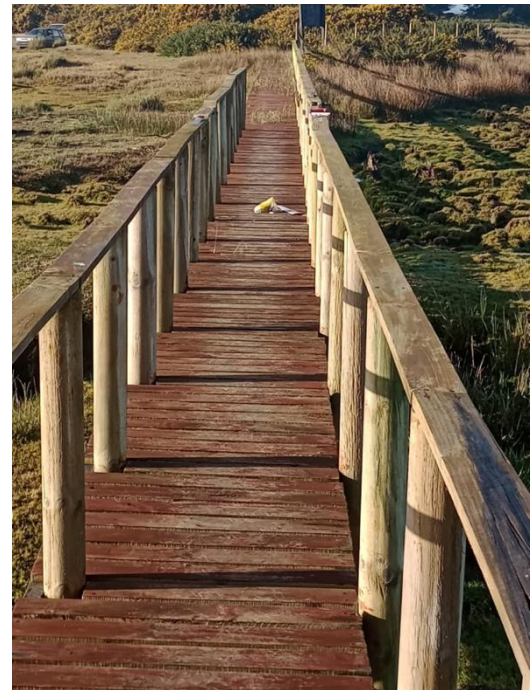
Field Partner: Fundación Conservación Marina

Securing shorebird sites at Maullín, Chile

I wanted to give you a quick mid-year update and say thanks for supporting our work on behalf of the Hudsonian Godwits, American Oystercatcher, and countless shorebirds of Chile.

Key Achievements during the first six months of 2026:

- Meetings were held with the Chilean government for the legal **reclassification of all three wetland sites** (Maullín River Wetlands, Quinchao Bay Wetland, & Curaco de Vélez Bay Wetland)
- Repair of public-use infrastructure completed at Maullín River Wetlands. This included the inspection and replacement of deteriorated elements in boardwalks, railings, platforms, access points, and bird observatories, as well as targeted improvements to floors, benches, and supporting fixtures. Maintenance also included vegetation removal from boardwalks and ongoing cleaning of the infrastructure to ensure safe and continuous public use.



- The 12th Birds, Crafts and Tourism Fair of Curaco de Vélez was held in January at the Parque Costumbrista Los Molinos, with ~2,500 attendees and 80 birdwatching tour participants; co-funded by the Los Lagos Regional Government.

- Fourteen monitoring exercises recorded 71 species and 31,697 individuals across the network. There were peak counts of 4,000+ Hudsonian Godwits at two sites in March. Documentation of the fourth consecutive breeding season for American Oystercatcher at Quinchao Bay showed a **positive trend in reproductive success at the Quinchao Bay Wetland Nature Sanctuary** (the results were published in *Ornitología Neotropical*).

Looking forward:

An active avian influenza outbreak affecting the sanctuary was reported on April 25, 2026, with at least 12 Black-necked Swans and 18 Flightless Steamer Ducks found dead. FCM coordinated an emergency response with SAG Castro, the Municipal Environment Office, and the local Environment Committee, establishing a reporting and carcass removal protocol and distributing an informational flyer to households adjacent to the sanctuary. The outbreak remains under active monitoring.

Thank you for standing with us to “shore up” bird conservation in Chiloé and Maullín

Please reach out if you'd like more details or updates.

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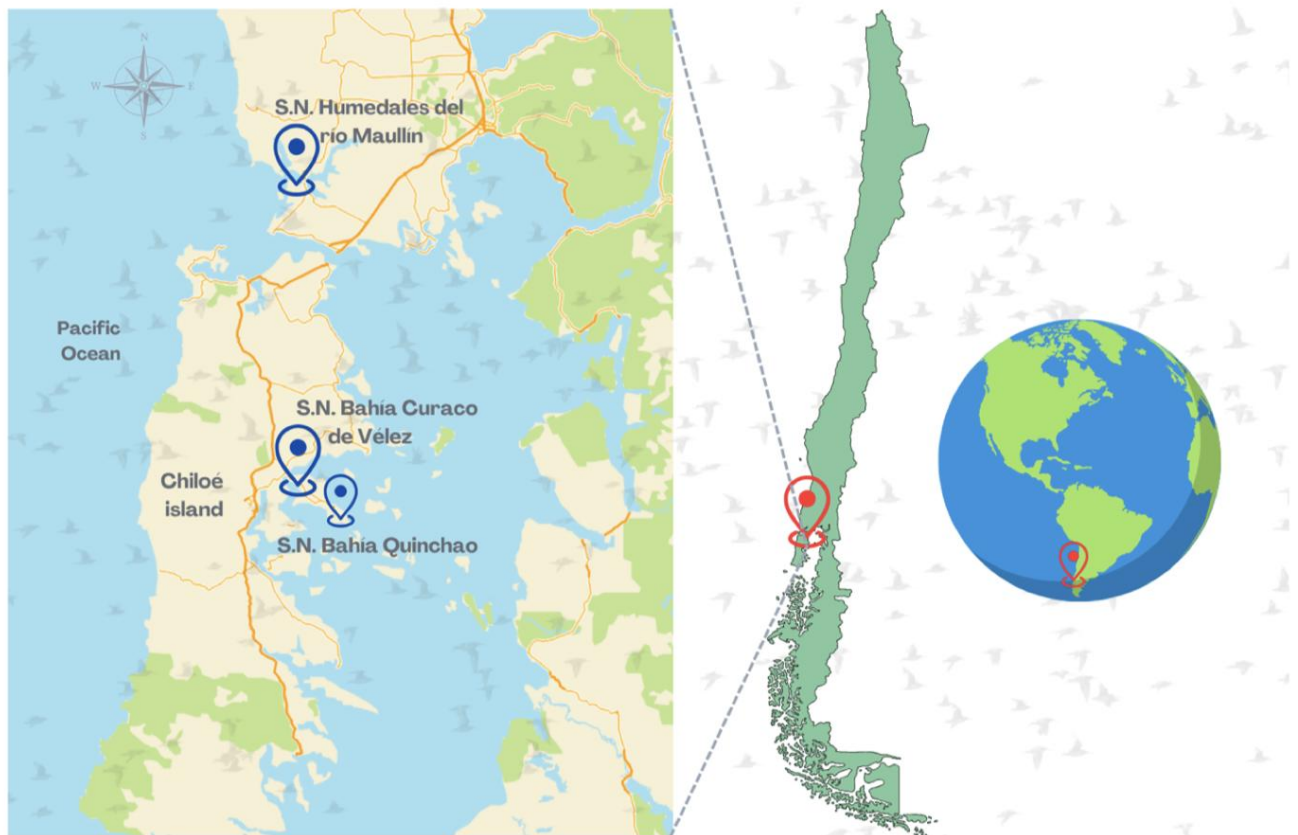


Figure 1. Project location. Protected areas networks for shorebirds conservation; Maullín Wetlands Nature Sanctuary; Curaco de Vélez Bay Nature Sanctuary, and Quinchao Bay Nature Sanctuary.