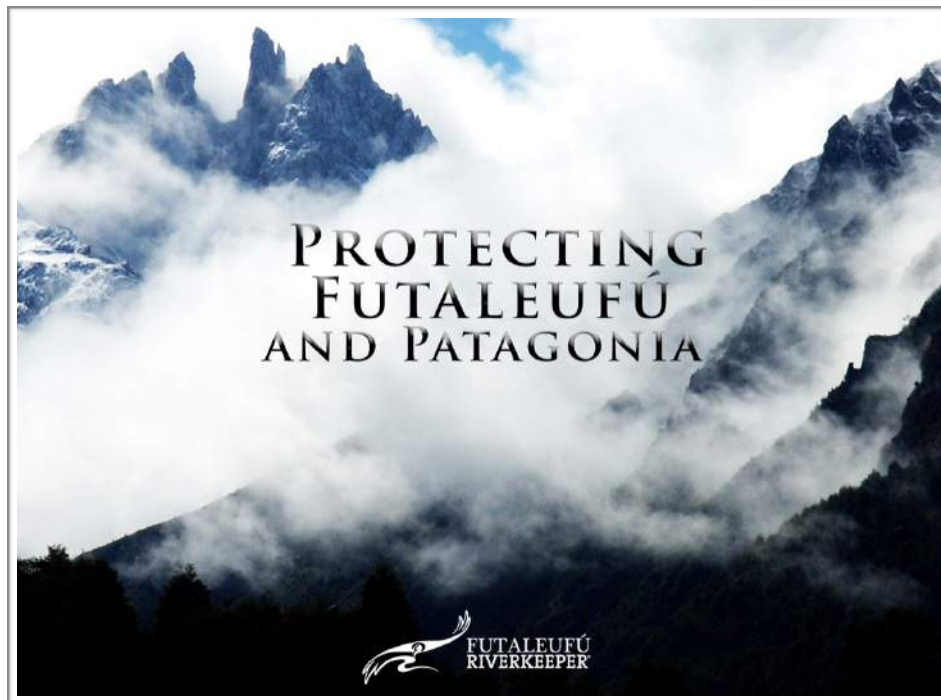


FUTALEUFÚ RIVERKEEPER®

2015 Report



Dear Supporters,

We are very excited coming off the heels of our first event at The Explorers Club in New York City. It was a packed house! Supporters came from all over the country to celebrate this unique part of Patagonia. Thank you to everyone who could join us in New York. We hope you will enjoy reading on to learn more about Futaleufu Riverkeeper's plans to protect the Futaleufu and lead the way for saving other rivers in Patagonia. Thank you again for your support in 2015. Saludos!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert Currie Jr.'.

Robert Currie Jr.
Founder, Executive Director
Santiago, June 2015



Futaleufu Riverkeeper Supporters at The Explorers Club, April 2015. L to R: Sonia Jones, Stephanie Haig, Robert F. Kennedy Jr, Paul Tudor Jones, Peter Kiernan, Scott Haig. Photo by Lacy Kiernan. [More photos from the event here.](#)

Who We Are

Futaleufu Riverkeeper is a Chilean nonprofit foundation and the first Waterkeeper Alliance member to operate in the Patagonia region. We protect the Futaleufu through legal aid, policymaking, working with government officials and members of Congress, and helping to strengthen partner organizations in Chile that protect other Patagonian rivers. Our work has been championed by International Rivers, National Geographic, Patagonia Inc., and more.



Left: Robert F. Kennedy Jr. speaking at The Explorers Club presentation hosted by Futaleufu Riverkeeper, April 2015. Right: Supporters of Futaleufu Riverkeeper. Photos by Lacy Kiernan.

Notable Achievements in 2014

Since 2012, Futaleufu Riverkeeper has become a leader in the fight to save Patagonia's rivers. Over the last year our work has continued gaining momentum. Some of the major achievements include:

- Playing a key role in hydro developer Endesa's decision to withdraw its plans to build three large dams on the Futaleufu. Chile's top financial newspaper credited us for the move. [Diario Financiero's cover page on right.]¹
- Hosting a major event at The Explorers Club in New York to launch our new campaign.² The event featured keynote speaker Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and was attended by notable philanthropists and adventurers. Also joining us were Chile's Consul General in New York



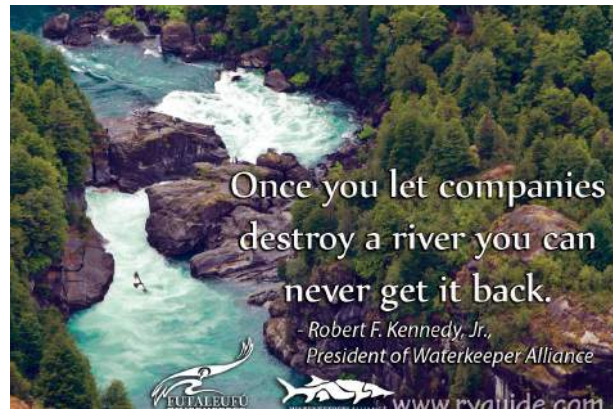
¹ <http://waterkeeper.org/2014/10/24/chilean-financial-press-reports-cancellation-second-largest-hydro-project-chile-citing-futaleufu-riverkeeper-local-opposition-reasons/>

² <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2015/04/prweb12658727.htm>

and reps from several partner organizations, including Patagonia Inc., Yale's Environmental Protection Clinic, the Vance Center for International Justice, and Waterkeeper Alliance.

- Helping to bring an award-winning film by director Steph Haig, *Fighting For the Futaleufú*, to over 35 festivals in Chile and the US, including the Wild & Scenic Film Festival (US) and the Adventure Film Festival (Chile).³ [Watch the film in HD here!](#)

- Bringing Chile's growing environmental movement into the limelight when the influential *La Tercera* newspaper put us on the front page of its Sunday edition, quoting Waterkeeper Alliance President Robert F. Kennedy Jr. The article even prompted responses from an Endesa executive who admitted the company was concerned about citizen opposition to its Futaleufu hydro project.



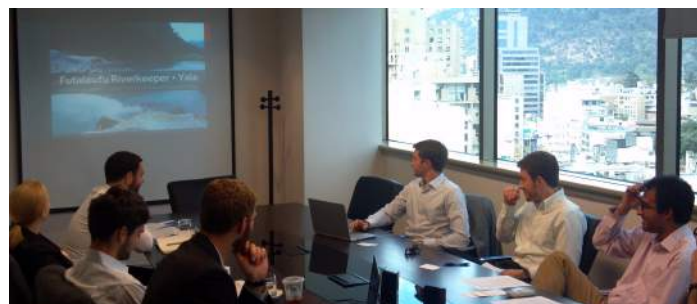
- Informing the debate about renewable energies in Chile with help from Yale Law School's Environmental Protection Clinic. Our research team flew to Santiago to meet with policymakers and present case studies and recommendations. The Yale research challenges the large dam model being advanced by Chile's Ministry of Energy.



- Serving as advisors to the Senate Environmental Commission to enact legislation that improves the national park system and creates a new biodiversity agency. The legislation is expected to pass this year and signifies a major advancement for conservation efforts in Chile.

- Leading a joint effort with two municipalities and community stakeholders to designate Futaleufu as a Zone of Touristic Interest (ZOIT). This designation will create the first zoning restrictions and reduce development impacts, including from tourism.

Above: The hike to Cerro La Teta in Futaleufu, one of many trekking routes to be protected under the new ZOIT designation. Top right: A quote from the *La Tercera* article, which was widely disseminated in Chile. Right: Yale's researchers presenting in Santiago, January 2015.



³ <http://www.nwrafting.com/river-conservation/fighting-futaleufu>

Who Supports Us

Futaleufu Riverkeeper's supporters are the key to protecting the watershed. Our donors are active players, providing direct support for on-the-ground work in Futaleufu and Santiago. Nearly 75% of donations come directly from individuals and families. Their confidence has allowed Futaleufu Riverkeeper to grow into becoming one of the strongest independent NGOs in Chile. People also connect us with universities and other institutions to support staff through volunteers, partnerships and more.

Institutional support has come from groups that have a long history of conservation projects in Chile, including Patagonia Inc. and the Weeden Foundation.



Above: Supporters of Futaleufu Riverkeeper, Diane Terry from Private Journeys and guest at The Explorers Club in New York, April 16 2015. Photo by Lacy Kiernan.



In addition to donations, Futaleufu Riverkeeper is aided by several partner organizations. In the U.S. these include International Rivers, Waterkeeper Alliance, the Vance Center for International Justice, and Yale Law School.

For more information on our supporters please contact our International Director at plynch@futaleufuriverkeeper.org

Above: Don Weeden, President of the Weeden Foundation, with John Van der Stricht. Right: Melissa Legge from Yale Law School and Futaleufu Riverkeeper supporter Jim Halle. Photos by Lacy Kiernan.





New Goals in 2015

Your support in 2015 will help safeguard the Futaleufu for future generations and continue building on momentum from last year. We have set an ambitious fundraising target of \$250,000 USD over the next two years, which will support community-led efforts as well as critical legal and policy work. Every dollar you give will fund the projects described below. In addition to saving the Futaleufu, you will also be helping to build a model that communities all over Chile can use to protect their families and livelihoods.

Current Challenges

As our Executive Director Robert Currie said during his talk at The Explorers Club, we still face several challenges to overcome before the Futaleufu watershed can be permanently protected under Chilean and international law. To maximize impact, Futaleufu Riverkeeper plans to focus on three goals:

1. Place legal protections to limit adverse development in the Futaleufu watershed.
2. Shape policy discussions that will determine the future of Futaleufu.
3. Serve as a model for other NGOs protecting watersheds and communities in Chile.



Chilean attorney Robert Currie Jr., Executive Director of Futaleufu Riverkeeper, presenting at The Explorers Club in New York. Photo by Lacy Kiernan.



Legal protections to limit adverse development in the Futaleufu watershed

1. Watershed Zoning for Tourism and Development

A project coordinator will be hired to oversee implementation of the ZOIT (Zone of Touristic Interest) Action Plan. This Plan is a collaborative effort between communities, local governments and Futaleufu Riverkeeper. It serves as a roadmap for regulating what kind of development will be allowed in the watershed. Major benefits include setting limits on the type and size of construction projects, promoting local entrepreneurship, and shaping the growth of tourism in a way that preserves natural resources, rather than destroying or degrading them.

Right: The new Artesanal Village in Futaleufu, one of several exciting community-led projects to be strengthened by the ZOIT Action Plan. Photo by Isa Delgado.

How this helps: By making the ZOIT our core project in the watershed, we get to interact with the community and the authorities in helping them define the future they want. And at the national level, we get



to show the rest of the country that the Futaleufu can thrive without forcing the approval of environmentally harmful projects.

Left: Futaleufu's beautiful town plaza as seen after the rain. New zoning regulations will preserve the village area and make sure future construction is sustainable and preserves the area's rustic, frontier-town feel.

2. Environmental Qualification Certification

We will employ a Legal Director to oversee the process of obtaining Environmental Qualification Certification from the Environmental Assessment Service for a local project in the watershed. This process is an exciting but complicated step towards permanently protecting the Futaleufu. Among other challenges, it includes creating a baseline study, carrying out an analysis of possible environmental impacts to the watershed, drafting a management plan, and complying with Chilean legislation.

How this helps: Obtaining this certification will allow us to legally establish relevant natural features of the area that we want preserved, and give them preeminence over other uses. This will be a valuable tool, both for conservation and for promoting local sustainable growth. Hiring a legal director to carry out this work is essential. The process can take anywhere between ten months to two years and will involve coordinating aspects of environmental law, policy, science and economics.

3. Recognizing Protected Areas

We will improve documentation and recognition of legal rights stemming from Chilean and international law, in particular protected areas in the watershed. This includes national parks in both Chile and Argentina, a UN Biosphere Reserve, and future national park Pumalin in Chile.



How this helps: Futaleufu is an active community with several groups working to protect the cultural and natural heritage of the region. Making sure these groups understand their legal rights to protect the watershed is a great way to foster collaboration and keep everyone on alert when new development proposals are announced that can be opposed using existing laws.



Left: The Futaleufu River as seen in Chilean winter. Above: maps developed by Futaleufu Riverkeeper showing the existence of protected areas in the watershed, including Los Alerces National Park in Argentina.

Shaping policy discussions that will determine the future of the watershed

1. Commenting on proposed legislation

We will issue comments regarding draft legislation on protected areas, which our Executive Director has been involved with since being appointed to a government committee in 2014. The legislation is currently open to public comment and is expected to pass in 2015.

How this helps: By participating in the growth of environmental law in Chile, we can create a more level playing field for future conflicts. We can also work with our partners to make sure Chile stays true to its obligations under international treaties.

2. Publishing policy articles and research

We will continue to publish policy articles and disseminate research challenging Chile's plan to make large hydro part of its response to climate change. Chile has modeled several energy scenarios in advance of the upcoming United Nations COP in December 2015. Every model contemplates the destruction of Patagonia's major waterways. We will challenge the assumption that large hydro is needed to meet the country's energy needs by introducing studies completed for Futaleufu Riverkeeper by researchers at Yale, which we first presented to officials at several Chilean agencies this past January.

Investigadores de Yale aconsejan a Chile crear nuevos incentivos para energías renovables

Los estudiantes de postgrado advierten que el financiamiento gubernamental para estos proyectos es "crítico" en las primeras fases de los proyectos energéticos.

BY CASABLANCA /



La agenda energética de gobierno busca reducir un 50% el número de familias sin suministro eléctrico y que el 100% de las escuelas y postas públicas cuente con energía permanente a partir de 2017. La meta además, incluye lograr un 30% de presencia de energías renovables al año 2030.

How this helps: Research on renewable energies continues to show that alternatives to the large dam model are not only feasible but actually cheaper. Getting that research into the hands of policymakers is an effective way of protecting rivers like the Futaleufu.

3. Engaging influential actors

We will continue to engage influential actors about the long-term benefits of protecting national treasures like the Futaleufu. These include Chile's Ministry of Foreign Relations, the U.S. State Department, and people in Chile who are in positions of authority.

How this helps: Communicating our position that the Futaleufu watershed deserves unique recognition and must be protected under national and international law is a major part of what we do. Connecting with people who can help us gain an audience with key stakeholders is a must.

Serving as a model for other watershed groups in Chile

Finally, Futaleufu Riverkeeper will continue to participate in conferences, seminars, festivals and workshops. These venues are a tremendous opportunity to explain how working with global organizations like the Natural Resources Defense Council, International Rivers and Waterkeeper Alliance can strengthen local conservation efforts. We will continue publishing press releases and seek press outlets to expand the depth of understanding among journalists.

From Left to Right: Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Marc Yaggi, President of Waterkeeper Alliance, Heartie Look, International Director Patrick J. Lynch, Executive Director Robert Currie Jr., and Tomás Dinges. Photo by Francesca Chaney.



Did you miss the event? Click on the left to view photos from our inaugural celebration at The Explorers Club.

How to Help

As Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said to attendees at The Explorers Club, **now is the time when we need to be working together with communities in Patagonia to save the Futaleufu.** By renewing your support and contributing to Futaleufu Riverkeeper's campaigns in 2015, you will be making history in a place that stands out as one of the world's last remaining wilderness regions.

To make a contribution please visit <http://www.futaleufuriverkeeper.org/donate/> and follow the instructions from there. Thank you for your support!

If you know people who would like to get involved in Futaleufu Riverkeeper's conservation work, please contact us at info@futaleufuriverkeeper.org

Once Again, Thank You for your Support!
To make a contribution [click here](http://www.futaleufuriverkeeper.org/donate/) or visit
<http://www.futaleufuriverkeeper.org/donate/>
and follow the instructions.

Patagonia Without Dams!
¡Patagonia Sin Represas!

