



## Chile

Basic Data in a nutshell	
Area	756,950 sq km (includes Easter Island (Isla de Pascua) and Isla Sala y Gomez)
Coastline	6,435 km
Administrative division	15 regions (regiones)
Capital	Santiago
Population / habitat density	16,284,741 = 22 habitants/sq km
Population growth rate	0.916%
Languages	Spanish
Economy	<u>Agriculture products:</u> grapes, apples, pears, onions, wheat, corn, oats, peaches, garlic, asparagus, beans; beef, poultry, wool; fish; timber <u>Industries:</u> copper, other minerals, foodstuffs, fish processing, iron and steel, wood and wood products, transport equipment, cement, textiles
Terrain	low coastal mountains; fertile central valley; rugged Andes in east
Climate	temperate; desert in north; Mediterranean in central region; cool and damp in south → broad selection of the earth's climates → the climate is strongly influenced by the Humboldt stream
Natural Resources	copper, timber, iron ore, nitrates, precious metals, molybdenum, hydropower
Biodiversity hotspots (according to Conservation International)	Chilean Winter Rainfall–Valdivian Forests, Tropical Andes
Read more:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CIA World Factbook: <a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/</a></li> <li>- Human Development Reports: <a href="http://www.undp.org">www.undp.org</a></li> <li>- biodiversity hotspots: <a href="http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx</a></li> </ul>



(Source: CIA World Factbook)

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; Biodiversity hotspots of Conservation International)



Selected indicators of development status	
HDI *)	0.867 (rank 40 of 177)
Life expectancy at birth	male: 73.69 years female: 80.4 years
GDP per capita (UNDP, 2005)	12,027
GDP composition by sector	<p>4,90% 45,40% 49,70%</p> <p>■ agriculture ■ industry □ services</p>
Infant mortality	8.36 deaths/1,000 live births
Adult literacy rate (15 years and older)	95.7%
Population using an improved water source 1990/2004	90% / 95%
Children underweight for age (under age 5)	1%
Population below poverty line (2 US\$/day)	5.6%
Gini-Index for income distribution **)	0.549
Official Development Assistance (ODA) received	
Total amount / per capita (UNDP, 2005)	151,700,000 US\$ / 9.3 US\$
% of ODA in GDP 1990/2005	0.3% / 0.1%
Read more:	
- Human Development Reports: <a href="http://www.undp.org">www.undp.org</a>	
- UNDP Statistics for Chile: <a href="http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_CHL.html">http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_CHL.html</a>	

(Sources: UNDP Human Development Report 2007; CIA World Factbook)

\*) The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comparative index of social development status. The HDI is calculated on the basis of life expectancy, the literacy rate and real purchasing power per capita. The HDI is expressed as a value between 1 (high) and 0 (low)

\*\*\*) The Gini coefficient is a measure of personal income distribution within a country or region. It is expressed as a value between 0 (distribution fully equitable) and 1 (distribution fully inequitable)



## Biological Diversity in Chile is ...

...the diversity of ecosystems:

Natural Regions North-to-South:

- desert far north (Norte Grande), consisting of dry brown hills and sparse vegetation and containing extremely arid Atacama Desert and Andean plateau
- near north (Norte Chico), a semiarid region between Río Copiapó and Santiago
- Central Chile (Chile Central), most densely populated region, including three largest metropolitan areas (Santiago, Valparaíso, Concepción) and the fertile Central Valley (Valle Central) with a temperate, Mediterranean climate
- heavily forested south (Sur de Chile), south of Río Bío-Bío, containing cool and very rainy (especially during winter) lake district and crisscrossed by hundreds of rivers
- far south (Chile Austral), sparsely populated, forested, constantly cold and stormy, with many fjords, inlets, twisting peninsulas, and islands

Vegetation landscapes:

- desert (22% of the country's surface)
- Evergreen forests and peat bog forests (18%)
- high Andean steppe (17%)
- scrubland and sclerophyllous forest (10%)
- deciduous forest (8%)
- Andean-Patagonian forest (7%)
- Patagonian steppe (4%)
- "bosque laurifolio" (3%)

- ➔ forest area (2005): 161,200 sq km (21.3% of the national area)
- ➔ 40% of the total land area was naturally forested

...the diversity between and within species:

- high number of endemisms, a product of the geographic and vegetative exclusivity arising from the country's isolation by the Andes mountain range, the Pacific Ocean, the Atacama desert and the polar ice caps
- 78% of the amphibians and 59% of the reptiles are endemical
- close to 29,000 species (study of the 1990s)

## Efforts to protect Chilean biodiversity:

- Principal instrument of Conservation: SNASPE (National System of State-protected Wilderness Areas)
- 62 protected areas (2003) which cover 3.6% of the total land area
- 1.85% of total land area (13,970 sq km) are strictly protected (according to IUCN categories I and II)
- 9 Ramsar Sites (i.a. Salar de Huasco, sistema hidrológico de Soncor), 9 biosphere reserves (i.a. Torres del Paine, Araucarias) and 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (i.a. Rapa Nui National Park)

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## Read more:

- biodiversity hotspots: <http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx>
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAB) of Chile: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/cl/cl-nbsap-01-en.pdf>
- Global Environmental Outlook of the UNEP (GEO-4): [http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4\\_Report\\_Full\\_en.pdf](http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4_Report_Full_en.pdf)
- Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente: <http://www.conama.cl/>
- Biodiversity in German Development Cooperation: [www.gtz.de/biodiversity](http://www.gtz.de/biodiversity)
- WWF Chile: <http://www.wwf.cl/>
- Library of Congress/Country Study of Chile: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cltoc.html>
- Earthtrends Country Profiles: [http://earthtrends.wri.org/country\\_profiles/](http://earthtrends.wri.org/country_profiles/)
- UNESCO World Heritage List: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>
- UNESCO Man and Biosphere: <http://www.unesco.org/mab/>
- Ramsar Sites: <http://www.ramsar.org/sitelist.pdf>

(Sources: Biodiversity Hotspots of Conservation International, CBD Country Profiles; World Resources Institute – Earthtrends; UNDP 2005)

## Chiles' current environmental challenges are:

widespread deforestation and substitution of native forests in Central Chile by plantations of pines and eucalyptus

underrepresentation of a significant part of the country's ecosystems in the SNASPE

disappearance of the "bosque maulino," a plant formation specific to Chile, which is decreasing at the rate of 8% per year

soil erosion

air pollution from industrial and vehicle emissions

water pollution from raw sewage

Mining (copper)

Increasing desertification in the dry north

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of Chile)

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## Cultural diversity in Chile is based on...

...different ethnic groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- white and white-Amerindian 95%</li> <li>- Amerindian 3%</li> <li>- other 2%</li> </ul> <p>→ 1.1 million indigenous people → the Mapuche are the biggest indigenous community</p>
...different religions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roman Catholic 70%</li> <li>- Evangelical 15.1%</li> <li>- Jehovah's Witness 1.1%</li> <li>- other Christian 1%, other 4.6%, none 8.3%</li> </ul>

(Source: CIA World Factbook)

<b>Ecological Footprint</b>	2.3 global ha/person
<b>Biocapacity</b>	5.4 global ha/person

Within the global comparison, Chile ranges on place no. 32 - see bar chart:  
[http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator\\_detail.cfm?country=CL&indicatorid=13](http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator_detail.cfm?country=CL&indicatorid=13)

(Source: [www.footprintnetwork.org](http://www.footprintnetwork.org))