

Wildland-Urban interface invasions by exotic conifers in NW Patagonia: Mapping public engagement

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INTRODUCTION & AIM

Introduced non-native conifers (Pinaceae) in Patagonia threaten biodiversity, disrupt ecosystem services, and increase wildfire risk.

Through the "Red PINOS" initiative (pine network), driven by the multi-actor partnership, this study explored the use of citizen science to assess public concern about invasive conifers in wildland-urban interfaces (WUIs) of Andean Patagonia Argentina.

METHOD

Using a free messaging platform, participants submitted geospatial coordinates and photos of conifer invasions they encountered in WUIs. They also reported if any pines were removed. Participation was promoted across media (social networks, radio, TV).



RESULTS & DISCUSSION

People reported 58 invasion foci (Fig. 1) and the hand removal of 839 small-sized pines up to 1.5 m tall.

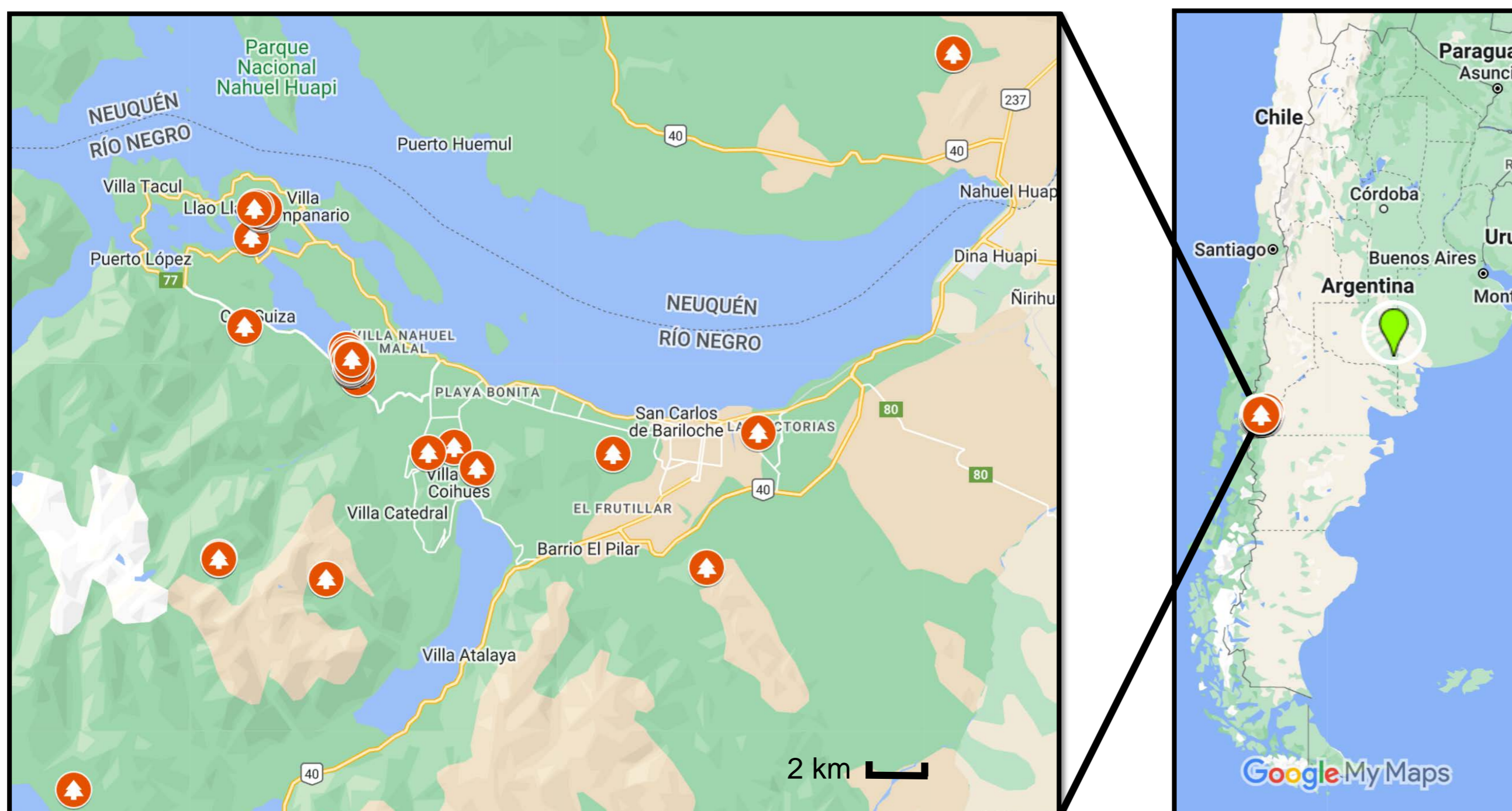


Fig. 1. Map showing invasion focal points in the WUIs of Bariloche (left) and the location of Bariloche within Argentina (right).

The records were widely distributed across WUIs (Fig. 1), including steppe, shrubland, and forest habitats.

These early findings mark a milestone for Red PINOS, highlighting the effectiveness of citizen science in promoting participatory governance and public collaboration in invasive species management.

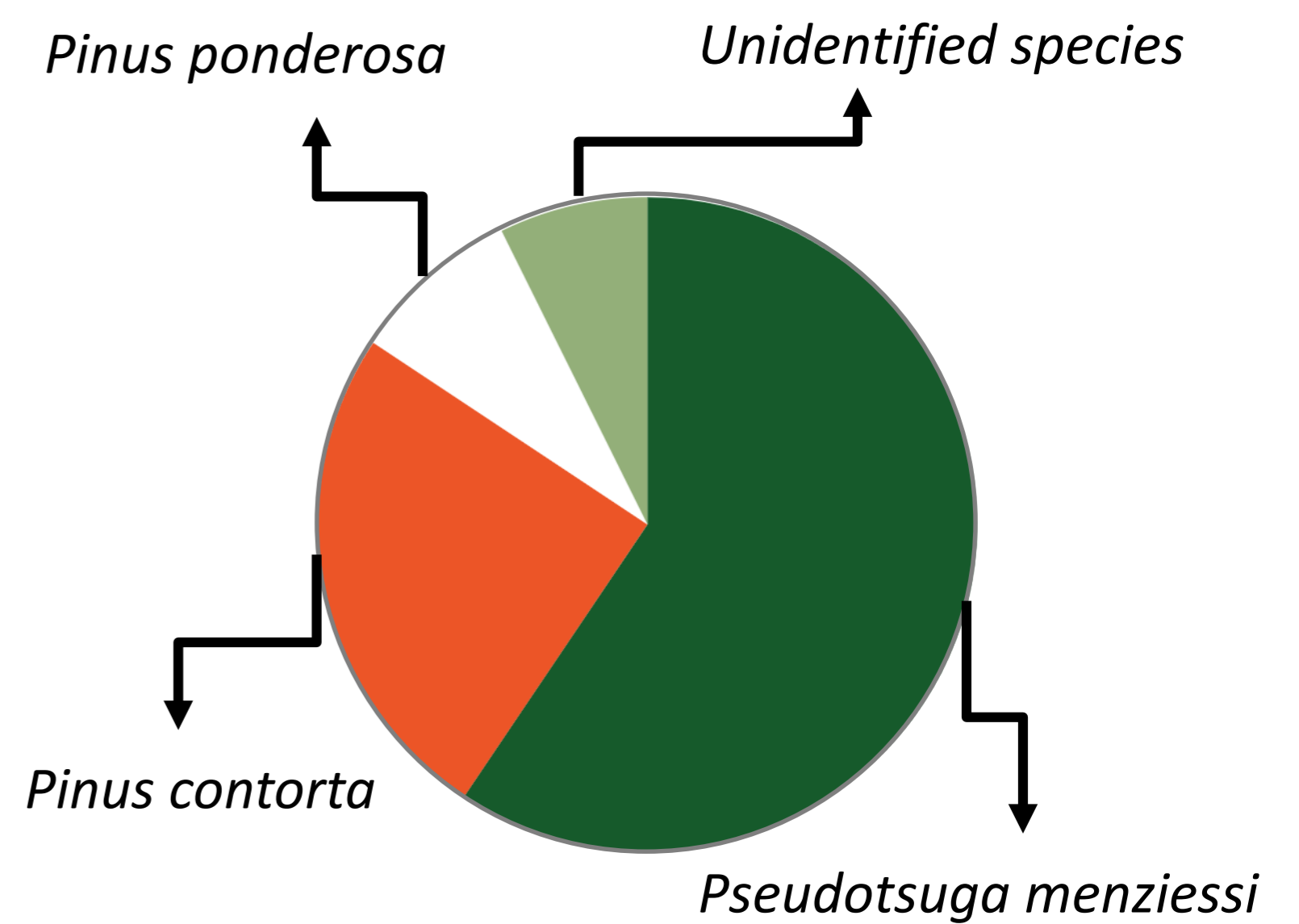


Fig. 2. People reports (%) of conifer species.

CONCLUSION

This ongoing initiative is key to addressing non-native conifer invasions in Patagonia by mapping hotspots, removing seedlings and saplings, and engaging the public.

