

# The Culture of weaving

Kiustét  
Jerfelai

 Podcast

*A Big Basket*  
Project

C'apasjetana  
Fondart - cultural project

The bulletin of Pueblo



Kawésqar Foundation



**Tribute to Doña Carmela López Opazo  
+march 2022**

# *Hello*

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## **From Pueblo Kawésqar Foundation**

We are very happy to welcome you to this meeting space with the Pueblo Kawésqar Foundation called The Culture of Weaving.

If you just met us today, we invite you to visit our social media, so that we are always connected around the culture of this southern people.

 [pueblo\\_kawesqar](https://www.instagram.com/pueblo_kawesqar)

In the pages of our newsletter we will show you the purpose that drives this organization and the path we have traveled in these early years, along with a valuable collaborative network that makes this work possible. We will also tell you about the projects that currently allow us to contribute to the rescue, safeguarding and visibility of the Kawésqar culture and heritage.

When we talk about the Kawésqar, perhaps the first thing you think of is the nomadic canoeists and their life at sea. And it is precisely because it is the most distinctive ancestral legacy. However, there is an important nucleus of weavers, Kawésqar artisans, where the culture is pretty much alive.

We wanted to dedicate this newsletter to the development of rush plant basketry, a productive activity and at the same time a great cultural rescue, through Kawésqar stories, techniques and traditions. Because it is not only the action of weaving that brings us together, it is also the sense of togetherness that keeps this people alive.

PROJECT

The Culture  
of weaving

[www.pueblokawesqar.cl](http://www.pueblokawesqar.cl)

# A Big Basket



Ministerio de  
Desarrollo  
Social y  
Familia

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Alcaldía  
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ILUSTRE MUNICIPALIDAD DE NATALES



Corporación de  
Cultura

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ILUSTRE MUNICIPALIDAD DE NATALES

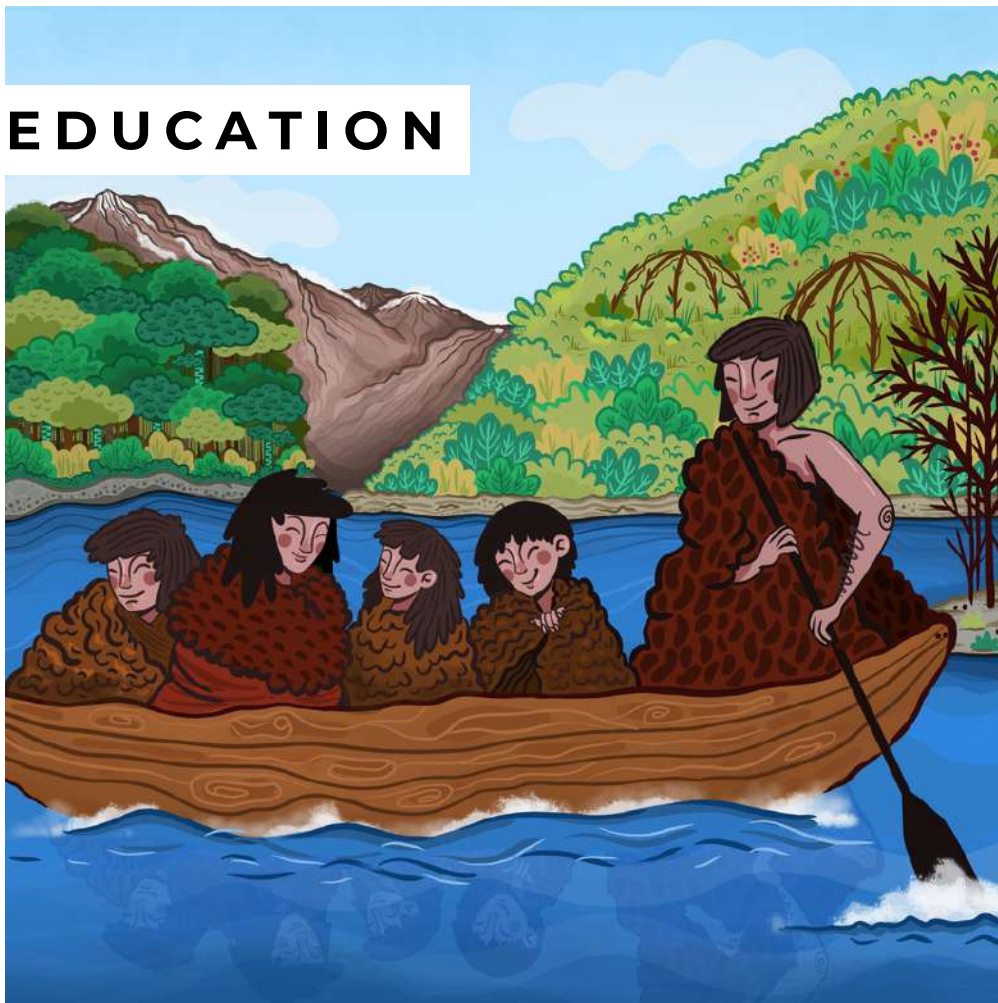


FUNDACION  
SUPERACION  
DE LA POBREZA

SERVICIO PAÍS



## EDUCATION



# KIUSTÉT JERFELAI

LET'S SAIL

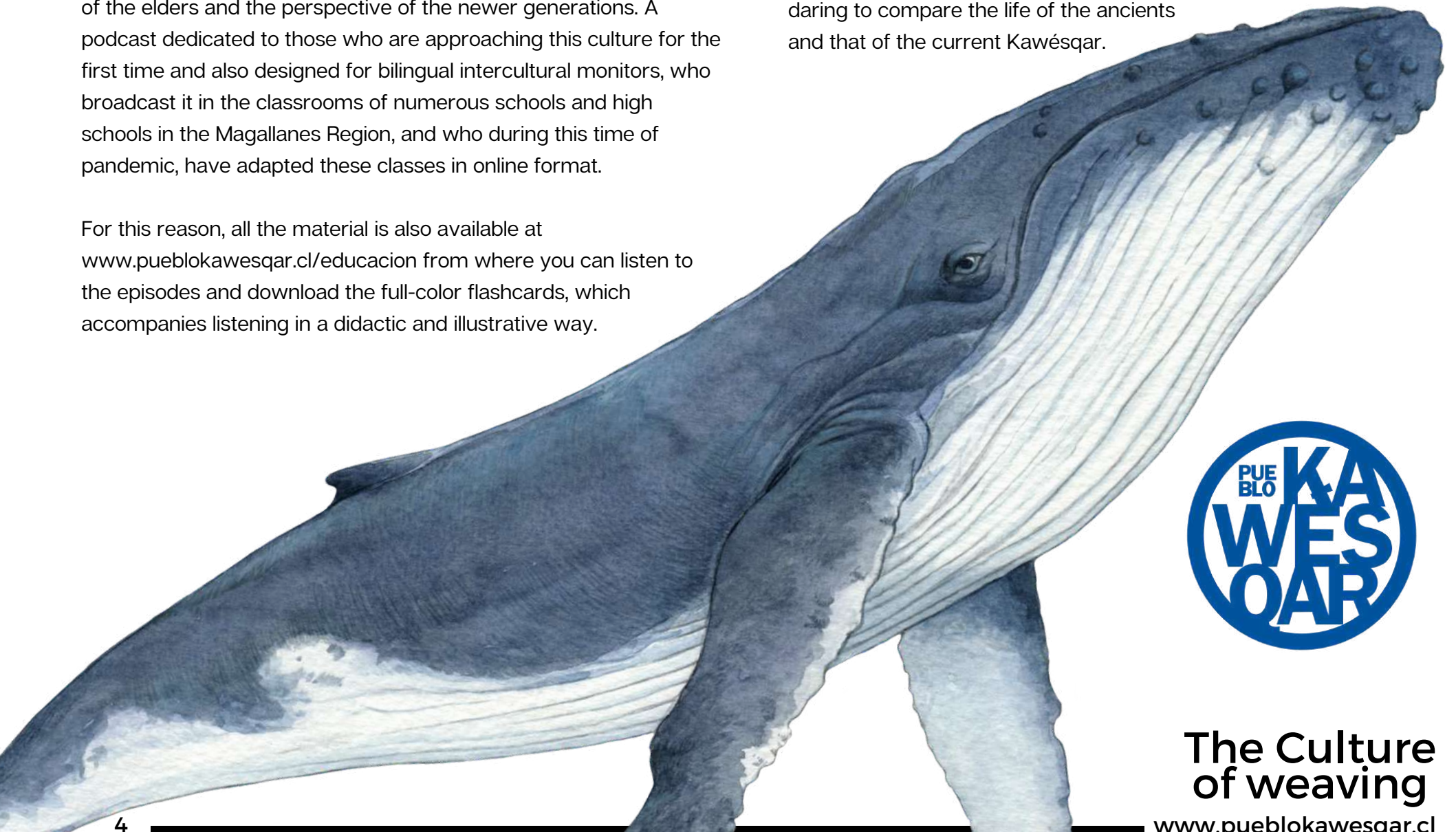
The Pueblo Kawésqar Foundation invites you to listen on Spotify, the first season of the Kiustét Jerfelai or "Let's Sail" podcast. An educational project of the foundation, which seeks to visibilize and put on value the culture and language of the indigenous people, for the life of their communities and new generations Kawésqar.

In this first season, Francisco González and Steffa Márquez invite us from Puerto Natales to navigate the culture and language of the Kawésqar People. For ten episodes, they teach us part of the vision of historians, anthropologists and various researchers who have studied this culture, as well as the knowledge and oral transmission of the elders and the perspective of the newer generations. A podcast dedicated to those who are approaching this culture for the first time and also designed for bilingual intercultural monitors, who broadcast it in the classrooms of numerous schools and high schools in the Magallanes Region, and who during this time of pandemic, have adapted these classes in online format.

For this reason, all the material is also available at [www.pueblokawesqar.cl/educacion](http://www.pueblokawesqar.cl/educacion) from where you can listen to the episodes and download the full-color flashcards, which accompanies listening in a didactic and illustrative way.

Thanks to the support of the professionals who have collaborated with this initiative and the funding of Conadi, it has been possible to: investigate different bibliographic sources, listen to the stories of some elders of the communities and establish conversations with the new Kawésqar generations. All of the above with the aim of giving to know, different views of the same culture, in constant change and evolution, which provides a sense of reality about its development and living presence.

For this reason, this program is an invitation to navigate through dialogue, starting from the most well-known historical data, and daring to compare the life of the ancients and that of the current Kawésqar.



The Culture  
of weaving

[www.pueblokawesqar.cl](http://www.pueblokawesqar.cl)

# 10 CHAPTERS



- ▶ 1.- Who are the Kawésqar?
- ▶ 2.- The Kawésqar territory
- ▶ 3.- Subsistence activities
- ▶ 4.- Family life
- ▶ 5.- Material culture
- ▶ 6.- Beliefs
- ▶ 7.- Mythical world
- ▶ 8.- Kawesqar language
- ▶ 9.- A living people
- ▶ 10.- Our organization

## DOWNLOADABLE GUIDES

Each episode of the *Kiustét Jerfelai* podcast is complemented by downloadable educational guides at [www.pueblokawesqar.com/educacion](http://www.pueblokawesqar.com/educacion). A great tool for those who do not know the Kawésqar alphabet, and its special characters, which represent particular sounds, inherited from the current original speakers of the language, which are left in some communities and have been rescued thanks to the support of linguists such as Oscar Aguilera and Joseph Tonko.



Iniciativa financiada por la Corporación Nacional de Desarrollo Indígena **CONADI - 2021**

A special thanks to **@jezibunster** graphic artist and digital illustrator who designed the cover for the podcast and also to the watercolor illustrator **@elviscelanius** who painted the animals for the textile collection "The mythical kawésqar world" that helped us illustrate the educational sheets. As well as the technical work of **Eric Mansilla** in charge of recording and editing each chapter of this first season.



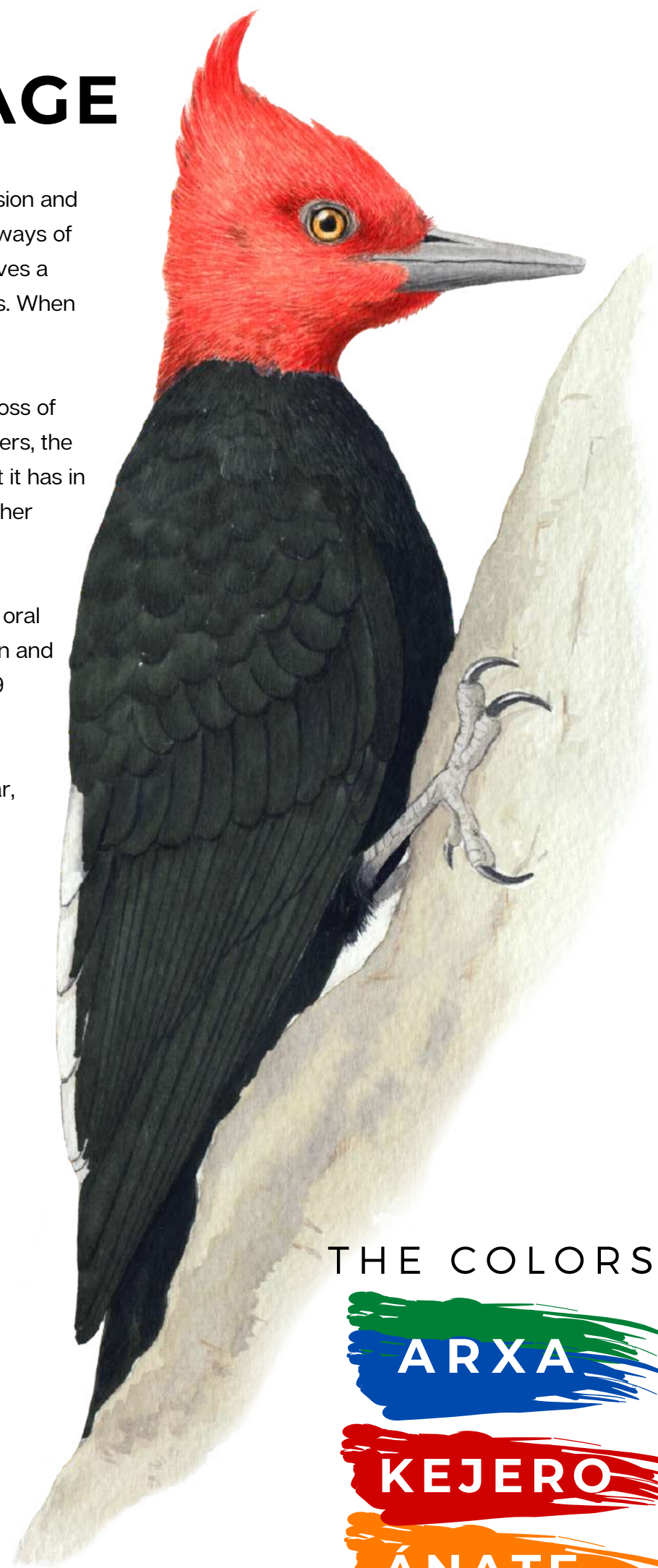
# KAWÉSQAR LANGUAGE

Indigenous languages are communication tools that allow cultural transmission and thanks to it, the worldview or the way of seeing the world is projected, the ways of linking, as well as the transfer of ancestral knowledge or wisdom. All this gives a sense of identity and social cohesion to indigenous people and communities. When a language disappears, the memories and culture of people disappear.

As is the case with many indigenous cultures, in the Kawésqar culture the loss of the language is evident, either due to the decrease in adult or elderly speakers, the little mastery of it by younger generations or the almost null application that it has in different spheres of indigenous or Chilean society. That is why these and other initiatives that revitalize it are so important.

It is necessary to understand that the Kawésqar Language remained in the oral tradition, not written until the end of the 20th century when the study began and gave symbols to the phonetics of the Kawésqar, which has 6 vowels and 19 consonants. Not all articulated sounds are the same in different languages.

There are also letters of the Spanish alphabet that are not used in Kawésqar, such as: B - C - D - G - Ñ - V - Y - Z.



## ALPHABET KAWÉSQAR

<b>A</b>	<b>Æ</b>	<b>Č</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	
A	HE	CH	E	F	
<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
H	I	Y	K	L	M
<b>N</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>R</b>	
N	O	P	Q	R	
<b>S</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>X</b>	
S	T	U	W	J	

Except for the 8 letters of the Spanish alphabet that are not used and the sound of 4 special characters: He - CH - Y - J, the rest are identical to Spanish. However there is an explosive sound of 4 letters of the alphabet, which are represented as follows:

<b>P'</b>	<b>K'</b>	<b>T'</b>	<b>C'</b>
P	K	T	TCH

## THE COLORS

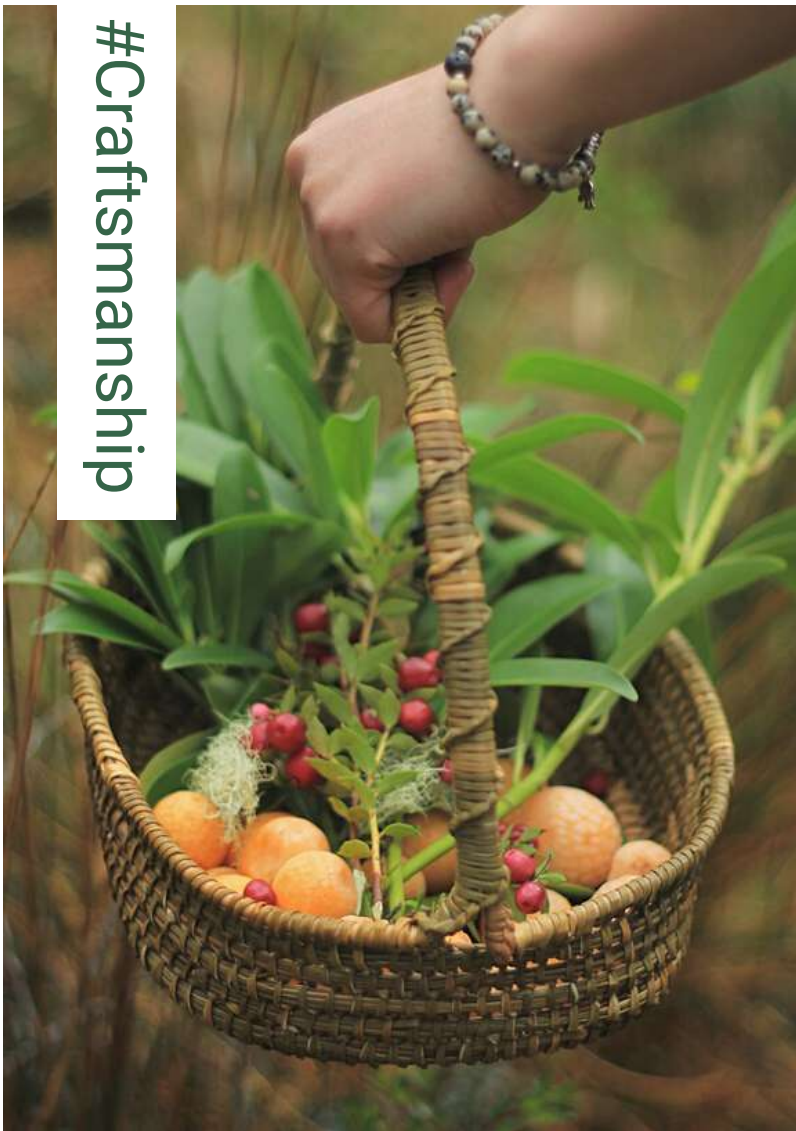


## THE NUMBERS

- 1: TAKSO
- 2: WOKS
- 3: WOKSTHÓ
- AK'IAI (many)
- K'OANEK (everything)



#trips



#Craftsmanship

 @cenak\_pueblokawesqar   
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[www.cenak.cl](http://www.cenak.cl)

# INDIGENOUS TOURISM KAWESQAR



#Experiences

# The new fish spear

A KAWÉSQAR  
SHORT STORY



Every year, León and his cousins, Alex and Martina, return to San Juan to be with Grandma Carmen. Traveling to where she lives is quite an adventure because it is a secluded place between the sea, forests and peat bogs in the south. The three children are happily looking out the window of the van until Martina decides to interrupt her calm by singing in a high-pitched voice. When they finally arrive at the house, Doña Carmen comes out to welcome them along with her geese, ducks and dogs. She walks strongly, but with the help of an old cane with which she also moves the embers from the hearth that she is always alive to keep warm and to cook.

León runs to hug her, Alex joins them, but Martina gets distracted by the animals and chases one of her geese for a feather.

– "Leave poor Toto alone and come hug your grandmother," she reprimands her.

Anxious, León asks her: – "What can we help you with, Nana? Bringing firewood, fetching water, or feeding your ducks?" (\*Nana is how they affectionately call Grandma Carmen) – Help me gather canelo sticks to make a fish spear, we are in the time of the sea urchin.

– "How delicious, sea urchin!" the children exclaim in chorus.

León suddenly imagines, when his grandmother was a girl and learned from other Kawésqar to collect sea urchins, shellfish and make her own fish spears.

– "And where will we go to find them?" The boy asks curiously

– I will take you to a very special place, by the sea. There, at low tide, tremendous pink rocks emerge and appear full of sea urchins. she says, spreading her enthusiasm and opening her eyes as if she already saw and savored them.

León carefully observes the grandmother's hands making the tool that will allow them to collect from the sea the products with which they will later have lunch by the fire, one of their favorite dishes based on sea urchins and Caiquén eggs, collected close to her house by the ocean.

– I want to learn! - He says enthusiastically imagining that he is the best sea urchin hunter. With the help of the grandmother, the children finish making their fish spear. León sees the pointed stick and decides to decorate it with remnants of reeds that are used to make baskets.

Then they prepare for the adventure, bundled up in woolen hats, rubber boots and buckets to collect the sea urchin. They must walk to the beach and on the way they admire the trees twisted by the wind, the flight of different birds such as black-faced cormorant, chimango caracara, petrels and pilpilenes.

Arriving at Grandma's secret spot on the rocky beach, León follows her instructions to extract the future lunch. While they carry gathering the sea urchin, Grandma Carmen asks them how they did at school. Alex walks away a bit, bored of listening to Martina talk about her mathematical knowledge and entertains himself by skipping stones.

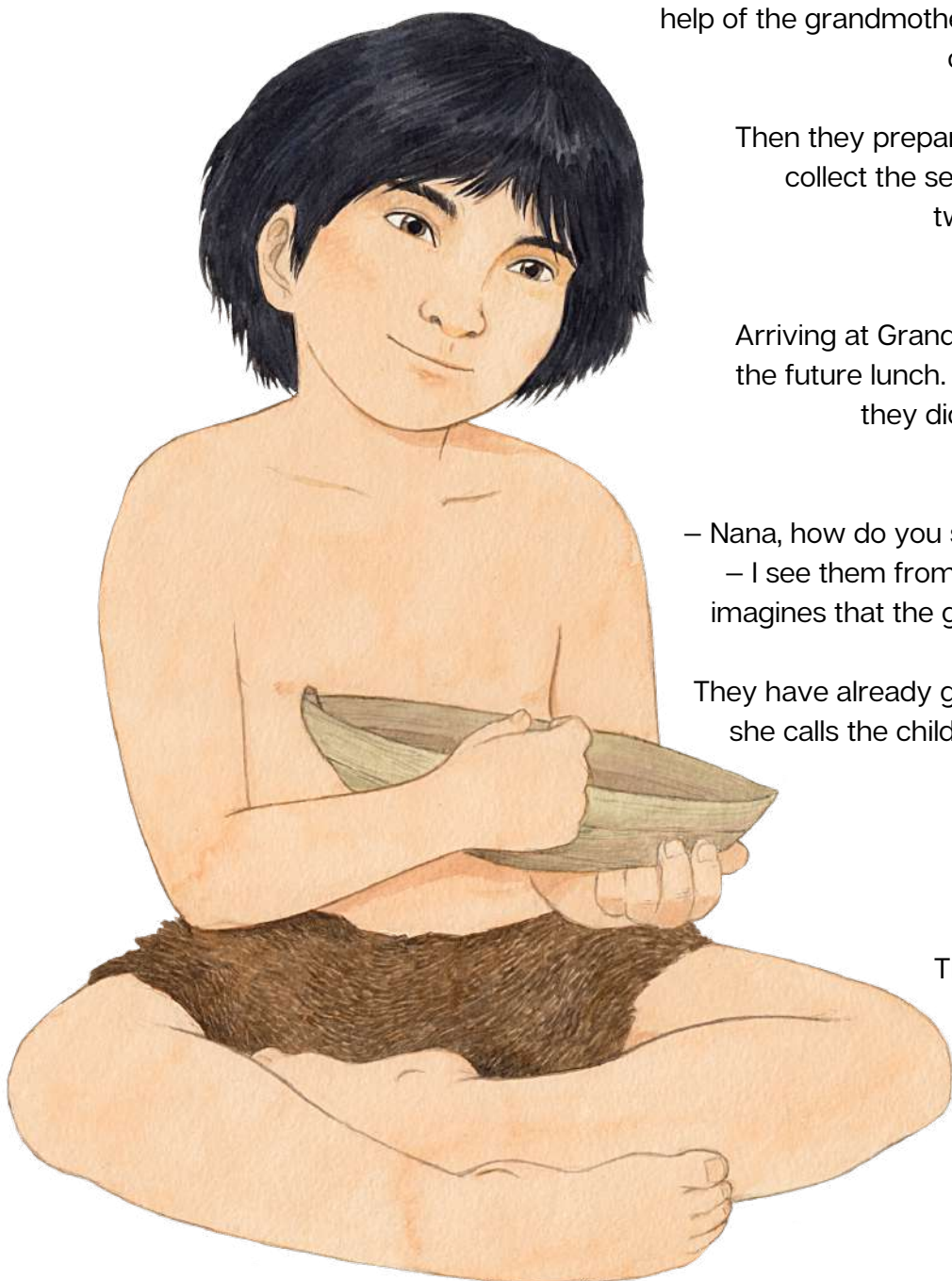
– Nana, how do you see exactly where there are sea urchin? – León doesn't think it's an easy task  
– I see them from above, as a caiquen sees them – he winks at his grandson and smiles. León imagines that the grandmother grows wings with black and white feathers and laughs with her.

They have already gathered enough and Doña Carmen decides that it is time to return, but when she calls the children she realizes that Alex is not there. The woman looks from one end of the beach to the other, but the child cannot be seen.

– "Where is Alex?" She asks walking fast with the support of her cane.  
Calm down grandma. León takes her hand. He must be around here.

They forget the desire to have lunch and start shouting for Alex. León worries that maybe he has sunk in the sea and been taken by a humpback whale, but then Grandma calls them. There are footprints in the sand that lead directly to a large coigüe, and to one side is his bucket of sea urchins.

The three of them gather by the thick trunk and look up, searching through the branches.





- He is not here. Too much silence, and Alex likes to attract attention, says Martina remembering her mischievous brother.
- Look, Leon says a few steps ahead, pointing to the ground his fish spear!
- “Ah!” Grandma exclaims, “I think I know where he might be.

Follow me. They follow Grandma to the end of the bay where there are a bunch of caulks, and she assures them that Alex has gotten in the middle of those plants. The children do not understand why cousin Alex would go through those thorny bushes, but soon the woman points out an inadvertent opening, something like a fox cave. She moves the branches some more with her cane revealing a path. León is excited imagining that this passageway will take them to a mythical place.

They walk a little and hear the sound of something like a pile of falling stones or like a crash of ceramics breaking. León and Martina look at each other scared, thinking that it may be an evil spirit from the ancient Kawésqar.

But the grandmother rushes in and the children must follow her, ignoring her fears.

- Alex! she shouts with her hand on her heart when she sees the boy inside a hole. Get out of there right now!
- You had us worried. And look where you're at, this is an archaeological site.

The youngest of the cousins freezes when he hears her so upset, just when he has thrown a bunch of shells into the air and they fall on his head. León and Martina look confused and still somewhat scared. Bow what? says the little one, while she stretches the cane to pull it out with a single pull.

- What is this? Leon asks with a furrowed brow looking at the pit.
- It looks like garbage! Martin exclaims
- Something like that, says the grandmother, rescuing some pieces of shell that are still in Alex's head. But a good piece of garbage, of great historical value.
- How can garbage be good, Grandma? Leon laughs.

– Many years ago, our Kawésqar ancestors traveled in their canoes from one place to another looking for a good place to stay for a while and thus regain strength to continue walking. All these shells that you see here were their food. Can you imagine?

León imagines the banquets of limpets, mussels, and sea urchins that the ancients gave, and then going back to sailing with huge bellies. He laughs just thinking about it.

– . "Come closer to look." There are even some whalebone harpoons, the ones they used to hunt sea lions and with them make oils and skins to protect themselves from the cold.

– Nanny? Leon asks without taking his eyes off the pit, this time fascinated to learn that those pieces of shell were actually an important treasure.

– Why didn't the ancient Kawésqar stay in one place? Wouldn't that have been easier?

– My son, if you could go sailing, wouldn't you want to discover new and beautiful landscapes all the time?

– Yes, I really like adventures!

– Living beings move. Our people were very clear about it and took advantage of moving by land and by sea.

Back home, the cousins go in silence thinking about what they have seen.

– Nana, can I tell my friends what we saw, or is it a secret treasure? León is concerned when he thinks that if he talks about the shell, people want to hurt him or that they comment on Alex's mistake of not understanding its value. - Of course, and talk to them about our culture, with the same love that I transmit to you.

The three cousins walk in a row behind the grandmother, back home following in her footsteps, thinking that all this great adventure that began with a new fish spear, and led them to learn about the culture of their people



Author:  
Francisco Javier González



**OCEANÓSFERA**  
POR UN OCÉANO VIVO

**COLLABORATION**



# NO ZOOM MARINE ANIMALS



Accompany two young explorers on an extraordinary underwater journey. Put on your diving mask and immerse yourself in each page of the book to discover 27 of the most amazing animals. Discover its curiosities and surprise yourself with the variety of its shapes, sizes and colors. Open your senses to the adventure of diving, and let yourself be amazed by various sea creatures in LIFE SIZE. .

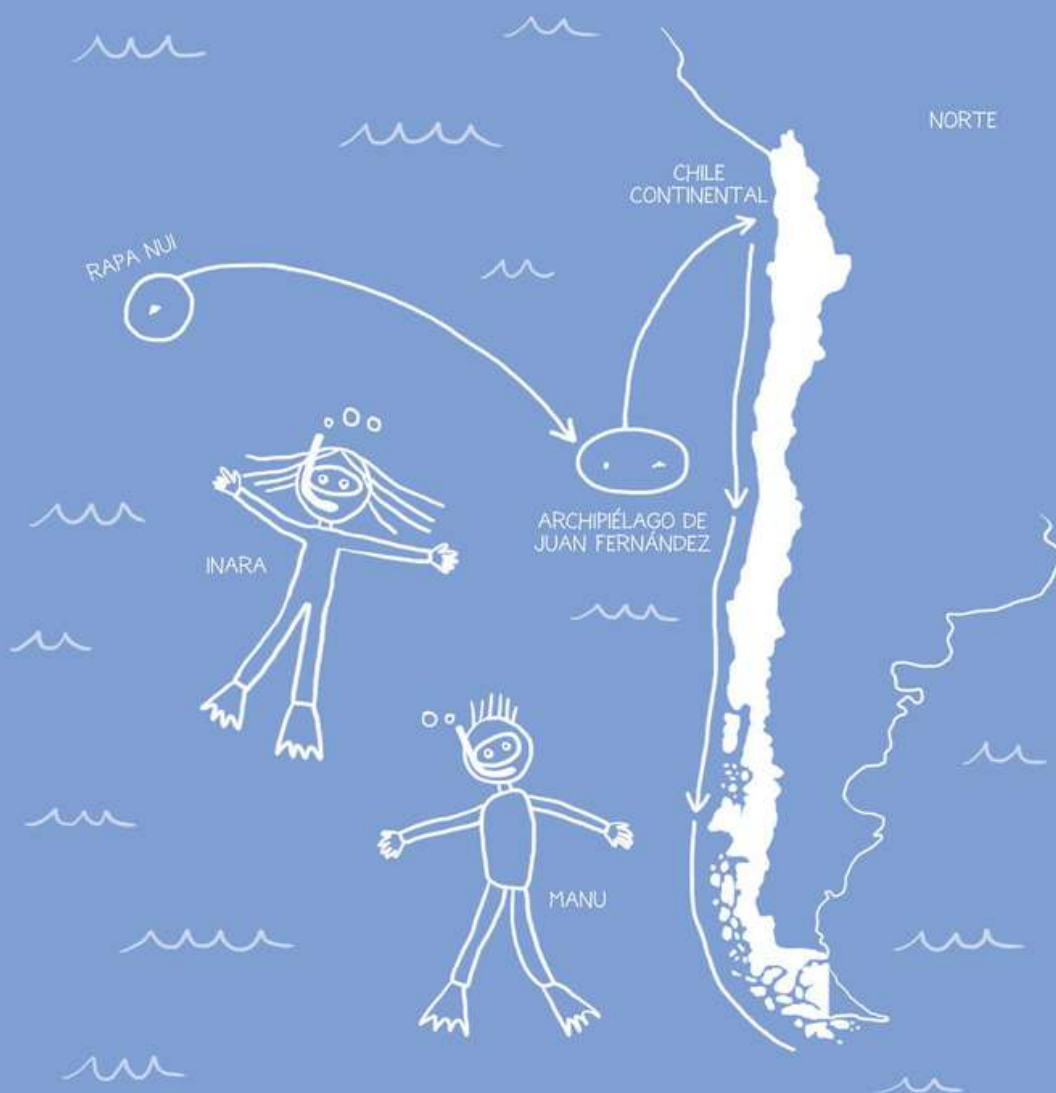
. In Valdivia, Felipe Vera, Vice President of the Fundación Pueblo Kawésqar, received copies of the book No Zoom Marine Animals and the educational material complementary to the book, which includes a diving mask, a sheet of recreational activities, a pedagogical support guide and a storytelling video. of the book, which is available for free download at [www.oceanosfera.cl/sin-zoom](http://www.oceanosfera.cl/sin-zoom)

Our country has one of the longest coastlines in the world, with more than 4,300 kilometers of extension. Another way in which the dimensions of the national territory are usually referred to is by saying that it has an area of 756,650 km<sup>2</sup>.

For the Juan Carlos Castilla National Prize for Applied and Technological Sciences, "Chile is sea" and coined the term "maritorio" to emphasize that the country exercises sovereignty over a much larger area than is usually taught, since there is the territorial sea of 12 nautical miles, the following 188 nautical miles that make up its exclusive economic zone and also the 350 nautical miles that surround the Rapa Nui and Sala y Gómez islands. Therefore, he emphasizes that in reality the Chilean sea -continental and insular (without Chilean Antarctica)-, has a total surface area of 3,490,175 km<sup>2</sup>.

One of the peculiarities of this sea is that it has an impressive diversity of flora and fauna, thanks to the influence of the so-called Humboldt Current, of cold water rich in oxygen.

"Through the book and teaching material, we hope that girls and boys will enjoy an extraordinary diving trip, immersing themselves in each page of the book and marveling at 27 of the most amazing animals," says Carolina Zagal, marine biologist and director of the project.



The material associated with the book includes a diving mask for each participant to use during the "expedition", a sheet of playful activities and a reading tutorial video for the storytelling format.

"We want to awaken children's fascination with animals, at a fundamental stage for the development of their abilities; and pedagogical support for educators", emphasizes the marine biologist. In that sense, she details that it is a material that can be used to support English, history, science and art classes, that it is inclusive and has the names of the species in the languages of our original peoples.



We are very grateful for the invitation from the Oceanosfera Foundation to participate in No ZOOM Marine Animals, an educational project that from now on will take our boys and girls to the depths of the sea, in this book in large format and quality, translated into English and also with the name of the "Marine Animals" in the language of the Original Mapuche, Rapanui and Kawésqar.



The "SIN ZOOM, Marine Animals" project was financed by the Public Science program of the Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation and awarded by Fundación Oceanósfera.





## PROJECT

# *A Big Basket*

The Pueblo Kawésqar Foundation during the year 2021 has celebrated the year of the Kawésqar Language, with this it has carried out different activities, within the framework of the investigation and dissemination of this intangible heritage. Through its social media, where its more than three thousand followers have participated in the collective process of "learning together" colors, numbers, flora and fauna, among other words of the language, as well as part of the indigenous worldview, of the ancient southern canoe nomads. At the same time, it has launched an educational platform and also a cultural outreach podcast on the Spotify application, called Kiustét Jerfelai, which has had a great and positive impact.

This year 2022 is dedicated to Kawésqar Crafts, which is why, from January to December, the Foundation is working with Kawésqar artisans from different communities and territories, whose main socioeconomic activity and common practice is Kawésqar Basketry in rush plant.

Prior to the development of this work, it was very necessary to carry out a relevant territorial diagnosis, both to know the figures of the intervention and begin to define the scope of this project, within the communities, as well as the one that will generate the dissemination of these arts and ancestral techniques. These techniques remain alive in those who continue to collect and weave the valuable rush plant. As if to especially analyze the life of the Kawésqar artisans, in this time of the global pandemic by Covid-19.

- The lack of support for the economic reactivation of indigenous artisans during the Pandemic, the closure of the spaces where they traditionally sold their products (fairs and markets), as well as the fact that for many months it was impossible to go out and collect the raw material necessary for the basketry, due to distance and mobility restrictions at the worst moment of the Pandemic, add to the informality of the activity, the lack of associativity among artisans, the low use of digital platforms for online marketing or sale of their products, to name a few of the challenges they face with optimism despite everything this new year.



**Chile Compromiso de  
Todos - 2° Semestre 2021**

**Foundation**



This is how the project called **Un Gran Canasto** was born, with the great objective of promoting and strengthening the socio-cultural and commercial relations of the Kawésqar artisans, who have reduced their production of traditional basketry due to the Pandemic, through the accompaniment and facilitation of meetings, workshops, outings to search for new marketing and dissemination channels that promote family economic reactivation.

To carry out this project and achieve its objectives, the Pueblo Kawésqar Foundation applied to the Chile Compromiso de Todos Fund of the Ministry of Social Development and Family, which was successfully awarded and is now in full execution. Thanks to this funding during the first quarter of this year numerous activities, outings, workshops and meetings have been carried out both in Punta Arenas and Puerto Natales with artisans from different Kawésqar Communities.

This first stage has been dedicated mainly to generating the reunion of the artisans and promoting spaces to dialogue and collect the rush plant, which has been a great boost for what is to come. Since May it will seek to strengthen associative work for economic reactivation by searching for new marketing channels in physical spaces, such as fairs inside and outside the Magallanes Region, as well as gaining virtual spaces for marketing through sales platforms or the so-called e-commerce.

Disseminate the process of collective growth, making visible both in digital media and among various relevant actors of cultures and the arts in the public-private sphere, the great contribution to the social identity of Chile. Kawésqar artisans keep alive, thanks to the oral transmission of their trades, is the objective that closes or completes the work carried out by the Fundación Pueblo Kawésqar and its team of professionals who participate and accompany the entire execution of the project.

Thanks to the support of the Illustrious Municipality of Natales, the Municipal Corporation for Culture, Tourism and Heritage, and the Foundation for Overcoming Poverty, which have joined this project, expanding the network of contacts and providing spaces for dissemination of the same, as well as advising the executing team throughout the year, the foundations of a cultural and social project, pioneer in the Magallanes Region, are strengthened.



## INITIATIVE



The ancient Kawésqar have collected from Nature all kinds of plants, trees, mushrooms, flowers and fruits which have allowed them to develop as a people, within the same territory for thousands of years. They have generated a powerful link both with the sea as with the forest.

Either to make the boats that allowed them to navigate the channels of the vast archipelagic zone, as well as to build their temporary homes to camp. The Kawésqar have collected from the forest: all kinds of trees, wood, bark, roots and fruits, generating an invisible impact on the ecosystems, so much so that it is difficult to find evidence of human presence among the islands and islets of the Magallanes Region, making it seem like a pristine area of southern Patagonia. But the Kawésqar always lived there and always depending on the forest. Today, the life of the Kawésqar is very different from yesterday, those who go to the forest today, no longer row the canals and fjords of the south.

Today they are artisans and craftswomen in wood, bark and reed, who move to the same places each time, not far from the cities where they live, to collect the materials on which they depend, not only for economic sustenance, but also to maintain long live the tradition of the ancients, the one that is perpetuated within the community or family.

But going to the same place always generates concern in the artisans, due to the visible wear and tear of the ecosystem, which cannot restore itself, and requires care and attention. With the simple gesture of reforesting native species such as: Notros, Canelos, Coigües, Lengas and Ñirres, the artisans of the Un Gran Canasto project have had the initiative to begin this important contribution to Nature, bringing life back to the space they use to collect and knit.



**The Culture  
of weaving**

[www.pueblokawesqar.cl](http://www.pueblokawesqar.cl)

## COLLABORATION



Balloon Latin America is a social enterprise that seeks to promote rural entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as connect the community with the public, private, academic world and civil organizations, to generate projects that contribute to the development of the territory. Since 2016 it has been present in Los Lagos region, being Frutillar a commune where it worked with 140 entrepreneurs. More than 10 years of experience in Araucanía, 4 years in Maule, 2 years in O'Higgins, 2 in Bío-Bío and 1 year in Aysén.

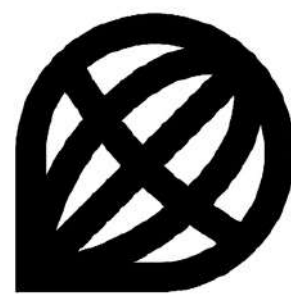
Balloon's work model considers 3 layers: people, community and territory. Everything begins with the people and their projects, to then work at the community level and with the people who inhabit the territory to build and strengthen what exists there. The first stage seeks to strengthen these territories through support for local entrepreneurs so that they can opt for a better quality of life and influence the community good.

### “Your Purpose Moves Us”

We are an organization that seeks to influence, generate social awareness and make visible the inequalities that prevent growth with equity. We are mobilized by the sustainable development of Chile and the world. We generate data and information of value in the territories to contribute to better decision-making and at the same time contribute with a pertinent approach to the elaboration of public policies. We are interested in transforming the way we create and build our country: we believe in a model of inclusive economic, social and environmental development where the human being and his environment, his dreams, his bonds, his dignity are at the center and where values such as respect, tolerance, responsibility, the sense of the other, well-being, collaboration and conscience are insurmountable. We are a certified B company and we are challenged to inspire and mobilize all our stakeholders.

The heart of Balloon Latam are the rural communities, specifically the entrepreneurs in these areas, who may have a running business or a business idea. In turn, its role is to be the bridge between all the actors that are present in any of the territories, that means: the public sector, the private sector, the academic sector, entrepreneurs, local leaders, municipalities, governments. and public institutions, to search for pertinent and collaborative solutions to the challenges and opportunities of the territories in which it works.

## EXHIBITION



**Balloon  
Latam**



The Balloon Latam house in Santiago is preparing to be for the second time, the scene of the Kawésqar 2022 Exhibition, an event of the Fundación Pueblo Kawésqar that in November brings together the artisans of rattan basketry, to share the story about the trade, through which they keep their culture alive, in addition to inviting the national launch of e-commerce, thanks to the Regional Diffusion Fund of the Ministry of Cultures and Arts.

*A Big Basket*  
SANTIAGO - NOV 2022



## COMMUNITY



The Community that works for a sustainable Chile, aware of its value, its people, nature and its culture.

Chile con Sentido is a Foundation aimed at linking the different actors; organizations, enterprises, researchers and innovators who, based on their particular fields, knowledge and activities, work with commitment and professionalism to preserve the essential value of our natural and cultural diversity, in the execution of projects with a proactive sense, aimed at recovering, protect, promote and raise awareness about the importance and feasibility of contributing to the creation of a society capable of giving creative and effective responses to the different challenges that are presented to us at a social, environmental and cultural level. We invite you to get to know us and participate in our activities and projects. We are on all social platforms. There are already more than 60 organizations that make up Chile con Sentido. We will wait for you!

[www.chileconsentido.com](http://www.chileconsentido.com)

## COMMITMENT

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Descubre la Patagonia con nuestros programas que incluyen traslado, alojamiento y guía. Reserva ahora y, si necesitas, reprograma tu viaje hasta fin de 2022.

Many thanks to our friends at Rebel Viajes for their commitment to support the educational project of the Fundación Pueblo Kawésqar called Kiustét Jerfelai, with the necessary financing, which allowed the purchase of computer equipment, as well as spreading the digital platform on their networks.

Local companies assume a social commitment with the Pueblo Kawésqar Foundation  
Contact us at [fundacion@pueblokawesqar.cl](mailto:fundacion@pueblokawesqar.cl) to support one of our projects.

**The Culture  
of weaving**



## PROJECT



# C'apasjetana

+ Stories  
+ Knowledge  
+ Life + Culture

## Regional Fund for Dissemination 2022

Basketry is a characteristic part of the intangible heritage of the Kawésqar Culture, since for thousands of years the nomadic canoeists have lived thanks to the process of collecting the rush plant, a vegetable fiber used for weaving basketry, which was fundamental in the subsistence of these hunter-gatherers of the sea. Practices that have been passed down from generation to generation until today, and that represent a genuine connection with the ancestral territory and culture, by the new generations of Kawésqar artisans.

In contemporary times, elaborate Kawésqar basketry is a valuable source of income for artisans and their families. The commercialization of these products is mainly focused on the market that brings tourism to the region, through craft fairs or in informal places where they market their products, however, due to the pandemic, a new door has been opened to commercialization and dissemination through the internet

*With the aim of disseminating the cultural rescue and the safeguarding of the intangible heritage that a group of Kawésqar artisans is carrying out during this year 2022 in the Magallanes Region, the Pueblo Kawésqar Foundation is executing thanks to the funding of the National Fund for Cultural Development and the Arts, regional scope - diffusion line, the project called **C'apasjetana**.*

For this reason, the Pueblo Kawésqar Foundation is executing a special broadcasting project, with the support of Fondart Regional, seeking to generate greater interest in the trade of artisans and artisans, producing digital content for marketing platforms, generating an important socioeconomic impact, through the dissemination plan, which will effectively help to enhance cultural visibility, creation processes and stories around Kawésqar basketry.

Likewise, this project seeks to generate a positive socio-cultural impact in the communities, through dissemination, since the revitalization of ancestral practices, techniques and rituals around weaving, keep the culture alive, in dozens of families that participate, either of the collection, production and sale of Kawésqar handicrafts





# TOURISM, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Since 2018, the Pueblo Kawésqar Foundation has been developing different initiatives to connect visitors with the indigenous culture of its inhabitants and improve the link between the powerful local tourism industry and the Kawésqar communities and territory.

## UNITY



## INNOVATION

That is why in 2018 we participated in the Social Innovation Prototype - Corfo Magallanes which began with Social Ethnography: a research tool that helped to understand what or how much the inhabitants and visitors of Magallanes know about the Kawésqar, developed by P- Lab. Within the activities of the project, indigenous enterprises related to gastronomy were prototyped, to integrate the tourism chain in Puerto Natales

## INSPIRATION



In April 2019, the Pueblo Kawésqar Foundation together with the Kiujuésqar Consultant, locally organized the event called NATALES FUTURISM, which brought together for the first time the powerful Tourism industry of the Última Esperanza Province, together with its different unions and authorities, with the Kawésqar indigenous communities interested in participating in tourism, which laid the foundations for collaborative work for the future.

This day included the participation of prominent international tourism exhibitors who visited us from Mexico, Costa Rica, the United States, Colombia and Chile, to discuss the sustainable development of the destination, the enhancement of the local culture of its inhabitants, the diversification of the tourist offer and the self-management of the territory. This was highly valued by all the participants of the event: tour guides, businessmen, students, authorities and also the members of the Kawésqar indigenous communities.



In each tourist destination, throughout our country, crafts play a fundamental role in the identity development of each region, reflecting authentic and differentiating features of our cultures and territories, through the work of creative people, capable of transforming simple materials in collectibles or souvenirs, which travelers know how to appreciate very well

The great natural settings of Patagonia attract thousands of tourists from all over the world every year. The ones who travel enjoy and stay in the wide range of hotels available in the national parks and cities of this extreme south of Chile

Within the tourist offer, hotels are a great showcase for crafts and generate a meeting between local identity and visitors, which is why the Pueblo Kawésqar Foundation and the Smartrip Foundation have developed the + Kawésqar Local Crafts program. With the aim of bringing together the work carried out by at least 17 Kawésqar rush plant basketry artisans, various meetings were held to strengthen commercial capacities, design graphic material necessary for the commercialization of their products, tools for effective communication, and ended with the long-awaited networking event and business roundtable with the most important hotels in the region, all to strengthen contact networks and generate a direct channel between artisans and hoteliers.

The Culture of weaving  
www.pueblokawesqar.cl



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In December 2019 and under the name of Čenák, the first Kawésqar indigenous tour operator in the Magallanes Region was created, which began its operations offering tourists and local agencies authentic cultural experiences: activities around weaving, a variety of flavors of gastronomy and trips throughout the Kawésqar ancestral territory.

Its name in the Kawésqar language means "heart", the word that best represents this small social enterprise, which seeks to value the culture of the original people, through transformative experiences for travelers who reach the extreme south of the country [www.cenak.cl](http://www.cenak.cl)



## INDIGENOUS TOURISM

From October 5 to 8 2021, the third edition of the Asia Pacific Indigenous Tourism Conference (PAITC) was held. With Chile as the host country along with the 10 Indigenous Peoples who have inhabited this territory since ancient times. This III Conference allowed leaders, entrepreneurs, businessmen, public officials, academics and professionals from the Asia Pacific and from all over the world, to share trends and learning that provide innovative experiences and new business opportunities to tourist destinations.

This promotes the reactivation of tourism in communities and recognizing the contribution of indigenous tourism in the construction of the new paradigms of world tourism. Occasion in which, the Kawésqar dedicated to indigenous tourism, have been able to share a room with entrepreneurs from various countries and listened attentively to the solutions to new challenges that indigenous peoples and communities face in different corners of the planet.

## PROJECTS



In recent years, the Corfo Indigenous Development and Promotion Committee has financed various projects related to tourism in the Magallanes Region, among which the project of the Ancón Sin Salida indigenous community stands out, which is being developed 63.5 kilometers south of Punta Arenas, successfully overcoming the Formulation stages in 2019 and Enabling in 2021. Thanks to the accompaniment of the Kiujesqar articulator, is preparing with great effort, to open its doors to the public in October 2022.

The Kawésqar Cultural Center Barbarita Caro, the name given to the indigenous tourism project of Ancón Sin Salida, has the support of the Fundación Pueblo Kawésqar, with whom we also work collaboratively in carrying out activities for the collection of jonquil from artisans, among others that we invite you to make this important community project known at [www.anconsinalida.com](http://www.anconsinalida.com)





  
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