

# EFFECTS OF LAND PRIVATIZATION ON PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS, CASE STUDY OF THE MAPUCHE IN CHILE

## INTRODUCTION

Chile has currently over 15 million inhabitants, out of which around 604.000 are Mapuche. A large number of this indigenous people live under poor or inadequate livelihood conditions.

### RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

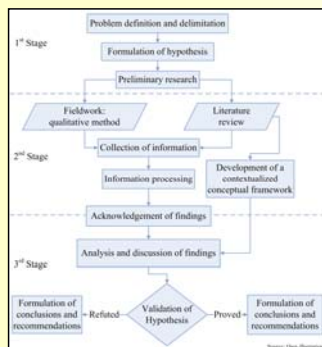
The process of land privatization in Chile, since the colonial period, has in general not contributed to the sustainability of the livelihoods of the Mapuche; on the contrary, it has been a negative force that has in most of the cases only increased their poverty.

## OBJECTIVES

- To identify and analyze the effects of privatization on people's livelihood, with special focus on the Mapuche in Chile since the beginning of the colonization.
- To provide arguments in favour of and/or against the processes involved in privatization, in order to avoid this kind of conflicts in the future in Chile and in other countries of the world, particularly in those were the establishment of this type of system is currently being carried out.

## METHODOLOGY

### Methodological Approach

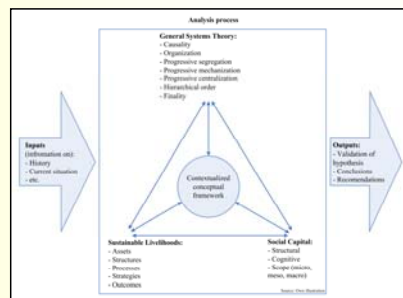


The research's approach was basically qualitative. Primary data was collected mainly through semi-structured interviews carried out in 4 Mapuche communities. For the collection of secondary data, a literature review was conducted with special focus on the historical chain of events, causes and consequences linked to the process of land privatization in Chile before and after the beginning of the colonization, and on the theoretical framework.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

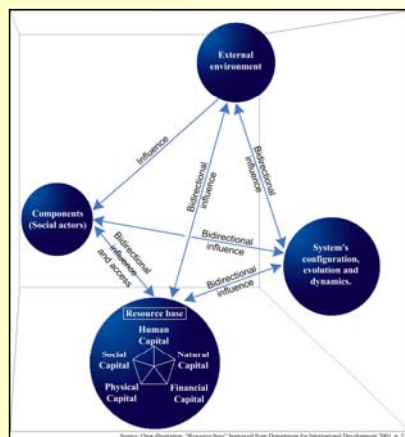
The integration of three different however interrelated theories or theoretical frames in a single contextualized conceptual framework was considered to be essential as it would provide a solid philosophical and practical base for the achievement of the proposed objectives.

### Contextualized Conceptual Framework



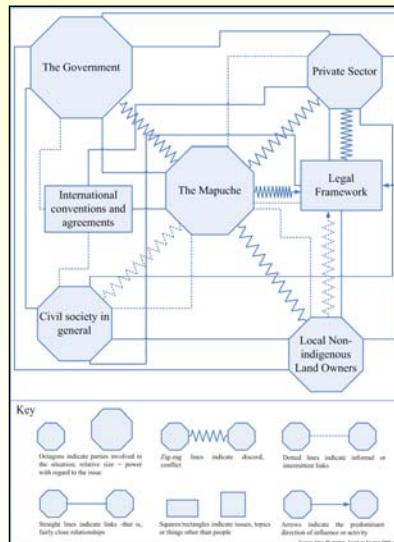
These theoretical sources are:

- **General Systems Theory** (L. von Bertalanffy, R. Ashby, H. Maturana, F. Videla, etc).
- **Sustainable Livelihoods** (United Kingdom's Department for International Development DFID, S. Schuette, J. Beall, etc).
- **Social Capital** (R. Putnam, J. Coleman, C. Grootaert, J. Durston, N. Uphoff, etc).

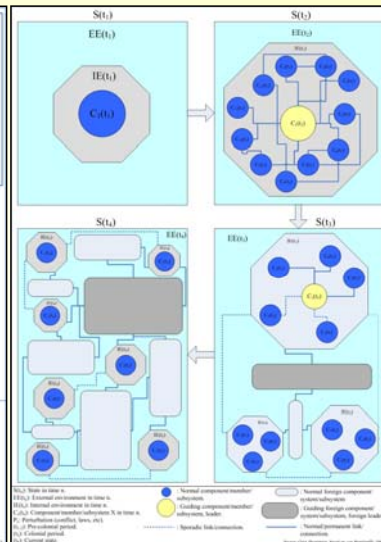


## FINDINGS

### Current Problem's Components



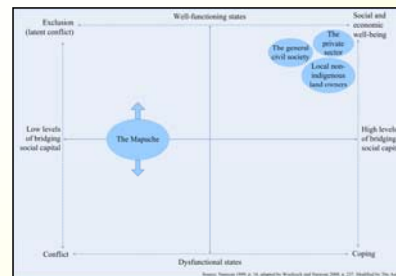
### Historical Evolution of the Mapuche Society



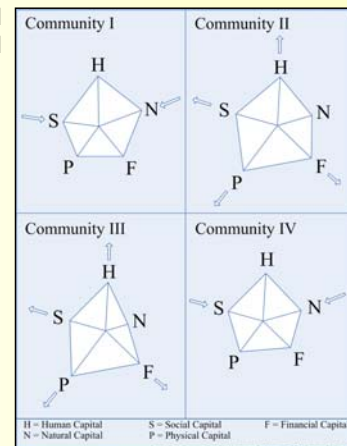
The contextualized conceptual framework consists of 4 equally important elements which, altogether, allow for the visualization and understanding of the effects of land privatization on people's livelihoods.

- These components are:
- The system's components.
  - The system's configuration.
  - The system's resource base.
  - The system's external environment.

### External Environment



### Resource Base



## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Privatization, in the context of a society, may operate as a perturbation in the development of the systems which constitute the society as a whole. For the Mapuche, this perturbation seems to be linked to the erosion of the very base of the systems they once constituted. Thus, however true that private property might be one of the most relevant tools for the promotion of the sustainable development of people's livelihoods; one must be very careful when carrying out privatization, particularly of land, as systemic diseases may arise.
- It is urgent, on the part of the State, to redefine the policies that have been applied on indigenous lands as they are often ineffective and contradictory.
- Although in a country like Chile, were the concept of private property is rooted so deeply, going back to the traditional systems of land tenure is not advisable and, actually, not even possible; it seems that privatization, as it is currently being carried out in other countries basically due to intents of duplicating the behaviours of the "western world", needs to be carefully and constantly evaluated and, perhaps, even avoided, in order to elude undesirable situations as the one in Chile.