



FOREVER
COSTA RICA
ASSOCIATION

HARMONY

ANNUAL REPORT **2023**



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

HARMONY



MINISTERIO DE
AMBIENTE Y ENERGÍA

GOBIERNO
DE COSTA RICA

SISTEMA NACIONAL DE
ÁREAS DE CONSERVACIÓN



FOREVER
COSTA RICA
ASSOCIATION

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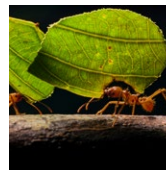
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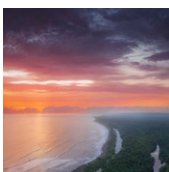
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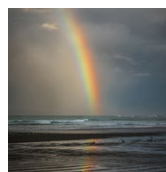
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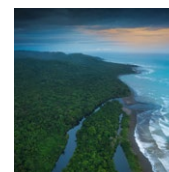
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Authorship:
Forever Costa Rica Association Team

Review and Internal Editing:
Katy de la Garza Chamberlain

Editorial Coordination:
Nash Ugalde Hidalgo

Design:
Mapana Estudio

Cover Photograph:
©Atenorio

Photography:
©Luis Solano Pochet
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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------------------|---|
| ACAT | Arenal Tempisque Conservation Area |
| ACG | Guanacaste Conservation Area |
| ACLAC | Amistad Caribe Conservation Area |
| ACLAP | Amistad Pacifico Conservation Area |
| ACMC | Área de Conservación Marina Coco |
| FCR | Forever Costa Rica Association |
| ACT | Tempisque Conservation Area |
| ACTO | Tortuguero Conservation Area |
| ADI | Association for Integral Development |
| ASP | Protected Wildlife Area |
| CAFÉ | Consortium of African Funds for the Environment |
| CDB | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CETUR | Chamber of Tourism Entrepreneurs |
| CMAR | Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor |
| COVIRENAS | Committees for Monitoring Natural Resources |
| CTC | Coastal Tourist Corridor |
| FAICO | Friends of Cocos Island Foundation |
| FCRXS | Forever Costa Rica Trust |
| I CD | I U.S.-C.R. Debt-for-Nature Swap |
| II CD | II U.S.-C.R. Debt-for-Nature Swap |
| ICT | Costa Rica Tourism Board |
| INA | National Learning Institute |
| INAMU | National Institute for Women |
| INCOPESCA | Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture |
| INDER | Institute of Rural Development |
| JUDESUR | Regional Development Board of the Southern Zone |
| MAG | Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock |
| MINAE | Ministry of Environment and Energy |
| OCDE | Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| OMECE | Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| PCRXS | Forever Costa Rica Program |
| PET | Eastern Tropical Pacific |
| PGM | General Management Plan |
| PNVT | Tenorio Volcano National Park |
| PFP | Project Finance for Permanence |
| REDLAC | Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds |
| RNVSC | Cipanci Wildlife Refuge |
| RNVSJ | Junquillal Wildlife Refuge |
| SIC | Site of Conservation Importance |
| SINAC | National System of Conservation Areas |
| TU-MODELO | Tourism as an Engine for Local Development |
| ZEE | Exclusive Economic Zone |
| ZPT | Tenorio Protected Zone |



Arenal Volcano, San Carlos, Costa Rica

Message from the President of the Board



**IRENE MURILLO
RUIN**

President of the Board of
Directors

Forever Costa Rica
Association

The year 2023 was full of great achievements and challenges. As President of this Board of Directors, it is an honor to present this report, which is not only a summary of our actions and achievements, but also an expression of gratitude to every donor, partner, and collaborator who has contributed to our mission of “enhancing partnerships and mobilizing resources for biodiversity conservation and human wellbeing.”

In reviewing the milestones achieved, I am proud to highlight some of the most significant accomplishments that have marked the course of Forever Costa Rica through 2023.

In our Protected Areas Program, we supported 61 protected areas and carried out 54 terrestrial and marine conservation projects totaling US\$3,580,362, in partnership with the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC). Furthermore, the Costa Rica Blue Fund reached its fundraising goal of US\$10 million, with contributions from Forever Costa Rica and major international donors. This financial mechanism is focused on supporting the government in the effective management and sustainable use of oceanic marine protected areas.

Furthermore, in our Green and Blue Economy Program, where we manage the I U.S.-C.R. Debt-for-Nature Swap, we carried out 22 projects totaling US\$1,877,878 for the conservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable use of private forests outside protected areas.

Project GENTE reached its third and final year. This initiative valued at US\$2 million, enhanced the economic recovery of more than 100 rural and coastal communities in response to the challenges generated by COVID-19.

We also completed the fourth year of our initiative, “Enhancing the Local Economy through Conservation: The La Cruz Model” and kicked off a new 2-year initiative to support community foundations, where 7 of these will benefit from institutional strengthening.

In the international sphere, we successfully concluded the second year of project “BRIDGE: Conservation with the Private Sector,” a €4,830,000 initiative to promote strategic partnerships between conservation trust funds in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa through innovative financial mechanisms.

As part of our commitment to transparency, we actively pursued a comprehensive communication strategy throughout 2023 to inform and engage our stakeholders about the administration and execution of our projects.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Board of Directors for their trust and willingness to learn this past year. Thanks to the Assembly members who serve on various committees for their invaluable support. A special thanks to the people who make up the Oversight Committees of the Debt-for-Nature Swaps, the Cooperation Committee, SINAC, MINAE, the entire Forever Costa Rica Association team, and finally, to our director, for her great work and leadership as the head of the Association.

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Message from the Executive Director of Forever Costa Rica



**KATY
DE LA GARZA
CHAMBERLAIN**

Executive Director
Forever Costa Rica
Association

The interconnected crises of climate change and biodiversity loss are threatening human well-being. These growing pressures demand urgent collective action at local and global levels. Costa Rica continues to be a leader in biodiversity protection. However, there is much more work to be done. The first Environmental Performance Assessment of Costa Rica conducted by the OECD in 2023, gives 52 recommendations to help our country advance towards environmental, climate change, and sustainable development policy management, which include the pressures on biodiversity arising from agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and urbanization. To face the current challenges and move towards these recommendations, cooperation between the public, private, and civil society sectors is essential. Our organization promotes initiatives that foster these collaborations.

In 2023, Forever Costa Rica Association (FCR) under its public-private partnership with SINAC/MINAE, strengthened its Protected Areas Program by raising US\$10 million to create the **Blue Fund Costa Rica**. This Fund seeks to support the government in the effective management and responsible use of resources in oceanic marine protected areas (Cocos Island National Park and Bicentennial Marine Management Area), once their expansions allowed us to protect 30% of our ocean. This initiative is possible with the generous support of key international partners such as the Bezos Earth Fund, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Wyss Foundation, and Re:wild; as well as local partners such as SINAC, Friends of Cocos Island Foundation (FAICO), INCOPECA, and the Cocos Marine Conservation Area (ACMC).

In our Blue Green Economy Program, we focused on fostering collaborations between local communities in Guanacaste, Puntarenas and Alajuela, and the productive, private, and governmental sectors, working closely with the dedicated extensionists of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG). In 2023, we completed Project GENTE, a 3-year initiative (2021-2023) that allowed us to fulfill the dreams of many entrepreneurs and producers by providing them with economic resources and training so that their green and blue businesses could operate in partnership with nature.

As part of our international initiatives and our conviction to work collaboratively, we actively participated in various international and local events to attract more financial resources for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in our country.

In this annual report, we celebrate some of the successes we have achieved through collaborations with our partners, staff, Board of Directors, oversight and cooperation committees, government officials, consultants, and communities. At the same time, we recognize the great challenges ahead and the importance of continuing to work towards the continued achievement of our mission of enhance partnerships and mobilize resources for biodiversity conservation and human well-being.

Message from the Executive Director of SINAC



**DAVID
CHAVARRÍA
MORALES**

Executive Director a.i.
SINAC

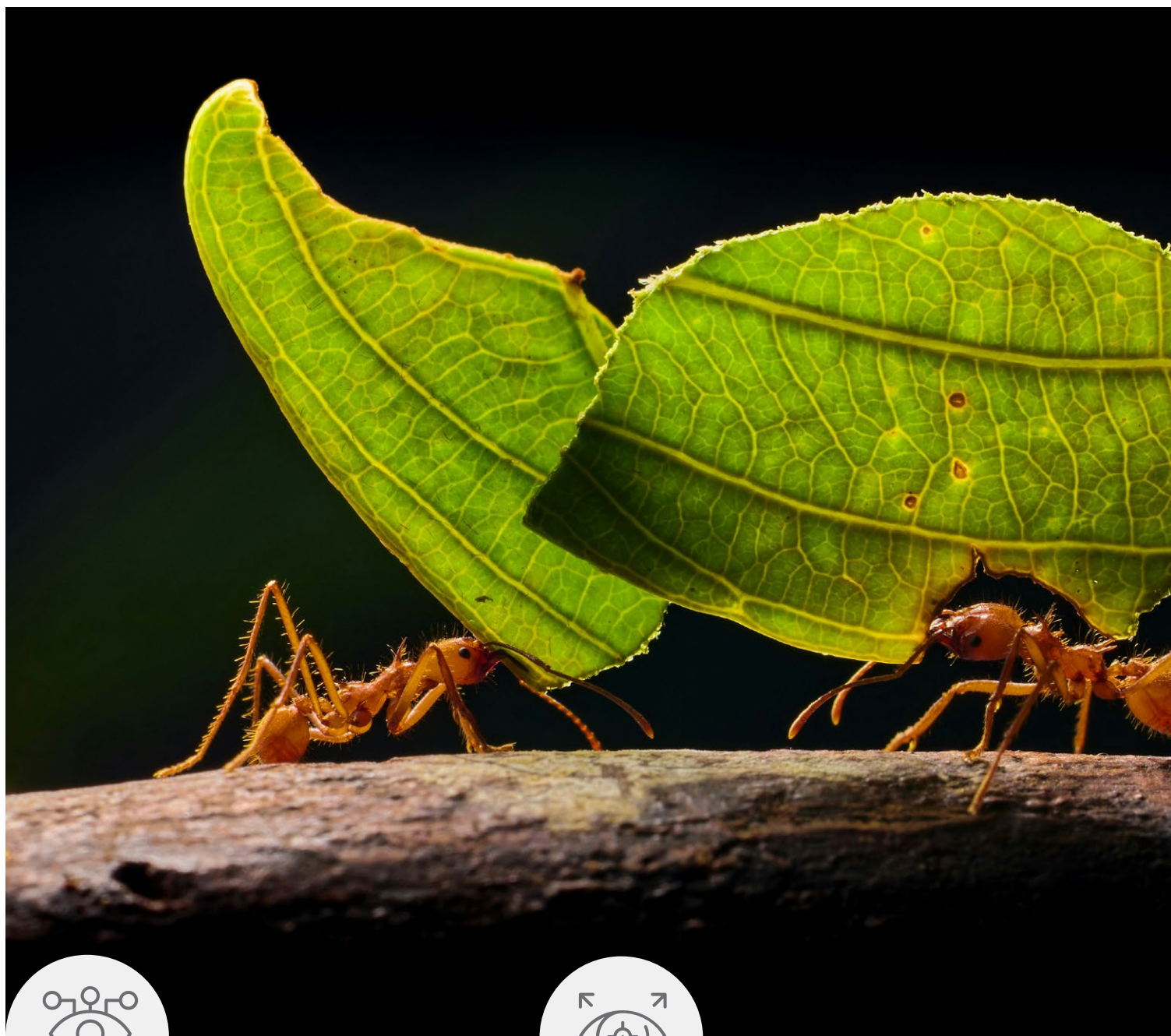
In the face of the great challenges facing humanity, one of the most visible is the loss of terrestrial and marine biodiversity due to unsustainable anthropogenic actions, resulting from the many productive activities that mark social and economic development on a global scale. Faced with this global reality, the member countries of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have proposed a series of strategies at the country level to halt this loss of biodiversity, so that current and future generations can enjoy a better quality of the different natural ecosystems, while promoting a sustainable use of the many goods and ecosystem services on which human welfare depends on across the globe.

Costa Rica has long been characterized for being a small country with high ambitions regarding the fulfillment of its national and international commitments on matters of conservation and the sustainable use of the biodiversity present in the terrestrial and marine areas of our country. Because of this, and with the ratification of the CBD framework for 2020-2030 (Kunming-Montreal), the country is actively embracing the strengthening of public-private partnerships to foster innovative financial mechanisms that contribute significantly to our national conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The partnership established between the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) and the Forever Costa Rica Association (FCR) in 2010 has allowed a direct investment of more than US\$15 million in protected areas throughout the country in order to address three areas of strategic interest closely related to goal #3 of the global agreement of the CBD – ratified in December 2022 and included in the current National Biodiversity Strategy for the period 2016-2026 – namely: ecological representativeness, management effectiveness of protected areas, and the design and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures for these protected areas.

There is no denying that we must accept, as humanity, that our time to address these enormous global challenges on biodiversity and its collateral effects on humankind is running out. As a country, we must continue to build and strengthen forms of cooperation such as the one established with the Forever Costa Rica, since one of the main challenges faced by countries with regards to their national efforts is the effective mobilization of resources to achieve this great global vision shared by 196 countries around the world through the CBD, plus other multilateral agreements of which our country is an active part of.

WHO WE ARE



MISSION

Enhance partnerships and mobilize resources for biodiversity conservation and human well-being.



VISION

To be a key agent in promoting a Costa Rica where human beings thrive in harmony with nature.



Photo:
Luis Solano
Pochet 2020



VALUES

Innovation | Transparency
Quality | Respect



STRATEGIC PILLARS

Biodiversity and Climate Change | Partnerships |
Finance and Operations | Organizational Capacity

We are a private non-governmental organization created in 2010 as the world's second project finance for permanence model applied to conservation (PFP). We are dedicated to managing, investing, and mobilizing resources from international cooperation, international agencies, and private foundations for biodiversity conservation and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods.

Our purpose is to slow biodiversity loss and promote resilience to climate change, which is why we work throughout Costa Rica in marine, coastal, and terrestrial areas through our Protected Areas and Green and Blue Economy programs.

In addition, our work extends beyond Costa Rica's borders. With PACIFICO Foundation, we mobilize resources for marine conservation and sustainable management of the Eastern Tropical Pacific. We are active members of RedLAC, a network and learning community of 28 environmental trust funds, and we manage project "BRIDGE - Conservation with the Private Sector" , promoting partnerships between environmental trust funds in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa.

Our team is multidisciplinary, professional, and committed, and we believe in the importance of equity, diversity, and inclusion in our actions and workplace. We promote partnerships with multiple actors and sectors for a common goal: the conservation of biodiversity and human well-being.

2023 PROJECT MAP

SYMBOLOLOGY

- 

Conservation of Marine Protected Areas


- 

Conservation of Terrestrial Protected Areas


- 

I U.S.-C.R. Debt-for-Nature Swap


- 

Local economy and conservation in La Cruz


- 

Project GENTE


- 

North Caribbean
- 

North Pacific
- 

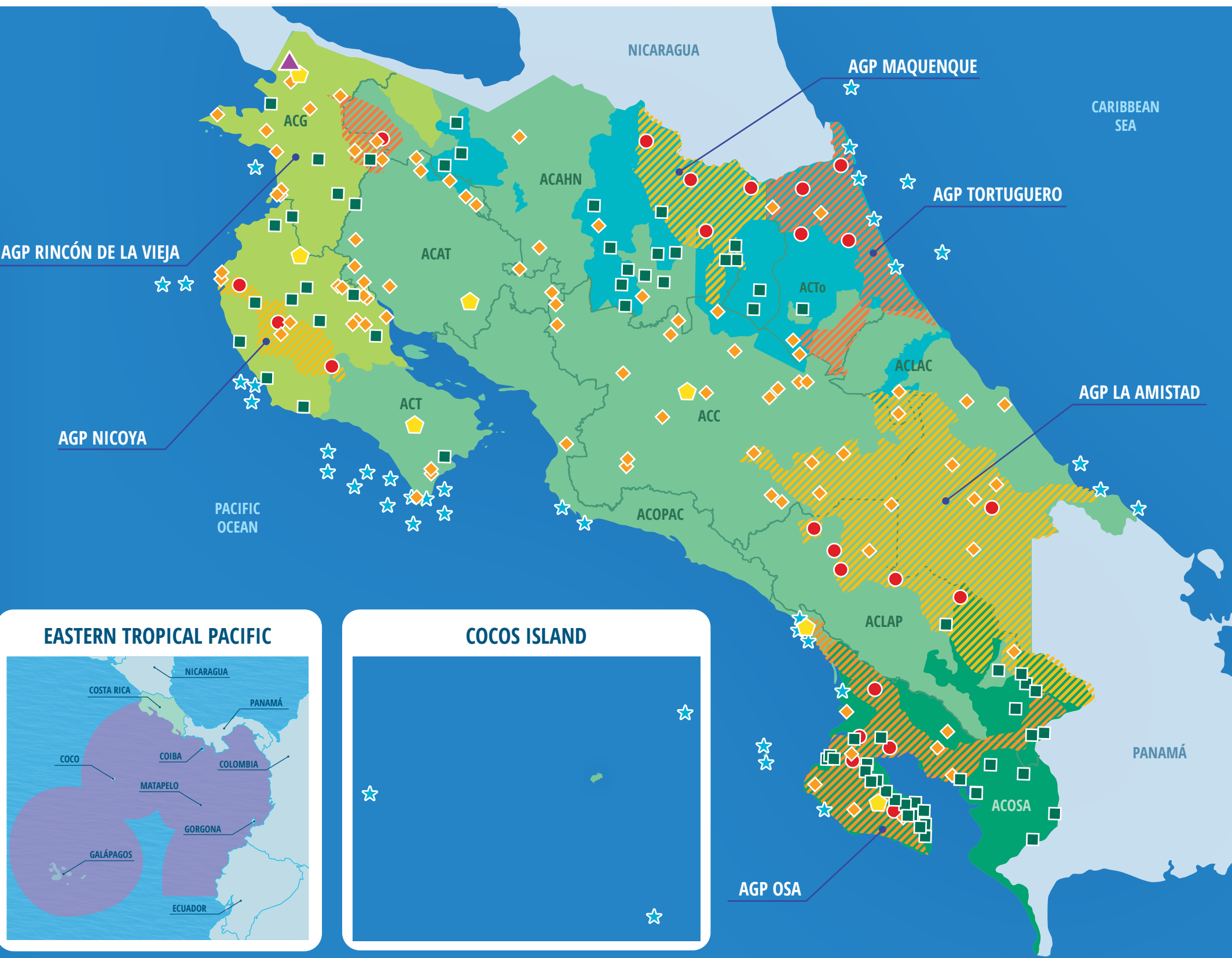
South Pacific
- 

Community Foundations
- 

PACIFICO Foundation


- 

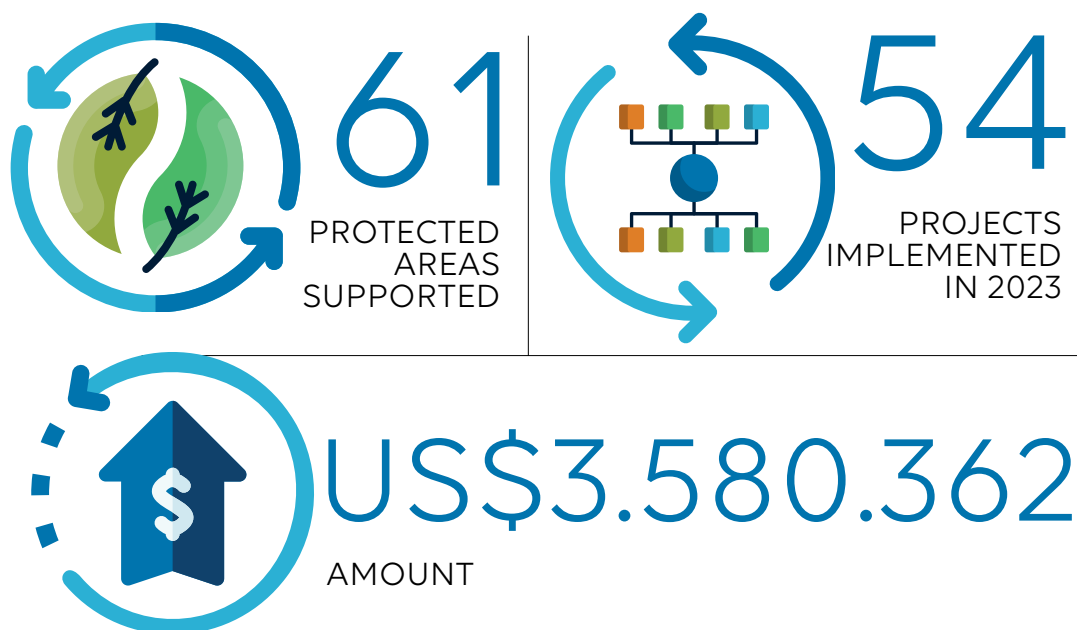
Climate Change (national scope)





PROTECTED AREAS PROGRAM

Consolidate an ecologically representative, effectively managed system of protected areas, adapted to the effects of climate change and with a sustainable source of financing.



The Protected Areas Program is composed of initiatives and projects agreed with the Costa Rican government and international donors.

It includes the Forever Costa Rica Program (PCRXS), created in 2010 by the Government of Costa Rica through the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC), with partners and donors such as Linden Trust for Conservation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Walton Family Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy.

The program was created with two funds: (1) Forever Costa Rica Trust (FCRXS), focused on conservation of marine protected areas, and (2) II Debt-for-Nature Swap between the United States and Costa Rica (IICD), focused on conservation actions within terrestrial protected areas. In 2023, another financial mechanism was created: the Blue Fund Costa Rica, focused on oceanic marine protected areas. This program is managed through a Cooperation Committee and supported by Oversight Committees and the Board of Directors of Forever Costa Rica.



MINISTERIO DE
AMBIENTE Y ENERGÍA

GOBIERNO
DE COSTA RICA

SISTEMA NACIONAL DE
ÁREAS DE CONSERVACIÓN



COOPERATION COMMITTEE 2023

SINAC

Mauricio Arias
Guiselle Méndez

Forever Costa Rica Association

Pia Paaby
Mónica Gamboa

MARINE CONSERVATION

Photo: Luis Solano Pochet 2020



FIDEICOMISO
COSTA RICA POR SIEMPRE

FOREVER COSTA RICA TRUST

OBJECTIVE:

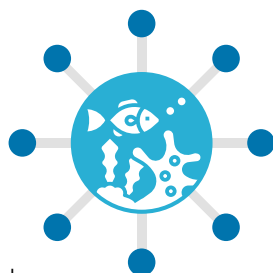
Address threats to Costa Rica's biodiversity and marine-coastal and oceanic ecosystems.



18

PRIORITIZED
MARINE
PROTECTED
AREAS

21



Projects
implemented
in 2023



US\$678.505

AMOUNT

FEATURED PROJECTS:

MARINE-COASTAL AND OCEANIC SITES OF CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE IN COSTA RICA

IMPLEMENTED BY: Marta Cambra with the collaboration of Rubén Venegas LÍ

OBJECTIVE: This project contributed to updating the identification and analysis of sites of conservation importance and management in marine-coastal and oceanic environments in Costa Rica, as part of the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The process lasted 9 months and involved the compilation of information generated from 2008 to 2023; 4 workshops with key stakeholders from the academic and institutional sectors, NGOs, marine users, and independent researchers (90 participants); 1 consultation workshop with users from the fisheries and tourism sector (27 participants); and 1 event to present the results (21 participants).

A standardized methodology was developed to identify 35 Sites of Conservation Importance (SIC), 25 in marine-coastal environments and 9 in oceanic environments. The total area covered by these SICs is 264,228 km², equivalent to 45.6% of Costa Rica's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

RECOMMENDATIONS: A possible governance model for the protection of SICs includes reactivating the Marine Governance Commission (a permanent inter-ministerial coordination body) and promoting the formalization of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OEMEC) in Costa Rica.

PARTICIPANTS: Representatives from the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC), Guanacaste Conservation Area (ACG), Tempisque Conservation Area (ACT), Coco Marine Conservation Area (ACMC), Tortuguero Conservation Area (ACTO), Amistad Caribe Conservation Area (ACLAC), Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INCOPECA), and Expertise France participated in the initiative.



This project has been a great challenge, because we've managed to gather and organize all the scientific information about the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea coming out of different groups like government agencies, academia, non-profit organizations, and independent researchers. We compared this information with human habits and figured out which parts needed to be prioritized with regards to management and conservation measures which contribute to the preservation of important ecosystems and the species inhabiting them."

MAURICIO ARIAS ZUMBADO
INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATOR
CRXS PROGRAM



CLIMATE CHANGE AND MANGROVES IN GUANACASTE

IMPLEMENTED BY: Claudine Sierra y Claudia Agraz

The project focused on incorporating a specific chapter on adaptation and mitigation for the marine-coastal zone into the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan of the Guanacaste Conservation Area (ACG) and generating a technical-scientific information base for two mangroves. These inputs support future decision-making regarding possible ecological restoration interventions.

Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures were designed based on climate scenarios, impacts on ecosystem services, and the area's vulnerability, as well as the human, physical, financial, natural, and social adaptive capacities of the ACG.

SOME OF THE PROPOSED MEASURES INCLUDE:

- Restoration of mangroves in the coastal strip of ACG, including bull shark (*Carcharinus leucas*) breeding sites.
- Integrated seagrass management.
- Increasing the area available for sea turtle nesting and relocation of leatherback sea turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) nests in shaded nurseries.
- Public dissemination of risks and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

The project also gathered information for the elaboration of an assessment of the vulnerability and adaptability to climate change of the Playa Nancite and Playa Naranjo mangroves. Results revealed the degradation of the Playa Naranjo mangroves between 1995 and 2000, as salinity and acidity increased and the availability of dissolved oxygen in the water decreased, generating changes in forest attributes, with a decrease in physiognomy and high mortality. Unlike the Playa Naranjo mangrove, conditions at Playa Nancite have remained stable over the last three decades.

The results of this project provided inputs to ACG administration, allowing them to define management actions that promote the restoration of the Playa Naranjo mangrove, which can then be replicated in other mangroves in the North Pacific.



The objective of this project is to evaluate the degree of conservation and vulnerability of the mangroves of the Guanacaste Conservation Area, which have been affected in the past by human activities and extreme climatic events. Restoring these ecosystems requires interdisciplinary work and perseverance. Although my passion is mangrove restoration, it is better to conserve than to restore."

CLAUDIA AGRAZ
ACADEMIC AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF CAMPECHE, MEXICO

BLUE FUND COSTA RICA



OBJECTIVE:
Support the government in the effective management and sustainable use of oceanic protected areas, following an expansion that led the country to protect 30% of its ocean.



US\$10 million
Fundraising Goal:



FUNDRAISING GOAL: In December 2023, we reached our fundraising goal of US\$ 10 million with contributions from the Forever Costa Rica Association (US\$3.5 million), Bezos Earth Fund, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Wyss Foundation, and Re:wild.

LAUNCH: Blue Fund Costa Rica was officially presented at the Our Ocean conference in Panama in March 2023, with the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Vice Minister of Environment and Energy (MINAE), and the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INCOPECA).

COMMITMENTS: In June 2023, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between MINAE/SINAC and Forever Costa Rica in which FCR commits to seeking funds and MINAE/SINAC commit to maintaining the current budget, increasing the number of staff members of the Cocos Marine Conservation Area, aligning other international cooperation resources towards marine conservation, and promoting sustainable fishing through inter-institutional coordination between SINAC and INCOPECA, among others.

NEXT STEPS: Calls for proposals for the Blue Fund Costa Rica on topics related to management effectiveness and blue economy will be launched in 2024.



Since 2021, Costa Rica achieved its goal of protecting 30% of its marine territory. The country has 23 marine protected areas, totaling more than 165,000 km2, so this Fund will allow us to enhance current conservation efforts and promote a blue economy where coastal communities and different users of the sea can improve their practices, sustainable use, and productive projects."

RAFAEL GUTIÉRREZ
VICE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
2022-2023



TERRESTRIAL CONSERVATION



II CANJE POR NATURALEZA
E.E.U.U. - C.R.

II DEBT-FOR-NATURE SWAP U.S.-CR

OBJECTIVE: To finance the consolidation of prioritized terrestrial protected areas, within the framework of the commitments assumed by the Government of Costa Rica before the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

GOVERNANCE: This swap has a 5-member Oversight Committee, and is managed by Forever Costa Rica, which also provides technical support.



OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

SINAC

Jenny Asch - President
Marlene Ulate

U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica

Iván Ríos
Jennifer Castillo
Emilia Alfaro

The Nature Conservancy

Iván Gil

Organization for Tropical Studies

Orlando Vargas
Enrique Castro

EARTH University

Víctor Morales
Marcos Decker



PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTED IN 2023



US\$2.901.857

AMOUNT

FEATURED PROJECTS:

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES IN THE TEMPISQUE CONSERVATION AREA (ACT)

IMPLEMENTED BY: FUNDECODES

OBJECTIVE: Design and implement actions contained in the Regional Natural Resources Management Plan of the Tempisque Conservation Area (ACT).

The project involved the development of a technology platform, accessible to members of civil society organizations, that systematizes, analyzes, and stores information on the impact of the ACT's actions on the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.

It also prioritized implementation activities for the Regional Natural Resources Management Plan, including:

- Restoration of mangrove areas and monitoring their ecological integrity in Las Baulas National Marine Park.
- Studying the capacity of ecosystems to absorb the effects of tourism and designing strategies to control visitation to the Iguanita and Cipanci Wildlife Refuges.
- Monitoring the water quality of the Tempisque River as a way to control the use of pesticides in the agricultural landscape of the neighboring communities of the Cipanci Wildlife Refuge.



2023 was a year of great challenges for the ACT, including the completion of important projects such as the development of the natural resource management plan for the conservation area and 10 of its protected areas. Its implementation depended not only on excellent coordination among all stakeholders, but also on teamwork and a great commitment on the part of conservation area officials, FUNDECODES representatives, the Forever Costa Rica Association, and other stakeholders. Each plan contained several activities, but we prioritized seven of them for implementation, which had a great conservation impact. We hope that, in the short term, the results of these efforts will be reflected through continuous improvement in the management effectiveness of our protected areas, their functional connectivity, and their impact on the landscape."

ROTNEY PIEDRA

DIRECTOR OF PROTECTED AREAS, TEMPISQUE
CONSERVATION AREA (ACT)



TENORIO VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK AND ITS PROTECTED ZONE NOW HAVE UPDATED PLANNING TOOLS

IMPLEMENTED BY: ProParques Association

OBJECTIVE: Update the General Management Plan (PGM) of the Tenorio Volcano National Park (PNVT) and the Tenorio Protected Zone (ZPT) conservation block, adjusted to its social, economic, and environmental context and prepared in a participatory manner, for the planning and management of the protected area for the next 10 years.

The project had a high level of participation from the local communities surrounding the PNVT and ZPT protected areas. These areas are among the most visited in the country because of the Celeste River waterfall and its cultural and ceremonial value for the Maleku indigenous community. This community was integrated into the process, with specific workshops held within their territory.

“This project allowed communities, their key stakeholders and the protected areas involved involved, to once again work together providing information and promoting ecosystem services, especially those that the communities enjoy and are often unaware of. Likewise, the methodology implemented allowed closer outreach to specific groups such as the Maleku community, where through the open houses and joint project development workshops, there was a validation of the processes and a sense of belonging and union between civil society and protected areas, which is expected to improve the governance of the territory,” explained Karen Vázquez, coordinator of the ProParques project.



The process developed for updating the Plan is of great importance, not only for having an updated planning instrument that technically guides the actions to be developed in the management of the Protected Area, but also because it represented a challenge and a qualitative change in the strategic and methodological approach to its construction, together with strategic partners and local stakeholders. At the end of the process, we defined 29 projects to be developed systematically during the lifespan of the General Management Plan, jointly with strategic partners and local stakeholders to achieve the efficient management of the ecological integrity of ecosystems and species, as well as the participation and sustainable use of biodiversity.”

CELSO ALVARADO

DIRECTOR OF PROTECTED AREAS - ACAT



STRENGTHENING THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF PROTECTED AREAS

As part of our commitment to support protected areas, in 2023 we raised philanthropic funds to improve their infrastructure.

FEATURED PROJECTS:

POAS VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK: A SAFER EXPERIENCE FOR TOURISTS AND BIODIVERSITY

IMPLEMENTED BY: ProParques Association

OBJECTIVE: Improve the tourist infrastructure for a safer experience at Poas Volcano National Park.

As part of the project, 624 meters (about 2047.24 ft) of railings were installed in the crater area, 205 meters (about 672.57 ft) of the Escalonia trail were restored to provide safer evacuation and tourist visitation routes, and 3 safety screens were installed as shelters in case of emergency due to volcanic eruptions. These improvements allowed the Poas Volcano National Park to increase its visitor capacity from 1,500 to 2,000 people per day (limit established by the National Emergency Commission after the technical closure due to the 2017 and 2018 eruptions).

In addition, the visitor's museum was restored – in partnership with the Regional and Community Museums Program of the National Museum of Costa Rica – to preserve the cultural and historical information of the biodiversity, cultural, and geological attractions of the area for future visitors.



CHIRRIPO NATIONAL PARK: STRENGTHENING SYSTEMS FOR FOREST FIRES

IMPLEMENTED BY: Corcovado Foundation

OBJECTIVE: Promote sustainable tourism, preserve biodiversity, and protect vulnerable ecosystems by strengthening early response systems for forest fires in the Chirripo National Park.

Three tanks were installed to hold 15,000 liters of water, tripling the existing capacity for responding to forest fires and supplying water to the visitors' refuge.

In addition, fire prevention signs, construction materials, solar-powered lamps, and beacons with reflective tape were installed for tourists and volunteer firefighters.

According to Gravin Villegas, manager of La Amistad Pacifico Conservation Area (ACLAP), "Having an installed storage capacity of 15,000 liters of water allows us to be prepared for immediate attention in the event of a fire in the most visited areas of the National Park. It also allows us to tend to tourists' needs for a determined period of time in case the spring that supplies water to the Crestones Lodge is unable to provide enough drinking water during the dry season. We thank the Forever Costa Rica Association and its donors for this initiative."





GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY PROGRAM

To reduce the loss of marine and terrestrial biodiversity by promoting sustainable livelihoods and enhancing partnerships between local communities and the productive, private, and government sectors.

GREEN AND BLUE ECONOMY PROGRAM

The Green and Blue Economy Program consists of multiple projects that contribute to sustainable livelihoods and production, of which we highlight the following:



PROJECT GENTE

Donor:

GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION

Amount:



US\$2 million

Between 2021 and 2023, Project GENTE enhanced the economic recovery of more than 100 rural and coastal communities facing the challenges generated by COVID-19. These communities are in zones of influence of 15 protected areas in the North Pacific (Guanacaste), North Caribbean, and South Pacific regions of Costa Rica.

Project GENTE focused its efforts on providing seed capital to blue and green enterprises, promoting the sustainable technological transformation of small established producers, capacity building for these producers and entrepreneurs, and the articulation and implementation of governance mechanisms to support supply chain and commercialization linkages.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

24 

VENTURES RECEIVED
SEED CAPITAL

1.535 

PEOPLE RECEIVED
TRAINING

50 

PRODUCER FAMILIES
RECEIVED DIRECT
INVESTMENT IN
TECHNOLOGY

37 

EXISTING BUSINESSES RECEIVED
FUNDS FOR TECHNOLOGICAL
TRANSFORMATION



SEED CAPITAL FOR ENTREPRENEURS

In 2023, the project monitored the sustainable businesses supported in 2021 and 2022.

These ventures's activities include responsible artisanal fishing, bioinputs, sustainable agribusiness, beekeeping, agricultural services, conservation, handicrafts, and ecotourism.

Additionally, in 2023, 65 new direct jobs were created, indirectly benefiting 262 people who have seen an improvement in their living conditions.



Project GENTE is really a project that reaches people 'on the ground', as well as us as an organization with little experience in the execution of seed capital funds. Undoubtedly, the approach that the team has given the project is unmatched, with the whole team assuming an integral position that has allowed us to position our venture and give it visibility. We are very grateful for the comprehensive follow-up Project GENTE has provided our venture."

JIM CÓRDOBA

BIOSUR FOUNDATION



Thanks to the investment in the electric fence, we have been able to certify the farm in NAMA Livestock with MAG. Our ideology is to produce with low carbon emission and sustainable livestock farming."

ADERITH ANDINO AND GUSTAVO MORA

BENEFICIARIES OF ELECTRIC FENCING
AT ADEUS FARM

SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

In 2023, 23 producer families and 4 existing businesses received support for implementing improvements in their small farms. Actions included the installation of electric fences to transform their systems to rational grazing, which reduces livestock movement and protects natural resources.

In addition to rational grazing, systems have been implemented to manage and reuse animal excrement, such as fertigation and methane gas production. Other improvements include mini-factories to create inputs for organic agriculture (bioinputs) on the farms. This milestone was made possible due to the partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG).



[LEARN MORE](#)

CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2023, 663 people benefitted from training on different topics, including sustainable production, bioinput production, and operational and administrative management of green and blue businesses. In addition, 45 people received support through home garden kits and 24 kits to produce low agrochemical inputs.

A supply chain and commercialization linkages process among the project's beneficiary entrepreneurs was strengthened through three business roundtables, with one held in each territory. A total of 58 entrepreneurs participated in these networking spaces and held more than 260 appointments with different regional companies, which led to the creation of 120 new business agreements.

Additionally, the project has allowed us to support and promote the implementation of the Tourism as an Engine for Local Development program (Tu-MODELO), led by our partners at Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible (Fundecooperation for Sustainable Development) in alliance with MAG and ICT.

During 2023, in the South Pacific, 6 state institutions (ICT, MAG, INAMU, INDER, JUDESUR, and Banco Popular), 3 local marketing organizations (ADI Carate, Super Pollo, and Famesur), 34 local producers endorsed by MAG, as well as 9 hotels, all committed to the process of local development. Additionally, 9 hotels (Corcovado el Tigre, El Remanso Rainforest Lodge, SCP Corcovado Wilderness Lodge, Oxigen Jungle Villas, Albergue So Cagru, Canto del Tucan Lodge and Farm, Bodhi Surf + Yoga, Finca Las Heliconias and Ristorante Italiano Dolce Uvita) committed to responsible purchasing processes.

Furthermore, the implementation of the program has been strengthened in the North Pacific and Huetar-North Caribbean territories, through training processes for more than 60 people from 5 local marketing organizations (ASOPABI, CACPROSA, Centro Agrícola Los Chiles, Llanuras del Miravalles, and COOPEPILANGOSTA R.L.), producers, and officials from state institutions.



I DEBT-FOR-NATURE SWAP U.S.-CR

OBJECTIVE:

Facilitate the conservation, protection, restoration, and sustainable use of Costa Rica's tropical forests outside of state protected areas.



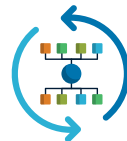
Amount:

US\$1.877.878

6

Prioritized
Areas

LA AMISTAD,
MAQUENQUE, NICOYA,
OSA, RINCÓN DE LA VIEJA
AND TORTUGUERO.



22

PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTED
IN 2023

The I Debt-for-Nature Swap between the Governments of the United States and Costa Rica (ICD) was created with the support of The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International, with Forever Costa Rica Association serving as administrator since 2017. This swap is managed through a 5-member Oversight Committee.

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

SINAC

Rubén Muñoz
Carlos Barrantes

U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica

Iván Ríos
Jennifer Castillo

The Nature Conservancy

Iván Gil
Andrés Zuluaga

Conservation International

Marco Quesada – President
Ricardo Ulate

EARTH University

Víctor Morales
Amanda Wendt

FEATURED PROJECTS:

RIO CAÑAS BIOLOGICAL CORRIDOR: STRENGTHENING LOCAL CAPACITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL TOURISM

IMPLEMENTED BY: ASAMUSAR

OBJECTIVE: The Santa Rosa Women's Environmental Association (ASAMUSAR) and the Association for Integral Development (ADI) Santa Rosa de Brunka, carried out 3 projects focused on sustainable production, tourism and biological monitoring. With funds from the I Debt-for-Nature Swap, these efforts continued, supporting farms that contribute to connecting forest patches within the Río Cañas Biological Corridor.

The project has directly benefited 15 entrepreneurs located in the Brunka district of the Buenos Aires canton, encompassing various spheres such as conservation, research, agriculture, and tourism diversification. These impactful measures include the strategic planting of 1,600 trees along riverbanks, springs, and streams to enhance environmental sustainability; the creation of promotional videos to showcase the products and services of local communities and associations; the installation of informative signage to increase awareness regarding the socio-environmental significance of the Biological Corridor; the construction of two recreational and tourism structures for relaxation, bird watching, and scenic observation; and the organization of two fairs that facilitated the exposure of more than 20 local producers, fostering economic prosperity and community cohesion. Moreover, in collaboration with the La Amistad Caribe Conservation Area (ACLAC), the project has facilitated activities and discussions aimed at advancing conservation initiatives in the area.

Finally, 15 members of the Biological Monitoring Brigade, who serve as tourist guides in the area, received refresher trainings and participated in a tour of Corcovado National Park to learn about the successes and lessons learned from participatory research and tourism management in the communities surrounding this protected area.



After the implementation of the project, a change has been noticed in the four communities that comprise the Río Cañas Biological Corridor in terms of economic growth, knowledge of the ecosystems, and social well-being. Today, the project beneficiaries have greater capacity to manage rural community-based tourism that they offer to nationals and foreigners, with a philosophy of inclusion and respect for biodiversity," explained

YEIMY ALTAMIRANO
ASAMUSAR'S PROJECT
COORDINATOR



SALITRE INDIGENOUS TERRITORY: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION THROUGH ANCESTRAL PRACTICES



IMPLEMENTED BY: ADII Salitre

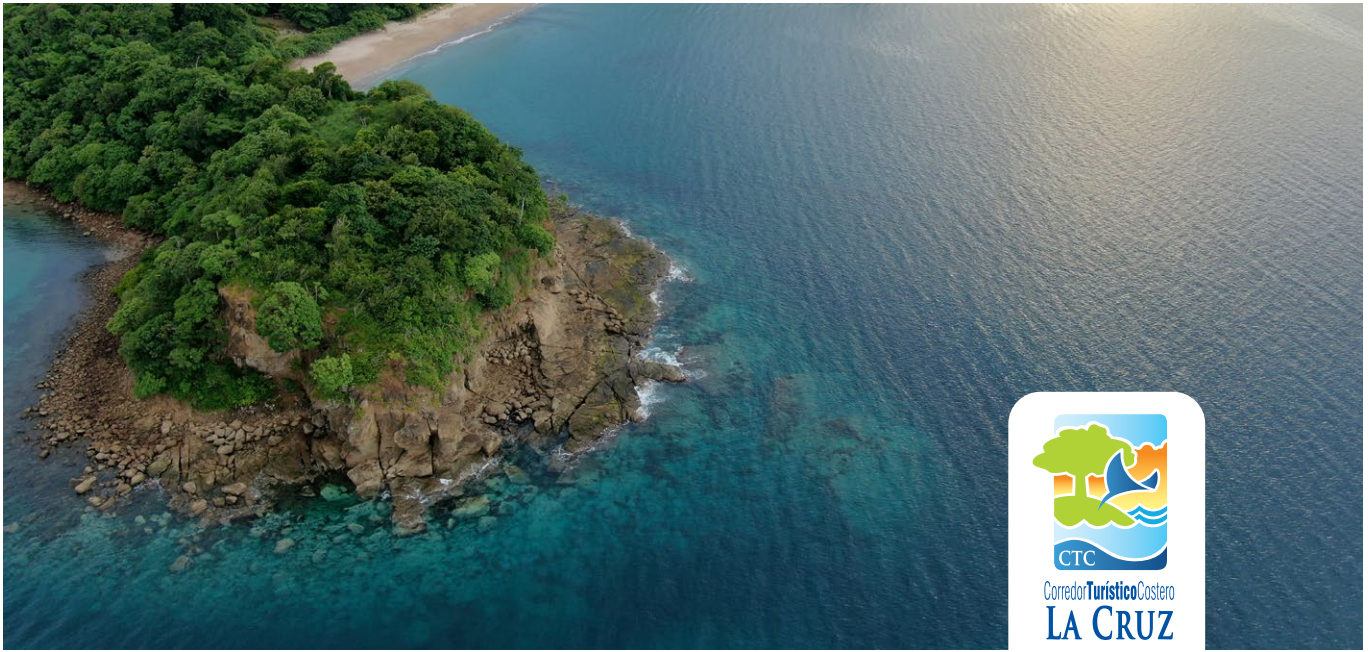
OBJECTIVE: Reduce threats to forest and natural savannah ecosystems by improving their connectivity, strengthening capacities, and generating enabling conditions for the provision of tourism services in the Salitre Indigenous Territory.

Project activities include the germination of 9,000 trees in the nursery of the Association for the Integral Development of the Salitre Indigenous Reservation (ADII Salitre); the planting of 15,000 trees on farms that were previously used for cattle ranching and had previously suffered forest fires; capacity building and equipment for environmental groups in Salitre (COVIRENAS, Forest Fire Brigade, Biological Monitoring Brigade); the creation of the first Forest Fire Brigade in Salitre, which effectively addressed 80% of the season's fires; prevention, attention, and reduction of environmental crimes; research on endangered endemic species such as reptiles, amphibians, and birds whose distribution in the area was uncertain; mapping of natural and cultural attractions; training in rural community tourism management; and the creation of three tourist routes.



The project brought many benefits to our territory, from high-level training to improve conservation management, to improved forest connectivity through intensive reforestation to protect springs and allow the movement of species. Forest restoration was greatly encouraged, which in turn contributes income for our people. In addition, we consolidated the structure and management of important groups for Salitre that work in the surveillance of natural resources."

LIDIETH BEJARANO
ADII SALITRE



LOCAL ECONOMIES AND CONSERVATION IN LA CRUZ, GUANACASTE

Donor:

VAITT
FOUNDATION

Amount:



US\$500,000

US\$100,000 per year

The initiative “Enhancing the Local Economy Through Conservation: The La Cruz Model, Its Communities, and Protected Areas” seeks to drive a 5-year regional vision (2020-2024) that positions La Cruz as a tourist destination, through communal associativity and environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Below are some of the project’s achievements in 2023:

SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES

Feasibility studies were carried out for the concession of tourism services in the Santa Rosa National Park, including the Murciélagos sector, 9 km from the community of Cuajiniquil.

In addition, Asojunquillal, the local Cuajiniquil organization that manages tourism services in the Junquillal National Wildlife Refuge (RNVSJ), has promoted economic growth in the community, doubling visitation to the refuge to 16,200 people, generating more than \$90,000 in income, contributing to job creation, and creating opportunities for the sale of local products and services in a beach market.

TOURISM FOR CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Ten local tour guides were granted their certification from the National Learning Institute (INA) and reinforced their knowledge of the protected areas of the Guanacaste Conservation Area. These new guides completed their professional internships with tour operators in La Cruz and Liberia and have made themselves known to the province's Chambers of Tourism, increasing their employment opportunities.



LA CRUZ COASTAL TOURISM CORRIDOR (CTC)

With the support of the project, the Chamber of Tourism Entrepreneurs of La Cruz (CETUR) participated in the Travel Expo and the National Tourism Fair, with the aim of positioning the CTC as a tourist destination, which resulted in **10 new travel agencies** nationwide committed to promoting the destination.

For Manuel Antonio Alan, local businessman and member of the Board of Directors of CETUR, "CTC La Cruz, is a project that exposes and projects the coastal potential of La Cruz, and Forever Costa Rica has had a strong impact on La Cruz. They have taught us the importance of organization and leadership, which has enhanced tourism. Thanks to them, CETUR is stronger and more united, and their influence on our development has been enormous."



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

The La Cruz Community Foundation made its official launch surrounded by communities from the 4 districts of the canton of La Cruz and other strategic partners from the private sector, NGOs, and other community-based organizations.


In addition, members of the La Cruz Coastal Tourism Corridor, the La Cruz Community Foundation, and the local mayor participated in the Central American Donors Forum, presenting the initiative as an innovative model in the region.

In the last quarter of 2023, Leticia Salas, president of the La Cruz Community Foundation, participated in an exchange of experiences with Mexican community foundations. She is convinced that "the CTC project through FCR has gone beyond support, capacity building, and/or strengthening of companies and organizations, but rather demonstrates that it is possible that biodiversity conservation and local economies can and should walk hand in hand. Thank you very much for showing us the routes and, above all, for walking alongside with us."





COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SUPPORT PROJECT

| Donor: | Amount |
|-------------------------|---|
| C.S. Mott Foundation |  US\$300,000 |

The “Creating and Strengthening of a Network of Community Foundations in Costa Rica” initiative has a duration of 2 years (2023-2025) and seeks to accompany and strengthen the organizational capacity and sustainability of 7 community foundations.

Community foundations are organizations working in a defined geographical area that seek to improve the quality of life of people in their communities through local philanthropic efforts.

Here are some highlights of the project’s progress in 2023:



EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES

In November, we coordinated an exchange of experiences with the community foundation movement in Mexico. The Guanacaste Community Fund, Corcovado Foundation, La Cruz Community Foundation, and the Forever Costa Rica Association were represented in this space, where we visited 6 organizations in the cities of Puebla, Morelos, Monterrey, Oaxaca, and Cuernavaca.

The activity served as a valuable opportunity for us to collect inputs while forming a network of community foundations. It also provided a platform for learning from experiences that can enhance the organizations' management, particularly in the areas of communication, fundraising, and more. Furthermore, the participants gained insights into the best practices employed by a support organization for the future network, as well as the impactful work carried out by the Forever Costa Rica Association.



The learning mission to Mexico – within the framework of the project, to support community foundations – administered by the Forever Costa Rica Association was really useful. I brought back with me valuable information that I shared with the members of my organization and our network in Costa Rica, especially in terms of governance. I was able to reinforce and validate the importance of board positions for organizational sustainability, as well as different ways to engage them.”

FRANCISCO DELGADO
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CORCOVADO
FOUNDATION





CAPACITY BUILDING

During 2023, the community foundations received training and support in fundraising, enabling them to learn and adopt best practices to better position themselves before donors. In addition, advice was provided in their strategic planning process to design work plans to help guarantee their sustainability.



In this re-launching stage of the Guanacaste Community Fund, the support of Forever Costa Rica in strategic planning has been essential to guide the rethinking of the organizational philosophy. In addition, the opportunity to learn about different models of community foundations in Mexico strengthened our value proposition."

GERALDINE CARMONA
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GUANACASTE
COMMUNITY FUND





INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

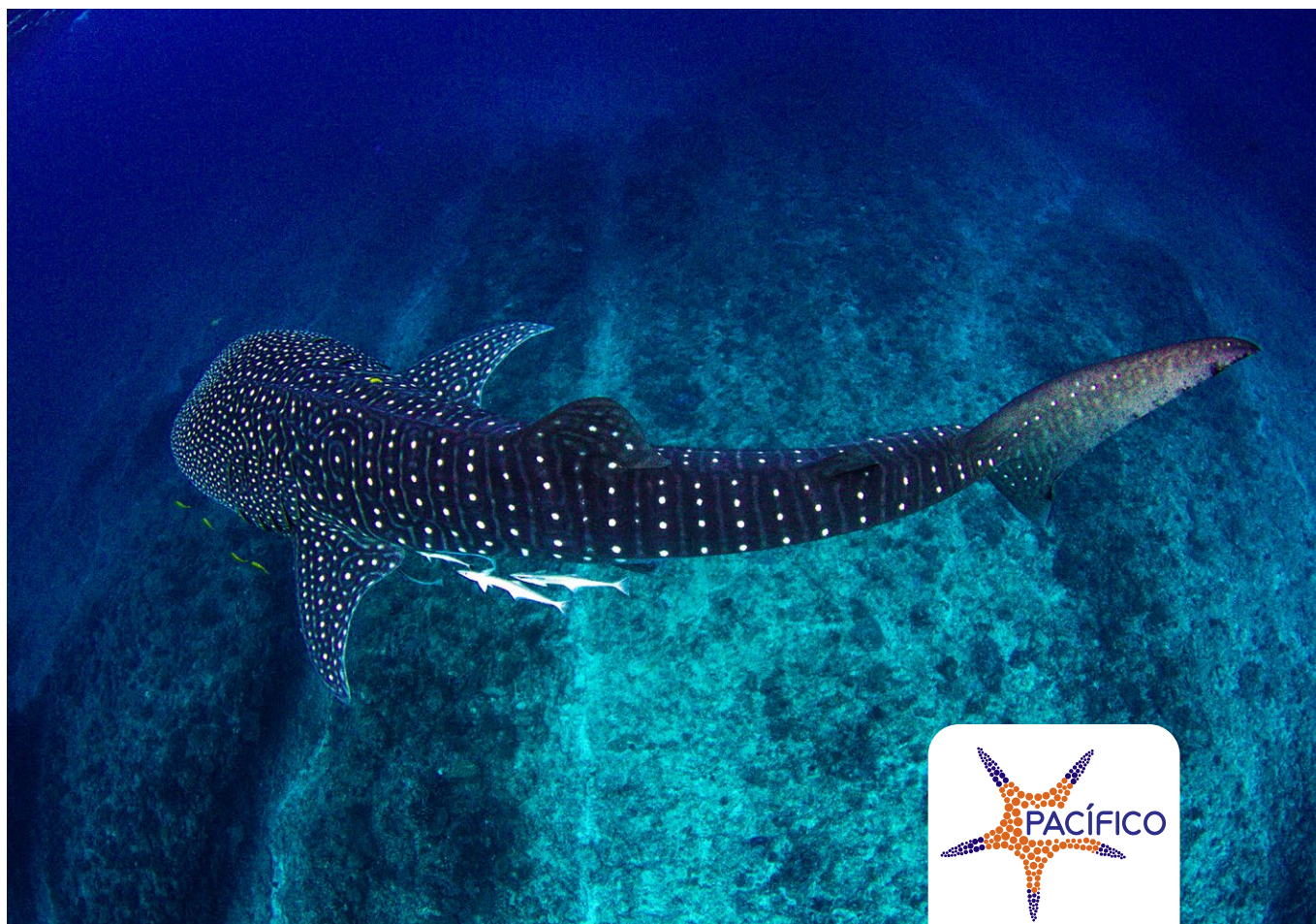
Forever Costa Rica works beyond Costa Rica's borders to support biodiversity conservation and human well-being.

Through our participation in **PACIFICO Foundation**, we mobilize financial resources to ensure the sustainable management of the Eastern Tropical Pacific, where a highly biodiverse and productive marine corridor encompassing Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, and Colombia is located.

We are also part of the **Latin America and the Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC)**, made up of 28 conservation trust funds from 20 countries in the region. RedLAC is a learning community that promotes capacity building and knowledge management that favors biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

With the project **“Bridge: Conservation with the Private Sector”**, we collaborate with RedLAC’s conservation trust funds and its counterpart network in Africa, CAFÉ, to achieve the 2030 global biodiversity conservation goals.

Photo page
34: Luis
Solano Pochet
2020



PACIFICO FOUNDATION

The PACIFICO Foundation seeks to mobilize financial resources for the integrated management of the marine-coastal and oceanic ecosystems of the Eastern Tropical Pacific (PET). It is comprised of four conservation trust funds, Patrimonio Natural (Colombia), Fondo Acción (Colombia), Fundación Natura (Panama), and Forever Costa Rica (Costa Rica).

During 2023, PACIFICO Foundation managed and implemented two important initiatives that we highlight below:

STRENGTHENING MONITORING, CONTROL, AND SURVEILLANCE IN CMAR

DONOR: Bezos Earth Fund

The objective of the project is to improve management effectiveness of marine protected areas and the conservation of marine biodiversity in the Eastern Tropical Pacific. This will be done by strengthening institutional monitoring and control and surveillance capacities using satellite technology, machine learning, data analysis, and intelligence to improve efforts directed against illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

This project is carried out in collaboration with three expert partners: WildAid, OceanMind and Joint Analytical Cell (JAC).

MARINE CORRIDOR STRENGTHENING ACTIONS

DONOR: Re:Wild

The Technical Secretariat of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) now has two collaborators who provide support in the political, technical, and integrated management of oceanic protected areas.

In addition, progress continues to be made with the declaration of the Transboundary Marine Biosphere Reserve of the Eastern Tropical Pacific, which will provide a model of governance and shared management to ensure the sustainable use and conservation of marine resources at the regional level.



REDLAC



In October, we participated in the 2023 Annual Congress RedLAC in Cusco, Peru – which had more than 400 attendees from 32 countries – with the aim of establishing partnerships to promote environmental finance and publicize the added value of conservation trust funds for the fulfillment of conservation objectives.

We held presentations in panels on project monitoring and evaluation, and on marine conservation and Project Finance for Permanence (PFP). We also shared experiences in communication and Environmental and Social Safeguards with other member funds.



CONSERVATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Donor:

French Facility for Global Environment and MAVA Foundation

Amount:



€4,83 million

The BRIDGE Project is an initiative implemented by the Forever Costa Rica Association which benefits 46 RedLAC and CAFÉ conservation trust funds.

The objective of the project is to promote strategic partnerships between conservation trust funds in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa and the private sector through innovative financial mechanisms, mentoring, and knowledge management, to contribute towards the 2030 global biodiversity conservation goals.

The following are BRIDGE Project highlights for 2023:

INNOVATION FUND

This Fund seeks to provide technical and financial support to REDLAC and CAFÉ conservation trust funds to study, replicate, and scale up innovative financial mechanisms that involve the private sector in conservation.

Through an external Selection Committee, 10 conservation trust funds were chosen to receive between €50,000 and €150,000 to implement the following innovative financial mechanisms for biodiversity conservation:

| Environmental Fund | Financial Mechanism | Countries |
|--------------------|--|---|
| NETFUND | Financing mechanisms for micro and small green businesses in Kenya | Kenya |
| Forever Costa Rica | Technological transformation of the artisanal tuna sector in Costa Rica | Costa Rica |
| FUNDESNAPE | Business incentive plans to support the conservation of the protected areas system in two regions of Bolivia | Bolivia |
| MARFUND | Shared risk solutions for conservation and sustainable use activities in the Mesoamerican Reef | Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras |
| FTNS | Market-based approach for climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation in the Sangha forest block | Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo |
| FAPBM | Environmental compensation and voluntary participation of industries in support of Madagascar's protected areas | Madagascar |
| MMCT | Conservation and community action for the sustainable utilization and commercialization of derivatives from endemic and semi-endemic plants in Mount Mulanje | Malawi |
| PROFONANPE | Green savings account to support the Peruvian Amazon | Peru |
| UBTF | Process and clean industrial production improvements to reduce pollution in Lake Victoria | Uganda |
| BACoMaB | Assessment of the blue carbon wealth of the Banc d'Arguin National Park | Mauritania |



PARTNERSHIPS

During 2023, Forever Costa Rica actively participated in various events to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.



5TH INTERNATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS CONGRESS (IMPAC5)

Vancouver, Canada

During the Congress, we presented on two panels with MedFund, Wolfs Company, Stony Brook University, and MARFund on lessons learned from Costa Rica, Latin America, and the Caribbean on financing conservation in marine protected areas and coastal communities.

It also gave us the opportunity to meet with partner organizations to raise awareness of the Blue Fund Costa Rica and its contribution to the global 30% marine protection goal.



OUR OCEAN

Panama City, Panama

In March 2023, the **Blue Fund Costa Rica** was launched as an innovative fundraising initiative to support the Costa Rican government in achieving effective management of the expansion of marine protected areas leading to the protection of 30% of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Photo page

38: Luis Solano Pochet 2020

Partners: Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE), National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC), Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INCOPECSA), Friends of Cocos Island Foundation (FAICO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Re:wild.



WORKSHOP ON ENDOWMENT FUNDS AND PROJECTS ON FINANCING FOR PERMANENCE - WWF COLOMBIA

Bogota, Colombia

This workshop allowed to share experiences and lessons learned with other Project Finance for Permanence initiatives (PFPs) in the region and for exploring possible ways to improve the development and implementation of future PFPs. The Forever Costa Rica Association shared its experiences in operational and financial issues over the past 13 years.

Partners: FUNBIO/ARPA, Profonampe, Patrimonio Natural, Enduring Earth.



VII ASSEMBLY OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)

Vancouver, Canada

In August 2023, Forever Costa Rica was selected among more than 600 proposals as one of the 23 winners of the "Inclusive Global Environment Facility Assembly Challenge" to develop a project that promotes climate-smart entrepreneurship led by young people in the canton of La Cruz.



CENTRAL AMERICA DONORS FORUM 2023

San José, Costa Rica

This forum was a meeting between representatives from civil society, philanthropy, and the governmental and business sectors to discuss priority issues in Central America and generate partnerships in favor of development. This was the most attended forum in its history, with more than 600 participants.

In this first edition held in Costa Rica, Forever Costa Rica organized the panel “Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods in La Cruz, Guanacaste” to highlight the lessons learned from working with communities through the support of the Waitt Foundation and the commitment of local leaders, youth, and government. The session had participants from the Municipality of La Cruz, Asojunquillal, the La Cruz Coastal Tourism Corridor, and the La Cruz Community Foundation.



ENDURING EARTH: EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES

During 2023, we received a delegation with representatives from Kenya for the exchange “Crossing Borders, Sharing Visions: Kenya-Costa Rica Exchange,” an event organized by Enduring Earth, an initiative that seeks to protect important habitats on a large scale through permanent funding for conservation (PFP) projects. The objective of the visit was to share the experience of Forever Costa Rica as one of the first PFP projects, and to reflect on models of ecotourism and payment for environmental services.

Participants included senior Kenyan government officials and leaders from conservation organizations such as Enduring Earth, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and environmental finance experts, who conducted a series of field visits and meetings aimed at exploring key issues such as planning, conservation goals, integration of sustainable livelihoods and communities, financing and budgeting, and monitoring and structuring of conservation trust funds. The results and lessons learned during this visit will help inform and guide future long-term conservation finance and sustainable development initiatives in Kenya.



COMMUNICATIONS

Throughout 2023, we proactively shared information across our social networks and media channels to inform and raise awareness amongst our stakeholders.



PROJECT GENTE: IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

The following communication actions were carried out to showcase Project GENTE during its 3 years of implementation as an engine for economic reactivation in the country, generating green and blue jobs:

- Communication campaigns on social networks focused on highlighting participants, their stories and strategic partnerships created through the project.
- Media relations strategy to present project results to the general public.
- Project progress event highlighting the achievements from the first 2 years of execution, with 15 entrepreneurs invited to share their experiences with more than 80 representatives from MINAE, MAG, Fundecooperación, NGOs, and project partners.

LEARN MORE

Photo page

42: Luis
Solano Pochet
2020

BRIDGE: CONSERVATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The campaign was disseminated across the influential social media networks of the Forever Costa Rica Association, RedLAC, and CAFÉ. Our primary aim was to effectively position BRIDGE before international strategic partners. To achieve this, we crafted publications that highlighted key stakeholders, the diverse lines of work, and the collective contribution to global biodiversity conservation endeavors.

Through Forever Costa Rica's social networks, we successfully engaged an audience of 1,584,000 people through 35 publications. Additionally, our BRIDGE website received 4,000 visitors who actively sought out information about the project.





LEARN MORE

MARINE CONSERVATION FUND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

In support of the marine conservation fund (Forever Costa Rica Trust), we orchestrated a strategic communication campaign aimed at encouraging the active involvement of organizations and consultants in response to the call.

Through this campaign, we successfully engaged an audience of 690,000 people in three prominent social networks, through 13 publications. Moreover, the campaign yielded 4,300 website visits.

LET'S PROTECT WILDLIFE ONE GOAL AT A TIME!

In collaboration with UNAFUT, Banco Promerica, and artist Ramón Casares, we launched a campaign of photographic exhibitions. The primary objective was to raise awareness among the wider public regarding the critical state of endangered species, including the jaguar, puma, anteater, jaguarundi, king vulture, and squirrel monkey, among others.



NEWSLETTER

Through our internal monthly newsletter, we are permanently informing the staff, Board of Directors, and the General Assembly of Forever Costa Rica about the organization's progress in its different programs.

An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. A dark, winding river flows through a dense, lush green forest that stretches from the top left towards the bottom right. The river eventually meets the ocean on the right side of the frame. The ocean is a vibrant turquoise color, with white waves breaking along a dark sandy beach. The sky is a clear, pale blue with a few wispy clouds near the horizon.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Successful operational, financial, and human resources
management is essential for permanence.

HUMAN TALENT

Our interdisciplinary team of committed professionals increased to 24 people. The staff benefited from professional development in key areas such as time management, productivity, non-violent communication, and climate change. Additionally, we organized a team-wide visit to the northern part of the country –which included a visit to the Tenorio Volcano National Park and Rio Celeste– to become inspired and allow everyone to learn about our actions in the territory, strengthen relationships with park rangers, promote wellbeing and collaborative work.

For the third consecutive year, we applied an organizational climate study based on the international standards of Great Place to Work, achieving an overall average rating of “Very Good.”



Photo page
46: Luis
Solano Pochet
2020



Fotografía: Luis Solano Pochet 2020



We benefit from the generous support and knowledge of our General Assembly and Board of Directors, integrated by:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Eduardo Ulibarri | • Manrique Rojas | • Neftalí Garro |
| • Francisco Alpízar | • Manuel Ramírez | • Pedro León |
| • Marcela Chacón | • Margo Burnham | • Renato Viquez |
| • Jorge Volio Pérez | • María José Gutiérrez | • Silvia Charpentier |
| • Luciana Pineda | • Javier Chaves | • Tania López |
| • Luis Fernando Salazar | • Michael Rothschild | |



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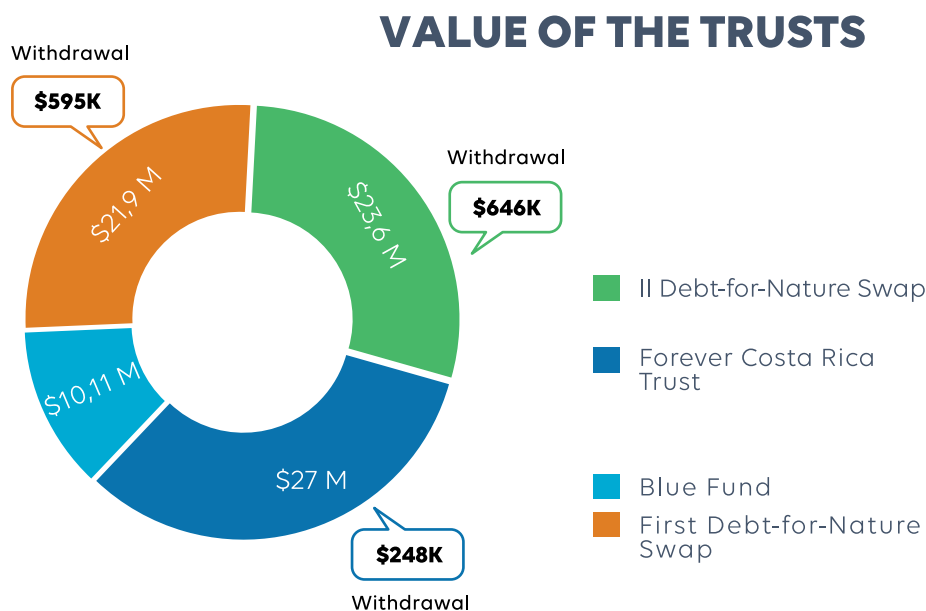


**Mauricio
Salas Villalobos**

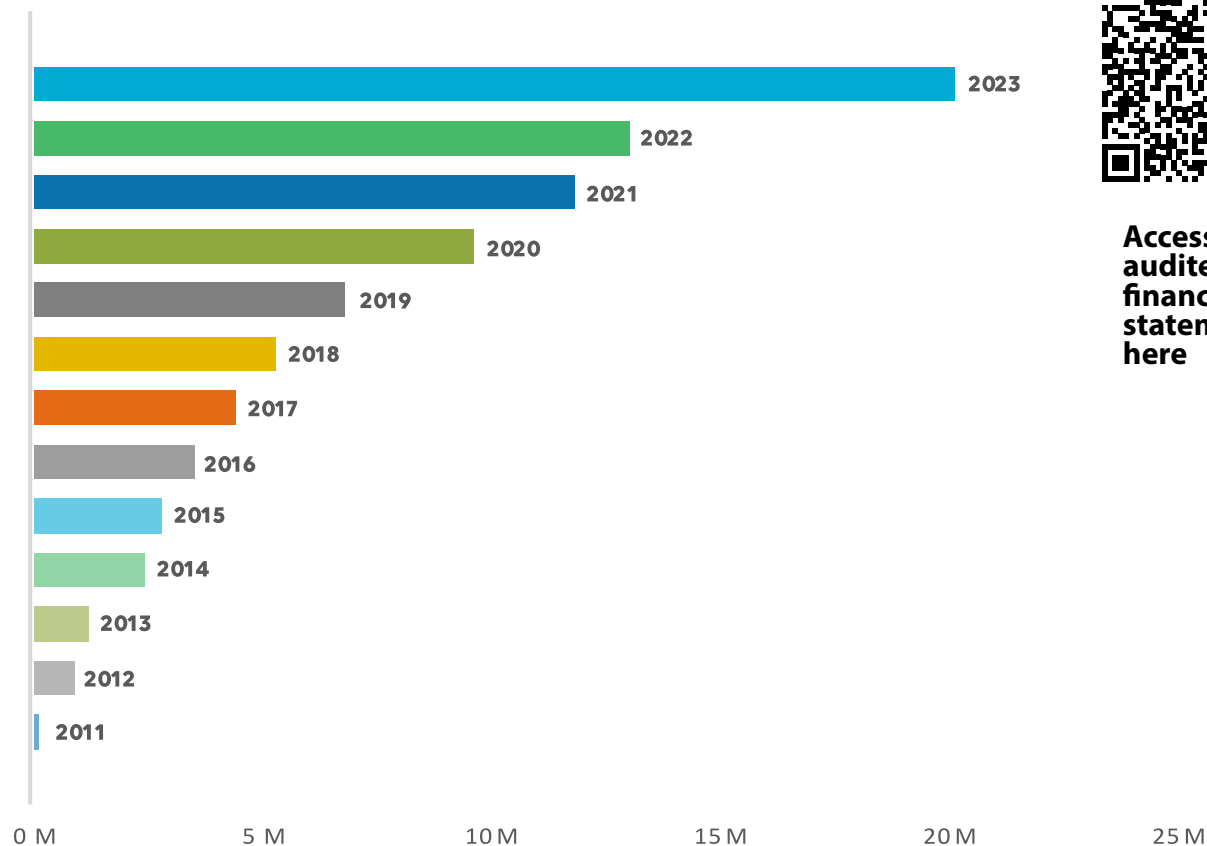
LEGAL ADVISOR

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2023

The Forever Costa Rica Association currently manages and administers 4 trust funds, two of which have existed since 2010: a) Forever Costa Rica Trust and, b) II Debt-for-Nature Swap. Additionally, in 2017, we were appointed trustees of the I Debt-for-Nature Swap Trust, and more recently, we created the Blue Fund Costa Rica Trust. The four trusts were negotiated for an approximated total amount of **US\$90M**; however, as of December 31, 2023, the market value of the four funds amounts to approximately **US\$82.6M**.

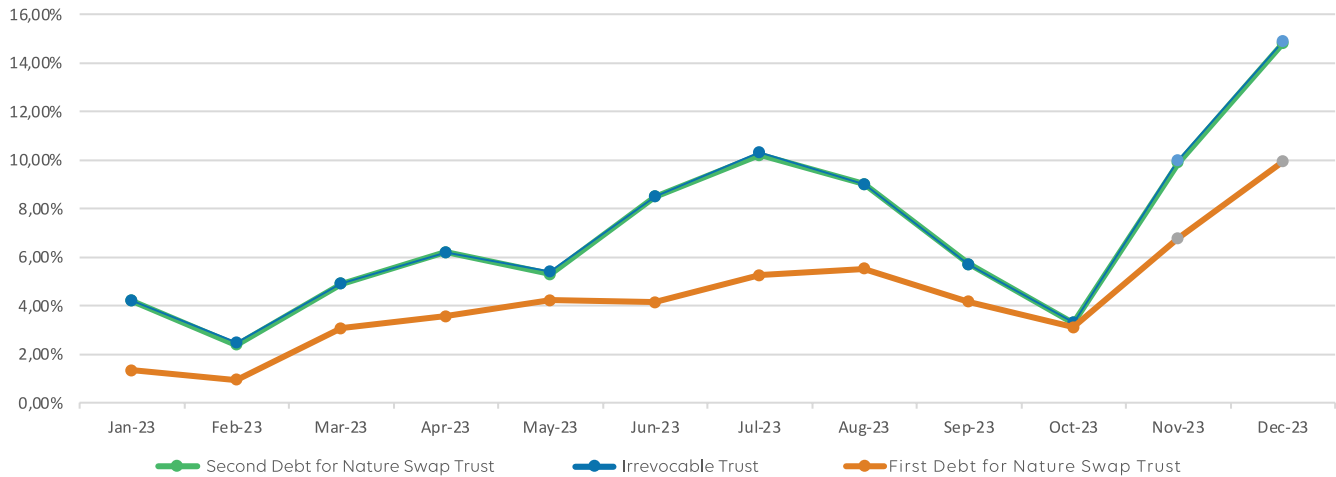


DONATIONS ACCUMULATED PER YEAR



Access our audited financial statements here

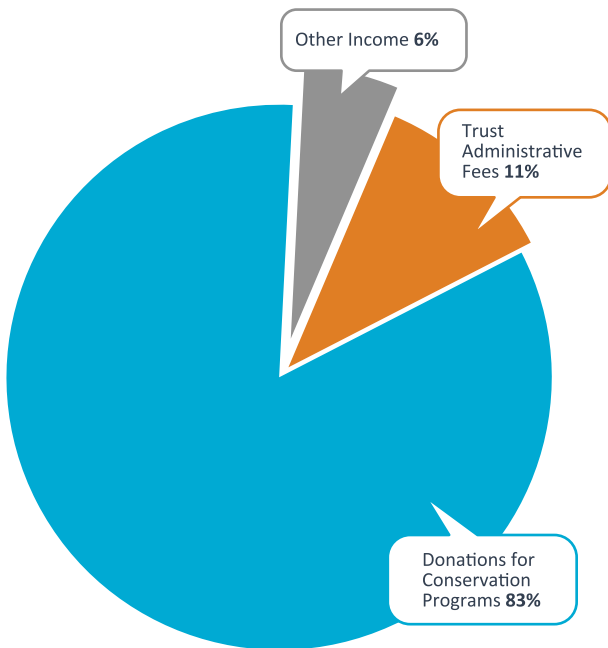
CUMULATIVE RETURN ON INVESTMENT IN 2023 (%)



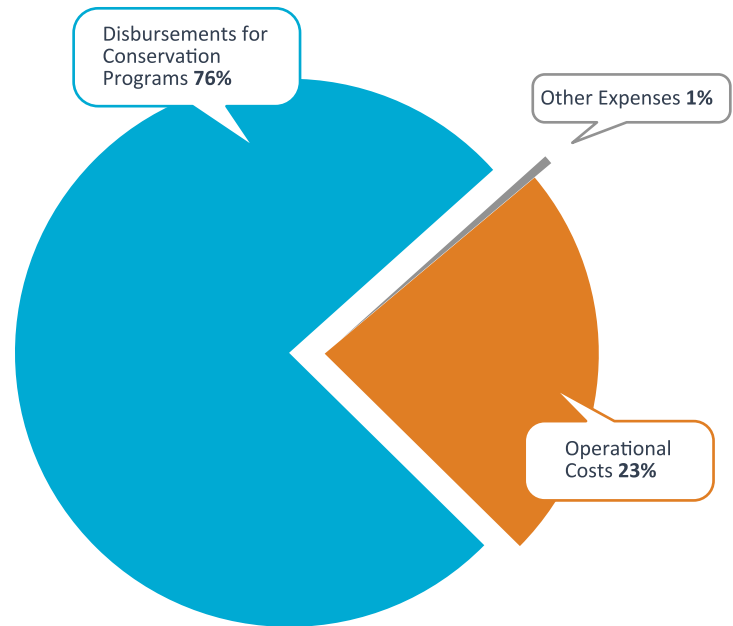
Each year, the trusts provide us with financial resources to cover our operating and programmatic costs. In addition, through fundraising efforts, we receive primarily philanthropic donations to manage conservation projects. As of December 31, 2023, we have received an approximated total of **US\$20.2M** in donations.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AND EXPENSES 2023

CONTRIBUTIONS RECIVED \$10.8M



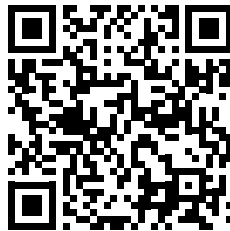
EXPENSES \$5.7M





www.costaricaporsiempre.org

LEARN MORE





Phone: +(506) 8652-4860

San José, Costa Rica

info@costaricaporsiempre.org

www.costaricaporsiempre.org

