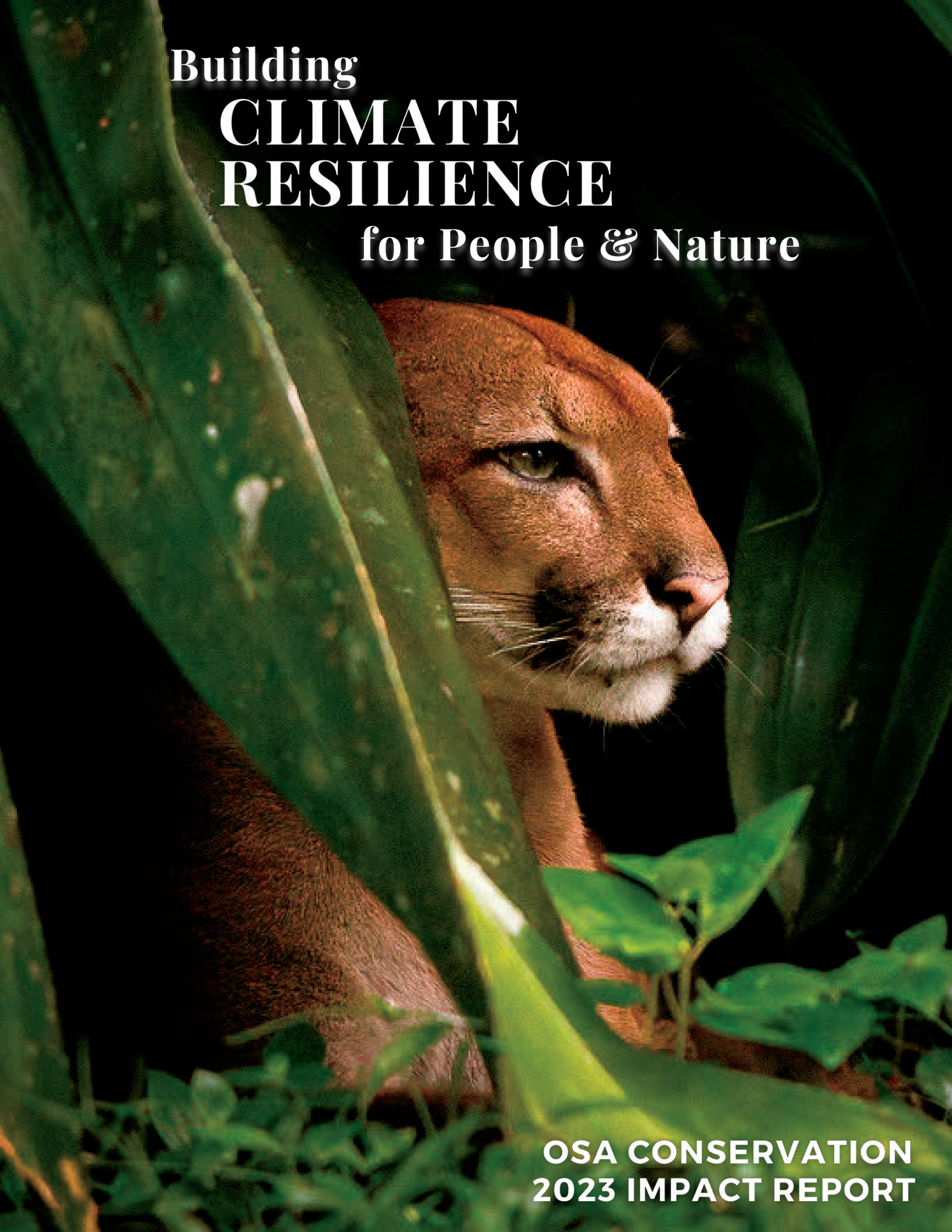


Building CLIMATE RESILIENCE for People & Nature

OSA CONSERVATION
2023 IMPACT REPORT

Osa Conservation

Our mission is to conserve the globally significant biological diversity of the Osa Peninsula.

To protect this unparalleled biodiversity, Osa Conservation leads conservation action from the Pacific Ocean to the Talamanca Mountains.

Scan this code to further support our work.

Osa Conservation is a 501c3 nonprofit.

Charity Navigator
FOUR-STAR

1% FOR THE PLANET
- ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNER -


TUSA

Table of Contents

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Climate change is perceived to be the greatest threat to long-term human survival. But the synergistic crisis of biodiversity loss, essentially the decay of life on Earth, is just as alarming. While climate change is coming to the political and social forefront of a global agenda, nature conservation remains overlooked. It is too often left out of the climate conversation despite these two crises being intrinsically linked.

While there is no doubt that climate change is underway, the degree to which it will take effect depends largely on human action. The same is true for biodiversity and nature conservation. The extinction crisis is in motion and our actions, not only on climate but in terms of biodiversity conservation approaches, will determine how many species are lost and how many will be saved in a rapidly changing world. Right now, we are creating national parks and implementing conservation strategies largely without climate change in mind.

Osa Conservation is focusing its own programmatic efforts on rebuilding functional habitat connectivity through biological wildlife corridors from Costa Rica's southern Pacific tropical lowlands of the Osa Peninsula, to the high-elevation wilderness of the Amistad National Peace Park. Establishing conservation landscapes of high ecological integrity along elevational gradients is the most effective approach to building climate resilience for nature. And we are doing so in one of Central America's most biodiversity-rich regions.

This 'climate lifeboat for nature', if restored and preserved to a high level of ecological connectivity, has the potential to conserve >75% of Costa Rica's biodiversity and allow as many species to survive climate change as possible.

We hope our site-based work serves as an on-the-ground model for building climate resilience for people and nature at scale. This strategy, steeped in ecological and paleo-historical science, can help mitigate the impacts of climate change and protect as many species as possible throughout Central America. This can only be achieved by working with local communities to foster their intrinsic connection to nature and investing in the social capital of the working landscape.

The approach we are leading in AmistOsa to build climate resilience is one we believe should be applied to other high biodiversity regions of the world where nature will be pushed to the extremes by climate change.

In this year's report, we detail the impact the Osa Conservation team, collaborators, and local community members are already leading to build long-term climate resilience in southern Costa Rica.

I hope you enjoy the results of our work over just a single year,

Dr. Andrew Whitworth
Executive Director, Osa Conservation
AndyWhitworth@osaconservation.org
@AndyRainforest

2023 IN NUMBERS

32,151
Miles patrolled in wilderness areas by volunteers and OC rangers

107565
Native, rare, or threatened trees planted

24
Research fellows & field-based conservation interns hosted by our team at the OC Campus

1,096
Visitors & Volunteers at the Osa Conservation Campus

Deployed or monitored **86** transmitters to track elusive wildlife movement

1st
100 foot treetop canopy tower in the region

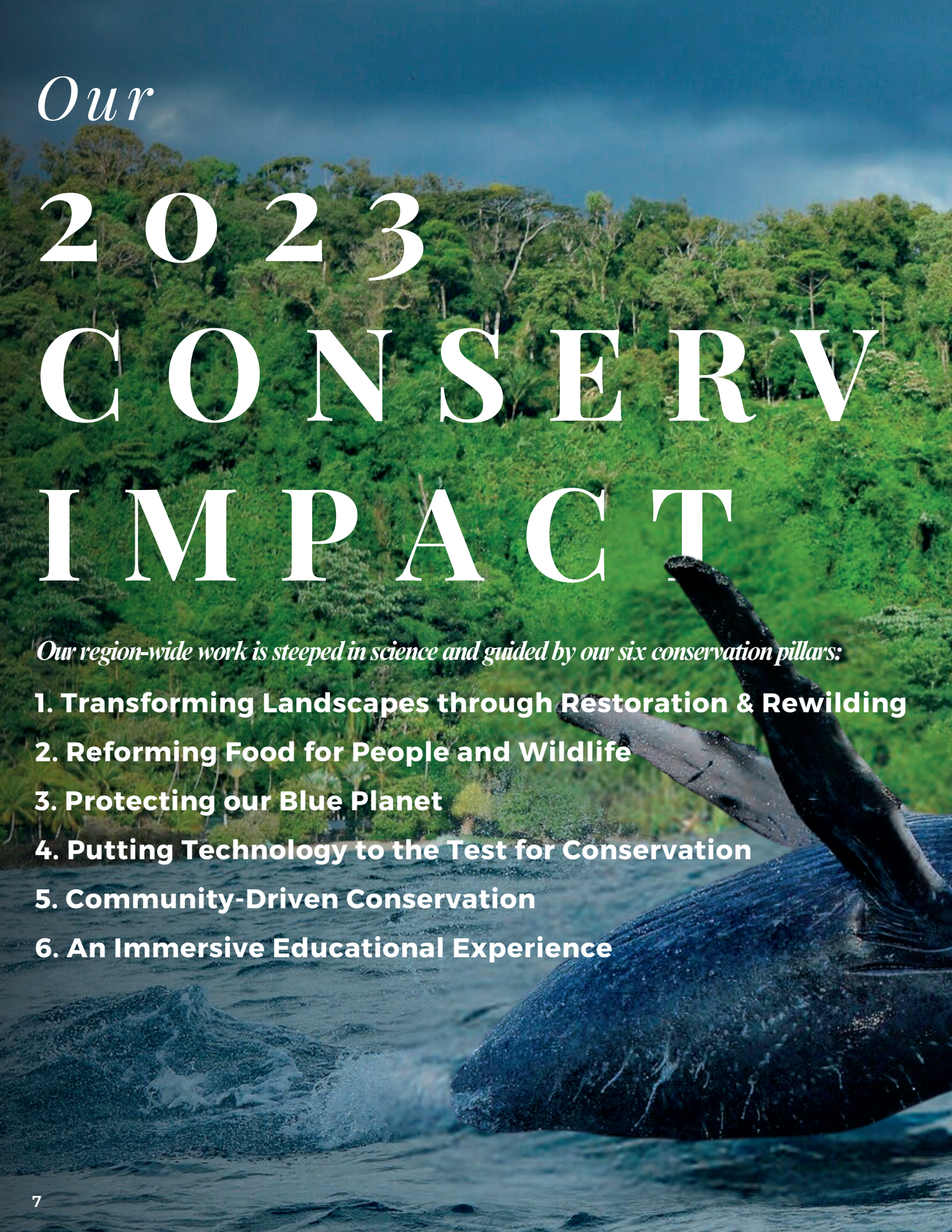
40
Hectares of mangrove forest restored

Grew our Restoration Network to **346** local land owners

27
Arboreal bridges deployed or maintained for treetop wildlife

5
Peer-reviewed scientific articles published

400
Local kids engaged in our outdoor Youth Nature Club



Our 2023 CONSERV IMPACT

Our region-wide work is steeped in science and guided by our six conservation pillars:

1. Transforming Landscapes through Restoration & Rewilding
2. Reforming Food for People and Wildlife
3. Protecting our Blue Planet
4. Putting Technology to the Test for Conservation
5. Community-Driven Conservation
6. An Immersive Educational Experience


ATION

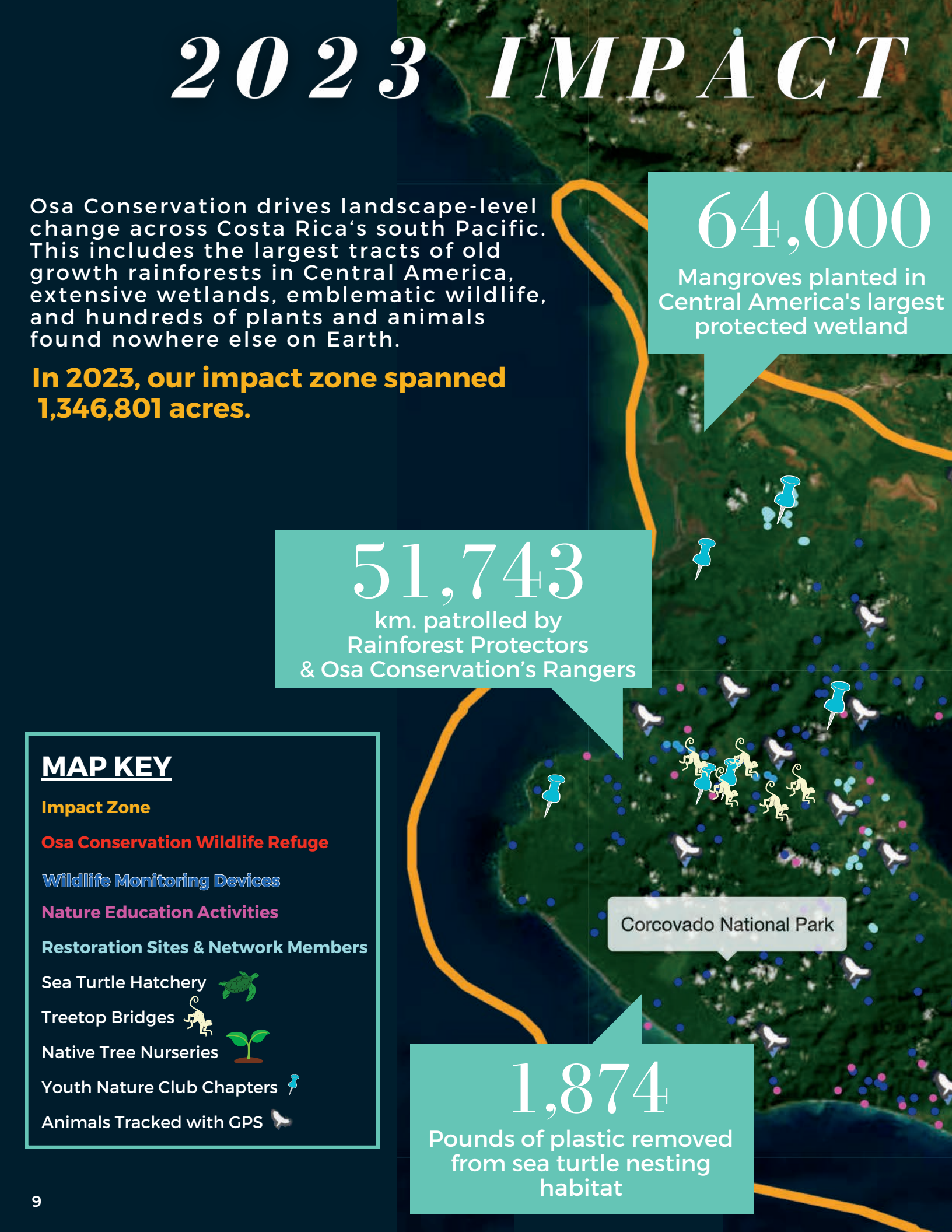
2023 IMPACT

Osa Conservation drives landscape-level change across Costa Rica's south Pacific. This includes the largest tracts of old growth rainforests in Central America, extensive wetlands, emblematic wildlife, and hundreds of plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth.

In 2023, our impact zone spanned 1,346,801 acres.

64,000
Mangroves planted in Central America's largest protected wetland

51,743
km. patrolled by Rainforest Protectors & Osa Conservation's Rangers



MAP KEY

- Impact Zone
- Osa Conservation Wildlife Refuge
- Wildlife Monitoring Devices
- Nature Education Activities
- Restoration Sites & Network Members
- Sea Turtle Hatchery
- Treetop Bridges
- Native Tree Nurseries
- Youth Nature Club Chapters
- Animals Tracked with GPS

1,874
Pounds of plastic removed from sea turtle nesting habitat

MAP

Parque Internacional La Amistad

1,360,000
GPS data points reported by vultures GPS transmitters

346
Restoration Network Members

107,565
Rare, native & threatened trees planted

Piedras Blancas National Park

1st
Olive Ridley sea turtle tagged with GPS transmitter in the region

We have been involved with Osa Conservation for over 6 years and it is hard to imagine a better-run or more impactful NGO.

Osa Conservation takes a holistic approach to the environment while focusing on critical local challenges. They synchronize a vibrant biological research station with local community involvement in conservation and they work to mitigate the wider global impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss.

OC puts their cutting-edge science and research into action. It serves as a shining example of ecological sustainability in Costa Rica and beyond.

- ANNE & BRIAN MAZAR
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SUPPORTERS

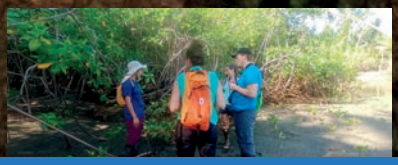
The Mazar Family and Wildlife Conservation team at the Osa Conservation Campus

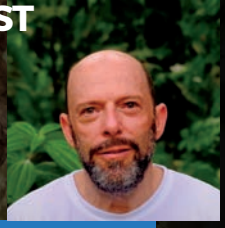
MESSAGES FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

The Osa Conservation team hosted the Rainforest Trust staff retreat with such warmth, unflagging enthusiasm, and absolute professionalism. We had extraordinary fun, learned a great deal about Central American conservation, Osa, and natural history, and came home exhausted but refreshed, recharged, and re-committed to our conservation mission. It is an incredible tribute to Osa Conservation that everyone on our team had fun and learned, from the most experienced conservationists among us to individuals in fundraising and administration who had never visited a rainforest before.

Thanks to you, your magic forest and wildlife, your incredible activities, and above all your hard work, expertise, and generosity of spirit, we return to our work recharged.

- DR. JAMES DEUTSCH
CEO, RAINFOREST TRUST





The Rainforest Trust staff retreat at the Osa Conservation Campus.

TRANSFORMING LANDSCAPES: RESTORING WORKING LANDS

We work hand-in-hand with thousands of local community members to restore ecosystems. Central to this is our tree planting efforts. This year, we restored over 140 hectares of degraded land across working landscapes and protected areas.

BECAUSE DIVERSITY IS KEY TO HEALTHY FORESTS, IN 2023 WE PLANTED

319
DISTINCT TREE SPECIES.

To cultivate such a diverse restoration species portfolio, our team conducted a series of botanical expeditions deep into the rainforest to collect seeds from the region's rarest and most threatened species.

Every species we plant is native to the region. We focus specifically on planting rare and endemic trees.

To ensure we are planting the most resilient species, we built a native tree nursery network that includes five nurseries and spans over 1,000 meters (3,280 feet) of elevation.

Over a dozen local communities are involved in the maintenance, propagation, and planting at our native tree nurseries.

= Native Tree Nursery
m.a.s.l = meters above sea level

IN 2023, WE PLANTED

107,565 NATIVE TREES.

That's over 26,500 trees more than last year, making this our most impactful restoration season to date. Thanks to growing buy-in from the local community and our team...

this year, we planted more trees than ever before in our organization's history.

Native Trees Planted By Year

REJUVENATING THE LARGEST MANGROVE SYSTEM IN COSTA RICA

We are building long-term resilience for people and nature through the restoration of Costa Rica's largest and most significant mangrove forest.

This community-led initiative has driven the assisted regeneration of 131.6 hectares of degraded mangrove. The project provides over 50 local restoration jobs annually.

IN 2023, WE RESTORED

40 hectares OF MANGROVE FOREST BY PLANTING 64,000 PROPAGULES.

In addition to increasing the ecosystem services derived from the restored habitat, this project builds more sustainable livelihoods for the local community who live and work within the mangrove system. By diversifying income streams beyond restoration work, we are shifting the social fabric to address the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and inequality. In the face of climate change and biodiversity loss, sustainable communities and healthy mangrove forests bolster landscape-level resilience for land and sea.

Already, the project's restoration success is evident. The first plots, planted in 2018, are naturally regenerating and providing habitat for wildlife including the endangered endemic Mangrove Hummingbird. Key to this success is the maintenance of newly restored landscapes, which allows young trees to grow strong enough to survive on their own.

IN 2023, THIS PROJECT PROVIDED

52 JOBS

FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

In addition to mangrove restoration, our work helps diversify income streams for local community members who previously relied on deforestation or extraction for their livelihoods.

In 2023, we led an intensive year-long training to certify 12 community members in mangrove honey production, an untapped local market with incredible potential for growth.

Local community members were also trained to monitor biodiversity using citizen science technology apps such as iNaturalist, eBird, and EarthRanger. This helps build their professional toolkit and supports long-term biodiversity monitoring.

We also led monthly outings for two dozen local school children to support tree planting, seed collection, biodiversity monitoring, and more.

REWILDING COSTA RICA ...

Historic deforestation, mining, and poaching pushed a handful of key species to be locally extirpated, including the mega-herds of white-lipped peccary *(Tayassu pecari)* that previously roamed southern Costa Rica. The white-lipped peccary is a keystone species and the primary prey source of the jaguar, an apex predator. In Piedras Blancas National Park the species has become locally extirpated, which has impacted the integrity of the food chain and the resilience of the region in the face of climate change.

Despite historic degradation, today over half of Costa Rica's land is forest cover. The country has a world-class network of protected areas and on the Osa Peninsula local communities are already taking action to safeguard threatened wildlife.

Now, it is time to bring back the species that are missing.

IN 2023, WE LAUNCHED OUR REWILDING INITIATIVE TO

BRING BACK THE WHITE-LIPPED PECCARY TO PIEDRAS BLANCAS NATIONAL PARK.

This year, we composed and delivered the first technical report for the translocation of the white-lipped peccary. We also worked with the local protected area system to create the reintroduction action plan to bring the white-lipped peccary back to Piedras Blancas National Park.

After months of building the relationship to put rewilding on the government's official agenda in Costa Rica, the plan has now been approved by the national protected area ministry and implementation is scheduled to begin in 2024.

& RECONNECTING HABITAT

In addition to reintroduction, we use numerous rewilding techniques to facilitate wildlife movement. This includes planting native fruit trees and installing bat boxes in freshly restored areas to expedite seed dispersal, insect control, and pollinator recovery. We also deploy treetop bridges to facilitate the movement of arboreal wildlife populations across roads that fragment habitat.

THIS YEAR, WE MAINTAINED

27 TREETOP BRIDGES.

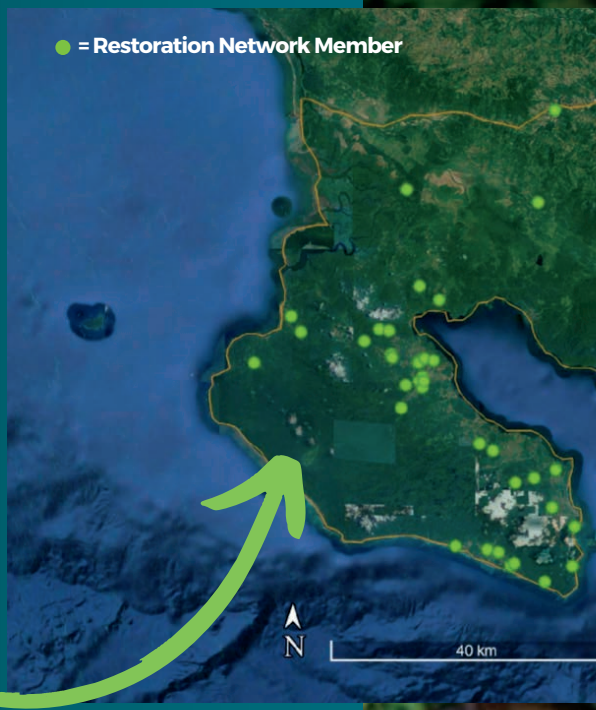
After three years of installing, redesigning, monitoring, and maintaining this network of arboreal bridges, in 2023 we documented the first Central American Spider Monkeys *(Ateles geoffroyi)* on the bridges - a promising sign that this endangered species and vital seed disperser will learn to cross the bridge and expand their current distribution.

In 2023 we documented the first Central American Spider Monkey using one of our arboreal bridges.

REFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

We work with local farmers on private land to build sustainable production systems while restoring habitat connectivity.

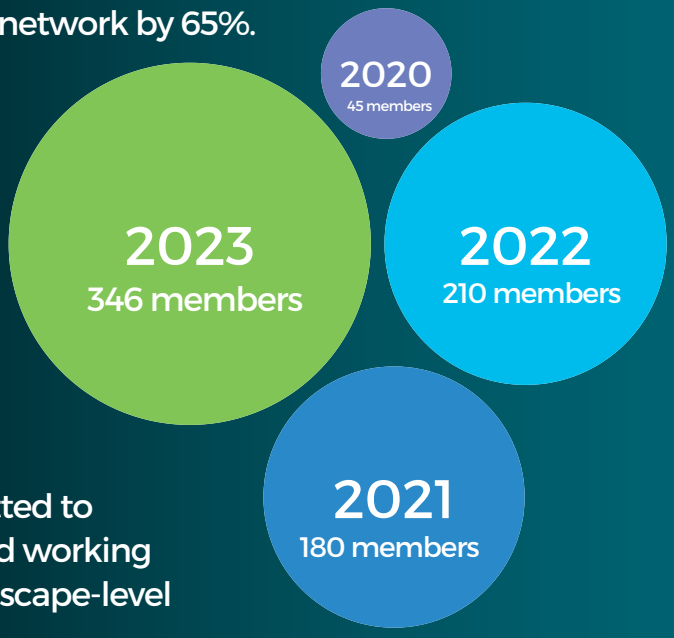
Our goal is to restore working agricultural landscapes so the land is 1) more productive for farmers and 2) more resilient for people and nature in the face of climate change.



IN 2023, OUR RESTORATION NETWORK REACHED

346 LOCAL LANDOWNERS.

That's up from 210 at the end of 2022. Over the past year, we grew our restoration network by 65%.



The restoration network is central to our efforts to build a functioning biological corridor that connects the lowland protected areas to the mountainous Amistad National Park. This is a group of local land owners who are committed to restoring privately owned working landscapes to build landscape-level connectivity.

ACROSS OUR RESTORATION NETWORK, WE RESTORED

96 HECTARES OF DEGRADED FARMLAND.

At the Osa Conservation Campus, we run the Osa Verde Regenerative Farm, a model system to trial regenerative farming practices in the tropics with the goal of scaling our findings throughout the region.

IN 2023, THE OSA VERDE REGENERATIVE FARM PROVIDED

FRESH PRODUCE TO LOCAL LODGES &

restaurants, as well as supplementing our kitchen at the Osa Conservation Campus.

PROTECTING OUR BLUE PLANET

Since 2011, Osa Conservation's Sea Turtle Conservation program has conducted research, collected data, and worked closely with local and international communities to protect sea turtle populations. We have protected over 13,600 nests and released 217,707 hatchlings throughout this time on Piro and Pejeperro beaches, which provide nesting habitat for four of the world's seven sea turtle species.

IN 2023, WE PROTECTED

9,007

VULNERABLE SEA TURTLE HATCHLINGS.

&

WE REMOVED

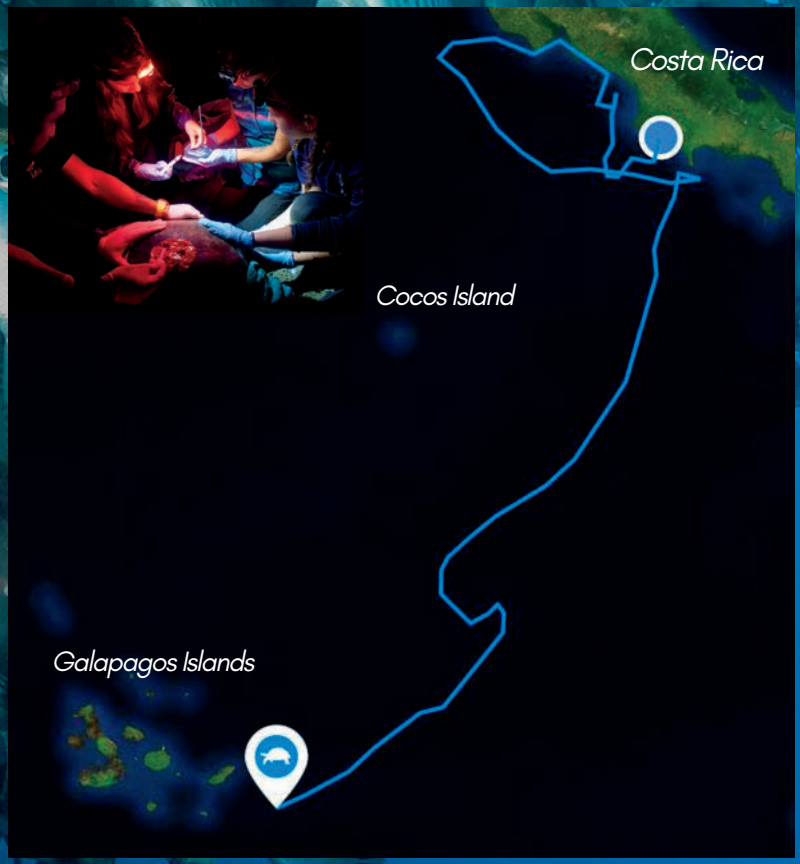
1,874 LBS.

OF TRASH FROM CRITICAL SEA TURTLE NESTING HABITAT.

This year, Osa Conservation deployed the

1ST GPS TRANSMITTER

on an Olive Ridley ***(Lepidochelys olivacea)*** in the region. This satellite device, deployed on a female Olive Ridley, allows us to monitor her movements and migration patterns.



Not only does this provide insight on the elusive life of sea turtles at sea, which is incredibly difficult to study, but also shows the unparalleled value of trans-national Marine Protected Areas that safeguard the swim-ways marine animals rely on. In her first three months with the GPS tag, this turtle has already swam hundreds of miles along the Cocos-Galapagos Swimway.

Turtles cannot feel the device. The GPS attachment is non-invasive.

In addition to GPS data, our team of professional wildlife veterinarians, marine biologists, and conservationists collected biological samples to research how these animals have been impacted by environmental contaminants and habitat alteration.

RESILIENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES

We work with coastal communities across the region to protect the marine richness of the Osa Peninsula. We:

1) enhance economic opportunities to support coastal livelihoods,
2) restore marine ecosystems, and
3) monitor marine habitats and species to inform management and protection strategies.

Central to our mission is the establishment of the Corcovado Marine Protected Area (MPA), which would safeguard marine habitat off the coast of Corcovado National Park and help ensure long-term resilience of artisanal fishers and coastal community members. This MPA would become a key piece of the Cocos-Galapagos swimway, as it would connect the protected swimway network to the mainland.

In addition to working directly with the national government to streamline the establishment of the MPA, we are cultivating the buy-in of local communities so they are prepared to capitalize on the sustainable benefits an MPA would bring to their livelihoods.

IN 2023, WE ENGAGED
9 COASTAL COMMUNITIES
IN MONTHLY TRAININGS ON
BIODIVERSITY MONITORING, COASTAL PROTECTION & ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT.

In 2023, we led a knowledge exchange for 22 of Osa Peninsula's artisanal fishers to visit Isla Venado, known for innovative coastal community livelihoods.

We trained 40 local fishers on sustainable whale watching, emergency response, and citizen science monitoring techniques.

At the Osa Conservation Campus, researchers study the impact of micro-plastics on sea turtle hatchling success.

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY FOR ANIMAL, HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The health of humans, animals, and the environment are inextricably linked. Key to this are vultures, who prevent disease spread through carcass consumption, essentially cleaning habitats to maintain the well-being of animals, people, and environments. The problem is neotropical vultures remain critically understudied. We are utilizing novel technology to unveil landscape-level understandings of vulture movement, behavior, health, and threats, as well as vulture interactions with predators (jaguars, pumas, ocelots).

To conduct research on these understudied species, we are **deploying solar-powered GPS harnesses on vultures throughout the neotropics. This multi-year project has**

DEPLOYED

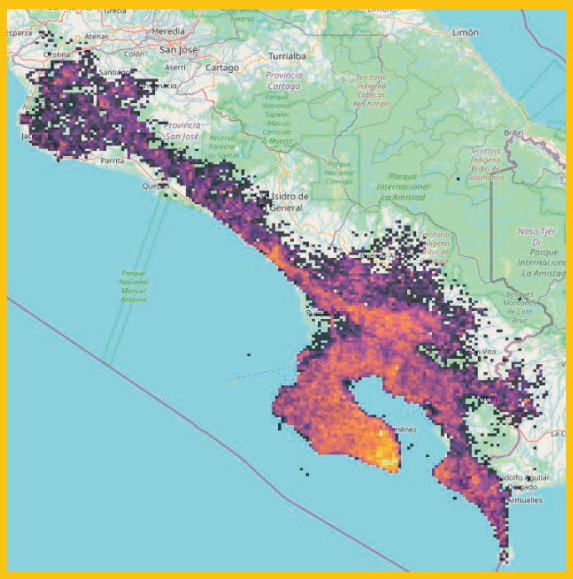
83 GPS

HARNESSES ON FOUR

VULTURE SPECIES TO DATE.

# of harnesses deployed by species

To scale the impact of this project and address global knowledge gaps, we are studying critical scavenger networks in Earth's most productive and biodiverse areas. This international project has deployed GPS backpacks in Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Peru.



IN TOTAL, WE HAVE COLLECTED OVER

1,360,000 DATA POINTS.

This data is a treasure trove of information to analyze and derive insights from. Already, we have uncovered new patterns of species movement and interactions. For example, this map (left) indicates vultures avoid areas with high-impact agriculture and limited forest canopy, highlighting the significance of forests for ecosystem, animal, and human well-being. Beyond movement data, we are also using biological samples to research vulture health including exposure/contamination to pesticides, heavy metals, and antibiotic resistance.

In addition to vulture research, we are studying the movement of predators. In 2023, we deployed 65 camera traps across our study areas in Costa Rica and Peru to monitor carnivore activity and how it relates to scavenger movement.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION: THE NEXT GENERATION

We empower environmental stewardship by leading nature-based learning experiences to connect people with Costa Rica's most wild places. Our network of thousands of citizen scientists works together to shift mindsets, change actions, and cultivate the next generation of conservation leaders.

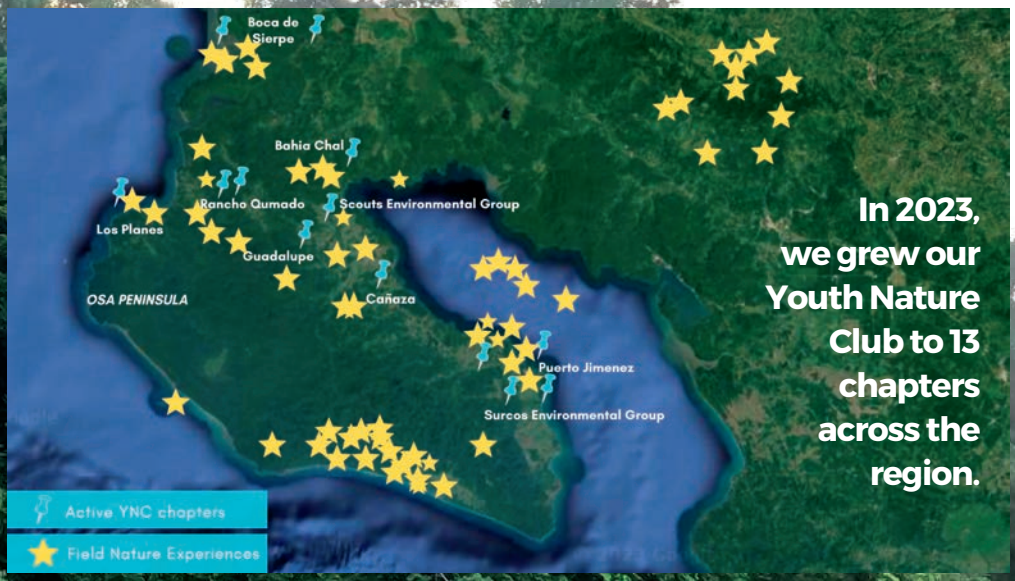
THIS YEAR, WE LED

61 NATURE EXPERIENCES

FOR YOUTH ACROSS THE REGION.

Our Montaña al Mar (Ridge to Reef) Youth Nature Club provides free outdoor immersion opportunities for Costa Rica's most impoverished children. These experiences include:

- Snorkeling excursions in the Golfo Dulce
- Intertidal zone exploration
- Mangrove restoration excursions
- Regenerative farming workshops
- River monitoring to identify invertebrate communities
- Rare and native tree planting
- Rainforest canopy climbing to learn about treetop biodiversity
- Field-based wildlife identification workshops
- Sea turtle patrols and hatchling releases
- Beach clean-ups



In 2023, we grew our Youth Nature Club to 13 chapters across the region.

WE REACH AN AVERAGE OF

400 LOCAL CHILDREN EACH YEAR.

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

In 2023, we hosted a 4-day workshop for 23 local professional Naturalist Guides to promote sustainable and conservation-friendly guiding practices.

We also hosted 21 recently graduated Naturalist Guides from the local community of Puerto Jiménez to share Osa Conservation Campus and the results of our projects to increase fruitful relationships and engagement with the local community.

WE ENGAGE AN AVERAGE OF

4,908 LOCAL COMMUNITY

MEMBERS EACH YEAR IN HANDS-ON CONSERVATION ACTION.

Our Rainforest Protector model brings together dozens of volunteer rangers from throughout the region dedicated to protecting the natural resources of their home. In 2023, we coordinated and executed 14 Rainforest Protector field expeditions to advance control and protection skills. This year, 3 new communities joined our initiative.

In 2023, the Rainforest Protectors patrolled 31,076.2 km (19309 mi), submitted 197 reports to Earth Ranger, and generated 22,587 biodiversity observations into iNaturalist of 6,535 known species.

"We do not want generations to grow up without knowing what lives in these forests. What is in the forest is ours; it is our responsibility to protect it."

- YOLANDA RODRIGUEZ, RAINFOREST PROTECTOR

2023 SCIENTIFIC OUTPUTS

Osa Conservation's efforts are guided by scientific evidence. Parallel to this, the scientific output of our work is key to maximizing our impact and propelling conservation at scale throughout the world's tropics. In 2023, researchers from the Osa Conservation team contributed to five scientific papers published in peer-reviewed journals:

"Remote sensing and citizen science to characterize the ecological niche of an endemic & endangered Costa Rican poison frog"

Amphibia-Reptilia, March 2023

The poison frog *Phyllobates vittatus* is an endemic frog from Costa Rica, meaning it can be found here and nowhere else in the world.

We already know that habitat encroachment can have devastating effects on biodiversity, especially amphibians.

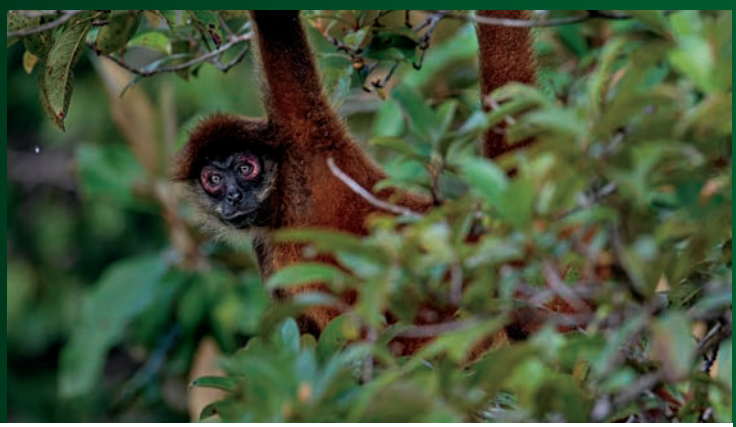
This study used remote sensing to create a land cover map of the region and carry out modeling to identify the key components of ecosystems where the frog lives. This study relied not only on the research team but also on data collected by a network of local citizen scientists.

Currently, *P. vittatus* is mostly located within protected areas. This study identified potential areas for reintroductions. It also calculated the area of occupancy and recommended that *P. vittatus'* status be adjusted to "Endangered."

Due to their rarity and often sparse distributions, threatened species can be difficult to study. This study collected nearly 36,000 hours of acoustic data across 341 study sites to show how AI and passive acoustic monitoring together can successfully detect the endangered Geoffroy's spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*).

This research revealed that the endangered species was absent below a threshold of 80% forest cover and within 1 km of primary paved roads and occurred equally in old-growth and secondary forests.

Conservationists can use this information to drive restoration efforts and increase forest cover. The results provide tools and knowledge for setting targets and developing conservation strategies for the protection of the Geoffroy's spider monkey.



"Automated acoustic detection of Geoffroy's spider monkey highlights tipping points of human disturbance"

Proceedings of the Royal Society, February 2023

"Climate-resilient conservation strategies for an endemic forest bird, the Black-Cheeked Ant-Tanager"

Journal of Field Ornithology, March 2023

This study integrated new field data and thousands of community science observations to explore the Black-Cheeked Ant-Tanager's *(Habia atrimaxillaris)* habitat requirements, diet, and distribution. This study aims to guide a strategy to protect the Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager in a changing climate. It illustrates that Black-cheeked Ant-Tanagers occur in secondary forests, suggesting that the conservation and restoration of secondary forests may help protect this range-restricted forest bird, especially through a targeted conservation strategy within biological corridors to build connectivity with higher elevations.

"More than one way to count a cat: estimation of ocelot population density using frameworks for marked and unmarked species"

Biodiversity and Conservation, April 2023

This study tested two methods for estimating the population density of ocelots *(Leopardus pardalis)* in the Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica, comparing methods for marked and unmarked species.

After two years of gathering camera trap data, the team determined spatially resolved individual detection to identify individual cats. As a result, they estimated an ocelot population density of 28.1 individuals/100 km2 in the Osa Peninsula. One can extrapolate that data to conclude an approximate population density of over 500 individual ocelots on the Osa Peninsula. This new information indicates ocelot density on the Osa Peninsula is among the highest in the world's tropics.

"Greater Grison (Galictis vittata) predation events upon Paca (Cuniculus paca) suggest a cavity targeted hunting strategy by Greater Grison"

Neotropical Biodiversity, February 2023

The elusive Greater Grison has been reported to predate mostly relatively small prey. Using citizen science observations collected via cell phones and social media, this study reports two separate predation events by Grison (*Galictis vittata)* upon its largest known prey to date, the Paca *(Cuniculus paca)*; both events in Costa Rica. These observations of Paca, a nocturnal cavity-dwelling rodent, being predated upon diurnally, suggest that Grison targets the burrows of such species as a hunting strategy.

SCALING OUR IMPACT: THE 10 CLIMATE LIFEBOATS

At Osa Conservation, we are demonstrating how restoring ecological connectivity along elevational gradients could be one of the most cost-effective solutions to meet the double challenge of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Our work in AmistOsa serves as a proof of concept. Here, we are rebuilding habitat connectivity between lowland and highland protected areas. We do this by empowering a network of local stakeholders to utilize biodiversity-friendly production and extraction practices on private land, and we protect and restore forests in the process.

Although developed in Costa Rica, this approach is designed to be implemented at scale.

IN 2023, WE PUBLISHED THE CONSERVATION GUIDE ON THE

10 CLIMATE LIFEBOATS OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

Central America hosts a disproportionate amount of biodiversity over a relatively small land surface. We used connectivity analysis data to identify 10 landscapes as climate adaptation hubs. In these hubs, low-lying large protected areas are close enough to high-elevation regions that landscape-level connectivity is feasible. That connectivity would help as many of Central America's species as possible adapt to climate change.

Investing in these 10 'lifeboats for nature' is our best chance to conserve biodiversity in the rapidly changing conditions that will face Central America.

In order to stem biodiversity loss, science shows conservation agendas worldwide should explicitly embed the strategy of facilitating species' range shifts in response to climate change by restoring and rebuilding ecological connectivity along elevational gradients. This is particularly urgent in the Tropics, one of the regions most impacted already by climate change.

OF CENTRAL AMERICA

It is time for governments and wider society to act urgently to address the biodiversity crisis, and for conservation organizations globally to accelerate and scale-up our collaboration for nature-positive outcomes. This work provides a roadmap to safeguard connectivity between critical climate refugia across Central America.

If we build on what has already been achieved, and we explicitly account for the processes of climate change in our conservation agendas, we can ensure a better future for biodiversity, our societies, and the planet.

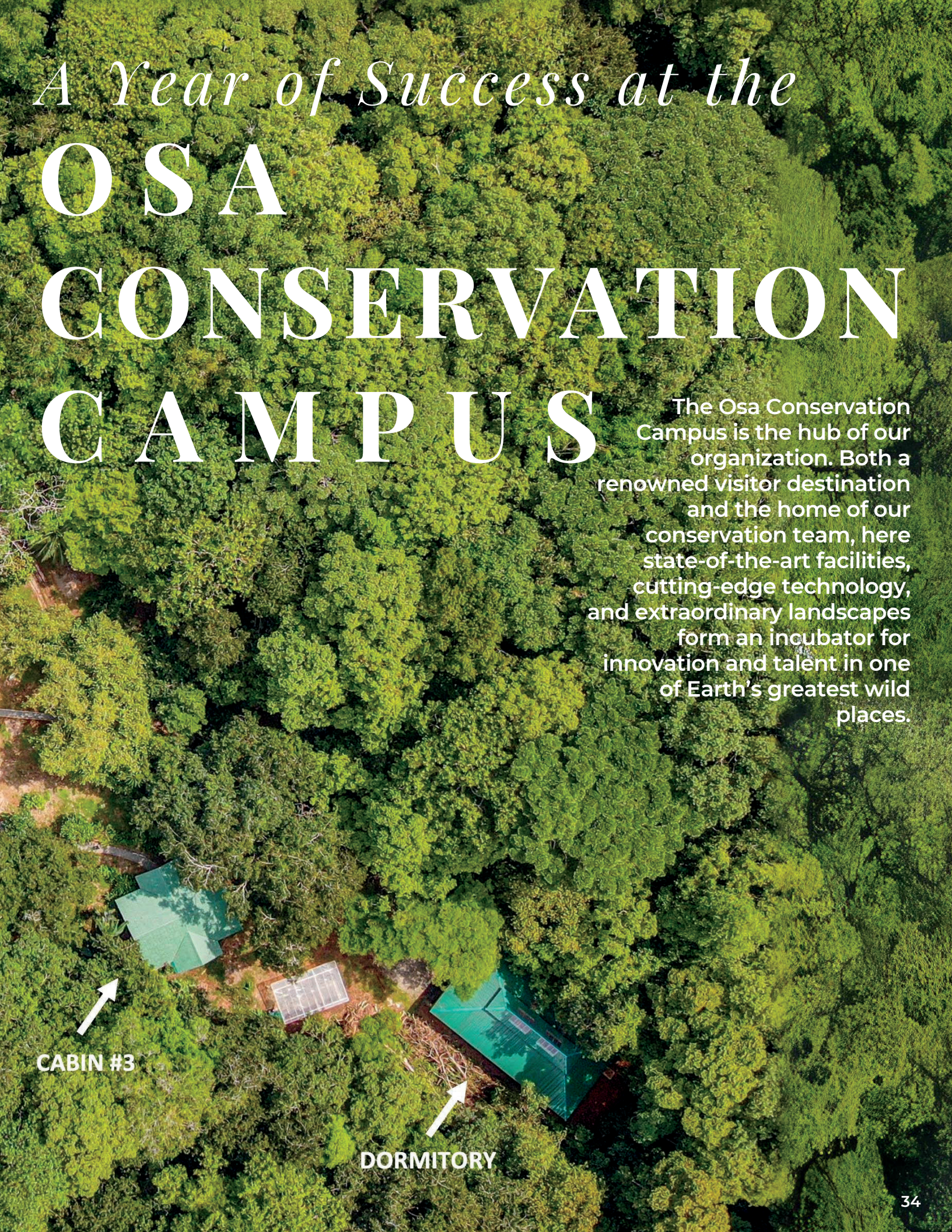
- DR. CAROLINA SOTO-NAVARRO
CONSERVATION PROGRAMS DIRECTOR
OSA CONSERVATION


LABORATORY
DINNING HALL
MULTI-PURSPOSE
CLASSROOM
CABIN #1
CABIN #2

A Year of Success at the

OSA CONSERVATION CAMPUS

The Osa Conservation Campus is the hub of our organization. Both a renowned visitor destination and the home of our conservation team, here state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge technology, and extraordinary landscapes form an incubator for innovation and talent in one of Earth's greatest wild places.



THE 2023 UGALDE-FORSYTH RESEARCH & CONSERVATION FELLOWS

To foster a mindset of conservation and develop research capacity among outstanding young scientists, our Ugalde-Forsyth Research Fellowship provides fully-funded scholarship opportunities to early-career conservationists. Fellows live at the Osa Conservation Campus for six months, immersed in one of the most important neotropical landscapes on Earth, while developing crucial career skills.

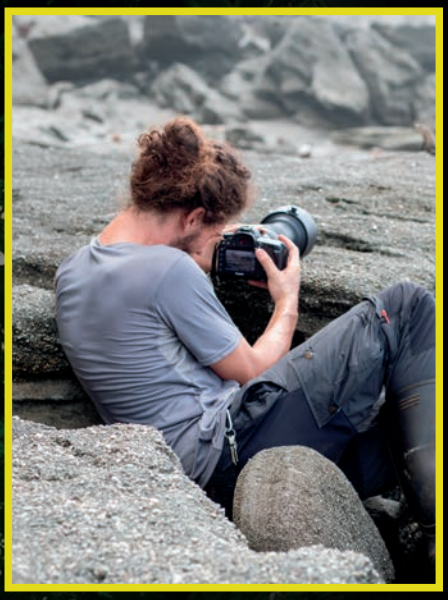
Fellows drive science-based projects forward, exploring unanswered questions of ecology, biology, and conservation alongside our professional team. This opportunity provides field-based mentorship and equips Fellows with tangible career skills to solve real-world conservation issues.

IN 2023, WE HOSTED

5 RESEARCH & CONSERVATION FELLOWS.

Vanessa Wynter led a research project with the goal of establishing genebanks of native species of Vanilla (V. pompona, V. planifolia and V. trigonocarpa) under different conditions to evaluate success and potential in agroindustry.

Marion Fisher joined our Wildlife Team to design and deploy treetop bridges across the Osa Peninsula. Her research aimed to identify the effectiveness, improvements, and best choices for arboreal bridges to be utilized by treetop animals.



Luca Eberle documented the suite of conservation work happening at the Osa Conservation Campus. His project aimed to elevate the voices of researchers driving forward wildlife conservation.

Nicolás Camoza joined the Sea Turtle Conservation team to lead a research project on the impacts microplastic may have on sea turtle hatchling success.

Greta Hernández led a research project on invertebrate community responses to experimental scavenger exclusion as a segment of our scavenger network research initiative.

INCREDIBLE ACCESS TO THE WILD

The Osa Conservation Campus directly protects 8,124 acres of wilderness via our private wildlife refuge. The campus encompasses diverse ecosystems, including ancient and secondary forests, mangroves, and the entire Piro River watershed. Here, we protect more than a dozen kilometers of untouched coastline and critical sea turtle nesting habitat. Our campus is home to Osa's sole canopy tower and the region's largest in-situ arboretum.

Our campus is open to volunteers, researchers, student groups, tourists, and day visitors eager to connect with nature.

IN 2023, WE CONNECTED

1,096 VISITORS
TO NATURE AT OUR CONSERVATION CAMPUS.

This year, we opened our Canopy Tower, which climbs 100 feet into the treetops. The tower facilitates uniquely easy access for researchers studying the rainforest canopy and helps our team collect data on migratory bird movement thanks to the Motus tower deployed at the top.

THIS YEAR'S VISITORS INCLUDED

309 STUDENTS
24 INTERNS & FELLOWS
23 VOLUNTEERS
10 RESEARCHERS

VISITOR TESTIMONIALS

Our partnership with Osa Conservation has provided us with a unique opportunity to conduct field trials of one of our groundbreaking technologies, the Sentinel, which makes existing camera traps smarter, by adding powerful, near real-time, machine vision through onboard AI.

Through this collaboration, we've gained invaluable insights, learning not only from our successes but also from setbacks you can only achieve through rigorous field testing."

- ALEX DEHGAN,
CEO & CO-FOUNDER, CONSERVATION X LABS

I have been conducting field research at the Osa Conservation Campus since 2017, supported by the passionate staff and dedicated conservation practitioners who have made me feel like part of their team. The accommodations and research facilities available to visiting researchers allowed me to live and work on-site for 3-4 months at a time, enabling me to conduct my Ph.D. research.

Now, I find myself looking for any excuse to return to Osa, not only for my research and personal vacations but also for collaborations with film crews to document the spectacular displays of animal behavior and wildlife that Osa Conservation is dedicated to conserving."

– DR. BRANDON A. GÜELL
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE,
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Scan this code to learn more about the Osa Conservation Campus.

2023 UPDATES AT THE OSA CONSERVATION CAMPUS

OUR NEW GROUP FACILITY

Ideal for university or high school groups looking for safe and easy access to wild ecosystems, our new dorm can accommodate 24 individuals. Newly constructed in 2023, this addition was designed to make our Campus a world-class resource for educational experiences in the tropics.

SELF-GUIDED TRAIL SYSTEM

In 2023, we expanded our trail system to encompass over 30 kilometers of forest and coastline. Now, you can follow the pristine Piro River through the rainforest., wade in remote waterfalls, and enjoy elevated viewpoints of the tropical canopy and Pacific Ocean. Our trails wind through our in-situ Osa Arboretum, the largest on the peninsula.

RENOVATED PRIVATE CABINS

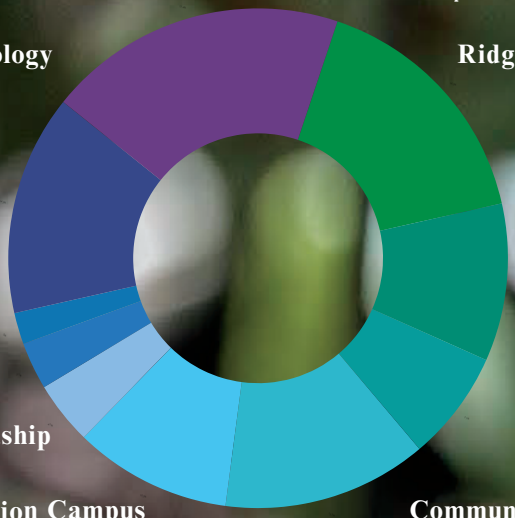
Because our field station stands in the largest fragment of lowland wet tropical forests on the Pacific slope, independent researchers from around the world conduct their projects on our campus. Our cabins renovated in 2023 provide privacy for professional researchers to comfortably live and work on-site.

SUPPORT SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION

As a visitor to the Osa Conservation Campus, you can book a hands-on sea turtle conservation patrol to help protect threatened sea turtle tests. Our team can provide lessons on sea turtle ecology and conservation while in the field and will take you to our beach-front hatchery, where we protect thousands of sea turtle eggs each year.

2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

Osa Verde Farm | Rewilding & Wildlife Monitoring | Ridge to Reef Restoration | Marine Conservation | Movement Ecology | Fellowships | Community Development | Land Stewardship | Operations & Development | Osa Conservation Campus



REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

REVENUE TOTAL
$ 4,099,752

- Foundation Grants 59%
- Land Conservation 28%
- Sales & Other 7%
- Individual Donations 6%
- Program Income 2%

EXPENDITURE TOTAL
$ 4,283,730

- Science & Conservation 53%
- Community, Outreach & Education 33%
- Operations & Devt. 14%

EXPENDITURE BY MAJOR CATEGORY

SCIENCE PROGRAMS

- Rewilding & Wildlife Monitoring 7%
- Marine Conservation 10%
- Ridge to Reef Restoration 16%
- Movement Ecology 19%

COMMUNITY, OUTREACH & EDUCATION

- Fellowships 2%
- Agriculture 3%
- Land Stewardship 4%
- Conservation Campus 10%
- Community Development 13%

OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION

- Operations & Development 14%

Thank You.

Together, we are building a more resilient future for people and nature.

Photo credit in order of appearance: Luca Eberle (front cover), Andrew Whitworth, Ian Rock, Manuel Sanchez Mendoza, Laura Palacin, Yvonne Kemp, Soleil Gaylord, Christian Peralta, Karla Quispe Ramos, Danixa Peña Villalobos, Rodrigo Benavides, Christian Peralta, Linda Lopez Abuchar, Charlie Hamilton James, Kike Ballesteros, Marco Hidalgo, Socorro Avila Araya, Lucy Kleiner, Dailyn Souder, Carolina Soto Navarro, Arianna Basto, Johan Ortiz, Brandon A. Gũell, Tanja Mikolcic, Orane Latour, Andrew Whitworth (back cover)

osa CONSERVATION
CONSERVING COSTA RICA'S NATURAL TREASURE

Scan this code to further support our work.