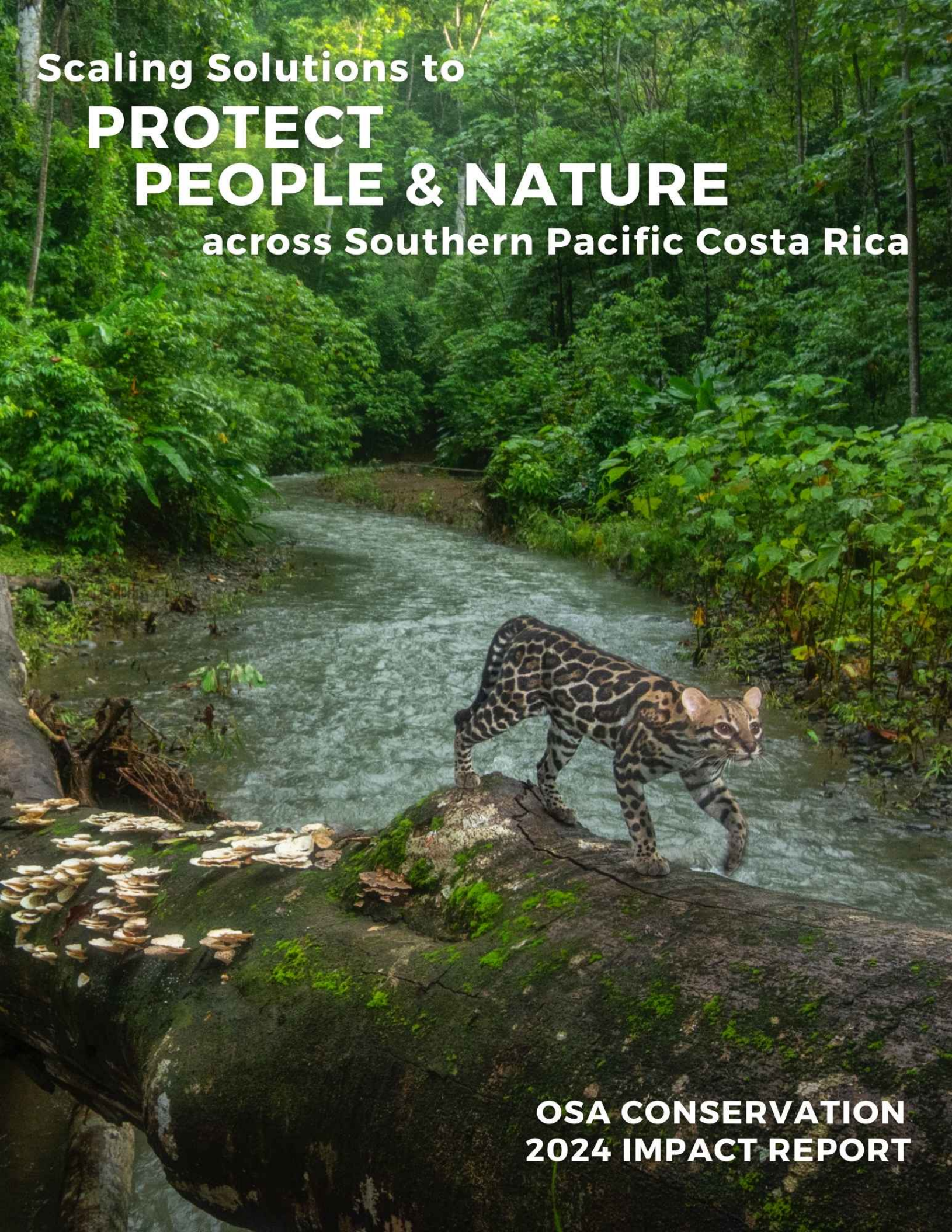

Scaling Solutions to
PROTECT
PEOPLE & NATURE
across Southern Pacific Costa Rica
OSA CONSERVATION
2024 IMPACT REPORT

OSA CONSERVATION

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

To address the issues of climate change and biodiversity loss, we lead a central effort to restore and rewild habitats, engage local communities, and empower the next generation of students to carry out crucial scientific research in one of Earth's greatest wildernesses.

We believe in a holistic approach to conservation, with an appreciation of the complex interplay of the ecosystems and working landscapes in the peninsula and connected areas. Adaptation to change and innovation are values we pursue and encourage. While we aspire to serve as a global model for excellence in conservation, our strategic approach is place-based. We are rooted as an institution and participant in the biological and social landscape of southern Pacific Costa Rica, building climate resilience for people and nature.

Scan this code to invest in 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 COSTA RICA DIRECTOR

For over two decades, Osa Conservation has been on the ground in southwestern Costa Rica. We started as many conservation NGOs do: small, site-based, focused on protecting a few threatened species near protected areas. Today we remain a place-based organization, and we continue to build the irreplicable trust with local communities that comes from decades of accountability. While our mission to conserve the biodiversity of this region remains the same, we've learned a lot over the past twenty one years.

We know now that true conservation is bigger than protected areas - that we must work with people across landscapes to enable the changes the planet needs. Today, we are leveraging the social fabric of Costa Rica's south Pacific to create a region that is more resilient in the face of climate change, a region with clean water, sustainable food systems, and habitat integrity to support the unparalleled biodiversity found here. We are working with farmers, ranchers, community groups, local schools, kids, government agencies, NGOs, and interdepartmental practitioners to build a future that is positive for people and nature.

Thanks to advances forged by new alliances, we are working at a rate that was unimaginable just years ago. Novel technology streamlines our efforts. Scientific discoveries have unveiled information with a level of detail we've never had before. And thanks to our network and supporters, we have taken this work to scale. In 2024, we influenced over 2 million acres, directly engaged over 6,400 community members, and planted a quarter of a million trees.

By scaling our efforts to reconnect habitats across the landscape, we are creating a stronger, more resilient future for people and nature.

Thank you for making it possible.

MELISSA AUBERT
COSTA RICA DIRECTOR, OSA CONSERVATION

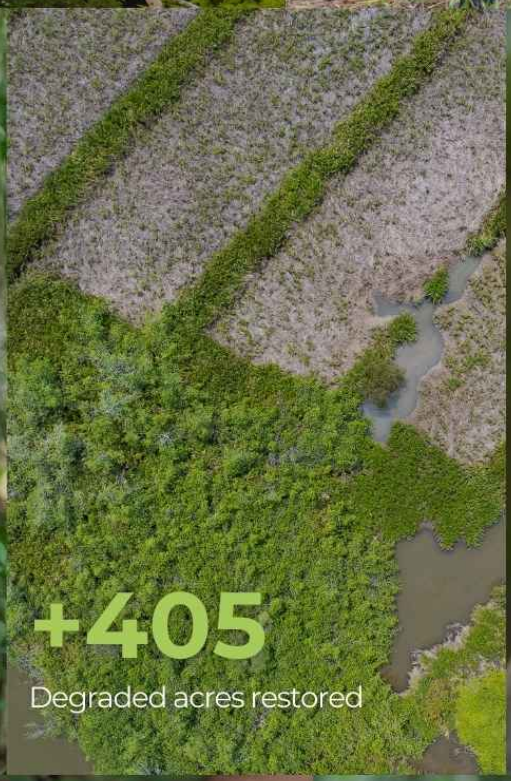
Melissa Aubert

2024 CONSERVATION IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS...

252,939
Native trees planted

6,400
Local community members engaged

372
Local landowners engaged in restoration initiatives



+405
Degraded acres restored

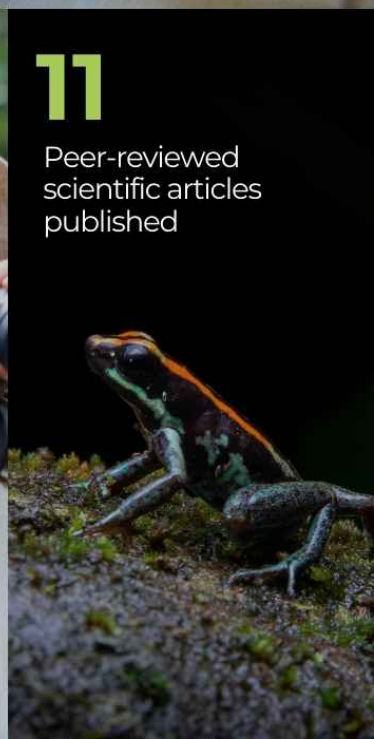
7.3 million
Virtual audience members reached

25,190
Sea turtle hatchlings released

96
Restoration jobs Supported

+1,900
Visitors welcomed to the Osa Conservation Campus

11
Peer-reviewed scientific articles published



Establishing the

AMISTOSA CLIMATE LIFEBOAT

of South Pacific Costa Rica

Osa Conservation's 'Climate Lifeboats Initiative' builds climate resilience for people and nature by catalyzing the survival of life on Earth in the most biodiverse landscapes - tropical forest elevation gradients. In southwestern Costa Rica, we work across low to high elevations to establish the dynamic, climate resilient Amistosa Climate Lifeboat corridor through which biodiversity can migrate upslope to critical refugia. This novel approach works at the nexus of the most significant threats to humanity – climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental injustice – to avoid ongoing extinctions of life on Earth. We are transforming traditional conservation strategies, inspiring immediate action for lasting impact, and creating a better world for people and nature.

900 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL

We use a suite of technologies to characterize how multi-trophic communities of organisms (e.g., predators and scavengers) move in relation to one another and use that information to better understand human-nature co-existence and overall health of people and nature.

TRACKING WILDLIFE

600 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL

The Youth Nature Club provides disadvantaged children with immersive, hands-on experiences in nature, empowering youth to become avid environmental stewards and develop key life skills that will form the foundation of the next generation of conservation leaders.

YOUTH NATURE EDUCATION

Our team analyzes and tracks wildlife movements in and around agricultural landscapes, monitors forest cover and tree mortality, and works with local community members to lead surveys of ecosystem health indicators. This included the deployment of the largest camera trap network in Central America to date.

MONITORING ECOLOGICAL INDICATORS

500 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL

A renowned visitor destination and the home of our conservation team, our campus combines cutting-edge technology, comfortable facilities, and extraordinary access to low elevation neotropical wilderness, creating an incubator for innovation and discovery.

OSA CONSERVATION CAMPUS

REWILDING THE WHITE-LIPPED PECCARY

Osa Conservation worked with local government and other NGOs to launch the Rewilding Costa Rica initiative - the first of its kind in the nation.

100 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL

We are restoring Costa Rica's largest mangrove forest, one of the nation's most significant carbon sinks and a nature-based solution to mitigate the impacts of climate change

MANGROVE RESTORATION

The new conservation campus will solidify Osa Conservation's key anchor in the highlands and help rapidly scale impact by establishing permanent presence in the mountaintops of La Amistad.

THE NEW HIGHLAND CONSERVATION CAMPUS

1500 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL

We deploy a suite of tools, including MOTUS towers and bands, as well as interventions such as restoration, and community education, to monitor and protect birds.

PROTECTING MIGRATORY BIRDS

1200 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL

We work with a network of +370 local farmers to restore unproductive degraded farmland and reconnect forest habitats.

LANDSCAPE-SCALE RESTORATION

RENEWING FRESHWATER SYSTEMS

We build resilience for smallholder farms by transforming freshwater management and implementing riparian zone restoration; this work addresses the urgent need to scale up efforts across watersheds to reduce risk associated with both water vulnerability and climate change.

Our network of native tree nurseries spans the elevational gradient of the landscape, allowing us to propagate over 200,000 native saplings annually.

SAVING RARE TREES

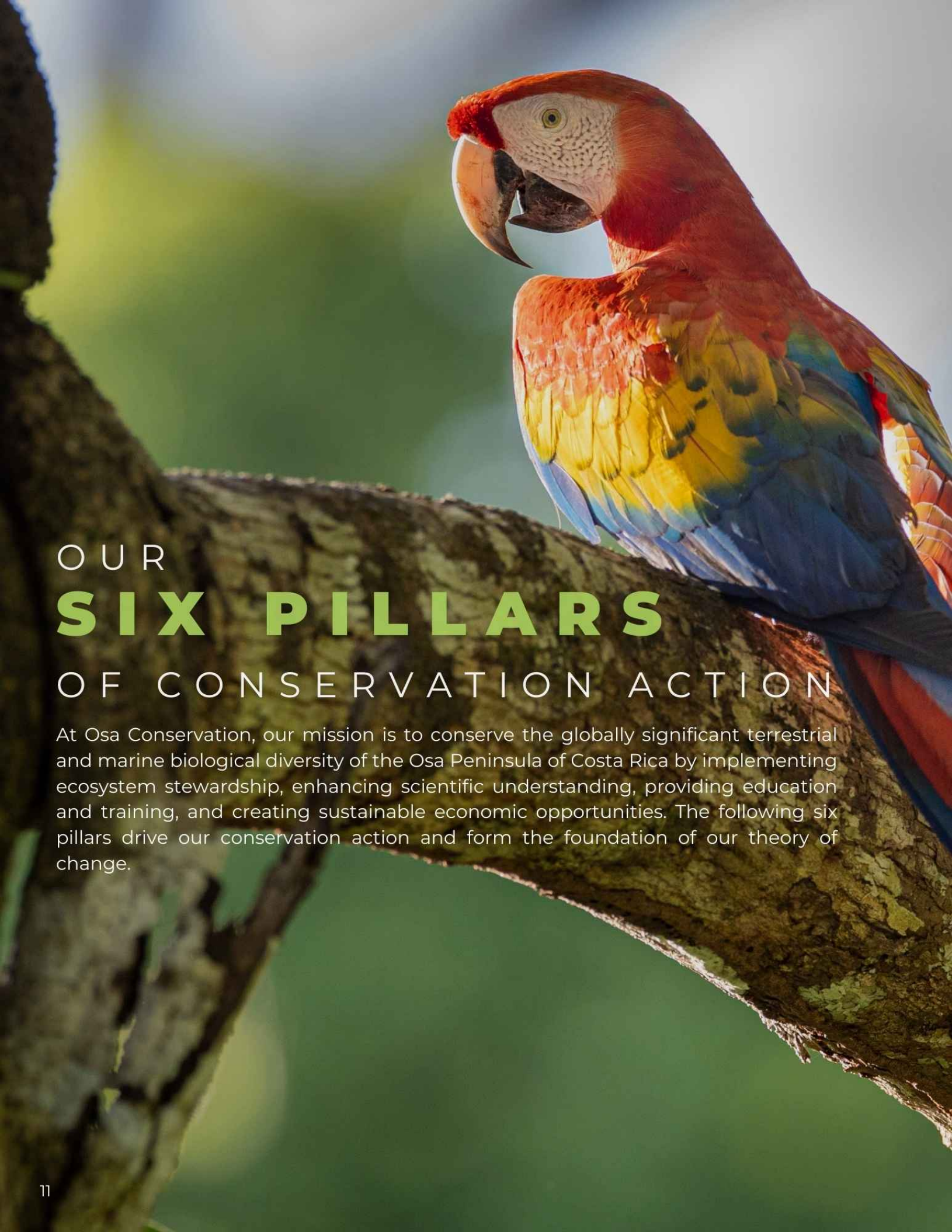
ESTABLISHING FARMS FOR NATURE

Our innovative Farms for Nature pilot scheme is a strategy that transforms degraded agricultural landscape into sustainable, resilient farms for people and nature. Farms for Nature works toward a future in which farming 1) is more sustainable for the landscape, 2) fosters and enhances biodiversity and wildlife, all while 3) being more productive for farmers themselves.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

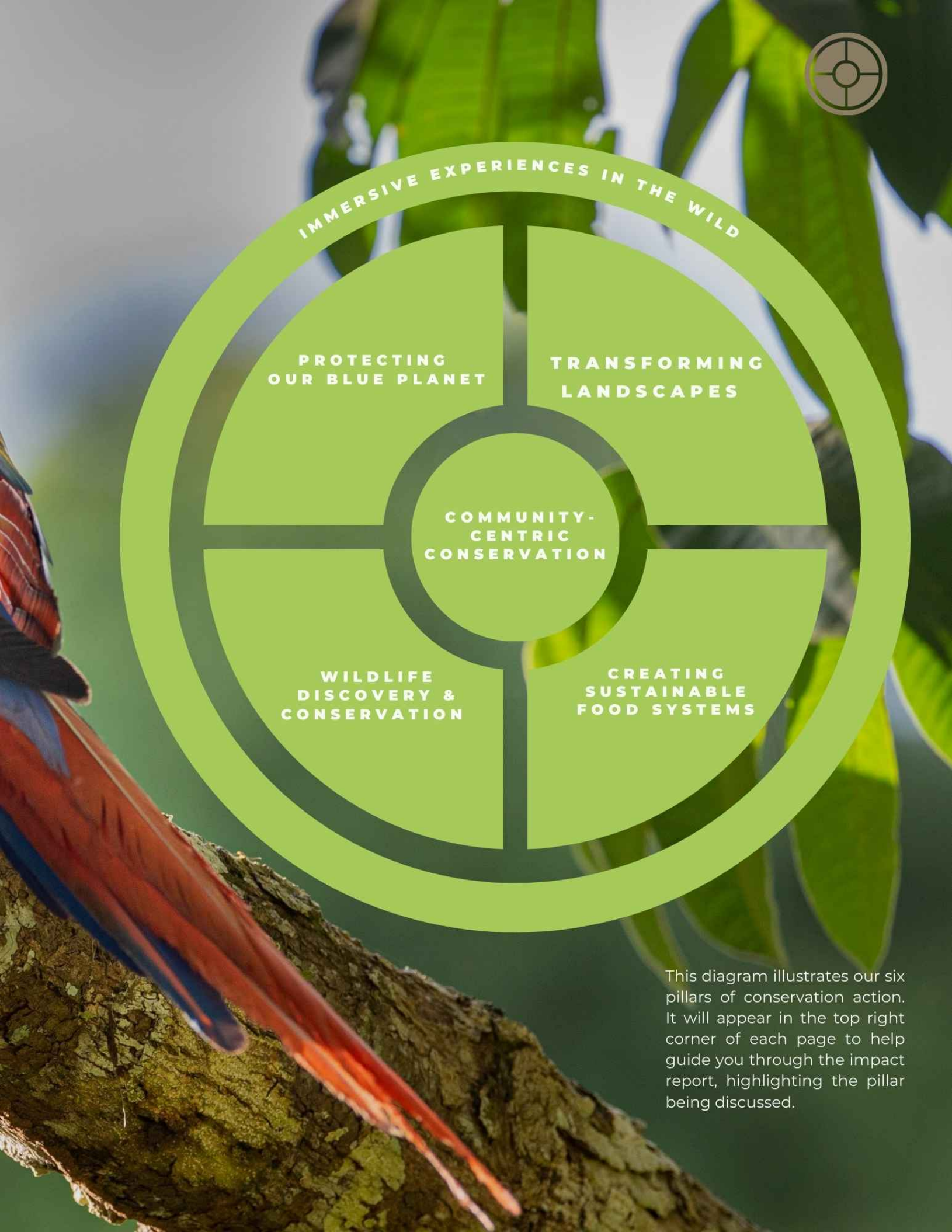
The most vulnerable, rural, and impoverished communities are unjustly impacted by climate change and biodiversity loss. This initiative prioritizes participatory decision-making, engagement, and leadership in planning and implementation. Collaboration with local stakeholders and communities is crucial for every landscape. Over 90% of the local stakeholders engaged in our Restoration Network actively requested to participate, exemplifying our devotion to equity for local populations.

THE AMISTOSA CLIMATE LIFEBOAT



OUR SIX PILLARS OF CONSERVATION ACTION

At Osa Conservation, our mission is to conserve the globally significant terrestrial and marine biological diversity of the Osa Peninsula of Costa Rica by implementing ecosystem stewardship, enhancing scientific understanding, providing education and training, and creating sustainable economic opportunities. The following six pillars drive our conservation action and form the foundation of our theory of change.



This diagram illustrates our six pillars of conservation action. It will appear in the top right corner of each page to help guide you through the impact report, highlighting the pillar being discussed.

TRANSFORMING LANDSCAPES

To safeguard Osa's biodiversity – both resident and migratory – in the face of climate change, ecological connectivity must be re-established between lowland and highland protected areas. To rebuild this connectivity and ensure the resilience of this landscape, we work with a regional restoration network of over 350 land owners and farmers to restore degraded areas and reconnect fragmented forests. This model involves maintaining existing forest cover, creating new forest habitats within agricultural landscapes to encourage the return of seed pollinators and dispersers, and – key to the longevity of this – empowering communities within the landscape to understand, advocate for, and protect their natural resources.

JUST THIS YEAR

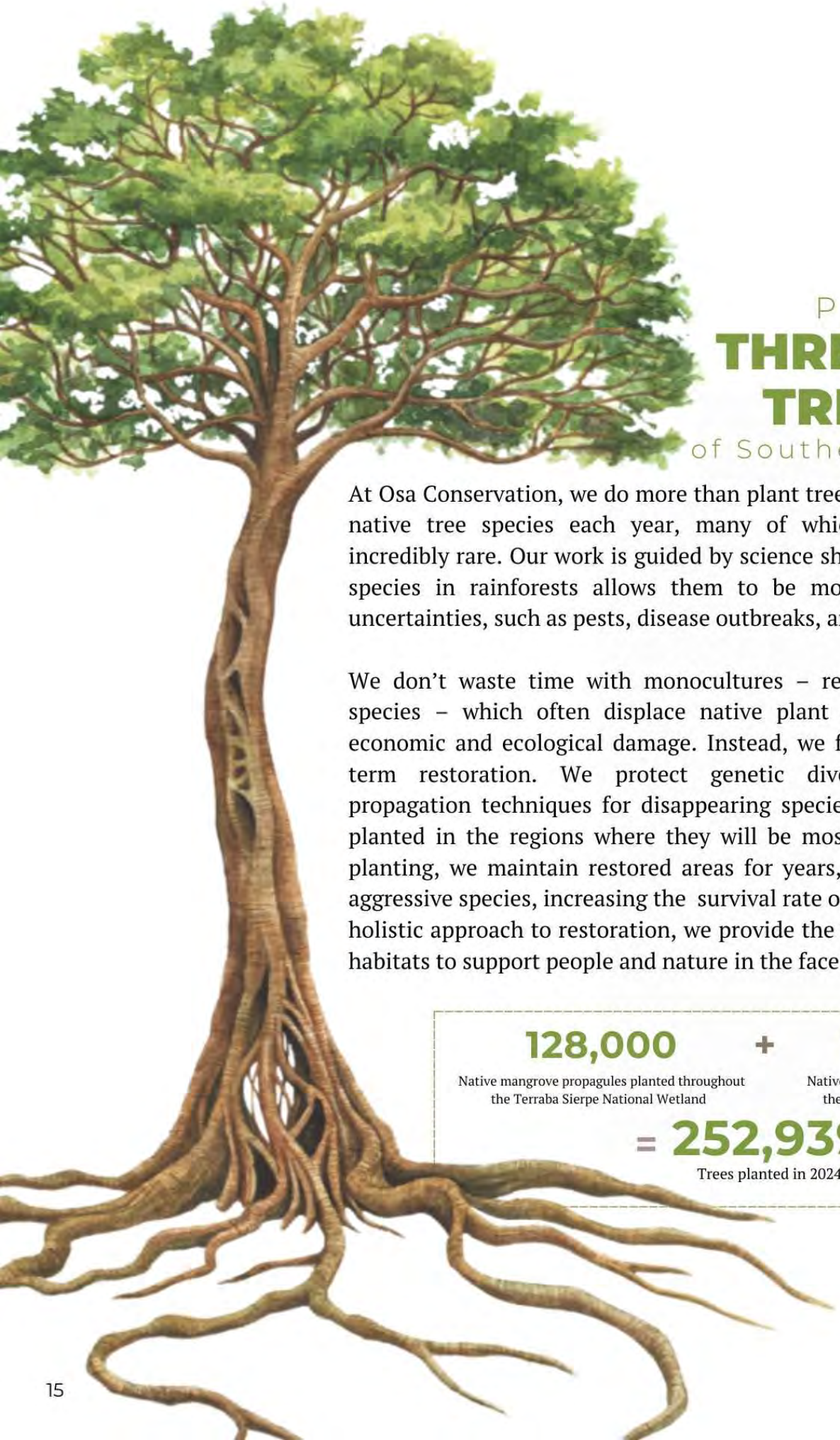
252,939
Trees Planted

129
Acres Restored

96
Restoration Jobs Provided

318
Native Species used in Restoration

11,696
Endangered Trees Planted



Protecting the THREATENED TREASURES of Southern Costa Rica

At Osa Conservation, we do more than plant trees. We plant hundreds of native tree species each year, many of which are threatened and incredibly rare. Our work is guided by science showing that having more species in rainforests allows them to be more adaptable to future uncertainties, such as pests, disease outbreaks, and climate change.

We don't waste time with monocultures – restoration with a single species – which often displace native plant diversity and result in economic and ecological damage. Instead, we focus on resilient, long-term restoration. We protect genetic diversity, research novel propagation techniques for disappearing species, and ensure trees are planted in the regions where they will be most likely to thrive. After planting, we maintain restored areas for years, removing invasive and aggressive species, increasing the survival rate of saplings. By taking this holistic approach to restoration, we provide the best chance for restored habitats to support people and nature in the face of climate change.

128,000
Native mangrove propagules planted throughout the Terraba Sierpe National Wetland

+

124,939
Native tree saplings planted throughout the terrestrial AmistOsa landscape

= **252,939**
Trees planted in 2024

Tree Planting Journey

at Osa Conservation

Start

We conduct botanic expeditions to identify the rarest and most threatened tree species, often in incredibly remote regions.

Fruits and seeds are collected from these ancient mother trees. Some of these samples are preserved for research, but most will be used for restoration.

Fruits and seeds are delivered to one of our five native tree nurseries, where they are germinated.

Species are then propagated to create new plants that are distributed across the region.

We tend to the young trees daily, ensuring they have the nutrients and resources to become viable saplings.

Once the saplings are strong enough, they are prepared to be transplanted.

Trees are planted

most often in degraded cattle farms, and always in collaboration with local land owners and community members.

Saplings are transferred to one of the hundreds of restoration sites throughout the region.

Trees are monitored and maintained, often for years after planting.

Re-planting occurs to address tree mortality identified through monitoring.

Enrichment planting takes place to increase species diversity.

The future

Through Payment for Ecosystem Services, landowners are rewarded for keeping these trees in the ground long-term.

RESTORING THE AMISTOSA CORRIDOR

Throughout the AmistOsa landscape, Osa Conservation works with hundreds of farmers **(green on map, page 18)** across over one million acres to restore degraded agricultural landscapes while bolstering sustainable livelihoods. Because working landscapes dominate the central segment of this landscape, this Restoration Network of farmers is crucial to habitat connectivity of the region and the long-term preservation of biodiversity in the face of climate change.

To ensure we are planting the most resilient species, we built a native tree nursery network **(red on map, page 18)** that includes five nurseries and spans over 1,000 meters (3,280 feet) of elevation.

124,939

Tree saplings throughout the terrestrial AmistOsa landscape

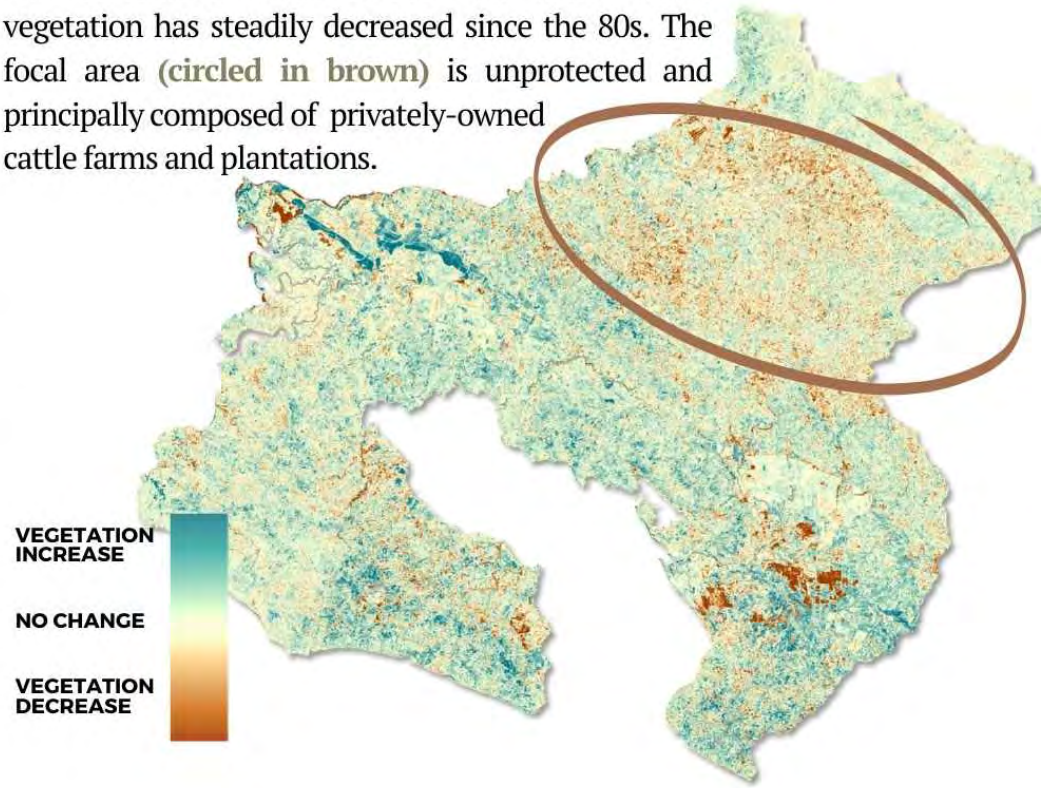
318

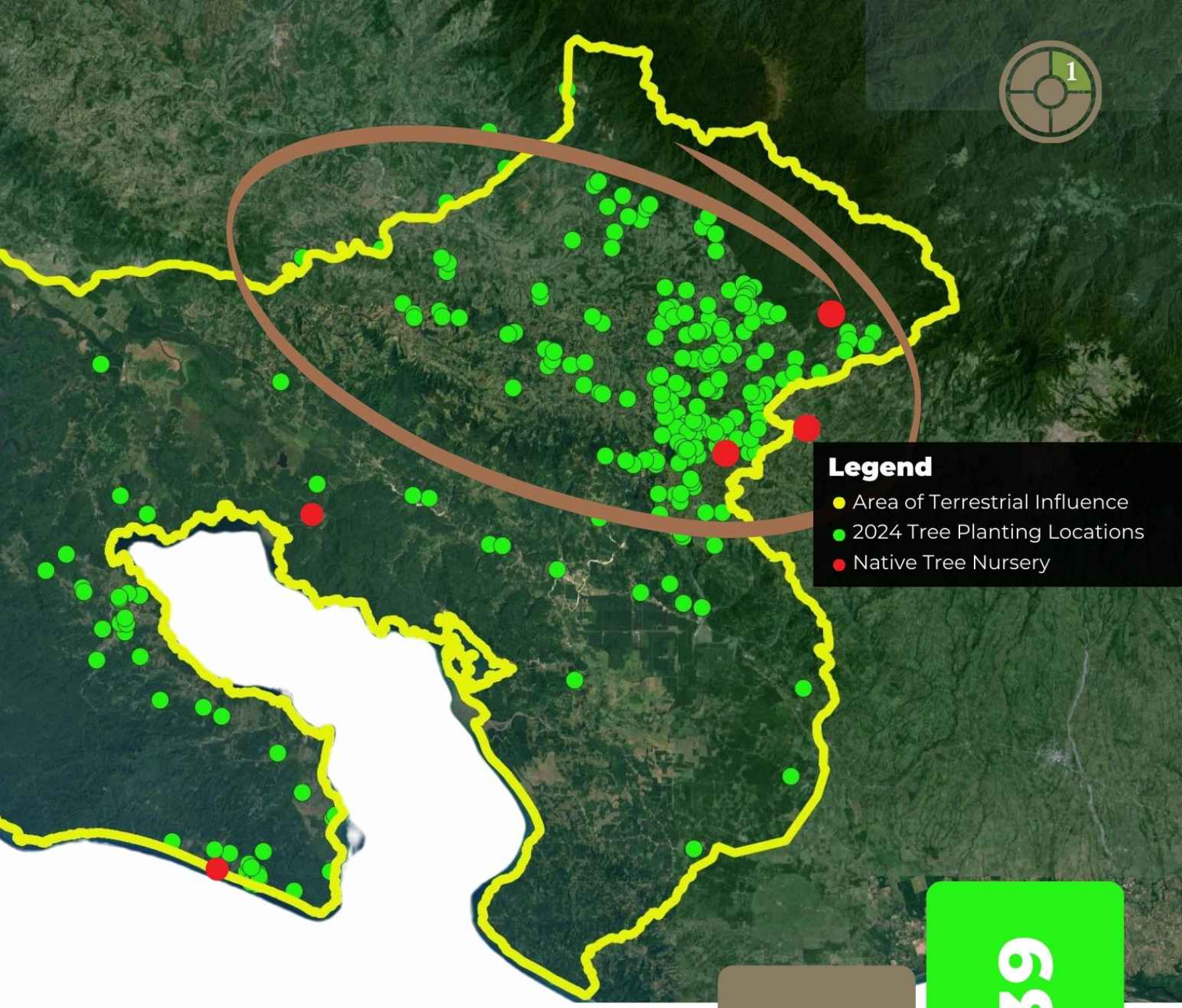
Native tree species planted

62

Acres of riparian zone restored

Our restoration work focuses on areas where vegetation has steadily decreased since the 80s. The focal area **(circled in brown)** is unprotected and principally composed of privately-owned cattle farms and plantations.





Native Trees Planted By Year in the Terrestrial Landscape

Mangrove restoration details on next page

RESTORING COSTA RICA'S LARGEST MANGROVE FOREST

In the Terraba Sierpe National Wetland, Osa Conservation collaborates with over 70 local community members to restore the nation's largest mangrove forest. The region was once heavily deforested for human use (primarily tannin extraction, farming, and timber). This resulted in over 6,000 acres of degraded habitat with no chance of natural regeneration due to an aggressive fern that colonizes clear-cut zones and outcompetes any young trees.

RESTORATION ACTION

This project applies a three-step solution focused on assisted regeneration:

1. Manual removal of the fern,
2. Direct mangrove planting,
3. Maintenance of the restored plots for three years, until the young trees are strong enough to continue to grow unsupported.

128,000

Mangrove propagules planted throughout the Terraba Sierpe Wetland

300+

Total acres restored since 2018

71

Restoration jobs for local community members supported

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

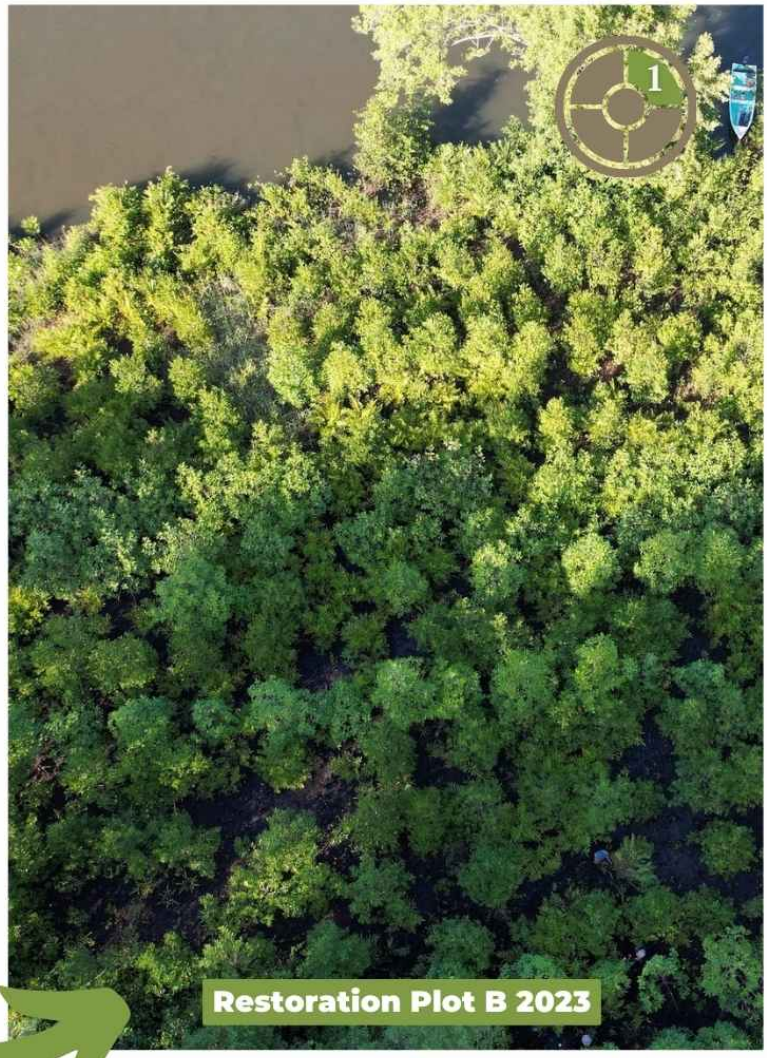
The project simultaneously builds resilience for the local community, with a focus on diversifying income streams beyond restoration. This project is shifting the social fabric to address the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and inequality. In the face of climate change and biodiversity loss, sustainable communities and healthy mangrove forests bolster landscape-level resilience for land and sea.

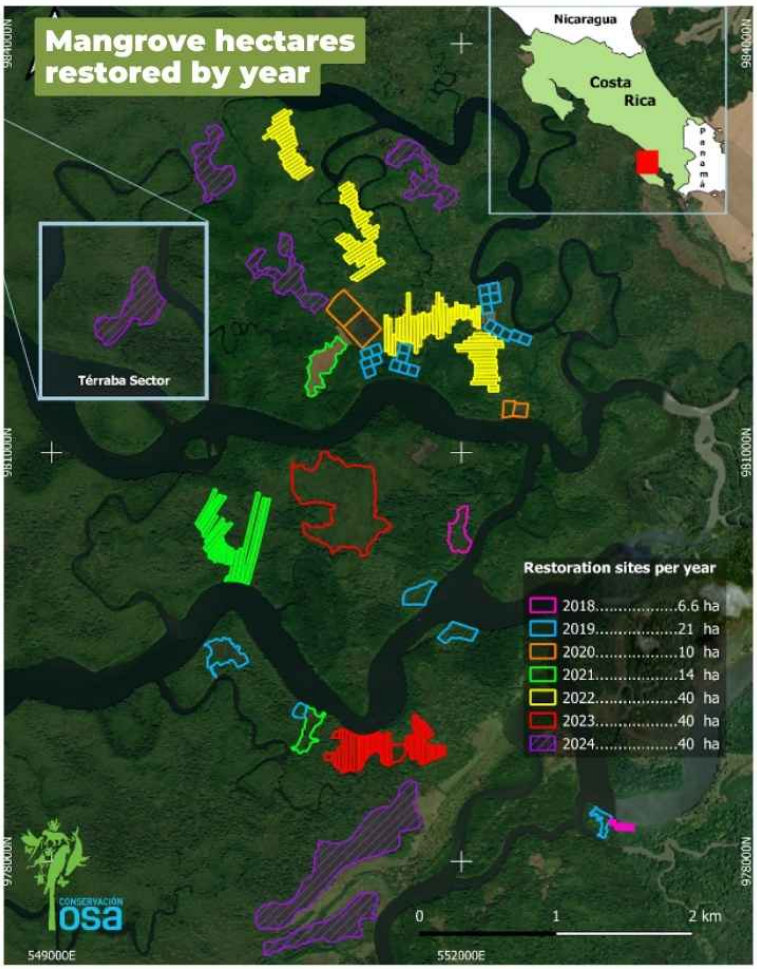
OUR MULTI-PRONGED APPROACH

✓ **CLIMATE**: Mangrove restoration is among the most efficient manners to sequester carbon.

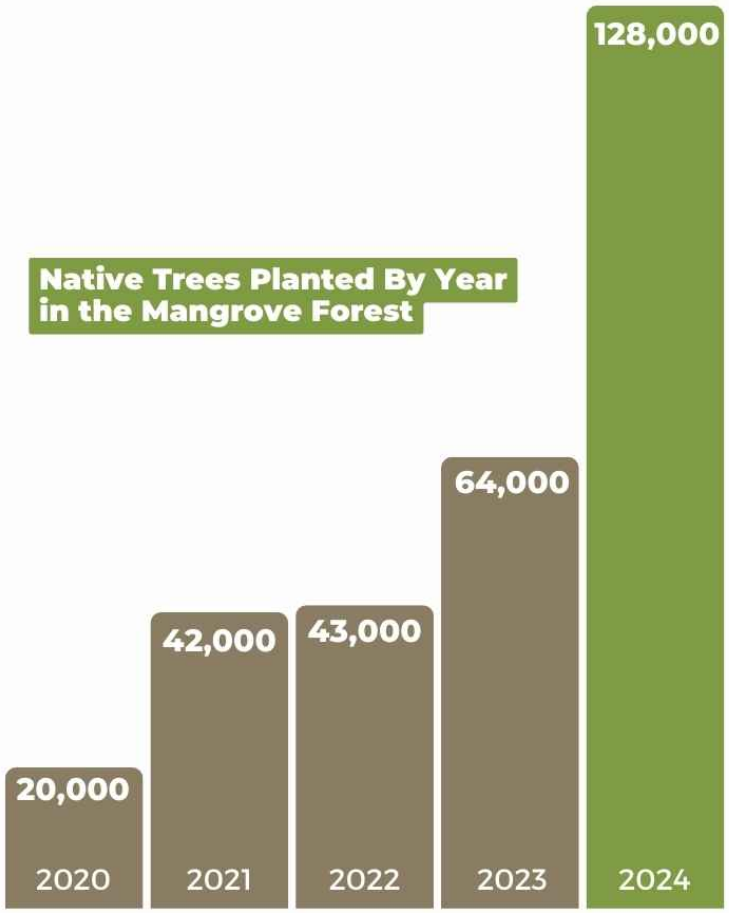
✓ **BIODIVERSITY**: Restored habitats house the vast diversity of living species that support ecosystems and communities.

✓ **LIVELIHOODS**: The diversification of livelihoods through sustainable production of goods – such as mangrove honey – strengthen economic opportunities. Mangroves also increase disaster resilience among marginalized communities.





Native Trees Planted By Year in the Mangrove Forest



TRANSFORMING LANDSCAPES

OUR 2025 GOALS

We have ambitious restoration goals next year, which include scaling our relationships with local landowners to plant more native trees in 2025 than ever before.

Here's what's next for us as we transform landscapes throughout the region:

- Plant 278,000 native trees, including 150,000 terrestrial trees and 128,000 mangroves
- Propagate the region's rarest and most threatened trees
- Lay the framework for our sixth native tree nursery
- Provide 100 restoration jobs to local community members
- Restore 10 kilometers of riparian zone to help safeguard fresh water systems for thousands of community members

Osa Conservation is a 501c3 nonprofit, and we rely on the generous contributions of our supporters to make this work happen.

Help make a difference in 2025. Scan this code to support our work:

Charity Navigator FOUR-STAR

1% FOR THE PLANET

REFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS FOR PEOPLE & NATURE

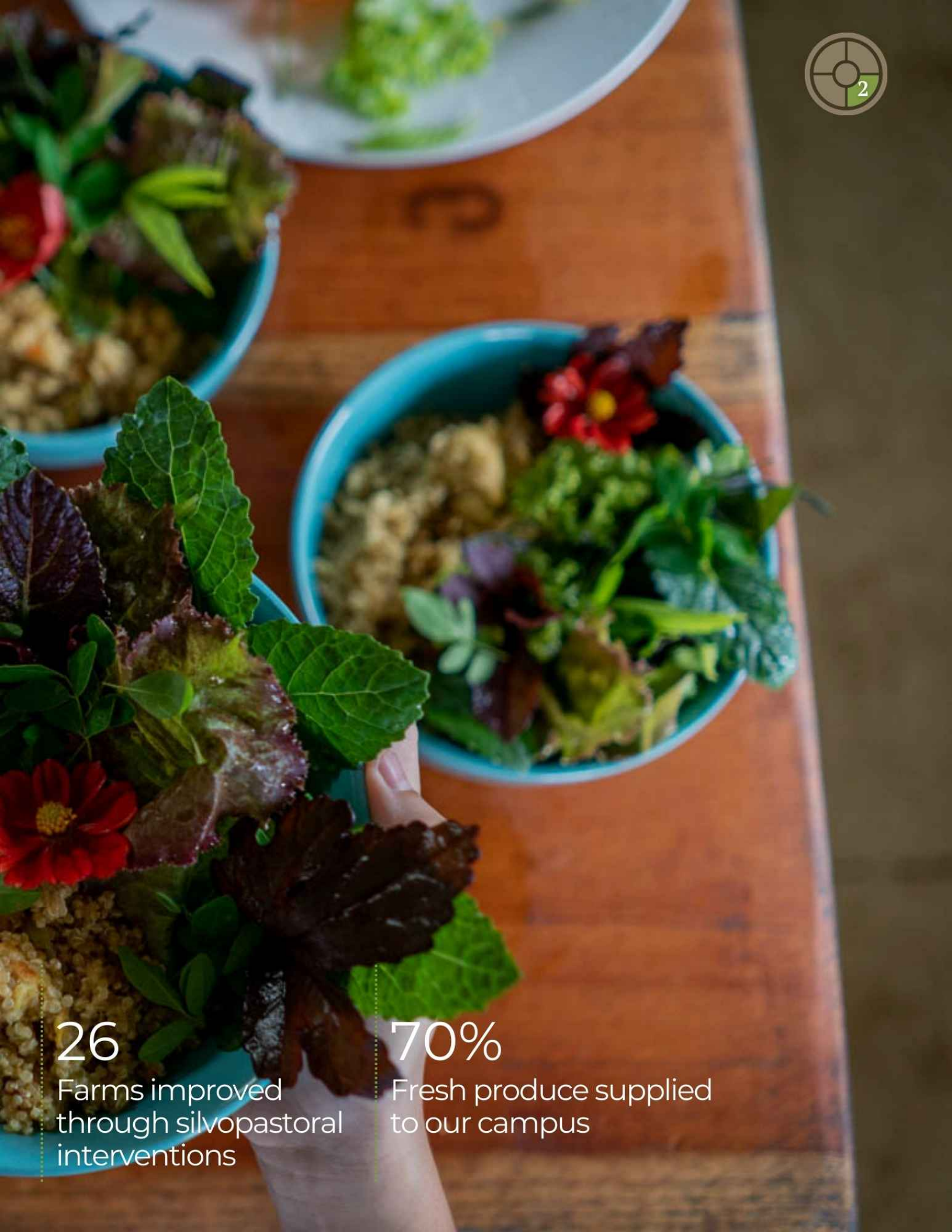
We work with a network of farmers and community members to create resilient agricultural landscapes that simultaneously strengthen sustainable local livelihoods, sequester carbon at scale, and ensure as many wild species as possible survive climate change. Our work centers on transforming degraded agricultural landscape into sustainable farms for people and nature. Building this resilience means watersheds are replenished, fragmented forests are reconnected, soil health is restored, and local communities have the capacity to thrive alongside nature for generations to come.

JUST THIS YEAR

372
Local farmers engaged

687
Added value crops planted

1st
Farms for Nature scheme launched



26
Farms improved through silvopastoral interventions

70%
Fresh produce supplied to our campus

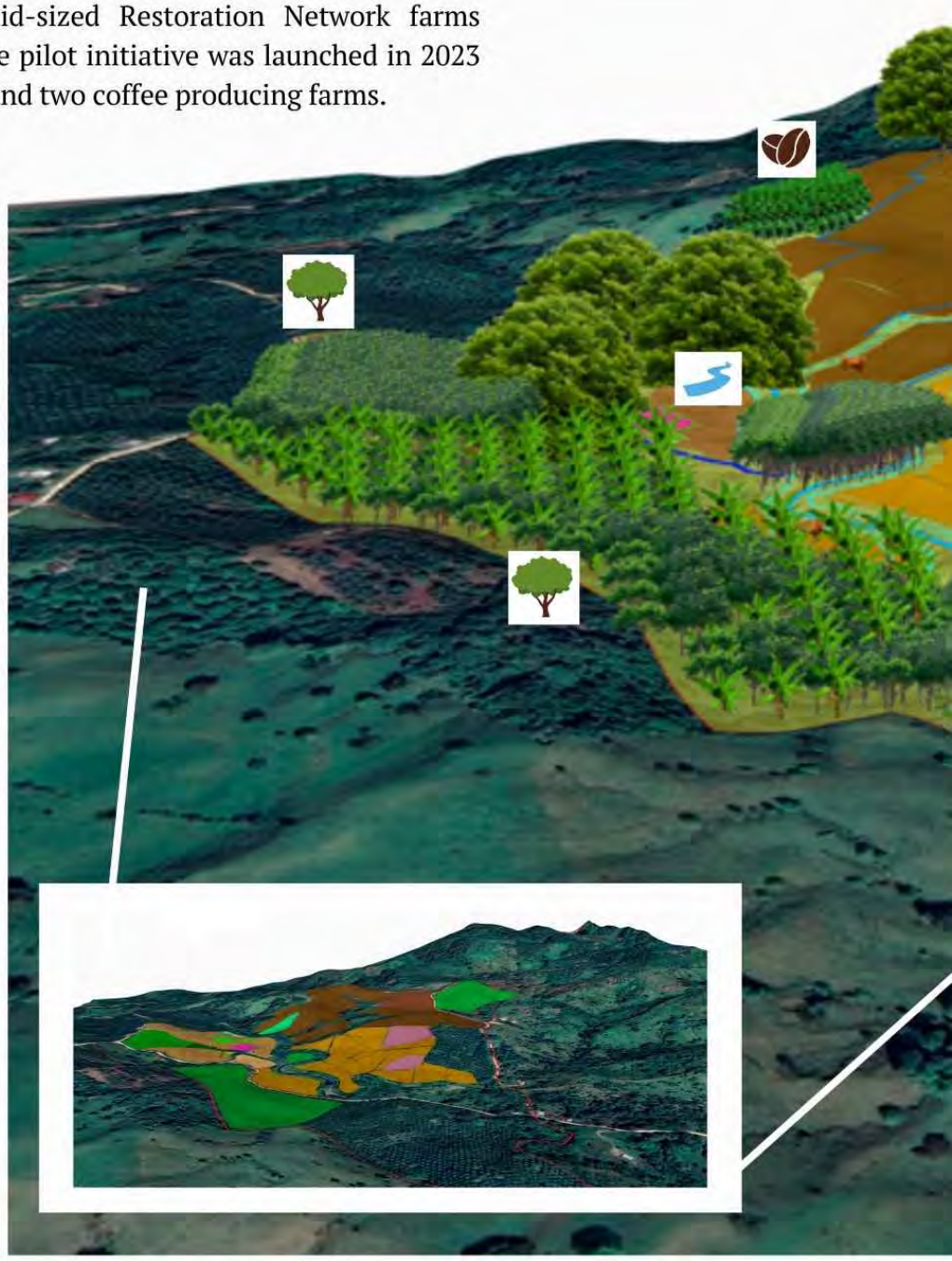
INDIVIDUALIZED FARM PLANS

TO CREATE RESILIENT FARMS FOR NATURE

Through the 'Farms for Nature' initiative, we are introducing a novel debt for biodiversity swap for small- and mid-sized Restoration Network farms throughout our working landscape. The pilot initiative was launched in 2023 and now includes four cattle ranching and two coffee producing farms.

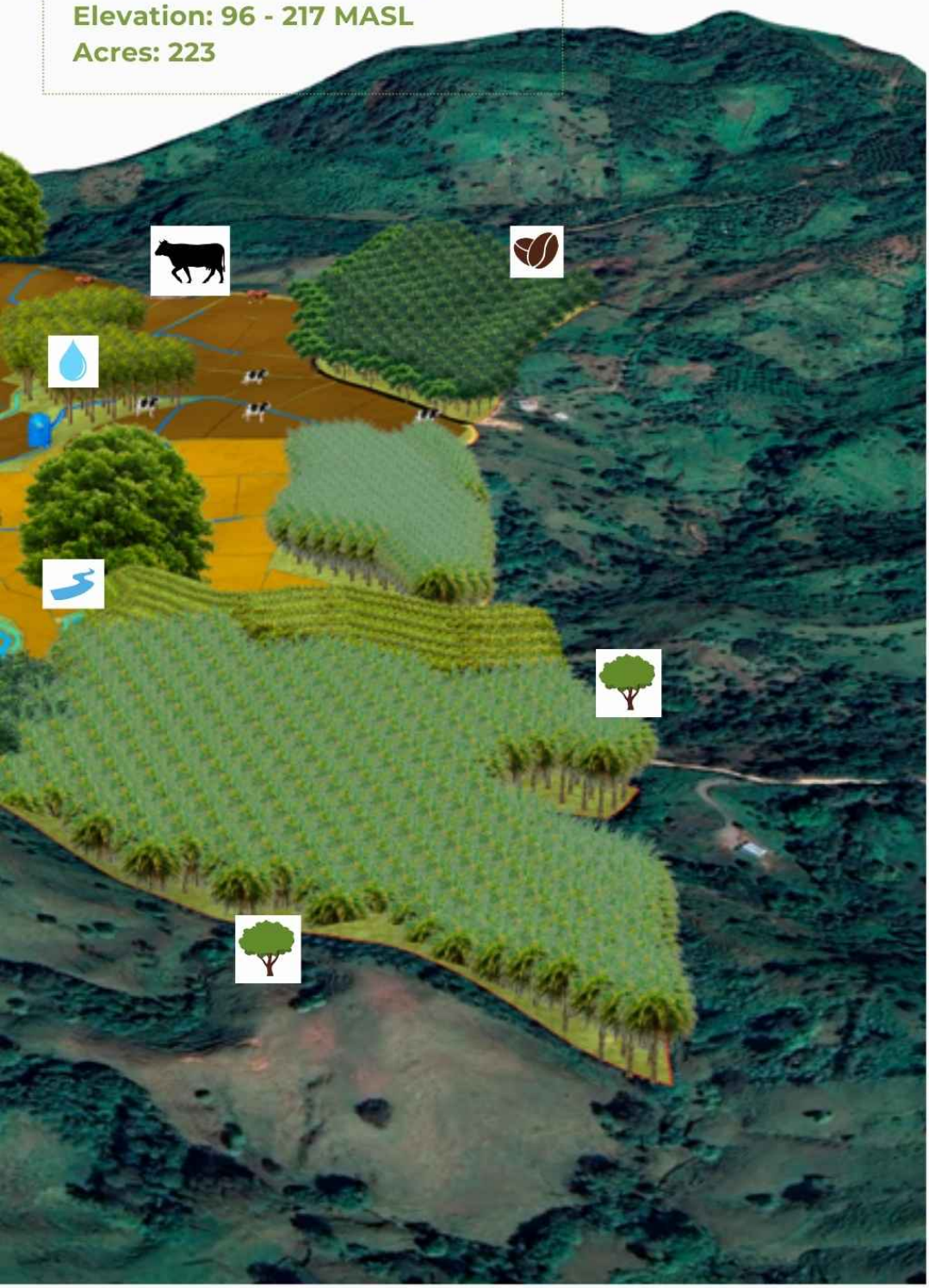
Farmers work with our team to design a personalized landscape transformation plan for their farm that delivers measurable biodiversity outcomes through a sustainable production and land sparing model where biodiversity can thrive and simultaneously provide numerous ecological, social and economic benefits to the farm owners. The initiative funds agricultural practices directed to enhance biodiversity within a period of five years. Our individualized farm plans focus on the following:

1. Restoring riparian zones
2. Implementing silvopastoral methods which reduce water consumption and improve quality
3. Implementing cattle management such as rotational grazing to supplement livelihoods
4. Drive active water source protection
5. Increase added-value crops to diversify incomes, reduce water consumption, and build more resilient agricultural systems.



Local farmers engaged by year

Restoration network farm plan:
Farm: Finca Julia Atencio
Elevation: 96 - 217 MASL
Acres: 223



Implementation of cattle management techniques including regenerative grazing.

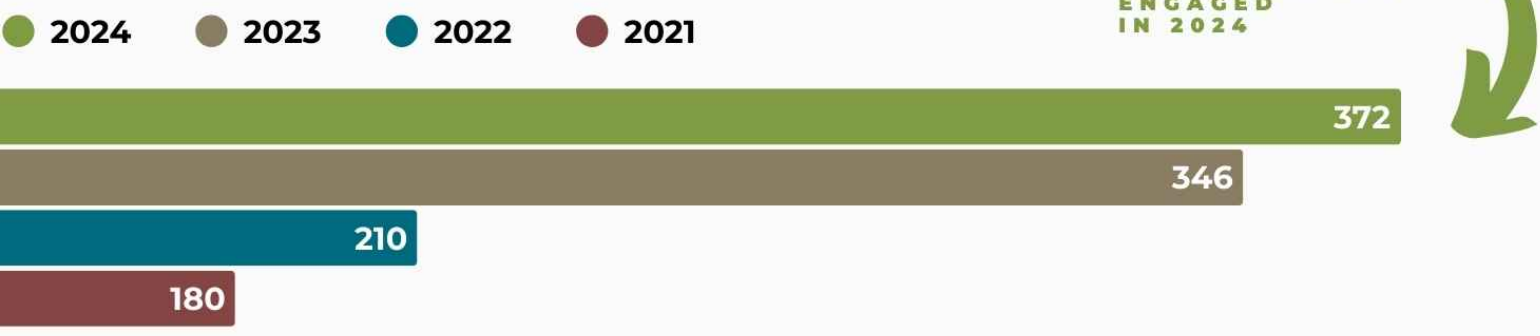
Water diversion mechanism to keep cattle away from river.

Augmentation of agricultural land with sustainable added-value products.

Native tree restoration to return degraded land to secondary forest.

Riparian restoration to protect and improve water quality.

372
LOCAL FARMERS ENGAGED IN 2024



THE OSA CONSERVATION FARM

DRIVING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION IN THE TROPICS

The Osa Verde Regenerative Farm, located at the Osa Conservation Campus, is an experimental project to transform a pesticide heavy, ex-cattle ranch into a working regenerative farm in the wet tropics. The site serves as a testbed to identify farming mechanisms that help transform unsustainable farming into productive viable systems. Successful farming practices help support a biodiverse and healthy environment, allow the surrounding wildlife to thrive, and provide fresh, resilient produce.

Osa Conservation's sustainable farm produces

70%

of the fresh produce that sustains our team and visitors on-site.

This farm is designed to serve as a model system with the goal of scaling our findings to local farmers throughout the region.

Huberth "Chonga" Almengor
Osa Conservation Farm Coordinator

Our Osa Verde Farm Coordinator, Huberth "Chonga" Almengor, has been part of the Osa Conservation team for over a decade. Born and raised in the Osa region, Chonga has taken the conventional farming techniques he learned as a child and transformed the Osa Verde farm from an unproductive cattle pasture to a thriving regenerative system. His interventions include the implementation of crop rotation systems to return nutrients to degraded pasture lands, the design of a vertical leafy-green scaffolding using recycled materials, and the construction of a fence and tunnel system that enables wildlife-agriculture coexistense.

Monitoring Changes

In addition to strengthening sustainable agricultural production, we are monitoring the impact of these solutions on nature. We have implemented a robust, long-term monitoring program on a subset of farms throughout the landscape to track the impact on soil rejuvenation, water quality, tree mortality and growth, and wildlife recovery. These bi-annual surveys help guide interventions and provide evidence for nature-positive farming.

REFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS

OUR 2025 GOALS

2025 will be transformational for our sustainable farming initiatives. We plan to scale up our Farms for Nature scheme, strengthen regional alliances to provide more hands-on training, and engage more local farmers than ever before.

Here's what's next for us as we reform food systems throughout the region:

- Expand our Farms for Nature initiative to 10 local farms
- Implement silvopastoral interventions on 20 local farms to improve water management
- Positively influence +200 acres through improved sustainable farming practices
- Increase the production of fresh produce and sustainable protein at the Osa Conservation Regenerative Farm to feed our visitors and local community members

Osa Conservation is a 501c3 nonprofit, and we rely on the generous contributions of our supporters to make this work happen.

Help make a difference in 2025. Scan this code to support our work:

Charity Navigator FOUR-STAR

1% FOR THE PLANET

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION & DISCOVERY

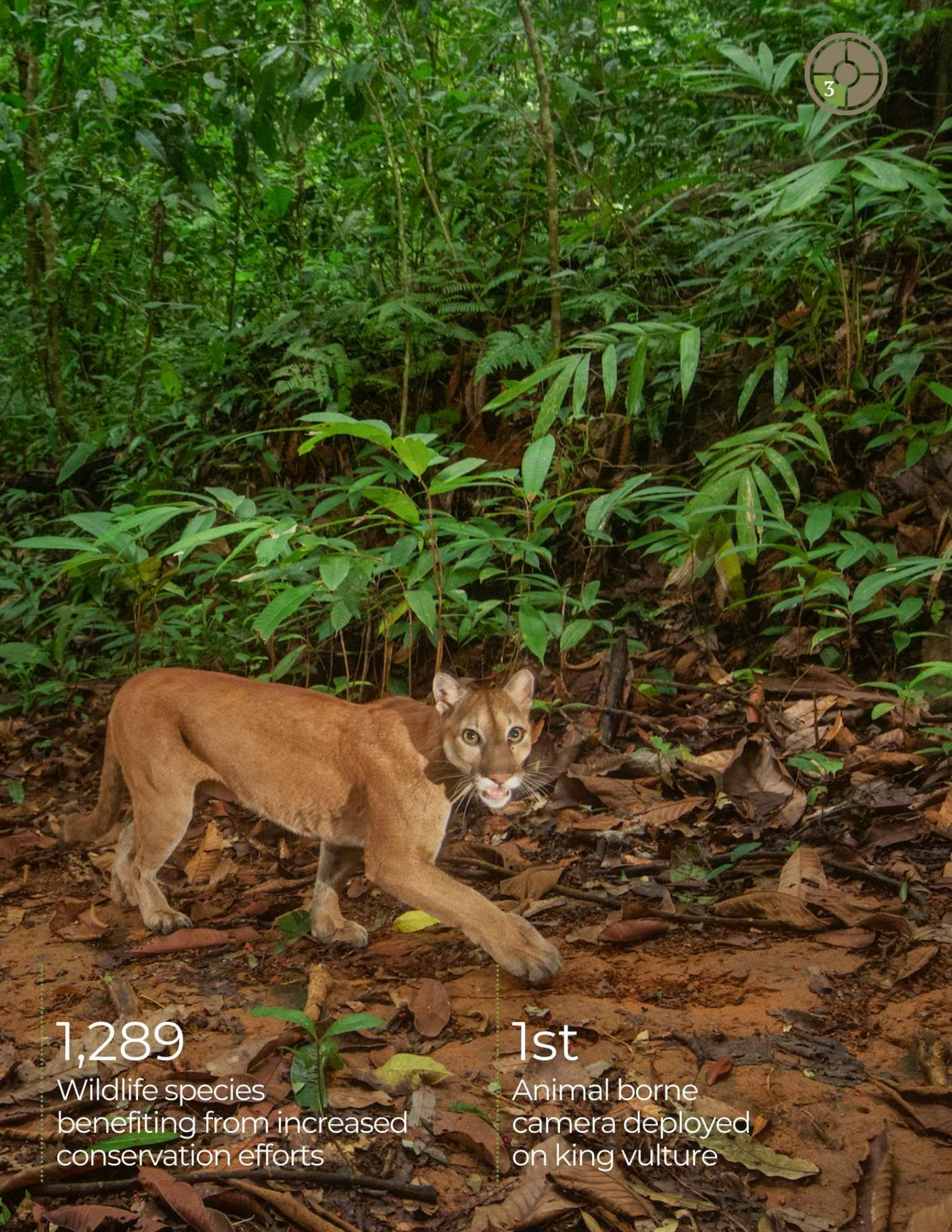
To safeguard Osa's unmatched wildlife, Osa Conservation is monitoring and analyzing wildlife population baselines and changes throughout the landscape. By understanding where wildlife is currently and how species are moving through the landscape, we can better facilitate the mass migration of these animals as they move upslope to cooler climate refugia. This knowledge is critical; these patterns help guide our conservation so we can maximize biodiversity survival in the face of climate change.

JUST THIS YEAR

84
Wild individuals tracked via GPS

1st
Permits secured for the rewilding of white lipped peccaries

30
Arboreal bridges



1,289
Wildlife species benefiting from increased conservation efforts

1st
Animal borne camera deployed on king vulture

REWILDING COSTA RICA

TRANSLOCATING THE WHITE LIPPED PECCARY

Species reintroduction, identified as a key tool toward meeting global 2030 biodiversity targets, plays a crucial role in Osa Conservation's holistic approach to building climate resilience. Through active rewilding, we will bring keystone species back to areas where they once thrived, but have been unable to naturally recover. This initiative, called Rewilding Costa Rica, is the nation's flagship rewilding project. Our first rewilding effort will focus on translocating the locally extinct White-lipped Peccary.

White-lipped Peccary are the primary food source for jaguars and a keystone species crucial to the integrity of tropical rainforest ecosystems, back into Piedras Blancas National Park.

The White-lipped Peccary (WLP) was locally extirpated from Piedras Blancas National Park, a protected forest at the conjunction of the Osa Peninsula and the Talamanca Mountain range. The last WLP record within the park was made in 2008. Absence of the keystone WLP results in a trophic cascade of changes within ecological communities and increasingly diminished ecological integrity.

After years of research, roundtables, and permit work, Osa Conservation received the permits to officially launch this initiative by beginning the translocation processes at the end of 2024. This strategy aligns government, local communities, and non-profit organizations to successfully reintroduce white-lipped peccaries to Piedras Blancas National Park, a critical step in establishing long-term resilience for the people and nature of this region.

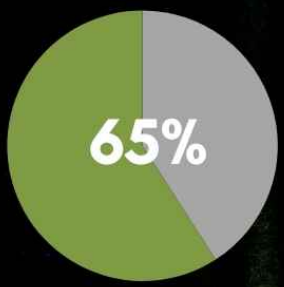
Current lowland WLP distribution is restricted to Corcovado National Park and buffer zones. WLP have not been registered in Piedras Blancas National Park since 2008.

Our goal is to translocate WLP from Corcovado to Piedras Blancas National Park, a stepping stone toward reconnecting lowland WLP populations and highland populations in La Amistad International Park.

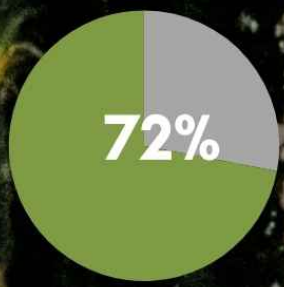
THE LOCAL CONNECTION TO WHITE LIPPED PECCARY

In 2024, our team interviewed 335 people (43% women and 57% men) across 12 local communities to quantify the local knowledge and perceptions of White-lipped Peccaries. The survey included direct questions about the potential reintroduction of the WLPs into Piedras Blancas National Park.

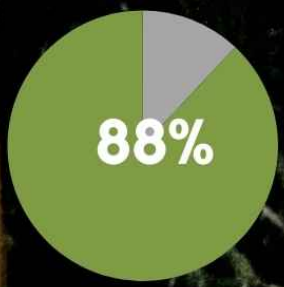
Of the 335 local community members surveyed:



Want to see white-lipped peccaries in their communities



Would support the reintroduction of the white-lipped peccary into the National Park

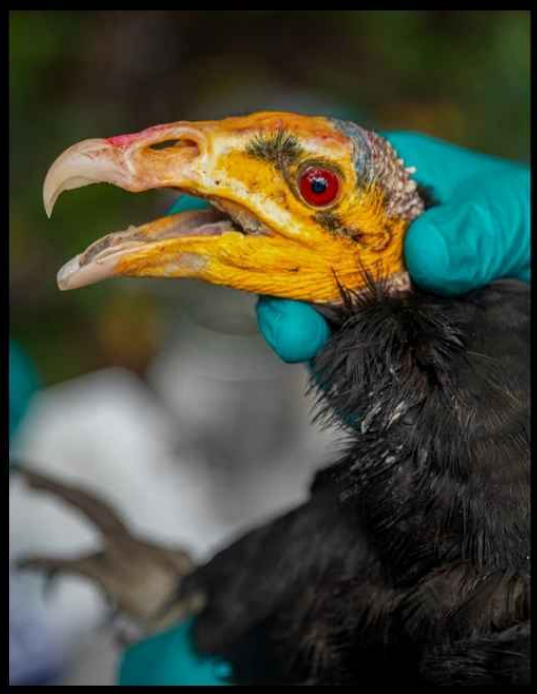


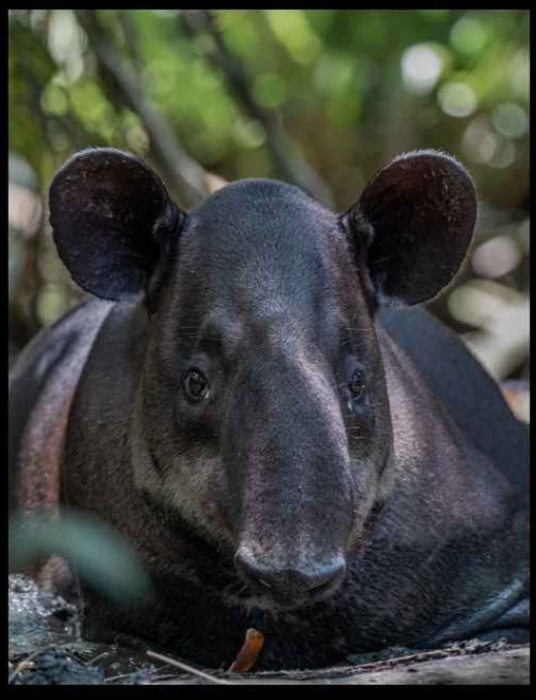
Agreed white-lipped peccary could be a tourism attraction

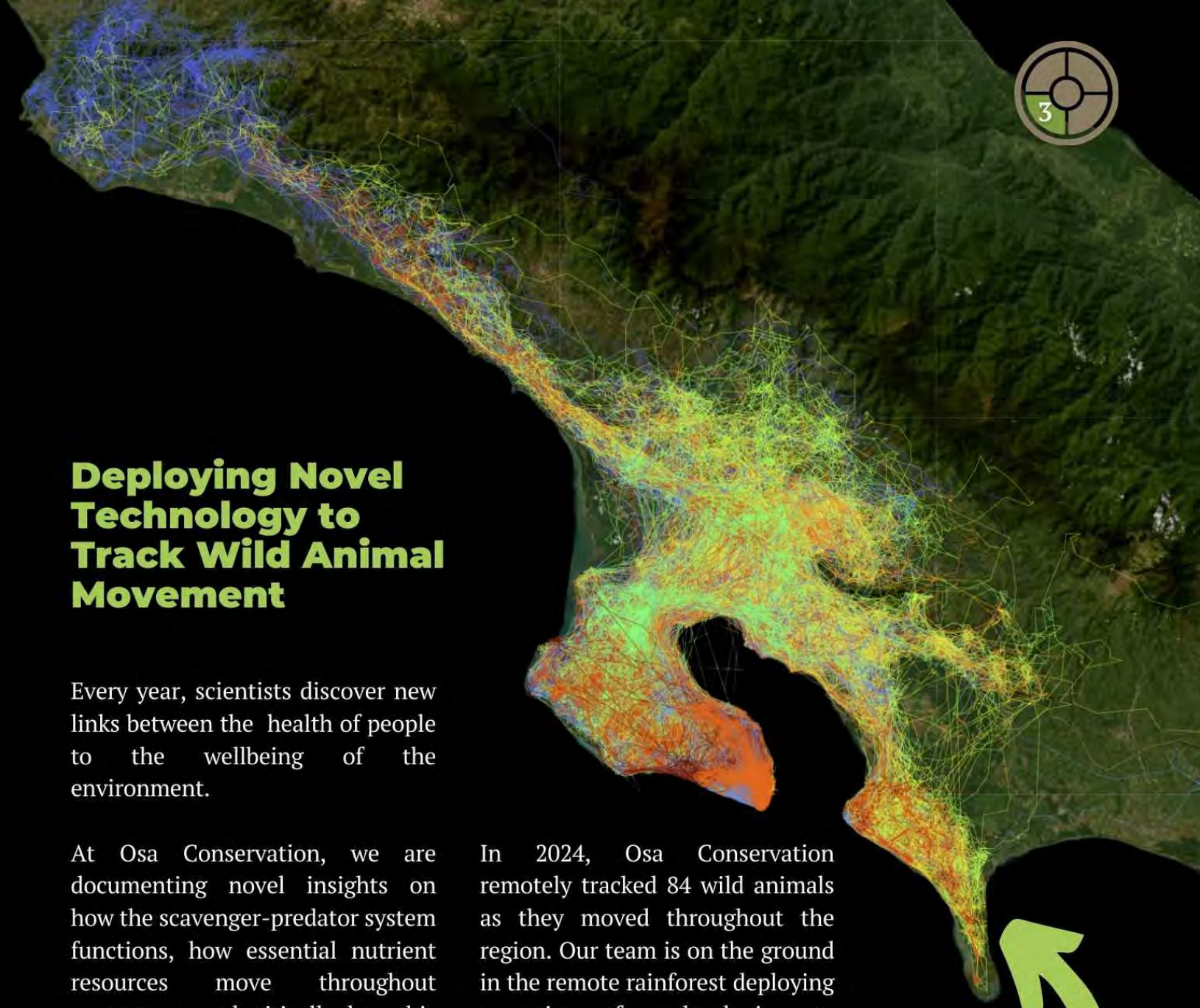



TROPICAL MOVEMENT ECOLOGY

UNVEILING NOVEL CONNECTIONS ACROSS SCAVENGER - PREDATOR NETWORKS





Deploying Novel Technology to Track Wild Animal Movement

Every year, scientists discover new links between the health of people to the wellbeing of the environment.

At Osa Conservation, we are documenting novel insights on how the scavenger-predator system functions, how essential nutrient resources move throughout ecosystems, and critically, how this could change through the biodiversity loss crisis.

We use solar GPS tags to track scavengers (vultures), and GPS collars to track predators (jaguars, pumas, and ocelots), as they move through the landscape. Our research shows how these animals facilitate the removal of decaying matter, a connection that is fundamental to keep waterways healthy and disease outbreaks at bay.

In 2024, Osa Conservation remotely tracked 84 wild animals as they moved throughout the region. Our team is on the ground in the remote rainforest deploying a suite of technologies to document the patterns of carrion availability and removal. Since launching this project in 2022, we have tracked 96 vultures and 15 mammals including jaguars, ocelots, pumas and tapirs across two landscapes in Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula and the Peruvian Amazon. This work has resulted in numerous scientific publications on neotropical vulture patterns, and has documented first-hand footage from king vultures for the first time.

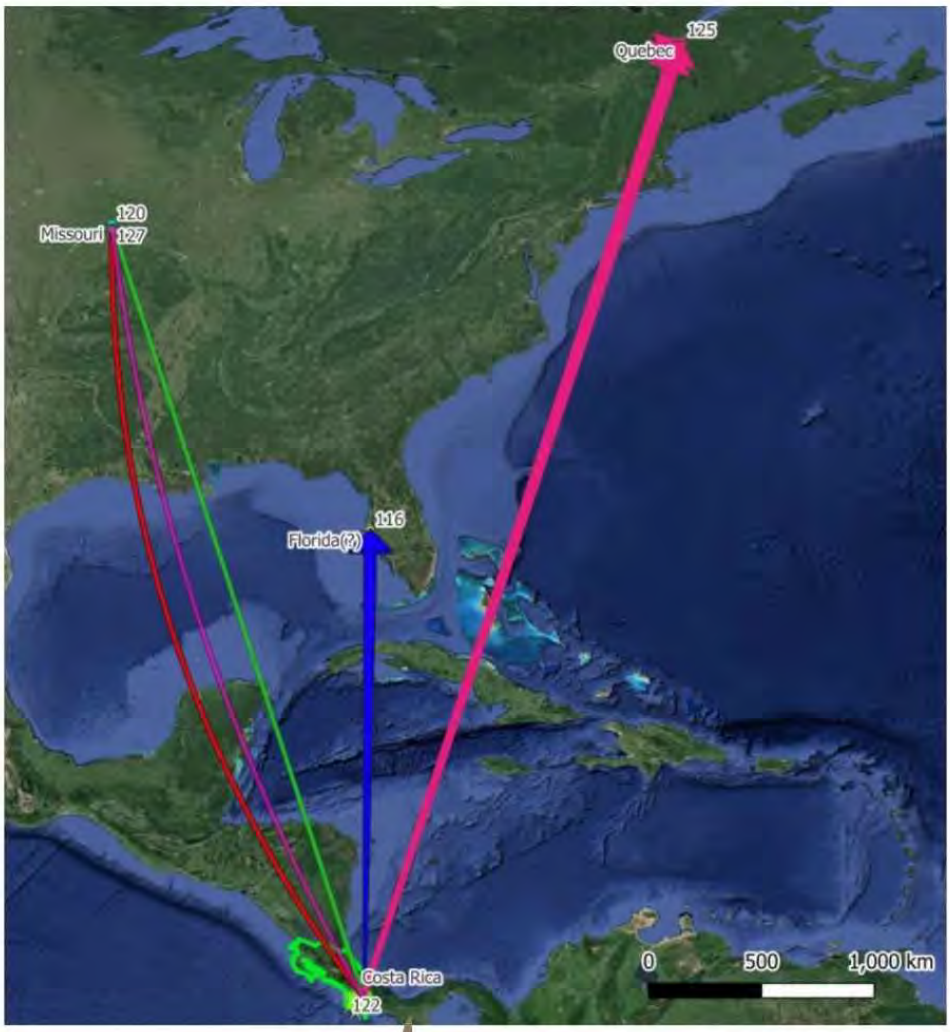
2.2
MILLION
GPS POINTS COLLECTED SINCE 2023

Using MOTUS Towers to Track Migratory Birds

North American bird populations have steadily declined over the last 50 years. Still today, major gaps in the drivers of such declines remain. We partner with a network of dedicated practitioners to deploy conservation technologies and foster the human capacity to address these knowledge gaps and better facilitate the survival of threatened species, including migratory birds.

In 2024, we deployed new motus towers (tracking systems that facilitate the study of migratory birds throughout the Americas) throughout the region. This work increases the global detectability of tagged species, information that is especially valuable in the neotropics (over 70% of motus towers are located in the US and Canada).

The newest tower, deployed on our La Gamba property, allows us to detect birds passing by Piedras Blancas National Park and the eastern coastline at Golfo Dulce, regions largely lacking in migratory bird data.



5 MOTUS towers throughout the region

Established by Osa Conservation & Partners

Deploying Nano-Tags to Safeguard Migratory Birds

One of the many declining birds within southwestern Costa Rica is the Golden-Winged Warbler *(Vermivora chrysoptera)*. This species has presented a population decline of 66% in the last 60 years. Still, information about the bird's overwinter survival in the neotropics and spring migration is lacking. By deploying uninvasive nano-tags on these birds, we can derive new information and streamline action to halt and reverse the alarming decrease of this species.


3
This Golden-winged Warbler has a nano tag!
Golden-winged Warbler
Vermivora chrysoptera
Long-Distance Migrant
Conservation Red Watch List

RECONNECTING the RAINFOREST CANOPY

Habitat connectivity across the landscape is critical to the survival of wildlife, especially as the climate changes and animals look to migrate across regions. In addition to habitat restoration, we are increasing habitat connectivity in one of the most biodiverse regions on the planet by deploying arboreal bridges. Over the past four years, our team has worked with local collaborators to deploy a network of 30 tree-top bridges. These bridges - human made structures connected to the tree-tops - allow arboreal animals to pass over roads, essentially re-connecting the rainforest canopy.

This year, the project grew to incorporate 8 unique bridge designs, each trialing a new technique to encourage tree-top animals to venture onto these foreign structures. The bridges have been deployed above roads that slice through the forest in an effort to facilitate arboreal wildlife movement where it is most restricted.

Each bridge is monitored 24/7 by tree-top camera traps. By using these camera traps, we have documented over 1,000 hours of arboreal bridge use from wildlife including opossums, kinkajous, porcupines, and the threatened *Ateles geoffroyi* spider monkey.

30

Arboreal Bridges Deployed
Throughout our Working Landscape

Sierpe

Río Chocuaco

662 m

Piedras Blar

1714 m

Puerto Jimenez

Year Deployed

- ● 2020
- ■ 2021
- ▲ 2022
- ⬟ 2023
- ♦ 2024

Bridge Design

- Double rope and vertical
- Ladder
- Ladder and cable
- Mesh and cable
- Rolled fishing & net top rope
- Rolled plastic mesh & top rope
- Single rope
- Triple rope

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

OUR 2025 GOALS

Building on our momentum from previous years, 2025 will mark a transformative chapter for our wildlife conservation efforts. We're set to expand monitoring, restoration, and community engagement initiatives, driving forward our mission to protect biodiversity and strengthen ecosystems.

Here's what's next for our wildlife conservation team in 2025:

- Reintroduce white-lipped peccary herds to Piedras Blancas National Park, contributing to ecosystem restoration and predator-prey dynamics
- Lead community outreach and policy campaigns to support rewilding
- Deploy and manage 35 arboreal bridges
- Train local bird guides in motus tower technology, empowering community members to participate in bird conservation
- Execute community outreach and advocacy campaigns to build local and political support for a wildlife overpass on the Inter-American Highway

Osa Conservation is a 501c3 nonprofit, and we rely on the generous contributions of our supporters to make this work happen.

Help make a difference in 2025. Scan this code to support our work:

PROTECTING OUR BLUE PLANET

Marine Conservation

The Osa Peninsula's marine ecosystems face a climate crisis exacerbated by development and illegal fisheries, degrading fragile habitats and the lack of understanding about how marine species will adapt to these changes hampers effective conservation efforts. To address these pressing issues, provide a foundation for science-based decision-making, and foster long-term regional conservation leadership, Osa Conservation is deepening the understanding of local environmental challenges and developing strategies to address them; improving the livelihoods of local fishers through the diversification of economic opportunities; restoring critical marine habitats; and strengthen community engagement through marine education and outreach.

JUST THIS YEAR

25,190
Sea turtle hatchlings protected & released

2,308
Lbs. of plastic removed from coastal habitats

New
Sea turtle hatchery built

1.3 million

acres in discussion for marine protection

CREATING THE

CORCOVADO MARINE PROTECTED AREA

The coastal communities and marine resilience of the Osa Peninsula face significant socio-economic and environmental challenges. One of Costa Rica's poorest regions, communities here grapple with the highest levels of multi-dimensional poverty and employment rates below the national average. These challenges are exacerbated by industrial overfishing, the decline of marine biodiversity and the impacts of climate change. Osa Conservation is taking action to address these issues by strengthening community capacity, diversifying economic opportunities, and protecting critical coastal habitat.

The establishment of the Corcovado Marine Protected Area (MPA) would protect over half a million hectares (1.3 million acres) of critical marine and coastal habitat, including 186,000 hectares of no-take protected area directly off the shores of Isla del Caño and Corcovado National Parks and 355,676 hectares of patrolled buffer-zone.

In 2024, Osa Conservation employed 71 coastal community members and engaged over 1,600 potential beneficiaries of what would be the Corcovado Marine Protected Area.

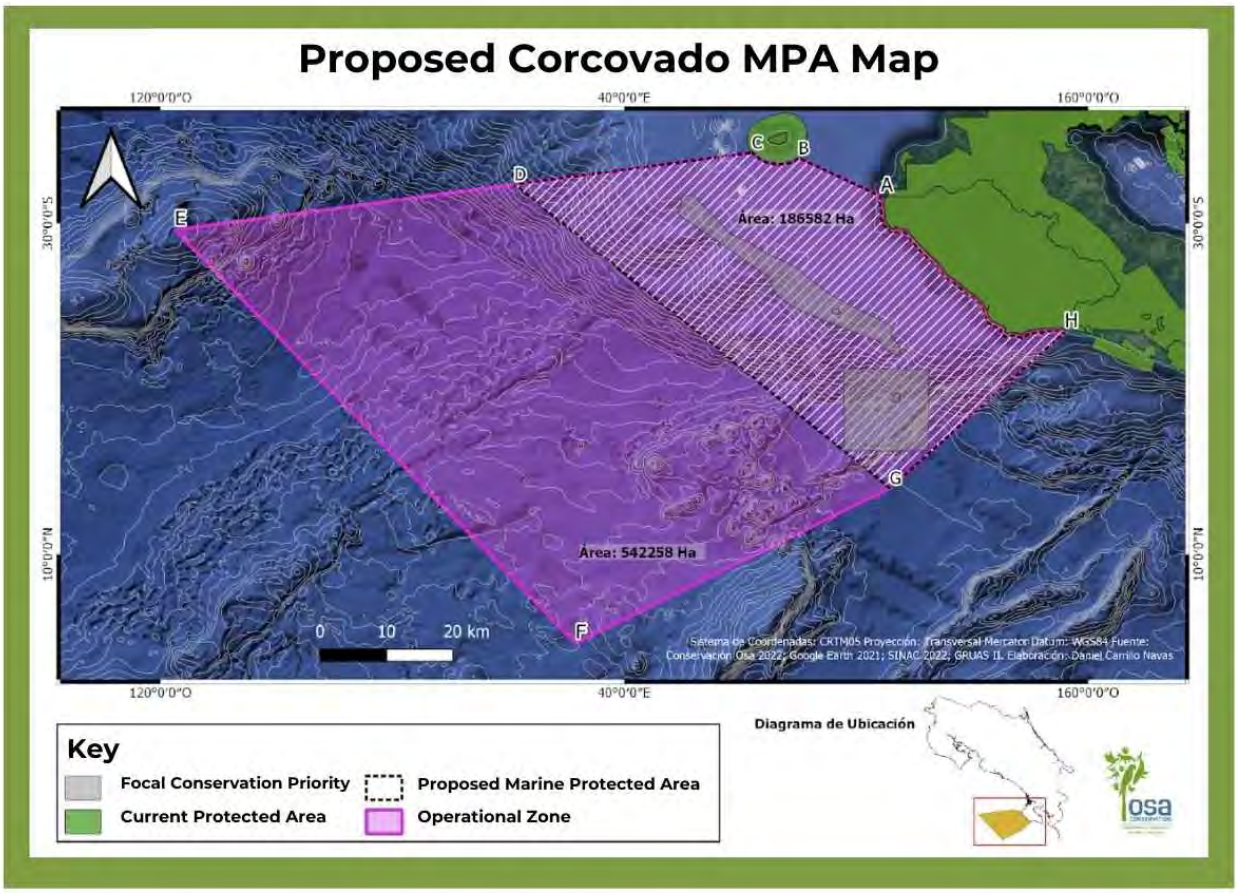
We also removed 2,308 lbs. of trash from Osa's beaches and connected over 200 children to marine conservation.

"It is a priority to continue and direct all necessary efforts for the expansion of the Marine Area of Corcovado National Park...

The expansion of the protected wilderness area on the Osa Peninsula is of paramount importance due to the biological and ecosystem richness it possesses.

Paula Mena Corea
Director of ACOSA

Proposed Corcovado MPA Map



The Corcovado MPA would protect

1.3 million

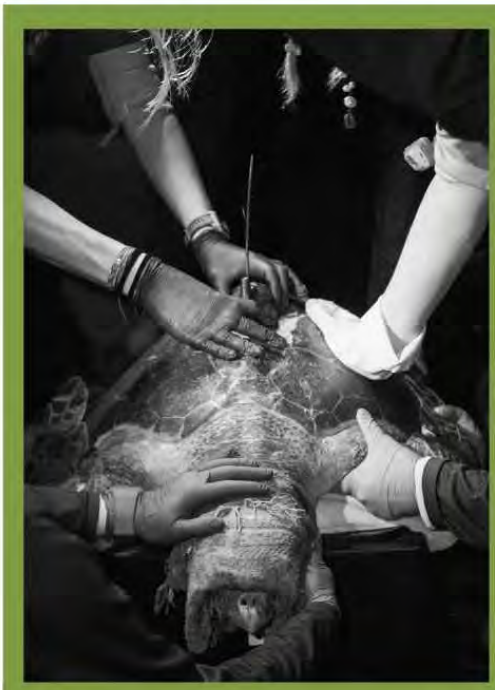
acres of marine seascape.

PROTECTING CRITICAL

SEA TURTLE NESTING HABITAT

For over a decade, Osa Conservation's Sea Turtle Conservation program has conducted research, collected data, and worked closely with the local community to better protect sea turtle populations.

We have protected over 13,000 nests, released 178,000 hatchlings, and improved the management of 7 kilometers of nesting habitat for four of the world's sea turtle species. In addition to constructing the new sea turtle hatchery and protecting over 200 nests, we placed non-invasive GPS tags on three adult sea turtles to monitor their movements throughout the Pacific.



Our team deployed 3 GPS tags on Olive Ridley *(Lepidochelys olivacea)* turtles to track their movements throughout the Pacific Ocean.

We protected & released 25,190 baby sea turtles in 2024.

That's 16,000 more hatchlings than 2023.

MARINE CONSERVATION

OUR 2025 GOALS

2025 will be pivotal for marine conservation as we expand our efforts to protect critical habitats, empower coastal communities, and strengthen the resilience of marine ecosystems in Southern Costa Rica.

Here's what's next for our marine conservation team in 2025:

- Launch the Osa Marine Observatory with a focus on national alliances to strengthen marine conservation efforts
- Advance marine science and research by hosting marine-focused fellowships and publishing our discoveries in peer-reviewed scientific journals
- Identify weather patterns and underwater noise baselines in Golfo Dulce, contributing data to improve species protection and ecosystem health
- Lead workshops on socio-economic alternatives to diversify sustainable livelihood options
- Remove +1,000 lbs of plastic from sea turtle nesting beaches
- Deploy GPS tags on 3 sea turtles

Osa Conservation is a 501c3 nonprofit, and we rely on the generous contributions of our supporters to make this work happen.

Help make a difference in 2025. Scan this code to support our work:

Charity Navigator FOUR-STAR

1% FOR THE PLANET

COMMUNITY-CENTRIC CONSERVATION

Our community-oriented approach empowers grassroots engagement, working from the bottom-up and the top-down to instill sustainable solutions for people and nature. We prioritize participatory decision-making, engagement, and leadership throughout our conservation strategy, from planning to implementation. Collaboration with local stakeholders and communities is crucial for long-lasting conservation impact. We believe that dedication to people is why over 90% of the local stakeholders engaged in our Restoration Network actively requested to participate.

JUST THIS YEAR

6,400
Community Members Engaged

105
Local Jobs Sustained

76
Workshops Hosted







+1,300
Local Youth Engaged

CELEBRATING LOCAL CONSERVATION

Across the AmistOsa landscape, in 2024 Osa Conservation helped facilitate the execution of over a dozen community festivals. This included the first International Jaguar Day celebration, which reached over 200 participants and emphasized the importance of predators and their habitats. We also supported the third-annual Festival del Chancho de Monte (White-Lipped Peccary Festival), which celebrated the cultural shift from hunting to protecting keystone species, engaging over 400 community members and government leaders.

+3,000

local community members reached through celebrations

MANGROVE CONSERVATION FESTIVAL

RAINFOREST HEROES FESTIVAL

EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

OCEANS DAY CELEBRATION

LOCAL WHALE CELEBRATION

WHITE-LIPPED PECCARY FESTIVAL

NATIONAL PARKS DAY

GLOBAL BIG DAY

WETLAND CONSERVATION CELEBRATION

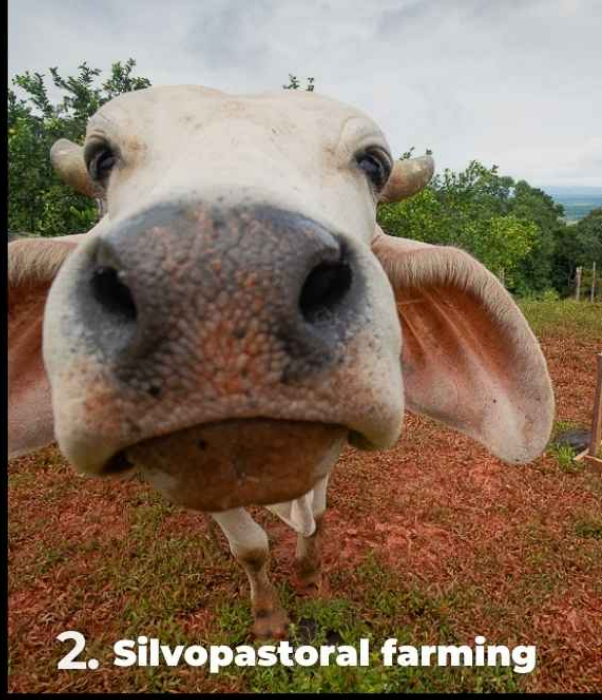
HONORING RAINFOREST HEROES

Over 200 community members from across southern Costa Rica joined together to celebrate outstanding conservation leaders. Named "Rainforest Heroes," these community members go above and beyond to protect the region's unparalleled biodiversity. "Each hero shares a common goal: to protect the beautiful, wild home we share, the Osa Peninsula," said Manuel Ramirez, co-founder of Osa Conservation and long-time community member of Southern Costa Rica. "The heroes here ... receive the recognition they deserve for all of their marvelous, tireless work."


CORCOVADO
5


UCR


MONSEÑOR IGNACIO TREJOS PICADO



ESTABLISHING & DIVERSIFYING

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Osa Conservation diversifies livelihoods by integrating sustainable agroforestry, innovative product development, and ecotourism opportunities throughout our interventions. To strengthen conservation-linked livelihoods, we are piloting the Farms for Nature membership program and have launched the mangrove honey production scheme. We invest in local capacity building by training and equipping local guides and rangers with the latest conservation technology for enhanced landscape protection. Beyond that, our restoration initiatives provide meaningful jobs, reinforcing environmental and economic resilience across the region.

+6,400

Expected beneficiaries

YOUTH NATURE EDUCATION

Our collaborative Youth Nature Club provides disadvantaged youth with educational opportunities in nature. The club's goal is to empower youth to become avid environmental stewards and develop key life skills. This project provides educational experiences in nature to the most impoverished youth in Costa Rica, building the foundation for these children to become the next generation of conservation leaders.

We work across the landscape as a compliment to standard education, augmenting after-school time with exciting adventures in nature. We collaborate with local NGOs, teachers, parents, and community leaders to get outside and rediscover the wild world.

+1,300

local children engaged in outdoor experiences

51

excursions executed including climbing, snorkeling, mangrove restoration & wildlife monitoring

16

local chapters engaged monthly in outdoor activities

55

children participated in the overnight outdoor school at the Osa Conservation Campus

To maximize the impact of the Youth Nature Club, the main objectives of the program are:

1. To build access to more immersive Nature Field Experiences in the region's most threatened and remote landscapes.
2. To develop life skills in nature for long-term personal and professional success.
3. To equip disadvantaged communities with life and career skills to prosper in their respective fields.
4. To foster a network of environmental leaders empowered to protect their natural resources at the local, national and international level.


USA


5


CLUB


CLUB

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

OUR 2025 GOALS

Empowering local communities remains at the heart of our conservation mission. In 2025, we will deepen our engagement with fishers, farmers, landowners, youth, and conservation leaders across the region.

Here's what's next for our community engagement efforts in 2025:

- Get 500 local children outside to fall in love with nature
- Engage a network of artisanal fishing associations and tourism associations to strengthen marine protection efforts.
- Identify, map, and collaborate with Fila Costeña community members to promote habitat conservation
- Support the Rainforest Protectors, enhancing skills for monitoring and protection strategies
- Engage 600 community members in an Ocean & Mangrove Festival, raising awareness of coastal conservation
- Launch the first batch of mangrove honey from Térraba-Sierpe, promoting conservation enterprises

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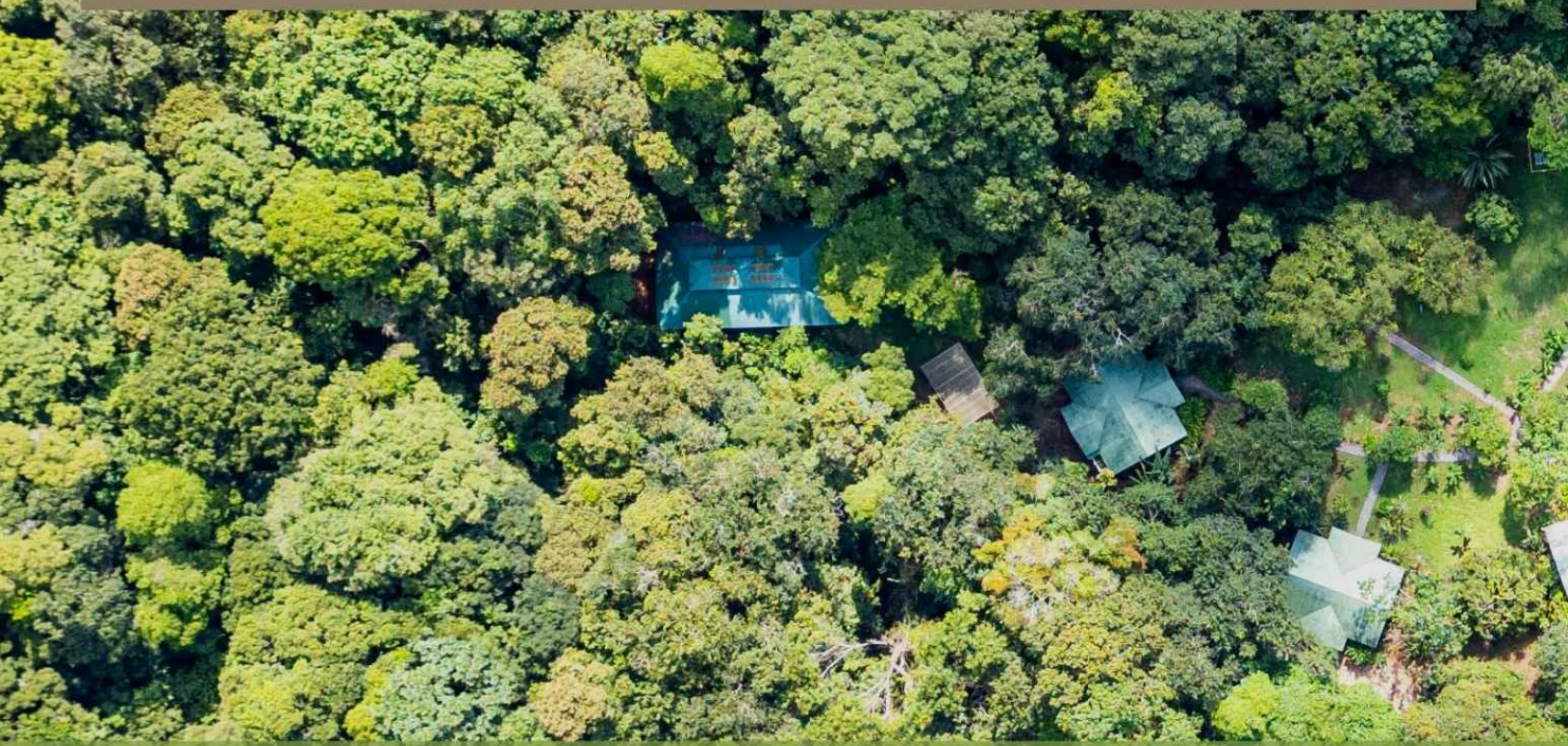
Help make a difference in 2025. Scan this code to support our work:


osa
CONSERVATION
UB

IMMERSIVE CONSERVATION EXPERIENCES

The Osa Conservation Campus

The Osa Conservation Campus is an unparalleled hub for tropical conservation training and research, uniquely positioned to inspire and equip the next generation of ecologists. Here, we are filling critical research gaps through hands-on fellowships, volunteer opportunities, and conservation careers based in one of the greatest wildernesses on Earth. In 2024, our campus welcomed more visitors than ever before and was awarded the Tripadvisor "Traveler's Choice Award."



JUST THIS YEAR

1,922
Visitors Welcomed

8,654
Acres Protected

35
Kilometers of Trails

11
Scientific Publications

21
Years of Impact

Tripadvisor
Travelers' Choice Awards
2024

VISIT THE OSA CONSERVATION CAMPUS

Our campus allows guests to experience the natural world like never before. From our 100 ft. canopy tower to private waterfall trail, treetop lookouts, interactive living arboretum, and more, our campus is an international destination for nature lovers to experience the tropical rainforest first-hand.

Featuring an interactive *in-situ* arboretum, immersive restoration experiments, and team of esteemed researchers and conservationists living and working on-site, a visit to the Osa Conservation Campus is much more than a vacation. Your trip here directly supports the conservation of this incredible region.

1,922
Visitors welcomed to the Osa Conservation Campus in 2024 including:

46
volunteers,

94
researchers, fellows, and interns,

434
students including universities, high schools, and the local youth nature club,

Throughout 2024, we invested in our campus to continue making it an accessible, immersive experience in nature for all. This year's improvements included the deployment of a noninvasive catwalk across the frog pond so visitors can document incredible wildlife interactions with minimal impact. At the main station, we also extended our central pavilion to provide space for simultaneous lectures throughout the campus and a more spacious working environment for our team and visitors.

2024 Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Award Winner

We were honored to receive the Tripadvisor Traveler's Choice Award, an achievement that reflects our commitment to providing unforgettable experiences while promoting our conservation efforts in the South Pacific of Costa Rica.

8,654
ACRES PROTECTED

PROTECTING WILD PLACES

LANDSCAPE LEVEL PROTECTION

Osa Conservation's properties are strategically located to maximize impact through habitat restoration, discovery, and protection. They allow researchers, volunteers and community members to explore wilderness first-hand, and propel our work toward climate resilience in the tropics.

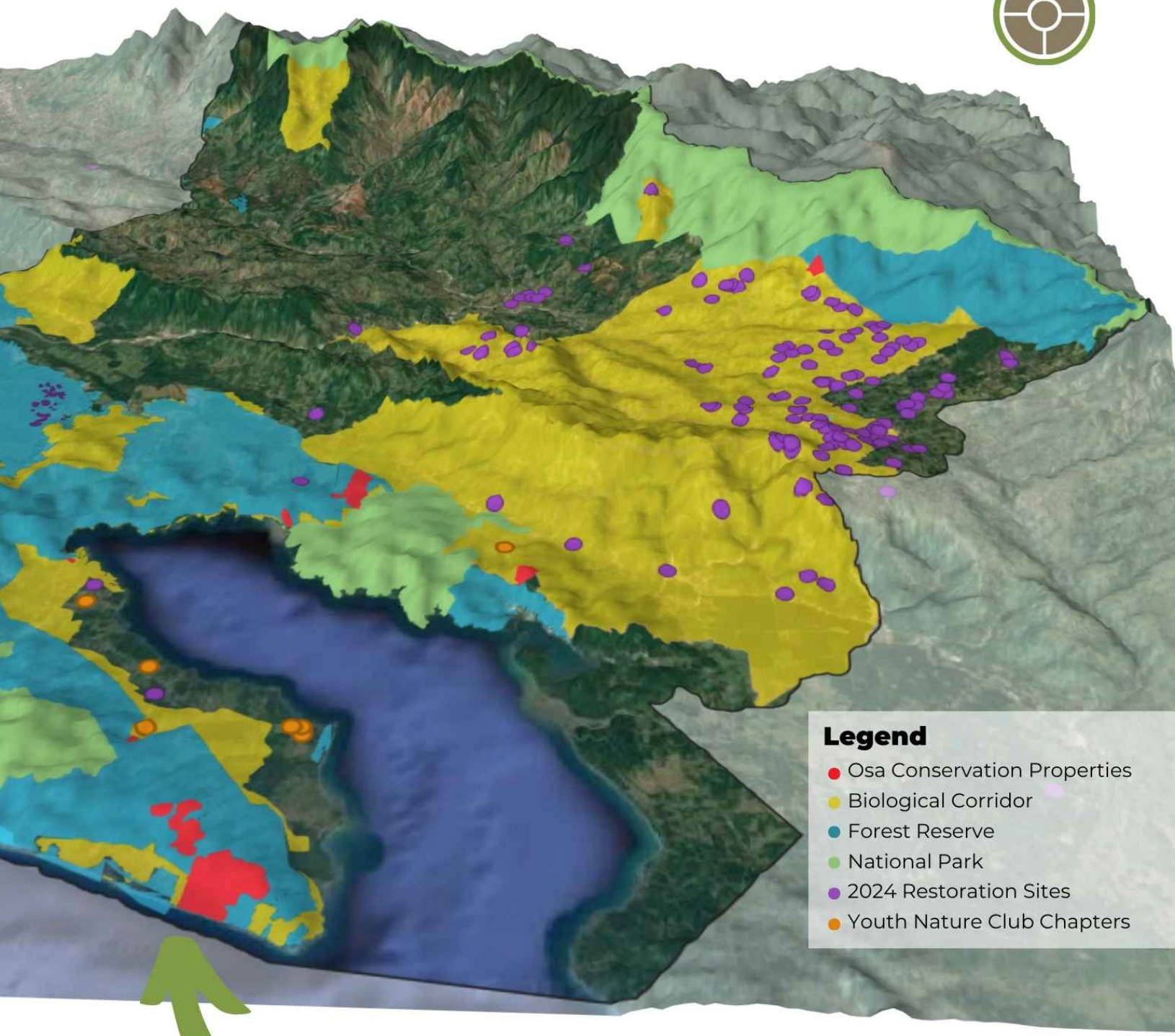
CONTINUING TO GROW

In 2024, Osa Conservation was donated +500 acres of primarily old-growth forest on the Osa Peninsula. This new property – which borders the existing Osa Conservation Campus – has been designated as a conservation area, a designation that protects the property into perpetuity.

HIGH-ELEVATION CONSERVATION

Faced with the reality of rapid climate change and biodiversity loss, building habitat connectivity across elevational gradients is crucial for the long-term survival of wild places and the species within them. To build this connectivity and to monitor the impacts of change throughout the region, we are in the process of acquiring a piece of property in the Amistad highlands. In addition to protecting this +350 acre property, this acquisition will become a sister campus to the lowland rainforest Osa Conservation Campus. These two conservation and research campuses will form the key anchors to scale impact within the region and establish a permanent presence from the mountaintops of La Amistad to the lowland rainforest of Corcovado.

+1,200
SPECIES
BENEFITING FROM INCREASED PROTECTION



466,324

TONNES

OF ABOVE GROUND CARBON ESTIMATED TO BE SEQUESTED ACROSS OUR PROPERTIES

THE 2024 COHORT:

TROPICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Fellowships at the Osa Conservation Campus are designed to empower and immerse early-career conservationists in one of the most important neotropical landscapes on Earth while developing crucial career skills. Fellows live and conduct research in a tropical rainforest where they learn, explore and achieve alongside an outstanding community of conservation practitioners to fill knowledge gaps and push the frontier of tropical conservation. By embedding research within active conservation projects, our campus is empowering the next generation of scientists and equipping them to address the world's most pressing conservation challenges.

2024 FELLOWSHIP SPOTLIGHT

ADRIANA GONZÁLEZ

RESEARCH: POLLUTION & BIOACCUMULATION IN THE GOLFO DULCE

"The experience as a fellow in Osa Conservation allowed me to immerse myself in the power of nature, fostering a deep connection to its rhythms and making me feel like an integral part of it. The Osa Peninsula, with its pristine rainforest, vibrant mangroves, and the unique ecosystem of the Golfo Dulce, became my classroom and my inspiration. ***Guided by the experts at Osa Conservation, I gained a profound understanding of the critical role that ecosystem services play****—not only in sustaining biodiversity but also in supporting human well-being."*

MARÍA FERNANDA VARGAS HERRERA

RESEARCH: REWILDING THE WHITE LIPPED PECCARY

"Osa Conservation exceeded my expectations ... It is not easy to find places to work first-hand on these types of problems, so this was an opportunity that has great value for my professional development. ***Through this experience, I grew and changed my perspective of the world.*** *I will take many lessons with me, but, above all, I am left with the memories that I created with the incredible people with whom I had the pleasure of sharing my adventure."*

SYDNEY MORRIS

RESEARCH: LANDSCAPE MIGRATORY BIRD MONITORING

"During my six months here at Osa Conservation, I learned so much about my individual abilities as a young woman in science. My fellowship provided me with the opportunity to conduct my own research, allowing me to take charge and make key decisions in the field. This autonomy pushed me to think critically about my purpose and the broader implications of my work. ***In addition to strengthening my research skills, my time at Osa deepened my love for the tropics and my commitment to conservation.*** *Living and working in one of the most biodiverse regions of the world, I have had the chance to collaborate with experienced scientists from around the globe, whose guidance and mentorship broadened my perspectives and inspired me to continue pursuing a career in ecological research."*

THE FRONTLINES OF SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS OF 2024

Osa Conservation's efforts are guided by scientific evidence, and these scientific outputs help scale conservation impact throughout the neotropics. This year, researchers from the Osa Conservation team contributed to 11 scientific research publications, including:

First Observation in Central America

"Burmannia tenella in Costa Rica: A new addition to the flora of Central America, with an overview of its geographic distribution"

November, 2024

Exploring Cavities

"Use of natural and artificial cavities by Neotropical mammals in a tropical wet forest of Costa Rica"

November, 2024

Back to the Wild

"Post-translocation GPS monitoring of a rehabilitated ocelot (Leopardus pardalis) in a forest-agriculture matrix in the Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica"

August, 2024

Wildlife Crossing

"Identifying wildlife road crossing mitigation sites using a multi-data approach - A case study from southwestern Costa Rica"

June, 2024

New Insight on Neotropical Vulture Relations

"Scouts vs Usurpers- Alternative foraging strategies facilitate coexistence between Neotropical Cathartid Vulture"

April, 2024

Published Papers by Year

2021	2022	2023
6	7	

The Social Life of Osa's Endemic Golfo Dulce Dart Frog

"Home range and notes about social interactions in the poison frog Phyllobates vittatus (Anura: Dendrobatidae)"

April, 2024

Sea Level Rise & Osa's Sea Turtles

"Future sea-level rise impacts to Olive Ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea) and Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia mydas) nesting habitat on the Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica,"

March, 2024

Reconnecting Fragmented Forests

"Increasing Forest Cover and Connectivity Both Inside and Outside of Protected Areas in Southwestern Costa Rica,"

March, 2024

Central America's Climate Lifeboats for Biodiversity

"Mapping climate adaptation corridors for biodiversity—A regional case study in Central America,"

March, 2024

Field Station Profile: Osa Conservation

"Osa Biological Station: Protecting Central America's greatest Pacific lowland rainforest"

January, 2024


WE ARE
OSA
CONSERVATION

CONSERVATION PRACTITIONERS

MEET THE OSA CONSERVATION TEAM

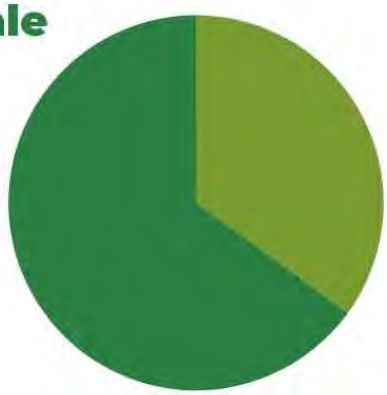
This work is fueled by our team of dedicated conservation practitiononers. We are a team of over 90 employees who live and work in the rainforest to better understand and conserve these singular wild places.

DIVERSITY MAKES US STRONGER

Osa Conservation is an equal opportunity employer which embraces and models diversity, inclusion and equity.

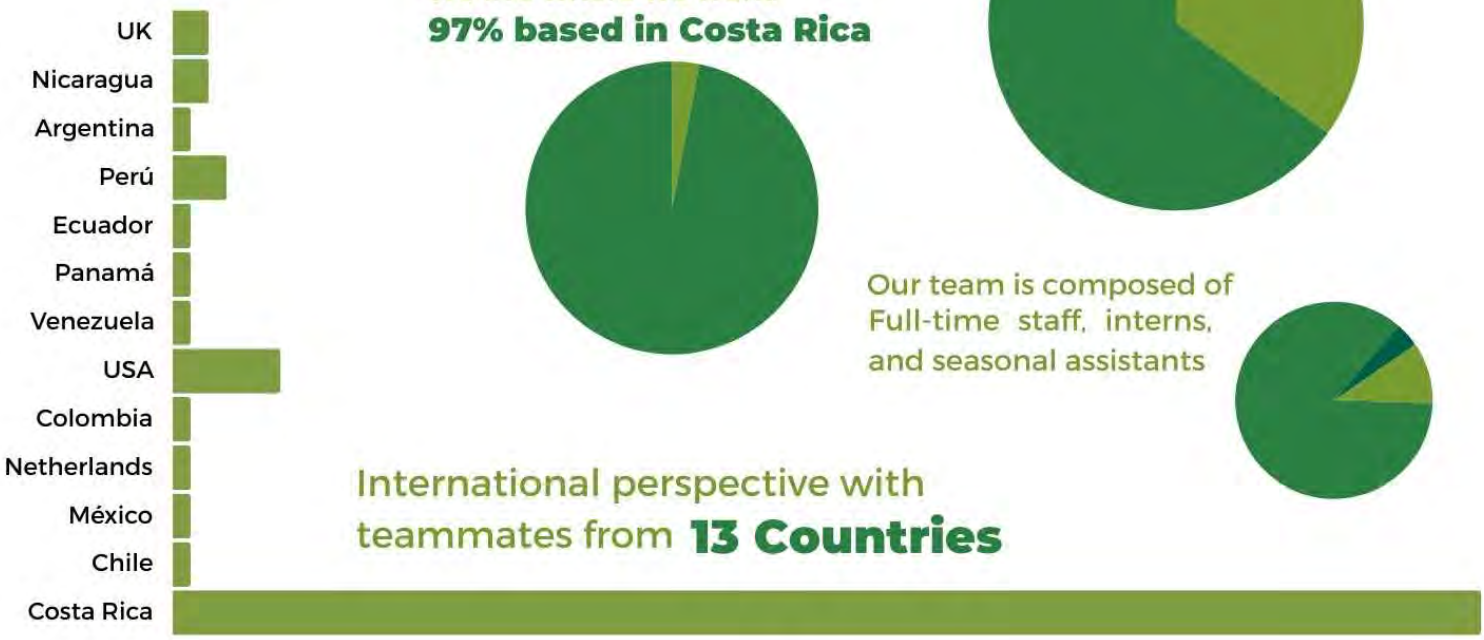
As we pursue our mission, we celebrate and encourage our organization's culture of empowerment and open-mindedness as drivers of our holistic approach to conservation. We are proud to have actively built a community of diverse cultures, backgrounds and experiences that represent our conservation goals.

Diverse leadership that is **65% Female**



We live where we work: **97% based in Costa Rica**

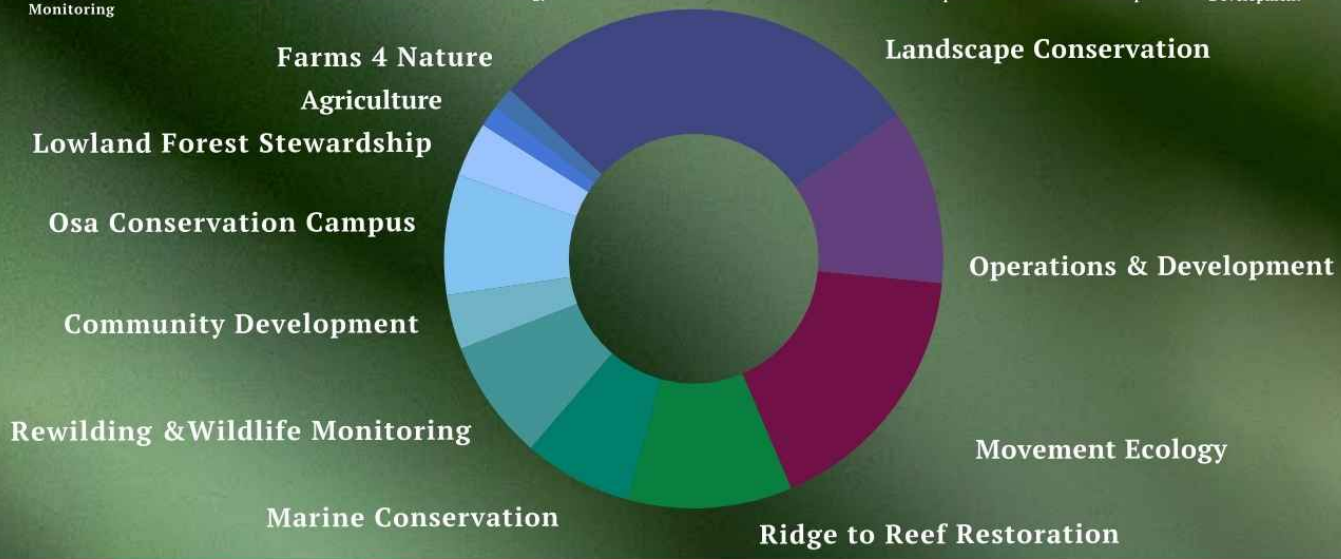
Our team is composed of Full-time staff, interns, and seasonal assistants



International perspective with teammates from **13 Countries**

2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

Agriculture | Rewilding & Wildlife Monitoring | Ridge to Reef Restoration | Marine Conservation | Movement Ecology | Landscape Conservation | Farms for Nature | Community Development | Lowland Forest Stewardship | Operations & Development | Osa Conservation Campus



REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

Land Conservation 1% | Individual Donations 2% | Payment for Ecosystem Services 2% | Sales & Visitors 6%

Foundations, Grants & Major Gifts 89%

REVENUE TOTAL $7,531,807

Science & Conservation 28% | **Community Outreach & Education 22%** | **Operations 11%** | **Landscape Conservation 39%**

EXPENDITURE & COMMITTED TOTAL $7,010,062

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

Land Acquisition, Management & Protection 39%

EXPENDITURE BY MAJOR CATEGORY

SCIENCE & CONSERVATION

- Rewilding & Wildlife 5%
- Marine Conservation 6%
- Movement Ecology 8%
- Restoration 10%

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

- Campus Agriculture 1%
- Community Outreach 4%
- Lowland Forest Stewardship 6%
- Conservation Campus 10%

OPERATIONS

- Operations & Development 11%

THANK YOU

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

Photo credit in order of appearance: Charlie Hamilton James (front cover), Ian Rock, Andy Whitworth, Manuel Sanchez Mendoza, Rose Bull Wood, Laura Palacin, Lucy Kleiner, Yvonne Kemp, Luca Eberle, Christian Peralta, Karla Quispe Ramos, Danixa Peña Villalobos, Rodrigo Benavides, Christian Peralta, Linda Lopez Abuchar, Charlie Hamilton James, Michael Cordoba, Francisco Vega Reyes, Kike Ballesteros, Orane Latour, Marco Hidalgo, Socorro Avila Araya, Rodrigo Flores Dailyn Souder, Carolina Soto Navarro, Arianna Basto, Johan Ortiz, Brandon A. Güell, Tanja Mikolcic, Camila Shannon (back cover)

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