



Conservation in ACTION

In 2012, over 100 children graduated from our brand new [Junior Ranger program](#). Hands-on lessons in local conservation issues culminate with a service project that children lead in their communities.

One such community is the fishing village of Ostional, where a few years ago kids asked our traveling teacher, Julie Martinez, what baby sea turtles looked like. We realized that, due to a 100% poaching rate, no nests had hatched in over a generation.

In 2009, thanks to our incentive payments, Ostional saw its [first turtle hatchlings in over 25 years](#). That same year, several children from Ostional were on hand when we released the [first Hawksbill ever tagged](#) on Nicaragua's Pacific coast.



This past August, at the end of the sea turtle conservation unit, which includes releasing a nesting sea turtle tagged for satellite tracking, kids made sand turtles on the beach. A few of the kids placed stones on their sand turtles' shells and stuck sticks in the sand. When we asked them what they were, they said "satellite transmitters."

In four short years, the community of Ostional has gone from not having seen a baby turtle for an entire generation to a group of kids who take for granted that their turtle neighbors are being tracked by



Team member spotlight

2012 was a big year for Kim Williams-Guillén, our director of conservation science.

In April Kim appeared on G4TV's [Attack of the Show](#) to discuss our [Jaguar Conservation Initiative](#), one of [Petridish.org's](#) inaugural projects. In September, Kim started working for us full time as a visiting scholar at Stanford University.

This year, in addition to continuing our ongoing research, Kim will establish a long-term bat research program in the Paso del Istmo Biological Corridor.

[Donate today](#) to support our bat research and conservation efforts.

ACT NOW!



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Paso Pacífico in the News

As the [Seattle Times](#) reports, "PBS' new documentary series, 'Life on Fire,' examines how humans and animals alike adapt to living near volcanoes," and includes an episode on bats and parakeets living in the crater of Nicaragua's volatile Masaya volcano [where we work](#).

Watch [Phoenix Temple](#) on PBS. See more from [Life on Fire](#).

Partnerships make it possible

This year, we will continue our collaborative efforts to monitor and conserve bat species with [Bat Conservation International](#), and this week we welcome the BCI Board of Directors to Nicaragua for their annual retreat.

The BCI board has been very supportive of our bat education and outreach efforts at [Volcano Masaya National Park](#), including educating park rangers about the bat species who live there. Several BCI scientists have done fieldwork with us, but this will be the first time the board is on the ground in Nicaragua. Our director of conservation science will accompany them to Masaya to help them net bats from among the [three dozen species](#) found in the region where we work.

Junior Rangers earn a badge with each unit they complete.

[Donate \\$25](#) to our program and get your very own sea turtle patch.

IN GRATITUDE

We are grateful to all of our generous donors who helped us in 2012.

Your donations have made it possible for us to put scientists, foresters, teachers, and rangers to work on the ground in Nicaragua.



The jaguar pictured above was captured on camera last month in the Paso del Istmo Biological Corridor, one of the many projects you supported in 2012.

Thank you!

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