



E - N E W S

Edition: July 2013



#### TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Kate Dolkas is the newest California-based member of the Paso Pacífico team. As our conservation associate, Kate will be involved in most of our projects, helping to manage the relationships between her colleagues in Nicaragua and the foundations and donors outside of Nicaragua who help make our work possible. She'll most likely be the one who answers the phone if you call the Ventura office.

The knowledge Kate developed pursuing degrees in bioregional planning and community development, along with her interest in sustainable farming and her passion for the outdoors will be really helpful to our conservation and community empowerment efforts in the Paso del Istmo.

Welcome aboard, Kate. We're glad to have you!

## CONSERVATION IN ACTION

North of the Paso del Istmo in the wooded highlands and misty mountains of Jinotega and Estelí, where people are still recovering from decades of war, we have been pleased to partner with FHI360 and USAID on the [Conservation & Sustainable Tourism Program](#).

In the spirit of FHI360's motto, "the science of improving lives," together we have worked to empower individuals and communities, improve natural resource management, and foster the creation of employment opportunities in and around national parks, private reserves, and other ecologically significant areas.

Paso Pacífico's role in this Program has been to provide biodiversity technical expertise. Our contributions have included cataloging the region's wildlife (the highlight of which was identifying [Nicaragua's 103rd known bat species](#)), creating field guides, and assessing regional biodiversity. Working with farmers, ranchers, tour guides, and communities near priority watersheds, we have conducted workshops to train people in wildfire mitigation, watershed restoration, reforestation, tree nursery development, [meliponiculture](#), and biodiversity monitoring (see photo from our telemetry workshop above). We have also established baseline measures for understanding the impacts of tourism and pollution on area ecosystems.

As this four-year partnership officially comes to an end, we look

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committed eco-tourists. We appreciate the support of FHI360 and the assistance from the U.S. Government and the American people.



## PASO PACÍFICO IN THE NEWS

Our [Guardaparques Junior](#) from Tola made international news last month when they visited Playa Jiquiliste during the ISA World Juniors Surfing Championships. Below, they're pictured with their schoolmate, Jackson Obando, who surfed well for Team Nicaragua.

Watch the [Day 5 Highlights](#) and you'll see the International Surfing Association's president Fernando Aguerre commend them for sharing an important message about ocean conservation.



Turtle Rangers Salvador Sanchez and Jairo Coronado were interviewed live on Nicaragua's Channel 13 (below), as was environmental educator Julie Martinez (not pictured).



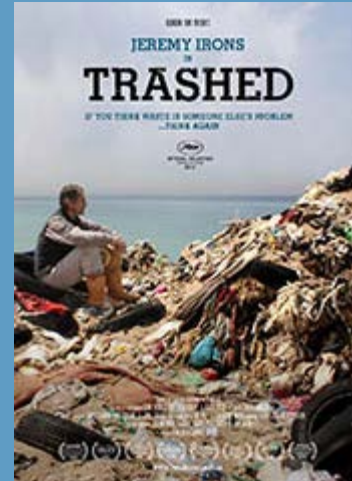
### World Ranger Day

Protect the protectors who form the thin green line.

Observe World Ranger Day with a donation to support our:

- Turtle Rangers
- Forest Rangers
- Reef Rangers
- Junior Rangers

Donate [HERE](#) today!



### Are you in Managua?

Please join us for our second screening of the film *TRASHED*:

**Friday, August 2, 10am**  
Cinemas Galería Santo Domingo

la entrada es totalmente gratis

More information:

- on our [Facebook event page](#)
- on the Paso Pacifico [blog](#)



## PARTNERSHIPS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Thanks to the [Surf Industry Manufacturers Environmental Fund](#), we have expanded our network for coastal conservation. For the second year in a row, we teamed up with ISA and the municipality of Tola to serve as environmental auditors during the event, promote ocean conservation education, and keep the beach litter free.

We were stoked to partner with [Project WOO](#) on the beach clean ups. Thanks to WOO's Bo Fox and the many community volunteers and surfing voluntourists he rallied, we're convinced Playa Jiquiliste was the cleanest beach in the world the week of the tournament. Catch up with WOO, an organization dedicated to community-driven development in Latin American surf travel destinations, on the [Day 7 Highlights](#) (video below).

Next year ISA returns to Nicaragua for the World StandUp Paddle and Paddleboard Championship, which will take place on Lake Nicaragua and in the waves of the Pacific, spanning the [Paso del Istmo](#), where we work.



## IN GRATITUDE

We'd like to thank Parrots International for including us in their annual symposium last month aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach, California.



Paso Pacifico director, Dr. Sarah Otterstrom, was invited to deliver a talk: [Bird by Bird: Lessons in the struggle to protect Nicaragua's Yellow-Naped Amazon parrots.](#)

Thank you, Parrots International and symposium participants, for your contributions to parrot research and conservation.





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