



E - N E W S

Edition: May 2013



**Team member spotlight**

Miguel Bermúdez is a farmer, family man, and entrepreneur dedicated to reforestation.

For the past five years, Miguel has worked to improve his farm for eco-tourism. His tree nursery and reforestation techniques have been so successful that Paso Pacífico has hired him to lead reforestation training workshops and to advise on our watershed restoration project.

Miguel's knowledge of native trees and seeds is helping us improve techniques for growing the threatened Balsam tree, an important product we are focused on recovering in our project with [Man & Nature](#).

On your next visit to Nicaragua, pay a visit to Miguel's eco-lodge and restaurant, [Lomas del Bosque](#), in the community of Las Parcelas.

## Conservation in ACTION

Committed to biodiversity conservation, Paso Pacífico conducts a wide range of research to identify and understand the flora and fauna of the [Paso del Istmo](#). We consider different elements of wildlife across the landscape: birds, bats, bugs, and herps (amphibians and reptiles).

Herpetology is important to our mission, because amphibians, especially, are sensitive to environmental change. In addition to the sea turtles we've protected since our inception, we are currently studying three other herp species: the robber frog, the spiny-tailed iguana, and the Neotropical wood turtle.

Now that we know the endangered Robber frog's range includes the Paso del Istmo (a recent discovery), we will map their habitat and assess the impacts of the Chytrid fungus infection on their populations. To ensure healthy habitat for the Robber frog (*Craugastor*) Paso Pacífico's rangers are cooperating with landowners to improve stream protection and conducting stream monitoring with [Junior Rangers](#).

Another species on our herp list is the [Five-keeled Spiny-tailed iguana \(\*Ctenosaura quinquecarinata\*\)](#). Endangered and endemic to Nicaragua's dry forests, this semi-arboreal species relies on tree cavities for nesting. In addition to facing habitat loss, Chola Chata iguanas (as they're locally known) are mistakenly considered venomous and are sometimes killed in a misguided effort to protect cattle. Not only will we expand our existing reforestation efforts with iguana habitat in mind, we will include iguana education in our environmental outreach efforts.

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Next month, Kim Williams-Guillén will assemble her crack team of field herpetologists, including the esteemed iguana expert Cesar Otero Ortuño, to understand these animals who, in turn, will help us understand Nicaragua's forests and watersheds.

Funding for these projects comes from the International Iguana Foundation ([IIF](#), the [Turtle Conservancy](#), and [Wildlife Without Borders: Working with people to conserve nature](#).

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## Paso Pacífico in the News

Last month, we observed Earth Day with a community clean-up of Managua's [Laguna de Tiscapa](#). Joining us were partners and sponsors [FONARE](#), [Recicla Nica](#), [Comite Ballena Azul](#), [Casco Safety](#), [Café Las Flores](#), and [Proyecto Tesón](#).



Thanks to 88 volunteers and with assistance from the Nicaraguan army, we cleaned up 18 cubic meters of trash from 750 meters of shore along Laguna de Tiscapa.

This effort was a great way to wrap a year of concentrated efforts to educate Nicaraguans about better water supply and solid waste management.

### **La Prensa Coverage**

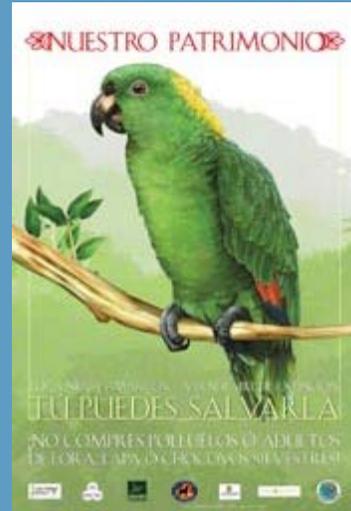
[Photo](#)

[Video](#)

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## Partnerships make it possible

Recent years have seen an influx of Painted wood turtles on the U.S. Market. Related to three other species of wood turtles considered Near Threatened, the Painted wood turtle (*Rhinoclemmys pulcherrima manni*) has not been assessed by the [IUCN Red List](#).



May 22nd is the International Day for Biological Diversity. Help us protect endangered species who live in the Paso del Istmo.

[Save Sea Turtles](#)

[Protect Yellow-naped Parrots](#)

[Provide Habitat for Monkeys](#)

[Donate today!](#)

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## IN GRATITUDE



Dick and Nancy Noble are passionate about the connections between human health and the environment.

Last month they traveled to Nicaragua to observe Paso Pacífico programs with their children and grandchildren. During their visit, the Nobles donated medicine, medical equipment, and other supplies to the health centers in the Paso del Istmo. Back home in Oregon, they continue their communication with Paso Pacífico and the Ministry of



Working with the [Turtle Conservancy](#), we are studying Central American wood turtles, native to the dense tropical forested areas of Nicaragua. Our goal is to determine the viability of local populations and to gauge the sustainability of the turtle trade, especially in the face of increasingly fragmented habitat.



TURTLE CONSERVANCY



[Read more](#) about our joint effort to understand how the international trade is affecting turtle populations.

Health (MINSA) to find more ways to support local families.



We are grateful to the entire Noble family for their commitment to promoting the health and resiliency of communities and landscapes.

[Mission](#) | [Website](#) | [Partners](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

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Carretera a Masaya Km 12.4 • Residencial Villas del Prado, Casa No. 7 • Managua, Nicaragua

Phone: +505-2279-8423 or +505-2279-7072

USA: PO Box 1244 • Ventura, CA 93002-1244 • Phone: 1-805-643-7044

