

PASO PACÍFICO

MAKING CONNECTIONS FOR CONSERVATION

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Founded in 2005, Paso Pacífico's mission is to restore and conserve the natural ecosystems of Central America's Pacific slope by collaborating with landowners, local communities and involved organizations to promote ecosystem conservation.

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Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for your support over this past year. While our conservation programs saw some great successes in 2016, we also experienced setbacks due to the extreme drought related to El Niño. We were thrilled to release more than 3000 endangered green and hawksbill sea turtles into the ocean despite the heat-related destruction of many nests. At the same time, we were proud to celebrate our eighth year protecting the black-handed spider monkey, which has seen a 70% increase in population since we started working with them. Nevertheless, we were devastated to watch as dozens of howler monkeys began appearing dead during the peak of the drought, and so we mobilized an international coalition of veterinarians and scientists to address the crisis. When the rains finally began midway through the year, we all breathed a sigh of relief and watched in the subsequent months as thousands of our recently-planted native tree seedlings sprang back to life.

It is almost impossible to reflect on our impact for wildlife conservation without thinking about the local communities and the central role that they play. The wildlife in the forest and beaches in the Paso del Istmo are better protected and more resilient to climate change thanks to our forest rangers and our team of sea turtle rangers, which now includes six women. We have also seen that young people can lead and ignite a movement. When the howler monkeys began to die off, the Junior Rangers from our education program organized an emergency response and placed water and food stations in trees near to howler monkey troops. In addition, the trees in our reforestation program bounced back thanks to the dozens of farmers who augmented the rainfall by watering the seedlings and bringing them back to health. Our community partners are vital to our efforts and we are grateful for their input and hard work in 2016.

We hope that you will enjoy our annual report and that it will stimulate a personal reflection about the relationship between people and conservation. Although humans may not have a good track record with conservation, we will think with optimism and take actions founded on hope and trust. Together with people from around the world, we will continue to build wildlife corridors large and small and learn to live together with nature. Thank you for your support this past year and for all you do for conservation.

Gratefully,



Sarah Otterstrom
Executive Director



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WHY INVESTING IN PEOPLE IS GOOD FOR CONSERVATION

People and nature can and must thrive together. Here are three reasons why our investments in people lead to high-impact conservation.

- When communities develop empathy towards wildlife, they are more willing to change their behaviors in order to protect species and habitats. We have seen this through the children in our Junior Ranger program, as these youth now are the fiercest advocates for wildlife conservation.
- When basic needs are met, people can look beyond their families towards improving their communities and the environment. Over sixty percent of people in the Paso del Istmo biological corridor live in conditions of poverty. We work with partners to ensure that basic needs are met, and we also focus on capacity-building and job creation in conservation, sustainable tourism, agroforestry and sustainable fisheries.
- While Paso Pacifico approaches its conservation corridors with a long-term commitment, it is ultimately the local people, communities and governments that will remain to care for the wildlife and habitat. Our programs merely act as a catalyst to bring about more permanent change for conservation.

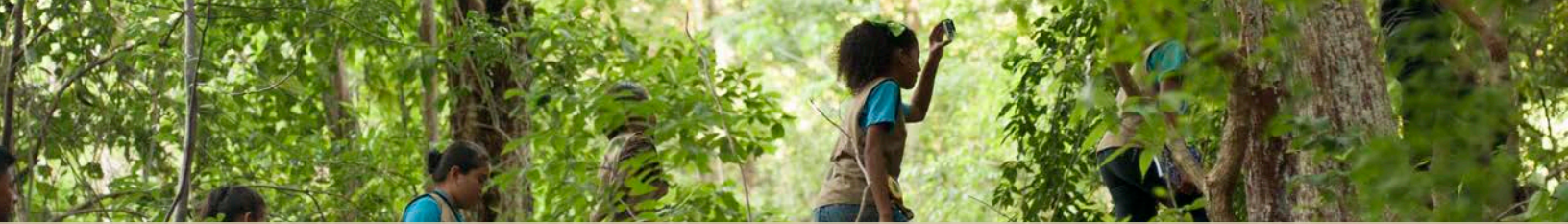


OUR UNSEEN WORK: PROYECTO NOBLE

Proyecto Noble—Salud y Educación began in 2014 under the leadership and sponsorship of Dick and Nancy Noble. Each school year, outreach manager Henningston Hodgson meets with the ministries of education and health to determine the greatest needs of the schools and rural health centers in the regions where Paso Pacifico's conservation programs work. We then prepare donations that complement government distributions. These donations ensure that all students have sufficient materials to attend school and rural clinics have life-saving medicines available to treat patients. Our efforts also make sure that students have access to clean water through water filters at the schools. Through Proyecto Noble, we now reach seven health clinics and more than 1500 children! We are grateful to the American Nicaraguan Foundation for making possible many in-kind donations, including books, teaching materials, food and nutritional supplements.

Left to right: Nancy Noble, a local teacher, Dick Noble, and Henningston Hodgson.





WOMEN AS STEWARDS: A CONSERVATION PRIORITY

Since we started in 2005, Paso Pacífico has recognized the potential of women in local communities to take the reins and make a strong impact for conservation. Here are some of the ways we work to empower women to help heal Mother Earth.



TEACH GIRLS FROM THE START

More than half of the children in our Junior Ranger program are girls. In 2016, seventy-five girls participated in and graduated from the program. During the yearlong curriculum, these girls learned about wildlife and forests. They had fun doing nature-themed art projects, going on field trips, and engaging in beach clean-ups and reforestation efforts. These girls are gaining confidence in their knowledge of the natural world and ability to lead in their communities.

SUPPORT WOMEN-LED INNOVATION

Eighteen women fishers have joined together to form an oyster cooperative focused on growing and harvesting native oysters. These women are working to improve on their traditional oyster collecting activities by setting up long lines that will grow thousands of oysters at a time. These women will help protect the ocean while also supporting their families.



EQUIP NICARAGUA'S FIRST TEAM OF FEMALE RANGERS

Six women form the country's first team of female rangers. These women work day in and day out to manage two sea turtle hatcheries and support our environmental education program. We have seen a radical transformation in their level of confidence and are proud to have them on the front lines of conservation.



EMPOWER FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

Over twelve women-owned small tourism businesses are benefiting from training provided by Paso Pacifico through support from the IDB Multilateral Investment Fund. From business and marketing plans to hospitality training, these women are building skills and preparing for greater prosperity through sustainable tourism in their communities.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE FROM THE TOP

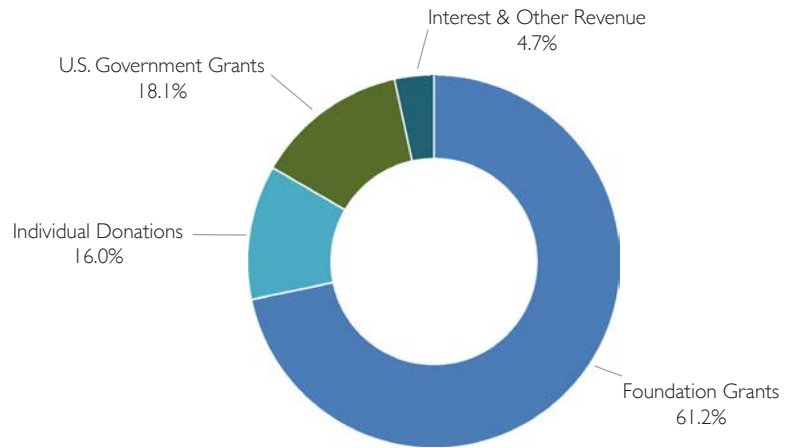
Liza González is Paso Pacifico's country director. She is of the few female conservation leaders at NGOs in the region. She made history in Nicaragua as the country's first director of protected areas, and is now blazing another trail through her leadership at Paso Pacifico. For over a decade, she has led Paso Pacifico's conservation programs in Nicaragua. She currently manages six field programs and over thirty team members.



2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

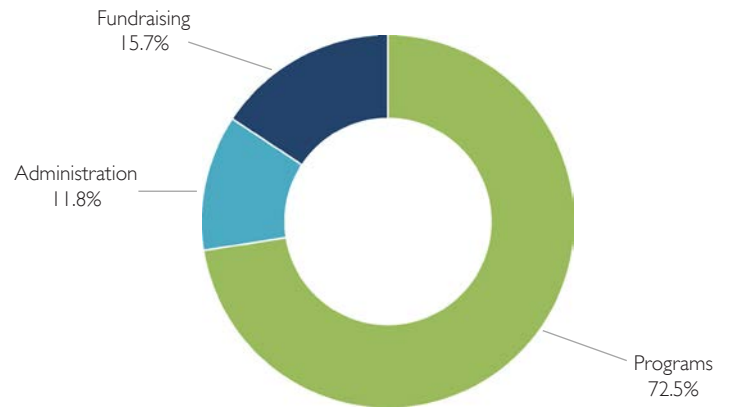
Annual Support & Revenue

Foundation Grants	\$504,075
Individual Donations	\$131,353
U.S. Government Grants	\$148,918
Interest & Other Revenue	\$38,400
Total	\$822,746



Annual Expenses

Program	\$820,296
Administrative	\$133,009
Fundraising	\$177,860
Total	\$1,131,165



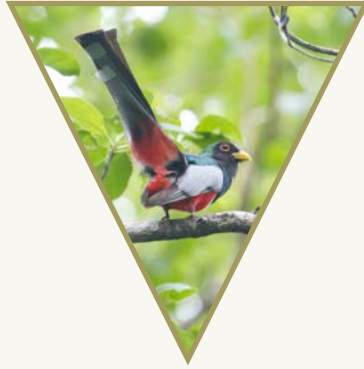
THANK YOU! ¡GRACIAS!



HIGHLIGHTS
2016

3939 birds,
163 species

observed at the Christmas Bird Count



120

acres of dry forest newly
protected in the Paso del Istmo



300+

times our rangers observed the
black-handed spider monkey



3,256

sea turtle hatchlings released
thanks to our protection



21,620

native trees planted

144

Junior Rangers newly graduated in the
Paso del Istmo and El Carmen



16

number of yellow-naped Amazon
parrot chicks successfully fledged

PASO PACÍFICO ATTENDS WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

At the close of 2015, Paso Pacífico was honored to be accepted as a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. We then received the opportunity to be featured speakers at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress! More than ten thousand people attended the 2016 session of this congress, which is held every four years and helps decide worldwide conservation initiatives by the IUCN and its partners.

Executive director Sarah Otterstrom presented with USAID's Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge and shared about our sea turtle conservation efforts in Nicaragua and a new ground-breaking technology developed by Paso Pacífico. Invented by our Director of Conservation Science, Kim Willams-Guillén, this technology is a 3D-printed artificial sea turtle egg that can track poachers. This decoy egg was a Prize Winner in the Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge! We look forward to sharing updates about this exciting conservation tool in the future.

Executive director Sarah Otterstrom, second from left, stands with other Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge winners at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress.



IN SPECIAL GRATITUDE

Bill and Elaine Hurd have been generous donors to Paso Pacífico since we were founded in 2005. They came to know our executive director, Sarah Otterstrom, through their leadership at a pet rescue organization and they developed interest in Paso Pacífico's wildlife conservation efforts.

We were deeply saddened by the loss of Bill in 2016. Bill was passionate about nature and science throughout his career. In 1967, he began a distinguished forty-year career in the Deep Space Network at Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California. He was the recipient of the NASA Exceptional Service Medal for Technical and Managerial Leadership and the JPL Award for Exceptional Technical Excellence. He was the Principal System Architect in the Interplanetary Network Directorate, conducted research in Deep Space Communications and Global Position Systems, and was the Deputy Manager of the Communications Ground Systems Section. In retirement, Bill served as a JPL Solar System Ambassador.

We are proud to have known such an accomplished and good-hearted person, who was clearly an integral part of his community. We were incredibly touched that Elaine requested donations to honor Bill be given to Paso Pacífico. We miss him, but feel his presence as we carry out our work.

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* multiple donations

** monthly & quarterly donors

† staff

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2016 member:



We are grateful to the organizations, foundations, and businesses
that generously supported Paso Pacífico in 2016.

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- Conservation, Food and Health Foundation, Inc.
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- Inter-American Development Bank—
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- Karl and Alice Ruppenthal Foundation for the Arts
- Loro Parque Fundación
- Loyal Bigelow and Jedediah Dewey Foundation
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- Surf Industry Manufacturers Association—
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- Turtle Island Restoration Network
- U.S. Embassy, Nicaragua
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Amphibians in Decline
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- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Neotropical Migratory Bird
Conservation Act
- U.S. Forest Service—International Institute for Tropical
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- U.S. Agency of International Development
- Waitt Foundation
- Woodtiger Fund