



Osa Conservation  
**Conservation Continues**

2020 Annual Report



A letter from

# Dr. Andrew Whitworth

Executive Director, Osa Conservation

This year brought unprecedented circumstances, but one thing is certain: *conservation continues* on Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula thanks to the dedicated support of our local and international communities. Now more than ever, we must conserve Earth's biodiversity and build strong human-wildlife connections.

The Osa Conservation Biological Station remains the heart of our conservation efforts. Before the pandemic required us to shut our doors to visitors, we welcomed 250 guests to celebrate conservation work across Osa and honor Alvaro Ugalde, the father of Costa Rica's National Park Service. Guests from around the world enjoyed cultural performances, guided hikes, educational activities, and a festive atmosphere designed to inspire the next generation of conservationists.

We also hosted our first *National Geographic* Photo Camp, which a team of brought professional photographers to Osa Conservation's campus to train Costa Rican students on wildlife photography and conservation storytelling.

This year, we reimagined to engage with our audience. We partnered with virtual classrooms around the world, including *National Geographic*, to host live virtual events touring our biological station, demonstrating our restoration & rewilding projects, and teaching from the rainforest canopy – I especially enjoyed broadcasting live from the treetops to 8,000+ students around the world.

We also launched our Ridge to Reef Initiative, a comprehensive expansion to best conserve and restore the biological corridor connecting the highland mountains, the lowland forests, and the tropical sea.

Protecting and restoring habitat connectivity among these regions will allow wildlife populations to move between protected areas and migrate upslope as climate changes. As we engage communities along the corridor, we build a network of conservation supporters and aim to further understand community dynamics that will support rewilding of Costa Rica's emblematic megafauna such as the Harpy Eagle, White-lipped Peccary, and Giant Anteater.

The Ridge to Reef Initiative demonstrates the regional expansion of our work, stretching beyond the Osa Peninsula, across numerous protected areas and national parks all the way up to the mountains of La Amistad International Park. We are excited to continue seeing our impact and achievements grow.

In the spirit of our exciting new Ridge to Reef expansion, I am honored to provide this overview of our accomplishments, from the ridges of the Talamanca Mountains to the coral reefs of the Golfo Dulce.

We hope you will join and support us as we convert our big plans to reality.

Sincerely,



# Just this year ...

58,968

biodiversity observations  
from citizen scientists  
across local communities

18,000

native, rare, and endemic  
trees planted

13,905

sea turtle babies  
protected and released



1,800

trees planted along  
rivers to create clean  
and healthy freshwater

1,300

corals raised to  
strengthen the coral  
reefs of the Golfo Dulce

316

wildlife monitoring  
devices deployed from  
Ridge to Reef

# CONSERVATION CONTINUES

**F**ROM RIDGE TO REEF Osa Conservation executed the largest altitudinal monitoring survey in Central America. The 190 km. transect stretched from the Talamanca Mountains to the Osa Peninsula and collected data from 234 camera traps, 41 acoustic devices and 41 temperature loggers deployed at altitudes ranging from 0 to 2,900 meters across numerous protected areas. This creates a valuable baseline of information to understand conservation impact as we begin restoring the landscape.

Through a series of remote expeditions, our Botanic Program recorded the first observation of the endangered *Styphnolobium sporadicum* tree and the critically endangered *Pleodendron costaricense* tree, a living dinosaur of which only five other individuals are known to exist in the world. After months of botanical experiments at our native tree nursery at Osa Conservation's biological station, we are now growing nearly 60 *Pleodendron costaricense* seedlings marking the first time this tree has been propagated by people.

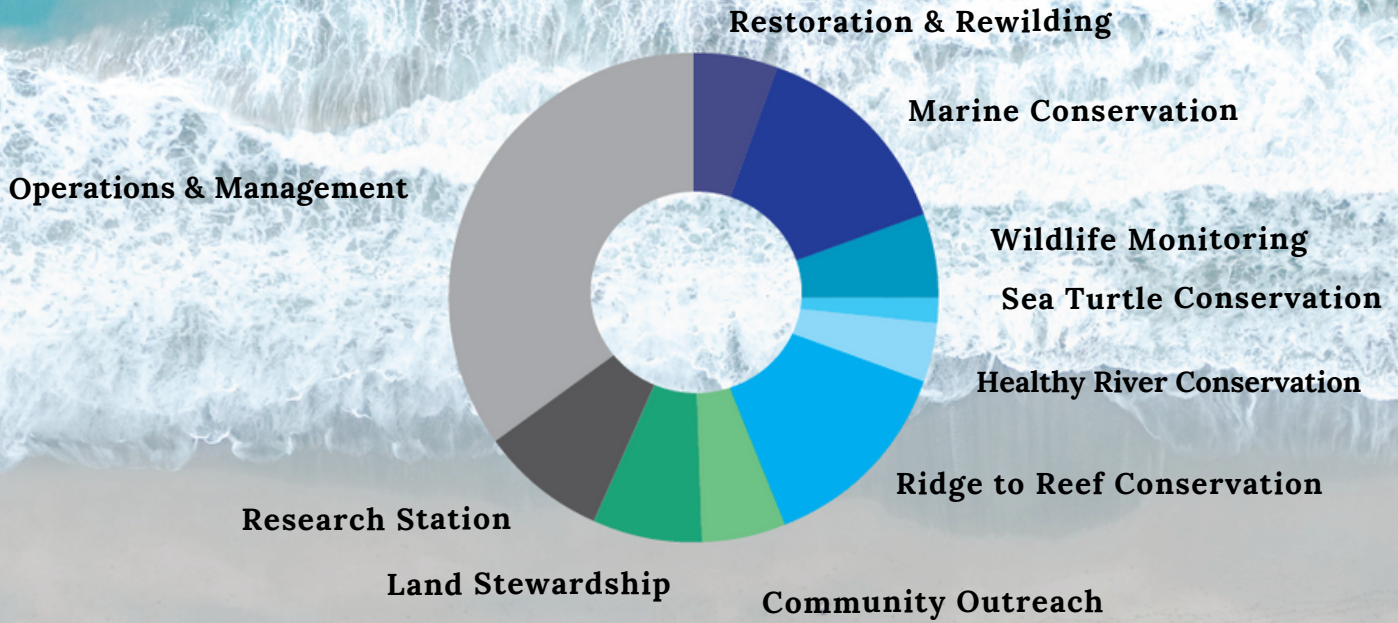
Our Marine Program worked alongside *National Geographic Pristine Seas*, published three comprehensive studies and debuted our artisanal fisher documentary, all to foster support among the local communities surrounding the Golfo Dulce. The program partnered with 65 NGOs and local organizations to oppose legislation to commercial trawling, a process instrumental to the eventual veto by Costa Rican president Carlos Alvarado Quesada.



In the face of COVID-19, Osa Conservation led an initiative with our mangrove restoration partners to provide disaster relief packages to over 200 residents across southern Costa Rica. To help provide employment during the pandemic, we created 30 jobs for residents to restore mangroves in T rraba-Sierpe National Wetlands. We also utilized innovative technology to monitor neighboring communities for illegal environmental activity. Expanding the capacity for monitoring and surveillance helped authorities detain over a dozen people for illegal hunting and resource extraction. While these may not be typical activities associated with conservation, they are vital to local communities, and we are extremely proud of our team's work in this respect with our neighbors.



# 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT



## REVENUE & EXPENSES



## EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAM



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Together, we protect the region where rainforest meets sea.

## Photography Credit

### Page One

From top left to bottom right:  
Kike Ballesteros, National Geographic Pristine Seas  
Dr. Andrew Whitworth, Osa Conservation  
Lucy Kleiner, Osa Conservation  
Lucy Kleiner, Osa Conservation  
Federico Pardo, National Geographic  
Photography Camp  
Dr. Andrew Whitworth, Osa Conservation  
Dr. Chris Beirne & Dr. Andrew Whitworth,  
Osa Conservation

### Page Two

Dr. Andrew Whitworth, Osa Conservation

### Page Three

Dr. Chris Beirne & Dr. Andrew Whitworth,  
Osa Conservation

### Page Four

From top to bottom:  
Kike Ballesteros, National Geographic Pristine Seas  
Dr. Andrew Whitworth, Osa Conservation  
Lucy Kleiner, Osa Conservation

### Page Five

Bryan Rhynes

### Page Six

Federico Pardo, National Geographic Photo Camp

