

**Our Response:**  
reforestation  
agroecology  
resilient communities

para la  
Naturaleza

\*  
**Cañón San Cristóbal**  
*Barranquitas, Puerto Rico*



Dear friends,

During this second year of recovery and reconstruction we are finally seeing signs of advancement and hope. Yet, the work is far from finished and the challenges unremitting. Building resiliency and becoming stronger in order to face these new threats is at the top of our agenda. Having nature at our side during catastrophic events, providing safety, clean water, healthy food and nurturing our emotions seems to have reached a high-ranking priority for many of us who have experienced an islandwide devastation.

Last year it became clear that doing the same was not an option. Going back to business as usual would have been the worst mistake we could have made.

This year marks the end of five decades of commitment to the protection of nature and culture, compounded with strong educational programs and numerous volunteer corps that showed us different forms in which ecosystems and historic sites provide benefits for the islands of Puerto Rico.

The next five decades require even more drastic transformations as the time to make changes and reverse damages continues to shorten. It is now evident that our mission is rapidly changing.

Our response for the decades ahead needs to start now. This year we formulated and started executing our three prong response: reforestation, agroecology and resilient communities. Reforestation is certainly the best action to handle climate disasters, agroecology our direct line to health, and resilient communities our only path to regain an ecological culture and achieve real and long-lasting well-being.

Thanks to our highly committed staff for their exemplary stamina, our dedicated volunteers, and our generous donors. We have achieved so much in times of hardship.

What we have undergone is extreme, and yet we somehow know that we are only getting ready for more changes ahead.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Fernando Lloveras San Miguel.

Fernando Lloveras San Miguel  
President



\*  
Hacienda Buena Vista  
Ponce, Puerto Rico

## Our response: reforestation

Habitat, our reforestation unit, has been drawing in volunteers from all ages, backgrounds and places from around the world; each gifting their time and effort to this important cause and granting Puerto Rico with the necessary collaboration towards reaching the over-all goal of having our forests and biodiversity flourish once again.

These prompt reforestation efforts accelerated development of forest structure, canopy, and species composition, while providing benefits for wildlife habitat, clean water production, soil productivity through soil erosion reduction, as well as new recreational and educational opportunities. Additionally, reforestation addresses emerging issues associated with climate change by conserving genetic diversity, and sequestering carbon to counter greenhouse gas emissions.

After fully recovering and expanding our tree nurseries, a total of 105,758 trees were produced and 36,133 trees were planted throughout 2019 in urban and suburban spaces, by employees and the incredible volunteer force of Para la Naturaleza. Surmounting the difficulties of finding and collecting seeds after a full forest devastation, germinating and nurturing seedlings in our nurseries, while preparing and enhancing host spaces for trees to grow were hard tasks successfully achieved by our staff and volunteers.

Reforestation efforts gathered over 5,500 individuals throughout the year, committed to this indispensable cause. Willy Ferrer Irizarry, Field Assistant in the South Region, says it best while remarking on his experience with volunteers:

*“What I find incredible is not only the fact that they visit our island to dedicate volunteer time to our project—with the care that they do—and we all know how hard it can be with our climate. To them, planting trees was one of the ways they were contributing their grain of sand to reverse the impact of hurricane María, which devastated a large number of trees. I think this is an excellent example that when there is empathy and will- hope can be restored, and that small acts can have huge results.”*

The massive defoliation due to aggressive hurricanes Irma and María in 2017, unearthed many native and endemic species that had been surmounted by other invasive ones; in a way opening a new chapter in our forest succession.

Other areas, more severely impacted by our human activities called for direct intervention. It was time to recover lands needed to provide additional protection and buffer zones to our water bodies. Daniel Montenegro, Reforestation and Volunteer Official of the Metro Central

Region, shares his experience while remembering how he felt after hurricane María's destruction in Cañón San Cristóbal:

*“We were no longer just walking in the woods, after the hurricane we moved to being active players within the ecosystem. With our faithful truck, humble tarp, and cooler with snacks, we received corporate groups, international and local volunteers, immersion workshops, friends, headquarters’ groups, and even the visit of the great Frank Wadsworth to our nursery. This is how we planted in 2018 and 2019 -without machinery and by hand: the ideal speed to develop our Reforestation Plan. We observed what planting methods and species worked, we integrated our citizen botanists, and learned from this new interaction with the natural protected area. Habitat represented that courage to submerge into a worn and ploughed-out land, in order to transform it -by pickaxe, shovel and community- into a sanctuary of native flora and fauna.”*

Para la Naturaleza's reforestation initiatives during 2019 also included the preservation of marine and coastal ecosystems, fortifying our defenses and natural barriers to affront climatic events. Some of these initiatives were conducted in collaboration with partners in our mission, including: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Yo Amo al Tinglar, Coalición Restauración Ecosistemas Santurcinos (C.E.S PR), Arrecifes Pro-Cuidad, Mariott Hotel,



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**Jamaican fruit bat**  
*Artibeus jamaicensis*

Casa Verde of Maunabo, Amigos de Tortugas Marinas (ATMAR), Vida Marina, among many others.

The need to recover our forests touched many lives through the simple observation of many species searching for food and shelter. The empathy of citizens towards other species was very inspirational.

*“As they shared their stories [after the hurricane], they showed me pictures of the bats at the table feeding on all the fruit; as close to people as I had ever seen them. This was the reason that led these people to our nursery in search of trees, they were looking for species whose fruit would serve as food for the bats, they were looking to ensure sustenance for the wildlife! This began the formation of a beautiful relationship. We held educational talks about the importance of trees, and community plantings were carried out. This was a real shock to me, because it is exciting to know that there are people dedicating time and effort, not thinking of their own benefit but, thinking that this will benefit other organisms. I feel extremely grateful to be able to be part of the process of adding greenery to our islands, and to be promoting the continuity of our natural resources. It is exciting to see our trees grow and be a base and refuge for native biodiversity.”*

Erik Ruiz Parrilla,  
Reforestation Leader of the East Region



**36,133**  
trees planted

**105,758**  
trees produced

**5,500 +**  
volunteers in  
reforestation  
efforts

\*  
**8,153**  
participations  
\*  
**32,329.5**  
hours

**55**  
Citizen  
Botanists

\*  
**665**  
participations  
\*  
**3,155.25**  
hours

**17,068**  
trees delivered  
via sales or  
donations

\* Habitat closing annual 2019 report



\*  
Cotorra puertorriqueña  
*Amazona vittata*

## Supporting the *Amazona Vittata* recovery program

The Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*) Recovery Program (PRPA) suffered a significant setback in September of 2017 when hurricanes Irma and María impacted Puerto Rico. The hurricanes and their effects on our islands delayed ongoing recovery efforts, affecting the program's facilities and aviaries (Río Abajo, Maricao, and El Yunque), the sites' captive breeding capabilities, and the species' population in the wild. The damage also caused a complete shutdown of the parrot release site at the Maricao State Forest, delaying the establishment of the PRPA's third wild population -an effort which had just started a year prior to the hurricanes.

The repair to these facilities is critical to the recovery efforts for the species, supporting captive and wild populations of the Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*), an endemic species on the brink of extinction. The opportunity to rehabilitate and harden existing facilities was granted to Para la Naturaleza by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, a great recognition by a long standing partner. The \$8.8 million grant to advance the resiliency of the Puerto Rican Parrot infrastructure represents the largest amount of federal funds

received by the Conservation Trust and Para la Naturaleza for one single project in all of its five decades of history.

The recovery of this endemic species has been of special interest to our organization. Starting in the 1990s, the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico contributed with the original design plans for the construction of the aviary in Río Abajo. Our organization also contributed with a \$100,000 donation to the construction of the aviary in El Yunque, and in 2007, developed an interactive training program, which included educational guides focused on the conservation of the Puerto Rican Parrot and its habitat for educators and members of the community.

This project would be a continuation of long-term and on-going conservation partnerships to support the establishment, recovery, and enhancement of populations of endangered and threatened species of concern. Para la Naturaleza's prior contributions to the Puerto Rican Parrot (*Amazona vittata*) Recovery Program will facilitate and ensure an efficient project completion, and a continued commitment to the recovery of one of our most symbolic species.

## A breakthrough in new sources of funding: new market tax credits

Para la Naturaleza entered into a New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) transaction totaling \$10 million as a Qualified Active Low-Income Community Business (QALICB) last April 2019, that generated approximately \$1.6 million in net revenues.

Congress created NMTC in 2000 as a federal financial program aimed towards the stimulation of private investment in low-income communities by providing financial resources for projects that may have otherwise been considered economically infeasible.

This program is relatively new to our jurisdiction and has only been applied to a limited number of capital investments, mostly construction projects. Para la Naturaleza obtained this source of funding to support its ongoing operations and services on behalf of qualified low income communities. Para la Naturaleza's

achievement in entering this difficult market is recognized for being one of the first and few allocations granted to Puerto Rico in this segment.

The work to obtain the NMTC involved a highly detailed and complicated process in conjunction to a series of financial internal structures, for which Para la Naturaleza received external consultation. As required, the organization applied for the allocation of funds focused on operations directed toward community development through ecotourism and educational programs and services.

The experience gained with the use of NMTC for community development programs opens up the road to new transactions in the future. A subsequent projected phase for NMTC will be for complex construction projects, such as the restoration of the Antiguo Acueducto del río Piedras (The San Juan Aqueduct).



\*  
La Robleđa  
Cayey, Puerto Rico

Opportunities  
advancing  
through the  
new market tax  
credits program  
include:

**35**

full-time  
equivalent  
(FTE) jobs  
created  
(net)

**34**

micro-grants  
to small  
agroecological  
farmers

**200 +**

farmers positively  
impacted by  
trainings focused  
on regenerative  
agriculture

**147**

children enrolled in  
Summer Immersion  
Programs, of which  
**08** sessions  
were served

**13,401**

active  
participants in  
the eBird App;  
aiding in the  
identifying of bird  
counts

**20 +**

hours average in  
training programs  
tailored to individual  
positions and  
departments for  
Para la Naturaleza  
employees'  
professional  
development

**4,200**

fruit trees  
propagated to be  
distributed among  
**100** farmers

**15**

community  
kitchens,  
connecting  
multiple  
community  
groups with  
local food  
sources and  
our natural  
protected  
areas, while  
learning about  
sustainable  
agriculture

**40**

youths enrolled  
in the Summer  
Nature Immersion-  
Urban program

**7,392**

volunteer  
workforce

**04**

main open  
events; receiving

**8,868**

neighboring  
community residents  
that benefited  
from purchasing  
fresh food at the  
Farmers' Markets,  
which included the  
participation of

**19** local vendors

**22** <sup>out</sup><sub>of 30</sub>

centers managed  
by community-  
based nonprofit  
organizations  
provided with solar  
panels and water  
filtration systems

**546**

individuals  
downloaded the  
Habitat phone  
App; educating on  
tree planting and  
monitoring  
progress

**36**

Ecotours:  
**52** local; **260**  
visitors

**35,492**

acres increase in  
land ownership  
[from 32,000 in 2018]





\*  
Finca Pueblo Nuevo  
Ciales, Puerto Rico

## Partners for health: agroecological farmers

According to the Department of Agriculture, prior to hurricanes Irma and María, Puerto Rico imported approximately 85% of its food supply, arriving from 56 different countries, with the US as the prime supplier with 56% of the imports. The severity of the storms of 2018 wiped out entire farms, causing the reliance on food importation to increase even further in 2019.

The current food system in Puerto Rico is highly dependent on fossil fuels. Not only does this scenario contribute to the global climate crisis, but in 2019 presented a clear example of the dangers extreme weather events can cause in food price volatility and availability, affecting both consumers and producers for long periods, resulting in a dire situation of general food scarcity for entire communities throughout the islands.

As a result, Para la Naturaleza took it to task to work with agroecological farmers and provided economic support during the harsh times to boost local production, as it is the only viable sustainable solution to develop alimentary autonomy. The agroecological movement promotes values that incorporate the

conservation of nature as the basis of its production model through the inclusion of ecological knowledge in agricultural practices. Scientists have defined agroecology as 'the ecology of the food systems,' for agroecology strengthens the sustainability of all components of the food system, from the soil, to the seed, to the table, while promoting economic viability and social equity. In addition, there is growing evidence that agroecological farming systems keep carbon in the ground, support biodiversity, rebuild soils, and sustain yields, providing a basis for secure livelihoods -critical in Puerto Rico.

In 2019, 34 farmers were provided with micro-grants (ranging from \$1,000-\$4,500), totaling \$94,050 to recover production and distribution at the local levels. The funds granted were invested towards: water catchment, irrigation systems, solar panels and batteries, construction materials for farms, storage areas for plant nurseries, cleaning and packing areas, materials to produce compost, handheld tractors, fencing and operational costs, among other necessities in order to maintain farmers focused on what they do best -grow food.

## Carmen Báez and PRxPR: a true force for communities and nature

Carmen Báez has been a member of Para la Naturaleza's Advisory Board since 2014 and Vice-Chair since 2016. As former Chief Executive of a global advertising agency, Carmen joined the organization with wealth of knowledge and great passion towards supporting Puerto Rico. After hurricane María hit Puerto Rico, her sense of duty erupted and she became a true force of nature creating PRxPR from the ground up - a private, charitable fund, with zero overhead, to aid in the recovery and rebuilding of Puerto Rico. From this renewed sense of urgency to act, a new partnership between Para la Naturaleza and PRxPR was born, and in only four years, they have become one of our most caring and active allies in community projects.

We recently sat down with Carmen to learn about the journey shared:



**PLN:** Carmen, what is the origin of PRxPR? How did it come to be?

**CB:** *I was in New York watching the news when hurricane María hit Puerto Rico, and as I watched the reports, I lost all communications with my family on the island. Right then and there, I realized that something big was taking place. I began to feel a sense of helplessness. I felt as if I could not contribute. So, I picked up my phone and called a couple of close friends and told them, "We have to do something." Then we spoke about an idea that I just had: Puerto Ricans in the United States helping Puerto Rico, and that is how PRxPR started.*

**PLN:** Why did you choose Para la Naturaleza as your first call?

**CB:** *We quickly learned that finding the best way to allocate the funds we raised was as challenging as the fundraising itself. I consider Para la Naturaleza to be among the most ethical and responsible civic organizations in Puerto Rico, and given my relationship with them, I knew about the impact they were already making.*

*Fernando and his team moved quickly. By the time we had raised a significant amount of funds, Para la Naturaleza was already deeply immersed in the most affected communities. Being in the U.S., we did not have a clear idea of what was the reality on the ground. Through Para la Naturaleza, PRxPR channeled its support to efforts that directly impacted the communities that needed the most help.*

**PLN:** Fast forward several years later. What has changed for PRxPR?

**CB:** *In the beginning, there were many communities in need, and the hurricane had caused much misery. We had many projects, but we wanted to have a more profound impact. I would say that when we*

*started, we were 'a mile wide and an inch deep.' Today so much has changed. Puerto Rico has improved, the infrastructure has improved, the communities are better prepared. PRxPR has also changed. Now, we are a 'mile deep and an inch wide.'*

*PRxPR has focused on cultivating relationships with communities that show potential, that have serious community leaders who are making an organized effort to grow. These communities provide us with an opportunity to help them with what they need instead of what we think they need. These principles have reduced the scope of communities we work with down to 10 relationships. Many of these were identified four years ago by Para la Naturaleza. Today, we have a student-teacher relationship with them in which we learn. They have opened our eyes, our hearts, and our minds to the real Puerto Rico. After 40 years of living in the United States, I feel this is the closest I have been to my island.*

*One of the communities we have most communication with is Cialitos. We met them when we started to build their resiliency center through Para la Naturaleza. Today we have a direct relationship. Right now, we are creating a community kitchen with them, and while we are building this project, Para la Naturaleza is supporting them in creating an ecological community garden. It has come full circle.*

*The experience with Cialitos goes to show how everything in nature is interconnected, without water, without clean air or trees, there is no community. As an organization, PRxPR aims to have a long-lasting impact. We know that we need to include the environment to have this long-term impact. How I see it, the environment is the canvas where everything is painted.*

## Projects supported by PRxPR:

**08**

community  
centers

**11**

microgrants to  
agroecological  
farmers

**17**

community  
kitchens

**50**

emergency relief  
supplies to families  
and individuals  
affected by the  
earthquakes

**5,102**

emergency  
relief kits

**Total PRxPR  
donations:  
\$486,000**



\*  
Community kitchen  
Manatí, Puerto Rico



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Coquí guajón  
*Eleutherodactylus cooki*

## Building up critical ecological corridors

In June of 2019, Para la Naturaleza acquired 112 acres for protection at Finca Bartolomei in the municipality of San Lorenzo. This parcel is adjacent to the Ulpiano Casal natural protected area and the Carite State Forest, owned and protected by Para la Naturaleza and Puerto Rico's Department of Natural and Environmental Resources.

This parcel was acquired in collaboration with the Rainforest Trust's SAVES Challenge Program, in which every dollar donated is matched by the Rain Forest Trust. This collaboration successfully provided 60% of the funds to cover acquisition costs. The Rainforest Trust is a United States-based non-profit organization that focuses on the purchase and protection of tropical lands and intact landscapes to strategically preserve threatened species by creating permanent protected areas in regions at risk of destruction.

The protection of Finca Bartolomei permitted the creation of an ecological corridor, extending to the Carite State Forest, benefiting both plant and animal species' residents. These mountains are the epicenter of Puerto Rico's endemic and threatened amphibian communities. The newly protected area

is also within the northern limits of the habitat range for the endangered coquí guajón (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*).

Researches have documented 217 species to this date, of which 22% are found nowhere else on the planet. In addition, the protection of this region safeguards the water supply origins for over 200,000 residents of the Metropolitan Area.

Also, by the end of 2019, Para la Naturaleza acquired 80 acres for protection in San Antonio, Quebradillas, that belonged to the Puerto Rico League of Cooperatives. With this acquisition, begins the protection of natural areas of high ecological value in the northwest.

Located within the northern karstic region, the San Antonio area contains a considerable representation of the biological, ecological, scenic, paleontological, hydrological and geomorphological diversity that Puerto Rico and the Caribbean have to offer. The area is also located near the cliffs of the Guajataca River, a place of great conservation importance due to the historical distribution of threatened and endangered plant species such as the matabuey (*Goetzea elegans*) and the manaca palm (*Calyptronoma rivalis*).



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Ulpiano Casals  
San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico

**36,552**  
total natural  
protected areas  
in 2019

**314**  
new acres  
added to natural  
protected areas  
in Cuevas El  
Convento

**73**  
new acres  
added to  
natural  
protected areas  
in Naguabo

**09**  
properties  
(1,023 acres)  
acquired

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Hacienda La Esperanza  
Manatí, Puerto Rico



## Empowered by the next generation

Greta Thunberg, “How Dare You” speech at the United Nations showed us the way. It is her generation that is willing and capable to make the decisions we conveniently avoided for decades. In Para la Naturaleza we have unleashed the transformative power of nature for our youth through our Summer Immersion Workshop Programs. We have witnessed first-hand how young people have brilliantly transformed their relationship with nature in profound ways with individuals, families and entire communities.

Thanks to funding from the National Recreation Foundation (NRF) we were able to continue fostering the development of critical thinking and leadership skills among Puerto Rico’s younger generation. Their support of two initiatives, one in collaboration with the Instituto de Nueva Escuela (INE) and one with the Puerto Rico Boys&Girls Club, offered the participants further understanding of the importance of nature in their communities and schools, while empowering them in the process of adopting leadership roles within their communities.

The collaboration with INE schools resulted in the creation and implementation of outdoor activity projects designing, building and caring for gardens within six participating schools, creating spaces that cultivate

an appreciation and understanding of nature. The activities impacted over 200 participants, including students, teachers and community members.

The second ongoing collaboration throughout 2019 with NRF funding with the Puerto Rico Boys&Girls Club focused on providing transformative experiences for young people, changing perspectives and providing deeper understanding of natural areas. The experience also involved exposure to our Mapa de Vida Program, engaging participants as collaborative scientists who visit natural areas to practice scientific data collection protocols and methods to gather valuable information for the proper care and management of the natural space and its inhabitants.

A total of seventeen educational workshops were implemented among twelve participating Boys&Girls clubhouses serving marginalized communities throughout Puerto Rico. These workshops provided urban garden training, food preparation and medicinal plant knowledge. The activities impacted over 240 participants, mostly between the ages of 6 and 18, as well as participating teachers and parents. The workshops were facilitated through the Immersion in Nature Saturday Programming and were accompanied with fun trekking activities in several of Para la Naturaleza’s protected natural areas led by our amazing interpreters.

<b>PARTICIPATING INE SCHOOL</b>	<b>OUTDOOR PROJECT</b>	<b>PARTICIPATION</b>
Escuela Luis Llorens Torres	Butterfly Garden	40 students
Nueva Escuela Urbana de Ciales	Spice and Vegetable Garden	30 students
Escuela Inés María Mendoza	Spice and Medicinal Plant Garden	22 students
Escuela Manuel Elizaburu	Mobile Spice and Vegetable Garden	35 students
Escuela República del Perú	Spice and Vegetable Garden	42 students
Escuela Francisco Matías Lugo	Butterfly Garden	40 students

<b>PARTICIPATING BOYS&amp;GIRLS CLUBHOUSES</b>	<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>
Comunidad Luis Llorens Torres	San Juan
Comunidad Las Margaritas	San Juan
Comunidad Ernesto Ramos Antonini	San Juan
Comunidad Villa Carolina	Carolina
Comunidad Los Millones	Bayamón
Comunidad del Sector Los Miñi-Miñi	Loíza
Comunidad San Lorenzo	San Lorenzo
Comunidad Aguas Buenas	Aguas Buenas
Comunidad Manuel Zeno Gandía	Arecibo
Comunidad F.D. Roosevelt	Mayagüez
Comunidad Isabela	Isabela
Comunidad Vieques	Vieques



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Hacienda La Esperanza  
Manatí, Puerto Rico

## Supporting the Land Use Plan

In 2018 the Puerto Rico Planning Board requested comments on a private proposal to encroach 15 acres upon a parcel located in the Municipality of Aguadilla, which is protected by the Karst Special Planning Area (PRAPEC) for the construction of a shopping mall.

PRAPEC was developed to protect natural resources and areas of high ecological value in the Karst Priority Conservation Areas as identified by the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources. The PRAPEC is the sum effort of legislative, judicial, community, academic, administrative and non-profit organizations' initiatives. Its purpose is to restrict urban sprawl and reduce activities that fragment ecosystems, causing deforestation, or contamination of aquifers within the boundaries of the restricted karst area, a unique biogeographic area in northern Puerto Rico crucial to the island's water supply and biodiversity.

Ciudadanos del Karso led the opposition in court with the support of Para la Naturaleza, which appeared as *amicus curiae* in this case. The evidence presented demonstrated that the exclusion of protection being proposed was not in compliance with regulatory provisions. The Puerto Rico Planning Board supported the preservation of the protected area, resulting in the developers requesting an administrative review of said decision.

In April of 2019, the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals ratified the decision taken by the Planning Board of Puerto Rico in June of 2018 to preserve the Karst Conservation Area.

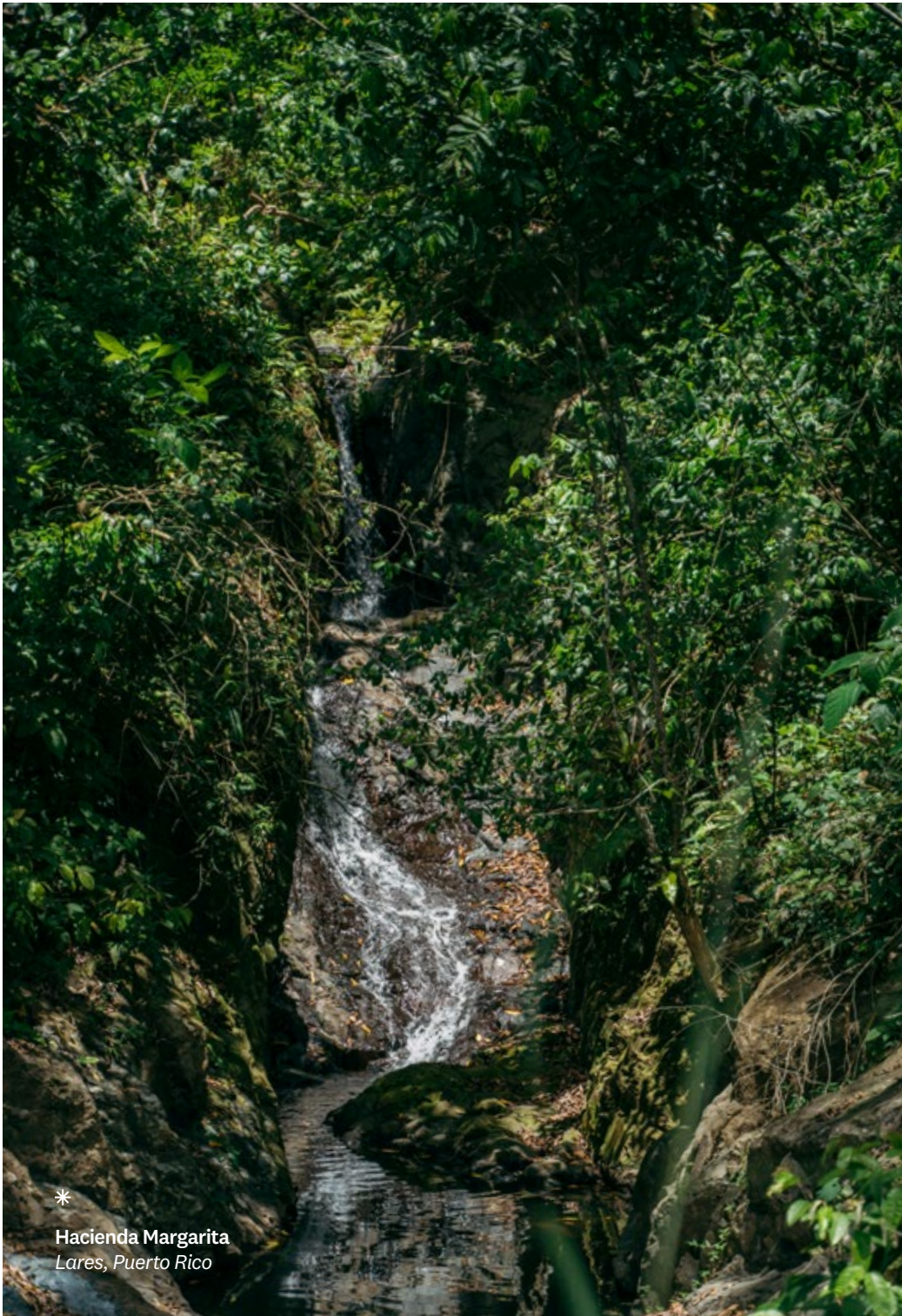
This success sets precedent for ongoing efforts to vigorously defend all conservation areas protected under the Land Use Plan of 2016.



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Olive bush anole  
*Anolis krugi*





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Hacienda Margarita  
Lares, Puerto Rico

## Increasing our conservation efforts in the West

Para la Naturaleza's West Region was created and activated during the first quarter of 2019, following the organization's Strategic Plan guidelines. This area of Puerto Rico is highly urbanized and natural areas are increasingly becoming isolated and fragmented.

Carlos Torres, former superintendent of the North Region and recently appointed superintendent of the newly activated Region, immediately began working from the new headquarters at Hacienda Margarita in Lares, a farm of 1,440 acres, high in the mountains containing a mix of agricultural and forest habitats, and representing an important hydrological source for the West Region.

The main focus in Lares has been to commence the Regenerative Agroforestry Project to restore and recover the functionality of the once healthy and productive farm. The agricultural fields in Hacienda Margarita had been severely damaged by many years of conventional, intensive farming, and more recently, by hurricane María. The new project concentrates on planting over 2,600 trees that include: coffee, shade, timber, plantains and pigeon peas (plátanos y gandules), among others.

During the summer months the new team actively joined interesting collaborative projects, such as the educational series on sustainable agriculture focused on western farmers. The team also collaborated with the Cocolobas of Playuela, an initiative that engages young women from the area of Aguadilla to foster the conservation of the Valley of Playuela; an area currently under threat of construction for a mega-hotel and urban development in a highly environmental sensitive area the includes the Sabal palm forest, coastal wetlands, coastal basins and coral reefs. The construction in this area undoubtedly presents severe negative impact to all its ecosystems. Due to ongoing threats like this one, fostering land protection has become one of the main goals for the West Region's Superintendent.

Noche de Estrellas en Playuela was a popular initiative, led by Para la Naturaleza, where over 100 participants of all ages enjoyed a star gazing night with the Puerto Rico Astronomy Society, while learning about the night sky, stars, planets, and light pollution effects, in Aguadilla. This was also the site for the summer BioBlitz, a biological survey aimed towards documenting all living species within designated areas of the region, with volunteer participants and local community members.

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El Pastillo  
Isabela, Puerto Rico



*“We need more activities like this one on the West side!”*

Participant of the activity  
Noche de Estrellas en Playuela

Furthermore, the new West Region team also conducted several reforestation activities, including a tree planting afternoon with our Board Members at Playa El Pastillo in Isabela, in partnership with the Fideicomiso del Pastillo (FP), aiding in the recuperation of the coastal forest damaged by storm surges. In the Jobos area of Isabela, another tree planting activity took place in partnership with local environmental group Conservación Costera (COCOPR) and volunteers from neighboring communities, focused on planting mangroves to improve damaged wetlands, also due to hurricane María.

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Playuela  
Aguadilla, Puerto Rico





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Ulpiano Casals  
San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico

## New findings of biodiversity

Research expeditions conducted by Para la Naturaleza's Science Team documented individuals of *Eugenia haematocarpa*, an endemic and endangered tree, in the extension of the new addition to natural protected areas, Ulpiano Casal.

Carefully placed sound recorders detected several individuals of the mountain coquí (*Eleutherodactylus portoricensis*) and other melodious coquí (*Eleutherodactylus wightmanae*). In addition, the expeditions revealed four tree species never before documented in this protected area: endemic and rare 'palo de candela' (*Xylosma schwaneckeana*) and *Eugenia stahlii*, as well as *Matayba domingensis* and *Myrcia fallax*; and among other species, the migratory bird bay-breasted warbler (*Setophaga castanea*) has also been spotted making a home in this protected area.

The protection offered to these lands is of utmost importance; considering they grant protection to the Loíza Grande river basin's headwaters, while geographically connecting two other natural protected areas:

Ulpiano Casal with the Carite State Forest, creating a biological corridor unique to the area, while allowing local species to move freely and offering some breathing room from development and encroaching.

The rapid assessments of biodiversity conducted for newly protected areas in Hatillo and Camuy also identified several rare, vulnerable, or endangered species such as: *Myrcia paganii*, *Daphnosis helleriana*, *Ottoschulsia rodoxylon*, *Bonellia pauciflora*, *Tabebuia karsoana*, *Calyptranthes acevedoi*, and *Leucothrinax morrisii* in Hatillo; and individuals of *Leucothrinax morrisii*, *Calyptranthes acevedoi* and *Coccoloba buchii* in Camuy.

The information collected in these expeditions informs land management actions and establishes conservation priorities. Species like the above mentioned are indicators of ecosystem health that promote awareness and vital research opportunities. They are also testament to the importance of preserving these lands and the relevance of Para la Naturaleza's work protecting Puerto Rico's ecological well-being.

Species' richness  
in natural  
protected areas

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**420**  
arthropods

**182**  
fish

**13**  
amphibians

**36**  
reptiles

**270**  
birds

**22**  
mammals

**1,401**  
flora

Threatened species  
by DNER  
(Reglamento 6766)

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**01**  
flora  
Threatened

**16**  
fauna

**04**  
flora  
Endangered

**08**  
fauna

**11**  
flora  
Critically  
Endangered

**05**  
fauna

Threatened species  
by USFWS  
(ESA)

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**01**  
flora  
Threatened

**05**  
fauna

**17**  
flora  
Endangered

**11**  
fauna



## SOURCES OF FUNDS



	2018	2019	%	
Income from Notes and Preferred Securities	\$ 432	\$ 704	63%	↑
Portfolio Income*	10,166	15,326	51%	↑
Donations, grants and other gifts	3,424	3,335	-3%	↓
Other income	1,904	341	-82%	↓
Land Donations and easements	8,871	9,850	11%	↑
Total	24,797	\$29,556	19%	↑

\*unrestricted portfolio income  
+ authorized endowment draw

\*Selected Financial Data

## OPERATING USES OF FUNDS



	2018	2019	%	
Program Services	\$ 16,399	\$ 18,869	15%	↑
Management & Support	4,632	4,973	7%	↑
Development	790	789	0%	-
Total	\$ 21,821	\$ 24,631	13%	↑

\*Selected Financial Data

## CAPITAL INVESTMENTS



	2018	2019	%	
Land Acquisition	\$ 2,153	\$ 1,771	-18%	↓
Site Development & Improvements	1,447	1,472	2%	↑
Furniture & Equipment	1,118	774	-31%	↓
Total	\$ 4,718	\$ 4,017	-15%	↓

\*Selected Financial Data

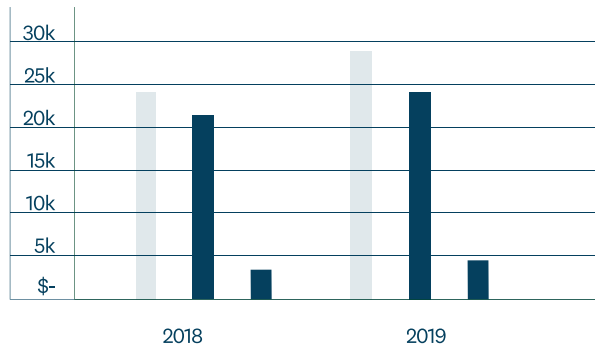
## TOTAL USES OF FUNDS



	2018	2019	%	
Operating	\$ 21,821	\$ 24,631	13%	↑
Capital	4,718	4,017	-15%	↓
Total	\$ 26,539	\$ 28,648	8%	↑

\*Selected Financial Data

# REVENUE LESS OPERATING EXPENSES



	2018	2019	%	
Operating Revenues	\$ 24,797	\$ 29,556	19%	↑
Operating Expenditures	21,821	24,631	13%	↑
Excess Funds	\$ 2,976	\$ 4,925	65%	↑



\*Selected Financial Data



## Friends and Supporters

### \$1,000 – \$4,999

5000 Broadway Productions, LLC  
Aeronet Wireless Broadband  
Aida Cardona  
ALIGHT  
AMB Rental Corp  
Ana Victoria Vidal Fernández  
Andrew Light & Juliet Eilperin  
Ankura Consulting  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Antonio L. Ferré Rangel  
Antonio Suárez García, AIA  
AON  
Axel Ramírez  
Barbara N. Fuldner  
Beguelin Family Trust  
Blas Fonalledas & Diana Pérez  
Brenda L. Torres Barreto & Rafael Ortiz  
Bufete McConnell Valdés LLC  
Casellas Alcover & Burgos, P.S.C.  
Casillas, Santiago & Torres, LLC  
Cheryl Hartup & Javier Bonnín  
Cindy Golbert  
Citibank

Comité Noviembre  
Congar International Corporation  
David Fong  
David Rich  
Deirdre Towers  
Dennis Hickey Rivera & Theresa Bischoff  
Douglas W. Domenech  
Dulce Caña  
EcoEléctrica, L.P.  
Enrique Alejandro & Jannette Silva  
Eric Gerber  
Ernst & Young Puerto Rico LLC  
Evertec, Inc.  
Fernando & Janessa Arabía  
Francisco X. González  
Fulcro Insurance, Inc.  
Ileana Toledo Coira  
IPR Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
John King  
José Rafael Fernández  
José Rovira Luna  
Judith Ruiz  
Judith Stockdale  
June Hime  
Lemuel J. De Jesús Varona  
Leslie D. Mattingly  
Lilly del Caribe, Inc.  
Lilyana Vélez Fernández  
Lucilla Fuller Marvel

### \$5,000-\$9,999

Luis Álvarez Vila  
Luke N. Allen  
M Salomé Galib & Duane McLaughlin  
Mapfre  
Marcos A. Rodríguez  
Margarita Garriga  
Marie Martinez-Wolcott  
Mario R. Nevárez Alonso  
Marvel & Marchand Architects  
Mr. & Mrs. José A. Sánchez-Kinghorn  
Nicholas J. Moore  
Nima Movahed Dilmaghani  
Plaza Food Systems  
Plaza Las Américas  
Puerto Rico Farm Credit  
Rebecca Marvil & Brian Smyth  
Robert Iscaro & Fernando Martínez  
Roberto J. Serrallés, PhD  
Semillero Ventures, LLC  
Technical Industrial Sales, Inc.  
The Shannon Foundation  
Toro Arquitectos  
Universal Insurance Company  
UPS  
V. Suárez & Co., Inc.  
Walmart  
William Richardson  
Wonderful Giving

Edwards Lifesciences Foundation  
Foundation for a Better Puerto Rico  
Industrial Fittings & Valves  
Interlink Group  
Land Trust Alliance  
Latke Ladies Luminaires  
Lisette Núñez  
Matthew Melton  
Model Offset Printing  
Mónica De la Torre  
Olie Gray  
Peter & Katherine Scudera  
Resort Homes at Dorado Beach, S.E.  
Sol Petroleum  
SOMOS, Inc.  
Target Rent-A-Car  
The Clip Family  
The Herrans Group  
World Travel & Tourism Council

## \$10,000-\$99,999

Anonymous  
Banco Popular  
Carmen Báez  
Fundación Angel Ramos  
JetBlue  
Justin Sullivan  
Liberty Cablevision  
Liberty Foundation  
Merrill Lynch  
Michel Godreau  
Miranda Family Fund  
National Recreation Foundation  
Partnership for NYC at the New York  
Community Trust  
Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, LLC  
Plaza Provision  
PR Textile Recycling, LLC  
SC Johnson de PR, Inc.  
T-Mobile Foundation  
The Dorothea L. Leonhardt Foundation, Inc.  
TOTE Maritime

## \$100,000 +

Anonymous  
Filantropía Puerto Rico  
Joaquín B. Viso & Olga Lizardi  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Rainforest Trust  
The Rotary Club of San Juan,  
the Rotary Club of St. Simons Island  
and the Rotary Foundation  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Forest Service  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation  
Service

*Para la Naturaleza is a nonprofit organization that integrates society into the conservation of natural ecosystems and the restoration of historical sites in Puerto Rico. The organization is in the quest to achieve the protection of 33% of Puerto Rico by 2033. Through its educational and eco-touristic activities, Para la Naturaleza integrates citizens in the protection of natural areas with high ecological value, historical structures and supports the ecological agriculture. In addition, the entity fosters concrete actions in favor of nature such as volunteer work, funds or land donations and easements. Para la Naturaleza manages six visitor centers and 64 natural protected areas throughout Puerto Rico, including Hacienda Buena Vista in Ponce, Cabezas de San Juan in Fajardo and Hacienda La Esperanza in Manatí.*