

Doing the same is not an option

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Clandestine
landfills

para la
Naturaleza





Dear all:

In 2018, we experienced exhausting recovery efforts while being inspired by the uplifting regenerative power of nature. This allowed us to embrace the unavoidable process of rethinking our new role in catastrophic times. The only thing clear at this point is that keeping our current path cannot and should not be an option. The realization of ten years of economic failures, financial collapse, political dependency, government turmoil, and climatic devastation inevitably leads to the urgent need for profound transformations.

Para la Naturaleza has taken the conscious decision of reexamining all aspects of our organization. Like other institutions and communities in the islands of Puerto Rico and around the globe, we are seeking ways to support decisive ecological, social and economic changes that can help us build the path toward true wellbeing. As we move ahead in our transformative process, Para la Naturaleza reaffirms its commitment to protecting 33% of important life supporting ecosystems. We are expanding our role increasing climatic resiliency by stopping destruction and recovering habitats. We are also setting a clear path to sustainable development in ecotourism and agroecology to help unleash the amazing transformational power of communities that are developing a strong ecological culture. These transformative goals are just the beginning of a new path ahead of all of us at Para la Naturaleza. We look forward to work with you in all these efforts.

Even under a state of recovery exhaustion, we are focused on finding new energies and resources to step up our work. There is so much to do. The only way to steer into a sustainable path in sync with nature is by starting with the inherent strength of Puerto Rican communities.

This report only gathers a brief list of actions we have undertaken throughout a year full of introspection and unfaltering work. I am very thankful to all who were an essential part of these amazing accomplishments.

Sincerely,
Fernando Lloveras San Miguel
President

Supporting our most resilient partners: Trees

After losing as much of 31 million tree lives — ten percent of all trees according to different studies conducted by several scientific teams — we can only think about how we can help our partners in resiliency recover, helping along the way so many other species that depend on trees to survive. Our plan to add 750,000 native, rare, and endemic trees to ecosystems and forests in the islands of Puerto Rico has the main objective of recovering the species diversity, counting on our biotic and abiotic seed dispersal partners to continue planting into the future. The 127 species growing in our tree nurseries will contribute to the forests' diversity and their capacity to sustain all forms of life.

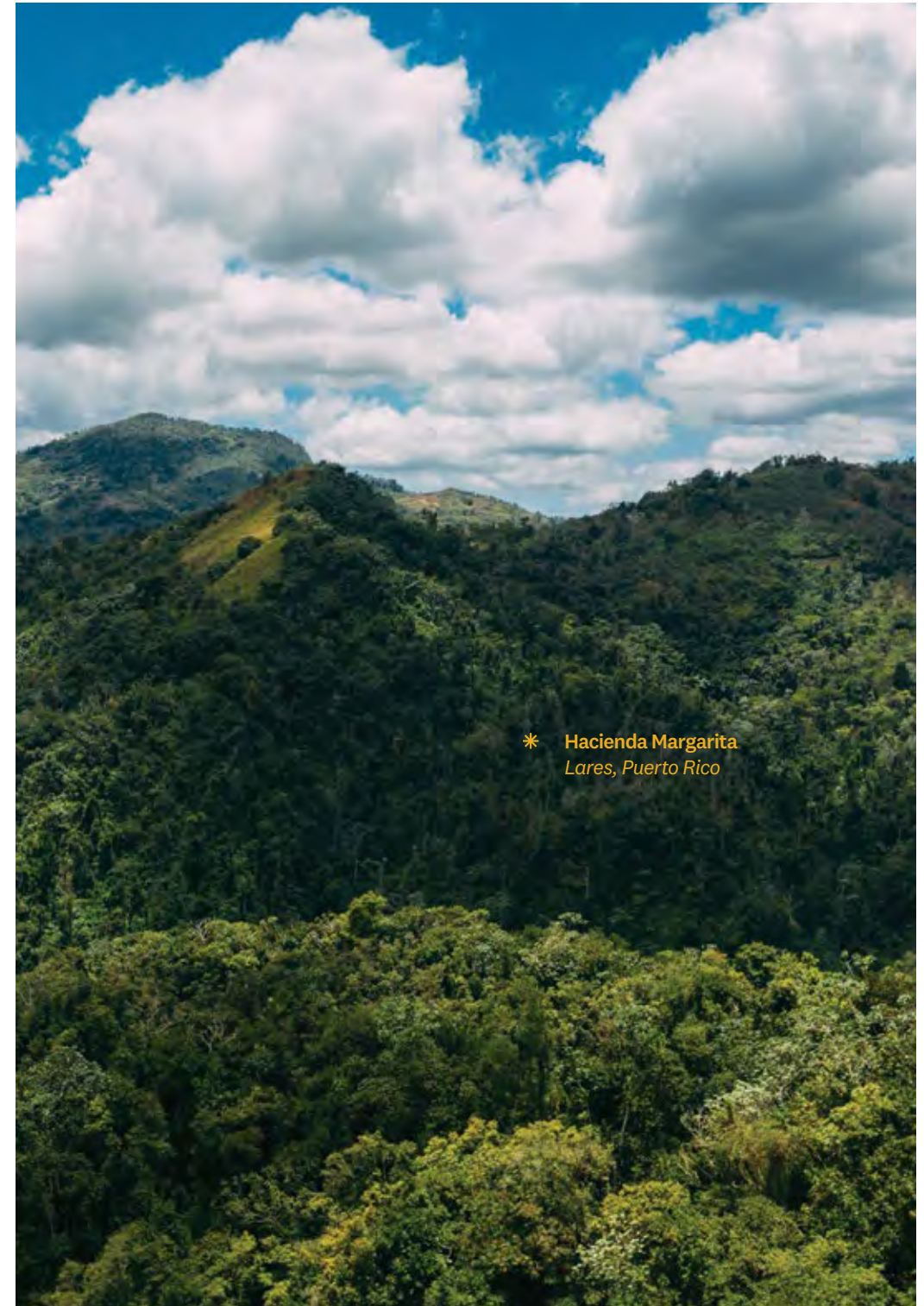
Trees are being planted across the islands in all sorts of settings: amid recovering landscapes, in coveted green spaces of struggling communities, and densely populated urban areas. Every time a child or grown-up helps to upkeep a tree nursery, plant a small native tree or steward them during their growing years, they become part of an expanding community of ecological citizens committed to building a new path forward.

With very little support from recovery funding, this year we recharged our five nurseries by producing 120,000 trees out of an initial goal of 50,000. We planted 23,525 trees of the total goal of 30,000 trees or 78%, which forces us to step up our efforts next year.

By the year's end, we did receive the incredible support of the National Fish

and Wildlife Foundation, which awarded us \$652,444, to restore 150 acres of coastline, wetlands and floodplain forests in Natural Protected Area Hacienda La Esperanza in Manatí.

Trees are the most effective solution to mitigate the impact of the climate crisis that has just recently been acknowledged as such. They have a critical impact on climatic balance, mitigating floods, protecting coasts, filtering and retaining waters, and reducing heat. Trees capture carbon dioxide — countering the effects of global emissions — while releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. These lower temperatures by providing shade, minimizing glare and the build-up of heat during the day. Water evaporates through their leaves to increase their cooling effect. Trees are nature's solution to heat-island effects on urban areas. The micro-climate that their shade provides fosters the growth of other plants that will not survive without the cover they provide. Trees also act as wind curtains that protect structures, block noises and trap particles such as dust, smog, and pollen, improving air quality. They provide food and shelter for birds, bats, reptiles, insects, and other animals. Trees also reduce water runoff from heavy rains, decreasing erosion and protecting soils and water quality, while prolonging reservoirs' usefulness. Because they take their time to grow, trees are a living legacy for future generations. With their presence, they soothe and help us connect with nature and make communities more attractive and livable.



* Hacienda Margarita
Lares, Puerto Rico



* Hacienda Margarita
Lares, Puerto Rico



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

Let the watersheds protect us: 33% by 2033

As we keep learning about the impact that water had during our recent climatic experience, we cannot stop stressing on the need to protect our watersheds and let them do their work. The emphasis on watershed protection in our Map 33 goal has become more important than ever.

In 2018, Para la Naturaleza incorporated 2,211 acres to its natural protected areas, exceeding the annual goal of 1,000 acres by 121%. With these additions, Para la Naturaleza reached a total of 34,814 acres of protected lands — 1.57% of the islands of Puerto Rico and 17% of all its natural protected areas.

Para la Naturaleza approached the Levy Echeandía brothers, Ramón and Ricardo, regarding their land holdings in Rincón. However, to our surprise, they were interested in donating Hacienda Margarita-Ballester, a 1,399-acre coffee plantation in Lares established in 1874 with a significant historical, ecological and hydrological value. As a critical area for the functionality of the Prieto River, this large tract is now protected to secure water catchment and filtration to this important tributary of Río Grande de Añasco river, the second-longest riverbed in Puerto Rico.

This property has both young and mature secondary forests that feature a rich diversity of trees and provide habitat for 265 species, including plants (164), birds (29), invertebrates (51), reptiles (7), amphibians (6), bats (5), and fish (3). Among the species in Hacienda Margarita that are of interest from a conservationist viewpoint

is the freshwater crab (*Epibolocera sinuatifrons*), known in Spanish as “Buruquena”, which may be found in the property’s streams.

In the valley and near the river, just at the end of the paved road, are the ruins of a small sugar plantation and a sugar mill that are part of Hacienda Margarita. What is left of the mill is the ruins of an axle of the three-mass crusher made by The Blymer Iron Works Co. in Cincinnati, Ohio. Parts from the chimney and the Sugar Train, also known as the “Jamaican Train” or “Spanish Train”, that were there in the 1990s, are no longer on the grounds.

“I found it very refreshing to work with a team of such excellence and commitment as Para la Naturaleza. Thanks to your efforts and hard work, Para la Naturaleza achieved what many people thought was unachievable. My best wishes for the next year.”

Ricardo Levy,
Donor of Hacienda Margarita

Para la Naturaleza also received a donation of 158.47 acres at the Quebrada Janer Natural Protected Area, in the municipality of San Lorenzo; and 435.11 acres of the Río Jacabo Natural Protected Area in Patillas. To complete a very active land protection year, our acquisition team closed 47.02 acres of the Cerro Feliz Natural Protected Area in Culebra, and 7.47 acres of the San Juan Waterworks in San Juan.

* Cañón San Cristóbal
Barranquitas, Puerto Rico



* Wrinkled coqui
Eleutherodactylus wightmanae



Our biodiverse family keeps growing

This year we had the pleasant surprise of encountering the Puerto Rico bronze frog (*Eleutherodactylus richmondi*), the Wrinkled Coqui (*Eleutherodactylus wightmanae*), and the Coqui Guajón (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*) in the Natural Protected Area of Río Jacoabo in Patillas. Two of these species — the Puerto Rican Bronze frog (*Eleutherodactylus richmondi*) and the Wrinkled Coqui (*Eleutherodactylus wightmanae*) — were recorded for the first time in the Natural Protected Area of Río Encantado; while the Wrinkled Coqui (*Eleutherodactylus wightmanae*) was found in the recently acquired Hacienda Margarita, in Lares. We also found evidence that our program to reintroduce the Puerto Rican Crested Toad (*Peltodyrne lemur*) is being successful because we witnessed long clumps of their spawns near a stream. All of them are species that have lost a significant portion of their original habitats.

Another great finding was a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) nest with a couple of

fledglings at Hacienda La Esperanza, Manatí. This is the second registered sight of the Barn Owl in the islands of Puerto Rico. We also identified the presence of a plant species in critical danger, the Luquillo Mountain Stopper (*Eugenia haematocarpa*), locally known as Uvillo. One of our management coordinators in Hacienda La Esperanza, Alcides Morales — with Marcos Caraballo Ortiz, of the Department of Botany of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History — found a species of Caribbean Mistletoe that was thought to be extinct: Wright’s Catkin Mistletoe (*Antidaphne wrightii*). This plant only grows in magnolia trees in the mountainous region of Yauco. This rare find was documented in Caraballo, Marcos & Morales, Alcides (2018). “A lost Caribbean mistletoe rediscovered: new record for *Antidaphne wrightii* (*Santalaceae*) in Puerto Rico”, published in the *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas*, 12 683-687.

Citizens Botanists: our newest volunteer division



In November of 2018 we launched a new citizen science program designed to train a group of volunteers on how to identify native and endemic tree species, collect and prepare their seeds for planting, classify botanical material for herbarium archives, plan reforestation projects, support us with data entry, recruit other volunteers and promote botanical education. They will play a vital part in our reforestation program. Dr. Eugenio Santiago, our Botanist consultant, created several day-long workshops to train volunteer leaders. The first workshops brought together 84 candidates from diverse backgrounds: university students, teachers, communications and finance professionals, among others. Citizen Botanists will help us reduce prevalent “plant blindness” through a support network of trained citizens in Botany, tree nursery maintenance, seeds collection, and reforestation management throughout the islands of Puerto Rico.

“I witnessed firsthand the loss of trees that, at the same time, are also habitats for other species. I had already been a volunteer with Para la Naturaleza, but now I am fully immersed. I love the program and the training is very relevant. In my area, we are supporting the logistics for native and endemic tree plantings.”

José Manuel Sánchez Díaz
22-year-old student &
Citizen Botanist from Patillas

“I lived in Mexico for 17 years and when I came back to Puerto Rico I was shocked by the fact that so much concrete had substituted the great number of trees that were cut down. I started looking for opportunities to get involved and do something to create ecological awareness, and that is how I came across Para la Naturaleza. When this opportunity to be a citizen botanist came up, I felt that the stars had aligned in my favor and now here I am. Teaching is my vocation, and this experience allows me to combine both passions.”

Rosario Navarro Montañez
49-year-old teacher &
Citizen Botanist from San Juan

“Plants have enthralled me, and I am passionate about working with them. But what moves me the most is to witness the effect they have on people when they first interact with them. When searching for seeds, or working in the nursery, or stewarding the trees we planted, you are being part of the recovery of the ecosystems of the islands of Puerto Rico. This recovery may be slow, or long-term, but those who inhabit that space — as individuals or as a community — have recovered by helping nature. They know that they are leaving a legacy to future generations.”

Alejandro Santana
Environmental Interpreter at
the Río Piedras Tree Nursery



* Tree nursery maintenance
Río Piedras, Puerto Rico



* Eugenio Santiago Valentín
Vivero Río Piedras, Puerto Rico

30 years of botanical knowledge documented

A new publication produced by Eugenio Santiago Valentín and Rafael Rivera Martínez, *Manual de germinación de árboles y arbustos nativos, endémicos y raros de Puerto Rico* (Germination sourcebook for Puerto Rican native, endemic and rare trees and bushes), systematizes and shares how to reproduce 36 of these species. A project proposal for a tree production sourcebook was developed for the Natural Resources Conservation Service Caribbean Office FY2015 Conservation Innovation Grants competition, to effectively and thoroughly document and disseminate the unique tree production efforts undertaken by the organization since 1990. After winning the award, the *Manual de germinación de árboles y arbustos nativos, endémicos y raros de Puerto Rico* narrates — in a format understood by individuals

of diverse educational backgrounds — the challenges, successes, proven techniques entailing the production of native trees. The innovation of the sourcebook lies on its species focus, as it highlights the production of several trees that are native, endemic, and rare. Both the Trust and Para la Naturaleza have been working with and experimenting with the reproduction of these species for the past 25 years thanks to the lead of Rafael Rivera, Agronomist and Director of the Natural Protected Areas. These species belong to the deep subtropical rainforest, and the techniques and methods developed, tested, and used by the Trust and Para la Naturaleza can be considered unique. Both historic and current knowledge are included in the sourcebook, showcasing past methods and techniques and their evolution as to what is being applied today.

Amid the adversity, volunteers show up for nature

Despite the time and energy spent by all citizens during the recovery efforts, people still had the will to do more. Para la Naturaleza organized 950 volunteering events during 2018 and our volunteers showed up. By December of 2018, a total of 6,620 volunteers assisted our programs 25,353 times. They gave to Para la Naturaleza 80,297 hours of work. Each volunteer donated an average of 3.17 hours at each event. This is an enormous gift that saved us \$582,153 if we were to pay for the tasks performed according to the minimum wage. Nonetheless, no amount of money can buy the solidarity and common purpose that our volunteers generously offer. Here are some of the things that we accomplished with their help.



* Hacienda La Esperanza
Manatí, Puerto Rico

North Region

- 222 volunteers spent 858 hours cleaning up beaches.
- 73 volunteers donated 292 hours to patrol the areas where hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) lay their eggs.

Southwest Region

- 52 volunteers worked a total of 156 hours to monitor the juvenile Puerto Rican Crested Toads (*Peltophryne lemur*) found in the last months of the year. The conservation efforts that started in 2012 are showing significant progress. Since then, we have released in our recovery ponds 131,188 tadpoles in the area of El Convento Caves in Guayanilla.

Metro-Central Region

- 72 volunteers joined us last October to clean up Guaraacanal stream in the Río Piedras basin.
- 2,000 pounds of trash and debris were removed in a single day.
- 122 volunteers that participated in Mapa de Vida helped us gather up-to-date data on birds, plants, and bodies of water.
- 30 volunteers lent us a hand to upkeep the trees we planted.

Companies continue to be interested in providing their employees with volunteering opportunities. On September 27, a group of 27 employees from Eli Lilly & Company planted 70 trees at Pitahaya Mountain in the municipality of Canóvanas. In November, a group from outdoor recreation product company The North Face planted about 500 native trees at Hacienda la Esperanza in Manatí. We are deeply grateful to all of them.



* *Capsicum chinense*
Utado, Puerto Rico

Agroecology: another round of support

The second round of 25 micro-grants to agroecological farmers, food elaborators and educators was disbursed in the last quarter of the year. \$125,000 were distributed among 25 recipients across the islands. Each participant received \$5,000 grants, among whom were three women farmers that are incorporating sustainable practices into their current agricultural projects.

Para la Naturaleza's agroecological initiative has provided other forms of support. Through Hábitat, our reforestation program, we have distributed native trees for agricultural reforestation projects, as well as assistance to remove fallen trees from farms, and training to foster better farming practices. This year Hábitat distributed 1,070 native trees to farmers throughout the island.

"I know that I already thanked you. I received the microgrant! I am left without words, so the best way to show my gratitude will be my harvest. Thank you for supporting women working in agriculture. Your help will empower more women to till the land and grow food!"

Stephanie Rodríguez Ocasio,
Finca La Agricultora, in Ciales

Protecting waves with a strong surfing industry

During the last days of 2018, we rejoiced with Olita, a local non-profit organization established in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, who led the effort to have the international Save The Waves Coalition's establish in Punta Borinquen the 11th World Surfing Reserve, and the first in the Caribbean. Olita got our endorsement and that of eight other organizations: Surfrider Foundation, the Rincón Chapter of Sierra Club Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program, the Puerto Rican Planning Society, the Marine Sciences Student Association and the Center for Applied Science and Ocean Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, the Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program, and the Surf and Nature Alliance. The new surfing reserve will coalesce the efforts to preserve eight magnificent kilometers of coastline — between Crash Boat and Surfer's Beach — and all its ecosystems.



* Punta Borinquen
Aguadilla, Puerto Rico



* Punta Borinquen
Aguadilla, Puerto Rico

Communities take river conservation into their own hands

The Río Grande de Manatí springs at the Toro Negro Forest and flows across nine municipalities — Orocovis, Barranquitas, Morovis, Ciales, Florida, Jayuya, Corozal, Barceloneta, Manatí — before reaching the Atlantic Ocean. It is the third-longest river in Puerto Rico.

This year, the Mapa Madre initiative emerged from the synergy between four Río Grande de Manatí basin communities who share their love for the river. These communities are Amigos del Bosque Toro Negro in Orocovis, Toro Negro in Ciales, Bosque Cibales in Ciales, and Unidos por el Área Recreativa de Cialitos in Ciales.

In the last two years, the staff of Hacienda La Esperanza Natural Reserve has worked hand in hand with the communities neighboring the Río Grande de Manatí in many different projects and activities including the Mapa de Vida protocols, educational programs, and water quality monitoring. These communities are now meeting and making plans together. Next year they will begin to offer tours of the Río Grande de Manatí to share its wonders with the general public. They are learning from each other how to advance community projects such as solar microgrids. This initiative is precisely the objective of our community conservation program and our ecological culture goals. For us it has been an fantastic learning experience to see a conservation community take the lead.



“We have established this alliance because we have the same goal of protecting this river basin.”

Edith Roubert González,
Community volunteer in
Toro Negro Forest, Orocovis



* **Cuevas El Convento**
Peñuelas-Guayanilla, Puerto Rico

30 communities getting stronger

For years we have worked with different communities. Some are geographically defined, and other are communities intertwined by common interests. The experience of recovering together after the 2017 hurricanes made these connections stronger and broader. We keep meeting regularly with community leaders and neighbors; we listen to their challenges and we share common dreams.

Sharing good food is a traditional way of creating fond memories and strengthening social ties, which is why this year Para la Naturaleza organized 30 community dining experiences across the islands. They were perfect occasions to enjoy the harvests of local agroecological farmers, ignite the conversation on healthier eating habits that are also mindful of nature, and learn about the places we protect together.

We hosted a community luncheon on Sunday, February 24 with neighbors of the Magas Arribas community.

They joined us at the El Convento Caves Natural Protected Area for a day of birding and history. Together we identified 17 bird species, of which five are endemic. We had the chance to talk about the different species of bats that live in the caves and the ecological services that they provide. We listened attentively to our attendees reminiscing as they shared their fond memories of swimming in the nearby ponds and hiking into the caves inhabited by hundreds of thousands of bats.

This year we retrofitted four community centers in the East Region, one of the areas that were hit the hardest by the 2017 hurricanes. Water harvesting tanks and photovoltaic systems were installed in the facilities of Comité Social y Cultural de Daguao, in Naguabo; Amigos de las Tortugas Marinas, in Naguabo; Comité Pro Desarrollo de Maunabo, in Maunabo; and at Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust, in the island of Vieques. Our plan is to complete a total of 30 resilient centers.

Seven nature reserves under attack: fighting a disrespectful policy against nature

In August, the Puerto Rico Planning Board approved two resolutions repealing seven nature reserves and one agricultural reserve established by the previous administration, in an unprecedented action. The Board argued that such resolutions were not adopted according to the best proceedings and, therefore, were considered void. Nobody had questioned the establishment of these nature reserves, neither in court nor in administrative proceedings.

However, the action of the Planning Board to repeal the reserves did not follow the same administrative proceedings that they argued was bypassed for its establishment. Due to the high ecological value and the ecosystem services provided by these previously established nature reserves, in October we presented an amicus brief in a case brought forth by several environmental organizations that were legally represented by the Legal Assistance Clinic of the University of Puerto Rico.

The Planning Board is supposed to begin a process requesting comments to reconsider the repealed nature reserves and associated land-use plans. To date this has not occurred. Para la Naturaleza will support this administrative process by submitting comments and encouraging other interested parties to do so, while continuing to inform the court on the validity of the repeal process.





* Comunidad Aguirre
Salinas, Puerto Rico

An Honor Award for preserving our historical patrimony

Concern for the fate of the island's patrimony after Hurricane María led Para la Naturaleza to conduct a survey of damages called Mapa de Historia (Map of History). Volunteering students from the University of Puerto Rico's School of Architecture, led by Diana Luna Serbia AIA, assessed nearly 5,000 structures in all the island's historic zones and districts in just three weeks. The survey showed that five historic zones in the south experienced the worst damages, particularly affecting wooden structures by tearing metal roofs and damaging walls.

Since then, with help from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Para la Naturaleza has continued to follow up on the recovery of historic structures by donating tarps helping homeowners identify funding sources, documenting their experiences in trying to preserve their property, identifying existing programs that can help restore buildings and revitalize neighborhoods, setting aside recovered wood to donate for future restorations, and at one emblematic 19th century structure, conducting emergency repairs.

In October 2018 Mapa de Historia won an Honor Award in Research and Investigations from the American Institute of Architects-Puerto Rico chapter.

The nature immersion program expands

Since November 2018, Para la Naturaleza has been offering an immersive experience in nature to 20 participants from each Boys and Girls Club in Puerto Rico. Every Saturday, children and youth are welcomed at one of our natural protected areas or visitors' centers. There, they learn how to plant and foster trees, participate in guided tours, and follow the scientific protocols of Mapa de Vida. The goal of these activities is to provide safe and peaceful places to enjoy nature while learning about it and refining new skills. Many children discover that they enjoy the scientific activities they are engaged with, and others show interest in planting. This has sparked some conversations with our interpreters because children are keen to know if these new interests might lead them to future job opportunities. They are encouraged to keep exploring the experiences that have moved them. We hope to be a resource for each of them as they follow their path. To date, we have had 2,200 participations as part of this Saturday program.



* Cañón San Cristóbal
Barranquitas, Puerto Rico





* **Clandestine landfill**
Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico

A new map of clandestine landfills provides us a pathway to protect our waters

After Puerto Rico was struck by hurricanes Irma and María, Para la Naturaleza aligned with the Segarra Boerman Foundation in a project to identify clandestine landfills. Our objective was to locate those that are near riparian and coastal ecosystems and that could be leaking contaminants to the water. Thanks to a donation provided by this Foundation, we were able to benefit from the availability of aerial images of the islands without their lush forest cover. The quality of the photos that were taken after the hurricanes helped us to identify materials (garbage and debris) informally deposited close to bodies of water like rivers and streams. We analyzed and validated the data collected with updated satellite images to generate a spatial layer of points where illegal dumps are currently located. The spatial layer is being served on a web map that will be the main item of a “story map” that seeks to help citizens act to solve this environmental problem. The results of this project will be discussed and shared with government officials with access to disaster funding for cleanup. We hope that they will show interest in developing a work plan to tackle these illegal dumps.

Integrating nearby communities through open houses

Para la Naturaleza's four regions hosted their annual open houses. Hacienda Buena Vista hosted theirs on October 27, Hacienda la Esperanza on November 10, and Las Cabezas de San Juan on December 9. As had been established, regional open houses followed the thematic line of the 2018 Annual Fair: "Memories of the Forest" (in Spanish, *Memorias del bosque*). The recollection of how neighboring communities survived the hurricanes of 2017 was a central topic of the stories presented to the public during the 2018 Fair and the respective open houses. The graphic identity and narratives of these events referenced local plantations or prototypical forests. Hacienda Buena Vista's Open House theme became "Memory of the coffee farm" (*Memoria del cafetal*). Hacienda la Esperanza held "Memory of the sugar cane plantation" (*Memoria del cañaveral*) and Las Cabezas de San Juan's Open House was titled "Memory of the mangroves" (*Memoria del manglar*). Approximately 1,200 people attended the Hacienda Buena Vista Open House; 800 visited Hacienda la Esperanza in November, and Las Cabezas de San Juan received 900 visitors.



* Hacienda Buena Vista
Ponce, Puerto Rico

* Para la Naturaleza Annual Gathering
San Juan, Puerto Rico



Re-energizing our team

In several communities, Para la Naturaleza's employees were the first to perform an incredible response and recovery work after the devastation caused by hurricanes Irma and Maria. Our employees showed their commitment even though eleven of them lost all their belongings, and a few of them lost their homes.

One of them was Julián García, Special Units Coordinator of Para la Naturaleza, who lives with his wife Yashei Rosario in Vieques. For the very first time, Hurricane María forced them to leave their wooden house. They were afraid that it would not withstand the ferocious winds predicted. Julian and Yashei sought refuge in a public shelter. As soon as they could, they left to see what had happened to their home. It was shattered. A good part of the roof and balcony had disappeared. Julian insisted on walking around the surrounding areas to collect the pieces of wood and building materials they had lost. Little by little, they realized that the damage had been greater than what they first thought. "It was a pretty shocking and difficult moment," he confessed.

However, it did not break their spirit of service. Julian and Yashei took to the

streets to help their neighbors. With a chainsaw, Julian cut fallen trees while Yashei removed the branches and cleared the way. As they worked their way around the neighborhood, they were quietly identifying individuals and families in need.

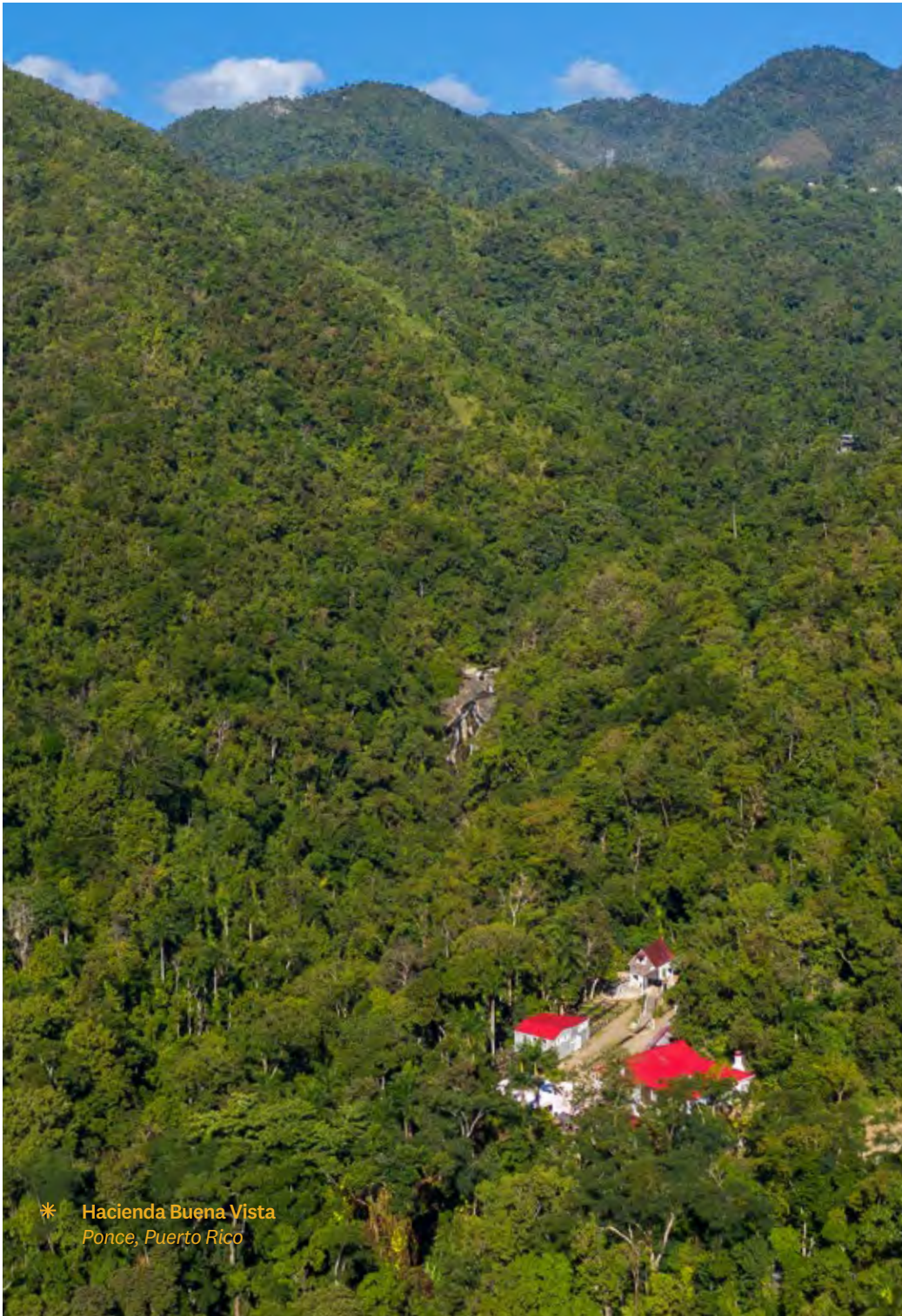
To Julián's surprise, as soon as the sea transport to Vieques resumed, "all the interpreters of the East Region were here. Para la Naturaleza's support to Vieques was surprising. They brought toothpaste, disinfectant soap, shampoo, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, diapers, first aid kits, among many other things. We went house by house taking the aid we received," Yashei added.

We corresponded to our employees' efforts by supporting all those that had lost their belongings, promoting a salary adjustment across the board to help them cover unexpected expenses and decreeing a one-week operational recess during the last week of August. We also announced a program to provide all our regular employees with low-cost loans to support the acquisition of a solar panel system for their home. Exhausted and shaken, they rose to the occasion. We just did the same. Noblesse oblige.

Engaging key supporters through Ecodetours

In 2018 we conducted 22 Ecodetours, serving 149 persons. In April we received a group of visitors from the Hispanic Federation, and in May, two groups from the Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Recreation Foundation. We are grateful for the donations and grants received from all of them. Among the friends that visited us this year were two USA Congressmen, the Executive Director of the Puerto Rico's Oversight Board, various officials of the Puerto Rican government (executive and legislative branches), representatives from the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), global companies Airbnb and Patagonia, and local journalists, among many others. During a September visit, a group of Congress staffers were able to see the structural damages caused by hurricanes Irma and María to the Lighthouse at Las Cabezas de San Juan Reserve and learned about Hábitat, our reforestation and recovery program.





* Hacienda Buena Vista
Ponce, Puerto Rico

Rebuilding and growing stronger

Once the preliminary inspection of all structures in the organization was completed, an assessment and estimate of repair was made. However, several unforeseen factors modified this initial appraisal. For example, materials prices skyrocketed due to the sudden demand spike. Significant repair jobs had to comply with new construction codes that increased costs and labor was in short supply. The damages estimate was submitted to our insurance agency, but it did not have the reinsurance cover or the financial resources to handle the volume of claims. In November 2018 we resorted to filling claims under different programs of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The repairs necessary to recover the quality standards of our visitor centers included removing sediments, restoring historic machinery, rebuilding five tree nurseries and a sawmill, repairing several roofs, and painting almost all structures. They would also require restoring historic machinery affected by the winds.

The full recovery of our sites is essential to regaining our traditional standards

of quality, service, and safety, while we keep offering visitors our trademark educational and inspirational experiences in nature. To accomplish this, we are still working on repairing the damages outlined in the initial engineering assessment made after the hurricanes. All our sites have undergone thorough engineering reviews and have developed specific actions to make them more resilient.

At Las Cabezas de San Juan Natural Reserve Area, the lighthouse roof and the trolleys that transport visitors will be replaced, in a project overseen by Architect Jorge Rigau. Solar panels, batteries and a new diesel tank with greater capacity are also being installed to be able to continue operations in the aftermath of any future catastrophic event. At Hacienda Buena Vista Natural Reserve Area, all buildings were repaired and painted. Three roofs at Las Lunas are being repaired and reinforced. Casa Ramon Powell Giralt and the visitors center at the San Cristóbal Canyon Natural Protected Area are being retrofitted with new water cisterns and a new propane gas generator.

A historic jewel takes a rest

In early 2018, the Lighthouse at Cabezas de San Juan reopened and began welcoming visitors. However, a short time later the structure showed damages that were not seen before the reopening. At first glance, the damage to Cabezas de San Juan Lighthouse seemed easy to repair. Upon entering the structure, “we saw that the wooden handrails and the treatment of the lighthouse’s roof were gone,” says Eduardo Esquilín, an environmental interpreter in the Cabezas de San Juan Reserve for the last 20 years. But as he looked closely at the top of the structure, Esquilín was very surprised to see that layers of the roof were detached. He took it as evidence that María’s winds were strong enough to rip part of the roof of a building that has been standing since 1880. Since its foundation, the lighthouse had survived 16 hurricanes and storms. “I started working immediately after Hurricane Georges in 1998, but I hadn’t seen an impact quite like this,” Esquilín notes. With the removal of these layers from the ceiling, water began to seep, and jets of water started pouring down after rains. “Walls, furniture and materials began to deteriorate because of the moisture,” Esquilín adds. The lack of electrical power for such an extended period damaged the exhibition halls of marine organisms. They had to be removed.

To prevent the structure from suffering a major wear, the decision to close the structure and step up reparations is being considered.



* Cabezas de San Juan
Fajardo, Puerto Rico

Empowered by your support

Para la Naturaleza has kept developing a strong support base in the philanthropic community. Our fundraising capabilities have increased during 2018 and have exceeded our development income goals (excluding fiscal sponsorship) by 135%, for a total of \$3,028,52. Of these funds, \$545,170 were unrestricted and will be allocated as needed to meet our current goals.

Fundraising efforts in 2018 were focused on the Hábitat program. By December 31, 2018, we had been able to secure \$1,563,414 for all the initiatives conducted by Hábitat. Specifically, we raised:

- \$575,848 for community projects, which will enable the retrofitting of 22 community centers
- \$130,705 for agroecological farming projects, including the 75 agroecological farmers that received microgrants

- \$645,410 for reforestation efforts

In 2018 we received an extraordinary amount of financial support for post-hurricane relief efforts, as well as a considerable amount of media exposure that highlighted the organization and its efforts. Income from individual donors totaled \$370,225 — exceeding our goal by 6%. Of this amount, \$356,089 were cash donations and \$14,136 were in-kind contributions. The number of donors totaled 417, of which 49 were major donors. Donations from the Board totaled \$135,886, with 80% of our trustees and donors supporting the organization with a financial commitment in 2018.

During the fourth quarter of 2018, we conducted several major fundraising efforts. On December 8 we held our first fundraising event, “It’s Harvest Time!”, to support agroecological farmers in Puerto Rico. This dinner was held in Hacienda La Esperanza and featured local

products and two young chefs: Gabriel Hernández, from Verde Mesa and Natalia Vallejo, from Cocina al Fondo. The event engaged attendees in harvesting or preparing their food with some of the fresh ingredients that were featured in the evening’s four-course dinner. It was the perfect occasion to make the official announcement of our plans to expand our program to support agroecological farmers on the islands. As an inaugural event, the evening raised \$68,000 from individual and corporate donations. We thank trustee Marie Salerno and Board members Federico Sánchez, Salomé Galib, Carmen Báez, José Rafael Fernández, Leslie Mattingly, and Blas Fonalledas for their generous support.

This year we received the largest corporate donation in our history: \$310,500 from the *Barceloneta Wastewater Treatment Corp* Major Repair Fund. We also had four major gifts that deserve special recognition:

- For the third year in a row, Olga and Joaquín Viso donated \$100,000 to support our reforestation efforts.

- In December, we received a renewed support donation of \$50,000 from an anonymous donor.

- During the summer, we received a \$15,000 donation from Elena Piovonetti to reforest the Pterocarpus Forest in Dorado.

- For the third year in a row, Carmen Báez donated \$10,000 as part of her \$50,000 five-year unrestricted donation pledge. In addition, Carmen has continued to support Para la Naturaleza’s recovery efforts through her PRxPR fund. To date, PRxPR has donated \$310,000 toward emergency home kits, retrofitting five community centers, and supporting agroecological farmers.



* **Yucae**
Yabucoa, Puerto Rico

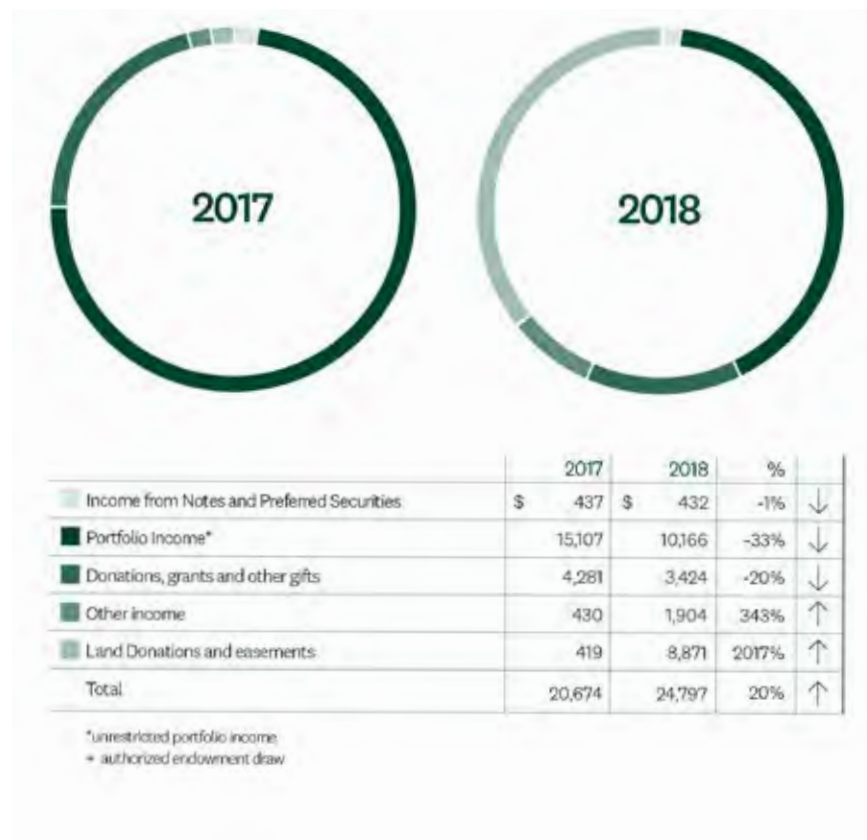


* Cañón San Cristóbal
Barranquitas, Puerto Rico

Our path forward

Amid all the work done and the milestones that lay ahead, we keep asking ourselves how to rebuild a present that may bring us a different kind of future. Our responses capabilities failed the test of the global climate havoc we suffered. We all need a future that is different from the one that was given to us. Part of the work we are undertaking is envisioning this future together. We are committed to building the capacity of each community to locally address its basic needs, such as continuous access to clean water, a source of clean energy, and plenty of healthy, locally grown food within a very resilient natural infrastructure. We want every community across the islands of Puerto Rico to satisfy their needs while taking care of nature, revitalizing their ecosystems and supporting the delicate web of life. Moreover, we want communities to be proud of making such conscious choices day after day. This is what we mean by developing a strong ecological culture with our communities. This is the vision that keeps us going every single day as we face new challenges, yet great opportunities for all those that make the islands of Puerto Rico their home.

SOURCES OF FUNDS



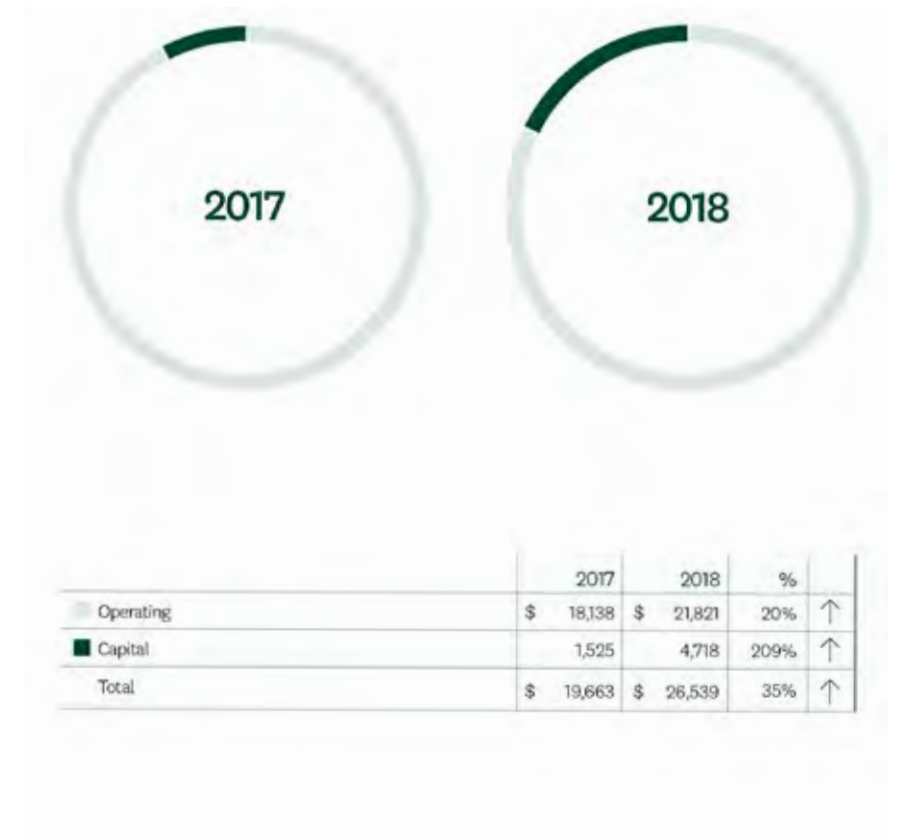
OPERATING USES OF FUNDS



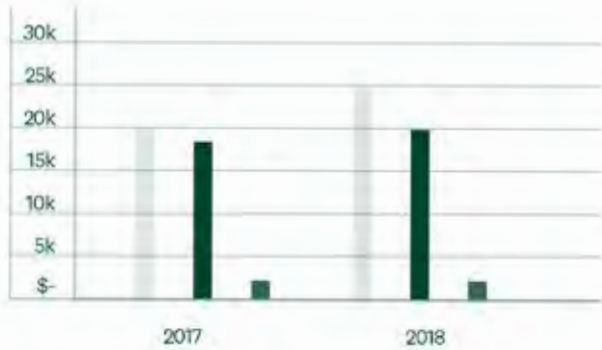
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS



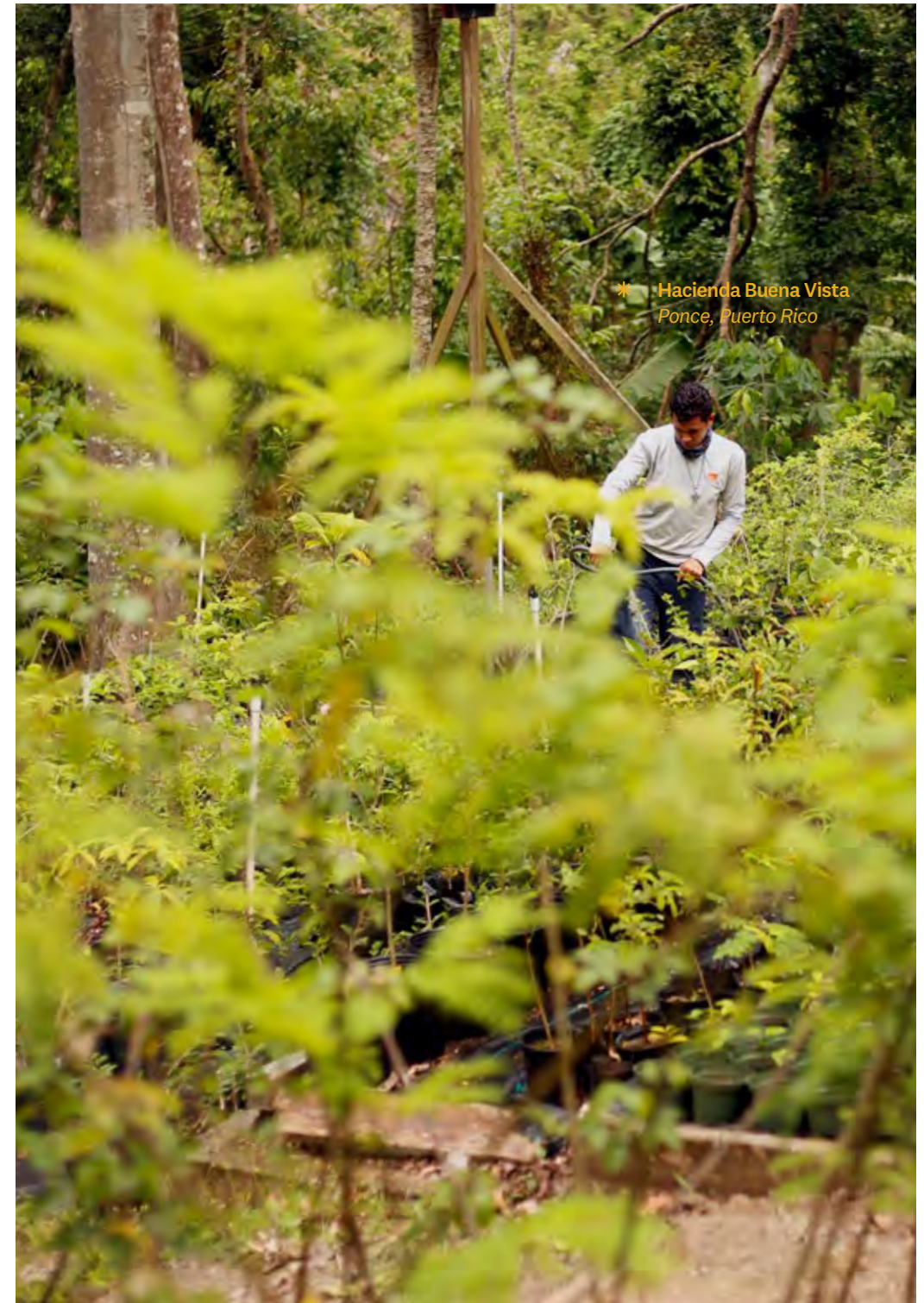
TOTAL USES OF FUNDS



REVENUE LESS OPERATING EXPENSES



	2017	2018	%	
Operating	\$ 18,138	\$ 21,821	20%	↑
Capital	1,525	4,718	209%	↑
Excess Funds	\$ 19,663	\$ 26,539	35%	↑



Friends and Supporters

\$1,000 – \$4,999

Adam & Cheri Hegi
Aida Cardona
Andrew Bowman & Alena Kaufman
Andrew Light & Juliet Eilperin
Anonymous
Aveda Corporation
Axel Ramírez
Barbara N. Fuldner
Beguelin Family Trust
Blas Fonalledas & Diana Pérez
Brenda L. Torres Barreto & Rafael Ortiz
Caribbean Produce Exchange Inc.
Caribbean Wildlife Alliance
Casillas, Santiago & Torres, LLC
Cindy Golbert
Citibank
Clotilde Pérez Merced
Diane Rehner
DLA Piper
Dulce Caña
Evertec
Foundation for Puerto Rico
Francesca Rey
Global Greengrants Fund
Jacqueline Terrasa
Jason Mitrakos
José A. Negroni Díaz
Judith Ruiz
Julie A. Gandulla

Kansas City Ski and Volleyball friends
lead by Loretta Rhodus
Katherine Alden
L’Oreal Caribe
Leslie D. Mattingly
Local Guest LLC
Luis Álvarez Vila
Luke N. Allen
M Salomé Galib & Duane McLaughlin
Mapfre
Marcos A. Rodríguez
Margarita Garriga
Marie Salerno
Mario R. Nevárez
Mary Williams Elementary
Nicholas J. Moore
Plaza las Américas
PR Farm Credit
Puerto Rico Open
Rebecca Marvil & Brian Smyth
Roberto Serralles & Rebecca Sauser
Semillero Ventures
The Ocean Foundation
Thomson Reuters
Universal Insurance Company
UPS
Viajes A+ Educational Tours
World Central Kitchen

\$5,000-\$9,999

Bob & Margy Ayres
Brooklyn Friends School
Carolina Della Valle
Destilería Serrallés, Inc.
DYAD
Earth Day Network, Inc.
Foundation for a Better Puerto Rico
Fulcro Insurance, Inc.
Fundación Aireko
Industrial Fittings & Valves
Interlink Group
Iván Alonso Costa
JetBlue Airways
Kenneth R. Woodcock
Lilly del Caribe
Model Offset Printing
Oficios MA
Plaza Provision
Poets for Puerto Rico
Popular Auto
Resort Homes at Dorado Beach, S.E.
Teens4PR
The Herrans Group
Walmart

\$10,000-\$99,999

Aníbal Sepúlveda
Anonymous
Anonymous
Carmen Báez
Center for a New Economy
Center for Disaster Philanthropy
Cynthia T. García Coll, PhD
Edwards Lifesciences Foundation
Elena Piovanetti
Expedia Group
Filantropía Puerto Rico
Flamboyán Foundation
Fundación Plaza del Caribe
GE XLP
Ironman Foundation
JM Kaplan Fund
Liberty Cablevision
Merrill Lynch
Peter and Katherine Scudera
Pfizer Pharmaceuticals
PR Textile Recycling LLC
Save the Children
SC Johnson de PR, Inc.
The Boston Foundation
The Dorothea Leonhardt Foundation
The North Face
Western Massachusetts United for PR

\$100,000 +

Barceloneta Wastewater Treatment* Corp.
Fundación Ángel Ramos
Hispanic Federation
Joaquín B. Viso & Olga Lizardi
National Recreation Foundation
National Trust for Historic Preservation
New York Community Trust
Pan American Development Foundation
PRxPR

* As part of the dissolution and liquidation of the non-profit Barceloneta Wastewater Treatment Corporation (BWTC), Para la Naturaleza was selected to receive a transfer of assets in the amount of \$310,500.00. The members of BWTC are: AbbVie Ltd., BASF Agricultural Products de PR, Bristol-Myers Squibb Manufacturing Co., Johnson & Johnson-Ortho Pharmaceuticals, MSD International GmbH and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, LLC.

Para la Naturaleza is a non profit organization that combines stewardship of land and human ecosystems, with strong support to ecological farmers and local communities in search of sustainability. We are part of the raising global movement that understands that we are all part of nature, not apart from it. Through our different programs we provide experiences that inspire people to act as stewards of nature and heritage. We are fully committed to three big goals: planting 750,000 native or endemic trees in the next few years, preserving 33% of all lands for 2033, and promoting the cultural and policy shifts needed for a common life in sync with nature across the islands.