

Children's Eternal Rainforest
Monteverde Conservation League
Annual Report 2016



Mountain lion (Puma concolor)
Photo: Camera trap research project

Monteverde, Costa Rica
February 11, 2017



**BOSQUE ETERNO
DE LOS NIÑOS**
CHILDREN'S ETERNAL
RAINFOREST

In Memory



Wilford Guindon

Kyle Wainwright

Martha Moss

**AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
MONTEVERDE CONSERVATION LEAGUE
BAJO DEL TIGRE CLASSROOM, MONTEVERDE
FEBRUARY 11, 2017**

- 8:30 a.m. First Roll Call
- 9:00 a.m. Second Roll Call; Minute of Silence; Welcome; Approval of Agenda
- 9:05 a.m. President's Report
- 9:20 a.m. Treasurer's Report
- 9:30 a.m. Fiscal Reports
- 9:40 a.m. Executive Director's Report
- 10:10 a.m. Questions and Answers
- 10:50 a.m. Motion to approve President's & Treasurer's Reports
- 10:55 a.m. Presentation: Environmental Education Program
- 11:10 a.m. Nominating Committee Report
- 11:15 a.m. Election of Board of Directors and Fiscal
- Election of President for the period of March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2019
 - Election of Secretary for the period of March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2019
 - Election of Vocal 1 for the period of March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2019
 - Election of Vocal 3 for the period of March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2019
 - Election of Fiscal 1 for the period of March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2019
 - Election of Fiscal 2 for the period of March 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019
- 11:55 a.m. Election of Nominating Committee
- 12:05 p.m. Other topics
- 12:35 p.m. Motion to finalize agreements taken during the Assembly
Motion to formalize the minutes
- 12:45 p.m. Lunch



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INTRODUCTION

Monteverde, Puntarenas
February 8, 2017

The year of our 30th anniversary, 2016, was a difficult year for the Monteverde Conservation League. It was a year marked by many changes and significant challenges, but also by important achievements and organizational growth.

One of the greatest challenges, and surely a situation on everyone's mind, was the closure of the Pocosol Station. We are working toward a solution to repair the station as soon as possible. Although Pocosol does not yet generate significant revenue for the League, it has the potential to do so; furthermore, Pocosol is an area that we cannot simply abandon, as this sector is high risk for hunting, robbery, and squatters. We will continue to maintain a constant presence at Pocosol, with the support of our Protection and Maintenance staff, as we work toward a solution.

A second challenge, also unexpected, had to do with changes in the government's Payment for Environmental Services (PSA) program; these changes are described in detail below. The MCL has come to rely on PSA as our greatest source of net income. The new regulations, if no changes are made, will cut the League's PSA revenue to about 25% of the current amount over the next 5 years. Significant follow-up is required in the coming months, both in terms of attempting to modify the new law as well as seeking alternative types of environmental service payments such as the Fund for Sustainable Biodiversity (FSB).

Legal issues threaten the conservation and consolidation of the Children's Eternal Rainforest (BEN). They are also taxing in terms of time, effort, and economic resources. It is difficult to predict our finances for the future with the ever-present threat of new legal cases on the horizon. Unfortunately, the MCL had plenty of work in the legal arena during 2016: judicial processes thought to be nearly closed were revived; other cases have continued at a mind-bogglingly slow pace; and new, unexpected situations arose. The most significant cases at this time have to do with private PSA contracts (INMan and CONELECTRICAS) and land tenure (Mario Rodriguez and Bekom). The MCL owes an enormous debt of gratitude to the members of the Legal Commission for their dedicated efforts in this domain.

Sadly, 2016 marked the passing of three people dear to our organization: Wilford Guindon, founding member and conservation pioneer; Martha Moss, friend, neighbor, and member since 1990; and Kyle Wainwright, who brought light and spirit to the lives of all who met him. All three will be dearly missed.

In spite of challenges and setbacks, 2016 was also a year of growth and achievement. We reached several major milestones in terms of promotion and visibility, first and foremost a complete redesign of our website, www.acmcr.org, which is now up and running in both English and Spanish. We have increased our presence and following on social media, thanks in large part to contributions from the CIEE internship program, and new signage throughout the BEN has been made possible by a grant from Friends of the Rainforest.

In 2016 we completed two important protocols: an Emergency Protocol (detailed below) and a protocol for Protection staff. The Protection protocol includes general working guidelines as well as specific procedures for responding to situations such as trespassing, hunting, and feline attacks, among others.

We maintain active and positive relationships with our donors, without whom our work would not be possible. Kinderregenwald (Germany) continues to send donations for Land Purchase and Protection (LPP), and Friends of the Rainforest (USA) has funded several key projects, including executive director salary; environmental education; mirador at Pocosal; critical field equipment; vehicle replacement; new signage; and first aid and rescue equipment. Friends of the Rainforest has also committed to new fundraising projects for 2017. In addition, Engage Globally (USA) has expressed willingness to continue fundraising for specific projects. Finally, in 2016 we received an important property donation: C. Robert Frost and family donated a property in San Juan de Peñas Blancas (San Ramón, Alajuela). The property measures about 8,600 m² and is adjacent to the Texas A&M Soltis Center in the Chachagua Biological Corridor area. This donation was made possible in large part by the efforts of Hernán Chacón, our Control and Protection Coordinator.

We are happy to report that young people continue to support to the conservation of the Children's Eternal Rainforest. The Third Grade of the American School of Madrid (Spain) sends an annual donation of about 2,000 Euros raised by their Read-A-Thon. We also received donations from a variety of elementary schools in the United States and Costa Rica, and we are working on new fundraising partnerships with schools and universities in the United States. In December 2016, we were pleasantly surprised by a donation of \$2,000, raised by a young man named Zachary Hay (a.k.a. Dr. Zoodal J. Hay) from the sales of his children's book, Timur the Tiger. Future sales of the book, which is now available for sale on Amazon, will also support the BEN.

This year we made infrastructural improvements at all of our stations and visitation centers; these are detailed in their respective sections, below. We also had a surprise addition to our infrastructure: seven figures from the former Megafauna project have come home to the BEN. Six of these figures now comprise a short educational trail in Finca Steller; the jaguar, appropriately, resides in Bajo del Tigre. As part of the finalization of this contract with Sigma Alimentos (formerly Productores de Monteverde), the MCL also received monetary recognition that covered the cost of transport and restoration.

On the research front, we were pleased to see a number of faculty and graduate student research projects carried out in the BEN this year. Promoting research in the BEN is a high priority for the MCL, particularly in the case of medium- and long-term studies can that help us understand and therefore conserve vulnerable species and populations.

We continue to seek ways in which students and visitors, both Costa Rican and international, can make meaningful contributions to the BEN by way of internships and volunteer projects. In 2016, 9 interns from CIEE, Lehigh University, and the Santa Elena public high school participated in specific projects of interest to the League. We are looking to add specific volunteer positions as well as "volun-tourism" to the mix via our new website.

We are also looking to involve YOU! One of our goals for 2017 is to involve our membership in the care and feeding of the MCL. Stay tuned for specific opportunities to participate in maintenance, social media, environmental education, and other important efforts.

Looking ahead, our highest immediate priorities are: (1) repairing and reopening Pocosol Station; (2) following up on the new law related to PSA; (3) increasing sales at Bajo del Tigre, our most accessible point of visitation; (4) following up on legal cases; and (5) identifying and following up with specific donors and organizations in order to grow our endowment fund. This last item is critical, as nearly all of the other projects and challenges can be dealt with as long as we have the funds to do so.

In closing, I would like to express my profound gratitude and admiration for the League's staff and Board of Directors. The backing and encouragement of the Board has been crucial in handling new obstacles and opportunities as they come our way. And the support, dedication, and patience of the MCL staff is simply remarkable. The conservation of the Children's Eternal Rainforest has been made possible by many devoted people over the years, and their contributions are of course to be honored. But the day-to-day work is carried out by a valiant few; they deserve our utmost respect, admiration, and thanks.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Stallcup
Executive Director

REPORTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President's Report

Welcome to our Annual Assembly. This year marks our 31st anniversary, and I extend our warmest greetings to our new members.

The Board of Directors met an average of once a month from March 2016 to February 2017. Although in some cases we had only the minimum number of participants required, no meetings were canceled for lack of quorum. The diversity of the board and the *fiscales*, who have also had a very good participation, is a strength of our organization: the individual and diverse views of the members, and respect for the opinions of all, makes us a heterogeneous and united board.

The board works hand in hand with Lindsay Stallcup, Executive Director, who has performed very positively. We feel that, despite the difficulty of the position, she has achieved goals of great importance for the MCL, including registering the brand name of Children's Eternal Rainforest (Bosque Eterno de los Niños). She also maintains an adequate and fluid relationship with several sister organizations such as Friends of the Rainforest (FoR) and Kinderregenwald, from whom we received constant support for different projects and needs during 2016. Our relationship with FoR has stabilized, and Lindsay is the one who communicates directly with Chelsea Raiche, the Executive Director of FoR, without intervention by the MCL board. Additionally, our new website was recently launched. It is attractive and easy to navigate, with updated information; it is also editable directly by the MCL.

This year an evaluation of Lindsay's work was made and the Board agreed to renew her contract for two additional years.

Yuber Rodriguez, who continues as Director of Land Affairs, has also focused on areas of great importance to the League: Payment for Environmental Services (PSA) and legal processes, both of which require a great deal of time and knowledge. Yuber works very closely with the Legal Affairs Committee, which is made up of representatives from Protection, Maintenance, Executive Director, Board of Directors, and members. This committee was very active in 2016 and met regularly.

In preparing this report, I reviewed a few previous reports, and my attention was drawn to the fact that our priorities and needs have been the same for a long time. As always, our objectives are to achieve greater economic sustainability, strengthen protection, maintenance, and education programs, and encourage more research within the BEN.

Our main objective is to achieve the economic stability that will allow us to successfully carry out our conservation work. Despite all the proposals over the years, we simply have not managed to increase our revenue to the degree necessary to give us that stability; we only managed to cover expenses and operate at a minimum. For several years, the priority has been to consolidate our Endowment Fund, which has gradually grown but not enough to cover our operational needs, and it has been difficult to convince donors to contribute significantly to this fund.

As we have said previously, the main achievement of the MCL has been to purchase and protect the BEN, a very important achievement. The BEN is the largest private reserve in Costa Rica and covers 7 different life zones, making it one of the most biodiverse places on the planet. It is also a source of water for communities and for several hydroelectric projects, including Lake Arenal, which supplies about 30% of the country's hydroelectricity. But despite this great service to the country, we receive no recognition from the government (ICE). Seven years ago (February 2010), we announced with great optimism that the MCL payment of environmental services from CONELECTRICAS, developers of the Pocosol Hydroelectric Project, located adjacent to BEN. This was the result of a settlement following a lawsuit for environmental damages to BEN. Unfortunately, since late 2016 we are facing a new legal conflict with CONELECTRICAS, who want to rescind the contract on the grounds that it is not legal. The ACM would stop receiving these payments, but they also ask that we return everything we have been paid over the years – with interest! At the beginning of January we were required to initiate an arbitration process that obliged us to pay more than 4.5 million colones as a deposit to participate in the process. We were able to make this payment thanks to a specific loan to cover this expense, but it shows our economic vulnerability when unforeseen expenses of this magnitude arise. Efforts have been made in recent days to try to reach an out-of-court settlement with CONELECTRICAS.

The MCL's annual budget for 2015-2016 was \$613,879, and in 2016-2017 the projected is \$560,000 just to maintain the most basic level of operations. The main source of net income for the MCL is Environmental Services Payments (PSA-51%). Unfortunately, this year a change was proposed and approved to Article 39, subsection f, of the Regulation to the Forestry Law that determines how PSA are awarded, giving priority to smallholders and placing a limit of only 600 hectares for forest protection by any individual or legal entity. This will negatively impact PSA revenues from 2017 forward. We contacted the Ministry of Environment (MINAE) and we met with the Deputy Minister of MINAE, Patricia Madrigal, to explain our particular situation and how the change in the law would affect our economic stability and ability to continue our conservation work, which is of great benefit to the country. Although she was very empathetic and knew the existence of the BEN, we did not obtain an exception for the MCL to the modification to the law. We were informed of the existence of another PSA program, the Fund for Sustainable Biodiversity (FSB), for which the MCL could potentially qualify, but these funds can only be accessed by recommendation to a board that administers those funds. The amount that PSA contributes to our budget therefore remains unpredictable and subject to changes in government policies, potentially putting the MCL in serious trouble. The amount received through PSA could decrease further, unless we can access FSB funds and/or we can improve our income in other areas. This is vital since everything the MCL does is money-dependent. This is something we have known for decades, but achieving it has been very difficult.

Donations

We have clearly defined our needs and priorities for donors. As in previous years, our specific goals for donations include the endowment fund, followed by donations for education, research, and finally, purchase of land. Of course, unrestricted donations are always welcome, since we can use them where they are most needed.

Donations often help us to meet specific needs. For example, in 2016 FoR provided funds for the Executive Director's salary, funds for environmental education, equipment for new emergency kits, construction of the new mirador at Pocosol, and new signage. And for 2017, FoR has pledged

to help with fundraising to replace aging vehicles, a critical need, and repair Pocosol Station. Patrick Osborne, Chair of the Board, and Chelsea Raiche, Executive Director, continue to lead the organization, and we thank them and all of their collaborators for these contributions.

Kinderregenwald Deutschland (Germany) sends modest and steady donations for Land Purchase and Protection (LPP), and we maintain an excellent relationship with Roland Paul, Kinderregenwald's president. Funds are generally accumulated and added to other LPP donations until there is enough to make a land purchase.

Unrestricted donations are a great help, but they only account for 30% of our annual income. The remaining net income is generated by the MCL. It is important to note that over the last 20 years we have become more self-sufficient, as we understood that we had to become independent of the culture of donations that began to decrease significantly since the 1990s. Much effort has been made in this regard. But sometimes things happen that are beyond our control.

Pocosol Station

This year we suffered a setback at Pocosol Station when we received reports on the stability of the dormitory building, which was affected by an earthquake in 2012, and the geotechnical report of the land on which the building was constructed. After analyzing all the possibilities, we made the difficult decision to close Pocosol to visitors beginning in November 2016 and until we are able to repair the building and stabilize the land. We had to cancel group reservations for this season; we stopped receiving income in Pocosol, while we continue with the operating expenses since we cannot abandon the station due to the real risk of vandalism and robberies. The dining room was not affected and visitation is permitted on the trails with previous coordination. Recently, after requesting a second opinion from another architect and civil engineer, who agreed with the recommendations of the geotechnical report, we decided to seek the funds for the slope stabilization and building repair through FoR, who expressed potential interest in helping to secure funding. The MCL board analyzed other alternatives to solve the problem but the alternatives also involved large investments of funds and labor.

The MCL also made important infrastructural improvements in San Gerardo and Bajo del Tigre.

Emergency Protocol

The Emergency Protocol Committee, made up of board members and staff, developed an emergency protocol document that will help us to respond in emergency situations that may arise within the BEN. We have also facilitated staff training in wilderness first aid courses (WFR/WAFA) and purchased and updated emergency equipment including additional radios for field staff and stations. In some cases accidents cannot be prevented, but I think we are better prepared to respond to emergencies as well as prevent them. We would like to thank Katy Van Dusen and Frank Joyce, who provided scholarships for Protection and Maintenance staff members to participate in WFR and WAFA courses in 2016.

Sale of former MCL offices in Monteverde

Unfortunately, the conflictive situation with the neighbor of the League's property in Cerro Plano has significantly reduced the possibility of renting or selling this property, although we continue receiving offers and continue with the legal process to resolve it. As a reminder: the new owner of

Monteverde Inn and Valle Escondido obstructed our main entrance with large boulders in 2015, claiming that the road leading to his property (past the Butterfly Garden) is privately owned and that we have no right of access. Although the right of access to our property (and the rights of other neighbors) was recognized in a lawsuit that the MCL won against the previous owners of Monteverde Inn, the resolution is not binding for the new owner, therefore we must repeat the legal process. This action is causing serious harm to the work and finances of the MCL. The initial idea of moving our offices and putting this property on sale was to reduce operating costs and put the funds from the sale in our Endowment Fund; however, under the current situation, the building is deteriorating and continues to generate expenses and waste the time of our personnel.

As you can see, once again we have had a challenging year. The mere fact that I am again in the position of President of the MCL Board of Directors shows the leadership vacuum in our organization, a subject that must be faced.

We thank all the staff for the great effort they make every day in their work to achieve the operation of this organization.

Finally, I must mention the passing of members Martha Moss and Wilford Guindon, and of Kyle Wainwright, son of Mark Wainwright. Their presence in the activities of the MCL was always cause for great joy for me, and I always appreciated their participation and support.

Julia Matamoros A.

President

Treasurer's Report

This year has presented difficulties as well as achievements in finances as well as in administration, but they have been overcome by careful use of available resources and the dedication of the personnel. The financial situation has improved by obtaining more income from the environmental service payments, the generous grants from Friends of the Rainforest, and more visitation in our stations and trail systems.

We now have a new accounting system, which can supply us with monthly reports allowing us to make timely decisions. In the past we often did not know that there was a problem until several months had past and we had to make an abrupt pause in a program instead of a gradual cutting back and finding funds to continue.

Currently, there is a problem with the environmental service payments, and although the government has approved the payments, they have not been disbursed. This causes a cash flow problem. How do we pay the monthly bills or make commitments for the coming months? The Association hopes to rely less on government subsidies by increasing our income from visitors' fees and selling more souvenirs and other services. There should be a timely financial report indicating an increase or decrease in income or expenses, so that the administration can make a decision on the allocation of funds.

A greater problem this year was the discovery that one corner of our field station in Pocosol is settling causing the doors on the second floor to stick and some bathroom tiles to crack. Although it's not too obvious at the present, it will only get worse and could become dangerous; therefore, expensive repairs must be made, which means the station will be closed for nearly a year!

This year's accounting report indicates that there is around \$6,600 left after the deduction of the expenses from the year's income, which is a little better than last year.

We have hope that this coming year will present new opportunities that we can see and cautiously use to preserve this beautiful, diverse area of the earth.

Bob Law

Treasurer

Report from Fiscal 1

Assembly Members

Monteverde Conservation League

Good morning distinguished President, distinguished members of the Board of Directors, and all those present today. The following is the annual report on the operation of the Monteverde Conservation League with respect to the following obligations:

Costa Rican Social Security (CCSS). Regarding the ACM's obligation with respect to the CCSS, we requested a report through the SICERE-CCSS system, which indicates that we are up to date.

National Institute of Insurance (INS). We are up to date on workers compensation insurance; payments are made on a semiannual basis, with the next payment due in April. The civil liability policy for Bajo de Tigre was paid in September and we are up to date.

Accounting. Wages are adjusted every six months (January and July) according to the recommendations published by the Ministry of Labor. With respect to public utility, we have maintained our status as a non-profit association “of interest” to the Costa Rican government (“utilidad pública”). Reports for utilidad publica are made between February and March, and are up to date.

Legal Issues. During 2016 there was a great deal of movement in various legal issues, new and old. Some of the most important developments include:

1. **Bekom** (MCL vs. Badilla Navarro family and Canet Zamora family). This case was in the final stage of appeals in the Agrarian Court and we assumed it was essentially finished. However, last September the case became more complicated when the court required the MCL to include the Costa Rican State in the lawsuit.
2. **Modification of Forestry Law by Executive Decree.** This amendment seeks to regulate the placement of land in Environmental Service Payments (PSA), adding the restriction that no individual or company can place more than 600 hectares in PSA at any given time. This situation has led to the search for different strategies to make up for the loss of income that this will cause; including a meeting with Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Ms. Patricia Madrigal, as well as with the Executive Director of FONAFIFO, Mr. Jorge Mario Rodríguez. Alternatives are still being sought and PSA placement is being reviewed in the current period (which is not yet closed).
3. **INMan vs. MCL.** This year was key for this case, which began in 2006. Initially, the court (Tribunal Contencioso Administrativo y de Hacienda) recommended using the same expert topographical analysis (peritaje) originally presented in this case. However, this original report had various errors that made it more favorable to the interest of INMan. For this reason the MCL opposed, and the Court approved our request for MCL and INMan to be able to present new expert topographical opinions. The MCL contracted the services of two topographers who made a very complete report, which we hope will be the technical criteria used by the Court. INMan also presented a new topographical report.
4. **MCL vs. Mario Rodríguez.** This judicial process conducted conciliatory hearings and field inspections of the properties in question. After the hearing, the judge and the defendant requested modification of the expert report (peritaje). The judge also granted Mario Rodríguez the possibility of expanding the suit by incorporating more people who had not been included in the suit initially. This has caused a delay while we wait for Mr. Rodríguez to complete the list of additional people he wants to include in the case.
5. **Banco Nacional de Costa Rica vs. MCL.** This process is in the initial stages; we have completed the preliminary proceedings. This case has to do with the overlap of a property belonging to BNCR with several private landowners, including the MCL, in the Burrito area of Peñas Blancas de San Ramon.
6. **MCL vs. Instituto de Vida Sostenible ECOFE Lda.** (Injunction, or property protection related to the entrance of the former offices of the MCL, Cerro Plano). We have continued to

follow this case; progress is minimal.

Other legal or judicial processes involving the MCL continue, and a few new cases begin. These include: the process of arbitration related to for the environmental services contract between the MCL and the CONELECTRICAS hydroelectric project; plans and title of various properties; and minor cases related to violations of wildlife and forestry law within the Children's Eternal Rainforest.

Sincerely,

Marcos A. Méndez
Fiscal 1

Report from Fiscal 2

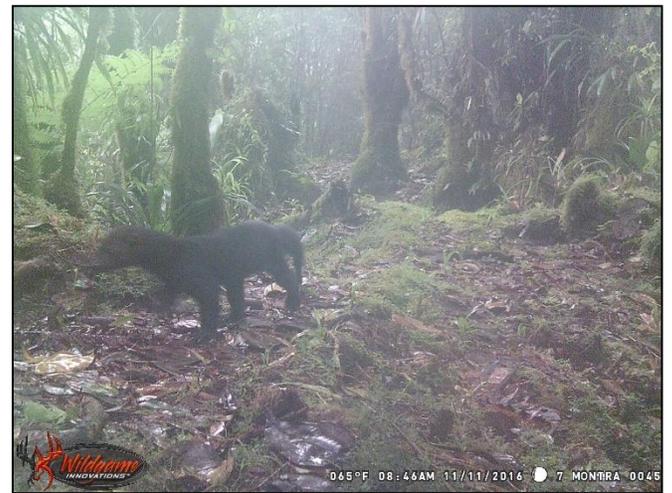
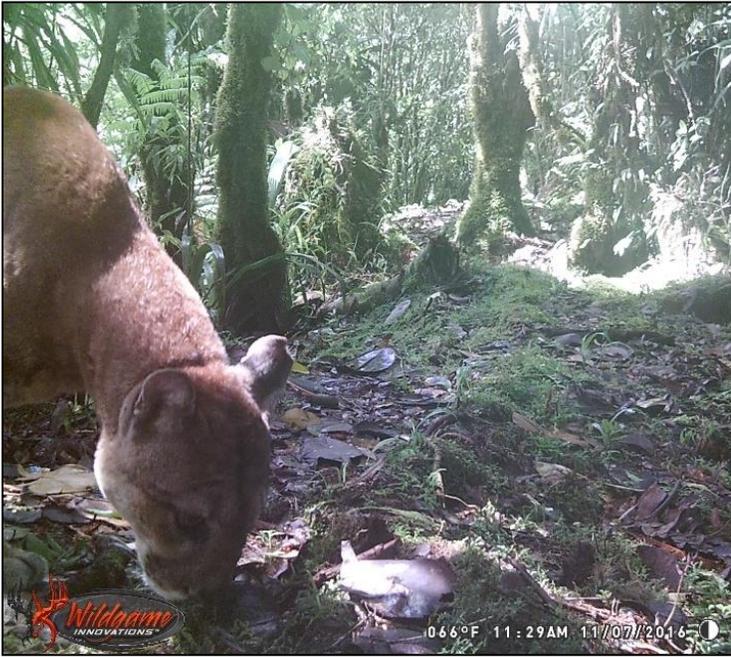
In concordance with Article Forty-five of our statutes, I present the following report. Acta 47 from the last General Assembly in February 2016 has been protocolized and inscribed both in MCL's legal books and at the National Registry.

Regarding board meetings, there was a total of 11 sessions this year, spanning from Acta 447 (March 2016) to 457 (February 2017). The minutes from these meetings have been reviewed and approved up until session 454, and inscribed in the MCL's legal books up to session 449.

This year has seen a good level of participation by all board members, and no meeting needed to be canceled or rescheduled due to lack of quorum. The meetings lasted about seven hours each on average, and it is worth noting that they involve additional hours of travel for those who do not live in the area of each meeting. For this reason, regular participation in board meetings required a significant sacrifice on the part of board members and the executive director, particularly those from the San Carlos region since eight of the eleven meetings were held in Monteverde. Apart from this, the sometimes complex themes analyzed in each meeting were discussed in a constructive and respectful manner, and resolved with formal, voted motions when appropriate.

As Second Fiscal I have not received any formal complaint about legal irregularities in our organization.

Mark Wainwright
Second Fiscal



In 2016 the MCL began a collaborative research project with Dr. Matthew Moran of Hendrix College. The project aims to gather baseline data about mammal populations in the BEN and surrounding protected areas using camera traps. From top to bottom: Mountain lion (*Puma concolor*); Jaguar (*Panthera onca*); White-nosed Coati (*Nasua narica*); Mountain lion; Collared peccary (*Pecari tajacu*); Tayra (*Eira barbara*).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Emergency Prevention and Response

The Emergency Prevention and Response Committee drafted, and the Board of Directors approved, an Emergency Protocol for the MCL. The protocol includes key contact information, plan for emergency prevention and preparedness, and steps for response in the case of specific medical emergencies, natural disasters, and other emergency situations. The final step in the plan is to elaborate a map of trails and access routes to the BEN, and a map of potential emergency aircraft landing sites. We are grateful to Julia Matamoros, Mark Wainwright, Eladio Cruz, Luis Solano, Hernán Chacón, and the Monteverde Institute for their contributions to this document.

Last year eight MCL staff members received advanced wilderness first aid training (WFA/WFR). In addition, all field staff participated in a refresher session on field extractions and first aid for trauma situations. Many thanks to the donors and instructors who made these training sessions possible. We will continue practice and refresher sessions in 2017.

Pocosol, San Gerardo, Bajo del Tigre, Finca Steller, and the Main Office have all been equipped with a complete first aid kit and basic rescue equipment. In addition, Maintenance and Protection staff have been provided with portable first aid kits, GPS units, and additional communication radios. Equipment purchase was made possible by a donation from Friends of the Rainforest.

In terms of prevention, we have initiated negotiations to place permanent boundary markers in strategic areas of the BEN. The idea is that these property lines (*carriles*) will no longer need to be maintained following installation of permanent markers, thereby reducing risk for field personnel. Over the long term this will also lower costs by reducing the labor required to maintain remote boundaries.

Economic and Financial Situation

Our main source of net income continues to be Payments for Environmental Services (PSA), which represented 51% of our net income for the 2015-2016 fiscal period. Following PSA were donations (30.3%), visitation to stations and trails (14.7%), interest earned on our endowment fund (2.7%), and souvenir sales (1.3%; Figure 1). Within the category of visitation to stations and trails, Bajo del Tigre generated approximately 49% of net income; San Gerardo 44%; and Pocosol 7%.

We had projected a deficit of nearly 21 million colones for this period; fortunately, several factors contributed to us closing the 2015-2016 fiscal year with a positive balance of ¢3,718,391 colones (Table 1). The greatest contributing factor was an increase in PSA, detailed further below in the PSA section of this report. Increased sales at both Pocosol and San Gerardo Stations also contributed to offsetting the projected deficit. Although we did not meet our sales goal for Bajo del Tigre, we maintain our commitment to increase visitation in this highly accessible area of the BEN through greater visibility on the ground (signage) and online (new website and social media).

The donations presented in Figure 1 include unrestricted as well as some restricted funds. The majority of our donations came in the form of restricted funds; however, ALL donations allowed

us to complete critical projects including, but not limited to: salary for executive director and environmental educator in La Tigra; funds for environmental education field trips and materials; infrastructural improvements at San Gerardo, Pocosol, Bajo del Tigre, and Finca Steller; purchase of critical field equipment; replacement of one vehicle; the complete re-design of our website; new signage; and the purchase of emergency response equipment. Although we did not purchase any new land in 2016, we continue to receive donations for Land Purchase and Protection (LPP); 50% of these funds are set aside for future land purchase, 40% is used for protection of the BEN, and 10% is designated for our endowment fund.

We are pleased to announce that we have purchased and started to use the Millennium accounting software package. This system will allow us to track income and expenses in each area or department, in order to achieve a better understanding of our finances in each sector and track spending on individual projects and donations.

The majority of our current income is from sources that are unfortunately subject to fluctuations: donations, tourism, and environmental service payments. These fluctuations are also difficult to predict; a drop in any one of these areas can quickly throw the organization into financial crisis. The interest earned on our endowment fund, on the other hand, represents a relatively stable and predictable source of revenue. However, in order for it to provide true stability our endowment fund must grow. We will dedicate significant effort during the next two years in pursuit of this goal.

Figure 1. Net income by category, October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016. The net amount was reached by deducting direct expenses and personnel expenses for each category. This estimate does not contemplate time spent by other departments in support of each category (for example, Maintenance program time at field stations or in support of PSA applications).

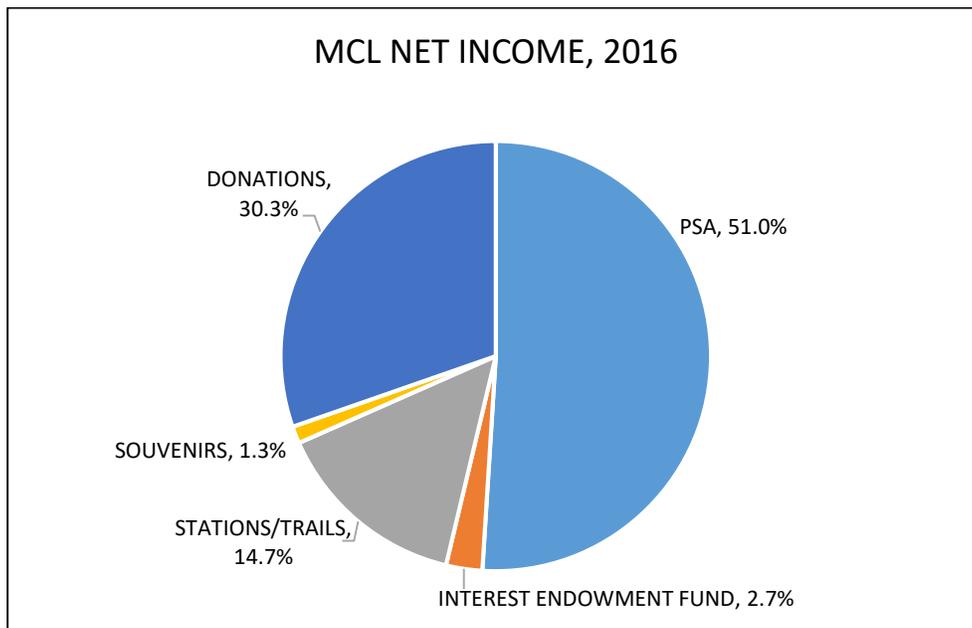


Table 1. Results from 2015-2016 fiscal year (October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016) and operational budget projection for the 2016-2017 fiscal year (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017). Amounts expressed in Costa Rican colones. Note: Souvenirs from 2016 forward are expressed as net earnings.

MONTEVERDE CONSERVATION LEAGUE			
SUMMARY OF 2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR AND PROJECTED BUDGET FOR 2016-2017			
INCOME	2016 PROJECTED	2016 ACTUAL	2017 PROJECTED
ACCOUNT			
SOUVENIR SALES	10,845,000.00	2,872,907.00	2,935,000.00
SERVICES (STATIONS/TRAILS)	123,500,000.00	128,027,523.00	123,500,000.00
PAYMENT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	95,000,000.00	136,825,549.00	123,000,000.00
PROJECTS AND DONATIONS	46,250,000.00	67,754,136.00	50,200,000.00
ASSET SALES	0.00	3,779,782.00	9,200,000.00
INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	7,458,000.00	6,078,535.00	5,500,000.00
LOANS	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	283,053,000.00	345,338,432.00	314,335,000.00
EXPENSES			
ACCOUNT	2016 PROYECT.	2016 REAL	2017 PROYECT.
SALARIES AND RELATED EXPENSES	214,133,604.00	209,283,567.00	217,821,558.04
MATERIALS AND BASIC SERVICES	28,683,250.00	27,156,015.00	29,080,000.00
STATIONS AND TRAILS	44,200,000.00	57,633,368.00	43,500,000.00
INTEREST ON LOANS	7,230,000.00	6,900,000.00	6,900,000.00
PROJECTS	9,670,000.00	23,202,278.00	16,200,000.00
ASSET PURCHASES	0.00	17,444,813.00	600,000.00
DEBT	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	303,916,854.00	341,620,041.00	314,101,558.04
BALANCE			
	2016 PROJECTED	2016 ACTUAL	2017 PROJECTED
	-20,863,854.00	3,718,391.00	233,441.96

Table 2. Balance, October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016, in Costa Rican colones.

Asociacion Conservacionista de Monteverde			
Balance in Costa Rican Colones			
Period: October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016			
		Sep-16	Sep-15
ASSETS	¢		
Banks and petty cash		30,260,422	7,633,530
Short-term investments		58,194,915	63,531,694
Total Activo Corriente	¢	88,455,337	71,165,224
Property and Equipment		1,047,204,252	1,029,759,439
Accumulated Depreciation		(194,017,959)	(185,804,341)
Propiedad Planta y Equipo Neto		853,186,293	843,955,098
Other Assets			
Endowment Fund \$344,025.00		187,951,178	176,072,750
Souvenir inventory (Endowment Fund)		11,884,688	10,687,140
Total Activos	¢	1,141,477,496	1,101,880,212
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable		1,404,457	1,655,940
Accrued expenses		46,418,380	45,920,957
Withholdings payable		4,353,360	4,106,023
Projects		17,665,606	12,964,989
Total pasivo corriente	¢	69,841,803	64,647,909
Equity			
Endowment Fund \$344,025		187,951,178	173,481,983
Donated Lands		846,214,339	841,799,732
Equity Ownership		33,751,785	21,010,247
Surplus		3,718,391	940,341
Total Patrimony	¢	1,071,635,693	1,037,232,303
Total Liabilities and Equity	¢	1,141,477,496	1,101,880,212

Table 3. Results from fiscal year 2015-2016 (October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016). Amounts expressed in Costa Rican colones.

Del 01 de Octubre 2015 al 30 de Setiembre 2016:			
		Sep-16	Sep-15
Ingresos:			
Servicio Estaciones Biologicas		81,154,130	55,647,591
Visitacion Senderos Educativos		46,873,393	51,018,516
Servicio Ambientales		136,825,549	92,731,503
Carta Donantes		67,754,136	30,420,944
Intereses Financieros		6,078,535	9,089,808
Artículos Souvenir Educativos		2,872,907	2,790,420
Total autogeneración ingresos	¢	341,558,650	241,698,782
Ingresos por Gestion Proyectos			80,882,002
Ingresos por venta activos		3,779,782	-
Total ingresos	¢	345,338,432	322,580,784
Egresos			
Operativos y de Proyectos		222,863,348	192,984,265
Administración		34,125,716	28,947,639
Costo Estaciones		57,633,368	49,376,716
Costo souvenir		-	-
Financieros		6,900,000	7,114,478
Proyecto para Desarrollo Específico		20,097,609	43,217,345
Total Egresos	¢	341,620,041	321,640,443
Diferencia entre ingresos y egresos		3,718,391	940,341

Legal Affairs

Director of Land Affairs: Yuber Rodríguez

We have had plenty of work in the legal arena during 2016. Judicial processes thought to be nearly closed were revived; other cases continued at an exceedingly slow pace; and still other, unexpected situations arose. Legal issues undoubtedly threaten the conservation and consolidation of the BEN; they require the MCL to organize, respond, and defend ourselves. One of the great strengths of the MCL is our institutional memory and active participation by collaborators, members, and employees. We are grateful for (and rely upon) these dedicated individuals in the quest to ensure the existence and continuity of our reserve, the BEN.

The Legal Affairs Commission, an advisory group made up of MCL staff, board members, former staff and our legal adviser, continues to be critical in adequately handling and responding to the current load of legal cases. In 2016 the Commission held six regular meetings and two emergency meetings. The members of the Legal Affairs Commission are Julia Matamoros, Jorge Maroto, Ricaute Jiménez, Gerardo Céspedes, Lindsay Stallcup, Hernán Chacón, Luis Solano, and Yúber Rodríguez.

The following is an updated list of the main judicial and legal proceedings, with a brief description of each:

- 1. Bekom** (MCL vs. Badilla Navarro family and Canet Zamora family). This case was in the final stage of appeals in the Agrarian Court and we assumed it was nearly closed. However, in September 2016 the case became more complicated when the court required the MCL to include the Costa Rican State (*Procuraduría General de la República*) in the lawsuit. The future of this case is uncertain.
- 2. Modification of Forestry Law by Executive Decree.** This amendment regulates the placement of land in Environmental Service Payments (PSA), adding the restriction that no individual or company can have more than 600 hectares in PSA at any given time. [As a point of reference, the MCL currently has about 2,500 hectares in PSA.] This situation has led to the search for different strategies including meetings with Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Ms. Patricia Madrigal, and with the Executive Director of FONAFIFO, Mr. Jorge Mario Rodríguez. Alternatives are still being sought; PSA placement for 2016 is still under review.
- 3. INMan-Banco IMPROSA vs. MCL.** Legal representation: Ricaute Jiménez. This year was key for this case, which began in 2006. Initially, the court (*Tribunal Contencioso Administrativo y de Hacienda*) recommended using the same expert topographical analysis originally presented in this case. However, this original report (*peritaje*) had various errors, making it more favorable to the interests of INMan. For this reason the MCL opposed, and the Court approved our request for both sides to present new expert topographical expert opinions. The MCL contracted the services of two topographers, who completed field work and ended up with a very complete report, which we hope will be the technical criteria used by the Court. INMan also presented a new topographical report.

- 4. MCL vs. Mario Rodríguez.** Legal representation: Marco V. Retana. We expected advances in this case during 2016, since the conciliatory hearing, field inspection, and hearing of testimonial evidence were all scheduled for April 2016. However, only the first two stages (conciliatory hearings and field inspection) were carried out. The field inspection took two full and exhausting days; on the first day we finished at 11:00 PM, exiting the forest at night. The purpose of the field inspection was for the judge to see the area and identify key features of the property in question (e.g., agricultural areas indicated on the plans). However, in the field the judge demonstrated certain support for the defendant, Mr. Mario Rodriguez; following the field inspection, the judge and Mr. Rodriguez both requested that the topographical expert, Abraham Paniagua, make a series of corrections to his expert report (*peritaje*), which had been submitted months prior to the field inspection. The judge also allowed Mr. Rodriguez to incorporate other potentially affected parties in his counter-suit, including Cootilarán, Odette and Jonas González, and other neighbors in the area. Despite the fact that this case has been going on for years, the Court requested that the defendant provide additional information for the counter-suit, mainly regarding how to notify other defendants; to date, Mr. Rodriguez has not completed the information requested by the Court.
- 5. Arbitration Process with CONELECTRICAS.** When the Aguas Gatas and Peñas Blancas hydroelectric projects were built by CONELECTRICAS, the MCL was able to establish a contract for the payment of environmental services between MCL and CONELECTRICAS. This was possible because parts of the projects, including the areas where dams were placed as well as areas that were flooded by the reservoirs, were located within the MCL's properties. The contract also required CONELECTRICAS to recognize (and pay for) the use of water resources from the Peñas Blancas watershed, which includes more than 10,000 hectares of catchment area protected by the MCL. Due to the amiability with which this agreement was negotiated, a clause was included in the contract stating that any disputes would be resolved in a Conflict Resolution Center (Clause 17). Now, 8 years after the contract was signed, the administration of CONELECTRICAS has brought the case to Arbitration with the Conflict Resolution Center of the Federated College of Engineers and Architect, asking that the contract be declared null and that all funds paid to MCL be returned to them with interest. The arbitration process is in the first stage, which consists of MCL accepting participation in the process, naming a recommended representative for the Court of Arbitration, and the up-front payment of initial legal and administrative fees.
- 6. Injunction for legal access to MCL offices.** Legal representation: Ricaute Jiménez. The MCL filed an injunction against the owners of the Monteverde Inn (Instituto de Vida Sostenible ECOFE Limitada), who blocked the principal access to our former offices in Cerro Plano, Monteverde. There have been no important developments in this case this year. We are able to continue legally using the entrance while the case is in process but this has greatly inhibited our ability to sell this property.
- 7. Banco Nacional de Costa Rica vs. MCL.** Legal representation: Lic. Ricaute Jiménez. This case is being carried out in the *Tribunal Juzgado Contencioso Administrativo y de Hacienda*. This case has to do with the alleged overlap of a property currently belonging to BNCR with the MCL and another private landowner in the Burrito area of Peñas Blancas de San Ramón. Banco Nacional has requested that the Court grant them ownership of the area in question. The preliminary hearing of the trial was held during which the conditions of the trial were established. We are currently waiting for a topographical survey to be carried out; no field inspection will be carried out by the Court.

- 8. Hunters in Bekom.** This case began as a hunting/wildlife case, but ended up with the defendant, Mr. Miguel Jiménez of La Tigra de San Carlos, being charged with aggression and attempted murder against MCL employees Alonso Sánchez and Hernán Chacón. The original case was resolved in favor of Mr. Jiménez; however, the Attorney General (*Fiscalía*) intervened and has appealed the ruling; as a result, the case will soon be reviewed again in court. Mr. Ricaute Jiménez is providing follow-up and support in this process; however, in reality the case is being carried out by the *Fiscalía*.
- 9. Olman Castro (Elidieth Vindas).** This case involves the MCL's opposition to plans for which Mr. Castro is attempting to gain title; the plans in question overlap with a property belonging to the MCL. They also overlap with property belonging to Mr. Olger Badilla; the MCL has a contract for the purchase of Mr. Badilla's property. (One of the requisites for the purchase of Mr. Badilla's property is that he obtain title, which he is unable to do if his farm overlaps with the Castro farm.) Currently, at the request of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, new plans will have to be made. There has been no progress in this case.
- 10. Contract to purchase the farm of Olger Badilla.** Mr. Olger Badilla is in the process of obtaining the title to his farm, after which the MCL will be able to complete the purchase of the property. Marco V. Retana is responsible for this process as the legal representative of Mr. Badilla.
- 11. Contract to purchase the farm of Cesar Santamaría.** Mr. Cesar Santamaría Hidalgo is in the process of obtaining the title to his farm, after which the MCL will be able to complete the purchase of the property. Marco V. Retana is responsible for this process as the legal representative of Mr. Santamaria.
- 12. Approval of property boundaries (*conformidad de colindancias*) with Hugo Rojas, Agua Gata, Peñas Blancas.** We received a request to provide a sworn affidavit of property boundary compliance to Mr. Hugo Rojas Herrera, so that he can receive payment of environmental services (PSA) for his property. After reviewing the relevant information, including GIS data, we have determined the location of this property to be between the Arenal Volcano National Park and the Zona Protectora Arenal Monteverde, in an area where the land belongs either to the government or to the MCL. For this reason, we made the decision NOT to provide the requested affidavit. Also, we have not been able to locate this farm in any of our files, and none of our field personnel (current or former) have knowledge of Mr. Rojas's property. We agreed to carry out a field inspection with Mr. Rojas (and/or his representatives) to determine where they believe their farm is located and to confirm that it does not overlap with the MCL land.
- 13. Modification of plans for two lots in La Tigra de San Carlos.** These are two lots where we had planned to construct offices in La Tigra and that we are now in the process of selling. We were in the final stages of the sale when the field inspection carried out by Banco Nacional determined that there was an inconsistency in the plans. For this reason we are in the process of making new plans; we expect this process to be completed in February 2017.
- 14. Oldemar Guillen y Vianey Santamaría Case, Rancho Alegre.** This is a situation of conflicting property boundaries between two landowners, Oldemar Guillen and Vianey Santamaria, in the Rancho Alegre. There has been no real change in the situation this year, other than that SINAC did not approve either family's property plans in order not to contradict either family's land tenure.

- 15. Melvin González (Hunting):** There is no news in this case, other than that it has proved impossible for the court to notify Mr. Gonzalez.
- 16. Hunters and land use change in San Gerardo.** SINAC-MINAE is responsible for monitoring hunting and land use change issues in the San Gerardo area. The MCL is interested in this issue in terms of reducing or eliminating hunting and other illegal activities in this area; however, our participation has been limited to providing support (primarily logistical) when requested.
- 17. Trinidad Madrigal (first case).** Awaiting resolution. The charges against Mr. Madrigal are illegal possession of and resisting arrest; the charges related to wildlife were dismissed.
- 18. Trinidad Madrigal (second case).** In this case the issue of recidivism was considered in the subject of hunting, invasion of a protected area (BEN), harassment of wildlife, resisting arrest, and attempted aggression against SINAC and MCL officials. We continue to follow the case, which remains unresolved.
- 19. Elizabeth Guido.** Elizabeth Guido worked for several years as a temporary cook at Pocosol Station, typically for short periods of time during high season. Due to the increasing conflicts between the MCL and her husband (Trinidad Madrigal; see above), we began to decrease Ms. Guido's participation at Pocosol. Ms. Guido went to the Ministry of Labor in an attempt to claim some type of severance payment (consisting of severance, Christmas bonus, and vacation). However, her claim of how long and in what capacity she had worked at Pocosol was highly exaggerated. For this reason, MCL and Ms. Guido participated in a conciliation process with the Ministry of Labor, during which we agreed upon a much more realistic amount as well as a payment schedule. This payment has already been made, and we expect this case to be finished.
- 20. Tom Dixon.** Related to approval (*catastro*) of plans for the properties belonging to Tom Dixon, the Tropical Science Center, and the MCL in the Peñas Blancas valley. In process.
- 21. Richard Araya Muñoz and Victor Manuel Zamora Jiménez (hunting in Río Aguas Gatas).** The charges are related to illegal hunting, invasion of a protected area, and resisting arrest, and attempted aggression against MCL personnel. This is a new case.
- 22. Title of property belonging to José Manuel Cruz (Santos Madrigal).** This is a neighboring farm of the BEN; no updates this year.
- 23. Title of property belonging to Roy Campos Solís.** Process of obtaining title to land belonging to Mr. Campos in the San Miguel-Pocosol area (Peñas Blancas de San Ramón). This case does not present a conflict for the MCL.
- 24. Properties of Rodrigo Valverde (Las Torres) and Jerónimo Vargas Montero.** The MCL and Tropical Science Center (TSC) have objected to the approval (*catastro*) of the plans for the Valverde property, instead requesting field inspections to make sure that the properties in question do not overlap with our own properties in the Cerro Amigos and Las Torres areas. In a recent development, relatives of a Mr. Jerónimo Vargas Montero appeared, attempting to locate their own properties in this same area. In response, the TSC and MCL have carried out field inspections to make sure that Mr. Vargas's relatives do not overlap with or invade TSC and MCL lands.
- 25. Registration of the trademark/name "Bosque Eterno de los Niños".** This year, thanks in great part to the support of Ricaute Jiménez, we were able to register our name and logo in Costa Rica. The English name "Children's Eternal Rainforest" was also registered.

26. Legal registration (title) of MCL properties. There has been little progress; various strategies for the registration of MCL lands continue to be analyzed, from political tactics to seeking alliances with other institutions (CCT, Guanacaste Dry Forest, MINAE and others).

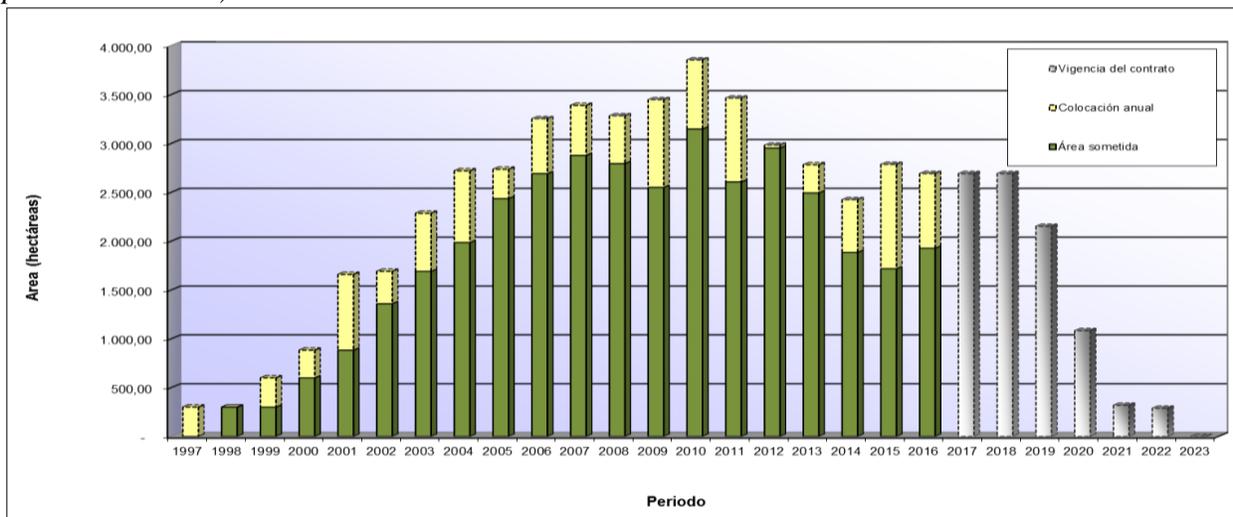
Payment for Environmental Services (PSA)

Director of Land Affairs: Yuber Rodríguez

During the last twenty years, the MCL has participated in the Environmental Services Payment Program (or PSA, after the Spanish, *Pago de Servicios Ambientales*). This program was established by the Costa Rican government and seeks to recognize the efforts of those who contribute to the protection, reforestation, and proper management of natural resources. The PSA program has undergone various changes over the years, forcing the MCL to adjust our strategy in order to continue participating in – and receiving income from – this governmental program.

During 2016, significant and unexpected changes were again made to the PSA Program. The changes were principally aimed at re-directing the PSA program towards small and medium-sized beneficiaries, leaving private conservation entities such as the MCL at a potential disadvantage. Specifically, article 39 of Forestry Law No. 7575 was amended to include subsection f, "Maximum Area Limits for PSA Projects", stipulating that ***no individual, legal entity, or related company may have more than 600 hectares in forest protection, or 750 hectares in reforestation, in PSA at any given time.*** This new provision applies to contracts formalized in 2016 and thereafter. (To put this in perspective, the MCL currently has more than 2,500 hectares in PSA; Figure 2.)

Figure 2. Placement of land in the Payment for Environmental Services program (not including private contracts)



In response to this situation, the MCL has outlined several strategies, which have included: (1) active participation in the public consultation system related to the modification of the law; (2) a meeting with Deputy Minister of the Environment (President of the National Fund for Forestry Finance, or FONAFIFO), Patricia Madrigal to discuss the law as well as potential alternatives; (3)

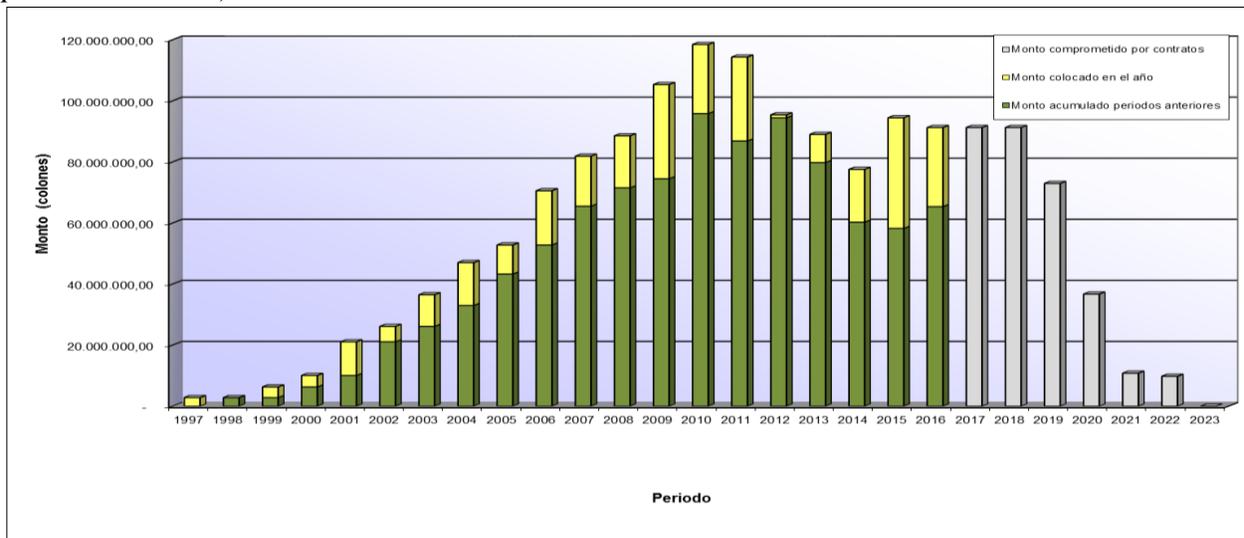
a meeting with the Director of FONAFIFO, Jorge Mario Rodríguez; and (4) correspondence with Congressman Javier Cambronero.

Our proposal is that Article 39, subsection f include an exception for non-governmental, non-profit, conservation organizations, under which these organizations would not be subject to the maximum area limits. It has not yet been possible to achieve such a modification, but we feel that we have opened channels for communication in order to push for review of this law.

In 2016, the Environmental Services again constituted an important part of the MCL’s income. Fortunately, we experienced only a slight decrease in placement as compared to 2015. In total, 7 projects are expected to be placed, for a total of 764 hectares (i.e., 304 hectares less than in 2015). However, it is important to note that in 2015 we achieved the greatest annual placement in the history of the MCL’s participation in the PSA program; furthermore, over the past five years, 2016 looks to be the second best placement (Figure 2). The areas placed in PSA during 2015 and 2016 will generate significant revenue for the MCL, totaling approximately 62 million colones (36 million from 2015 and 26 million from 2016 (Figure 3).

Placements in the PSA program are the result of many applications presented at FONAFIFO's three regional offices (San José Occidental, San Carlos, and Cañas). For the 2017 period, about 14 applications are currently being considered, with an area of almost 2,200 hectares; this area does not take into account the expected negative repercussions due to the modifications to the Forestry Law, as described above.

Figure 3. *Income related to Payment for Environmental Services (PSA) program (not including private contracts).*



Neighboring farms

We are in the fourth year of an agreement between the MCL and FONAFIFO, in which the MCL acts as a facilitator in the process of incorporating neighboring farms in the PSA program. This agreement allows the MCL to involve communities and neighbors, thereby promoting the conservation of natural resources as well as good relations with our neighbors. In these cases, the

MCL receives a small percentage, mainly to cover the overhead costs involved. Another positive aspect of this agreement is that we have improved relations with the regional offices, which means that we have better access to channels for approval of PSA for our own properties.

Under this agreement, a total of 30 neighboring farms totaling 1,217.7 hectares have been placed in the PSA program. For 2016, we submitted applications for a total of 25 farms (1,500 hectares), of which 6 farms (530 hectares) were approved. For 2017, the MCL will submit at least 38 pre-applications for PSA: 14 for MCL properties and at least 24 for properties bordering the protected area (Table 4).

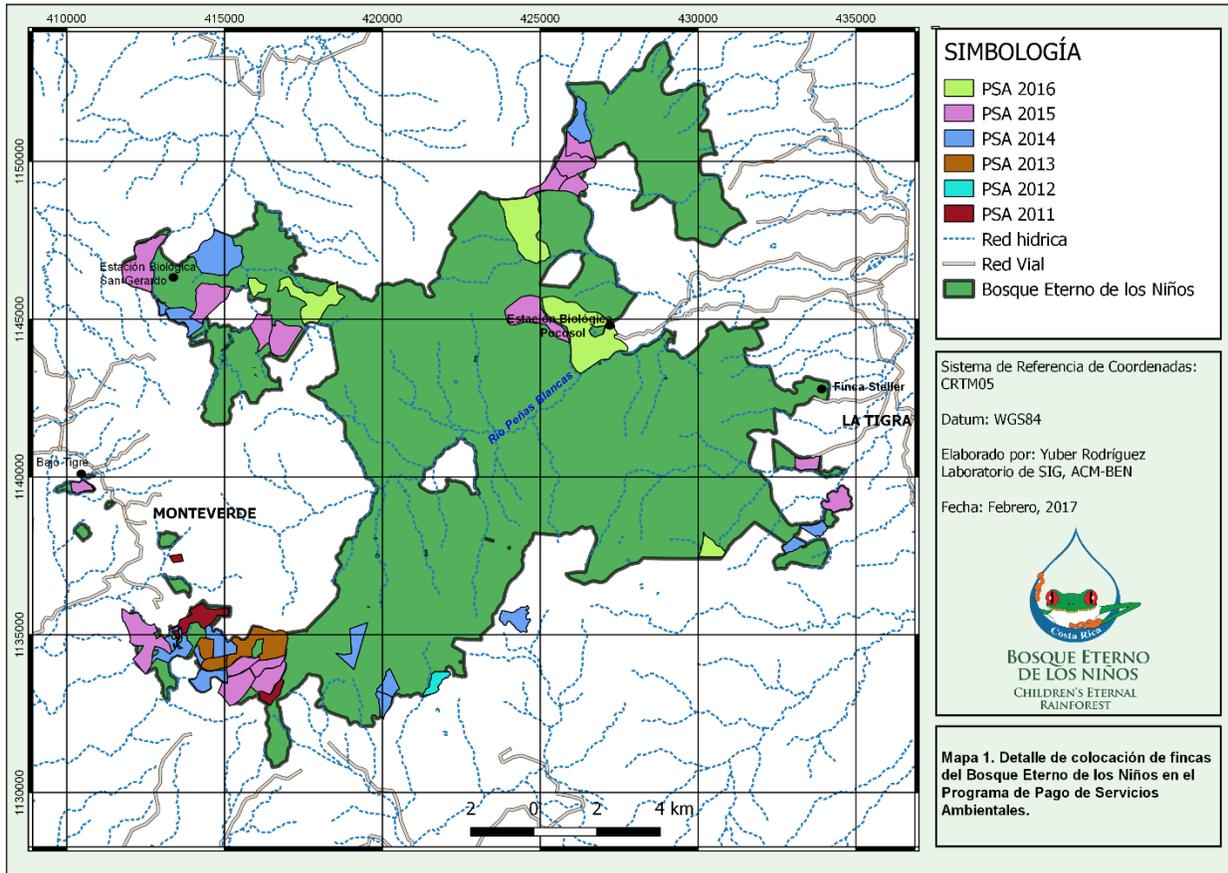
Private contracts

The MCL continues to hold private contracts with two hydroelectric companies, Inversiones La Manguera (INMan) and CONELECTRICAS. The contract with INMan (now owned by Cooperativa de Electrificación Rural de la Zona de San Carlos, or COOPELESCA) specifies two payments per year, in February and August. The contract with CONELECTRICAS specifies one annual payment in July. In both cases, payments are up to date, although both contracts are also under review in the respective legal channels; for more details see the Legal Affairs section of this report.

Table 4. Private farms placed in PSA to date. (Año = year. Fincas = properties. Area = land areas in hectares. “Gestion” represents the applications presented for placement in PSA; “Colocado” is the number of properties actually placed in PSA.)

Año	Gestión		Colocado		
	Fincas	Área (has)	Fincas	Área (has)	% colocación
2013	24	1.228,00	7	131,00	10,67
2014	24	1.309,00	8	245,50	18,75
2015	22	1.742,00	9	355,20	20,39
2016	25	1.526,37	6	540,00	35,38
2017	24	1.607,00			
Total	119,00	7.412,37	30,00	1.271,70	
Promedio	24	1.482,47	8	317,93	21,30

Map 1. MCL properties currently in Payment for Environmental Services (PSA). Current contracts are from 2012 to 2016.





Maintenance and Protection staff participated in a number of important projects in 2016. From top to bottom: Construction of a new Mirador at Bajo del Tigre; new Mirador and new bridges at Pocosol; installation of new property markers around the BEN; legal inspection in San Bosco; fence repair and property line maintenance.

FIELD STATIONS, TRAILS, AND VISITOR CENTERS

Bajo del Tigre

Projects

Thanks to generous donations, we were able to complete three major infrastructural projects in Bajo del Tigre during 2016:

- **Electricity.** Following a number of serious electrical problems in Bajo del Tigre, including frequent power outages and current variation resulting in the loss of electronic equipment, we identified an urgent need to replace the electrical wiring from the electric meter on the street to Reception. The new, subterranean wiring has been working great.
- **Mirador.** In November we completed the construction of a new Mirador near the Jaguar trail (there was previously a lookout point here, but it had deteriorated to the point that we had to close it for safety reasons). The new Mirador is built with metal beams and has been open since December 2016. This has been our wish list for several years and we are excited for visitors to check it out!
- **Jaguar trail.** The Jaguar trail, which provides access to the lower part of Bajo del Tigre, had been closed for safety reasons. Thanks to a donation to provide the material for safety railings (recycled plastic) and lots of hard work by our Maintenance crew, this trail has been open since December 2016.

Visitation

We are pleased to note that 2016 showed the highest daytime visitation on record for the Bajo del Tigre Reserve. Night hike sales were similar to the past two years (Figure 4). We experienced the usual seasonality that comes with tourism in Costa Rica, with peaks in January to March, June/July and December, and lows in May, September and October. One of our goals over the next two years is to identify and attract academic groups (national and international), whose visits can help offset visitation during these otherwise low periods.

In 2016 we began more detailed recordkeeping regarding visitation at Bajo del Tigre, which has allowed us to make some interesting comparisons (Figure 5). For example, most of our night hike visitors (58%) come from travel agencies and hotels, as compared to direct reservations (42%). There is ample room to grow our direct sales (which also generate more profit because we do not have to pay commission). Our new website and improved signage in Monteverde are two key tools to achieving this goal. Bajo del Tigre will also appear on the new Monteverde map and related app being produced by iMonteverde/iPuravida.

We were pleased to see that Monteverde locals visited Bajo del Tigre nearly 500 times in 2016; we hope this number continues to increase in 2017.

We saw positive, if modest, results from the “3 Reserves of Monteverde” package. Sales from this package benefit the MCL, Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve, and Monteverde Cloud Forest

Reserve. In addition to generating revenue, this agreement seeks to promote awareness of local conservation efforts among visitors to Monteverde, even if a visitor does not purchase the package.

Figure 4. Visitation at Bajo del Tigre from 2012 to 2016. Day entrances show paid daytime entrances only; they do not include Monteverde locals or children ages 5 and under).

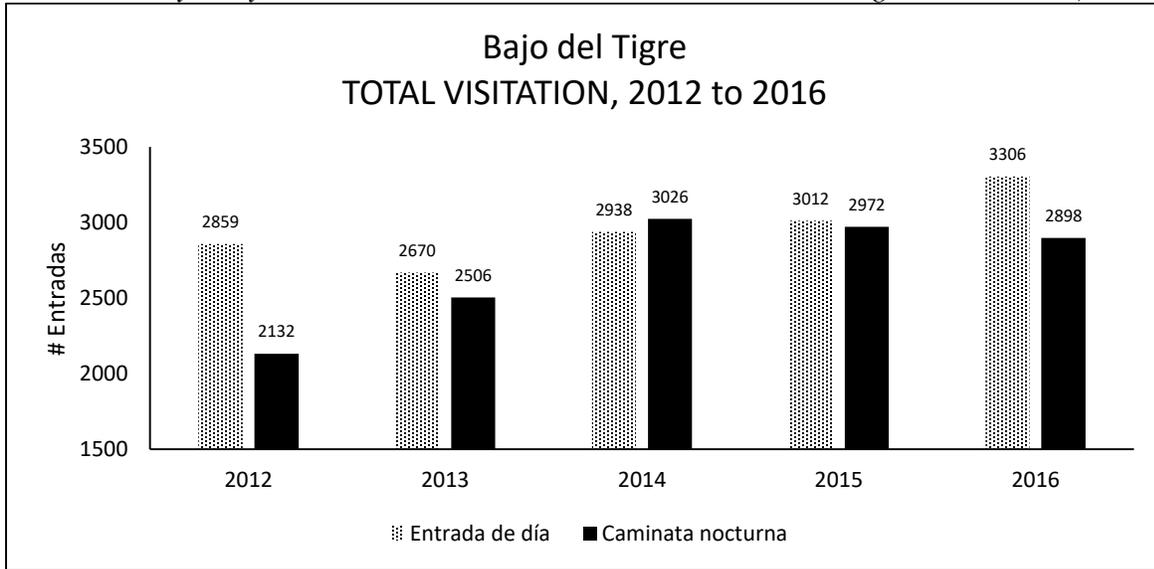
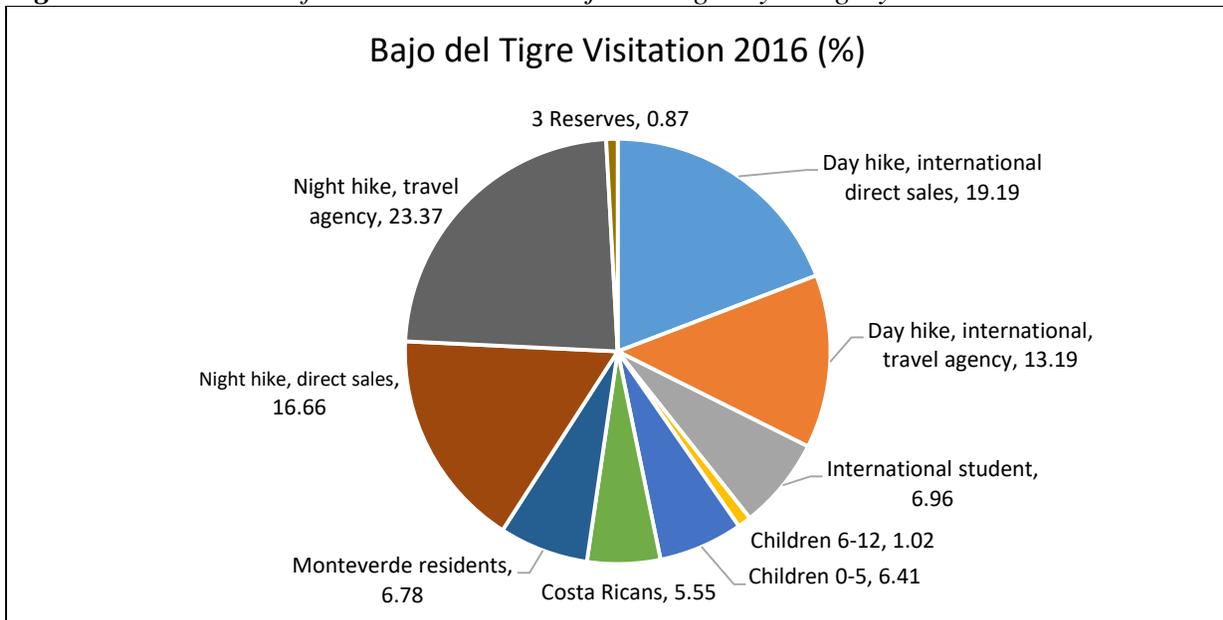


Figure 5. Breakdown of 2016 visitation to Bajo del Tigre by category.



San Gerardo Station

Projects

In 2016, a number of important projects were carried out at San Gerardo, including:

- **Completion of replacing the foundation** of the station (*basas*). In the process of this project, we also replaced the floors of the laundry room and the station managers’ room.
- **Installation and troubleshooting of new electrical system**, using deep-cell batteries to store and regulate electrical current generated by hydroelectricity
- **Replacement of upstairs balcony** using recycled plastic boards
- **Trail maintenance and improvements** (widening, drainage, clearing branches)
- **New trail signs**

Visitation

Visitation at the San Gerardo Station, measured in “bed-nights”, was slightly higher in 2016 than in the previous two years (Figure 6). [Bed-nights is the number of visitors multiplied by the number of nights they stayed; for example, 2 guests staying for 3 nights equals 6 bed-nights.]

The bulk of visitation at San Gerardo currently comes from academic groups. For this reason, we experienced peaks in March, May, June and July, which tend to be high months for student groups. Our challenge and goal for the next two years is to (1) identify and recruit student groups during other months, and (2) to fill the gaps with tourism, particularly from January to April, when tourism in Monteverde is running high. We will work with agencies; we also hope to increase direct tourism sales via our new website and increased visibility in Monteverde due to new signage.

Figure 6. San Gerardo Station, annual occupancy (bed-nights), 2012 to 2016.



Pocosol Station

Pocosol Station suffered structural damage during and following the 2012 Nicoya earthquake. At first the damage appeared minor, but over time we noticed additional changes in the building and adjacent slope. Because the safety of the MCL's visitors and staff comes first, we contracted a technical study of the soils and slope. Following the results of this study, and considering the estimated cost of the repairs necessary, we made the difficult decision to close the Pocosol Station in November 2016 as we work toward a solution.

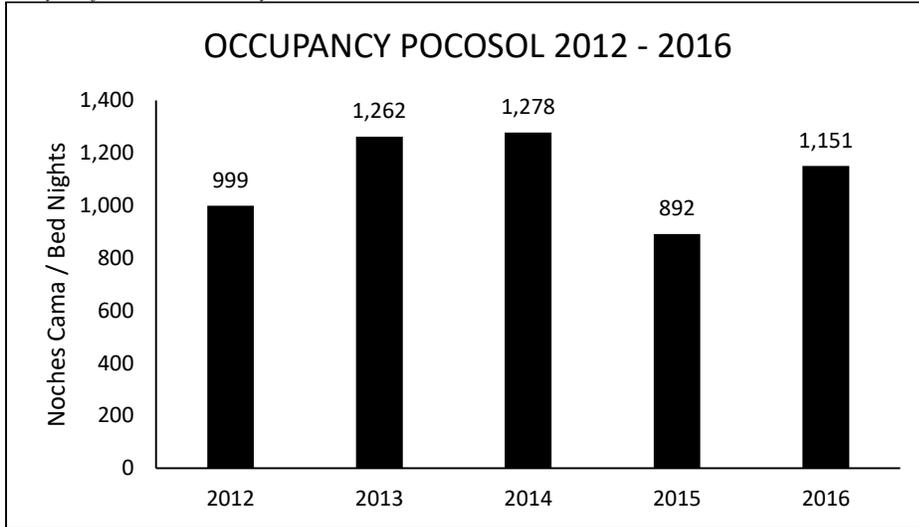
The closure of Pocosol was particularly frustrating in light of the fact that we had just invested in several infrastructural improvements:

- **New Mirador** at the end of the Sendero Catarata. The old wooden Mirador (lookout point) at the waterfall had deteriorated to the point that it had to be closed for safety reasons. A donation from Friends of the Rainforest allowed us to construct a new lookout platform at this site using metal beams.
- **Four new bridges:** three on Sendero Principal and one on Sendero Zamia. The bridges are located at places on the trails where visitors would otherwise have to descent and cross through streams.
- **Improvements to the road.** Thanks to an anonymous donation, we were able to pave "wheel tracks" in two of the most problematic areas of the road to Pocosol.
- **Trail maintenance and improvements** (widening, drainages, cutting and removing branches, re-routing trails due to landslides, installation of cement block stairs, and repair of bridges).

Visitation

Prior to closing the station, we had nearly matched visitation rates from 2012-2013 (not including November and December; Figure 7). We had planned to increase marketing efforts to travel agencies in La Fortuna for both day and overnight visits; fortunately, we had not yet begun this effort when the decision was made to close Pocosol indefinitely. For 2016 Pocosol appears to have covered its operational costs; there is a lot of room to grow, but for now we are on hold due to the closure of the station.

Figure 7. Pocosol Station, annual occupancy (bed-nights), 2012 to 2016. Occupancy for 2016 only reflects January to October; the station was closed in November and December 2016.



Finca Steller

Finca Steller is our base of operations in La Tigra de San Carlos. It is also home to our Environmental Education Program. In addition to beautiful trails, a native tree nursery, and the environmental education classroom, in 2016 we added two new educational components to Finca Steller: a medicinal plant garden and an endangered species trail.

Medicinal plant garden. The garden includes a variety of medicinal plants such as ginger, anise, oregano, lemon grass, lemon verbena, and mint.

Endangered species trail. Six of the statues from the former Megafauna project in Chomes, Puntarenas, were transferred to Finca Steller. The white-lipped peccary, squirrel monkey, spider monkey, harpy eagle, giant anteater, and Baird’s tapirs (mom and baby) now form part of an educational trail where visitors can learn about the natural history and conservation of these endangered species.

Reforestation nursery. The Finca Steller nursery produces a variety of native trees, which are either sold or donated to local individuals or businesses. (In reality the sale price is symbolic, at just 300 colones per tree.) In 2016 we sold 1,180 trees and donated 1,909 trees, for a total of 3,089 trees. The donated trees went to a number of local schools, a local aqueduct, and Finca Luna Nueva. Many of the donated trees were planted within the BEN or in neighboring farms



Between May and December 2016, more than 1,660 children in and around La Tigra de San Carlos participated in the MCL's Environmental Education Program. Nearly 530 of these children took part in field trips to Finca Steller or Pocosol Station.

DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS

Environmental Education

Coordinator: Maria Fernanda Rojas

Maria Fernanda Rojas Murillo, from Pital de San Carlos, joined our team in May 2016 as the Coordinator of the Environmental Education Program in La Tigra. The funding for the salary of this important position – a permanent, full-time environmental educator on the Caribbean border of the BEN – comes from a 5-year, \$100,000 grant, which is currently in its final months. We hope to secure funds soon so that this crucial program can continue.

ACTIVE SCHOOLS: We have a total of **16 active schools** in and around La Tigra de San Carlos. These schools receive regular visits in the form of talks, workshops, and field trips to the BEN. We attempted to include 6 additional schools, which were not interested or able to participate for a variety of reasons (new teachers, new directors, distant location, or general disinterest). From the attendance lists, we can see that between May and December 2016, **more than 1,660 children participated in environmental education thanks to this program.**

FIELD TRIPS: A grant from Friends of the Rainforest allowed us to bring 528 students to the BEN via field trips to Finca Steller and Pocosol in 2016. These trips were a great motivation for the students, many of whom were visiting the forest for the first time. We should also remember that many of the students are children or grandchildren of hunters, so this type of outreach and positive interaction with the forest is key. Also, the children were accompanied by parents and teachers, who also received the environmental education message.

OTHER GROUPS: In addition to the 16 active schools, a number of older student groups also received talks about the MCL's environmental education program. These included the University of Costa Rica, INA, the University of Mexico, and tourists visiting the BEN.

Environmental Education Activities in Monteverde: Although the MCL does not currently have a formal environmental education program in Monteverde, we try to participate in education and outreach efforts when possible. Thanks in large part to the initiative and willingness of Leslie Corrales and Giselle Rodriguez, in 2016 we were able to participate in the following activities in Monteverde:

- Monthly education activities at the Rafael Arguedas School (Cerro Plano de Monteverde) in related to water and recycling
- Participation in activities as part of the Monteverde Environmental Education Commission (CEAM) in:
 - Water tour, with 20 children from the Rafael Arguedas School
 - Summer workshops. 3-day workshop with ~50 children, focus on “reduce, reuse, recycle”
 - Mobile environmental fair, including games about flora, fauna, and camera traps
 - Ecological Tales, with 14 schools in and around Monteverde

Control and Protection

Coordinator: *Hernán Chacón*

The protection of the BEN is possible thanks to the contribution of many individuals and organizations. The daily work is performed in conjunction with other BEN staff, from Maintenance and Environmental Education, to Administration and Stations. We are grateful for the support of other organizations and individuals including SINAC, law enforcement, firefighters, Red Cross, COVIRENAS, OIJ, volunteers, informants, supermarkets, donors, and others.

Protection staff work closely with rescue centers like Project Asis (Javillos de Florencia), Zoo Ave (Garita de Alajuela), and Jaguar Rescue Center (Puerto Viejo de Limon), to which we transfer wildlife that ends up in our custody. We also have the support of SENASA and various dog rescue centers to help us deal with the ongoing issue of hunting dogs found loose in the BEN.

PROTOCOLO DE ACTUACION: This year we completed a Protection Protocol, which defines how Protection staff should act in many different instances, including trespassing, hunting, dogs, and confiscations, to name just a few examples.

FELINE ATTACKS: We have collaborated with SINAC, Pantera and National University's *Unidad de Atención a Conflictos Felinos* (UACFEL) to attend cases where felines (jaguar or puma) have attacked cattle, horses, sheep, goats, dogs, and/or chickens in farms bordering the BEN. When there is a report, we try to make the inspection as quickly as possible, following the correct protocol. Our goal is to educate and assist in providing information about how farmers can try to prevent attacks in the future.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER: Sometimes, owners decide to turn in their pet(s) in order to avoid problems with wildlife laws. Neighbors also contact us in cases where animals are found – or are problematic – in which case we also assist in taking the appropriate action. In 2016 we received the following animals through this process: two collared peccaries (including one newborn); 6 Orange-fronted Parakeets (*Aratinga canicularis*); one owl (injured); two jaguarundis (newborn); and one kinkajou (newborn).

“ACTAS DE HALLAZGO” (HUNTING DOGS): Hunting dogs continue to be a problem that require our time and attention. Most of these dogs are found after having been abandoned by their owners, who flee the scene in order to avoid being caught themselves. In these cases (where the dog is found without its owner), the animal is removed from the site, the proper paperwork is completed, and the animal is transferred to an appropriate location. In 2016 we had a total of 19 such cases, including at our offices in Finca Steller (5 dogs), Pocosol Station (2 dogs), Piola (2 dogs), Chachagua Biological Corridor and surrounding area (2 dogs), San Bosco (2 dogs), Burrito (1 dog), and Roque (2 dogs).

CONFISCATIONS: In 2016 Protection staff confiscated a total of 22 orchids; 1 boa constrictor; 1 hunting dog; 2 shovels; 4 machetes; 7 flashlights; 1 spade; 1 knife; and 17 flashlight batteries. The boa constrictor was confiscated after its owner was reported; the rest of the cases were the result of forest patrols in Linda Vista de Chachagua, San Rafael de Penas Blancas, El Burrito, and San Bosco.

Maintenance and Operations

Coordinator: Luis Solano

In 2016, the Maintenance and Operations program was composed of 4 staff in January, and 5 staff from February to December. The activities of this program are essential for the conservation and protection of BEN, especially in terms of maintaining limits with neighboring properties by clearing property lines and making or repairing fences. Maintenance staff work throughout the BEN, performing various tasks including but not limited to:

- Inspection of BEN property boundaries, including the maintenance (and reestablishment) of boundaries with neighboring properties
- Maintenance of property boundaries, including fences and other divisions between BEN and neighboring properties
- Trail maintenance and improvement, at visitation centers as well as long trails used by MCL staff during forest patrols
- Station, office, and visitation center infrastructure and maintenance
- Support in legal processes and payment for environmental services
- Support in topographic measurements and attainment of plans
- Support of Protection, Environmental Education, and other programs

In addition to the improvements made at field stations and visitation centers (which are described in each respective section), some of the principal achievements of the Maintenance and Operations program in 2016 included:

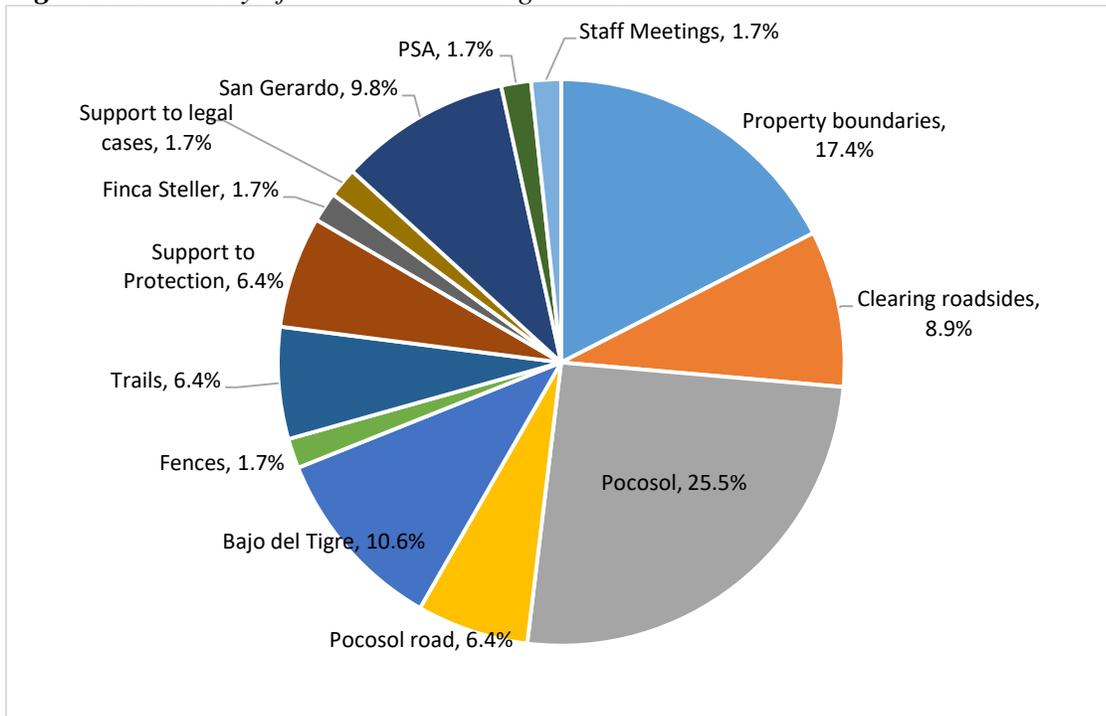
Maintenance of long trails in the BEN, including: Pocosol-Eladio's, San Gerardo-Castillo, Maria Luisa Cerritos-Bekom, San Bosco-Parque Arenal, Fila Delio Herrera, Observatorio, Chutas, Cubano, Juan Gonzales, Fernando Villalobos, Leonel Hernández-Casa Piedra, Pocosol-Tinajo, Quebrada Gata, Finca Miguel Ángel Salazar-San Bosco, Rancho Alegre, Los Llanos a la Quebrada Las Vueltas, San Jorge. Although most of these trails are not open to the public, they are important access routes for BEN personnel and in case of emergency.

Maintenance of property boundaries in the most vulnerable/problematic areas of the BEN, including: Cerritos (La Manguera), Pocosol (Corrales and CONELECTRICAS), El Burrito (Banco Nacional), Arancibia, San Luis de Monteverde (Amapala, Buen Amigo), Los Perdidos, Rancho Alegre, San Gerardo (Mirador, Eulogio Jimenez, Danilo Zamora, Reserva Santa Elena).

Improvements at San Gerardo, Pocosol, and Bajo del Tigre:

- Hanging bridge on Zamia Trail (Pocosol)
- Three bridges on Sendero Principal (Pocosol)
- New Mirador on Sendero Catarata, view of waterfall (Pocosol)
- Paved 200m of "car track" in the most problematic part of the road to Pocosol
- New floor on upstairs balcony (San Gerardo)
- New trail signs (San Gerardo)
- New Mirador on Jaguar Trail (Bajo del Tigre)

Figure 8. Summary of Maintenance Program work in 2016.





MCL staff participated in a variety of workshops and conferences in 2016. From top to bottom: First aid workshop for field staff with Dr. Alexander Kopper; Wilderness Advanced First Aid training; evidence management with OIJ and Fiscalía; GPS/GIS training for field staff; Monteverde Arenal Bioregion (MABI) conference; National Parks Day.

RESEARCH

We are pleased to see a number of faculty and graduate student research projects added to the list this year. Thanks also to CIEE, EAP and Monteverde Institute for their support of research in the BEN.

Table 5. Summary of research carried out in the BEN, 2016.

Researcher(s)	Project	Institution	Sector
Graduate and faculty research			
Sarah Amundrud	Effects of climate and elevation gradients on bromeliad fauna	University of British Columbia, Canada	Pocosol, San Gerardo
Dr. Sean O'Donnell	Tests for strong interactor effects on mixed-species foraging assemblages using army ant-following birds	Drexel University, USA	San Gerardo
Kaitlin Mar Baudier	Social and individual thermal physiology of ants (Formicidae: Ecitoninae)	Drexel University, USA	San Gerardo
Fern Perkins, Luis Beltrán Lacouture	Lichens as bio-indicators of air quality and climate change in Monteverde, Costa Rica	Instituto Monteverde	Bajo Tigre, San Gerardo
Dr. John Cossel Jr.	Photography and digital audio recordings of the amphibians of Costa Rica	Northwest Nazarene University, USA	San Gerardo, Chutas
Graham Montgomery	Measuring the speed of speciation in Neotropical birds by song	Cornell University, USA	San Gerardo, Pocosol
Dr. David Ribble	Status of small (non-flying) mammals in the Monteverde area for indications of distribution, diversity, population status, and trends	Trinity College, Instituto Monteverde	San Gerardo, Calandria (Los Llanos)
Dr. Matthew Moran	Baseline study of mammal populations in the BEN and surrounding protected areas, using camera traps	Hendrix College, USA	BEN, UGA
Katie Brownson	From incentives to impact: An evaluation of the socio-ecological impacts of Payment for Ecosystem Services programs in the Bellbird Biological Corridor, Costa Rica	University of Georgia, USA	Bellbird Biological Corridor
Kathryn Powlen	Evaluation of reforestation projects and their community and ecological benefits within the Bellbird Biological Corridor	Colorado State University	Bellbird Biological Corridor
Undergraduate & short-term research projects			
Holly Eichrodt	Diversity of arthropods that use leaves for shelter	Univ. of California Education Abroad Program (EAP)	Bajo Tigre
Delaney Roth	Do capuchin monkeys aid in second degree seed dispersal?	EAP	Bajo Tigre
Megan Sha	White-nosed coatis as possible hosts for the endoparasite <i>Giardia lamblia</i>	EAP	Bajo Tigre
Ashley Clow	Presence of <i>Batrachochytridium dendrobatidis</i> in frog species of Monteverde	EAP	Bajo Tigre

Danielle Thoene	Examining the relationship between sex and parasite load in mice and rats of Monteverde, Costa Rica	EAP	Bajo Tigre
Rebecca Hoffman	Exotic plantation versus natural regeneration: carbon sequestration and understory richness in tropical premontane forests	Northeastern University (CIEE)	Bajo Tigre
Cheyne Springbett	Territorial responses of <i>Catharus aurantiirostris</i> to simulated vocal intrusions of neighbors and strangers	University of Colorado-Boulder (CIEE)	Bajo Tigre
Isaac Jensen	Climate change and elevational range shifts by mutualistic <i>Azteca</i> ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) and <i>Cecropia</i> trees in Monteverde, Costa Rica	Luther College (CIEE)	Bajo Tigre
Spencer Keyser	Neighbor-stranger recognition and song structure alteration in White-eared Ground-sparrows (<i>Melospiza leucotis</i>)	University of Wisconsin (CIEE)	Bajo Tigre
Emily Harwitz	Altitude and ant repellence in cloud forest flowers	Carnegie Mellon University (CIEE)	Bajo Tigre
Meghan Schrik	Butterfly diversity and distribution along an altitudinal gradient in a Neotropical cloud forest	Regis University (CIEE)	Bajo Tigre
Dalton Brauer	Edge effects and bird species in tropical premontane forest fragments	Cornell University (CIEE)	Bajo Tigre
Aspen Kremer	Floral presentation of <i>Mucuna urens</i> (Fabaceae) and visitation by Neotropical bats		
Carson Lyness	Human land use type and ectoparasite loads of cloud forest mice	University of Puget Sound (CIEE)	Bajo Tigre
Jonah Reenders	Impact of edge effect on Neotropical montane terrestrial mammal species richness	Northern Michigan University (CIEE)	Bajo Tigre
R. Blake Johnson	Neighbor-stranger discrimination in territorial White-eared Ground Sparrows (<i>Melospiza leucotis</i>)	Allegheny College (CIEE)	Bajo Tigre
Lance Caldwell, Claire Smith, Juhyun Kim	Leaf litter depth and herpetofauna community along an elevational gradient in transitional premontane forest	Antioch University, Monteverde Institute	Bajo Tigre

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

Volunteers and interns assist the MCL with a variety of projects and organizational needs. We are still in the process of revamping our volunteer program; we hope to offer volunteer options on our website within the next 2 months.

This year we were pleased to partner with the Santa Elena public high school, CIEE, and Lehigh University on several internships, all of which yielded valuable products for the MCL. We especially thank Don Morris (Lehigh University) and Karen Masters (CIEE) for their support and confidence, and Orlando Calvo and Evelyn Obando for their valuable supervision of CIEE interns.

This year we also had help from the Monteverde Friends School, Campamento Las Hormiguitas (Monteverde Institute), Blue Valley School, Costa Rica Study Tours, Delta High School, and Global Works, who participated in volunteer work at Bajo del Tigre.

Table 6. Summary of volunteers and interns in 2016.

Name	Origin/Organization	Length	Project(s) / Areas
Monika Buczak, James Bausano	Lehigh University, USA	6 weeks	Bajo del Tigre interpretive signage, social media content
Moisés Rodríguez Porras	Santa Elena public high school (12 th grade)	4 weeks	Bajo del Tigre: customer service, maintenance, species lists, camera traps
Esteban Arce Mendez, Greivin Cruz Mendez	Santa Elena public high school (11 th grade)	1 week	Bajo del Tigre: trail maintenance, bird and mammal lists
Sadia Crosby, Chandler Condon	CIEE (Spring 2016)	1 month	Marketing study for Bajo del Tigre; social media content
Chandler Condon		2 months	Conceptual plan for new trail signs at Bajo del Tigre
Ariel Kahn, Rose Briggs	CIEE (Fall 2016)	1 month	BEN introductory video; BEN script for staff and guides; social media guidelines and content development
Adrian Wagner	Germany	3 weeks	San Gerardo: Maintenance
Xinia Rojas Gómez, Kristel Chavarría Rojas	La Tigra de San Carlos	1 week	Wildlife paintings at Finca Steller (entrance and nursery)
Karolin Müller	Germany	5 months	Monteverde, Bajo del Tigre, Finca Steller, San Gerardo, Pocosol
Arden Ambrose- Winters	United States	2 months	Monteverde, Bajo del Tigre, Finca Steller, San Gerardo, Pocosol

TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, AND CONFERENCES

Table 7. Summary of staff training and workshops in 2016.

Topic	Organization, Location	Participants	Date
WFR (Wilderness First Responder)	Ecology Project International; Heredia	Erick Barquero, Freddy Campos	January 18-26, 2016
Natural resources management	SINAC Tilarán; Finca Steller	Protection staff	April 27, 2016
First aid for trauma situations	Dr. Alexander Kopper; Pocosol	Field personnel (Protection, Maintenance, San Gerardo and Pocosol)	May 31, 2016
Collection and management of evidence, chain of custody	Cristian Alpizar, OIJ San Ramón; SINAC San Ramon	Protection staff	July 27 & August 1, 2016
WFA (Wilderness Advanced First Aid)	Wilderness Medical Associates; Monteverde Institute	Lindsay Stallcup, Marcelo Rodriguez, Luis Arana, Eduin Mendez, Miguel Fernandez, Roberto Sanchez	August 17-20, 2016
Collection and management of evidence, chain of custody (field application)	OIJ San Ramón, OIJ Medicatura Forense, Fiscalía de San Ramón; Pocosol	Protection, Maintenance and Finca Steller staff	September 9-10, 2016
Solid waste management	Asociacion de Mujeres Ambientalistas 3R; San Juan de Peñas Blancas	Protection and Finca Steller staff	September 26, 2016
GPS/GIS for MCL field staff	Yuber Rodriguez; Pocosol, Finca Steller	Protection and Maintenance staff	November 1 & December 12, 2016
Code of Conduct	Giselle Rodriguez	All staff	December 2, 2016
MABI (Monteverde-Arenal Bioregion) Conference	UGA Costa Rica, San Luis de Monteverde	Lindsay Stallcup, Luis Solano, Maria Fernanda Rojas, Yuber Rodriguez	August 2016
IUCN World Conservation Congress: "Planet at the Crossroads". More info at www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); Honolulu, Hawaii	Yuber Rodriguez	Setiembre 2016

DONATIONS

We thank all those individuals and organizations that have supported the MCL in 2016. Without the generous support of our donors, conservation of the Children's Eternal Rainforest would not be possible.

Table 8. Donations in US dollars, January 1 – December 31, 2016.

Donor	Purpose
Ilona & James Biddington	Tires for Protection vehicle
Engage Globally	General
Eric Caspe	General
Laura Stough	General
Dorothy Lee	General
Katy Van Dusen	WFR course for 2 staff members; General
Students of Ms. Laurie Adams	General
Chloe Larson & Schuyler Borden	General
Columbus Magnet School	General
Country Day School, Escazú	General
Friends of the Rainforest	Grant #17: Environmental Education
Friends of the Rainforest	Grant #18: Emergency equipment
Friends of the Rainforest	Grant #19: Mirador, Pocosol Station
John Devereaux Joslin	General
David Rose & Ceil Murray	General
Third Grade, Evans Falls School	General
Isaac Torrence & Judah M. Smith	General
Ann Grillo	General
Children of Room 175, Columbus Magnet School	General
Barry Allen	General
Fuquay Varina United Methodist Church	General
Friends of the Rainforest	Grant #16: Signage
James Wolfe	Protection
Katy Van Dusen	General
Zachary Hay (Timur the Tiger book)	General
Laura Cussen	Endowment Fund
Maria Luisa Christensen	General
Leo Marett (AKA Mahamuni Das)	General (Bequest)
Sigma Alimentos	Megafauna

Table 9. Donations in Costa Rican colones, January 1 – December 31, 2016.

Donor	Purpose
Corporación de Viajes TAM, S.A.	General
Anonymous	Repairs to Pocosol road
Inversiones Turísticas La Palma S.A.	30th anniversary activity, La Tigra
Finca Luna Nueva Lodge	30th anniversary activity, La Tigra
ASADA La Fortuna	30th anniversary activity, La Tigra
Inversiones Turísticas La Palma S.A.	30th anniversary activity, La Tigra

Anonymous	Environmental Education
Anonymous	Electrical improvements and Mirador, Bajo del Tigre
Maria Eugenia Brenes Villalobos	General
Corporación de Viajes TAM, S.A.	General (second donation)
Roland Paul	General (carryover from 2015)

Table 10. Donations in Euros, January 1 – December 31, 2016.

Donor	Purpose
Kinderregewald	Land Purchase and Protection (LPP), Donation #74
Kinderregewald	LPP, Donation #77
Kinderregewald	LPP, Donation #78
Kinderregewald	LPP, Donation #80
Kinderregewald	LPP, Donation #81
Kinderregewald	LPP, Donation #82
Kinderregewald	LPP, Donation #83
American College of Madrid	General

Table 11. In-kind donations, January 1 – December 31, 2016.

Donor	Description
Mark Wainwright & Debra Hamilton	Speakers for Environmental Education Program.
Scott Connelly	12 rechargeable AA batteries and two battery chargers.
SC Ingenieria Solar	General Electric Induction Generator 3PH, 3HP, 480/208 volts, plus set-up.
Frank Joyce & Katy Van Dusen	Wilderness Advanced First Aid (WAFA) training course, August 17-20, 2016 in Monteverde.
Hotel Belmar “Pack for a Purpose”	School supplies, Environmental Education Program.
C. Robert Frost	Property in San Juan de Peñas Blancas, San Ramón, Alajuela.
M. Antonio Cambronero	Laminated map of the BEN
Anonymous	Social media promotion.
Orlando Calvo	Photographs and video for website, social media, signage, brochures, and BEN introductory film
Alexa Stickel	Photographs for website
Mark Wainwright	Photographs for website, social media, signage, and brochures
Tom Newmark	Photographs for website and signage
Markus Mauthe	Photographs of the Children’s Eternal Rainforest and surrounding areas (carryover from 2015).

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The MCL thanks the following individuals, businesses, and organizations for their collaboration and support of the Children's Eternal Rainforest:

Individuals

Alfonso Oses
Álvaro y Jaime del Castillo
Claudia Araya Jimenez
David Soto Segura
Esteban Maroto
Geiner Alvarado Huertas
Gerardo Céspedes
Gilbert Araya Ruiz
Guillermo Vargas Prendas
Juan José Matamoros
Juan José Rojas
Juan Sostheim
Jorge Rodriguez
Ligia Villegas Trejos
Manuel Alfaro Alpizar
Marcelino Rodriguez Santamaría
Maudin Alberto Arguedas Jimenez
Meylin Quirós
Miguel Jimenez
Dr. Minor Cordero, SENASA
Minor Elizondo Carranza
Raúl Furnier
Ricaute Jimenez
Roy Araya Jimenez
Sergio Herrera
Steven Farrell
Susie Newswanger
Víctor Porras

Businesses and Organizations

Centro de Rescate Asís, Javillos
Cabañas Los Pinos, Monteverde
Centro de Rescate Marina
Centro Soltis
Comisariato Chachagua
COVIRENAS San Ramón
Desafío Tours, La Fortuna
Ferretería Villo, San Isidro de Peñas Blancas
Finca Luna Nueva Lodge
Fuerza Pública de Bajo Rodriguez
Fuerza Pública de La Tigra
Fuerza Pública de San Isidro de Peñas Blancas
Fuerza Pública de San Ramón
Jacamar Tours, La Fortuna
Lubricentro San José, San José de La Tigra
Monteverde Country Lodge
Policía de Tránsito de La Fortuna
Proyecto Asis
SINAC San Ramón
Súper Los Ángeles
Zoo Ave

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Board of Directors

Julia Matamoros, President
Jorge Maroto, Vice President
Sofia Arce, Secretary
Bob Law, Treasurer
Orlando Calvo, Vocal I
Eladio Cruz, Vocal II
Robert Rojas, Vocal III

Fiscal

Marcos Mendez, Fiscal I
Mark Wainwright, Fiscal II

Nominating Committee

Mark Wainwright
Orlando Calvo
Carla Willoughby
Luis Solano

Advisors

Lic. Ricaute Jiménez, Legal (Pro Bono)
Licda. Meylin Quirós, Legal
Lic. Marco V. Retana, Legal
Lic. Víctor González, Topografía

Staff

Main Office, Monteverde

Lindsay Stallcup, Executive Director
Yuber Rodríguez, Director of Land Affairs
Giselle Rodríguez, Executive Secretary
Walter Bonilla, Accounting and Finance Coordinator
Marianela Muñoz, Accounting Assistant, Human Resources, Sales
Leslie Corrales, Information Center and Bajo del Tigre
Rosibel Fallas, Miscellaneous

Finca Steller

Fabiola Peralta, Administrative Assistant
Maria Fernanda Rojas, Env't Education
Carolina Brizuela, Env't Education (until March 2016)
Marcelo Rodríguez, Finca Steller and Nursery
Luisa Retana, Miscellaneous

San Gerardo Station

Geovanny González, Station Manager
Ivannia Hernández, Cook
Flor Vargas, Cook (occasional)

Maintenance

Luis Solano, Coordinator
Jorge Ramírez
Erick Barquero
Luis Arana
Armando Villalobos (Monteverde)
Eduin Méndez (until February 2017)

Bajo del Tigre

José Soto, Coordinator
Rafael Vargas, Receptionist
Ivannia Arguedas (until June 2016)

Pocosol Station

Alexander Herrera, Station Manager
Roberto Sánchez (until Jan. 2017)
Allan Cruz (June to August 2016)

Protection

Hernán Chacón, Coordinator
A. Alonso Sánchez
Alberto Zúñiga
Freddy Campos
Miguel Fernández (until Feb. 2017)

Supporting Committees

Legal Affairs

Gerardo Céspedes
Hernán Chacón
Ricaute Jiménez
Julia Matamoros
Jorge Maroto
Yúber Rodríguez
Luis Solano
Lindsay Stallcup

Research

Mark Wainwright
Bob Law
Eladio Cruz
Hernán Chacón
Sofía Arce

Marketing & Field Stations

Mark Wainwright (Coordinator)
Julia Matamoros
Bob Law

Finance

Bob Law (Coordinator)
Jorge Maroto
Julia Matamoros

Sales & Souvenirs

Mark Wainwright
Julia Matamoros
Bob Law
Marianella Muñoz
Giselle Rodríguez
José Soto

Emergency Protocol

Mark Wainwright
Julia Matamoros
Eladio Cruz
Luis Solano
Hernán Chacón
Lindsay Stallcup

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

We would like to start by welcoming five new members to the MCL. The affiliation of all five was approved in the board of directors meeting in January 2017. They are: Jorge Gabriel Campos Villalobos (naturalist guide and environmental studies student in San Carlos), Fabiola Peralta Ramos (MCL employee as administrative assistant at Finca Steller), María Fernanda Rojas Murillo (MCL employee as head of the environmental education program), Osvaldo Araya Céspedes (forestry and wildlife management student and employee of Finca Don Juan in La Fortuna), and Jorge Luis Ramírez Vargas (MCL employee in the maintenance department for the last 22 years).

Regarding nominations for the board of directors, these positions last two years, and each year half of them are renewed. In this General Assembly of February 2017, the following positions are halfway through their term and do not require renewal:

- Vice-president (Jorge Maroto)
- Treasurer (Bob Law)
- Vocal 2 (Eladio Cruz)

The remaining board positions do expire or will change this year and therefore require election in this Assembly. The nominating committee proposes the following candidates for these positions. Members of the nominating committee have conversed with all of these candidates and all have indicated their willingness to serve in the corresponding positions. MCL members can propose additional candidates for any of these positions during the General Assembly.

- **President** (currently Julia Matamoros): The nominating committee proposes Julia Matamoros to continue in this position, for the period of March 2017 to February 2019.
- **Secretary** (currently Sofía Arce): Due to time constraints, Sofía will not serve another term in this position, but has offered to serve as Fiscal 2 (below). The nominating committee proposes Carla Willoughby for the position of secretary, for the period of March 2017 to February 2019.
- **Fiscal 1** (currently Marcos Méndez): The nominating committee proposes Marcos Méndez to continue in this position, for the period of March 2017 to February 2019.
- **Fiscal 2** (currently Mark Wainwright): The two-year term of this position does not end until 2018, but in order to open this position for Sofía, Mark is resigning and offering to serve as Vocal 3 (below). The nominating committee proposes Sofía Arce for the position of Fiscal 2, for the period of March 2017 to February 2018.
- **Vocal 1** (currently Orlando Calvo): The nominating committee proposes Orlando Calvo to continue in this position, for the period of March 2017 to February 2019.
- **Vocal 3** (currently Robert Rojas): The two-year term of this position ends now and Robert will not continue. The nominating committee proposes Mark Wainwright for this position, for the period of March 2017 to February 2019.

The nominating committee wishes the new MCL members and new board members much energy and much success in their efforts on behalf of the BEN.

– *Mark Wainwright, Luis Solano, Carla Willoughby y Orlando Calvo*

LIST OF MEMBERS, 2017 (by date of membership)

HONORARY MEMBERS

1. Adrian Forsyth	24/01/1989	6. Patricia Fogden	04/02/2006
2. Sharon Kinsman	24/01/1989	7. Michael Fogden	04/02/2006
3. Harriet McCurd	24/01/1989	8. Gerardo Céspedes	24/05/1991
4. George Powell	24/01/1989	9. Bob Law	08/02/1986
5. Eha Kern	08/11/1990	10. Marco V. Retana	11/02/2012

ACTIVE MEMBERS

1. William A. Haber	08/02/1986*	35. Ricaute Jiménez	10/06/2005
2. Richard LaVal Bugg	08/02/1986*	36. Otto Méndez	0/06/2005
3. Bob Walter Law Britton	08/02/1986*	37. Yúber Rodríguez S.	16/12/2005
4. Joseph David Stuckey	08/02/1986*	38. Mark Wainwright	21/11/2006
5. Guillermo Vargas Leitón	08/02/1986*	39. Luis A. Solano Morales	18/05/2007
6. James Wolfe Ashley	08/02/1986*	40. Roland Paul	15/08/2008
7. Francis John Joyce	24/01/1989	41. Walter Bonilla Vásquez	08/01/2010
8. John Thomas Longino	24/01/1989	42. Mills Tandy	08/01/2010
9. Nalini M. Nadkarni	24/01/1989	43. Hernán Chacón Castro	23/09/2011
10. Susie Newswanger Kilmer	24/01/1989	44. Deborah Hamilton	16/12/2011
11. Katherine C. VanDusen	24/01/1989	45. Evelyn Rockwell Solano	16/12/2011
12. José Luis Vargas Leitón	24/01/1989	46. Sofía Arce Flores	20/01/2012
13. Willow Zuchowski Pushkin	24/01/1989	47. Giuliano Salazar Gigli	20/01/2012
14. Bruce Erick Young	21/02/1989	48. Jose A. Soto Segura	20/01/2012
15. Suzanne Leseur Trostle	01/02/1990	49. Mercedes Días Herrera	11/02/2012
16. Marvin Hidalgo Montero	16/02/1990	50. María A. Vargas Chacón	11/02/2012
17. Alexander Alvarado Méndez	23/03/1990	51. Geiner Alvarado Huertas	20/04/2012
18. Carmen María Rojas González	08/10/1990	52. Marcos A. Méndez Sibaja	02/11/2012
19. M. del Carmen Campos Araya	24/05/1991	53. Jannelle Wilkins	30/11/2012
20. Gerardo Céspedes Rodríguez	24/05/1991	54. Mauricio Vargas Salazar	13/12/2012
21. Jorge Maroto Puga	04/11/1992	55. Jaime Del Castillo	26/07/2013
22. Yimer Morales	04/11/1992	56. John Devereax Joslin	16/05/2014
23. Juan Carlos Corrales Arce	18/08/1993	57. Selena Avedaño	20/01/2015
24. Karen Masters	18/08/1993	58. Fabricio Camacho	20/01/2015
25. Martha Iris Salazar Méndez	20/07/1994	59. Randy Chinchilla	20/01/2015
26. Julia Matamoros Alvarado	20/07/1994	60. María Estela Coghi	20/01/2015
27. Oscar Mario Vargas Solís	23/06/1995	61. Wim De Backer	20/01/2015
28. Carlos L. Muñoz Brenes	19/12/2000	62. Marlene Leitón	20/01/2015
29. Freddy Cruz Méndez	02/02/2001	63. Gabriela McAdam	20/01/2015
30. Robert Rojas Vásquez	02/02/2001	64. Priscilla Palavicini	20/01/2015
31. José E. Arévalo Hernández	20/07/2001	65. Fern Perkins	20/01/2015
32. Eladio Cruz Leitón	08/02/2002	66. John Porras	20/01/2015
33. Marvin Martín Chaverri	08/02/2002	67. Manuel Solís	20/01/2015
34. Jorge Arturo Torres Ortega	20/05/2005	68. Maricella Solís	20/01/2015

69. Justin Welch	20/01/2015	75. Carla Willoughby	12/02/2016
70. Orlando Calvo	13/02/2015	76. Osvaldo Araya Céspedes	10/01/2017
71. Lindsay Stallcup	13/02/2015	77. Jorge G. Campos Villalobos	10/01/2017
72. Alexa Stichel	13/02/2015	78. Fabiola Peralta Ramos	10/01/2017
73. Noelia Solano	13/02/2015	79. Jorge Ramírez Vargas	10/01/2017
74. Lilliana Chavarria	31/05/2016	80. María F. Rojas Murillo	10/01/2017

CONTRIBUTORS

1. Carlos Guindon Standing	24/01/1989	13. Tahnee Robertson	05/06/1991
2. Cynthia Echeverría López	24/01/1989	14. Alan Masters	18/08/1993
3. Gregory Murray Kevin	24/01/1989	15. Mauricio García Cambroner	20/07/1994
4. James E. Crisp McGowan	24/01/1989	16. Gordon Patty	21/06/1996
5. Marcy Lawton	24/01/1989	17. Jorge Vargas Cullel	17/08/2001
6. Alan Pounds Joseph	24/01/1989	18. Carlos Aburto	18/05/2008
7. Robert M. Timm	24/01/1989	19. Alexander Kopper	18/05/2008
8. Nathaniel T. Wheelwright	24/01/1989	20. Matilde Steiner	18/05/2008
9. Kathy Winnett-Murray	24/01/1989	21. Tom Newmark	20/01/2012
10. Lisa Ellis	01/02/1990	22. Michael Besancon	15/06/2012
11. Omar Coto Loría	24/05/1991	23. Leslie Burlingame	12/02/2016
12. Ree Sheck	24/05/1991		

SISTER ORGANIZATIONS

Friends of the Rainforest *

Chelsea Raiche, Executive Director
www.friendsoftherainforest.org

Engage Globally, USA *

Heather Heckel, Executive Director
www.engageglobally.org

Barnens Regnskog, Sweden

Eha Kern, Director
www.barnensregnskog.se

Fundación Benasis, Switzerland

Audrey Leumann, Founder
Web: www.fundacionbenasis.org

Kinderregenwald, Germany *

Roland Paul, Chair
www.kinderregenwald.de

Children's Tropical Forests, U.K.

Robin Jolliffe, President
www.tropical-forests.com

American School of Madrid, Spain *

Joanna Miller
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Nippon Kodomono Jungle, Japan

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**Active in 2016*

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Instagram: @childrenseternalrainforest

