

Annual Report 2018



*Monteverde Conservation League
Children's Eternal Rainforest*



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

**AGENDA FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY AND ORDINARY ASSEMBLIES OF THE
MONTEVERDE CONSERVATION LEAGUE
BAJO DEL TIGRE, MONTEVERDE
FEBRUARY 2, 2019**

- 8:00 a.m. First Roll Call, Extraordinary Assembly
8:05 a.m. Presentation of proposed modifications to the by-laws
8:30 a.m. Second Roll Call, Extraordinary Assembly, Confirmation of Quorum
8:31 a.m. Minute of silence, Approval of agenda
8:35 a.m. Approval of modifications to the by-laws
8:45 a.m. Resignation of Treasurer
8:50 a.m. Election of Treasurer for the period March 1, 2018 to February 29, 2020
8:55 a.m. Election of notary, motion to formalize the agreements taken during the assembly, motion to formalize the minutes
9:00 a.m. Closing, Extraordinary Assembly
- 9:00 a.m. First Roll Call, Ordinary Assembly
9:30 a.m. Second Roll Call, Ordinary Assembly; Confirmation of Quorum
9:31 a.m. Moment of silence; Welcome
9:35 a.m. Approval of agenda for the Ordinary Assembly
9:40 a.m. President's Report
9:50 a.m. Treasurer's Report
9:55 a.m. Fiscal Reports
10:05 a.m. Executive Director's Report
10:35 a.m. Questions and Answers
10:50 a.m. Motion to approve President's & Treasurer's Reports
10:55 a.m. Department/Program Reports
11:25 a.m. Questions and Answers
11:40 a.m. Nominating Committee Report
11:45 a.m. Election of Board of Directors, Substitute and Fiscal
- Election of President for the period March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2021
 - Election of Secretary for the period March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2021
 - Election of Vocal 1 for the period March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2021
 - Election of Vocal 3 for the period March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2021
 - Election of Fiscal 1 for the period March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2021
 - Election of Substitute for the period March 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020
- 12:15 p.m. Election of Nominating Committee
12:20 p.m. Other topics
12:40 p.m. Election of notary, motion to formalize the agreements taken during the assembly, motion to formalize the minutes
12:45 p.m. Closing, Ordinary Assembly
12:50 p.m. Lunch

CONTENTS

Introduction2

Reports from the Board of Directors

President’s Report4

Treasurer’s Report7

Report from Fiscal 18

Report from Fiscal 2.....9

Executive Report

Economic and Financial Situation 10

Legal Affairs16

Environmental Service Payment Program.....21

Stations and Trails27

Environmental Education31

Control and Protection32

Maintenance33

Research35

Volunteers and Interns36

Donations.....37

Community Partners39

Organizational Structure40

Nominating Committee Report41

List of Members42

Monteverde Conservation League
Children’s Eternal Rainforest
 Apartado 124-5655, Santa Elena de Monteverde
 Puntarenas, Costa Rica
 Tel: (+506) 2645-5200
www.childrenseternalrainforest.org
 Email: info@acmcr.org



INTRODUCTION

Monteverde, Puntarenas
January 31, 2019

Each time I sit down to write this report, it's a challenge to think back over the course of the year and try to summarize what has happened – so much transpires in just one year!

Our priorities for 2018 included increasing visitation throughout the Children's Eternal Rainforest (*Bosque Eterno de los Niños; BEN*); reopening and reestablishing visitation at Pocosol; working to reduce our load of legal cases; identifying and following up with donors, particularly for the endowment fund and environmental education program; and completing the implementation of new accounting system and procedures. As is almost always the case, we have achieved some of our goals, made decent progress toward others, and still others remain on the "waiting list", so to speak.

Among the most important achievements of 2018 was the reopening of Pocosol; we are very happy to be able to once again share this special place with the public. Visitation at Pocosol, San Gerardo, Bajo del Tigre, and Finca Steller continues to generate important income for the MCL; in addition, it promotes education and helps us to spread our message. Along with visitation goes customer service; during 2018 we experienced changes in personnel at all of our stations and trails, and we are hopeful these changes will lead to improved customer service across the board.

We completed the implementation of new accounting software, including a detailed new account catalog and payroll system. In addition, we have made other important changes related to accounting, including: adaptation to new requirements for electronic invoicing; installation of new "point of sale" systems at the Information Center, Bajo del Tigre, and Finca Steller; installation of credit card machines at Finca Steller and Pocosol; and the adoption of new accounting procedures. I am grateful to the accounting team for their leadership in this process, and to all the MCL staff for their patience during the implementation of multiple changes. We will continue to make the necessary adjustments as we follow the path towards greater financial stability for our organization.

We are pleased to report continued and active participation by our international partner organizations, which supported us in 2018 with funds for Land Purchase and Protection (Kinderregenwald); repairs at Pocosol Station and purchase of two ATVs for field stations (Friends of the Rainforest); repairs at San Gerardo Station (Children's Eternal Forests U.K.); and the Environmental Education Program (Engage Globally). We have made progress in identifying new funds and donors for environmental education; in addition to donations, in 2018 we received grants from Bosqueeterno S.A. and JustPax Fund, the latter in partnership with Engage Globally. We must continue in search of strategies to grow our endowment fund and to increase donations in the other categories identified by the Board of Directors.

In terms of reducing the League's burden of legal cases, I unfortunately have to report we have not made much progress, despite the efforts of the Legal Affairs Committee. The lack of movement in most cases is due to administrative factors and/or the Costa Rican legal system, which are beyond our control. On the positive side, most of the new cases for this period have to do with Control and Protection, because we have been more proactive in filing and following up on lawsuits related to environmental infractions in the BEN. This is a way to reinforce the work of our forest rangers while also documenting the trail of antecedents for the responsible parties, most of whom are known and repeat offenders.

Some of the most important achievements this year had more to do with personnel and the daily operations of the MCL and the BEN than with expressly stated priorities or goals. Each department or program faced major changes or challenges in 2018, which – I am proud to say – resulted in growth across the board.

In 2018, our forest rangers overcame the challenge of the long disability leave of Protection Coordinator Hernan Chacon (described below), thanks to the leadership of Alonso Sánchez and the willingness of all our forest rangers to work as a team to get the job done. Our Protection staff has also dealt with the frustrating but very real challenge of coordinating patrols and other actions with the corresponding government authorities, in an environment that does not always make this easy. Our Maintenance crew seems to be everywhere at once! In addition to completing major repairs in Pocosol and San Gerardo (detailed below), they also took care of clearing property boundaries and trails, mending fences, installing permanent markers, and carrying out inspections throughout the BEN.

The administrative staff and department heads have dealt with a multitude of changes related to accounting and administrative procedures, which they have faced with great patience and willingness to adapt. At our field stations and Bajo del Tigre, more than 80% of the staff has turned over since May 2018, and new staff members have demonstrated enthusiasm to learn, improve, and share new ideas. Our environmental educator has adapted to project-based work, depending on the availability of donations and grants, and also dealt with a long-term teacher strike toward the end of the 2018 school year.

I also want to highlight the excellent work related to Payments for Environmental Services (PES). The placement of MCL and neighboring properties has been achieved thanks to the dedication and experience of Yúber Rodríguez, as well as other staff members who participate in field inspections, document delivery, and other steps in the process. PES remain the most important source of income for the MCL, and the inclusion of neighboring farms in the PES program is an excellent way to support our neighbors and promote the conservation of areas surrounding the BEN.

It is difficult if not impossible to include everything, and I am almost certainly leaving out something important. To be honest, I feel extremely proud of everything this organization has achieved over the past year. I am grateful to our board members for their time and dedication in pursuing the ongoing conservation of the BEN, and I encourage each of you to go out and enjoy this incredible forest.

Lindsay Stallcup
Executive Director

REPORTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President's Report

Welcome to our annual meeting, we appreciate your attendance and support. Our membership consists of 75 active members, 4 inactive members, 23 contributing members, and 10 honorary members, of whom 2 are also active members. We were saddened to learn of the death of Monteverde biologist and contributing member Marcy Lawton in September 2018. In 2018, Greivin Arredondo Castro and Dariel Miranda Robles, neighbors of La Fortuna who have helped in Pocosol as volunteers in the past, became members. Seven people were disaffiliated in December 2018 and January 2019, after a year of being in the inactive category and not requesting to be reactivated, and on November 20, Jorge Gabriel Campos was disaffiliated at his express request since MCL did not meet his expectations.

I have been part of the MCL since 1994 and since then I have participated in different board positions and as "fiscal". During the last 18 years, I have been president of the board of directors 11 times, and although this has been a great honor and I appreciate the trust placed in me, I do not see it as something positive for MCL. Hopefully more of you will participate on our board of directors or as "fiscal" since we feel it is important that the board evolve and renew its members. Recently we have proposed some changes regarding our board and how we can increase participation. One proposal is for board members to participate remotely via Skype or other technology, which is allowed by law and would facilitate "attending" meetings for non-residents of Monteverde. This has been done on some occasions in the past but only occasionally. We would also like to create the position of a Substitute board member ("Suplente"), to reduce the possibility of having to cancel a meeting due to lack of quorum. These new proposals and other changes created the need to review our bylaws, propose modification of some of them, and bring the proposed modifications to the Extraordinary Assembly today for approval. All the changes were consulted with our legal counsel Mayling Quiros.

The board met 11 times from March 2018 to February 1, 2019, with only one cancellation in June due to a lack of quorum. It was a challenge to coordinate the dates for the meetings; the factors that affected participation were work-related or due to health problems. On several occasions, the meeting had to take place with only four board members, the minimum number allowed, and I feel I could have done more to facilitate greater participation. The diversity of the board remains one of its greatest strengths when it comes to analyzing and discussing the problems and proposals that will forge the direction of our organization. This, along with a good working relationship with our Executive Director, is of vital importance. A sincere thanks to my fellow board members for their time and unselfish desire to help MCL.

This year our focus has been more on internal issues within MCL and there have been very positive changes in accounting, as well as personnel changes in San Gerardo and Pocosol and other positions in Monteverde, which will result in greater efficiency and better service throughout the organization. I will not elaborate on this since it will be covered in the rest of the report. The reopening of Pocosol Station in May 2018 was a source of much joy and the result of difficult decisions that were made in 2016 and 2017, together with the work of the staff and donations from Friends of the Rainforest (FOR). Our stations are better than ever, and I hope you have the opportunity to visit them. We thank FOR and all our sister organizations such as Kinderregenwald (Germany), Children's Tropical Forests U.K, Engage Globally (U.S.A.), donors, volunteers, and collaborators who with their generosity and commitment have contributed to our progress.

Special thanks to Lindsay Stallcup and all the staff who day after day work very hard to protect the Children's Eternal Rainforest and take care of the day to day problems and tasks necessary for our organization to move forward, which is not an easy task.

Our priorities remain very similar to those of previous years, so I will not touch on this topic here.

Soon we will be celebrating 33 years since our foundation on February 8, 1986, and I wanted to see what had happened to our world in matters of conservation and the environment during this time. I consulted several international and Costa Rican organizations. Although our own forest has grown and improved in this time, unfortunately this is not true for most of the world. The threats are widely known by all. Below is a summary of the most serious environmental problems we face and their solutions.

- 1. Air pollution and climate change.** Caused by an overload of carbon in our atmosphere and ocean waters produced largely by the use of fossil fuels, deforestation for agriculture and industrial activities which has increased the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ from 280 parts per million (ppm) 200 years ago to 400 ppm today, which has resulted in climate disruption. But it is not only the climate that is affected by the use of coal, oil, gas and wood. The World Health Organization estimated that one in nine deaths in 2012 were attributable to diseases caused by carcinogens and other poisons in polluted air.

Solution: Replace fossil fuels with renewable energy. Reforestation. Reduce emissions from agriculture and change industrial processes.

- 2. Deforestation.** A prevalent problem, especially in the forests of the tropics in very poor countries where forests are destroyed for cattle farms, soy and palm oil plantations, and monocultures. Worldwide 7.3 million hectares are destroyed every year. Natural forests are not only a reservoir for biodiversity, they also help to maintain carbon out of the air and oceans.

Solution. Conserve what there is left of forests and restore the areas that have been degraded with native species.

- 3. Extinction of Species.** On land species are hunted for food, medicinal products, or for their ivory; in the seas, existing fish populations are overexploited using industrial techniques or unsustainable practices. This, in addition to the loss or destruction of habitat, has a negative impact. The IUCN red list of species that are threatened or in danger of extinction continues to increase, with more than 22,000 species threatened with extinction; according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), 70 species go extinct every day. In a little over 40 years, there has been a 66% decrease in wildlife populations. We throw plastic and toxic substances into our oceans, poisoning our own food. Ninety percent of fish species are over exploited, and we have lost 50% of our coral reefs in the last 30 years.

According to WWF's the Living Planet Index, the causes of extinction of species based on the analysis of the populations of 3,430 species are:

- Exploitation: 37%
- Degradation or loss of habitat: 31%
- Habitat loss: 13%
- Climate change: 7%
- Other: 11%

Solution: make serious efforts to prevent even further the loss of biodiversity, protect and restore habitats in conjunction with local people so that the conservation of the species is of socio-economic interest.

4. **Degradation of Soils.** Produced by overgrazing, erosion, soil compaction, monocultures and overexposure to pollutants. According to the United Nations around 12 million hectares of land used for crops are seriously degraded every year.

Solution: There is a wide range of techniques of conservation and restoration of soil from no-till agriculture, crop rotation, and use of terraces for water retention.

5. **Overpopulation.** Human growth continues to increase rapidly worldwide. 100 years ago we were 1.6 billion people, and today we are 7.5 billion, which is putting enormous pressure on essential natural resources, such as water. This growth is occurring mainly in Africa and southern and eastern Asia.

Solution: It has been demonstrated that, when women are empowered to control their reproduction and have access to education and basic social services, the number of births per woman falls significantly. Obviously there are many cultural, social and religious factors that hinder these actions.

The report of the last meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, concluded that “Conserving forests, the ocean and wildlife is in everyone's interest for sustainability and for our own prosperity. That is why now is the time for businesses, governments, institutions and civil society to work together to curb climate change and the devastation of nature.” It seems that this was an obvious need for a long time and something that many people and conservation and environmental organizations were very clear about. MCL has been aware of this for 33 years, but our isolated effort is not enough, since environmental problems and their solutions are complex. It is clear that, in the presence of poverty and extreme poverty, there is a very slim chance of success in our conservation efforts worldwide. A clear example is Madagascar, one of the poorest countries on the planet and where many animals are threatened or in danger of extinction, despite being the target of many international conservation efforts. If in Costa Rica conservation has not been as easy or as successful as we would like, imagine the environmental and conservation nightmares in other countries, which ultimately affect us all. So although we can be proud of the BEN and other achievements of MCL during this time, we must expand our collective and personal efforts.

As Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish environmental activist at the Davos meeting last week said, “I do not want your hope, I do not want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic ... and react as if your house was burning.”

Dr. Julia Matamoros Alvarado
President

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to share with you the achievements made this fiscal year. All the staff, and especially the accounting department, has made a great effort to bring the League's accounting up to date.

As of October 2017, the accounting team (principally Jose Mora, Accountant, and Dunia Picado, Accounting Assistant), implemented a new accounting software program that includes all accounting records, payroll and fixed assets.

Another important achievement of the accounting department was to establish monthly reconciliations of bank accounts, as well as the reconciliation of liabilities (accounts payable, withholdings, taxes, among others). In addition, the accounting paperwork is organized and filed with the respective backup documentation.

It is important to emphasize that, for the first time in almost 33 years, the League is keeping a detailed catalog of accounts, separated by department. We also have the ability to separate different projects and keep track of the income and expenses of each.

Some examples of the changes that have been made this year include:

- a) Electronic invoicing: the MCL implemented an electronic invoicing system in November 2018;
- b) Point of sale: a new point-of-sale system was implemented, with proper inventory control;
- c) Souvenirs: inventory tracking by sector using the point of sale software (Finca Steller, Pocosol, San Gerardo, Information Center or Bajo del Tigre)
- d) Food purchases for field stations: a centralized ordering system was implemented. Purchases are made up to twice a week; non-perishable goods are purchased from a majority distributor, which has led to significant savings;
- e) Purchases of equipment, materials, stationery: Purchases with quotes from at least three providers.
- f) Most of the administrative procedures have a protocol which indicates step by step how to properly complete the procedure (for example, billing, transfers, reimbursements, etc.)

Related to taxes, the accounting team has been on time with the declarations related to sales tax, withholdings and income taxes, and municipal taxes.

We continue to receive donations from our sister organizations; as well as specific donations for the Environmental Education Program. Payments for Environmental Services (PES) continue to represent a large percentage of our total revenue. This fiscal year, PES income exceeded last year's income by more than 11 million colones, and still represents ~49% for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, as compared to ~54% for the previous year.

While the deficit for the fiscal year is just over 4 million colones, this is related to several factors, for example, exceptional expenses such as those incurred due to tropical storm Nate (road repair in San Gerardo), and investment in infrastructure at the Pocosol Station. The results also include depreciation of buildings and vehicles, as well as foreign exchange expenses, which are considered non-expendable expenses (that is, those that do not require disbursement of cash). Despite having budgeted for contingencies, there were expenses that exceeded the designated amount; however, it is not alarming and we hope that the situation will be different for the current year.

Among the plans for this fiscal year, the accounting department has the following goals:

- Have an up-to-date record of all contracts, including PES, CONELECTRICAS, rentals and

- others, so that each payment or provider is backed up with the proper documentation;
- Realize a general inventory of assets (including labels or placards).

I emphasize again how important these changes in the accounting department have been for the MCL. We are very happy and encouraged by the implementation of these new systems and procedures, and are certain that it will allow us to see more clearly, both in the short and long term, the financial situation of the Association. Thank you!

Sofía Arce Flores

Treasurer

Report from Fiscal I

General Assembly Members, Monteverde Conservation League

Good morning members, Board of Directors, staff, and all those present here today. The following is my annual report as Fiscal I of the Monteverde Conservation League.

Costa Rica Social Security (CCSS). The MCL is up to date with payments to the CCSS.

National Insurance Institute (INS). The MCL is up to date on workers' compensation insurance; payments are made every six months, and the next payment is due in April 2018.

Accounting. Salaries are in accordance with minimum salaries established by the Ministry of Labor. The MCL has retained its status as a non-profit association of interest to the Costa Rican state (*utilidad pública para los intereses del estado costarricense*). The procedures required to maintain this status happen between February and March, so we are also up to date.

Legal Issues. During 2018, MCL staff and members of the Legal Affairs Committee dealt with various issues in defense of the Children's Eternal Rainforest. The Committee met three times at Finca Steller in La Tigra de San Carlos. The main cases were:

1. Monteverde Inn / Valle Escondido
2. INMan-Banco IMPROSA
3. Banco Nacional de Costa Rica, in Burrito de La Fortuna
4. Bekom (MCL vs. Badilla-Navarro and Canet-Zamora families)
5. Mario Rodríguez / Wilson Badilla
6. "Los Chizos", el Portal de Peñas Blancas
7. Possible gold mining in the BEN

Undoubtedly, we must mention the unsatisfactory progress of the judicial process against Valle Escondido, where we are at risk of losing the historical right-of-way access to our property (the road to the Butterfly Garden) due to the fact that the property now has another entrance. When the legal process was initiated, the property was enclosed, with no public road access; however, a few years ago the MCL acquired a small adjacent property in order to secure access to the public road on the back side of our property.

The legal committee also dealt with issues related to land tenure, including:

- Obtaining legal title to MCL properties. Initiation of process for obtaining title to four MCL properties, and identification of legal strategies for obtaining title to additional properties;
- Follow-up on purchase of properties from Cesar Santamaría and Olger Badilla;
- Review of Leitón case;

- Elaboration of plans in Peñas Blancas (Eladios and Tom Dixon), Pipe Cruz, Cerro Ampala, San Gerardo, and Bajo del Tigre;
- Cases related to protection of natural resources, principally poaching, trespassing, illegal possession of firearms, and attempted aggression against forest rangers;
- Other legal topics related to the administration of the BEN.

For more detail on each case considered by the Legal Affairs Committee, please see the Legal Affairs section of this report; however, overall I can highlight few advances in the resolution of the various judicial processes, in spite of the timely participation of our staff and legal committee members.

Sincerely,

Marcos A. Méndez

Fiscal I

Report from Fiscal II

As Fiscal II of the Asociación Conservacionista de Monteverde, I wish to inform the General Assembly of the following that has occurred during the year. I have participated in all the meetings of the Board and approve of the careful legal methods employed and the cooperation among the members. With a few exceptions, decisions are unanimous.

Minutes of the General Assembly Number 50 of the Association, held on February 3, 2018 were written into the lawyer's legal book, the legal book of the Association, and inscribed in the National Registry.

The Board of Directors met on 10 occasions between March 2, 2018 and February 1, 2019. The minutes of all the meetings except for the last two have been revised and approved by the Board of Directors and our lawyer, and then inscribed in the National Registry. The last two minutes will be reviewed and revised as needed in the next Board Meetings, entered into the legal book, and registered.

The membership book with all pertinent data is up to date.

As in previous years, we have encountered difficulties in finding a date for Board meetings, because several of the Board members are on call for attending groups of students or tourists. At the end of each meeting, we search for a date when all can come to the next meeting, but on many occasions we barely have a quorum, because several members are working.

The Board has complied with the legal requirements of the law of associations, our bylaws, and the requests of the General Assembly, and I have not received any requests from members to investigate any acts of the Board which might be considered illegal or unethical.

Bob Law

Fiscal II

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Economic and Financial Situation

Due to the implementation of new accounting software and the resulting changes in the catalog of accounts, it is not reasonable to present a comparison of 2017-2018 with the previous fiscal year. We are pleased to now have a full year of baseline data with which we can compare future periods. I will use this space instead to offer a few observations on this year's results and future projections.

- **Income** (*ingresos*). Our main source of income continues to be Payments for Environmental Services Payments (PES; 49.1%), followed by visitation (33.7%) and donations (6.7%, Fig. 1). Additional income comes from souvenir sales, the rental of our former offices in Monteverde, interest on investments, and membership fees. The MCL has an opportunity to increase sales revenues, from field stations (especially Pocosol) and souvenir sales in all areas of the BEN. We expect PES income to remain relatively stable for the next period, and we also expect to receive payment from the special PES contract between MCL, FONAFIFO and CONELECTRICAS (see Payments for Environmental Services report, below).
- **Sales costs** (*costos de ventas*) are the costs related to guided walks, souvenirs, and food for the field stations. We have made great headway toward lowering the cost of food for field stations by making regularly scheduled purchases with established suppliers. There are still opportunities to improve in this area, especially in selecting suppliers on the San Carlos side and in defining menus and ingredient lists for the meals served at the stations.
- **Salaries and related expenses** (*salarios y gastos relacionados*) includes salary, vacation, social security payments, worker's compensation insurance, unemployment, food, and staff training for each employee. This item is projected to remain stable for the period 2018-2019
- **Operating expenses** (*gastos operativos*) includes office and cleaning supplies, uniforms, restaurant utensils, bedding, cooking gas, and telecommunications, among other items. This category also includes transportation costs (fuel, vehicle maintenance and repair, and annual registration fees). Transportation costs are perpetually high for the MCL, due to the condition of our vehicles (which are mostly old) and the geographical reality of the BEN (difficult terrain, long distances between sites). For the next fiscal year, we expect to lower transportation costs with the purchase of three newer vehicles. We began with the acquisition of two ATVs for San Gerardo and Pocosol at the end of 2018, and we will soon purchase a newer pickup truck to replace the one that is currently causing the most problems. We thank Friends of the Rainforest for the funds for the purchase of these three vehicles.
- **Maintenance expenses** (*gastos de mantenimiento*) include waste collection, tools, building maintenance, furniture repair, and maintenance of roads, trails and property boundaries. In the 2017-2018, maintenance expenses were higher than expected due to extraordinary factors. For example, approximately 3.5 million colones were invested in repairs to the road to San Gerardo following Tropical Storm Nate. We also spent nearly 1.9 million colones on repairs of buildings in the Pocosol Station, in part because the cost of repairs exceeded the amount for the specific donation for this project, and also because in order to reopen Pocosol it was necessary to invest in repairing the road and trails. We expect maintenance costs in these sectors to stabilize in 2018-2019.
- **General and administrative expenses** (*gastos generales y de administración*) include administrative expenses (for example, software rental, membership fees, shipping/mail, telecommunications for the main administrative office, tolls, parking), insurance, merchandise, professional honoraria, and legal expenses.

- **Financial expenses** (*gastos financieros*) are bank commissions (mainly for transfers to/from other banks) and credit card commissions (the amount our bank charges us when a customer pays us with a credit card). At present, we do not pay any interest on MCL business credit cards, because the balance is paid off monthly.

For the fiscal year 2017-2018 there was a deficit of $\text{¢}4,425,075.81$ colones (Table 1). We attribute this to several specific factors, including exceptional maintenance expenses (mentioned above) and the inclusion of depreciation expenses and exchange rate differences in the results. In addition, we had the expectation that funds from special contracts between MCL, FONAFIFO and CONELECTRICAS would be paid out during this period (approximately $\text{¢}26,000,000$; see the Payments for Environmental Services report, below). CONELECTRICAS followed through with their payment and the MCL has complied with the necessary actions on our part; however, due to administrative procedures of FONAFIFO and MINAE, the timeline for MCL to receive this money has been much slower than expected. We expect the funds to enter our accounts in the coming months.

Figure 1. Gross income by category, October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. *Visitación* = visitation to field stations and trails. *PSA* = Environmental service payments. *Donaciones* = donations. *Otros ingresos* = other income.

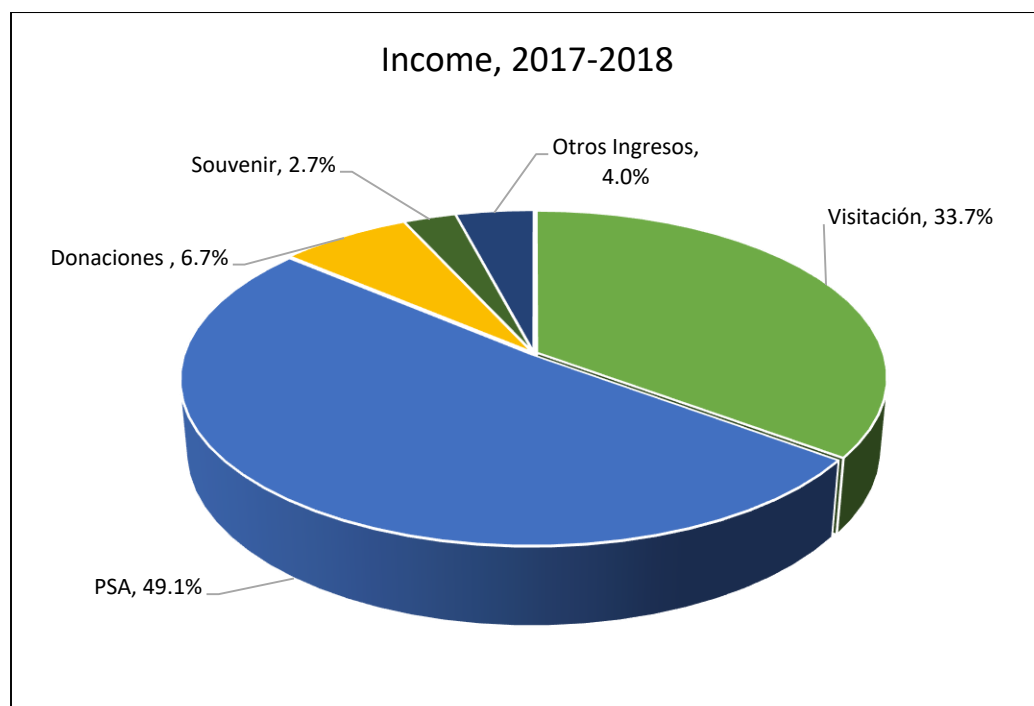


Table 1. Results from fiscal year 2017-2018 (October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018). Amounts expressed in Costa Rican colones.

Asociacion Conservacionista de Monteverde		
Cédula Jurídica 3101377358		
ESTADO DE RESULTADOS INTEGRALES		
Periodo del 1ero de octubre del 2017 al 30 de setiembre del 2018		
INGRESOS		
801-00-000	INGRESOS POR DONACIONES	- 25,003,993.44
803-00-000	VENTAS	- 120,900,090.13
810-00-000	INGRESOS POR SERVICIOS AMBIENTALES	- 169,647,206.44
820-00-000	OTRO INGRESOS	- 21,849,590.78
TOTAL INGRESOS		- 337,400,880.79
EGRESOS		
903-00-000	COSTOS DE VENTAS	39,044,811.34
920-00-000	SALARIOS Y GASTOS RELACIONADOS	215,978,359.61
930-00-000	GASTOS OPERATIVOS	30,693,172.35
933-00-000	GASTOS MANTENIMIENTO	13,590,297.56
935-00-000	GASTOS GENERALES Y DE ADMINISTRACIÓN	25,317,522.43
950-00-000	GASTOS SERVICIOS PUBLICOS	1,676,684.13
955-00-000	IMPUESTOS Y PATENTES	627,314.70
960-00-000	GASTOS FINANCIEROS	1,295,326.77
965-00-000	GASTOS POR DIFERENCIAL CAMBIARIO	5,856,095.86
970-00-000	DEPRECIACIÓN EDIFICIO	5,520,858.12
975-00-000	DEPRECIACION MAQUINARIA Y EQUIPO	1,447,786.18
990-00-000	AJUSTE A PERIODOS ANTERIORES	777,726.55
TOTAL EGRESOS		341,825,955.60
DEFICIT DEL EJERCICIO		4,425,074.81

Table 2. Balance, October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018, in Costa Rican colones.

Asociacion Conservacionista de Monteverde	
3-002-075864	
ESTADO DE SITUACION FINANCIERA	
Periodo terminado al 30 de setiembre del 2018	
ACTIVOS CORRIENTES	setiembre 2018
ACTIVOS	-
CAJA GENERAL	1,407,868.00
BANCOS	24,938,983.29
DEPOSITOS EN TRANSITO	-
FONDOS DE INVERSION	147,066,475.80
CUENTAS POR COBRAR	695,379.91
CUENTAS POR COBRAR COMERCIALES	110,200.00
ADELANTO A PROVEEDORES	-
INVENTARIOS GENERALES	9,177,378.18
GASTOS DIFERIDOS	2,708,258.07
DOCUMENTO POR COBRAR CORTO PLAZO	-
TOTAL ACTIVOS CORRIENTES	186,104,543.25
ACTIVOS NO CORRIENTES	
ACTIVOS FIJOS	-
TERRENOS	846,214,339.00
REVALUACION DE TERRENOS	-
EDIFICIOS	314,213,555.38
DEPRECIACION EDIFICIO	- 190,665,896.71
MAQUINARIA MOBILIARIO Y EQUIPO	55,996,108.25
DEPRECIACION MAQUINARIA Y EQUIPO	- 48,386,191.59
OBRAS EN PROCESO	411,590.51
OTROS ACTIVOS	-
DEPOSITOS EN GARANTIA	204,233.00
DOCUMENTOS POR COBRAR LARGO PLAZO	-
GASTOS DE REORGANIZACION	-
INVERSIONES A LARGO PLAZO	59,107,268.93
TOTAL ACTIVOS NO CORRIENTES	1,037,095,006.77
TOTAL ACTIVOS	1,223,199,550.02

PASIVOS CORRIENTES	
PASIVO CIRCULANTE	-
SALARIO	-
COMERCIALES	- 12,828,561.29
INTERESES POR PAGAR	-
PREPAGO DE CLIENTES	- 20,229,360.65
DOCUMENTOS POR PAGAR CORTO PLAZO	- 2,952,290.00
RETENCIONES POR PAGAR	- 3,316,663.81
APORTE PATRONALES POR PAGAR	- 3,126,962.75
IMPUESTO POR PAGAR	- 406,274.16
PROVISIONES	- 35,120,263.91
FONDOS DE PROYECTOS	- 39,627,468.85
TOTAL PASIVOS CORRIENTES	- 117,607,845.42
PASIVOS NO CORRIENTES	
PASIVOS A LARGO PLAZO	-
DOCUMENTO POR PAGAR LARGO PLAZA	-
OTROS PASIVOS	-
FONDOS ESPECIFICOS	- 223,661,221.46
TOTAL PASIVOS NO CORRIENTES	- 223,661,221.46
TOTAL PASIVOS	- 341,269,066.88
PATRIMONIO	
PATRIMONIO	-
PATRIMONIO DONADOS	- 846,214,339.00
SUPERAVIT EN PERIODOS ANTERIORES	- 40,141,218.95
RESULTADOS DEL PERIODO	4,425,074.81
RESERVA LEGAL	-
RESULTADOS ACUMULADOS	-
SUPERAVIT POR REVALUACION	-
TOTAL PATRIMONIO	- 881,930,483.14
TOTAL PASIVO MAS PATRIMONIO	- 1,223,199,550.02

Table 3. Projected operational budget projection for the 2018-2019 fiscal year (October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019). Amounts expressed in Costa Rican colones.

Asociación Conservacionista de Monteverde		
Cédula Jurídica 3-002-075864		
RESULTADOS INTEGRALES 2017-2018 Y RESULTADOS INTEGRADOS PROYECTADOS, 2018-2019		
	Proyección	% Variación
	2018-2019	del 2017-18
INGRESOS		
801-00-000	INGRESOS POR DONACIONES	- 27,810,502.84 11.2%
803-00-000	VENTAS	- 132,852,430.63 9.9%
810-00-000	INGRESOS POR SERVICIOS AMBIENTALES	- 169,647,206.44 0.0%
820-00-000	OTRO INGRESOS	- 17,352,723.20 -20.6%
TOTAL INGRESOS		- 347,662,863.12 3.0%
EGRESOS		
903-00-000	COSTOS DE VENTAS	43,135,511.47 10.0%
920-00-000	SALARIOS Y GASTOS RELACIONADOS	224,243,722.44 3.8%
930-00-000	GASTOS OPERATIVOS	30,500,074.87 2.2%
933-00-000	GASTOS MANTENIMIENTO	7,108,000.00 -48.2%
935-00-000	GASTOS GENERALES Y DE ADMINISTRACIÓN	28,307,667.03 9.6%
950-00-000	GASTOS SERVICIOS PUBLICOS	1,844,352.54 10.0%
955-00-000	IMPUESTOS Y PATENTES	690,046.17 10.0%
960-00-000	GASTOS FINANCIEROS	1,292,839.53 -0.2%
965-00-000	GASTOS POR DIFERENCIAL CAMBIARIO	2,875,140.34 -50.9%
970-00-000	DEPRECIACIÓN EDIFICIO	6,072,943.93 10.0%
975-00-000	DEPRECIACION MAQUINARIA Y EQUIPO	1,592,564.80 10.0%
990-00-000	AJUSTE A PERIODOS ANTERIORES	- -100.0%
TOTAL EGRESOS		347,662,863.12 1.7%
RESULTADO DEL EJERCICIO		-

Legal Affairs

Director of Land Affairs: Yúber Rodríguez Santamaría

Once again, it was a dynamic year with respect to legal issues involving the MCL and its properties. Responsibility for this important subject falls to the Legal Affairs Committee, which is made up of members of the General Assembly, board members, and employees: Julia Matamoros, Jorge Maroto, Ricaute Jiménez, Gerardo Céspedes, Lindsay Stallcup, Hernán Chacón, Luis Solano, and Yúber Rodríguez.

The Legal Affairs Committee met officially on three occasions, distributed quarterly, in addition to about 20 other activities (meetings, work sessions, field visits, etc.). The members of the Legal Affairs Committee demonstrate an enormous commitment and willingness to participate in all of these activities in search of the best decisions and solutions for the organization.

The following is a brief summary of the main judicial and legal processes of the 2018 period:

- 1. MCL vs. Monteverde Inn/Valle Escondido.** Legal representative: Ricaute Jiménez. Case regarding access to the MCL's former offices in Cerro Plano, in which the MCL sued Monteverde Inn (Instituto de Vida Sostenible ECOFE Limitada) after they blocked access to our property. In 2018 the trial was held; the fact that the right-of-way for this property had not been registered, together with the fact that the property MCL lost its status as *finca enclavada* (property without access to a public road), resulted in an unfavorable sentence for the MCL. Several years ago, in light of conflicts with Valle Escondido, the MCL acquired a 14-meter area on the back side of the property in order to gain access to a public road and thereby ensure an entrance to our (then) offices. This acquisition ironically and unfortunately changed the circumstances of this case, paving the way for the ruling against the MCL, with the consequence being the loss of the historical access to this property (the road to the Butterfly Garden). The MCL decided to appeal, and the Court conducted a field inspection in December 2018. We are currently awaiting the sentence from the Tribunal.
- 2. INMAN-Banco IMPROSA vs. MCL.** Legal representative: Ricaute Jiménez. The ruling on this case last year upheld the private contract for payment of environmental services between the hydroelectric company INMan and the MCL. The court also ruled that the physical property in debate (4,000 square meters) belonged to Banco Improsa/INMan, because INMan had legal title whereas the MCL only had possession rights. As a result of this ruling, both INMan and the State (*Procuradería General del Estado*) have filed appeals; the MCL did not appeal. This case is currently under analysis by the First Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice.
- 3. Banco Nacional de Costa Rica vs. MCL,** in Burrito de La Fortuna. Legal Representative: Ricaute Jiménez. Court: *Juzgado Contencioso Administrativo y de Hacienda*. Banco Nacional de Costa Rica (BNCR) sued the MCL and Mr. Joaquín Araya (whose property borders the MCL's), and requested the Court to grant BNCR possession of an area belonging to MCL and Mr. Araya, because according to a topographic study carried out by Banco Nacional, this area is part of a property that was repossessed by the bank (foreclosure). The study indicated that BNCR's property overlaps with the properties belonging to the MCL and Joaquin Araya. In reality, the "BNCR property" no longer belongs to the bank but rather was purchased by an individual; however, BNCR's legal advisors continue to carry out the respective procedures of the judicial process. Additionally, toward the beginning of 2018 a new topographical study was submitted at the request of the Court. According to the study and the topographer who carried out the surveys, the plans for all properties involved have significant errors, and it is entirely possible that once new plans are made, the areas of "overlap" in dispute will be eliminated. This process will continue in 2019, with a trial date set for September.

4. **Bekom case (MCL vs. Badilla Navarro & Canet Zamora).** Legal representative: Marco V. Retana. This process has been in the court system for more than 20 years. It began when Roy Canet and Esmeralda Zamora tried to seek legal title to properties belonging to the MCL; another family group (Gustavo, Olger and Norman Badilla) tried to do the same. These were initially two separate legal cases, which were eventually united to form one case, which has turned out to be extremely lengthy. This case has received a number of sentences from the Court, and was in the final stage of appeals (*Casación*) in the Agrarian Court when the MCL received an order to include the Costa Rican state in the lawsuit. Faced with this situation, about two and a half years ago the MCL made the claim against the State, which is represented by the Attorney General's Office (*Procuraduría General del Estado*). Since then, this process has not had any major developments, only basic aspects of legal administration, such as determining which court should handle the case and the resignation of the lawyer representing the Roy Canet, among other details.
5. **MCL vs. Mario Rodríguez (Wilson Badilla).** Legal representative: Marco V. Retana. This process began with the MCL's opposition to Mr. Mario Rodríguez's attempt to seek legal title to a property that the MCL purchased 27 years ago from Mr. Wilson Badilla. As a result, the MCL sued Mr. Rodríguez. An expert topographical report has been presented, and the field inspection was completed in 2016; however, the judge subsequently allowed Mr. Rodríguez to include additional parties in the lawsuit, specifically Channel 23 and COOTILARAN. In light of this, the MCL is essentially also forced to sue Channel 23 and COOTILARAN, in order to ensure our continuing participation in all stages of the lawsuit. Currently, MCL's legal counsel is working with members of the Legal Affairs Committee to prepare the lawsuits against these two companies.
6. **Possible mining in the Children's Eternal Rainforest (BEN).** The possibility of mining in the BEN is a potentially serious problem for the reserve for several reasons. First, because of the intensive and illegal mining that Costa Rica experienced in 2017 and 2018 in Crucitas, on the northern border with Nicaragua, and the fact that some neighbors from the San Carlos area have participated in mining in Crucitas. Second, our park rangers have encountered individuals in and around the BEN with equipment and chemical compounds (mercury) typically used for the illicit extraction of gold. Finally, we have also found evidence of exploratory digging (e.g., excavations on the banks of streams) in some areas of the BEN. In response, the MCL's administration has been persistent in requesting collaboration from the corresponding national authorities, including MINAE's division of Geology and Mining, the National System of Conservation Areas, and the upper levels of MINAE itself. The results have included meetings with government authorities, several field visits by experts, as well as field operatives and even a fly-over of the BEN to assess the situation. The MCL has become a protagonist in addressing the national problem of illegal mining, hopefully continuing to strengthen our credibility and environmental image on a national level.
7. **"Los Chizos", Quebrada El Portal.** This is not actually a legal case, but rather the story of a group of individuals who have historically claimed to be members of a non-registered corporation and to be the owners of a property in Peñas Blancas, adjacent to the Peñas Blancas River and the El Portal stream (Quebrada El Portal). These individuals have had an itinerant participation throughout the history of the MCL and especially following the MCL's acquisition of properties in the Peñas Blancas Valley. The property they claim to own was purchased by the MCL in 1989 and has been in MCL's possession ever since. The group has tried make incursions into the BEN or some type of claim on the property on several occasions, most recently in 2007 (approximately 11 years ago). In 2018, this matter resurfaced as the result of insistent visits by Mr. Hector González Rojas and other members of the group to the MCL's administrative offices, and in September 2018 the MCL's Board of Directors met with Hector González, Víctor Hugo Chavarría, Maximiliano Cordero and Luis Alberto Medina.

Once again, it was clear that these individuals do not have any legal foundation to support their claim; and rather, that if they want to sue someone, it should be the person(s) who sold the property in question to the MCL. On a related note, the Legal Affairs Committee has recommended that the Board of Directors not meet further with this group, or any other group with similar allegations, in order to avoid generating false expectations for these individuals.

- 8. Legal registration (title) of MCL properties.** After making several inquiries at offices of the National Registry regarding the capacity of the MCL to seek title to properties, we learned that, to date, the MCL has not actually registered any properties through the system of “*información posesoria*” (currently the only means to seek title to unregistered properties in Costa Rica). As a result, with the approval of the Board of Directors we decided to initiate land titling processes on behalf of the MCL for four properties located in Rio La Esperanza area (La Tigra de San Carlos, Alajuela). The next step in the process is to carry out soil/land use studies, then begin the process of filing the required documentation with the government. We have also continued to evaluate other strategies for seeking legal title to other MCL properties in the interest of consolidation and protection of the BEN.
- 9. 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. In 2018, Mr. Santamaria made the decision to change lawyers for the process of obtaining legal title; he is currently considering Ms. Meylin Quiros as his new legal representative. At the moment, the main delay has to do with the required soils/land use study, which was carried out five years ago. The results were given to Mr. Santamaria’s lawyer at that time, but apparently were lost and it has not been possible to obtain a copy.
- 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. This case is slightly more complicated than the previous one, given that there is currently an administrative warning or hold on the plans to Mr. Badilla’s property due to an overlap with a property belonging to Mr. Felix Castro and another overlap with the plans for a property belonging to the Castro Vindas family. In both cases, the overlap is due to poorly prepared plans that overlap with Mr. Badilla’s property, which itself has clear physical boundaries including the Aranjuez River and the BEN.
- 11. Property plans, Peñas Blancas.** This process involves the approval (*catastro*) of plans for adjacent properties belonging to Tom Dixon, the Tropical Science Center, and the MCL in the Peñas Blancas valley. At present, inconsistencies in the plans are being corrected, as requested by the National Registry.
- 12. Veracruz road (road within protected area connecting San Luis with Ojo de Agua).** The owners of a neighboring farm use a “road” (trail) that crosses through the private properties of the Tropical Science Center and MCL, properties in conservation. The biggest conflict is not the use of the road, but the fact that these individuals modify the road at their convenience, thereby continually impacting the natural resources of the area. In other words, any time there is a landslide or other problem with the road, they simply proceed open up a new road in a new location, with all of the environmental impacts that this implies for the properties in conservation. We have requested that the Municipality of Puntarenas define the location of the public road, if it exists, in order try to ensure that this these neighbors respect these limits and refrain from further invading our properties. We are still waiting for the visit of the municipal authorities. In addition, last year a formal complaint was filed with the MINAE office in Monteverde regarding herbicide use along the road, with associated impacts for wildlife; however, the complaint was left unresolved in the absence of concrete evidence of who caused the environmental damage.

- 13. Property plans, Pipe Cruz.** The Tropical Science Center, owners of the property adjacent to the MCL's "Pipe Cruz" property, decided to update the plans for their property to correct errors and improve precision. The TSC's new plan overlaps slightly with the MCL's plan for the Pipe Cruz property, so the MCL was forced to also update plans. This has been in process for about four years; currently we are in the process of obtaining approval from the Municipality and MINAE in order to continue with the registration of the MCL's new plan.
- 14. Property plans, Cerro Amapala.** When the MCL updated its plan for the Pipe Cruz property (see above), the new plan for Pipe Cruz overlapped with another, very poorly elaborated, plan of an MCL property in the area known as Cerro Amapala. As a result, the MCL was forced to also update the Cerro Amapala plan. The area in question was surveyed by a topographer and we are currently waiting for a response from the National Registry.
- 15. Property plans, San Gerardo.** At the request of the National Registry, the MCL had to cancel three surveyed plans of the San Gerardo area, totaling 145 hectares. As a result, we had to begin the elaboration of new plans for this entire area (now being treated as one 145-hectare property). The new plans have been presented to the National Registry and among the details to be corrected is an overlap with a neighboring property belonging to Mr. Eulogio Jiménez (Hotel Vista Verde Lodge); this overlap is in the process of being corrected.
- 16. Olman Castro (Elidieth Vindas).** This case involves the MCL's opposition to plans of a property for which the late Mr. Olman Castro was attempting to gain title; the plans in question overlap with a property belonging to the MCL. The court initially indicated that the MCL should sue Mr. Castro, which the MLC declined to do at that time (2007); since then, the MCL has followed the proceedings through Mr. Olger Badilla (whose property also overlaps with Mr. Castro's and whose property the MCL intends to purchase as soon as this issue is resolved). At present, the Court, at the request of the State, has called for the Castro Vindas family to correct the plans of their property.
- 17. Leitón Family.** In 1990, the MCL purchased a property from Mr. Miguel Leitón Villalobos, now deceased. At present, this property is registered and has legal title; however, part of the property as it appears on the plans is currently physically occupied by the Leiton Mendez family; follow-up is needed to properly define this property's physical limits on the ground. Over the past year, MCL staff have made five field visits to the area in order to ensure proper interpretation of the topographical plans and identify the property limits.
- 18. Properties of Rodrigo Valverde and Jerónimo Vargas Montero.** The plans for Mr. Rodrigo Valverde's properties have not yet been approved, mainly because of the request of MCL and the Tropical Science Center to carry out a field visit in order to ensure that the properties in question do not overlap with our reserves in the area near the TV towers (Cerro Amigos).
- 19. Payment for Environmental Services (PES).** All of the requirements and follow-up for PES receive legal review. In 2018, this included three leases of BEN properties to be placed in PES, as well as the complex process to place nine properties in possession (i.e., without legal title) in PES. In total, these processes involved approximately 42 sworn affidavits or declarations from witnesses, including neighboring property owners.
- 20. 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 appealed the ruling. In 2018 the court ruled against Mr. Jimenez, with the following consequences: Mr. Jimenez had to publicly apologize to the offended parties (Hernan and Alonso); carry out community service; pay a fine; and to have an offense on his record for five years in order to hopefully prevent repeat offenses. Ricaute Jiménez provided great support in this case, although the case itself was presented by the *Fiscalía*.

- 21. Trinidad Madrigal (first case).** We are still awaiting the resolution of the case against Mr. Madrigal for illegal possession of firearms and resisting arrest. The charges related to wildlife were dismissed. Mr. Madrigal accepted the other charges; the sentence indicates strict consequences if Mr. Madrigal is again caught participating in this type of activities.
- 22. Trinidad Madrigal (second case).** In this case the issue of recidivism was considered related to hunting, invasion of a protected area (BEN), harassment of wildlife, resisting arrest, and attempted aggression against MINAE and MCL officials. Unfortunately, due to poor administration of the case on behalf of the judge, this case expired and was closed without any type of penalty.
- 23. Richard Araya Muñoz and Victor Manuel Zamora Jiménez.** The charges are related to illegal hunting, invasion of a protected area, resisting arrest, and attempted aggression against MCL personnel in the Aguas Gatas area of the BEN. There are no developments in this case, which is being handled by the *Fiscalía*; it is possible that this case will be combined with a new case against Mr. Araya, described below.
- 24. Ahías González López, Mainor Bolaños Molina and another person.** Arrest of three individuals in possession of firearms and other hunting paraphernalia near Pocosol in 2017. Although they appeared to be hunting in a protected area, in the end, the charges were related to illegal possession of firearms. The individuals pleaded guilty and the *Fiscalía* imposed a sentence with which they must comply.
- 25. Eliberto Araya Ledezma, Ramón Rodríguez Ulate, Jose Pablo Rodríguez Rodríguez, and Guarren Araya Garita.** In May 2018, these individuals were encountered hunting in the BEN in San Jorge de los Criques; as a result, the MCL filed a legal complaint for poaching and invasion of a private and protected area. This case is being handled by the *Fiscalía* in San Ramón.
- 26. Oscar Artavia Solano.** In November 2018, Oscar Artavia was encountered in the BEN in the Tinajo area (Pocosol, Peñas Blancas), with a hunting dog and under circumstances that indicate that he was hunting in the area. The MCL filed suit against Mr. Artavia for poaching and invasion of a private and protected area. Mr. Artavia has received notification from the respective authorities; this case is being handled by the *Fiscalía* in La Fortuna.
- 27. Richard Araya Muñoz, Gilbert Artavia Solano, and Luis Alonso Artavia Campos.** These three individuals were encountered late at night on June 15, 2018, hunting near Pocosol. Charges are being pressed for poaching, attempted aggression against authorities, and resisting arrest. Initially these were being treated as three separate charges, however, they are now being treated as one. The charges were filed by MINAE, MCL, and the police, all of which were present in this situation. It is important to indicate that Hernán Chacón (Coordinator of Control and Protection for the MCL) was on disability for more than six months as a result of injuries caused in the encounter with these individuals (see report of Control and Protection). It is possible that this case and the previously mentioned case of Richard Araya will be combined into one.
- 28. Illegal logging in the Chachagua River Biological Corridor.** As a result of joint work with MINAE (Arenal-Tempisque and Huetar Norte Conservation Areas), illegal logging actions were detected within the Chachagua River Biological Corridor, in the property of the Hotel Bosques de Chachagua (Chachagua Rainforest Ecolodge, October 2018) and in a private property adjacent to the BEN (September 2018). Charges were filed by MINAE against Gaudelio Zúñiga (owner of the hotel) and Juan Porras, respectively.

Payment for Environmental Services (PES)

Director of Land Affairs: Yúber Rodríguez Santamaría

Over the years, Payments for Environmental Services (PES) has become one of the main sources of funding for the conservation and protection of the Children's Eternal Rainforest (BEN). Protection of water resources, carbon fixation and storage, biodiversity conservation, and protecting conditions that permit ecotourism are just a few of the services recognized by the Costa Rican government and the office that oversees PES, the *Fondo Nacional de Financiamiento Forestal* (FONAFIFO).

Table 4 shows the placement of MCL properties in PES. As a result of the amendments made to the Forest Law Regulations in 2017 (specifically, the section regarding the maximum area that can be placed in PES by a non-profit conservation organization, 300 hectares per year, per Conservation Area, in the forest protection category), in 2018 the ACM was able to directly place 7 properties in PES, for a total area of 371.2 hectares in two Conservation Areas of the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC). In addition, through the use of alternative ("indirect") placement strategies, the MCL secured an additional 456.8 hectares in PES.

Also in 2018, as the result of special contracts signed between CONELECTRICAS and FONAFIFO and between CONELECTRICAS and MCL, it was possible to include an additional 608 hectares in the water resources protection category. In reality this replaces the income that the MCL previously received as a result of a private contract between CONELECTRICAS-MCL, mentioned frequently in previous reports. In total, for the 2018 period we managed to place a total of 1,436 hectares in PES, one of the largest placements reached by the MCL in the history of our participation in the PES program. This area obviously increased substantially as a result of the agreements between CONELECTRICAS, FONAFIFO, and MCL.

Table 4. Placement of MCL properties in PES, 2018.

Description	Area (ha)	%
Direct placement, MCL	371.2	25.8
Indirect placement, MCL	456.8	31.8
Special contract with CONELECTRICAS	608.0	42.3
Total	1,436.0	100.0

Figure 2 shows the historical behavior of the MCL's participation in PES, including the excellent placement achieved in 2018. In total, the MCL currently has 4,918 hectares in PES, the largest area to date (including direct contracts, leases, and other placement strategies; Fig. 2; Map 1).

Income produced by PES represented 49.1% of the MCL's total gross income in 2017-2018, just over 169 million colones (Fig. 3). Of this total, 83% was the result of participation in PES with FONAFIFO; the remaining 17% originated from a private PES contract with the hydroelectric project INMan. It is important to mention that the 2018 contracts still have not been reflected at the budgetary level, since some of the contracts were signed in the 2018-2019 fiscal year; for practical purposes, payments for PES contracts signed in 2018 begin in 2019.

We are grateful for the contributions of many people in the PES process: collaborators, legal and topographic advisors, neighbors, friends, and employees, as well as FONAFIFO and SINAC officials who in one way or another support the MCL and the conservation of the region's forests.

Figure 2. History of the MCL's participation in the Payment for Environmental Services program. (Vigencia de contrato = period of future contract validity; Colocación anual = annual placement; Área sometida = area from previous years' contracts).

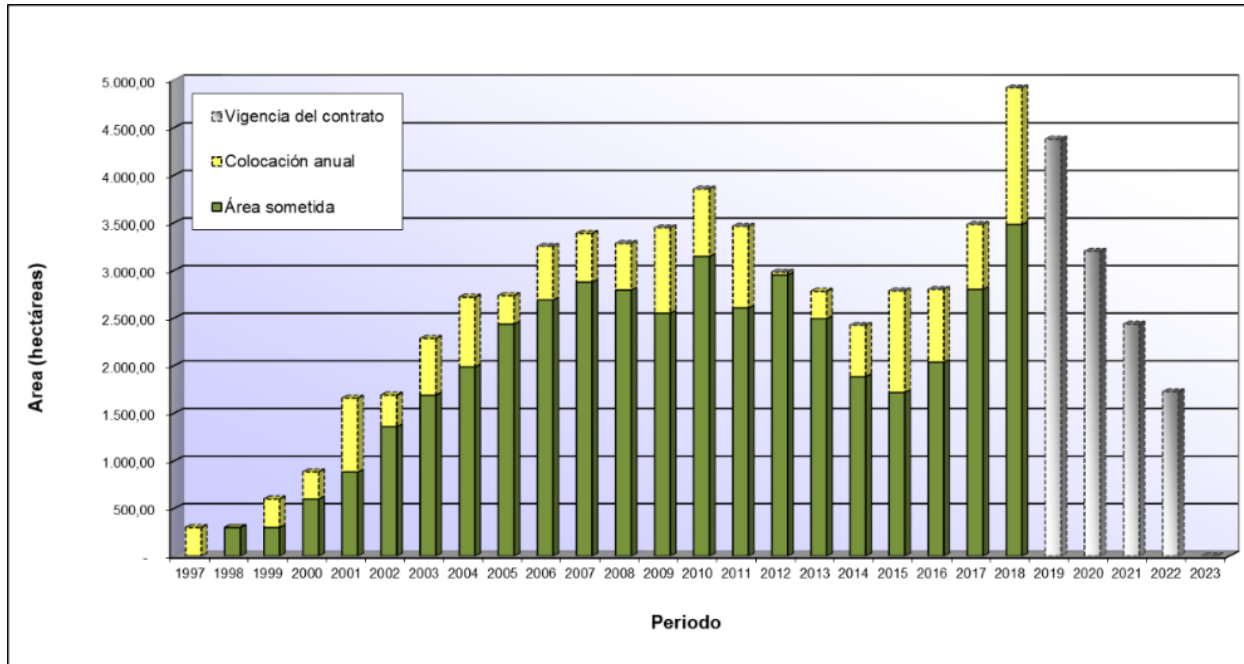
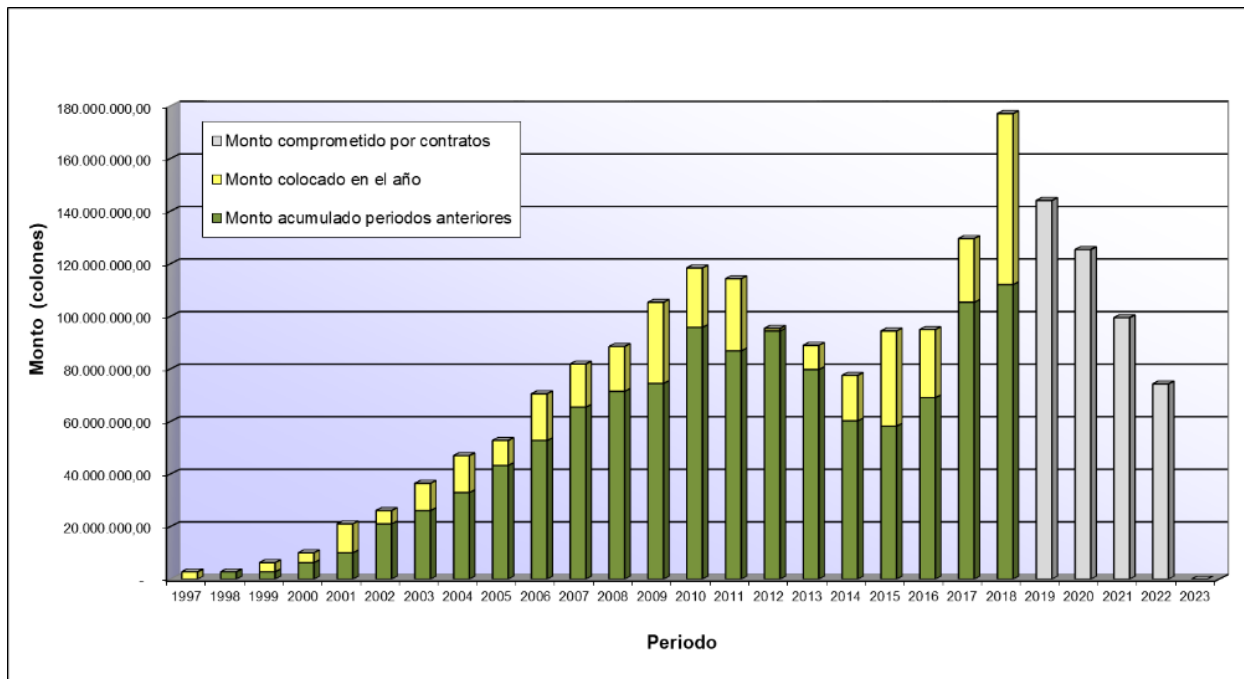


Figure 3. Income from Payment for Environmental Services.



Neighboring properties

Thanks to a 2013 agreement between the MCL and FONAFIFO, the MCL acts as a facilitator in the process of incorporating properties in the PES program. This allows the MCL to facilitate applications for its own properties, and also allows us to facilitate the placement of neighboring farms in PES. This is an opportunity to involve communities and neighbors in conservation of natural resources, to promote good relations with our neighbors, and also to earn additional income for the MCL.

In 2018, the MCL presented applications for 18 private properties (total area 1,223.7 hectares); of these, two properties were approved, with an area of 308.8 hectares. Despite a seemingly low success rate in terms of the total number of properties approved, this actually represents 25% of the area requested. To date, the MCL has facilitated the placement of 43 neighboring properties totaling 2,177.4 hectares in PSA (Table 5).

Table 5. Private properties placed in PES, 2013 to 2018. (Año = year. Fincas = properties. Area = land areas in hectares. "Gestión" represents the applications presented for placement in PES; "Colocado" is the number of properties actually placed in PES.)

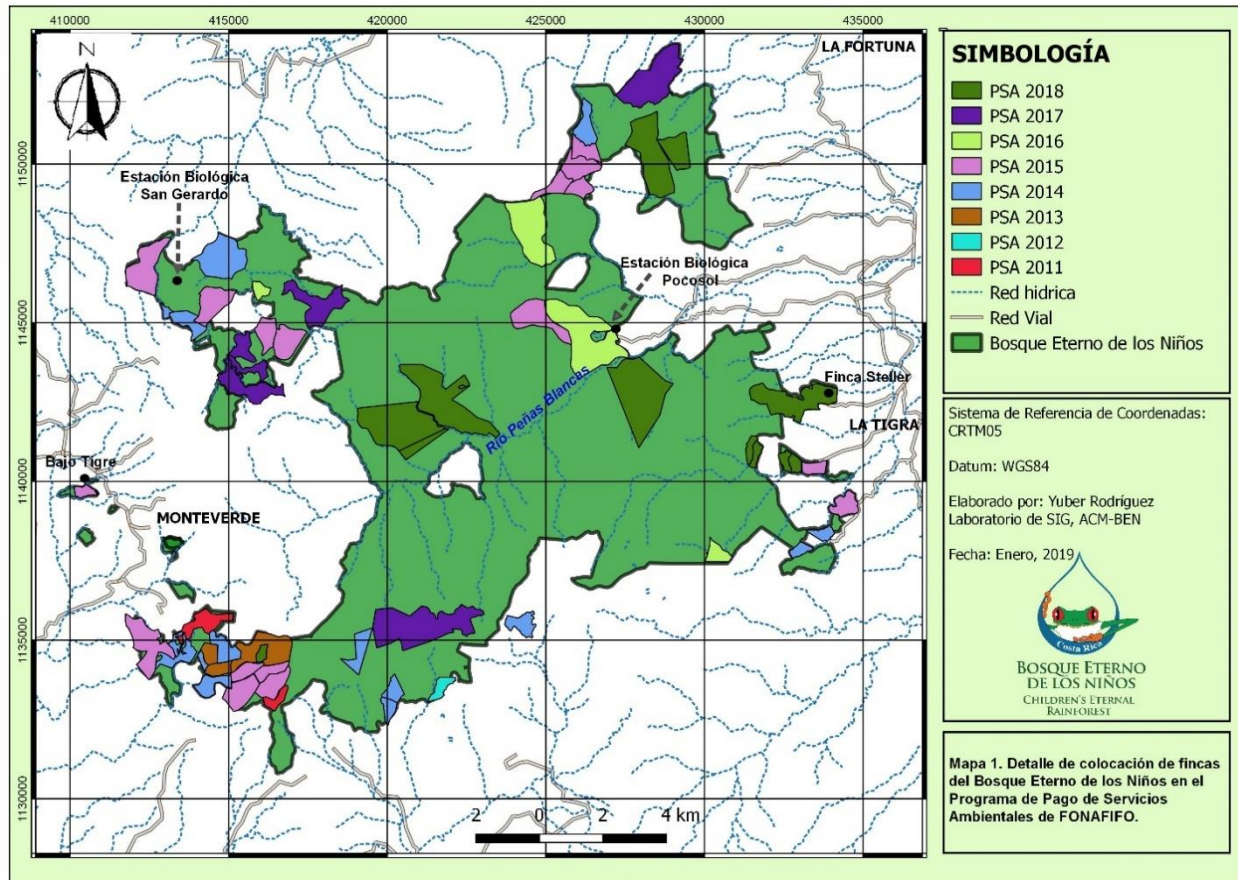
Año	Gestión		Colocado		
	Fincas	Área (has)	Fincas	Área (has)	% colocación
2013	24	1.228,0	7	131,0	10,7
2014	24	1.309,0	8	245,5	18,8
2015	22	1.742,0	9	355,2	20,4
2016	25	1.526,3	6	540,0	35,4
2017	24	1.607,0	11	596,9	37,1
2018	18	1.223,7	2	308,8	25,2
Total	137	7.412,4	43	2.177,4	24,6

Private PES contracts

As mentioned above, about 17% of PES income for 2017-2018 period corresponds to a private contract established in 1998 with the private hydroelectric company *Inversiones La Manguera* (INMan), now owned by *Cooperativa de Electrificación Rural de la Zona de San Carlos* (COOPELESCA). The contract specifies two payments per year for environmental services in the Rio La Esperanza hydroelectric project in La Tigra, San Carlos.

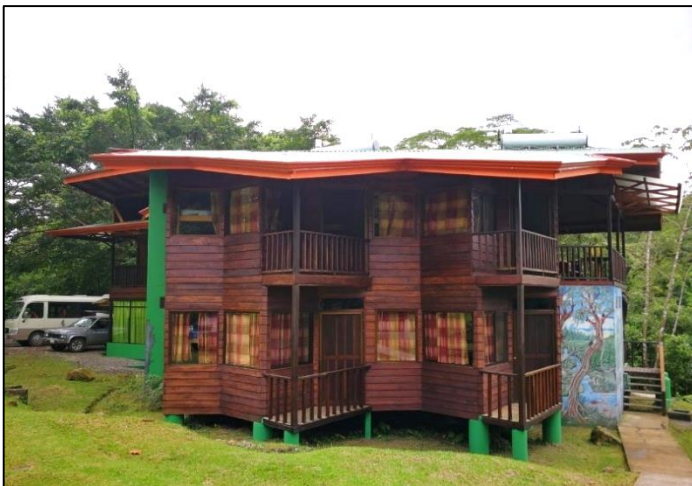
The other private PES contract between the MCL and CONELECTRICAS (Consortium of Rural Electrification Cooperatives) changed its status this year, as mentioned above and in last year's report. The private contract signed between MCL and CONELECTRICAS was modified at the end of 2017 in order to take advantage of methodologies used by FONAFIFO; currently, private contracts are signed between CONELECTRICAS and FONAFIFO in order to direct PES resources to lands owned by the MCL. Under this new process, the MCL applies for and signs contracts with FONAFIFO, with economic support provided by CONELECTRICAS.

Map 1. MCL properties currently in Payment for Environmental Services.





Clockwise from top left: María Fernanda Rojas, environmental educator, leads a field trip into the Children's Eternal Rainforest; local students learn about aquatic macroinvertebrates following stream sampling; improvements to the Casita de los Niños in Bajo del Tigre; students from Ciudad Quesada visit Pocosol with the MCL's Environmental Education Program.



Repairs to Pocosal Station. Clockwise from top left: Arrival of Ingeotec staff and machinery; slope stabilization work; finished product, slope stabilization; raising and leveling the second floor of the station and classroom remodel; Jorge Ramírez installs new ceramic tile in the classroom; Pocosal Station, ready to reopen, May 2018.

Field Stations and Trails

Bajo del Tigre

Specific projects

- Trails: Improvements and maintenance of trails, including the reopening of the Jaguar Trail.
- Native plant nursery: Thanks to donations and the support of ProNativas, in 2018 a new greenhouse for native ornamental plants was built. The nursery continues under the administration of the ProNativas group.
- Children's House: We received a donation from Mr. Gordon Patty to make improvements in the Children's House (*Casita de los Niños*), including activities related to world peace and nature conservation. This is a work in progress, thanks in great part to the efforts of board member Carla Willoughby.

Visitation

According to our records, 7,288 people visited Bajo del Tigre in 2018, a total increase of approximately 10% compared to 2017. Daytime entries remained relatively stable, while entrances for the night walk increased by approximately 19% compared to the previous year. However, in reality the numbers for the night walk have remained relatively stable since 2014 (Fig. 4). The majority of our day visitors are international adults (54%), followed by Monteverde residents (11%) and Costa Rican tourists (8.9%, Fig. 5).

Although some travel agencies bring us clients for day walks, most of the daytime visits are by direct customers; in contrast, most of the clients for the night walk (69%) arrive via travel agencies.

Figure 4. Visitation at Bajo del Tigre from 2014 to 2018. Day entrances show paid daytime entrances only; they do not include Monteverde locals or children ages 5 and under. *Entrada de día* = Daytime entry. *Caminata nocturna* = Night walk.

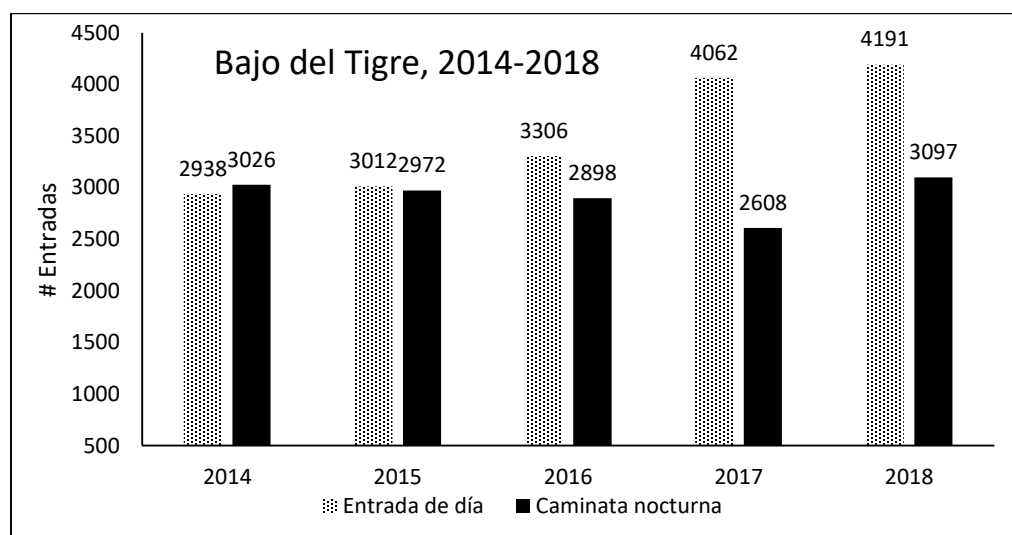
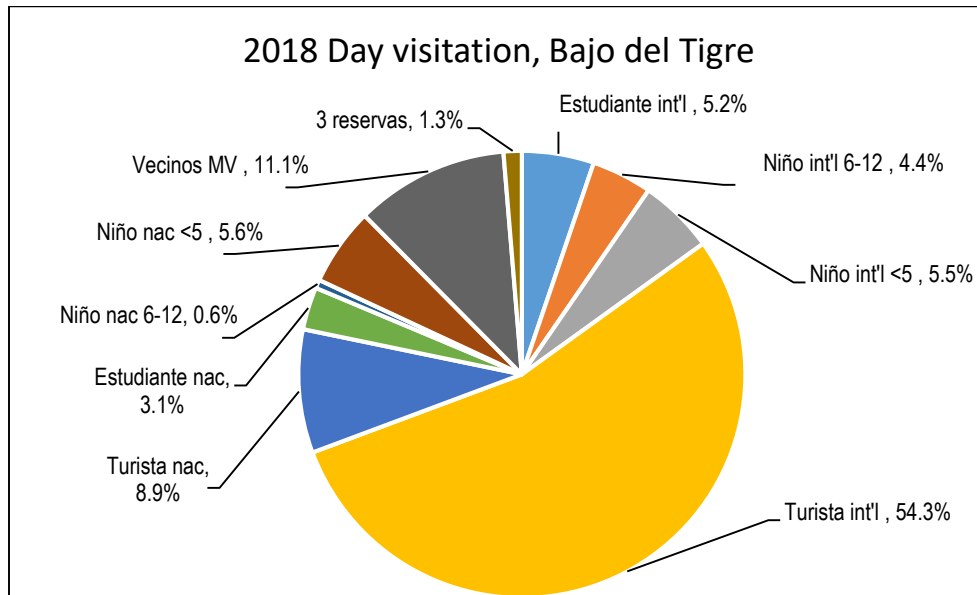


Figure 5. Profile of visitors to Bajo del Tigre, 2018. This figure shows all entrances (paid and unpaid). *Turista* = tourist. *Estudiante* = student, *Niño* = child, *vecinos MV* = Monteverde residents, *nac* = Costa Rican national, *int'l* = international visitor.

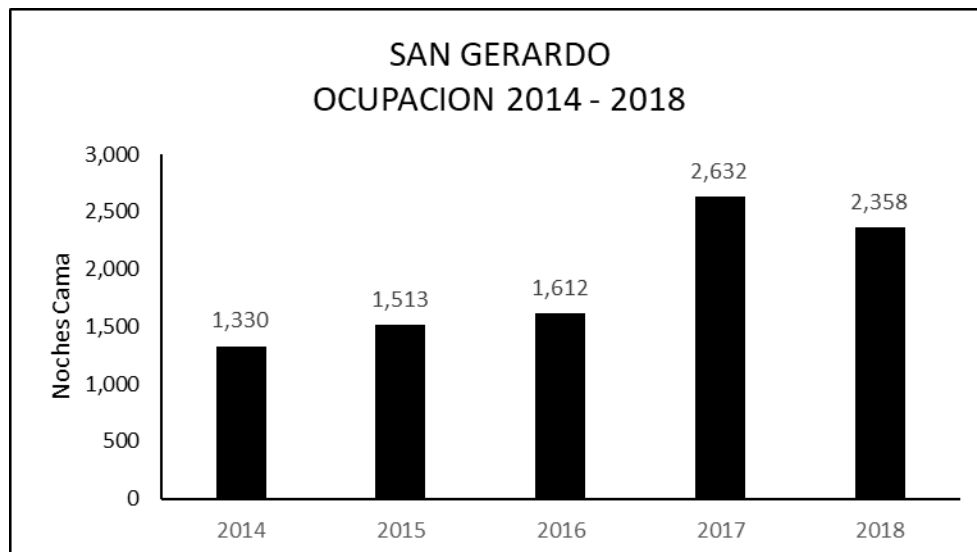


San Gerardo Field Station

Visitation

In 2018, bed nights at San Gerardo dropped by approximately 10%. This is likely due to the reopening of the Pocosol Station in May 2018, since in 2017 some groups that were scheduled for Pocosol were diverted to San Gerardo, and in 2018 these groups returned to Pocosol. However, visitation still remains markedly higher than in previous years (2014, 2015, and 2016; Fig. 6) and we are optimistic that we can maintain a steady level of visitation at San Gerardo while also growing visitation at Pocosol.

Figure 6. San Gerardo Field Station, annual occupancy (bed-nights), 2014 to 2018.



Pocosol Field Station

This year, with great pride and satisfaction, we reopened Pocosol to the public. The trails opened on May 1, and we welcomed the first student group on May 18, 2018. Repairs to the station and the adjacent slope were made possible thanks to a generous donation from Friends of the Rainforest (Grant # 23).

Stabilization of the slope below the lodge

The slope stabilization was achieved using a system of mooring beam with micropiles and passive anchors. The goal of this work was to eliminate settling and transverse movements of the slope. This work was performed by Ingeotec S.A., a private engineering company based in San Jose. Prior to selecting Ingeotec, the MCL evaluated 4 quotes provided by 3 private companies specializing in slope stabilization. In order to ensure the quality and efficiency of work, as well as security at Pocosol, MCL negotiated the following changes to the original agreement with Ingeotec:

- Ingeotec contracted MCL maintenance personnel, rather than bringing in outside workers.
- Ingeotec paid MCL for lodging at Pocosol (as opposed to renting housing in San Isidro and commuting ~1 hour each way to the site).
- Ingeotec provided a final project report, as well as a letter guaranteeing the work completed for 5 years as required by Costa Rica's construction code.

Repairs to the lodge itself

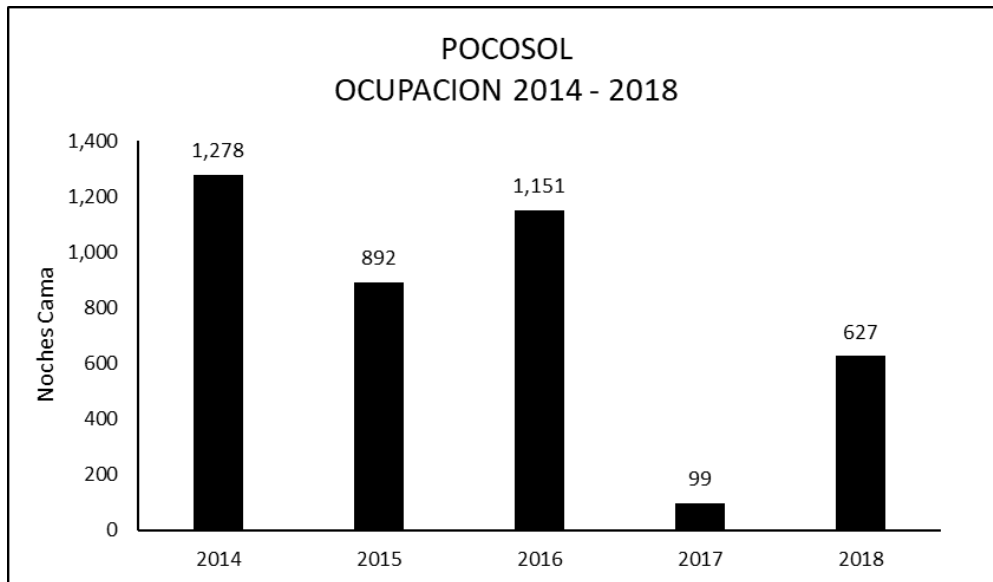
- (1) Installation of 3 support beams ("viga americana") beneath the classroom and two vertical support beams in the classroom
- (2) Raising/leveling the rooms above the classroom using hydraulic jacks
- (3) Replacement of floor and tile in classroom
- (4) Replacement of classroom windows
- (5) Repairs to doors, windows, screens, bathrooms, paint in classroom and second floor rooms.

Items 1-3 were performed under the supervision of Félix Campos, the private contractor who originally built the lodge at Pocosol, with support from MCL maintenance staff. Items 4-5 were carried out by MCL staff. Local volunteers were greatly helpful in final preparations for the reopening of the station and trails.

Visitation

From May to December 2018, approximately 13 student groups visited Pocosol, as well as several groups of tourists or families who stayed at the station. In addition, we received visits from numerous travel agencies from La Fortuna, and we are happy to report that we receive walk-in visitors nearly every day. Walk-in visitors include both international and Costa Rican tourists who come to enjoy the trails at Pocosol; in addition to paying the entrance fee, these visitors often purchase a coffee, lunch, or a souvenir.

Figure 7. Pocosol Field Station, annual occupancy (bed-nights), 2014 to 2018.



Finca Steller

Reforestation *(Marcelino Rodríguez Jiménez)*

The native tree nursery at Finca Steller produces 15 different species, with a current stock of 3,500 seedlings. In 2017 we sold 453 seedlings and donated 1,306 seedlings, and 55 trees were planted as part of our Environmental Education Program, for a total of **1,814 trees planted**. The majority of the trees that were sold went to La Tigra Rainforest Lodge. The recipients of donated trees included the La Tigra High School, San Jose de La Tigra Elementary School, local aqueducts, the Rio La Vega reforestation program, and UNED’s “Culture, Trees and Seeds” group.



Environmental Education

Coordinator: *María Fernanda Rojas Murillo*

SCHOOLS: In 2018, our Environmental Education Program continued to work actively with 17 elementary schools on the eastern border of the Children's Eternal Forest (BEN). The children of these schools received talks on various topics including environmental laws, poaching, animal welfare, solid waste management and recycling, energy savings, bird identification, and the BEN.

Ten of these schools participated in a new program, "Protection of Water Resources in the Peñas Blancas Watershed through Environmental Education." The objective of this project was to raise awareness about aquatic ecosystems and water resource conservation in the communities on the eastern border of the Zona Protectora Arenal Monteverde and the BEN.

The program was run with 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. Each class received talks on water resources, water cycle and watersheds, and the use of aquatic macroinvertebrates as indicators of water quality, then participated in a field trip.



In total, more than 330 students participated in the talks, and we brought 273 students (along with teachers and a handful of parents) to the BEN to participate in aquatic insect sampling. We are grateful to Bosqueeterno S.A. (BESA) for the donation that allowed us to develop this new program.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: In addition to working directly in schools, the Environmental Education Program represents the MCL in various activities in the communities bordering of the BEN. Some examples of community activities include:

- Environmental Festival, La Tigra Ecological Elementary School, June 8, 2018. Participation with informational stand, talks and activities.
- Arbor Day, June 15, with ASUACOM (ASADA of Valle Azul and Los Criques, San Ramón). Activity open to the public with talk about the BEN, informational stand.
- National Parks Day, August 24, Arenal Volcano National Park. Informational stand and participation by 350+ students of the La Tigra Ecological Elementary School.
- Tapir Festival, 6-7 September, Tenorio Volcano National Park.
- Workshop on creating handicrafts with recycled products, celebration of Mother's Day, with *Guerreras Ambientales* (women's group), August 15 in Pocosol, with participation by 10 women from La Tigra and nearby communities. Facilitated by Elizabeth Jiménez R.

MONTEVERDE: In Monteverde, the MCL continues as an active member of the Commission on Environmental Education (CEAM). In addition to participating in planning the activities, in 2018 the MCL took part in several environmental fairs and the forum on climate action, among other activities.

PROJECTIONS FOR 2019: During the first semester of 2019, María Fernanda will be working with a new project, the *Club Ambiental para Niñas* (CAN; Spanish for "Environmental Club for Girls"). This project is funded by a grant from the JustPax Fund organization, in collaboration with

Engage Globally. The objective of CAN is to promote leadership by female students through environmental education, focusing on the issue of plastics reduction. During the second semester, we will again work with water resource conservation and macroinvertebrates, this time with 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade students, thanks to a new grant from BESA.

Control and Protection

Coordinators: Hernán Chacón, Alonso Sánchez (Coordinator A.I., July to December 2018)

This was a year of challenges for the Control and Protection Program, partly as a result of changes related to the Costa Rican government (Ministry of the Environment, or MINAE, and police), but also due because of situations specific to our organization, detailed below.

Interinstitutional coordination

It comes as no surprise that the geography of the Children's Eternal Rainforest (BEN) is one of the greatest challenges in the protection of the reserve. Covering 3 provinces, 5 counties and 4 Conservation Areas, in any given situation one of the first steps is determining who to call for support. Unfortunately, often the nearest office or delegation is not necessarily the one responsible for responding. For example, if we encounter poachers in the BEN and within the limits of the Zona Protectora Arenal Monteverde (ZPAM), in theory the Arenal-Tempisque Conservation Area (ACAT) should respond; however, if the poachers happen to be on the San Ramón or San Carlos side of the BEN, it is difficult or impossible that an ACAT official will arrive in time to provide the needed support (since they are based on the opposite side of the BEN). The ACAT itself has undergone personnel changes over the past year, further complicating the coordination of forest protection activities.

In 2018 there was also a change in the administrative limits for the police force; as a result, we must begin to establish relations with the new leadership of the delegation in La Fortuna, which now covers almost the entire eastern edge of the BEN. Part of this process is to inform the new leaders about the on-the-ground conditions of the BEN, so that they do not send officers "as far as the patrol car can go" (this actually happens) and also so that the officers that are dispatched have the physical condition to reach the site in question. On the positive side, we are working to strengthen the Inter-Institutional Committee along with MINAE, police, and others, so that we can work more efficiently and with the appropriate legal authority.

Another challenge has been obtaining COVIRENAS (Comité de Vigilancia de Recursos Naturales) credentials, which are particularly important for participation in operatives with government authorities. Previously this process was coordinated directly with ACAT; now it is managed via a bureaucratic process with the Environmental Comptroller's office, and we also must pay an annual insurance policy for each MCL employee that we include.

Physical aggression against and subsequent disability leave for Hernán Chacón

On June 15 and 16, 2018, our Protection staff were participating in a joint operative with MINAE and police, close to Pocosol. During the operative they surprised three hunters –two adults and a minor– poaching with dogs. In the process of disarming the poachers, the subjects became verbally and physically violent. One of the poachers, Richard Araya Muñoz, physically assaulted Hernán Chacón (Coordinator of Control and Protection), throwing him to the ground and causing various injuries, including the dislocation of Hernan's right shoulder. As a result, Hernan eventually had surgery and was on disability leave for more than 6 months. He returned to his duties on January 3, 2019. As a result of this situation, a lawsuit has been filed against Richard Araya Muñoz, Gilbert Artavia Solano, and Mr. Artavia's minor son (see Legal Affairs).

Gold mining

Since December 2017, we have been documenting the presence of individuals apparently searching for gold in the BEN. This is alarming not only because mercury (the chemical used in this type of mining or panning for gold) is highly toxic, but also due to the potential for large-scale environmental damage if a significant source of gold were to be discovered within the BEN. In following up on this situation, we have had the support of MINAE and in particular of the Director of ACAT, Alexander León, who helped secure support from the Environmental Special Operations team of SINAC. In an operative in early September, which included four SINAC officials and MCL Protection staff, the team covered more than 30 kilometers of forest, inspecting areas identified by our staff as possible gold mining sites. They also installed camera traps in strategic locations, and a flyover of the BEN was later performed in order to identify possible impacts (mining and others) that were not detected from the ground. The operative and flyover returned negative results (no evidence of people or impacts); however, we continue to receive information of area residents (who are usually also poachers) with intentions to seek gold in the BEN, so we will not let our guard down.



Maintenance

Coordinator: Luis A. Solano Morales

The Maintenance Program plays an essential role in the conservation and protection of BEN. Maintenance staff work in all areas the BEN, performing various tasks including but not limited to:

- Inspection and maintenance of property boundaries, fences, and roadsides;
- Maintenance and improvements to roads to field stations;
- Trail maintenance and improvements at visitation centers;
- Support in legal processes and Payment for Environmental Services;
- Support in topographic surveys; and
- Support of Protection, Environmental Education, volunteers, field stations, etc.

In 2018 the Maintenance team comprised six crew members: four based in La Tigra de San Carlos and two in Monteverde. The addition of a second Maintenance position in Monteverde was a

game-changer, increasing the productivity and self-sufficiency of the Monteverde side and allowing Maintenance as a whole to accomplish much more in all sectors than otherwise would have been possible.

In addition to the responsibilities mentioned above, in 2018 the Maintenance Program played an important role in two major accomplishments. First, the repair and subsequent reopening of the Pocosol Field Station. Our maintenance staff participated in every step in the process, from the slope stabilization project (photo, right), to raising and leveling the station, rebuilding the classroom, repairing doors and windows, installing rain gutters, varnishing buildings, and repairing trails that had been closed for nearly a year.



The second important project was the repair of the road to the San Gerardo Field Station, which was badly damaged by Tropical Storm Nate in October 2017. In addition to supervising heavy machinery work, Monteverde maintenance staff installed cement culverts all along the road to San Gerardo.

The Maintenance Program continues to demonstrate increasing self-sufficiency. Previously, the MCL had to hire out certain jobs that we were unable to do ourselves, particularly welding and complex or detailed construction work. We are now able to perform many of these jobs ourselves, resulting in more control over the end product and savings for the organization. Currently, when MCL is not able to do a job, it is generally for lack of equipment and not for lack of know-how. One of our goals for 2019 is to obtain some of the tools and equipment that we currently lack, so that we can increase our capacity to perform work in-house.

Research

We are grateful to the following researchers and to CIEE, EAP, and the Monteverde Institute for their support of research in the Children’s Eternal Rainforest (BEN).

Table 6. Summary of research carried out in the BEN, 2018.

Researcher(s)	Project	Institution	Location
Edward Griffin Nicholson	A Survey of the Importance of Mammals in Seed Dispersal: The Diversity of Seeds and Distance Dispersed in 3 Different Mammal Species	EAP	Bajo Tigre
Sara Gibbons	The Effects of Forest Fragmentation on Avian Nest Predation in the Monteverde Region	EAP	Bajo Tigre
Lilly Helmuth– Malone	Microbial growth found on Anura in the Monteverde Area	EAP	Bajo Tigre
Sophia Simon	Antibiotic resistance in soil bacteria near leafcutter ant nests	Department of Biology, University of Pennsylvania / CIEE	Bajo Tigre
Thomas Meinzen	Association of avian vocalization frequencies with human-caused changes in habitat structure	Department of Environmental Studies, Whitman College / CIEE	Bajo Tigre
Federico Chinchilla Romero	Small mammals in the Monteverde zone	Monteverde Institute	Bajo Tigre
Kyle McKay Davis	Feather-degrading Bacteria in a Tropical Environment	Ohio Wesleyan University	Bajo Tigre, San Gerardo, Pocosol
Dr. Hojun Song	Insect biodiversity in the Children’s Eternal Rainforest	Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University	Pocosol
Dres. Eugenio González y Georgianne Moore	Altitudinal variation in composition, structure and growth of primary forest, and its relationship to bioclimatic variables over the long term	Texas A&M University	Pocosol

Publications:

Benjamin K. Zamzow, Sarah J. Nieman, Charli N. Davis, Martha Garro Cruz, Allison Monroe, Lindsay Stallcup, and Matthew D. Moran. 2018. Status of Large Terrestrial Vertebrates in the Monteverde-Arenal Bioregion, Northwestern Costa Rica. *Tropical Conservation Science*, Vol. 11: 1–10.

Volunteers & Interns

Volunteers and interns assist with a variety of projects and organizational needs. For the second year, we have maintained a partnership with the *Centro Panamericano de Idiomas* (CPI) for volunteering and language study in Monteverde, in addition to opportunities for volunteers at San Gerardo and Pocosol. We are grateful to Don Morris (Lehigh University), Karen Masters and Carla Willoughby (CIEE), and the Santa Elena Public High School (Colegio Técnico Público de Santa Elena; CTPSE) for their support.

In addition to the long-term volunteer groups mentioned below, a number of student groups participated in volunteer work at Bajo del Tigre, Finca Steller, San Gerardo, and Pocosol.

We are grateful to the dedicated Costa Rican volunteers, mainly from La Tigra and La Fortuna de San Carlos, who helped with cleaning and maintenance of the Pocosol field station in preparation for its reopening in May 2018.

Table 7. Summary of volunteers and interns in 2018.

Name	Organization	Length	Project / Area(s)
Pasantes			
Elizabeth Gagliardi	Lehigh University	7 weeks	Bajo del Tigre, San Gerardo, Pocosol
Angie Rizzo	Lehigh University	7 weeks	Bajo del Tigre, San Gerardo, Pocosol
Camrynne Karr	CIEE	1 month	Casita de los Niños, Bajo del Tigre
Nazareth Leitón	CTPSE	1 week	Internship in Rural Tourism
Nayeli Mejías Morales	CTPSE	1 week	Internship in Ecological Tourism
Elieth Solórzano Salazar	CTPSE	1 week	Internship in Rural Tourism
María J. Varela Ramírez	CTPSE	1 week	Internship in Ecological Tourism
Elián Corrales Anchía	CTPSE	1 week	Internship in Accounting
Andy Leitón Cortez	CTPSE	40 days	Internship in Accounting
Voluntarios			
Samuel Campbell	United States	4 weeks	Building and trail maintenance, San Gerardo, Bajo del Tigre
Taylor Castillo	United States	2 weeks	Building and trail maintenance, Bajo del Tigre
Elodie Lucie Gresser	France (Scouts)	3 weeks	Building and trail maintenance, San Gerardo, Bajo del Tigre, Pocosol
Lucas Hirschman	France (Scouts)	3 weeks	Building and trail maintenance, San Gerardo, Bajo del Tigre, Pocosol
Ludovic Cholvin	France (Scouts)	3 weeks	Building and trail maintenance, San Gerardo, Bajo del Tigre, Pocosol
Lucillekaisi P. Pihlaja	France (Scouts)	3 weeks	Building and trail maintenance, San Gerardo, Bajo del Tigre, Pocosol
Léa Heid	France (Scouts)	3 semanas	Building and trail maintenance, San Gerardo, Bajo del Tigre, Pocosol

Donations

We thank all those individuals and organizations that have supported the MCL in 2018 and over the past 33 years. Without the generous support of our donors, the conservation of the Children's Eternal Rainforest would not be possible.

We are particularly grateful to our international partner organizations. Friends of the Rainforest, Engage Globally, Kinderregenwald, and Children's Tropical Forests UK were active in 2018 and provided important economic support.

Table 8. Donations in US dollars, January 1 – December 31, 2018.

Donor	Amount (\$US)	Purpose
Anonymous	2,000.00	ProNativas Nursery, Bajo del Tigre
Bosqueeterno S.A.	3,950.00	Environmental Education 2018 (grant)
Bosqueeterno S.A.	2,225.00	Environmental Education 2019 (grant)
Carol Lebischak	100.00	General
Celia Harvey	500.00	Environmental Education 2018
Children's Tropical Forests U.K.	1279.72	San Gerardo
Colegio Americano de Madrid, España	2,382.89	General
Desafio La Fortuna	100.00	Semana Santa 2018
Engage Globally	4,585.00	Environmental Education 2018
Engage Globally	8,985.00	Environmental Ed 2019 (Just Pax grant)
Erik Palmer	100.00	General
Friends of the Rainforest	11,955.00	Grant #22, ATV's
Gordon Patty	2,500.00	Casita de los Niños, Bajo del Tigre
Greater Good (greatergood.org)	830.50	Land Purchase and Protection (LPP)
Horse & Dragon Brewing Co.	100.00	General
Jerre Ann Stallcup	1000.00	General
Julie Tumas	10.00	General
Laura & Mark Dwyer	50.00	General
Merryhill Elementary School Summerlin	153.00	General
Nina Negi	15.00	General
Richelle Winkler	148.00	San Gerardo
Rick Juliusson	25.00	General
Sarah Nieman / Go Fund Me	485.00	San Gerardo, Tropical Storm Nate
Sasha Chester's 11 th birthday	50.00	General
Scott Shickler	200.00	General
En honor de Sharon Kinsman	200.00	General
Suzanne Springer	25.00	General
Taylor Ricketts	500.00	General
Willow Zuchowski	300.00	ProNativas Nursery, Bajo del Tigre
Willow Zuchowski	1,700.00	ProNativas Nursery, Bajo del Tigre
Willow Zuchowski & Bill Haber	1,000.00	Environmental Education 2019

Table 9. Donations in Costa Rican colones, January 1 – December 31, 2018.

Donor	Amount (¢)	Purpose
Anonymous	485,000	Trails, Bajo del Tigre
Anonymous	5,000,000	Environmental Education 2018
Anonymous	1,200,000	ProNativas Nursery, Bajo del Tigre
Anonymous	100,000	Casita de los Niños, Bajo del Tigre

Asoc. Adm. Acueducto Rural La Fortuna	50,000	Semana Santa 2018
James Wolfe	60,000	General
James Wolfe	100,000	Road repairs, Pocosal
Javier Montero	20,000	Children's boots, Pocosal
Jose Ángel Soro (Casona San Carlos)	50,000	Operativos Semana Santa 2018
Juzgado San Ramón (resolución judicial)	150,000	General
Lincoln School 5to grado	60,000	General
Maria Esther Brenes Villalobos	10,000	General
Willow Zuchowski	10,000	Children's boots, Educación Ambiental

Table 10. Donations in Euros, January 1 – December 31, 2018.

Donor	Amount (€)	Purpose
Kinderregenwald Donación #94	837.67	Land Purchase and Protection (LPP)
Kinderregenwald Donación #95	1187.25	Land Purchase and Protection (LPP)
Kinderregenwald Donación #98	1536.91	Land Purchase and Protection (LPP)
Kinderregenwald Donación #99	856.89	Land Purchase and Protection (LPP)
Kinderregenwald Donación #100 (Estudiantes del Colegio Wilhelm-von-Humboldt-Gymnasium)	2486.96	Land Purchase and Protection (LPP)
Kinderregenwald Donación #101	936.82	Land Purchase and Protection (LPP)
Kinderregenwald Donación #103	966.53	Land Purchase and Protection (LPP)
Kinderregenwald Donación #104	3186.69	Land Purchase and Protection (LPP)

Table 11. In-kind donations, January 1 – December 31, 2018.

Donor	Description
Richard Joyce	1 month work with Maintenance department
David Swijns	5 sheets Zinc for scenic lookout, Finca Steller (€26,899.50)
Pedro López	Labor, painting main office
Fabiola Peralta	Laptop case
Familia Miller / Hotel Belmar programa "Pack for Purpose"	First aid supplies
Frank Joyce & Katy VanDusen	Children's boots, Environmental Education
Alan & Gill Woodlley	Colored pencils, Environmental Education
Ron Carroll & Carol Hoffman	Transport of materials from USA to a Costa Rica
Proyecto Asis	Staff meals, Semana Santa operatives
Jorge Maroto	12 pairs of children's boots, Environmental Education
Colegio Europeo	Children's books, Environmental Education
Gilberto Araya	Clock for Pocosal kitchen (€26,400)
Frank Joyce & Katy VanDusen	32 books "Aves de Costa Rica" (spanish versión) for MCL staff and visitation centers
Gilberto Araya	Curtains for Casita de los Niños, Finca Steller
Mary Arredondo	Curtains for Pocosal classroom (seamstress work)
Anónimo	Social media advertising (valor estimado \$50)
Frank Joyce & Katy VanDusen	MCL participation in WAFA (4 pax) and WFR (2 pax), august 2018
ProNativas	Portable LCD projector

Community Partners

The MCL thanks the following individuals, businesses, and organizations for their collaboration and support during 2018:

Acueducto Chachagua
Acueducto La Fortuna de San Carlos
Greivin Arredondo
Mary Arredondo
Roger Arredondo
Manuel Alfaro Alpizar
José Manuel Alvarado Arias
Geiner Alvarado Huertas
Maudin Alberto Arguedas Jiménez
Gilberto Araya Ruiz
Hernán Arroyo Guerrero
Marlene Artavia
Antonio Barrantes
Catalina Barrantes
Filadelfo Cárdenas
Juan Castro (Rancho don Juan)
Centro Soltis (Texas A&M)
Gerardo Céspedes
Ignacio Chacón Castro
Comisariato Chachagua
Ibo Corrales
Álvaro y Jaime del Castillo (Proyecto Asís)
Desafío Tours La Fortuna
Steven Farrell (Finca Luna Nueva Lodge)
Miguel Fernández Vásquez
Raúl Furnier
Katia González
Alexander Herrera
Sergio Herrera
Hotel Arenal Springs & su personal
Claudia Jiménez Araya
Junald Jimenez
Ricaute Jiménez Araya
Roy Jiménez Araya

Sergio Lara
Osvaldo Madriz
Maria Molina
Jorge Mora
José E. Mora Marín
Rachel Murillo
Susie Newswanger
Alfonso Oses
Anita Pacheco
Frank Quesada
Mayling Quirós
José Ramos Garita
Clemel Ramírez Rojas
Jorge Ramírez Vargas
Nuria Ramírez
Selena Ramirez
Jean Carlo Rigioni
Jorge Rodríguez
Eydrith Salazar
Francisco Salazar
Lucia Salazar
Nohelia Salazar
Miguel Ángel Salazar Badilla
Marcelino Rodríguez Santamaría
Marjorie Solano
Naomi Solano
José Ángel Soro
Juan Sostheim
David Soto Segura
Ligia Villegas Trejos
Daniela Vílchez
J. Alonso Vindas
Volcano Lodge

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Board of Directors

Julia Matamoros, President
Jorge Maroto, Vice President
Carla Willoughby, Secretary
Sofía Arce, Treasurer
Orlando Calvo, Vocal I
Eladio Cruz, Vocal II
Mark Wainwright, Vocal III

Fiscalía

Marcos Méndez, Fiscal I
Bob Law, Fiscal II

Personnel

Main Office, Monteverde

Lindsay Stallcup, Executive Director
Yúber Rodríguez, Director of Land Affairs
Giselle Rodríguez, Executive Secretary
Dunia Picado, Accounting Assistant, Coordinator of Human Resources & Procurement
Yahaira Brenes, Information Center
Rosibel Fallas, Miscellaneous
Jose Mora, Accountant

Finca Steller

Fabiola Peralta, Administrative Assistant
María Fernanda Rojas, Environmental Educator
Marcelo Rodríguez, Finca Steller and Nursery

San Gerardo Field Station

Jose Andrey Obando, Station Manager
Pablo Villalobos, Station Manager

Maintenance

Luis Solano, Coordinador
Luis Arana
Erick Barquero
Jorge Ramírez
Alberto Jiménez (Monteverde)
Armando Villalobos (Monteverde)

Bajo del Tigre

Jose Soto, Coordinator
Jose Antonio Brenes, Receptionist

Pocosol Field Station

Robert Rojas, Station Manager
Cristian Chaves, Station Manager

Control & Protection

Hernán Chacón, Coordinador
Alonso Sánchez
Freddy Campos
Miguel Fernández
Alberto Zúñiga

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

First, we would like to welcome four new members to the MCL this year: Federico Chinchilla, David Rodríguez, Greivin Arredondo and Dariel Miranda. Thanks to all four of them for their interest, and to Federico and David also for their generous offer to serve on the board of directors.

Regarding nominations for the board of directors, all positions are two-year terms and each year half of them expire. The following list details the status of positions on the current board; positions that expire at this General Assembly are marked in bold.

President (Julia Matamoros) 2017-2019
 Vicepresident (Jorge Maroto) 2018-2020
 Treasurer (Sofía Arce) 2018-2020 - **but is resigning**
Secretary (Carla Willoughby) 2017-2019
First Vocal (Orlando Calvo) 2017-2019
Second Vocal (Eladio Cruz) 2018-2020
Third Vocal (Mark Wainwright) 2017-2019
First Fiscal (Marcos Mendez) 2017-2019
 Second Fiscal (Bob Law) 2018-2020

Apart from the five positions that end their terms this year, there is one resignation (the treasurer) and one new position (Suplente). Thus, candidates for seven positions need to be elected in this General Assembly. The Nominating Committee proposes the following candidates for those positions, and of course additional candidates may be nominated during the Assembly.

For President, the nominating committee proposes Mark Wainwright, for the period of March 2019 to February 2021.

For Treasurer, the nominating committee proposes Orlando Calvo, for the period of March 2019 to February 2020.

For Secretary, the nominating committee proposes David Rodríguez Arias, for the period of March 2019 to February 2021.

For First Vocal, the nominating committee proposes Noelia Solano Guindon, for the period of March 2019 to February 2021.

For Third Vocal, the nominating committee proposes Federico Chinchilla, for the period of March 2019 to February 2021.

For First Fiscal, the nominating committee proposes Julia Matamoros, for the period of March 2019 to February 2021.

And for the new position of Suplente, the nominating committee proposes Carla Willoughby, for the period of March 2019 to February 2020.

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

Jose Soto, Jorge Torres, Osvaldo Araya, Mark Wainwright y Orlando Calvo
 Nominating Committee

LIST OF MEMBERS

Honorary members:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Gerardo Céspedes Rodríguez | 5. Eha Kern | 9. George Powell |
| 2. Michael Fogden | 6. Sharon Kinsman | 10. Marco V. Retana |
| 3. Patricia Fogden | 7. Bob Law | |
| 4. Adrian Forsyth | 8. Harriet McCurdy | |

Contributing members:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Carlos Aburto | 9. Carlos Guindon Standing | 17. Tahnee Robertson |
| 2. Michael Besancon | 10. Alexander Kopper | 18. Ree Sheck |
| 3. Leslie Burlingame | 11. Alan Masters | 19. Matilde Steiner |
| 4. Omar Coto Loría | 12. Gregory Murray Kevin | 20. Robert M. Timm |
| 5. James E. Crisp McGowan | 13. Tom Newmark | 21. Nathaniel T. Wheelwright |
| 6. Cynthia Echeverría López | 14. Gordon Patty | 22. Kathy Winnett-Murray |
| 7. Lisa Ellis | 15. Roland Paul | 23. Jorge Vargas Culle |
| 8. Mauricio García Cambroneró | 16. Alan Pounds | |

Active members:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Geiner Alvarado Huertas | 26. Francis John Joyce | 51. Martha Iris Salazar Méndez |
| 2. Osvaldo Araya Céspedes | 27. Richard LaVal Bugg | 52. Noelia Solano Guindon |
| 3. Sofía Arce Flores | 28. Bob Law | 53. Luis A. Solano Morales |
| 4. José Edgardo Arévalo H. | 29. Marlene Leitón Campbell | 54. Manuel Solís |
| 5. Greivin Arredondo Castro | 30. John Thomas Longino | 55. Maricella Solís González |
| 6. Selena Avedaño Leadem | 31. Jorge Maroto Puga | 56. Jose Alfredo Soto Segura |
| 7. Walter Bonilla Vásquez | 32. Karen L. Masters | 57. Lindsay Stallcup |
| 8. Orlando Calvo Carballo | 33. Julia Matamoros Alvarado | 58. Alexa Stickel |
| 9. Asdrubal Castro Miranda | 34. Gabriela McAdam Montiel | 59. Joseph D. Stuckey |
| 10. Minor Castro Murillo | 35. Marcos A. Méndez Sibaja | 60. Mills Tandy |
| 11. Gerardo Céspedes Rodríguez | 36. Dariel Miranda Robles | 61. Jorge Arturo Torres Ortega |
| 12. Hernán Chacón Castro | 37. Vinicio Miranda Sánchez | 62. Emilia Triana Cambroneró |
| 13. Lilliana Chavarría V. | 38. Carlos Luis Muñoz | 63. Suzanne Leseur Trostle |
| 14. Marvin Chaverri Sandoval | 39. Nalini Nadkarni Moreswar | 64. Katherine VanDusen |
| 15. Federico Chinchilla Romero | 40. Susie Newswanger | 65. María A. Vargas Chacón |
| 16. Juan Carlos Corrales Arce | 41. Priscilla Palavicini Carmona | 66. Guillermo Vargas Leitón |
| 17. Eladio Cruz Leitón | 42. Fabiola Peralta Ramos | 67. José L. Vargas Leitón |
| 18. Freddy Cruz Méndez | 43. Fern Perkins | 68. Oscar M. Vargas Solís |
| 19. Wim De Backer | 44. Jorge Ramírez Vargas | 69. Mark D. Wainwright |
| 20. M. Oscar Fennell Araya | 45. Evelyn A. Rockwell Solano | 70. Justin C. Welch |
| 21. William A. Haber | 46. David Rodríguez Arias | 71. Jannelle Wilkins |
| 22. Debra Hamilton | 47. Yúber Rodríguez Santamaría | 72. Carla Willoughby |
| 23. Marvin Hidalgo Montero | 48. Ma. Fernanda Rojas Murillo | 73. James A. Wolfe |
| 24. Ricaute Jiménez Araya | 49. Robert Rojas Vásquez | 74. Bruce E. Young |
| 25. John Devereax Joslin | 50. Giuliano Salazar Gigli | 75. Willow Zuchowski Pushkin |



Clockwise from top left: Alonso Sánchez participates in a flyover of the BEN; Laguna Bekom, photograph taken during the flyover; Marcelo Rodríguez helps Alonso Vindas (SINAC) collect feline feces samples as part of a research project in collaboration with SINAC, UAC-Fel and Panthera; photographs of ocelot and Baird's tapir, results of said research project; Protection and Maintenance staff carry out joint patrols on the south border of the BEN.



Clockwise from top left: New highway signs promoting Pocosol; maintenance team member Luis Arana prepares new indicator signs for the road to Pocosol; eyelash palm pit viper, golden morph (photo by Hernan Chacon); birthday celebration during a staff retreat at Pocosol; view toward Chutas from the Santa Elena Reserve (photo by Luis Solano); butterflies of the BEN (photo by Erick Barquero); Luis Arana and Jorge Ramírez repair trails at Bajo del Tigre; first aid and rescue practice session during a staff retreat at Life Monteverde.



Clockwise from top left: Remodel of ProNativas native plant nursery at Bajo del Tigre; Alberto Jiménez works on culvert installation on the road to San Gerardo; maintenance staff install markers in the limits of the BEN; fence repair in an area adjacent to neighboring pastures in the property known as Mario Arguedas; waterfall, Rio Veracruz (photo by Erick Barquero); Luis Solano at the shelter in Chutas.