

# Annual Report 2019



*San Gerardo, Children's Eternal Rainforest. Photo: Iván Salazar.*

Monteverde Conservation League  
Children's Eternal Rainforest



BOSQUE ETERNO  
DE LOS NIÑOS  
CHILDREN'S ETERNAL  
RAINFOREST



## **In memory of Sue Trostle**

*September 25, 1925 – November 19, 2019*

*Suzanne Trostle was a founding member of the community of Monteverde and an active member of the Monteverde Conservation League from 1990 to 2019. Her positive energy was an inspiration and guiding light for many. She will be dearly missed.*

**AGENDA FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY OF THE  
MONTEVERDE CONSERVATION LEAGUE  
BAJO DEL TIGRE RESERVE, MONTEVERDE  
FEBRUARY 8, 2020**

- 8:00 a.m. First Roll Call  
8:30 a.m. Second Roll Call, Extraordinary Assembly, Confirmation of Quorum  
8:31 a.m. Minuto de silencio, aprobación de la agenda  
8:35 a.m. Presentation of proposed modifications to the by-laws  
8:40 a.m. Approval of modifications to the by-laws  
8:45 a.m. Election of notary, motion to formalize the agreements taken during the assembly, motion to formalize the minutes  
8:50 a.m. Closing of Extraordinary Assembly

**AGENDA FOR THE ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
MONTEVERDE CONSERVATION LEAGUE  
BAJO DEL TIGRE RESERVE, MONTEVERDE  
FEBRUARY 8, 2020**

- 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. Informe de la Directora Ejecutiva  
10:35 a.m. Questions and Answers  
11:05 a.m. Motion to approve President's & Treasurer's Reports  
11:10 a.m. Nominating Committee Report  
11:20 a.m. Election of Board of Directors, Substitute and Fiscal
- Election of **Vice President** for the period of March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2022
  - Election of **Treasurer** for the period of March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2022
  - Election of **Vocal 2** for the period of March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2022
  - Election of **Fiscal 2** for the period of March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2022
  - Election of **Suplente** for the period of March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2022
- 11:50 a.m. Election of Nominating Committee  
11:55 a.m. Other topics  
12:15 p.m. Special acknowledgements  
12:30 p.m. Election of notary, motion to formalize the agreements taken during the assembly, motion to formalize the minutes  
12:40 p.m. Lunch

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## Introduction

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Monteverde, Puntarenas

February 4, 2020

I am pleased to report that 2019 was a year of many achievements for the Monteverde Conservation League and its Children's Eternal Rainforest.

Some achievements signified recognition of the daily efforts of many staff members: regaining our 5-star rating in the Ecological Blue Flag program, obtaining the Costa Rican Institute of Tourism's *Declaratoria Turistica*, maintaining our status as a nonprofit (*Utilidad Pública*) in Costa Rica, compliance with new Costa Rican law related to accounting. Others came as something of a relief, while helping us advance our goals as an organization, such as the sale of the League's former offices in Monteverde (the source of many past legal problems) and progress in certain legal cases after years of no news.

A few achievements were pleasant and unexpected: we were named one of Time Magazine for Kids' "50 Coolest Places", we reached 10,000 followers on Facebook, and just two weeks ago our camera traps caught an elusive jaguar on video for the first time in more than two years.

There were achievements that made me feel infinitely proud: two of our employees celebrated 10 and 20-year anniversaries with the organization; staff members represented the League on national and international levels at conferences, meetings, and training sessions; our environmental education program continues to reach hundreds of students; and our Girls' Environmental Club inspired young women through field trips to the forest and leadership training.

Clearly there were bumps in the road – or holes in the bridge, as the case may be. After all, the on-the-ground reality of conserving the Children's Eternal Rainforest is a challenge on a daily basis. Its vast area, varied infrastructure, diversity and geographical location of personnel, complexity of land tenure, and changing legal panoramas require incredible dedication and, often, creative solutions. (Sometimes, you just have to find an alternate route!)

When I think about what has allowed the Monteverde Conservation League and its Children's Eternal Rainforest to endure over more than 3 decades, the following words come to mind:

### **Commitment. Faith. Flexibility. Teamwork. Perseverance.**

**Commitment** of so many individuals over the years, including many of you, our active, honorary and contributing members. **Faith** that our actions can and will make a difference, and that things will work out in the end. **Flexibility**, for the times when things don't work out as planned. **Teamwork**, because conservation is an effort of many – from office work to field inspections, from customer service to forest patrols, from environmental education to court hearings. No one can do this alone. **Perseverance**, because this work does not end; it is eternal.

The Children's Eternal Rainforest is a living symbol of commitment, faith, flexibility, teamwork, and perseverance. I see our staff and members apply these principles on a daily basis, and I am certain these values will continue to serve us well in the future. I am eternally grateful to everyone here today, and to all those who came before us, for the opportunity to be part of this conservation success story.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."* — **Margaret Mead**

**Lindsay Stallcup**

Executive Director

## Reports from the Board of Directors

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### President's Report

This year the board of directors met 12 times, discussing as always a wide range of MCL-related topics. The agendas for our board meetings were defined by myself in consultation with executive director Lindsay Stallcup in our own more or less monthly meetings. Lindsay was present at all but one of this year's board meetings, and prior to each one she provided a full written summary of the MCL's activities over the previous month, and details of any proposals or other decisions that required board discussion and approval (or disapproval). We are very grateful to Lindsay for her consistently punctual, detailed, and clear reports, as well as for her superb leadership in so many realms.

Other participants in board meetings this year included Maria Fernanda Rojas, who talked to us about the environmental education program, Yúber Rodríguez who talked to us about environmental service payments, Marcelo Rodríguez who led a tour of Finca Steller and its trails, Meylin Quirós who explained legal requirements for updating statutes, and José Mora who helped us to understand details of MCL's accounting and the implications of the recent changes in Costa Rica's tax laws.

Historically, the monthly board meetings have tended to be long, requiring board member participation for much of a day, plus at least six hours of driving for those coming to Monteverde from the Caribbean side (or vice-versa two or three times a year). In order, ultimately, to enable a broader spectrum of people to serve on the board, this year we made an effort both to shorten the length of our meetings and to encourage remote participation when necessary (via Skype or equivalent).

Regarding broader achievements and goals, we have several things to highlight this year. First, we are very happy to announce that the MCL finalized the sale of both the former main office building in Monteverde by the Butterfly Garden and the lot on the main road in La Tigra. Let us remember that neither of these sales was done in order to resolve short term financial deficits, but rather as part of a strategic goal, defined by the board a few years ago, to convert unnecessary infrastructure into resources that will help the organization's long term stability. Specifically, all money from the sale of the former main office building will forever form part of our endowment fund, while that generated by the sale of the La Tigra lot will be used to initiate a critical new administrative position. The new position will be in the area of communications, and is intended to improve the MCL's ability to network, presence on social media, and public outreach in general. We believe it is a position that will also pay for itself by fomenting closer relationships with potential donors.

In an effort related to this new position, we are in the process of creating a new non-profit platform that can receive tax-deductible donations in the U.S. Currently we are supported by two 501c3 organizations in the U.S.: Friends of the Rainforest and Engage Globally. We are very grateful to them for their generous support and hope to continue partnering with them. However, we also need a more direct connection with the many people and entities in the U.S. who are interested in the MCL, or may become so, including for example all those who visit our trails and stations each year. Lindsay and I have been meeting with individuals who have experience relevant to U.S. non-profits, and their expertise has helped to guide us. The creation of both the communications position and the platform will be priorities for the coming months, and we hope that together these two developments will bring new energy to our outreach and fund-raising.

Another priority for the board in the coming year will be the completion of an updated and fuller strategic plan. Work on this started this year, and we are grateful to Luis Solano, Maria Fernanda Rojas, Hernán Chacón, Yúber Rodríguez, and Lindsay Stallcup for helping to define department-specific short-, medium-, and long-term goals. If anyone among our members would like to participate with this challenge, particularly if you have experience with strategic planning, please contact a board member and let us know - your help will be welcome.

We have 15 fabulous new members of the MCL this year. Special thanks to Maricella Solís and Alexa Stickel of the nominating committee for facilitating the affiliation of many of the new asociados. Since all of these individuals, without exception, have played important roles in this area's conservation, or environmental education, or research, or community leadership, or some combination of these things, we feel fortunate to have them on board. They are: Héctor Castaneda, Félix Salazar, Hazel Guindon, Rafi Vargas, Celia Harvey, Maikol Cruz, Luisa Moreno, Emily Hollenbeck, Alexander Molina, Joel Chaves, José Calderón, Rafa Arguedas, Jeffrey Arguedas, Wendy Boone, Jorge Lizano, and Rafael Vargas. Welcome!

If new - or old - members are wondering how they can contribute to the MCL's valuable cause, they might look to the example that has been set by Bob Law, who is retiring from the board of directors this year. The MCL was founded in Bob's kitchen in 1986, and Bob has served on the board continuously ever since. That alone is an extraordinary contribution (and we should note that this year, like most previous ones, Bob was the only board member who managed to attend all 12 meetings), but Bob has also given constantly of his time and energy and resources in countless other ways, from fixing computers, to translating documents, to creating a visitor database, to being the number one supporter of our environmental education program, to instigating numerous improvements to our infrastructure and trails. No one has given as much to this organization. If each of us were able to contribute even a fraction of what Bob has given, to the MCL or other valuable causes, the world would be a better place. Let's do it.

**Mark Wainwright**

President

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## Treasurer's Report

In 2015, the MCL decided to restructure the administrative leadership by hiring a new Executive Director. This meant a risk and a new economic commitment. After four years, we dare to say that this restructuring was worth it in every way. Many times, big steps involve taking big risks, and we believe that once again we are in need of taking administrative decisions which, well planned and executed, will mean great benefits for this organization.

The search for donors to consolidate the Endowment Fund requires great effort and specific knowledge, hence we consider it appropriate to take a new risk in the future by investing in the creation of a specialized team that can move the resources needed to grow this Fund. This would give us long-term economic stability. Apart from this, our mission is to manage this capital with investment plans that will generate a greater amount of bank interest.

Another important step that also requires major decision making is the implementation of a Strategic Plan to develop Bajo del Tigre with a more commercial vision, emphasizing the sale of souvenirs, community outreach, and promotion of other stations within the BEN. The second most important item after Payments for Environmental Services (PES) is the visitation to our stations and trails; however, resources such as the sale of souvenirs have not grown significantly over the years. In the last four periods we have had to face several challenges: closing of the Pocosal

Station, tropical storm Nate, a new accounting system, electronic invoices, I.V.A., legal problems (CONELECTRICAS, INMAN...), changes in the Forestry Law as it applies to PES, fluctuations in tourism and donors, among others. This list of challenges shows how fragile our economic sources are, their variability over the years, and how they are strongly linked to legal, political, and environmental factors. Below is a table with the percentages of gross income by category from 2015 to 2019. It shows the necessity for a clearer vision moving forward due to the complexity and unpredictability of BEN's fluctuating economic stability.

**Table 1.** Percentages of gross income by category, 2015 – 2019.

	<b>Donations</b>	<b>Visitation</b>	<b>Souvenirs</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>PES</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>2014 - 2015</b>	12,65%	44,10%	1,15%	3,76%	38,34%	
<b>2015 - 2016</b>	30,3%	14,7%	1,3%	2,7%	51,0%	
<b>2016 - 2017</b>	20,9%	19,6%	1,8%	0,1%	57,7%	
<b>2017 - 2018</b>	6,7%	33,7%	2,7%	3,8%	49,1%	4,0%
<b>2018 - 2019</b>	6.24%	39.85%	2.76%	1.,64%	46.98%	2,53%

Finally, it is necessary to mention that the economic stability of this organization depends not only on the work of the staff and the Board, but also on the members of the Assembly. Managing and conserving the BEN is not an easy task; it requires a lot of logistics in different social, environmental, and economic branches. Our pooled knowledge and professional skills are diverse and powerful together. Therefore, we believe having more active support from all the members of the Assembly will help towards achieving the economic stability of BEN. The result: the protection of the biological diversity preserved in the largest private reserve in Costa Rica.

**Orlando Calvo Carballo**  
Treasurer



## Report from Fiscal I

In the last few years, Costa Rica has made important changes in our environmental, fiscal, labor and tourism-related laws, directly affecting the MCL. Great effort has been made by the administration and board of directors to comply with these new laws, even though it has meant a tremendous amount of work and an increase in legal fees and cost of operations. When I consulted about MCL's compliance with Costa Rican law, I was informed of the following:

- **Caja Costarricense de Seguridad Social (National Health Care and Pensions).** MCL is up to date with payments for employees' health care and pension benefits. Salaries comply with the wages listed by the Ministry of Labor.
- **Instituto Nacional de Seguros (National Insurance Institute).** The MCL provides the required insurance for work-related injuries and illnesses to all of its employees.
- **Fiscal responsibilities and taxes.** As was reported last year, the entire accounting team has transitioned, which was vital in our effort order to stay up-to-date and maintain transparency with our fiscal obligations.
- **Public Utility Status.** The MCL maintains its non-profit public utility status; the paperwork required by the Costa Rican government in order to keep this status is filed every year between February and March.
- **Code of Conduct.** In November 2010, the MCL pledged to uphold the nationwide "Code of Conduct" for the protection of children and adolescents against commercial sexual exploitation in tourism-related activities. MCL staff participate in training sessions periodically, as part of our pledge to reject the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in Costa Rica and the rest of the world in general, particularly related to tourism since this behavior goes against the fundamental rights of these persons and is contrary to the intrinsic objectives of tourism. These objectives are: to promote peace, human rights, mutual understanding, respect for all people and their cultures, and sustainable development. We also denounce and condemn those who use tourism to promote sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- **Declaratoria Turística.** This year the MCL received "*Declaratoria Turística*", a recognition granted by the Costa Rican Tourism Institute to tourism businesses that voluntarily request it and that meet the necessary technical, economic, and legal requirements. The program seeks to guarantee the legality of tourism operations and promote high-quality tourism in Costa Rica. The plaque recognizing this achievement is located in Bajo del Tigre.
- **Legal Affairs.** I will not comment on this topic since the Legal Affairs Committee presents an annual report to the General Assembly.

Thank you very much,

**Dr. Julia Matamoros Alvarado**

Fiscal I

## Report from Fiscal II

Esteemed members of Monteverde Conservation League:

As Fiscal II, I wish to inform the membership of the activities of the Board of Directors and administration during the fiscal year of October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.

On February 2, 2019 there were two assemblies, an extraordinary and a general assembly. The extraordinary assembly was to make modifications in the by-laws of the association. These include articles 7, 8, 11, 12, 16, 27, 28, 29, 30, 40, and 45, which were approved and sent to the National Registry of Associations (*Registro Nacional de Asociaciones*). The Registro approved most of the proposed changes, except for articles 20 and 32. The assembly must approve of the changes suggested by the Registro Nacional.

The Board of Directors met on 12 occasions during the fiscal year and after much discussion usually unanimously approved a proposal. Because of their work commitments, the Board has a difficult time in finding dates for meetings in which all members can attend.

The Actas of the general assembly and those of the Board have had final approval and are registered with the government. The membership book is complete as of October 1, 2019.

As Fiscal II, I have not received any requests or complaints from the membership regarding the Board of Directors or the Administration, nor have I observed any activity of the Board or administration which might be considered illegal.

Cordially,

**Bob Law**  
Fiscal II

## Economic and Financial Situation

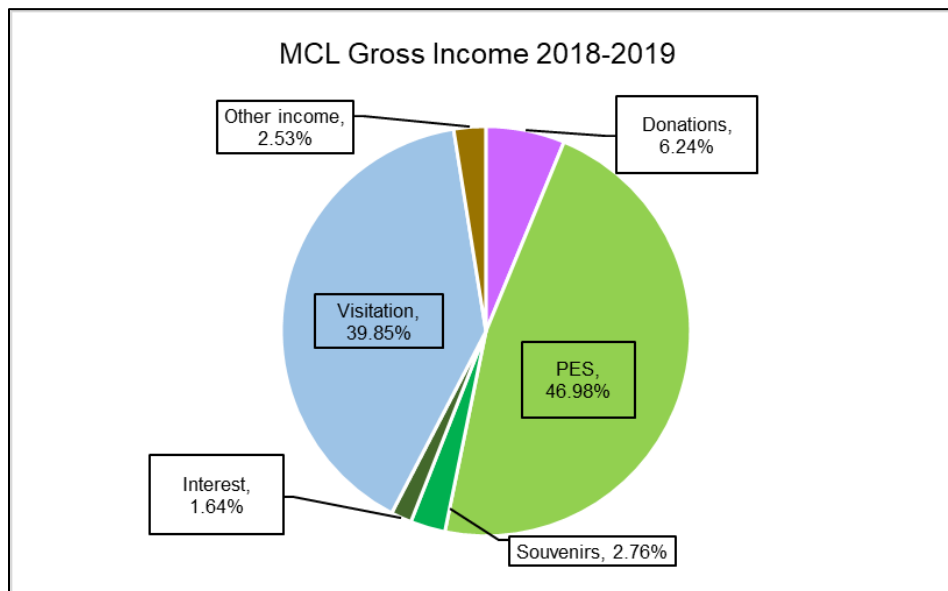
The past year has been one of continuous adaptation and challenges in terms of accounting and finances. We have successfully adapted to the respective changes in Costa Rican law, for example, electronic invoicing and the Law on Strengthening Public Finances (Law No. 9635).

Let us remember that, in terms of electronic invoicing, the MCL is on both ends of the transaction – we are both customers and service providers. As customers, we must receive an electronic invoice for each purchase made, and this invoice must be accepted within the Ministry of Finance’s online system. On the other hand, as a service provider, we must issue an electronic invoice for each sale (e.g., tours, souvenirs, lunches). Like many companies in Costa Rica, we have had to make internal changes to adapt to this new reality, including the creation of a new Accounting Assistant position, changes in responsibilities of existing staff, and changing (again) our sales software (the system we had did not survive the transition to electronic invoicing).

We are especially grateful to the accounting team (Jose Mora, Dunia Picado, Rodrigo Hernández) and the staff at Bajo del Tigre (Jose Soto, Jose Brenes, Ignacio Picado) for their support in this major transition. We also appreciate the cooperation of the rest of the staff, especially those at visitation centers and those who makes purchases, in adapting to the changes. For 2020, we must continue to refine these processes, in addition to carrying out a general inventory of assets of the organization.

In the following pages you will find the 2018-2019 financial results, as well as budget projections for 2019-2020 (Tables 2, 3, and 4). For the projections, it is important to remember that the Law on Strengthening Public Finance stipulates a transition to a fiscal period based on the calendar year, so the current period is 15 months, from October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020.

**Figure 1.** Gross income by category, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019.



**Table 2.** Results from fiscal year 2018-2019 (October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019). Amounts expressed in Costa Rican colones.

<b>Asociación Conservacionista de Monteverde</b>		
Cédula Jurídica 3-002-075864		
<b>ESTADO DE RESULTADOS INTEGRALES</b>		
Periodo del 1 octubre 2018 al 30 setiembre 2019		
Descripción	Acumulado	
	año actual	año anterior
<b>INGRESOS</b>		
801-00-000 INGRESOS POR DONACIONES	- 24,122,288.68	- 25,003,993.44
803-00-000 VENTAS	- 164,821,555.54	- 120,854,264.53
810-00-000 INGRESOS POR SERVICIOS AMBIENTALES	- 181,735,703.49	- 169,647,206.44
820-00-000 OTRO INGRESOS	- 16,127,346.13	- 21,849,590.78
<b>TOTAL INGRESOS</b>	<b>- 386,806,893.84</b>	<b>- 337,355,055.19</b>
<b>COSTOS Y GASTOS EN OPERACION</b>		
903-00-000 COSTOS DE VENTAS	47,000,879.46	39,365,321.34
920-00-000 SALARIOS Y GASTOS RELACIONADOS	229,649,838.68	215,978,362.96
930-00-000 GASTOS OPERATIVOS	37,513,518.63	29,897,490.68
933-00-000 GASTOS MANTENIMIENTO	10,932,951.35	13,710,297.56
935-00-000 GASTOS GENERALES Y DE ADMINISTRACIÓN	26,274,623.21	25,909,346.00
950-00-000 GASTOS SERVICIOS PUBLICOS	1,868,041.10	1,676,684.13
<b>TOTAL COSTOS Y GASTOS EN OPERACION</b>	<b>353,239,852.43</b>	<b>326,537,502.67</b>
<b>RESULTADOS EN OPERACIONES</b>	<b>- 33,567,041.41</b>	<b>- 10,817,552.52</b>
<b>OTROS GASTOS NO OPERATIVOS</b>		
955-00-000 IMPUESTOS Y PATENTES	86,292.60	541,882.80
960-00-000 GASTOS FINANCIEROS	2,075,362.16	1,295,326.77
965-00-000 GASTOS POR DIFERENCIAL CAMBIARIO	2,330,414.33	5,854,680.50
970-00-000 DEPRECIACIÓN EDIFICIO	5,520,858.12	5,520,858.12
975-00-000 DEPRECIACION MAQUINARIA Y EQUIPO	3,675,621.30	1,447,786.18
990-00-000 AJUSTE A PERIODOS ANTERIORES	-	777,726.55
<b>TOTAL OTROS GASTOS NO OPERATIVOS</b>	<b>13,688,548.51</b>	<b>15,438,260.92</b>
<b>EXCEDENTE DEL PERIODO</b>	<b>- 19,878,492.90</b>	<b>4,620,708.40</b>

**Table 3.** Balance, October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019, in Costa Rican colones.

<b>Asociación Conservacionista de Monteverde</b>		
Cédula Jurídica 3-002-075864		
ESTADO DE SITUACION FINANCIERA		
Periodo terminado al 30 de setiembre del 2019		
<b>ACTIVOS CORRIENTES</b>	<b>Sep-19</b>	<b>Sep-18</b>
ACTIVOS	-	-
CAJA GENERAL	2,757,272.70	1,583,918.00
BANCOS	7,922,228.72	24,718,522.85
DEPOSITOS EN TRANSITO	- 886,197.20	-
FONDOS DE INVERSION	330,784,109.17	147,066,475.80
CUENTAS POR COBRAR	4,668,274.38	508,119.91
CUENTAS POR COBRAR COMERCIALES	6,273,298.41	110,200.00
ADELANTO A PROVEEDORES	264,000.00	-
INVENTARIOS GENERALES	9,355,001.13	9,177,378.18
GASTOS DIFERIDOS	3,266,568.44	2,708,258.07
DOCUMENTO POR COBRAR CORTO PLAZO	-	-
<b>TOTAL ACTIVOS CORRIENTES</b>	<b>364,404,555.75</b>	<b>185,872,872.81</b>
<b>ACTIVOS NO CORRIENTES</b>		
ACTIVOS FIJOS		
TERRENOS	760,348,608.29	846,214,339.00
REVALUACION DE TERRENOS	-	-
EDIFICIOS	223,989,773.23	314,213,555.38
DEPRECIACION EDIFICIO	- 160,097,241.97	- 190,665,896.71
MAQUINARIA MOBILIARIO Y EQUIPO	68,452,103.93	55,996,108.25
DEPRECIACION MAQUINARIA Y EQUIPO	- 45,499,641.89	- 48,386,191.59
OBRAS EN PROCESO	428,090.51	411,590.51
OTROS ACTIVOS	-	-
DEPOSITOS EN GARANTIA	204,233.00	204,233.00
DOCUMENTOS POR COBRAR LARGO PLAZO	-	-
GASTOS DE REORGANIZACION	-	-
INVERSIONES A LARGO PLAZO	58,985,812.84	59,107,268.93
<b>TOTAL ACTIVOS NO CORRIENTES</b>	<b>906,811,737.94</b>	<b>1,037,095,006.77</b>
<b>TOTAL ACTIVOS</b>	<b>1,271,216,293.69</b>	<b>1,222,967,879.58</b>

<b>PASIVOS CORRIENTES</b>		
PASIVO CIRCULANTE	-	-
SALARIO	130,000.00	-
COMERCIALES	- 22,654,238.71	- 12,792,521.29
INTERESES POR PAGAR	-	-
PREPAGO DE CLIENTES	- 23,842,819.29	- 20,229,360.65
DOCUMENTOS POR PAGAR CORTO PLAZO	- 196,730.00	- 2,952,290.00
RETENCIONES POR PAGAR	- 5,057,422.05	- 3,316,663.81
APORTE PATRONALES POR PAGAR	- 3,379,885.00	- 3,126,965.15
IMPUESTO POR PAGAR	- 2,102,678.27	- 406,274.16
PROVISIONES	- 33,340,885.98	- 35,120,264.66
FONDOS DE PROYECTOS	- 53,800,618.85	- 39,627,468.85
<b>TOTAL PASIVOS CORRIENTES</b>	<b>- 144,245,278.15</b>	<b>- 117,571,808.57</b>
<b>PASIVOS NO CORRIENTES</b>		
PASIVOS A LARGO PLAZO	-	-
DOCUMENTO POR PAGAR LARGO PLAZA	-	-
OTROS PASIVOS	3,151,500.00	-
FONDOS ESPECIFICOS	- 228,313,539.50	- 223,661,221.46
<b>TOTAL PASIVOS NO CORRIENTES</b>	<b>- 225,162,039.50</b>	<b>- 223,661,221.46</b>
<b>TOTAL PASIVOS</b>	<b>- 369,407,317.65</b>	<b>- 341,233,030.03</b>
<b>PATRIMONIO</b>		
PATRIMONIO	-	-
PATRIMONIO DONADOS	- 846,214,339.00	- 846,214,339.00
SUPERAVIT EN PERIODOS ANTERIORES	- 35,716,144.14	- 40,141,218.95
RESULTADOS DEL PERIODO	- 19,878,492.90	4,620,708.40
RESERVA LEGAL	-	-
RESULTADOS ACUMULADOS	-	-
SUPERAVIT POR REVALUACION	-	-
<b>TOTAL PATRIMONIO</b>	<b>- 901,808,976.04</b>	<b>- 881,734,849.55</b>
<b>TOTAL PASIVO MAS PATRIMONIO</b>	<b>- 1,271,216,293.69</b>	<b>- 1,222,967,879.58</b>



**Table 4.** Projected operational budget for 2019-2020 fiscal year (October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020). Note: This period corresponds to 15 months, due to the transition to a fiscal period based on the calendar year, according to the Law on Strengthening of Public Finance (Law No. 9635). Amounts expressed in Costa Rican colones.

<b>Asociacion Conservacionista de Monteverde</b>		
Cédula Jurídica 3-002-075864		
RESULTADOS INTEGRALES PROYECTADOS		
	<b>Ejercicio 2018-2019</b>	<b>Proyección 2019-2020</b>
<b>INGRESOS</b>		
801-00-000	INGRESOS POR DONACIONES	-24,122,288.68 - 24,220,137.50
803-00-000	VENTAS	-164,821,555.54 - 214,740,995.14
810-00-000	INGRESOS POR SERVICIOS AMBIENTALES	-181,735,703.49 - 223,346,968.82
820-00-000	OTRO INGRESOS	-16,127,346.13 - 7,918,747.24
<b>TOTAL INGRESOS</b>		<b>- 386,806,893.84 - 470,226,848.70</b>
<b>EGRESOS</b>		
903-00-000	COSTOS DE VENTAS	47,000,879.46 57,740,671.08
920-00-000	SALARIOS Y GASTOS RELACIONADOS	229,649,838.68 307,943,693.05
930-00-000	GASTOS OPERATIVOS	37,513,518.63 40,646,012.15
933-00-000	GASTOS MANTENIMIENTO	10,932,951.35 17,413,526.55
935-00-000	GASTOS GENERALES Y DE ADMINISTRACIÓN	26,274,623.21 28,739,832.59
950-00-000	GASTOS SERVICIOS PUBLICOS	1,868,041.10 2,354,038.13
955-00-000	IMPUESTOS Y PATENTES	86,292.60 125,737.20
960-00-000	GASTOS FINANCIEROS	2,075,362.16 1,984,346.96
965-00-000	GASTOS POR DIFERENCIAL CAMBIARIO	2,330,414.33 -
970-00-000	DEPRECIACIÓN EDIFICIO	5,520,858.12 6,901,072.65
975-00-000	DEPRECIACION MAQUINARIA Y EQUIPO	3,675,621.30 7,712,965.65
990-00-000	AJUSTE A PERIODOS ANTERIORES	0.00 -
<b>TOTAL EGRESOS</b>		<b>366,928,400.94 471,561,896.00</b>
<b>DEFICIT DEL EJERCICIO</b>		<b>- 19,878,492.90 1,335,047.30</b>

## Visitation

*“In every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks.”*  
 — **John Muir**

Linking people and nature is a key part of successful conservation, and a visit to the BEN is the way many people fall in love with this particular forest, or the rainforest in general. Some of you can vouch for this personally – your own experience in the BEN may have been your motivation to become a researcher, volunteer, return visitor, donor, or MCL assembly member.



*Bare-necked Umbrellabird (Cephalopterus glabricollis) female, Pocosol. Fabio Araya.*

Of the more than 22,000 hectares of the Children’s Eternal Rainforest, most are set aside for conservation. There are currently four areas open to the public: Bajo del Tigre Reserve, San Gerardo Field Station, Pocosol Field Station, and Finca Steller. Bajo del Tigre receives the most visitation, due in large part to its central location in Monteverde, a major ecotourism hub. San Gerardo and Pocosol offer off-the-beaten path, forest immersion experiences with (or without) lodging and meals. In addition to being home to our environmental education and reforestation programs, Finca Steller features impeccable (and highly under-utilized) trails that we hope to promote in 2020.

One of the easiest and best ways to support the conservation of the Children’s Eternal Rainforest is to visit it. In addition to providing unparalleled educational and research opportunities, the BEN’s field stations and trails generate income that permits the conservation of the rest of the reserve.

### Bajo del Tigre Reserve

According to our records, a total of 9,493 people visited Bajo del Tigre in 2019, compared to 8,678 visitors in 2018. All of this growth was in daytime entrances, which increased by 25% compared to the previous calendar year. In contrast, sales of night walk decreased by approximately 8% compared to 2018; however, night walks have remained relatively stable over the past few years (Fig. 2).

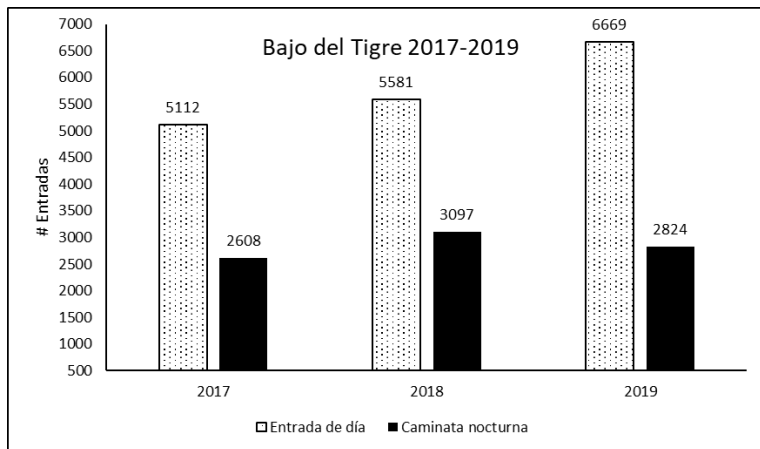
Most visitors, both day and night, are international adults, followed by international students and Costa Rican nationals. In January 2020, we implemented a new sales system that will allow a better tracking of visitors in all sectors of the BEN.

The monthly visitation pattern (Fig. 3) reflects the general pattern of tourism in the Monteverde area; however, we know that there are opportunities to increase visitation to Bajo del Tigre by academic groups, especially in May, June and July, and by tourists throughout the year. We continue to develop new relationships and strengthen existing relationships with travel agencies to increase visitation by tourists, particularly during high season in Monteverde.

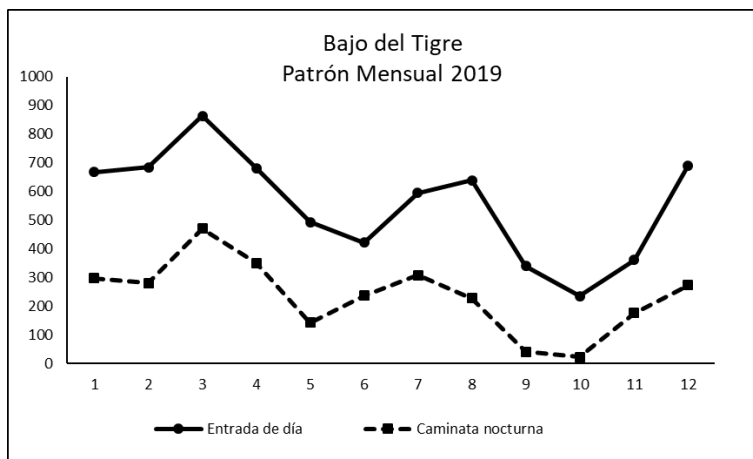


*The Children’s House at Bajo del Tigre, with new activities for young visitors!*

**Figure 2.** Visitation at Bajo del Tigre from 2017 to 2019 (total visitors). *Entrada de día* = Daytime entry. *Caminata nocturna* = Night walk.



**Figure 3.** Pattern of monthly visitation at Bajo del Tigre from 2017 to 2019 (total visitors). *Entrada de día* = Daytime entry. *Caminata nocturna* = Night walk.



### Pocosol Field Station

Visitation at Pocosol continues to grow, including visitors who stay at the station (Figs. 4 & 5) as well as one-day visitors. Thanks to significant improvements on the road to Pocosol, the station receives drop-in visitors almost every day, including international guests and Costa Rican nationals.

We are grateful to the local guides and hotels who bring their clients to Pocosol for natural history walks and bird watching. In addition to paying the entrance fee, it is common for these guests to purchase lunch, a cup of coffee, or a souvenir.



*Peñas Blancas Valley, view from Miradores trail, Pocosol.*

The hanging bridge over the Peñas Blancas River, on the San Miguel route to Pocosol, was damaged in April 2019, with no repair in sight. We have done our best to inform visitors to use

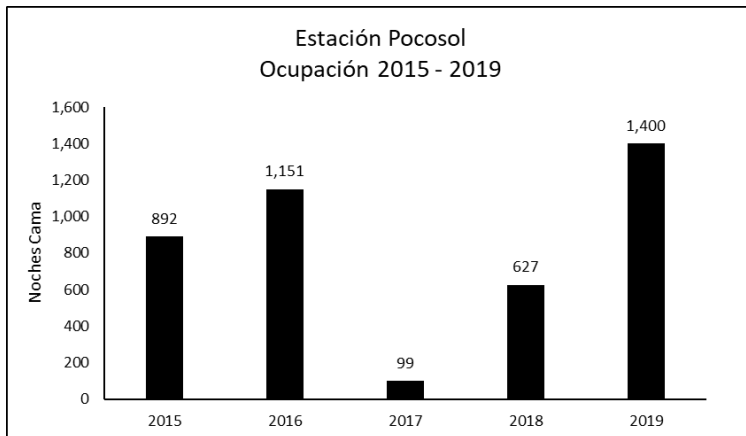


Luis Arana repairs steps on the Catarata (waterfall) trail at Pocosol.

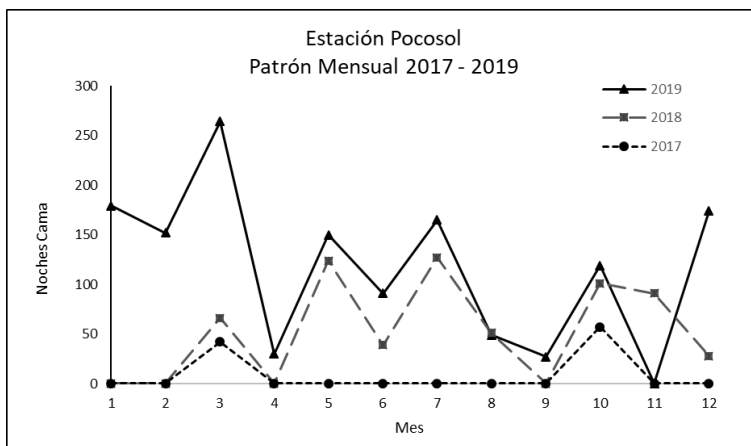
the alternate route via La Altura, but some people continue to use the San Miguel route, which is recommended by Waze and Google Maps. We will continue to follow up on this situation; no one should drive over this bridge!

In 2019 we welcomed two new Co-Managers at Pocosol, Fabio Araya and Merelyn Murillo. We also added a permanent maintenance position at Pocosol, in order to cover routine maintenance work and provide support in customer service. Improvements at Pocosol in 2019 included relocation of the waterfall overlook platform, construction of a new water collection system, new furniture for the classroom, expansion of the parking lot, maintenance and improvement of trails, and improvements to the kitchen and cooking gas system. Projects planned for 2020 include replacing the roof of the laundry room, painting and varnishing all buildings, installation of new trail signs, and construction of a small shelter near the Laguna to replace the old one, which was badly deteriorated.

**Figure 4.** Pocosol Field Station, annual occupancy (bed-nights), 2015 to 2019. Note: Pocosol was closed from January 2017 to April 2018.



**Figure 5.** Pattern of monthly visitation (bed-nights) to Pocosol Field Station, 2017 to 2019. Note: Pocosol was closed from January 2017 to April 2018.





## San Gerardo Field Station

In 2019, we experienced a reduction in visitation (expressed in bed-nights) at our San Gerardo station (Figs. 6 & 7). We believe this is partly due to the reopening of the Pocosol Station in May 2018, since some of the groups that visited San Gerardo in 2017 and 2018 now visit Pocosol; furthermore, the total bed-nights between both stations remained similar (2,901 in 2019, compared to 2,985 in 2018). However, the reduction in bed-nights definitely requires follow-up on our part to ensure adequate visitation in 2020.

Day visits (entrance to trails with the option to purchase lunch) could be a viable option in San Gerardo, as it is in Pocosol. However, due to the physical location of the station, there is not a clear way to regulate access to the trails. It is currently possible for hikers to enter San Gerardo from the Santa Elena Reserve parking lot, hike on the trails, and leave without our staff ever noticing. This is a problem because these visitors do not pay, and also for reasons related to risk management and liability. We are in the process of making changes to correct this problem, including improved signage and communication with a few local hotels in Monteverde that promote San Gerardo as a “free” place to hike.



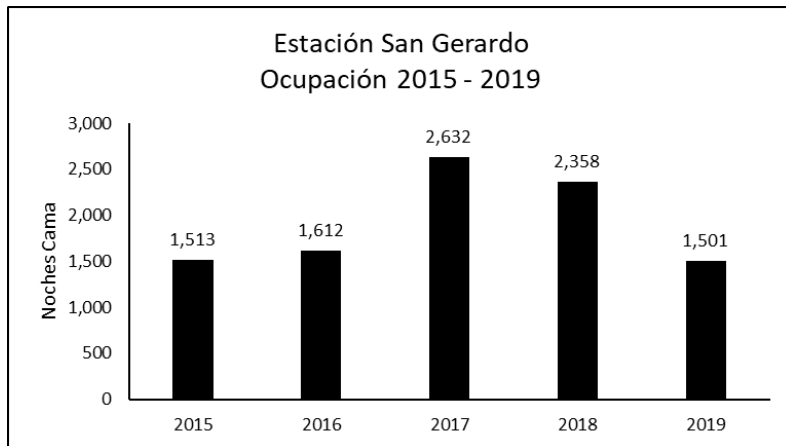
*Western State Colorado University visit to San Gerardo. Student groups are responsible for most of the visitation at both San Gerardo and Pocosol field stations.*



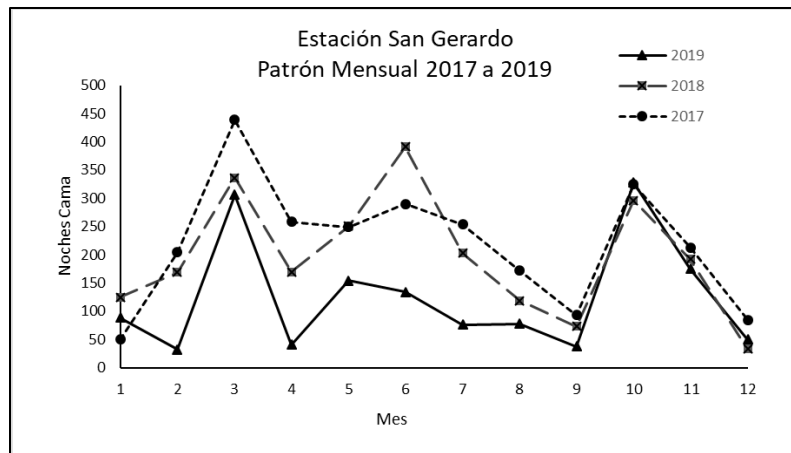
*The San Gerardo station has received much-needed repairs and preventative maintenance over the past two years.*

In January 2019, Pablo Villalobos joined our staff as Co-Manager of San Gerardo, along with Jose Andrey Obando, who began in July 2018. Thanks to Pablo, Jose, and our maintenance staff, we have made important improvements in San Gerardo, including a complete remodel of the kitchen and food storage area, construction of a new water catchment system, major improvements to water lines, trail maintenance and enhancement, preventive maintenance of buildings and hydroelectric plant, removal of accumulated waste and scrap material, and better organization in general. Projects planned for 2020 include painting the roof and replacing the western wall of the station, reopening the Saíno trail, and installing new trail signs. It has been a pleasure to see what can be achieved through excellent teamwork and we congratulate all personnel involved!

**Figure 6.** San Gerardo Field Station, annual occupancy (bed-nights), 2015 to 2019.



**Figure 7.** Pattern of monthly visitation (bed-nights) to San Gerardo Field Station, 2017 to 2019.



Example of new signage along the roads to San Gerardo and Pocosol.



## Reforestation

Finca Steller, located near La Tigra de San Carlos, is the base of operations for our environmental education program and home to our nursery, which has been producing native trees for reforestation within the BEN and in nearby communities for the past 23 years.

Under the supervision of Finca Steller Coordinator Marcelino Rodríguez, the nursery produces 24 different native species (Table 5), with about 2,000 trees currently in production (not including seeds in the process of germination). In addition, we produce organic compost using worms and natural insect repellents for use in the nursery. Trees are donated to community organizations or sold at a symbolic price to individuals or businesses.

In 2019, we sold 1,732 trees, donated 1,582 trees to community organizations, and planted 250 trees as part of our Environmental Education Program, for a total of **3,564 trees** planted in the BEN and in neighboring communities.

We have seen an increasing trend of both sales and donations over the past four years; we hope this is tied to increased awareness of the importance of reforestation (Table 6).



*Marcelino Rodríguez, Coordinator of Finca Steller, has been with the MCL for 20 years.*

Most of the trees sold were purchased by La Tigra Rainforest Lodge. In addition, Horizontes Nature Tours bought 35 trees, and Horizontes Foundation bought 300 trees, in honor of its 40th Anniversary and the birth of a client's daughters, respectively. Both organizations donated the seedlings to be planted as part of our Environmental Education Program. Recipients of donated trees included La Altura and Emilio Castro elementary schools, Abuela Ecológica Foundation, San Isidro Environmental Festival, Zona Norte Reforestation Group, and Universidad Nacional a la Distancia.



*Hands up! Students show their dirty hands after planting native trees with our environmental education program.*

**Table 5.** The nursery at Finca Steller currently produces 24 species of native trees.

Scientific Name	Common name (Spanish)	Family
<i>Anacardium excelsum</i>	Espavel	Anacardiaceae
<i>Astronium graveolens</i>	Ron ron	Anacardiaceae
<i>Mauria heterophylla</i>	Sirri amarillo	Anacardiaceae
<i>Iriartea deltoidea</i>	Palmilera	Arecaceae
<i>Tabebuia guayacan</i>	Corteza amarilla	Bignoniaceae
<i>Calophyllum brasiliense</i>	Cedro María	Calophyllaceae
<i>Caryocar costarricense</i>	Plomillo	Caryocaraceae
<i>Sideroxylon capiri</i>	Danto amarillo	Chrysophylloideae
<i>Terminalia oblonga</i>	Surá	Combretaceae
<i>Terminalia amazonia</i>	Roble coral	Combretaceae
<i>Dipteryx panamensis</i>	Almendro amarillo	Fabaceae
<i>Myroxylon balsamum</i>	Bálsamo	Fabaceae
<i>Ormosia coccinea</i>	Nenes	Fabaceae
<i>Platymiscium curuense</i>	Cristóbal	Fabaceae
<i>Zygia longifolia</i>	Sota caballo	Fabaceae
<i>Persea schiedeana</i>	Aguacatillo	Lauraceae
<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	Ceiba	Malvaceae
<i>Guarea guidonia</i>	Cocora	Meliaceae
<i>Brosimum alicastrum</i>	Ojoche	Moraceae
<i>Virola koschnyi</i>	Fruta dorada	Myristicaceae
<i>Pimenta dioica</i>	Jamaica	Myrtaceae
<i>Minquartia guianensis</i>	Manú	Olacaceae
<i>Hyeronima alchorneoides</i>	Pilón	Phyllanthaceae
<i>Chimarrhis latifolia</i>	Yema de huevo	Rubiaceae

**Table 6.** Total trees sold, donated, and planted, 2016 to 2019.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
<i>Sold</i>	1,180	527	453	1,732
<i>Donated</i>	1,909	1,330	1,306	1,582
<i>Planted in BEN (Env't Education Program)</i>			55	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,089</b>	<b>1,857</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>3,564</b>

## Environmental Education

*“In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught.”*

— **Baba Dioum**

The Monteverde Conservation League has had a strong history of Environmental Education since its inception in 1986. We continue to participate in EE efforts in Monteverde; however, in recent years we have focused our efforts in the communities along the eastern border of the BEN, as these areas experience higher incidences of poaching and other infractions and do not typically have access to environmental education through other channels.

The MCL’s full-time environmental educator, María Fernanda Rojas, works with 17 elementary schools in La Tigra de San Carlos and nearby communities. Funding for the program during recent years has been exclusively through donations and grants, which cover salary, benefits, vehicle and transportation costs, materials, and field trips to the forest. In 2019 we received donations from a number of generous individuals, both directly and in partnership with US-based nonprofits Engage Globally and Friends of the Rainforest. Through talks, hands-on workshops, and visits to the forest, students learn about climate change, biodiversity, bird identification, laws related to poaching, recycling and solid waste management, plastics reduction, and saving energy.



*Environmental Club for Girls overnight field trip to Pocosol.*

In 2019, we also sought grant funding to carry out specific environmental education projects. In collaboration with Engage Globally, we received funding from JustPax Fund to start an Environmental Club for Girls (*Club Ambiental de Niñas*, or “CAN”). The inspiration for the club came from the feedback of María Fernanda, who had observed a frustrating lack of active participation by female students in environmental education activities. CAN sought to motivate girls in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade through trips to the forest and activities related to plastics reduction, leadership, and art. The group of 17

students from 7 elementary schools met on 11 Saturdays between February and July 2019, culminating with an overnight field trip to Pocosol. An unexpected and rewarding result of CAN was the active and repeated participation of many mothers – without meaning to, the program educated two generations simultaneously. Inspired by this result, we applied for and again received funding from JustPax Fund to carry out a similar program in 2020, this time working to promote reforestation through local church groups.

Thanks in part to a grant from Bosqueterno S.A. (BESA), students in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades from 6 elementary schools participated in the program “Protecting water resources in the Peñas Blancas River watershed through environmental education” from August to December 2019. The objective of this program was to increase knowledge about water resources conservation and aquatic ecosystems. A total of 258 students received talks about watersheds and water resources, and 287 students and 108 parents participated in field trips to the BEN to participate in field sampling and learn about aquatic macroinvertebrates as indicators of water quality.



**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:** In addition to working directly in schools, María Fernanda plays a key role in representing the organization in activities and initiatives in the communities surrounding BEN, including:

- Activities with the Municipality of San Carlos and the Ministry of Culture
- Water and Peace Biosphere Reserve
- Various activities and meetings with SINAC, including National Parks Day
- Rural Women's Fair
- Environmental Network of the Zona Norte (RAZON). This new environmental education network was formed following the example of the Monteverde Environmental Education Commission (CEAM), to coordinate environmental education efforts in the Northern Zone.
- Activities with ASUACOM (ASADA of Valle Azul and Los Criques, San Ramón): Water Fair, Arbor Day, A Day for the Environment. Activities open to the public with educational talks and information stand.
- Environmental Festival at La Tigra Ecological Elementary school; informative stand, talks and activities.
- Activities with the **Monteverde Environmental Education Committee (CEAM)**, where MCL staff member Giselle Rodríguez also participates. The main activity of CEAM in 2019 was the vacation environmental fair, from July 3 to 5, which included a field trip to Bajo del Tigre with participation by 55 local children. The work of CEAM is possible thanks to the local organizations and businesses that participate directly (MCL, Santa Elena Reserve, Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, Municipality of Monteverde, Sanitary Aqueduct and Sewer Management Association of the Monteverde District, SINAC, Universidad Estatal a Distancia, Trapp Family Hotel and El Trapiche Tour) and local businesses such as Cabañas Los Pinos, Ocotea Tours & Transfers, Cala Lodge, and Hotel Belmar that donated transportation and snacks for the activities.



CEAM environmental fair in Monteverde.



Planting trees, La Tigra de San Carlos.

## Control and Protection

With just four rangers to cover more than 22,000 hectares, the success of this program depends to large extent on the hard work of our dedicated *guardabosques*, in addition to support from other MCL staff and private citizens who collaborate with information, donations, and logistical assistance. We are grateful for the leadership of Hernán Chacón, Coordinator of this department.



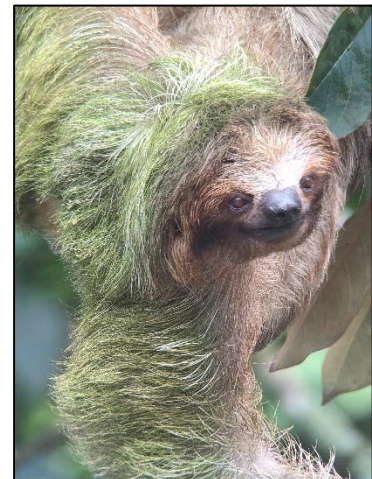
Joint forest patrol, MCL and SINAC.

The work of a *guardabosques* is varied. Our forest rangers carry out daily patrols within the BEN, in addition to participating in operatives in collaboration with government institutions and private organizations. Although poaching has decreased compared to 10 or 15 years ago, it continues to be a problem, and our rangers spend a significant amount of time chasing after poachers and dealing with hunting dogs that are abandoned within the BEN. Other historical threats to biodiversity – removal of orchids, hearts of palm, birds, and other wildlife for commercialization – persist, particularly along

the eastern border of the BEN. Unfortunately, new threats continue to emerge. Some are economically-motivated, such as illicit tourism and people prospecting for gold. Others are related to climate change: as springs in neighboring communities dry up, people seek new water sources in protected areas.

Our staff also plays an education and outreach role in communities surrounding the BEN. Our rangers regularly rescue or retrieve wildlife that that would otherwise be mistreated or killed. In collaboration with the Universidad Nacional's UACFel program, they help respond to cases where livestock has been injured or killed by wild felines. Our *guardabosques* also serve as witnesses, provide support in legal cases, attend regular meetings with multiple government and private institutions, and participate in training and environmental activities.

Cross-institutional collaboration is critical to the successful protection of the BEN, and coordination with SINAC (the National System of Areas of Conservation), police, District Attorney's offices, and other private reserves and protected areas is ongoing. Support from some of these actors has been excellent and constant. However, it is frustrating not to advance as fast as we would like with joint initiatives such as CIPROCOT (Inter-institutional Committee for the Protection of the Tilarán Mountain Range), which seeks to coordinate support between the four SINAC-designated Areas of Conservation that affect the BEN (Arenal Tempisque, Central, Pacífico Central and Huetar Norte). We also continue with the challenge of obtaining COVIRENAS (Comité de Vigilancia de Recursos Naturales) credentials, which are important for participation in operatives with government authorities. This has been an ongoing process since April 2018; we hope to finally have credentials for all relevant personnel in 2020, although apparently this will also require updates on a yearly basis.



Three-toed sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*) rescued on the highway near the entrance to Pocosol.



In 2019, Friends of the Rainforest (USA) donated funds for the purchase of a new vehicle for Control and Protection. The pickup, a 2012 Isuzu Dimax, has been key in the successful protection and conservation of the BEN. A grant from Friends of the Rainforest also financed the purchase of communication radios, backpacks, flashlights, digital cameras, GPS units, and other important tools for our Protection and Maintenance departments.

We are grateful to Freddy Campos, who left our staff this year after more than 9 years of service as a ranger for the BEN; and to Marcelino Rodríguez, Coordinator of Finca Steller, for his constant support of the Control and Protection department.

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## Maintenance

The Maintenance Program plays an essential role in the conservation and protection of the BEN. We currently have 7 maintenance staff members: 4 based in La Tigra de San Carlos, 2 in Monteverde and 1 in Pocosol. Under the supervision of Coordinator Luis Solano, maintenance staff work in all areas the BEN, performing a diversity of tasks including but not limited to: inspection and maintenance of property boundaries, fences and roadsides; maintenance of access roads and trails; repair and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure; support in legal cases, Payment for Environmental Services, and topographic measurements; and support to other programs and departments including Control and Protection, volunteers, and field stations.

In addition to successfully fulfilling the above-mentioned responsibilities, in 2019 the maintenance staff accomplished important projects including the construction of new water catchments at San Gerardo and Pocosol, relocation of the lookout platform at the Pocosol waterfall, a complete remodel of the kitchen at San Gerardo, important improvements to the kitchens of Pocosol and Finca Steller, and repairs to furniture and expansion of the parking lot at Pocosol. This work is also described above in the Visitation section.



*Maintenance staff 2019.*



## Payment for Environmental Services (PES)

*Director of Land Affairs: Yúber Rodríguez Santamaría*

Payment for Environmental Services (PES) allows for the economic recognition of ecosystem and environmental services that forested areas provide to society and the world. The environmental services recognized by the National Fund for Forestry Financing (FONAFIFO) in Costa Rica are carbon fixation and storage, protection of water resources, biodiversity for pharmaceutical or ecotourism purposes, and scenic beauty. The main categories of FONAFIFO's PES program are forest protection, water resource protection, and natural regeneration of pastures, as well as agroforestry systems and reforestation; however, MCL's participation is primarily in the Forest Protection category.

In 2019, the MCL was able to directly place five new properties, with a total area of 300.0 hectares (Table 7). The total area is regulated by the Forestry Law, which establishes a maximum of 300 hectares per year, per Conservation Area, for a non-governmental, non-profit organization such as the MCL. Through alternative placement strategies, it was also possible to place an additional property, with an area of 107.8 hectares. Therefore, in 2019 a total of six MCL properties farms were registered in PES, for a total of 407.8 hectares. It is noteworthy that contracts signed in 2019 are 10-year contracts (unlike previous periods, which had 5-year contracts); this has positive implications for future placement of additional areas and income generation.

**Table 6.** Placement of MCL properties in PES, 2019

<b>Description</b>	<b>Area (ha)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
MCL, Direct	300.0	73.6
MCL, Indirect	107.8	26.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>407.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

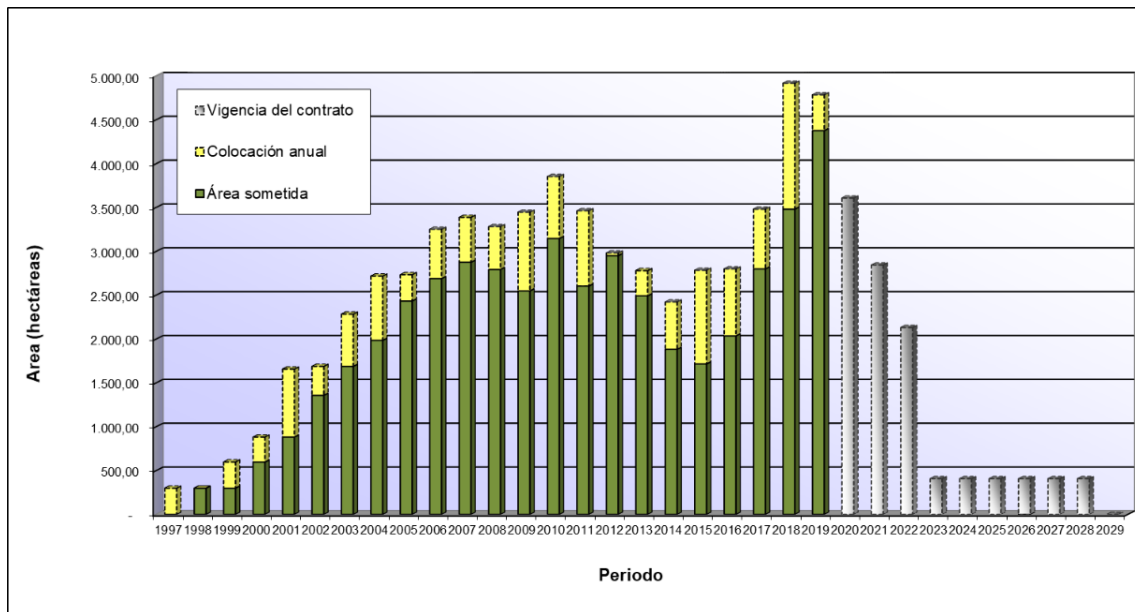
There was an important difference between areas placed in PES in 2019 compared to the previous period (Fig. 8). This difference is the product of indirect placements in 2018, as well as the signing of the agreement between CONELECTRICAS-FONAFIFO-ACM, which meant that in 2018 the MCL achieved the greatest area placed in PES in its 22 years of participation in the program. With the addition of the 2019 areas, MCL currently has a total of 4,986 hectares in PES (Map 1).

The revenue generated by PES represents 46.8% of the MCL's overall gross revenue for the 2018-2019 period. Of the total 181,735,703.49 colones generated, 91% was the result of properties in PES with the Costa Rican government (FONAFIFO); the remaining 9% came from a private PSA contract with a hydroelectric project (INMan).

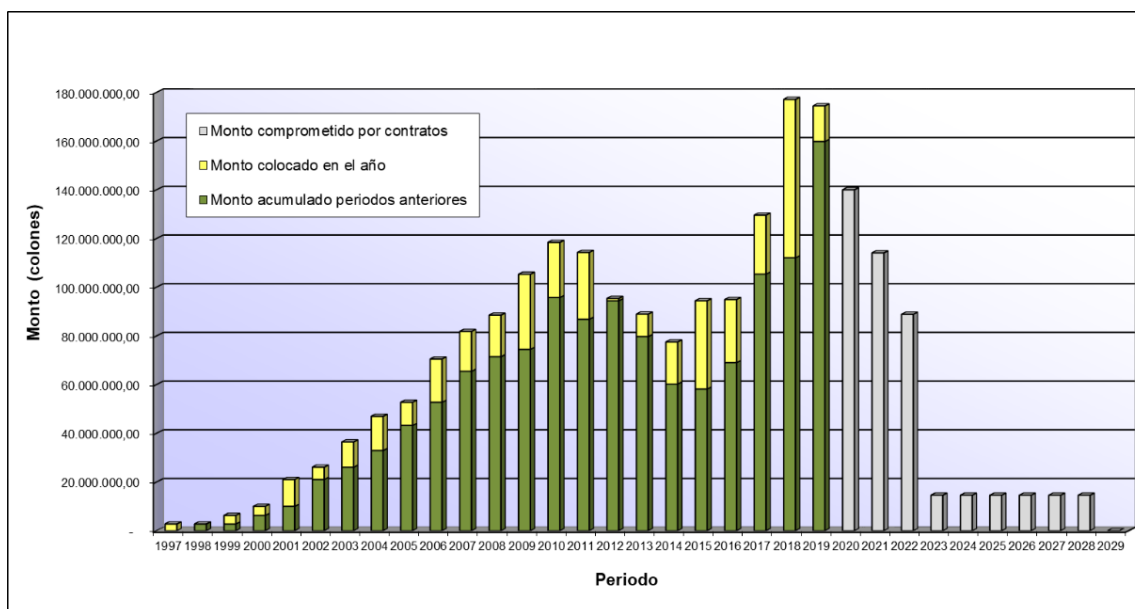
Income generated by PES in 2019 was similar to the previous period (Fig. 9). Without a doubt, for the 2019 period, the signing of 10-year contracts (as opposed to the usual 5-year contracts) was highly significant in terms of securing long-term financial commitments with FONAFIFO.

The MCL's success in the PES program over the past 22 years is due to our excellent track record as well as the hard work and participation of many people involved in the process: MCL employees, legal advisors, topographers, volunteers, friends, and neighbors. The participation of SINAC and FONAFIFO officials has also been instrumental; their identification with the importance of PES for our organization, and their support in properly completing all of the paperwork involved brings great benefit not only for the MCL but for the conservation of the region's forests.

**Figure 8.** History of the MCL’s participation in FONAFIFO 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 9.** History of the MCL’s income from participation in FONAFIFO Payment for Environmental Services. Monto comprometido por contratos = future amounts according to signed contracts. Monto colocado en el año = amount from this year’s placements. Monto acumulado periodos anteriores = income from contracts signed in previous years.



## 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 simplifies the process for MCL's applications for its own properties, and also permits 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 2019, the MCL presented applications for 41 private properties (total area 1,470.8 hectares); of these, 16 properties were approved, with an area of 347.1 hectares. To date, the MCL has facilitated the placement of 59 neighboring properties totaling 2,500 hectares in PSA (Table 8).



Field inspection and sign installation at one of the properties in the PES program.

**Table 8.** Private properties placed in PES, 2013 to 2019. (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.)

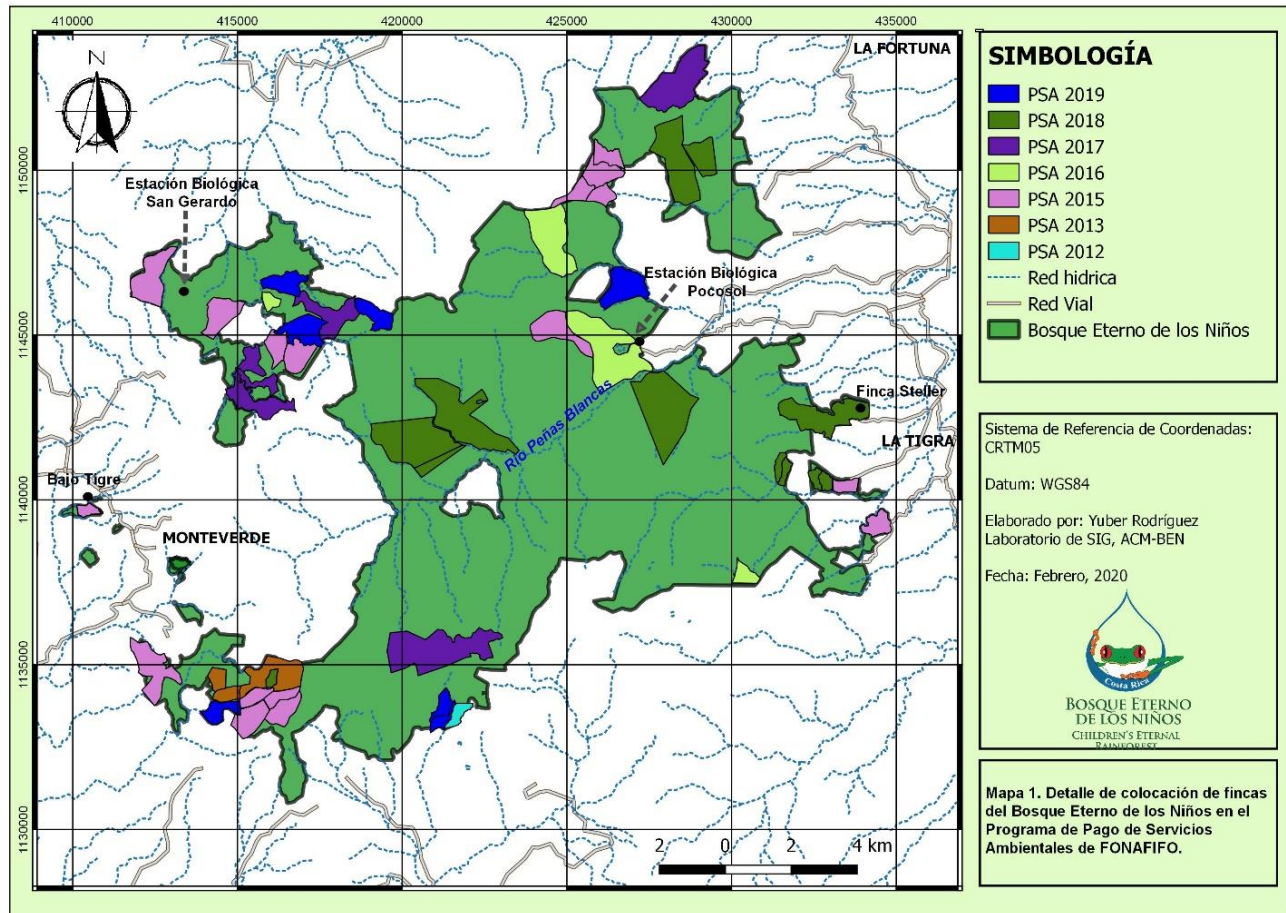
Año	Gestión		Colocación		
	Fincas	Área (has)	Fincas	Área (has)	% colocación
2013	24	1.228,00	7	131,00	10,67
2014	24	1.309,00	8	245,50	18,75
2015	22	1.742,00	9	355,20	20,39
2016	25	1.526,37	6	540,00	35,38
2017	24	1.607,00	11	596,90	37,14
2018	18	1.223,70	2	308,80	25,23
2019	41	1.470,78	16	347,10	23,60
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>10.106,85</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2.524,50</b>	<b>24,45</b>

## Private PES contracts

As mentioned above, we continue to receive PES income from 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 La Esperanza hydroelectric project on the Rio La Esperanza. For a number of years, INMan has been trying to achieve the cancellation of this contract (see the Legal Affairs section, below).

The private contract with the hydroelectric company CONELECTRICAS (*Consortium of Rural Electrification Cooperatives*) changed two years ago with the signing of a new agreement between ACM, CONELECTRICAS and FONAFIFO (see previous years' annual reports). Under the new agreement, CONELECTRICAS can redirect part of the water tax it pays for electricity production to FONAFIFO; and the MCL receives via FONAFIFO all of the economic resources considered in the original contract with CONELECTRICAS.

**Map 1.** MCL properties in Payment for Environmental Services, 2012 to 2019.



## Legal Affairs

*Director of Land Affairs: Yúber Rodríguez Santamaría*

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The Legal Affairs Committee includes members of the General Assembly, members of the Board of Directors, as well as employees, constituting a group with extensive experience in legal matters and with great willingness to collaborate. Its members are: Julia Matamoros, Jorge Maroto, Ricaute Jiménez, Gerardo Céspedes, Lindsay Stallcup, Hernán Chacón, Luis Solano and Yúber Rodríguez.

In 2019, the committee only had one official meeting, primarily because it was a year full of legal activities that required regular and constant attention, including six court hearings, five coordination or conciliation meetings, and six field visits. The following is a brief update on the main judicial and legal processes in 2019:

- 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. As we indicated in last year's report, we appealed the first sentence; however, the second sentence was not favorable for the MCL either, due to the fact that the property had an additional access. For this reason, the Agrarian and Civil Court ruled that the MCL did not have a reason to continue using the historic access near the Monteverde Butterfly Garden. Related to this, in 2019 we completed the sale of the property, thereby closing this legal case once and for all.
- 2. INMAN-Banco IMPROSA vs. MCL.** Legal representative: Ricaute Jiménez. In 2017, the court ruled on this case; however, both INMan and the Attorney General's Office appealed, and the case is currently in appeals in the First Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice. During the last two years, this process has not had significant movement. For more details, refer to previous years' annual reports.
- 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), because according to a topographic study carried out by BNCR, this area was part of a property that was repossessed by the bank. In 2019, BNCR requested to withdraw (cancel) the judicial process; both the MCL and Mr. Araya agreed to close this legal case. More details of this process can be reviewed in previous annual reports.
- 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. In the last four years, this case was passed down from the Agrarian Tribunal to the Agrarian Court of San Ramón. During 2019, the court held a conciliation hearing as well as a testimonial hearing. Mr. Badilla Navarro was absent from these hearings because his lawyer had apparently abandoned the process and did not send his clients the respective notifications. As a result, conciliation was not an option (because all parties must be present for a conciliation to take place). The court did hear testimony from two of the MCL's three witnesses, leaving the testimony of the third witness for a future hearing. In preparation for said hearing, it came to light that one of the defendants, Mr. Gustavo Badilla Jiménez, died eight years ago, causing further delay in the process. The Court ordered a process to define Mr. Badilla Jiménez's heirs; the case is on hold until this process is completed. For more details of this case, please refer to reports of previous years.



**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 29 years ago from Mr. Wilson Badilla. As a result, the MCL sued Mr. Rodríguez. In 2019, the court heard testimonial, confessional, and expert witness testimony, after which written conclusions will be submitted by each party and the judge will issue the sentence. As we have indicated in previous reports, in this process the expert witness changed his opinion during the process, generally to the detriment of the MCL. However, it was possible to demonstrate the MCL's possession of the land in question through technical evidence and the testimony of other witnesses. We are grateful for the participation of witnesses Gerardo Céspedes, Ibo Corrales, Nautilio Vargas, Hernán Chacón, Geiner Alvarado, and Jorge Andrés Rojas (topographical engineer of the neighboring Channel 23 property), which was extremely important to demonstrating the MCL's possession of this property. Likewise, the testimonies or confessionals requested by the defendant failed to provide any legal support to the defendant's intentions. For more details, please refer to previous years' reports.



*Many legal cases require field inspections and the participation of multiple MCL employees, in addition to ex-employees and neighbors.*

- 6. Legal registration (title) of MCL properties.** We continue to advance with the process of obtaining legal title to several MCL properties. As indicated in last year's report, after making inquiries at offices of the National Registry, MCL decided to initiate land titling processes for four properties near La Tigra. We have begun to carry out soil/land use studies, after which we will 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.
- 7. Contract to purchase the farm of Cesar Santamaría.** There are no real updates in this case; the land use study required for obtaining legal title is being carried out again (this study was completed and paid for eight years ago, but the lawyer who was handling the case for Mr. Santamaría allowed the certification expire, so Mr. Santamaría must basically start over). Further details can be found in previous annual reports.
- 8. Contract to purchase the farm of Olger Badilla.** There are no changes in this case. Further details can be found in previous annual reports.
- 9. Property plans, Peñas Blancas.** This process involves the approval (*catastro*) of plans for three adjacent properties belonging to Labrador Lindora S.A., the Tropical Science Center, and the MCL in the area of the Peñas Blancas valley known as "Eladio's". Advances in this process include obtaining the required approval from the National System of Areas of Conservation (SINAC) and identifying property access as indicated by the National Registry.
- 10. 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 in conservation belonging to the Tropical Science Center (TSC) and MCL. 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 one exists) in order to try to ensure that these neighbors respect these limits and refrain from further invading our properties. We also requested support from SINAC and the police to attempt to control activities (such as use of agrochemicals and chainsaws) to perform maintenance on this route. The MCL helped organize a meeting between the Anchía family group, other neighbors, TSC and MCL, to try to identify points of agreement and avoid the escalation of conflict. We are currently waiting for the Anchía family group provide copies of plans so that we can again visit the Municipality of Puntarenas to attempt to obtain a definitive answer with respect to this route.

**11. 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. This case did not have any advances in 2019.

**12. 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. There were no changes to this case in 2019.



*Field inspection, illegal application of herbicide within MCL properties.*

**13. 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. 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. There were no changes or advances to this case in 2019.

**14. Olman Castro (Elidieth Vindas).** The MCL continues to follow up on this case; there were no changes in 2019. For more details please refer to previous years' reports.

**15. 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 Leitón Méndez family. In 2019, we reviewed current ownership conditions and participated in an analysis along with the Leitón family. Both parties agreed on an exchange of areas, where the MCL will trade its property (approximately 8 hectares) for an area of approximately 11.5 hectares adjacent to the contiguous BEN and delimited by physical boundaries (barbed wire fences) and natural boundaries (Quebrada sin nombre). We feel this is a win-win situation, whereby the MCL receives a property apt for conservation and contiguous with the BEN and the Leitón family receives an area they are interested in. At present, the respective plans are being

prepared; once the plans are available, we will proceed with the legal transfer of the two properties.

- 16. 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 and should come to trial in the coming months.
- 17. 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. The three defendants have been called to testify; however, Mr. Richard Araya (the individual responsible for attacking MCL forest ranger Hernán Chacón) has failed to show up in court to present his testimony.

## Research

We are grateful to the following researchers and to Matt Moran, CIEE, UCEAP, and the Monteverde Institute for their continued support of research in the Children's Eternal Rainforest.

**Table 9.** Summary of research in the CER, 2019.

Researcher(s)	Project	Institution	Location
Alexa Esler	Impact of Ecotourism on Foraging behavior of Central America Agouti ( <i>Dasyprocta punctata</i> )	CIEE Tropical Ecology & Conservation	Bajo del Tigre
Funcionarios (3)	Three-wattled Bellbird census	Tropical Science Center	Bajo del Tigre
Hojun Song	Biodiversity of insects in the Children's Eternal Rainforest	Texas A&M Soltis Center	Pocosol
Jordan Rogan	Diversity and Habitat Use of Medium-Large Mammals in a Social-Ecological System in Monteverde, Costa Rica	Texas A&M University	San Gerardo, Bajo del Tigre
John Jackson	Neighbor-stranger interaction in long tailed Manakins ( <i>Chiroxiphia linearis</i> ) at varying distances	CIEE Tropical Ecology & Conservation / University of Utah	Bajo del Tigre
David Ribble	Survey of small non-flying mammals	Trinity University / Monteverde Institute	San Gerardo
Carlos De la Cruz	Film of the Three-wattled Bellbird		Bajo del Tigre
Carlos Viquez	The myth of the picacaballo spider in Costa Rica, analysis of its origin and modern scientific evidence for its verification	Centro Nacional de Alta Tecnología	Finca Steller, Pocosol
Varios	Monteverde Christmas Bird Count 2019		San Gerardo, Pocosol, Bajo del Tigre

### Publications

Moran MD, Monroe A, Stallcup L (2019) A proposal for practical and effective biological corridors to connect protected areas in northwest Costa Rica. *Nature Conservation* 36: 113–137. <https://doi.org/10.3897/natureconservation.36.27430>

## Volunteers and Interns

Volunteers and interns assist with a variety of projects and organizational needs. Volunteers are welcome at Bajo del Tigre, San Gerardo, Pocosol, and Finca Steller. We are grateful to Don Morris (Lehigh University), Karen Masters and Carla Willoughby (CIEE), and the Santa Elena Public High School (CTPSE) for their support.

We thank the dedicated Costa Rican volunteers, mainly from La Tigra and La Fortuna de San Carlos, who help with diverse projects in different parts of the BEN; they are mentioned in the Community Partners section, below.

**Table 10.** Summary of volunteers and interns, 2019.

Name	Organization	Time	Project(s) / Areas(s)
<b>Interns</b>			
William Newbegin Nijayah Michel	Lehigh University	7 weeks	Bajo del Tigre, San Gerardo, Pocosol y Talleres Vacacionales de CEAM
Fernando Mata Anchia	CTPSE	8 weeks	San Gerardo, Pocosol
Jerry Suárez Murillo	CTPSE	8 weeks	San Gerardo, Pocosol
Jesús Brenes Palacios	CTPSE	8 weeks	Bajo del Tigre
Sebastián Quesada Ríos	CTPSE	8 weeks	Bajo del Tigre
Luis Diego González C.	CTPSE	1 week	Bajo del Tigre
Cristopher González A.	CTPSE	1 week	Bajo del Tigre
Andrea Cass Fay Swift	CIEE Sostenibilidad	1 month	Educación ambiental en Bajo del Tigre (supervisadas por Carla Willoughby)
Elizabeth Cronin Clarissa Gideos Linnie Lamaster	CIEE Sostenibilidad	1 month	Educación ambiental en Bajo del Tigre (supervisadas por Carla Willoughby)
Alyssa Nicolella Tyler Dubuke Paul Rivera Seneca Warren	Worchester Polytechnic Institute	6 weeks	Bajo del Tigre
Julio César González Araya	Escuela Técnica Agrícola e Industrial	2 months (240 hrs)	Finca Steller, Pocosol
<b>Volunteers</b>			
31 persons	Led2Serve	2 days	Trail maintenance, Bajo del Tigre
16 persons	Global Works	3 days	Maintenance, Pocosol
30 persons	Asís Rescue Center	2 days	Maintenance, Finca Steller
4 persons	Cabañas Los Pinos, Monteverde	1 day	Trail maintenance, San Gerardo
16 persons	UGA Fall Tropical Ecology Program	1 day	Maintenance, Pocosol
35 persons	Colegio Europeo	2 days	Maintenance, San Gerardo
17 persons	Global Works	1 day	Pocosol

## Donations

We thank all of the individuals and organizations that have supported the MCL in 2019 and over the past 34 (!) years. Without the generous support of our donors, the conservation of the Children's Eternal Rainforest would not be possible.

We are grateful to our international partner organizations. Kinderregenwald (Germany), Friends of the Rainforest, Engage Globally, and Amigos of Costa Rica (USA) provided important economic support in 2019.

**Table 11.** Direct donations in US dollars, January 1 to December 31, 2019.

Amt \$	Donor name(s)	Description
10.00	C. Scott Strickland	General
20.00	¡Feliz Navidad Piper! (Shelley Marshall)	General
20.00	James Bartalon / for S. Senior	General
20.00	Kaselehliia Sielken	General
21.04	In honor of Virginia Larson (Christine George)	General
25.00	In memory of Stanley Butler (Peter & Nancy Stevick)	General
25.00	Julie L. Rohovit	General
30.00	Vishva Nathan	General
35.00	Jeff Norris	General
45.00	Bruce Young	General
50.00	Zachary Bouchard	General
50.00	Eduardo Rojas	General
50.00	Sarah Weiler	General
75.00	Katie Simpson	General
100.00	Joost & Dora Stalpers	General
100.00	Cabañas Los Pinos	Education, Protection
100.00	En honor del matrimonio de Dana & Vincent (J. Bartalon)	General
100.00	Peter & Nancy Stevick	General
100.00	Erik Palmer	General
100.00	Kristin P. Dierks – for Mimi & Thomas!	General
100.00	Matthew Parker	General
150.00	Michaela Thompson	General
150.00	In memory of Álvaro Ramon Soto Portugues	General
150.00	Reed Brozen / Isabel's Eggs	General
192.00	Willows Class, Ogbourne Primary School	General
200.00	James Wolfe	General / Pocosol roadsides
214.00	Lara Hathaway	General
240.00	Peter Bangs	General
240.00	Peter Bangs	General
351.00	Patricia Ptak's first grade class	General
444.00	SW3 Root to Rise Retreat	Environmental Education
500.00	Sonja Weldon, Dinardo Design	General
1,000.00	Jerre Ann Stallcup	Women's Leadership Seminar
1,000.00	Anonymous	Environmental Education

**Table 12.** Donations received via Amigos of Costa Rica (USA) in US dollars, Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2019.

Amt \$	Donor name(s)	Description
1,500.00	Leslie Burlingame	Environmental Education
374.90	Robin T. Young	General
500.00	John "Dev" Joslin	General



**Table 13.** Donations received via Friends of the Rainforest (USA) in US dollars, January 1 to December 31, 2019.

Amt \$	Description
1,695.00	Grant #25 - Critical Equipment for Building, Trail Maintenance
8,950.00	Grant #26 - Critical Forest Protection Equipment
23,500.00	Grant #21 - Protection Vehicle

**Table 14.** Donations received via Engage Globally (USA) in US dollars, January 1 to December 31, 2019.

Amt \$	Donor name(s)	Description
194.00	Russell Kumai & Carol Cameron	
50.00	Jonas Nordstrom	
50.00	Megan Kennedy	
50.00	Matt Moran	
25.00	Roger Nixon	
48.50	Danielle Kelly	
106.70	Joyce Blackwell	
1,000.00	William B. Stallcup Jr.	Women's Leadership Seminar
500.00	Leslie Arner	Women's Leadership Seminar
500.00	Michael Stallcup	Women's Leadership Seminar
75.00	Seth Wenger	
750.00	Celia Harvey	Environmental Education
10,000.00	JustPax Fund Grant 2020	Environmental Education
2,113.00	Otros fondos recaudados por Engage Globally	Environmental Education

**Table 15.** Direct donations in Costa Rican colones, January 1 to December 31, 2019.

Amt ₡	Donor name(s)	Description
25,000.00	María Ester Brenes Villalobos	General

**Table 16.** Donations in Euros, January 1 to December 31, 2019.

Amt €	Donor name(s)	Description
2,382.89	Colegio Americano Madrid	General
2,596.61	Kinderregenwald (Donation #105)	Land Purchase & Protection
4,486.61	Kinderregenwald (Donation #106)	Land Purchase & Protection
2,186.63	Kinderregenwald (Donation #110)	Land Purchase & Protection
8,986.25	Kinderregenwald (Donation #112)	Land Purchase & Protection

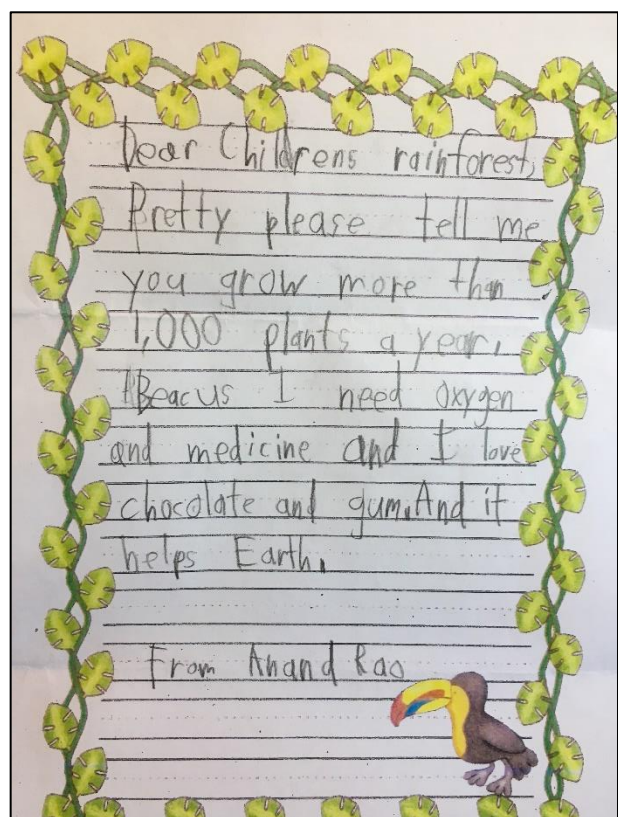
**Table 17.** In-kind donations, January 1 to December 31, 2019.

Description of in-kind donation	Donor name(s)
Chains for rainfall at Pocosol	Anonymous
Books "Editorial La Jirafa y Yo"	Colegio Europeo, 10th grade students
2 digital cameras, Nikon DSLR	Steven Ressel
Carpets for station entrances visitación	Arenal Springs Resort & Spa
Supplies for Environmental Education Program	Droszcz-Fuller Family
Photographs for use in promotion	Félix Huertas Salazar
Photographs for use in promotion	Orlando Calvo Carballo
Photographs for use in promotion	Mark Wainwright
Support for ED participation in Leadership Seminar for Women in Conservation (value: \$995)	US Forest Service
Binoculars (2) for Environmental Education	Johel Chaves
Binoculars (1) Nikon for San Gerardo	Alexa Stickel (with support from Kelly Bringhurst, Joe Steensma, Dalton Swing, Tim

	Sales & Murtha Derr, David Rodriguez, Rachel Fried, Michael Leiton, Johel Chaves, Jennie Mollica)
Participation by 6 MCL staff in Wilderness First Aid, Wilderness Advanced First Aid, and Wilderness First Responder training courses (est value: \$4,200)	Frank Joyce & Katy VanDusen
5 gallons of organic foliar fertilizar, 6 kg of bags for seedling production (native tree nursery)	Department of Environmental Management of the Municipality of San Carlos
6 kg bags for seedling production, 1 liter of natural insect repellent (native tree nursery)	Fundación Abuela Ecológica
Mandala for main offices	Paul Smith
Supplies for first aid kit	Robinson Rodríguez



Patricia Ptak's first grade class, Milwaukee, Wisconsin USA.



## Community Partners

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The MCL thanks the following individuals, businesses, and organizations for their collaboration and support of the Children's Eternal Rainforest during 2019:

Acueducto Chachagua	Oswaldo Madriz
Acueducto La Fortuna de San Carlos	Jorge Maroto Puga
Deiber Araya	Maria Molina
Greivin Arredondo	Valeria Montero Vasquez
Mary Arredondo	Jorge Mora
Roger Arredondo	Municipalidad de San Carlos
Manuel Alfaro Alpizar	Rachel Murillo Artavia
José Manuel Alvarado Arias	Susie Newswanger
Geiner Alvarado Huertas	Alfonso Oses
Maudin Alberto Arguedas Jiménez	Anita Pacheco
Gilberto Araya Ruiz	Frank Quesada
Hernán Arroyo Guerrero	Mayling Quirós
Marlene Artavia	José Ramos Garita
Antonio Barrantes	Clemel Ramírez Rojas
Catalina Barrantes	Máximo Ramírez González
Filadelfo Cárdenas	Jorge Ramírez Vargas
Juan Castro (Rancho don Juan)	Nuria Ramírez
Centro Soltis (Texas A&M)	Selena Ramirez
José Luis Cambronero	Jean Carlo Rigioni
Gerardo Céspedes	Jorge Rodríguez
Hernán Chacón Castro	Alberto Jesús Rojas Castro
Ignacio Chacón Castro	Catalina Rojas Rodríguez
Comisariato Chachagua	Mayra Rojas Rodríguez
Abraham Corrales Ugalde	Eydrith Salazar
Ibo Corrales	Francisco Salazar
Eladio Cruz Leitón	Lucia Salazar
Álvaro y Jaime del Castillo (Proyecto Asís)	Nohelia Salazar
Desafío Tours La Fortuna	Miguel Ángel Salazar Badilla
Steven Farrell	Marcelino Rodríguez Santamaría
Miguel Fernández Vásquez	Heriberto Solano Gómez
Finca Luna Nueva Lodge	Marjorie Solano Loría
Fundación Abuela Ecológica	Luis Solano Morales
Raúl Furnier	Naomi Solano Solano
Katia González	José Ángel Soro
Karol Jimena Gutiérrez Vásquez	Juan Sostheim
Gilbert Jiménez Badilla	David Soto Segura
Alexander Herrera	David Swijns
Sergio Herrera	Nautilio Valverde
Hotel Arenal Springs & su personal	Daniela Vílchez
Claudia Jiménez Araya	Nestor Villalobos Rojas
Junald Jiménez	Ligia Villegas Trejos
Ricaute Jiménez Araya	J. Alonso Vindas
Roy Jiménez Araya	Volcano Lodge
Sergio Lara	Carla Willoughby
Jerson Lopez	Willow Zuchowski

## Special thanks: Support the BEN with your visit!

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We thank the following individuals, agencies and organizations who, by patronizing our field stations and trails, directly support the conservation of the Children's Eternal Rainforest.

Academia del Mar	Global Works Travel
AGLOCAM	Gone Birding/Richard Garrigues
Anywhere Costa Rica	Green Frog Adventures
Ara Tours	Green Heritage Tours
Asaf Vero Tours	Horizontes
Asociación Ornitológica de Costa Rica	Hotel Arco Iris
Aventura	Hotel Ficus
Aventuras Tierra Verde	Hotel Jaguarundi
Best Aventures Travel	Huntington College
Best Tour Operator	Il Viaggio Travel
Bosque Verde Lodge	Instituto Monteverde
Cabañas y Jardines Los Pinos	Instituto Nacional de Aprendizaje
Cabinas Vista al Golfo	Jacamar Tours
Cala Lodge	Led2Serve
Cámara de Turismo Monteverde	Lehigh University
Centro de Educación Creativa Monteverde	Localista Travel
Centro Panamericano de Idiomas	Mariposa B&B
Change the World Kids	Natural Solutions /Jeff Norris
CIEE	Ocotea Tours
Club Pajareros Costa Rica / Robert Dean	Alberto Palma
Coati Tours S.A.	Pasión Costa Rica Tours
College of the Atlantic / Carlos Chavarría	Quercus Travel
Costa Rica Study Tours	Santa Fe School / Eddy Segura
Costa Rica Surf Trip	School for Field Studies
Costa Rica Te Enamora	Sinwa Tours
Costa Rica Travelling Tours by Amanda	Sleepers
Costa Rica Twotravel	SUNY Binghamton
Costa Rican Trails	Swiss Travel
Costarica Decouverte	Tangara Tours
CR Gateway	Texas A&M Centro Soltis
CR Outdoor Experience SA	Trapp Family Lodge
Cultourica	Travel Excellent
Ecoterra Costa Rica	Tucaya Costa Rica
Edventure Costa Rica	Two Weeks in Costa Rica
Escuela Nosara	Unique Adventures
European School Costa Rica	Universidad de California EAP
Finca Luna Nueva Lodge	Universidad de Georgia
Find My Costa Rica	Universidad de New Hampshire
Flathead Valley	Viaggiare in Costa Rica / Renzo Sturno
Friends of the Rainforest	Mark Wainwright
Gate 1 Travel	Woodward Academy
Gecko Trail Costa Rica	Yes Transfers
Gestión Recursos Naturales UCR	



## Nominating Committee Report

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Let us remind ourselves that all positions on the board of directors 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 (Mark Wainwright) 2019-2021  
**Vicepresident (Jorge Maroto) 2018-2020**  
**Treasurer (Orlando Calvo) 2018-2020**  
Secretary (David Rodríguez) 2019-2021  
First Vocal (Noelia Solano) 2019-2021  
**Second Vocal (Eladio Cruz) 2018-2020**  
Third Vocal (Federico Chinchilla) 2019-2021  
First Fiscal (Julia Matamoros) 2019-2021  
**Second Fiscal (Bob Law) 2018-2020**  
**Suplente (Carla Willoughby) 2019-2020**

Thus, candidates for five 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 Vicepresident**, the committee proposes Emily Hollenbeck, for the period March 1st, 2020 to March 31st, 2022.

**For Treasurer**, the committee proposes Orlando Calvo, for the period March 1st, 2020 to March 31st, 2022.

**For Second Vocal**, the committee proposes Eladio Cruz, for the period March 1st, 2020 to March 31st, 2022.

**For Second Fiscal**, the committee proposes Jorge Maroto, for the period March 1st, 2020 to March 31st, 2022.

**For Suplente**, the committee proposes Celia Harvey, for the period March 1st, 2020 to March 31st, 2022.

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

### **The Nominating Committee**

*(Maricella Solís, Alexa Stickel, Luis Solano, Federico Chinchilla, Mark Wainwright, Noelia Solano)*

## List of Members

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### Active members and year of affiliation:

1. Geiner Alvarado Huertas (2012)
2. Osvaldo Araya Céspedes (2017)
3. Sofía Arce Flores (2012)
4. José Edgardo Arévalo Hernández (2001)
5. Jeffry Esteban Arguedas Morales (2019)
6. Rafael Eduardo Arguedas Morales (2019)
7. Greivin Arredondo Castro (2018)
8. Selena Avedaño Leadem (2015)
9. Walter Bonilla Vásquez (2007)
10. Wendy Boone (2019)
11. José Carlos Calderón Ulloa (2019)
12. Orlando Calvo Carballo (2015)
13. Héctor Castaneda (2018)
14. Asdrubal Castro Miranda (2017)
15. Minor Castro Murillo (2017)
16. Gerardo Céspedes Rodríguez
17. Hernán Chacón Castro (2011)
18. Lilliana Chavarría Valario (2016)
19. Marvin Chaverri Sandoval (2002)
20. Johel Chaves Campos (2019)
21. Federico Chinchilla Romero (2018)
22. Juan Carlos Corrales Arce (1993)
23. Eladio Cruz Leitón (2002)
24. Maikol Cruz Porras (2019)
25. Wim De Backer (2015)
26. Mario Oscar Fennell Araya (2017)
27. Hazel Guindon Badilla (2019)
- 28. William A. Haber (1986)**
29. Debra Hamilton (2011)
30. Celia Harvey (2019)
31. Marvin Hidalgo Montero (1990)
32. Emily Hollenbeck (2019)
33. Félix Huertas Salazar (2019)
34. Ricaute Jiménez Araya (2005)
35. John Devereax Joslin (2014)
36. Francis John Joyce (1989)
- 37. Richard LaVal Bugg (1986)**
- 38. Bob W. Law (1986)**
39. Marlene Leitón Campbell (2015)
40. Jorge Lizano Suárez (2019)
41. John Thomas Longino (1989)
42. Jorge Maroto Puga (1992)
43. Karen Masters (1993)
44. Julia Matamoros Alvarado (1994)
45. Gabriela McAdam Montiel (2015)
46. Marcos Méndez Sibaja (2012)
47. Dariel Miranda Robles (2018)
48. Vinicio Miranda Sánchez (2017)
49. F. Alexander Molina González (2019)
50. Luisa Moreno Scott (2019)
51. Carlos Muñoz (2000)
52. Nalini Nadkarni Moreshwar (1989)
53. Susie Newswanger (1989)
54. Priscilla Palavicini Carmona (2015)
55. Fabiola Peralta Ramos (2017)
56. Fern Perkins (2015)
57. Jorge Ramírez Vargas (2017)
58. Evelyn Rockwell Solano (2011)
59. David Rodríguez Arías (2018)
60. Yuber Rodríguez Santamaría (2005)
61. María Fernanda Rojas Murillo (2017)
62. Robert Rojas Vásquez (2001)
63. Giuliano Salazar Gigli (2012)
64. Martha Iris Salazar Méndez (1994)
65. Noelia Solano Guindon (2015)
66. Luis Solano Morales (2017)
67. Maricella Solís González (2015)
68. Jose Soto Segura (2012)
69. Lindsay Stallcup (2015)
70. Alexa Stickel (2015)
- 71. Joseph Stuckey (1986)**
72. Mills Tandy (2007)
73. Jorge Torres Ortega (2005)
74. Katherine VanDusen (1989)
75. Rafael Vargas González (2019)
- 76. Guillermo Vargas Leitón (1986)**
77. Jose Luis Vargas Leitón (1989)
78. Rafael Vargas Mata (2019)
79. Oscar Mario Vargas Solís (1997)
80. Mark Wainwright (2006)
81. Justin Welch (2015)
82. Jannelle Wilkins (2012)
83. Carla Willoughby (2016)
- 84. James Wolfe (1986)**
85. Bruce Young (1989)
86. Willow Zuchowski (1989)

\* Updated January 31, 2020. Names in **bold** are founding members of the organization.

**Honorary members:**

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

**Contributing members:**

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Carlos Aburto              | 13. Tom Newmark              |
| 2. Michael Besancon           | 14. Jonas Nordstrom          |
| 3. Leslie Burlingame          | 15. Gordon Patty             |
| 4. Omar Coto Loría            | 16. Roland Paul              |
| 5. James E. Crisp McGowan     | 17. Alan Pounds              |
| 6. Cynthia Echeverría López   | 18. Tahnee Robertson         |
| 7. Lisa Ellis                 | 19. Ree Sheck                |
| 8. Mauricio García Cambroneró | 20. Matilde Steiner          |
| 9. Carlos Guindon Standing    | 21. Robert M. Timm           |
| 10. Alexander Kopper          | 22. Jorge Vargas Cullel      |
| 11. Alan Masters              | 23. Nathaniel T. Wheelwright |
| 12. Gregory Murray Kevin      | 24. Kathy Winnett-Murray     |



*Board members Julia Matamoros, Bob Law, and Noelia Solano at Pocosol (left); founding members Richard Laval and Bob Law raise the Ecological Blue Flag in Bajo del Tigre (right).*

## Organizational Structure

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### Board of Directors & Fiscals

Mark Wainwright, President  
 Jorge Maroto, Vice President  
 David Rodríguez, Secretary  
 Orlando Calvo, Treasurer  
 Noelia Solano, Vocal I

Eladio Cruz, Vocal II  
 Federico Chinchilla, Vocal III  
 Carla Willoughby, Suplente  
 Julia Matamoros, Fiscal I  
 Bob Law, Fiscal II

### Personnel

#### Central Offices, Monteverde

Lindsay Stallcup, Executive Director  
 Yúber Rodríguez, Director of Land Affairs  
 Giselle Rodríguez, Secretary  
 Dunia Picado, Accounting, Human Resources & Purchasing  
 Rodrigo Hernández, Accounting Assistant  
 Yahaira Brenes, Information Center  
 Kathia Leitón / Arelis Guido, Housekeeping  
 Jose Mora, Accountant (off-site)

#### Finca Steller

Marcela Villalobos, Administrative Assistant  
 María Fernanda Rojas, Environmental Educator  
 Marcelo Rodríguez, Finca Steller & Greenhouse

#### San Gerardo Field Station

Jose Andrey Obando, Co-Manager  
 Pablo Villalobos, Co-Manager

#### Maintenance

Luis Solano, Coordinator  
 Erick Barquero  
 Jorge Ramírez  
 Joaquín Araya  
 Alberto Jiménez (Monteverde)  
 Armando Villalobos (Monteverde)

#### Bajo del Tigre

Jose Soto, Coordinator  
 Jose Antonio Brenes, Receptionist  
 Ignacio Picado, Receptionist

#### Pocosol Field Station

Fabio Araya, Co-Manager  
 Merelyn Murillo, Co-Manager  
 Luis Arana, Maintenance

#### Protection

Hernán Chacón, Coordinator  
 Alonso Sánchez  
 Miguel Fernández  
 Alberto Zúñiga

Anniversaries: Congratulations to **Alonso Sánchez** on 10 years as a forest ranger, and to **Marcelino Rodríguez** for 20 years with the organization, first as a forest ranger and currently as Coordinator of Finca Steller. Thank you for your dedication!

We congratulate **Rosibel Fallas** (Housekeeping) on her retirement, after more than 30 years with the MCL. We are eternally grateful for Rosi's work and support throughout the years!

We are grateful to the following employees who completed their service with the MCL during 2019: Freddy Campos (Protection), Christian Chaves (Pocosol), Robert Rojas (Pocosol), Fabiola Peralta (Finca Steller), Brandon Solano (Maintenance) and Rafael Vargas (Bajo del Tigre).





Monteverde Conservation League & Children's Eternal Rainforest staff, 2019.