

Annual Report 2022

Emerging Stronger

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para la
Naturaleza



La Siembra employees event
Hacienda La Esperanza, Manatí

Message from the President

Emerging from a period of separation and uncertainty, we find ourselves at a crossroads - a moment of self-reflection to embrace a redefined sense of normalcy within unpredictable times. We know this from our work in conservation, where the changing climate continues to reinforce the need to rethink our relationship with nature, as more terrible destructive forces keep reminding us - this year, Hurricane Fiona. We also know, as we conclude the third year under this Pandemic, that it will never fully recede into history as COVID continues to require constant diligence. Amid these challenging forces we at Para la Naturaleza decided to embrace adversities by learning, evolving, responding, and ultimately creating new ways forward.

This year achievements by our team demonstrated that strength comes, not from standing still, but from pushing forward initiatives that can help us find new routes. Recent work has just started to provide strong benefits: our strong Covid-19 protocols kept protecting our team, our resilient centers were fully activated during Hurricane Fiona, our La Siembra event grew to engage around 2,000 participants and 27,000 trees, our Farm to Table funding event became a unique nature-base culinary experience for 297 participants, the Art Residency Program brought us into the homes of patriotic women and their love for plants, the Botanical Institute that deepens our scientific knowledge on plants and a major Reforestation Program connecting karst hills and flood plains at Hacienda La Esperanza concluded and that has now become a role model for habitat restoration.

We have also recently engaged in a new initiative to push forward our

mission through Puerto Rico Conserva, a conservation summit in which we unveiled a digital app focused on facilitating the recognition of areas in need of conservation and promoting the next steps to further these efforts. This initiative connects science with communities' knowledge and environmental concerns towards the conservation of nature. A new Visitor Center at El Yunque Rainforest also marks a historic presence for Para la Naturaleza in one of our most iconic natural protected areas. Furthermore, we joined forces with Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Natural Resources as we became responsible for the restoration of the Puerto Rico Parrot Aviaries in Maricao and Río Abajo, thus becoming partners in the recovery of this emblematic specie.

Vital necessities were met throughout Para la Naturaleza's education programs and Nature Immersion Camps, having supported the reopening of more schools and collaborating with the development of educational curriculums further immersed in nature. We also made important progress on our own individual and collective growth, taking steps to address values and new perspectives throughout the development of the recently initiated Afrodescendency Project.

Finally, I must conclude by admiring the leadership provided by Neida Pumarejo and Rafael Rivera during my sabbatical when they were asked to lead, in their own way, our organization through extraordinary challenges. They have demonstrated what it truly means to rise to the occasion.

Sincerely,

Fernando Lloveras San Miguel

Securing Our Workforce

2022 ended with a 0% Covid-19 transmission rate in the work area. Also, we achieved 95% vaccination among Para la Naturaleza employees, including temporary agencies.

Dr. Javier Gascot Zayas, Para la Naturaleza's contracted physician, was a tremendous resource, supporting the protection and proper care of all Para la Naturaleza employees, volunteers, collaborators, and visitors.

In May 2022, Para la Naturaleza adopted the new COVID-19 Guidelines established by the Puerto Rico Department of Health, establishing uniform procedures and time frames for quarantines depending on exposure and vaccination status. Disinfection, Distancing and Symptom's Notification Protocols remained active in every work area up to the Summer. Para la Naturaleza eliminated the mask requirement for all employees and visitors in late September, with necessary exceptions for specific tasks.

Tour done during the pandemic
Cabezas de San Juan, Fajardo

Hurricane Fiona

Hurricane Fiona hit our islands in September of 2022, causing extensive damage to infrastructure, crops, and communities. Winds reached 80 miles per hour and 30 inches of rain fell. Flooding caused utility, communication, and power outages, debris accumulation, landslides, and structural damage.

All Para la Naturaleza's Natural Protected Areas and Visitor Centers were affected by Hurricane Fiona. Employees followed established safety protocols while activating our network of Resilient Community Centers providing power, water, and shelter to neighboring communities. Para la Naturaleza also conducted damage assessment, debris removal, and general disaster response plans.

All 33 Resilient Community Centers were active in offering their services during the island-wide blackout during April of 2022. In addition to providing critical resources during Hurricanes, the Centers are also proving to be essential during other unexpected challenges and disasters. Also, in collaboration with the Hispanic Federation, 1,100 solar lamps were delivered in 9 communities, and 4,000 essential items were distributed across 10 municipalities, including food, ice, hygiene products and diapers.



Floods caused
by Hurricane Fiona

Para la Naturaleza's Achievements in 2022

Reforestation

Significant strides have been made in conservation through reforestation. From January to September, over 63,000 native and endemic trees were planted, covering 72 acres, with a survival rate of 80 percent. Our nurseries produced over 95,000 trees this year, contributing to the restoration of various ecosystems, particularly through the propagation of endangered species.

In our reforestation efforts, we've focused on enhancing habitats for critical species like the Puerto Rican parrot (*Amazona vittata*). Working with local non-profit *Protectores de Cuencas, Inc.*, we've completed significant plantings at three sites, including the successful planting of 9,312 native trees at Río Encantado Natural Protected Area. These efforts are part of our broader commitment to ecological restoration and education, emphasizing community involvement, biodiversity protection, and sustainable agricultural practices.



La Siembra 2022
Río Piedras Tree Nursery

La Siembra

La Siembra started this year on September 10th, 2022, at Hacienda La Esperanza Nature Reserve in Manatí with a massive employee planting event. A total of 5,422 native and endemic trees were planted by 182 Para la Naturaleza's employees towards the restoration of coastal forests, wetlands, and riparian corridors, completing the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Coastal Resilience Project's reforestation goal. The Native and Endemic Tree Donations Event was coordinated as a drive-through throughout six prominent locations throughout Puerto Rico: Hacienda La Esperanza in Manatí, Medio Mundo y Daguao in Ceiba, Río Piedras Tree Nursery in San Juan, Club de Leones-Cañón San Cristóbal in Barranquitas, Finca La Julia in La Parguera Nature Reserve in Lajas, and Parque Isidoro García in Mayagüez.

Originally, La Siembra was scheduled for September 23rd and 24th. However, on September 18th, Hurricane Fiona struck Puerto Rico, causing catastrophic floods. Two Para la Naturaleza properties significantly affected: Hacienda La Esperanza in Manatí and Hacienda Buena Vista in Ponce.

Because of Fiona's aftermath, the La Siembra tree donation event was rescheduled to November 4th and 5th. Over 22,000 native and endemic trees were distributed in the six drive-through locations throughout Puerto Rico.



Puerto Rican Parrot
Amazona vittata

Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program Facilities

Para la Naturaleza is actively working to protect and recover the Puerto Rican parrot (*Amazona vittata*), joining forces with various state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, and staff from the Río Abajo State Forest Aviary. Our mission is to rebuild and strengthen the facilities dedicated to the Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program in the Río Abajo and Maricao State Forests, making them more durable and better prepared for any potential future environmental challenges.

Construction is underway at both locations. In Río Abajo, we've finished the necessary groundwork for the new living spaces, research stations, and kitchen areas, and are now in the process of laying the concrete foundations. In Maricao, we've started building new structures and have completed the essential excavation tasks. All these activities are managed carefully, with the support of a Forest Service archeologist, to preserve the historical integrity of the site, especially during the sanitation systems' improvements phase. We've also marked specific nearby areas for preservation to ensure their protection during construction. Funding for these critical initiatives has been secured through a contribution from the USFWS Collaborative Agreement, designated for various project needs, including administrative tasks, construction, and other ancillary expenses. Furthermore, we've received additional American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, ensuring the completion of this vital reconstruction work, and enhancing the facilities' ability to withstand future challenges.



Conservation Acquisitions

Para la Naturaleza is committed to the conservation and protection of the lands of Puerto Rico. The 2022 goal was to acquire and protect 1,400 acres, and by the end of year our team was able to complete and exceed this goal with 1,553.3088 protected acres.

Two contiguous farms between the municipalities of Guayanilla and Adjuntas, bordering the Guilarte State Forest, were acquired at the end of June. Dominated by secondary forests in various stages of succession, this land provides habitat for a great variety of mosses, bromeliads, orchids, fungi, and ferns located in the subwatershed of the Yahuecas River, a tributary of the Añasco River.

Another recently purchased property is in a unique area between the municipalities of Ciales and Orocovis that protect the famous water hole known as Charco El Morón. This property borders the recently created Río Cialitos, located between the Matrullas River and Toro Negro River watersheds.

After three years of intense efforts Para la Naturaleza finally acquired the Cerro La Torrecilla property, adjacent to the Marín Alto Natural Protected Area in Patillas, increasing its size to 276 acres. The acquisition costs of this property, including the cost of the land, legal fees, surveying, and segregation, were provided in its entirety by the Rainforest Trust.

Conservation Easement Hekiti

Last January, Vivienne Miranda and Ricardo Albarracín constituted the Hekiti Conservation Easement (Hekiti meaning “One” in Taíno language). This property, consisting of 8.92 acres (9.19 cuerdas), is located between the mountains of the towns of Las Marías and Añasco.

Vivienne and Ricardo have converted the property into an agroforestry farm focused on organic agriculture and educational activities such as bird watching. They have also created a space for yoga and acutherapy, among other recreational activities.

Among the identified 85 plant species, 29 endemic species were reported, including three species considered critical elements under the Natural Heritage Program of the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources of Puerto Rico (DRNA): the bienteveo (*Vireo latimeri*), calandra lark (*Icterus portoricensis*), múcaro (*Gymnasio nudipes*), and the greater whiskered bat (*Pteronotus portoricensis*).

Conserving Monte Las Pargas in Guánica

Para la Naturaleza completed a two-year lease-to-purchase agreement with the Puerto Rico Land Administration for the breathtaking Monte Las Pargas Natural Protected Area in Guánica, encompassing approximately 1019.78 acres. This untouched land, located in Barrio Montalva and flanking the Caribbean Sea, is prized for its exceptional scenic beauty, ecological sensitivity, and proximity to Guánica State Forest. Characterized by its dry scrubland, evolving secondary forests, and salt flats, Monte Las Pargas sits within a Subtropical Dry Forest Zone, presenting a mosaic of habitats that contribute to its ecological diversity.

The conservation of Monte Las Pargas is critical, given its role as a refuge for numerous endangered and endemic species, including the Puerto Rican Nightjar (*Antrostomus noctitherus*) and Woodbury's stopper (*Eugenia woodburyana*). Notably, ongoing studies highlight its significance as a winter haven for various migratory birds, emphasizing the area's contribution to global biodiversity. Securing this territory enhances landscape connectivity with nearby conservation sites and supports habitats crucial for a spectrum of species. Furthermore, Monte Las Pargas enriches the community by offering opportunities for sustainable activities like artisanal fishing, mountain biking, hiking, and camping, positioning it as a cornerstone for low-impact ecotourism and local cultural engagement.

Las Pargas
Guánica, Puerto Rico

Sembrando Regresamos

The collaborative work between Para la Naturaleza and Instituto Nueva Escuela (INE) began in 2018 after Hurricane María, with the Project Sembrando Nos Quedamos in the Concepción Pérez Hernández School, with the support of National Recreation Foundation, Fundación Colibrí and Programa Mano Amiga of Plaza del Caribe Foundation. Born as a resistance strategy against the threat of public Montessori school closures, students participated in an after-school program where nature immersion experiences were offered, including workshops and excursions, which also served to develop a model to be replicated among other schools in the community.

During the 2019-2020 school year, this project remained active, although its strategy changed due to the pandemic, implementing virtual learning. Nonetheless, getting back in touch with nature as critical for student development, has been further recognized. The Concepción Pérez Hernández School reopened this past November with the vision of becoming the first ecological Montessori public school in Puerto Rico. Currently the school community includes neighbors of Jaguas neighborhood, Montessori guides and parents, and a new cycle of workshops has begun.

“This is a fundamental project for public schools to develop because it provides spaces for relaxation, healing, work and team decision-making while promoting a sustainable vision on the use of resources and a respectful relationship towards nature, all of which are necessary elements for the society we long for.”

Johanna Colón López
INE Project Coordinator

461

elementary and middle Public Montessori School student participations

13

impacted municipalities

21

Public Montessori School guides trained

19

active projects in collaborating Public Montessori Schools

8

butterfly nurseries

1

plant nursery

10

gardens

4

Field Visits: Río Piedras Botanical Garden, Titeres Pal Campo: Theatrical Performance, San Juan Josco Bravo Agroecological Farm, Toa Alta Palo Colorado Station, El Yunque National Forest

4

Workshops: Development of School Gardens, Pollination, Pollinator Gardens and Butterfly Gardens, Nurseries and Plant Production Sustainable Agriculture

16%

increase in student participants' connection with nature

98%

student participants connected with nature



Workshop
Butterfly Gardens

Nature Immersion Workshops

These summer immersion experiences are both a camp and a workshop that Para la Naturaleza has turned into a tradition. They represent the kind of traditions that transform and adapt to the participants' needs, always aiming to strive for excellence. The Nature Immersion Workshops are unique and informative experiences that every child in the islands of Puerto Rico deserves. They have two major audiences: children between the ages of 9 and 12 (Level 1) and children between the ages of 13 and 17 (Level 2).

Each experience provides for participants to fully immerse in nature, history and culture; guided by Environmental Leaders, all of whom are ex-participants of the workshops and trained in informal education, evaluation methods, educational activities' development, presentation strategies and techniques, environmental science, history and heritage, among many other themes.

The first Nature Immersion Workshop experience post pandemic was in June 2022. Hacienda Buena Vista's summer immersion experience had to end before the expected date, due to COVID-19 activated protocol. In Medio Mundo y Daguao, the immersion experience was fully completed, participants had the opportunity to learn and explore throughout a diversity of workshops, activities and excursions to: El Yunque National Forest Palo Colorado Station, community based agroecological project YUCAE, and Fideicomiso de Conservación de Vieques. Para la Naturaleza's nature immersion experiences engage participants as future stewards of nature, while creating memorable life-experiences, new perspectives to value and conserve nature and the habitats that surround us.

74

Nature Immersive Summer Camp participants

15

Antiguo Acueducto de Río Piedras
(Level 1: June 6-10)

21

Hacienda Buena Vista
(Level 2: June 13-17)

17

Hacienda La Esperanza
(Level 1: July 11-15)

21

Medio Mundo y Daguao
(Level 2: July 18-22)

"I learned and reinforced many things at the Nature Immersion Workshop, about seaweed -which is a topic I had not talked about before- and also learned about dinoflagellates and the interesting history of Vieques island. I also loved learning about agroecology!"

Participant Evaluation,
Nature Immersive Workshops at
Medio Mundo y Daguao, Ceiba

Yoga class
Medio Mundo y Daguao, Ceiba

Seasons / Temporadas

The annual Para la Naturaleza fundraising event took place virtually on Friday, November 11th, and with participating guests at Hacienda La Esperanza, Manatí on Saturday, November 12th. This year's theme was Seasons/ Temporadas, a culinary and philanthropic experience that combined the gastronomic flavors and colors of Puerto Rico throughout the seasons. The money raised supports the Para la Naturaleza Solidarity Fund, which will help the communities and farmers affected by Hurricane Fiona. The six prestigious local chefs who joined us were: Gabriel Hernández of Verde Mesa, Martín Louzao of Cocina Abierta, Francis Guzmán of Vianda, Lucía Merino of Lucía Patisserie, Natalia Vallejo of Cocina al Fondo, and María Grubb of Decanter Hotel y Taberna Medalla.

This year, we had about 70 registered participants for the virtual event and an all-time high of 240 attendees at the in-person event, including many Board members. **César Alvarado** graciously served as Master of Ceremonies for both events. We also held an online end-of-year fundraising campaign.

Seasons, fundraising event
Hacienda La Esperanza, Manatí



Past and Present of the African and Afro-descendant communities of Hacienda La Esperanza

Para la Naturaleza is researching newly available information about the daily life of Hacienda La Esperanza's enslaved people thanks to a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. The Project seeks to reexamine and expand the sources of information on Hacienda La Esperanza and the voices telling its story to convey a more complete and balanced history of the Hacienda and enslavement in Puerto Rico. The planning project comprises three main activities: research on Hacienda La Esperanza enslaved workers and their descendants; an antiracist training plan for Para la Naturaleza staff on Afrodescendancy; and a plan to integrate Hacienda La Esperanza's descendant communities to the interpretation, programming, exhibitions and other offerings with in the Natural Protected Area.



Land Trust Alliance Rally 2022

Machete Collection
Hacienda La Esperanza, Manatí

The visit to the LTA Rally 2022 in New Orleans was an insightful journey into the policies, practices, and management trends among private land trusts across the United States, highlighting the significant effort to integrate Native Americans into leadership roles. This inclusivity is a potential model for our community programs. A notable part of the trip was a visit to the Whitney Plantation, an exemplary historical site that interprets the lives of enslaved individuals on sugar plantations along the Mississippi River. This visit, inspired by discussions from the Afrodescendancy Project at Hacienda La Esperanza, offered diverse experiences, including interactive exhibits and tours, providing valuable insights for revamping our interpretative programs at Hacienda Buena Vista and Hacienda La Esperanza, incorporating further Afro-descendant history.

The Whitney Plantation stands as a fully restored site, encompassing various structures significant to the enslaved community, with participants allowed full access to engage with the historical context. Beyond physical restoration, the site serves as a poignant memorial, featuring sculptures that memorialize and name the enslaved individuals, narrating their stories of resistance, with some content derived from living descendants through a past oral history project. This approach resonates with our efforts at Para laNaturaleza, where extensive documentation about individuals enslaved at Hacienda Buena Vista informs our renewed storytelling approach. Under the guidance of consultants like Soraya Serra, Marilyn Figueroa, Isar Godreau and Colectivo Ilé, we aim to responsibly adapt our interpretative script and eventually develop a memorial that honors the site's Afrodescendant history, extending our outreach within the neighboring communities and among our team.



Mountain Stopper
Eugenia haematocarpa

Conserving Biodiversity

During 2022 Para la Naturaleza had some important discoveries in our Nature Reserves' Species Inventory. In February, during a quick wildlife survey at one of our conservation easement sites, we encountered our second adult Palo de Ramón tree (*Banara vanderbiltii*), an endemic and endangered species. We also found several of its young seedlings. This sighting is particularly thrilling because, back in November 2016, we had only spotted one adult tree capable of reproduction and one young seedling.

For the first time, we've seen several plants of another species, the *Eugenia cordata* var. *sintensisii*, within the protected area. Adding to this year's remarkable findings, we identified the rare Manilkara valenzuelana tree, known only in a few locations within the Greater Antilles, like Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Hispaniola. This discovery marks a brand-new home for this species on our island. These exciting findings highlight the rich biodiversity within our conservation sites and the importance of ongoing protection efforts.

In Cayey we have the largest group of the endangered Luquillo Mountain Stopper (*Eugenia haematocarpa*), a unique local plant. In the summer of 2022, we took a close look at these plants and found approximately 327 adult trees, 1,244 younger ones (saplings), and 452 baby plants (seedlings). These findings show that the plants are multiplying within this safe space, especially in the northwest part of the protected area. Moving forward, we want to work on boosting their numbers in three other specially designated locations.

While we were monitoring the endangered trees, we came upon some other incredible plant species we've never seen before in this

Biodiversity in PLN Natural Protected Areas

477 arthropods

182 fish

13 amphibians

36 reptiles

1,455 flora (*Tracheophyta*)

22 mammals

51 fungi

30 bryophyte

271 birds

21 lichens

Natural Protected Area. We found the *Pisonia roqueae* tree, which was only recognized as a new species in 2017, a special kind of orchid called *Lonopsis satyroides*, and the *Guettarda ovalifolia*, a tree only found in Puerto Rico and Hispaniola. We also spotted six new types of ferns, like the Stiff Star-hair-Fern (*Goniopteris slerophylla*) and the rare Streambank flowering fern (*Anemia hirta*), which is typically only seen in eastern Puerto Rico.

Institute of Botany

Seed handling
Tree nursery

The Institute of Botany (IB) is a novel initiative created to highlight the importance of botanical science in favor of global conservation actions. The initiative also aims to make plant knowledge and conservation accessible and participatory, while supporting innovative scientific research in existing and current botanical data. So far, this project has been funded with private donations. The IB has designed program guidelines for the granting of funds to three competitive research projects in the field.

As the planet continues to change and new environmental challenges arise,

plant biology is a fundamental tool to understand and improve our relationship with our evolving planet. The Institute of Botany seeks to disrupt our disconnection from the plant world through the following initiatives:

Native Seed Reservoir

To support Para la Naturaleza's mission to plant 100,000 trees per year, the IB established a Native Seed Reserve in the San Cristóbal Canyon Tree Nursery in Barranquitas. This initiative will raise seed conservation awareness and generate plant genetic knowledge by

collecting, processing, and preserving native seeds. Preserved seeds will provide material for environmental threats to local forests and Para la Naturaleza's tree nurseries, as well as document the latency and survivorship of native seeds over time under controlled conditions.

Botanical Research Grants

Through granting funds to competitive academic projects related to botanical conservation and plant biology, the IB will support the development of crucial information to improve conservation efforts and adaptation strategies to a changing

environment. The IB is currently seeking graduate candidate projects that address native plant involvement in climate resilience practices and novel botanical comprehension at the local level.

Botanical Citizen Science Program

With intensive training in botany, tree nursery management, planting site preparation, seed collection, environmental interpretation skills, and data entry, this program is run by volunteers who have supported Para la Naturaleza's Reforestation Unit since 2018.

Promoting Sustainable Farming: Agroecology

Agroforestral garden
Hacienda La Esperanza, Manatí

"I cannot express my gratitude to you and Para la Naturaleza for this grant of vital importance to my educational/ecotourism/agroforestry project. I am truly touched by the human quality that governs this program, and honored by the trust you have placed in Villa Montuna as an ethnobotanical sanctuary. Once again, thank you!"

María Benedetti,
Researcher, Author, and
Ethnobotanical Educator

Para la Naturaleza is pioneering the development of Demonstration Garden Plots across protected areas, tailoring each to the local soil, water, and climate conditions. These gardens, featuring local crops, illustrate sustainable, diverse agricultural practices and promote self-reliance. Visitors can engage with these live examples of ecological balance and food production at sites including Hacienda La Esperanza and Hacienda Buena Vista.

Community empowerment is also a priority, with initiatives supporting community gardens. This approach recognizes the unique attributes of each community, fostering profound engagement and collective action, in areas like Ponce and Culebra.

To bolster agricultural autonomy and ensure food security, we have received the support of partners such as Rotary International. Our contributions to the island's sustainable agriculture include training in regenerative farming, technical assistance, production and distribution of quality seeds, and financial support for integral food system contributors.

Since 2021, our Agroecology Program has expanded, offering workshops covering a range of topics from soil health and specialized crop management (like coffee and cacao) to bio input production and other agricultural innovations. This educational expansion enhances local farming knowledge and practices.

Additionally, our Technical Assistance Program intensifies support for farmers by providing guidance on crucial agricultural tasks. This includes agroforestry design, essential maintenance practices such as pruning, and strategies for controlling erosion and managing water runoff, thereby safeguarding vulnerable areas. These comprehensive efforts signify our commitment to nurturing sustainable agricultural communities and ecosystems.

AComPAÑA: Supporting Community Actions

“Para la Naturaleza’s goal is to protect living systems, ecosystems and inspire the protection of nature. Human beings are within nature, we need spaces for recreation and meeting centers. The communities are the ones who keep extending our knowledge and inspiring new ideas with their achievements. Working with the communities has been a gratifying and eye opening learning experience, realizing in many cases that our objectives are the same.”

Mariana Rivera Figueroa,
South Region Superintendent

In its second year, the AComPAÑA Program has significantly expanded its community engagement, delving deeper into fieldwork beyond protected areas and fostering closer ties with local groups. This approach includes facilitating workgroups, aiding in the development of community work plans, and managing conflicts both within and outside communities. Simultaneously, Para la Naturaleza’s regions are intensifying their support for communities to achieve their specific goals. This was evident last August during the second inter-community meeting held in San Juan’s Buen Consejo community. The event, which included the participation of 16 leaders, allowed community representatives from three regions involved in AComPAÑA since 2020 — San Juan, Manatí, and Ponce — to showcase their projects, accomplishments, and challenges, representing the Program’s commitment to collaborative growth and regional empowerment.



Marueño Community Garden
Ponce, Puerto Rico

Resilient Community Centers

By the first quarter, the installations in all 33 Resilient Community Centers were completed. In addition, the team of community action leaders and other colleagues from the regions have been carrying out meetings with the different centers for inspections of solar energy or water harvesting system equipment. They also continue to coordinate collaborations on topics such as environmental education, agroecology, reforestation and development of youth leadership and resilience, among other areas. After the passage of Hurricane Fiona in September 2022, the Resilient Community Centers activated various services for their communities: recharging electrical equipment, storing medicines, community kitchens, spaces to complete FEMA applications, and a collection center.

Para la Naturaleza Art Residency

The first Art Residency Program concluded in June with **Dr. Luis Berríos-Negrón's** Open Studio titled, "Estratas, Viveros y Entrañas." The audience enjoyed a final lecture and experience throughout the artist-in-residence's home and studio, while participating in an interpretative tour of the area and its ongoing collaborative projects. Among participating collaborators was **Karla Claudio Betancourt**, who gave a presentation on her investigative work and how it correlates to Dr. Berríos-Negrón ongoing research.

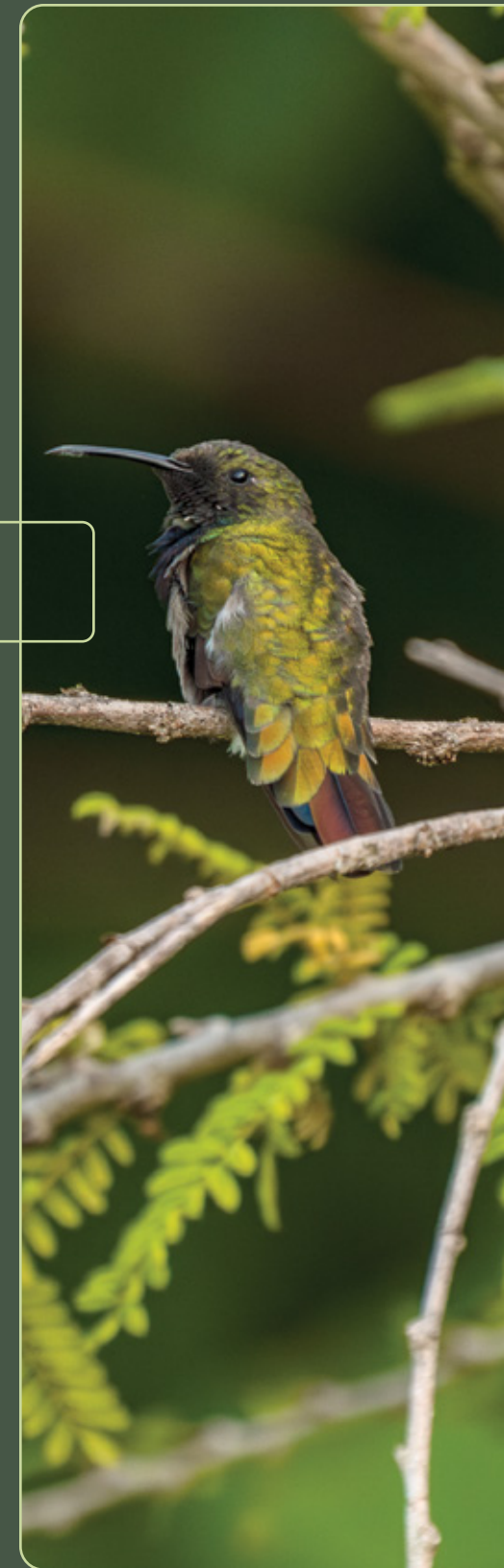
During the following month of August, Para la Naturaleza hosted its second Artist Resident, **Mónica Rodríguez**. Her one-month residency, though short, was of great value to the Program's development and to the investigative work that began with Dr. Berríos-Negrón, focused on the documentation and identification of native and introduced flora found in the homes of key patriotic women leaders. Mónica is tracing a feminist genealogy, based on the plants found in the properties where Puerto Rican women lived, who once dedicated their lives to social justice, ecology and art in Puerto Rico. At the end of her term Mónica also held an Open Studio titled, "la luna, la flora y yo" at Las Lunas where she held a lecture on her work and production during her experience, and exhibited some of the pieces created during the Residency.

Art work
Mónica Rodríguez

Annual Ornithological Conference

Zumbador Dorado
Anthracothorax aurulentus

In a historic event, Puerto Rico hosted the Annual Ornithological Conference (AOS & BC 2022) for the first time, marking the return of in-person gatherings after two years of virtual meetings. The conference, a collaboration between the American Ornithological Society, BirdsCaribbean, Para la Naturaleza, and the Sociedad Ornitológica Puertorriqueña (SOPI), attracted visitors from over 30 countries. Attendees engaged in bird watching activities across various natural habitats, including Medio Mundo y Dagua, Cabezas de San Juan Nature Reserve, El Yunque National Forest, San Juan Waterworks, and Parque Central. The event, drawing over 780 bird enthusiasts, allowed Para la Naturaleza to participate actively, featuring an exhibit, presentations, and showcasing the Para la Naturaleza Store.



**Para la
Naturaleza
Regional
Efforts'
Highlights**

Puerto Rican Crested Anole
Anolis cristatellus



North

NFWF Reforestation and Planting Monitoring Project

This year marks the culmination of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) tree-planting initiative at Hacienda La Esperanza, enhanced by the integration of acoustic monitoring through automated sound recorders in various tree plantings. Early findings indicate positive shifts in bird communities within these rejuvenated areas. Compared to unrestored sites, dominated by non-native grasses and limited bird diversity, sites restored for several years show a promising increase in forest-dwelling species. Notably, the presence of the previously extirpated limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) and endemic species like the Puerto Rican spindalis (*Spindalis portoricensis*) highlights the project's ecological impact. Furthermore, protected species, particularly the Puerto Rican crested toad (*Peltophryne lemur*), are venturing beyond their known territories, suggesting that ongoing reforestation is fostering habitat connectivity and aiding the recovery and dispersion of these critical species within Hacienda La Esperanza.

DUNAS Restoration Project

The Descendants United for Nature, Adaptation, and Sustainability (DUNAS) Project is a joint venture of Para la Naturaleza, Dr. Isabel Rivera-Collazo of the University of California in San Diego-Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the Climate Science Alliance, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. The main goal is to promote resiliency and better adaptation to climate change. It was supported by a grant from the Climate Science Alliance and Wildlife Conservation and officially culminated in October of last year. However, the volunteers that joined Para la Naturaleza throughout the project have continued to keep a close eye on the dunes, offering alternatives for their proper restoration and monitoring. Interpretive tours of DUNAS Explorers have also continued, and the team is focused on expanding local and external educational opportunities to further promote the importance of protecting these invaluable ecosystems.



Apiary
Hacienda La Esperanza,
Manatí

Bee Sanctuary

After Hurricane María decimated 80% of its bee population in 2017, Puerto Rico saw a resurgence effort initiated by a Saint John's School student in San Juan. The "Be a Bee" program, developed in collaboration with Para la Naturaleza, dedicated 2.6 acres at Hacienda La Esperanza in Manatí to a bee sanctuary. Supported by Dixie Vodka, The Bee Cause Project, and Fundación Ángel Ramos, this refuge inaugurated in February, serves as both a protective environment for bees and an educational center.

Students from St John's School immerse themselves in practical learning, contributing to hive upkeep and understanding the critical role of bees. The sanctuary, equipped with a learning lab, informational signage with QR codes for online access, and a recreational area, provides a comprehensive educational experience.

This year, the sanctuary has expanded its educational outreach with the development of a guidebook to enhance volunteers' beekeeping knowledge. Outreach programs have extended to schools and fairs, with a portable display allowing close-up observation of bees, fostering community engagement and awareness. Additionally, sustainable practices have been adopted, including a solar-powered method for purifying wax from discarded honeycombs, enhancing environmental responsibility. The sanctuary's opening event in February, collaborative efforts with various organizations, and acquisition of new beekeeping equipment have marked significant strides in ensuring the sanctuary's role in bee conservation and habitat restoration.

Río Piedras Biomonitoring Initiative

The Río Piedras Biomonitoring Initiative took place last May to September. Citizen Science Volunteers learned basic concepts on the research of tropical rivers and a permanent biomonitoring transect was established at the Antiguo Acueducto del río Piedras. During this time four biomonitoring volunteer events were held, resulting in 34 participations and 54 volunteer hours, allowing participants to further explore and learn about riparian organisms and key environmental variables imperative to water quality. The Río Piedras Biomonitoring Initiative focuses on three main topics: physical properties, chemical properties, and aquatic macroinvertebrate monitoring.

“Thank you for the class! We are so grateful to Para la Naturaleza for this valuable opportunity for the little ones that inhabit our waters, the courageous aquatic organisms!”

Cynthia Manfred,
Guarda Río Community Leader



Cañón San Cristóbal
Barranquitas, Puerto Rico

“These expeditions with outside resources are necessary to exchange knowledge and know-how in the continuous search of getting to know these valuable natural spaces that we protect.”

Roberto Cerpa,
Geologist and Para la Naturaleza
Environmental Interpreter

Cañón San Cristóbal’s Ecological Value

Beginning in 2021, a collective of four volunteer specialists and staff joined efforts to extend the documentation of Cañón San Cristóbal’s biological value. The representation of biological diversity, growth and overall reproduction and health in this natural protected area in Barranquitas is particularly noteworthy, being that the area was used as a landfill for 45 years. Today, Para la Naturaleza protects over 1,730 acres of land throughout this natural protected area.

During March, volunteer resource specialists and Para la Naturaleza staff conducted brief introductory talks for each group to document, learn to identify and document species of fungi, bryophytes and lichens sighted. The most significant finding so far has been a truffle (fungi that grow close to and in symbiotic association with a tree) underground in the roots of an endemic tree and generally unknown in the Tropics, being more associated with domestication and production for culinary purposes. Scientific collaborators in Italy are aiding in the specie’s identification.

As a result of these expeditions, a total of 839 species of birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, crustaceans, mollusks, mammals, invertebrates, and plants have been identified and documented.

“Thank you for inviting me! It is always fantastic to coincide and further our knowledge on natural areas.”

Dr. Amelia Merced,
Mosses and Bryophytes Specialist,
UPR Professor and U.S.D.A. Institute
of Tropical Forestry Affiliate

Community Engagement

The Metro-Centre Region has been focusing on further developing relationships with community leaders. Karina Rodríguez, Metro-Centre Region Community Action Leader, is steering the way to advance collaborations with the region’s engaged communities and their leaders. This year, Para la Naturaleza has been collaborating with the Buen Consejo, Villa Nevárez, Tortugo, Venezuela and Amigos del Río Piedras communities.

Currently, community actions with Buen Consejo, Guarda Ríos (composed of community groups: University Gardens, Jardines Metropolitanos and Villa Nevárez), and Tortugo in Río Piedras are developing alongside community leaders. Buen Consejo actions responded to residential needs. Community leaders and volunteers have participated in waste removal, native tree plantings, a mural painting, lighting of pedestrian bridge, signing against illegal waste disposal, and in facilitating communications between community leadership and the Mayor’s office.

Throughout our collaborations with the Venezuela and Guarda Río communities, support has focused on native tree plantings, enhancing green areas and their collective enjoyment.

South



Salinas Botoncillo
La Parguera, Lajas

Restoration of Historic Salinas Botoncillos, La Parguera

Last year, the South Region began reviewing the management document for this Reserve, including its 10 year projection and new objectives. For this purpose, the Papayo Community was invited to a meeting in the Guayacan's Forest in order to provide a space for the community to share their thoughts related to the natural and cultural values they considered important to protect, alongside any other management concerns. The preservation of the historic salinas was one of them.

When the natural area was acquired in 1972, a Lister diesel motor was already in the property and the Salinas Botoncillo remained in production until the 90's. The South Region has been maintaining this motor and making improvements to the other restored components regularly. Nonetheless, there was one component missing to be able to gather the bay water from the canal into the "cristalizadoras" (shallow pools where water is naturally evaporated to make salt).

In late March, our team was finally able to re-manufacture the missing piece called "freno". This component moves the pulley that connects the motor to the water wheels ("norias"). With this repair we were able to bring water from the canal for the first time since the restoration started. In May, we held our first accountability meeting with the

Papayo Community and were able to show them, along with many of our staff members, the "norias" working. It was an historic day for our collaboration.

Community engagement in the South has been at the core of empowering neighboring communities to manage their resources, generating further positive impact throughout the region. Citizens have participated in multiple workshops, meetings, volunteering events, among other activities, demonstrating their commitment to the Program. Among the collaborating communities are: La Parguera and Papayo in Lajas, and Marueño and Corral Viejo in Ponce.

"I have lived in the Marueño Community for over 50 years. It borders the Pastillo River, which runs all the way to Las Delicias, where our Community Center is located equipped with solar panels, rainwater collection and filtration systems. We have had a lot of support from many allied organizations that help achieve our goals. Thanks to PLN and its collaborators, we have the strength to move forward as a community."

Idabel Torres,
Marueño Community Leader

Centennial Cedro Tree in Hacienda Buena Vista

As part of its ongoing conservation efforts, Para la Naturaleza continues to develop a critical inventory of its cultural collections in its protected areas. This inventory has uncovered chapters in the history of those who worked and lived in Hacienda Buena Vista that were previously unknown.

Nature can also contribute to discovering the story of the place and the people who worked and lived there. Such is the case of the discovery of the Cedro hembra tree (*Cedrela odorata*) that appears as a boundary for Hacienda Buena Vista in the 1894 map of the area but it's still living today. Rafael Antonio "Tony" Fernández, retired Senior Area Management Assistant and neighbor of Hacienda Buena Vista, was the first to identify the significance of this tree. In 1990, Professor Ángel Ríos estimated it was at least 300 years old. This connection of a historical map and a living tree represents an excellent example of ecological culture intertwining with our historical culture.

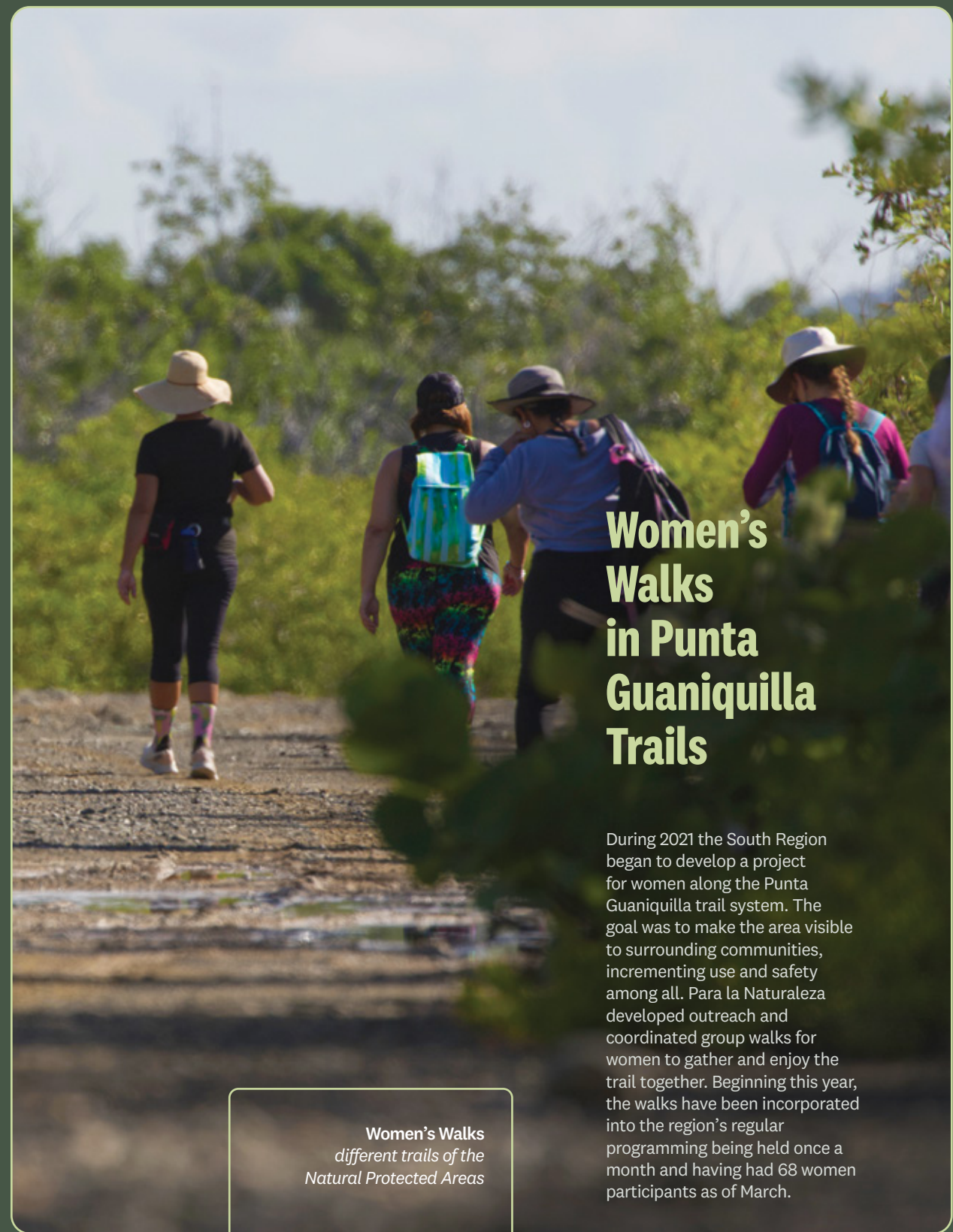
"It is incredible when we compare the lifespan of the human being with other living beings, such as trees, and discover that many generations that have lived and died have met and enjoyed the same tree that remains today."

Willy Ferrer Irizarry,
South Region Reforestation Unit Officer

Reopening the Montessori Alejandro Tapia y Rivera School

La Parguera community members and a group of Montessori teachers called Biblioteca Solidaria worked together to reopen the Alejandro Tapia y Rivera School after it was closed by the Department of Education back in 2018. During 2021, Para la Naturaleza joined forces to support this effort aiding in the facility's maintenance and by donating a geodesic dome to meet with students in the aftermath of earthquakes. In October of 2021, the Department of Education ordered the school closure again. Para la Naturaleza supported the Parent's Committee and community leaders in writing support letters, raising awareness via media and participating in meetings.

In February of 2022, the school reopened, and the South Region has been implementing a garden and medicinal plants project in the school with support from Instituto Nueva Escuela. Students have been learning about the germination process with sugar cane in a seedling germination area made with recycled materials. Para la Naturaleza is also collaborating with workshops, conferences, technical assistance, trees, seedlings, and other educational materials, such as a guide titled "Tierra Viva" for the school library.



Women's Walks in Punta Guaniquilla Trails

During 2021 the South Region began to develop a project for women along the Punta Guaniquilla trail system. The goal was to make the area visible to surrounding communities, incrementing use and safety among all. Para la Naturaleza developed outreach and coordinated group walks for women to gather and enjoy the trail together. Beginning this year, the walks have been incorporated into the region's regular programming being held once a month and having had 68 women participants as of March.

Women's Walks
different trails of the
Natural Protected Areas

Biocomisos Project

We have been working with our group of management assistants on repairs to the structure of the Biocomiso Santiago Iglesias Pantín School. The greenhouse repair took two weeks of work, and it included saran, roof, electrical, and irrigation system repairs. At the moment, a total of 30 native trees have been donated for more green areas on the school campus near the nursery. Around 70 students and 10 volunteers benefit from this nursery. Now, the Santiago Iglesias Pantín School dedicates its agricultural vocational workshop to the management and use of the nursery.


The greenhouse is now being used as an onsite workspace for special education students in the school. The leader of the project is Professor Emmanuel Rivera who is an agriculture teacher.



Interpretative tour
Palo Colorado Station, El Yunque

New interpretative center at El Yunque Rain Forest

Under a historic agreement with the US Forest Service, Para la Naturaleza opened a new Visitor Center at The Palo Colorado Station. This opening marks an important presence of Para la Naturaleza in one of our most iconic natural protected areas. The Station's infrastructure is up and running, including internet connection, and working areas for staff. Trial tours were provided to Para la Naturaleza and U.S. Forest Service family and friends with the intention of practicing, documenting and identifying areas for improvement. The soft opening of Palo Colorado Station took place in April. Currently, the three different interpretation experiences are available for reservation to the public on the Para la Naturaleza website.



Book Presentation and Certified Environmental Leaders in Culebra

History of the Culebrita Lighthouse
Book Presentation

Dr. Anibal Sepúlveda's latest publication, "History of the Culebrita Lighthouse," was presented last March in El Polvorín Museum in Culebra, in collaboration with the Culebra Foundation. The activity was an opportunity to present this investigative work to the community, along with the participation of Architect José Javier Toro.

The book presentation was followed by the celebration of Para la Naturaleza's first group of twelve Environmental Leaders in Culebra (Líderes Ambientales Culebrenses), a capacity and environmental leadership building program designed to empower local student participants to recognize Culebra's biodiversity and ecological value.

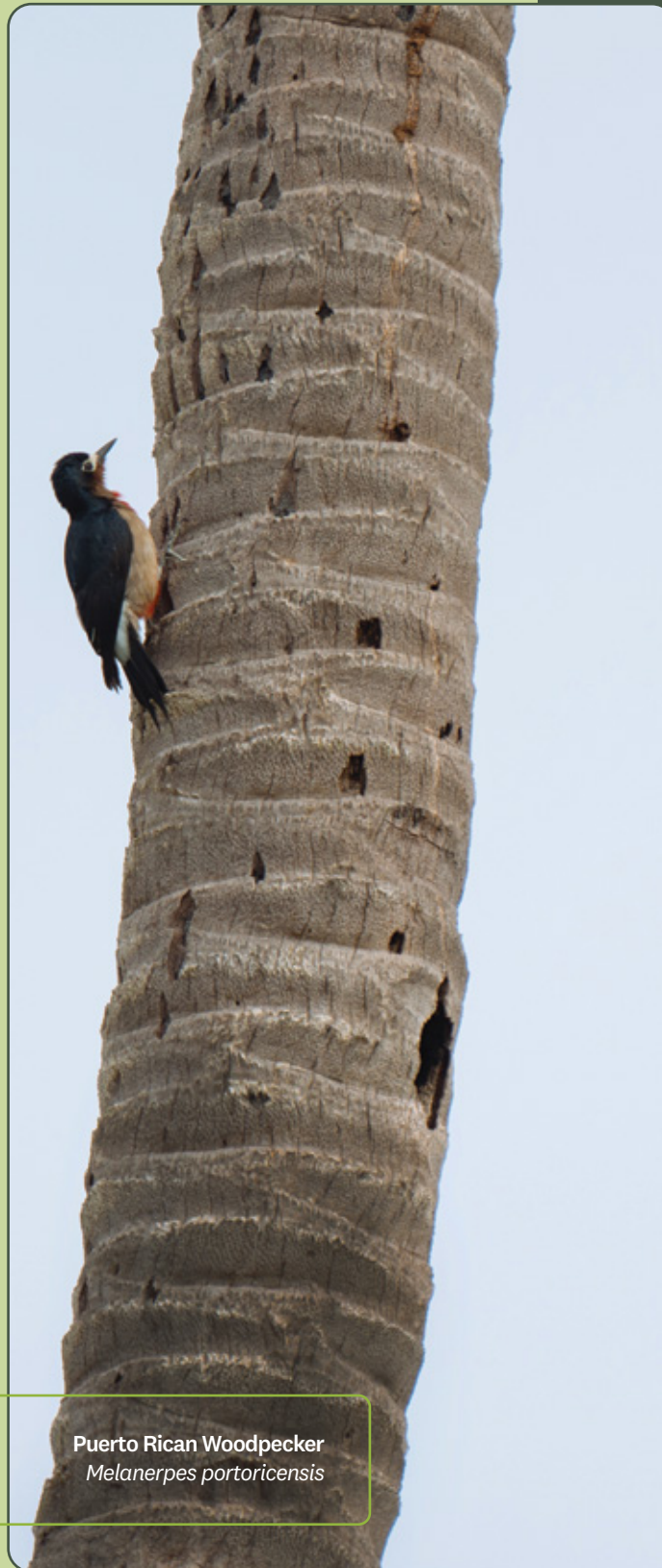
"This project has been a unique experience for me. I have learned many new things, it has been a source of information and experience. Also, we are doing things that I had never done and never thought I would do in my life. I have also seen how you PLN Leaders connect with us, educate us and in one way or another help us grow. You are giving us the gift of your time and knowledge, also unforgettable moments. I have learned so much that my way of thinking has changed. I see nature differently and we are also taking care of it even more with all the knowledge that we can absorb from you. I don't believe that we could have done all these things if we did not have tremendous people like you."

José Indio,
Environmental Leader in Culebra

Coastal Birds Surveys

Coastal Bird Surveys began in January 2022 with the Caribbean Waterbird Census, which identified 40 species. Likewise, 35 species were identified in another survey conducted at the University of Puerto Rico's Finca Montaña in Aguadilla.

As a result of a donation from the Edward Lifesciences Foundation, bird surveys continued on the northwest side of Puerto Rico throughout the year's final quarter by field biologist Luis A. Ramos, and equipment was provided for volunteer activities.



Puerto Rican Woodpecker
Melanerpes portoricensis

Regenerative Coffee Farming in Lares

The Regenerative Coffee Farming project began last year, concentrating on the maintenance of the new coffee trees planted by using regenerative practices. We are presently working on further ways to enhance community integration and engagement in support of local coffee production.

The partnership with Tecno Serve (TNS) continues enhancing our community relations with the donation of 1,134 native trees and two workshop sessions, with the participation of 16 local farmers, held in February at Hacienda Buena Vista in Ponce. The workshop sessions included an introduction to nursery practices for the propagation of native trees and information about beneficial species of agroforestry systems for coffee plantations. Another collaboration, with Ridges to Reefs through the NRCS-CIG, provided the necessary funding for the installation of a bioreactor composting system and a tree nursery, supporting the production of high quality compost, hydrolyzed fish fertilizer and trees to the collaborating farms.

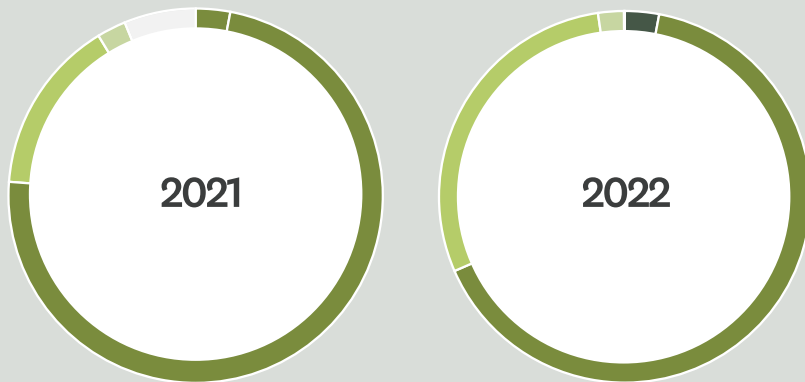
In September, the island was impacted by Hurricane Fiona which devastated the plantains and coffee trees. The team worked on cutting the plantains that were not heavily damaged and fertilizing the trees in hopes of recovery.

Community Collaborations Reforesting the West

Collaborative relationships among the West Region and local organizations PR Surfing Federation, Surfrider Foundation and CoCo PR strengthened with the community tree planting activities that occurred late January at Middles Beach in Isabela. The regional team also participated in a collaborative planting for the 18th Anniversary of the Tres Palmas Marine Reserve in Rincón, adjoining land for the proposed community bike path. This planting was a collaboration with the local community groups and organizations: Amigos de Tres Palmas, Tres Palmas Crew, Salva Tres Palmas, Surfrider Foundation and Sea Grant. We also continue supporting Bosque La Armonía in Rincón and Mayagüezanos Pro Calidad y Ambiente at Caño Boquilla Nature Reserve in Mayagüez with the donation of native trees.

Financials

Sources of Funds

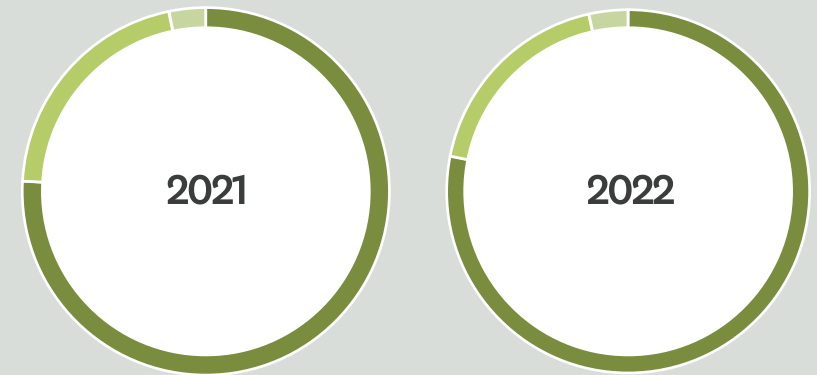


| | 2021 | 2022 | % | |
|--|-----------|-----------|------|---|
| Income from Notes and Preferred Securities | \$ 884 | \$ 887 | 0% | - |
| Portfolio Income* | 16,029 | 19,585 | 22% | ↑ |
| Donations, grants and other gifts | 4,772 | 8,738 | 83% | ↑ |
| Other income | 745 | 671 | -10% | ↓ |
| Land Donations and easements | 1,835 | 22 | -99% | ↓ |
| Total | \$ 24,265 | \$ 29,903 | 23% | ↑ |

*unrestricted portfolio income
+ authorized endowment draw

*Selected financial data.
Numbers are expressed in thousands.

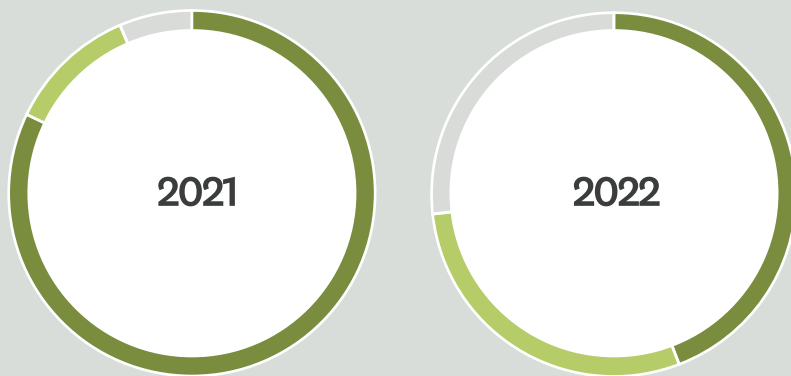
Operating Uses of Funds



| | 2021 | 2022 | % | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----|---|
| Program Services | \$ 16,730 | \$ 22,456 | 34% | ↑ |
| Management and Support | 4,619 | 5,297 | 15% | ↑ |
| Fundraising | 714 | 1,003 | 40% | ↑ |
| Total | \$ 22,063 | \$ 28,756 | 30% | ↑ |

*Selected financial data.
Numbers are expressed in thousands.

Capital Investments



| | 2021 | 2022 | % | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|------|---|
| ■ Land Acquisition | \$ 2,108 | \$ 1,228 | -42% | ↓ |
| ■ Site Development and Improvements | 295 | 810 | 175% | ↑ |
| ■ Furniture and Equipment | 165 | 743 | 350% | ↑ |
| Total | \$ 2,568 | \$ 2,781 | 8% | ↑ |

*Selected financial data.
Numbers are expressed in thousands.

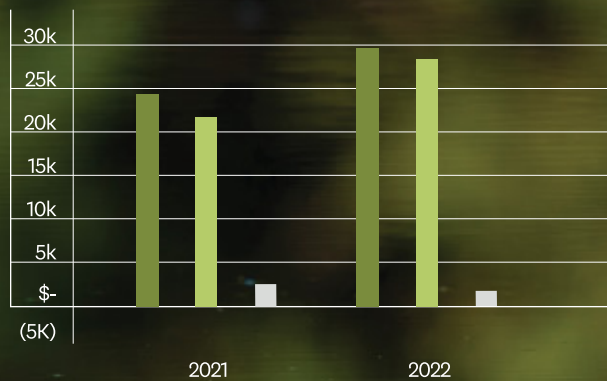
Total Uses of Funds



| | 2021 | 2022 | % | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----|---|
| ■ Operating | \$ 22,063 | \$ 28,756 | 30% | ↑ |
| ■ Capital | 2,568 | 2,781 | 8% | ↑ |
| Total | \$ 24,631 | \$ 31,537 | 28% | ↑ |

*Selected financial data.
Numbers are expressed in thousands.

Revenue Less Operating Expenses



| | 2021 | 2022 | % | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|------|---|
| Operating Revenues | \$ 24,265 | \$ 29,903 | 23% | ↑ |
| Operating Expenditures | 22,063 | 28,756 | 30% | ↑ |
| Excess Funds | 2,202 | 1,147 | -48% | ↓ |

*Selected financial data.
Numbers are expressed in thousands.



Lesser Yellowlegs
Tringa flavipes

Friends and supporters

\$1,000 – \$4,999

| | |
|--|---|
| 7-29 Events | Javier L. Bonnín Orozco & Cheryl Hartup |
| Alight | Jeff Nicholson |
| Ana Balcells | Juan Carlos Benítez |
| Andrew Darrell | Judith Ruiz |
| Anonymous | Kristin Ehrgood & Vadim Nikitine |
| Anonymous | Leslie D. Mattingly |
| Anonymous | Lilyana Vélez Fernández |
| Anonymous | Lisandro and Katherine Tsai |
| Anonymous | Mapfre |
| Antonio & Kiki Ferré Rangel | Marcos A. Rodríguez |
| AON | Margarita Garriga |
| Avory | Marilyn Stern & Elaine Reily |
| BASF | Mario R. Nevárez Alonso |
| Blas Fonalledas & Diana Pérez | Meléndez Umpierre Family |
| Brian Williamson | Michelle Sugden & Mike Soto-Class |
| Candy Bobonis Roig & William Lockwood Benet | Mónica De La Torre |
| Casillas, Santiago & Torres | Motorambar |
| Centro de Medicina Interna | Mud Wtr Inc |
| Cristina Ángeles Colón | Nicholas J. Moore |
| Dan & Devon Morehead | Nicole Soegaard Ballester |
| Daniel R. Ilisevich | Peter J. Satz & Lourdes Morán |
| Dennis Hickey Rivera & Theresa Bischoff | Pinebelt Foundation |
| Drs. Félix Matos Rodríguez & Liliana Arabía | Plaza Food Systems |
| Dulce Caña | PR Farm Credit |
| Edgardo E. Lugo Ruiz, DNP, CRNA, USA CPT (ret) | Robert Iscaro & Fernando Martínez |
| Enrique Alejandro & Jannette Silva | Seguros Múltiples |
| Francisco José Paret Román | Semillero Partners |
| Francisco X. González Calderón | The Carter Family |
| Fundación Luis Miranda Casañas, Inc. | The Clip Family |
| Grupo Óptima | New York League of Conservation Voters |
| Guillermo Rivera Jr. | Theodore Nathan |
| Hilton | Vidal, Nieves & Bauzá, LLC |
| Horne Community Foundation | Virginia Almendarez & Stephan Wall |
| HUB International PR | V. Suárez & Co., Inc. |
| Ignalisa Santos Fernández | Walmart |
| Jacqueline Ballester | William Berry & Lisette Núñez |
| | Yaskira & José Ordeix |
| | Yasmil Raymond |
| | Yoly Villamil-Davis & Mark Davis |

\$5,000 – \$9,999

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Anonymous | Leilani & Justin Byers |
| Anonymous | Liberty Foundation |
| Anonymous | Lilly del Caribe, Inc. |
| Anonymous | Megan Parisi |
| Anonymous | Michael Hirschorn & Christina Roig |
| Carmen Báez | Model Offset Printing |
| Cynthia Curtis Nelson | Open Door Foundation |
| Destilería Serrallés | Plaza Provision |
| EcoEléctrica | Richard Barna |
| Edwards Lifesciences Foundation | The Herrans Group |
| Elizabeth & Caton Burwell | Tote Maritime |
| Evertec Group LLC | TVEX |
| Gabriel C. Mandujano | USC Global |
| GlaxoSmithKline | USIC Group |
| Industrial Fittings & Valves | Viatrix |
| Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción | William Richardson |
| Kaleb Camacho | |

\$10,000 – \$99,999

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Albert Hyunjun Chon | Kenneth R. Woodcock |
| Andrew Broz | M Salomé Galib & Duane McLaughlin |
| Arbor Day Foundation | Mariel Foundation |
| Brendan Kissane | Metropistas |
| Dr. Peter Castro | Miranda Family Fund |
| Flamboyan Foundation | Peter & Katherine Scudera |
| Fulcro Insurance | PR Textile Recycling, LLC |
| Fundación Colibrí | PRxPR |
| Fundación Segarra Boerman e Hijos, Inc. | SC Johnson de PR, Inc. |
| Hispanic Federation | Somos, Inc. |
| Interlink | Teiger Foundation |
| Jacob & Heather Huck | The 20/22 Act Society |
| James and Barbara Cimino Foundation | The Wiggins Foundation |

\$100,000 +

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Anonymous | Popular |
| Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico (Feeding America) | Puerto Rico Housing Department |
| Joaquín B. Viso & Olga Lizardi | Telemundo |
| Liberty Cablevision | The Dorothea L. Leonhardt Foundation |
| Oriental | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Peter Alford Foundation | U.S. Forest Service |
| | U.S. Small Business Administration |



Smooth-billed Ani
Crotophaga ani

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* As of December 31, 2022

2022 Achievements Summary



33

Resilient Community Centers were completed by the first quarter and provided power, water, and shelter to neighboring communities during hurricane Fiona



0%

Covid-19 transmission rate amongst teams by the end of 2022



5,422

native and endemic trees were planted by 182 employees on September 10th at Hacienda La Esperanza in Manatí



Para la Naturaleza's new Central Offices opened June of 2022 in the Ochoa Building in Old San Juan



22,000+

native and endemic trees were distributed in the six drive-through locations throughout Puerto Rico



1,553.3088

acres of high ecological value were acquired for permanent protection



461

student and 21 schools participated in the Sembrando Regresamos Program



74

participants in the Nature Immersion Workshop, which returned for the first time since the pandemic



The Botanical Institute established a Native Seed Reserve in the San Cristóbal Canyon Tree Nursery in Barranquitas

\$257,288

total raised during annual Fundraiser Seasons / Temporadas



In April 2022, Mapa-33 web platform launched at the Para la Naturaleza event Puerto Rico Conserva



Art Residency Program hosted its second Artist Resident, Mónica Rodríguez



780

bird enthusiasts from over 30 countries participated in the Annual Ornithological Conference, a collaboration between the American Ornithological Society, BirdsCaribbean, Para la Naturaleza and the Sociedad Ornitológica Puertorriqueña



16

leaders participated in the Second Inter-community meeting with community representatives from three regions to showcase their projects, accomplishments, and challenges as part of AComPAÑA

