



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

*Community-based conservation of the
Pacific Forest of Ecuador*



www.tma.earth / info@tmalliance.org

LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Dear TMA Supporters,

As we close out another successful year of conservation work in the Pacific Forest of Ecuador, I can't help but look back at everything we've achieved these past few years. It was only three short years ago when our team first began dreaming of the creation of the 35,000 acre Capuchin Corridor. At the time, and given the size of the task ahead of us, our organization was relatively small and still working on a limited budget. However, we didn't let those things stop us from pursuing this ambitious and absolutely critical conservation mission in one of the most biodiverse ecosystems of the world. Our team came together to create the strategy, implement the field work, and rally support from the local communities living within the corridor. And all of you, together with a network of international partners, stepped up when we needed you most to ensure we had the resources to make the dream a reality.

In the pages that follow, I'm thrilled to share all of the exciting updates from our conservation efforts this past year. 2024 represented a huge step forward in our mission of building a community-first conservation program in the heart of the Pacific Forest. In addition to increasing the amount of land under protection in the Capuchin Corridor, and expanding the reach of our innovative Environmental Education Program, we were also able to dramatically increase the number of hectares being restored by local families that participate in our Regenerative Agroforestry Program. In 2024 alone, we were able to double the number of families in the program and expand to a sixth community. The positive ecological and economical impact of this work cannot be understated, and all thanks to the support you provided.

We're incredibly proud of what we've achieved together over the years, and we couldn't have done it without you. Your commitment and constant support fuel us in our mission of protecting and restoring the Pacific Forest together with local communities. Together we are building an ecological legacy for future generations and creating a community-based conservation model that can help save the planet.

Thank you again for your unwavering support. We're honored to have you as part of our global conservation community, and we can't wait to share more updates from the Pacific Forest in the years to come.

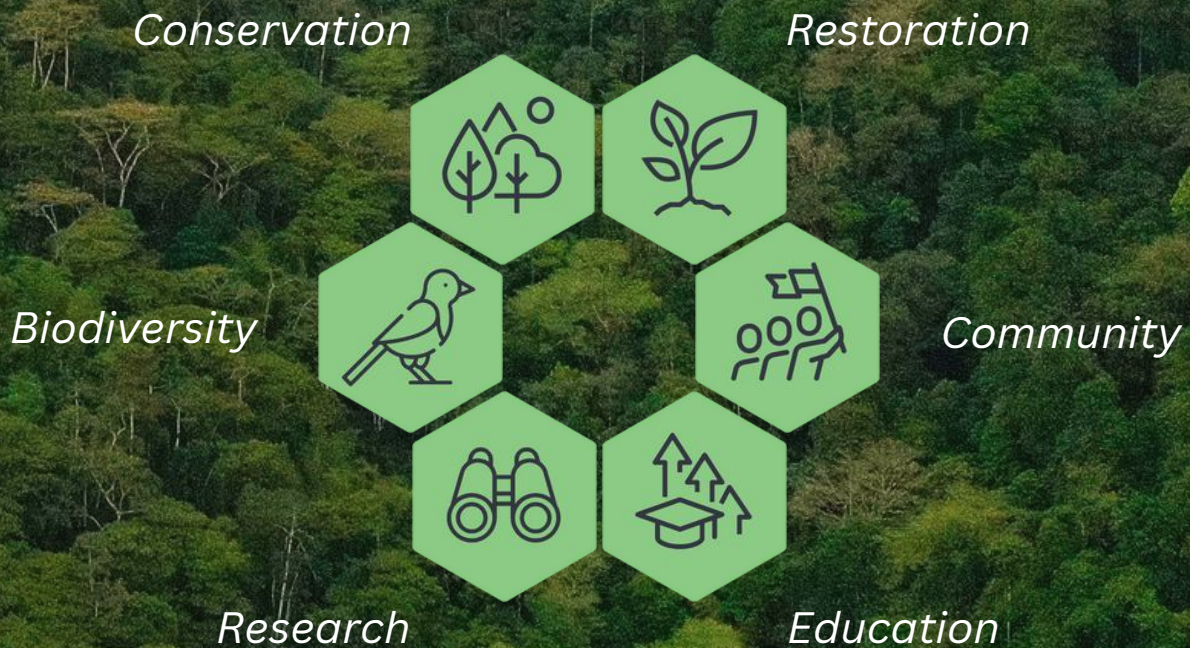
Ryan L. Lynch
Executive Director



MISSION & VALUES

Our mission is to preserve the last remnants of the Pacific Forest of Ecuador and work with local communities to restore what has been lost. Our holistic approach combines active forest conservation, restoration, and management with community-based activities that address the underlying socio-economic drivers of deforestation.

TMA's Holistic Approach



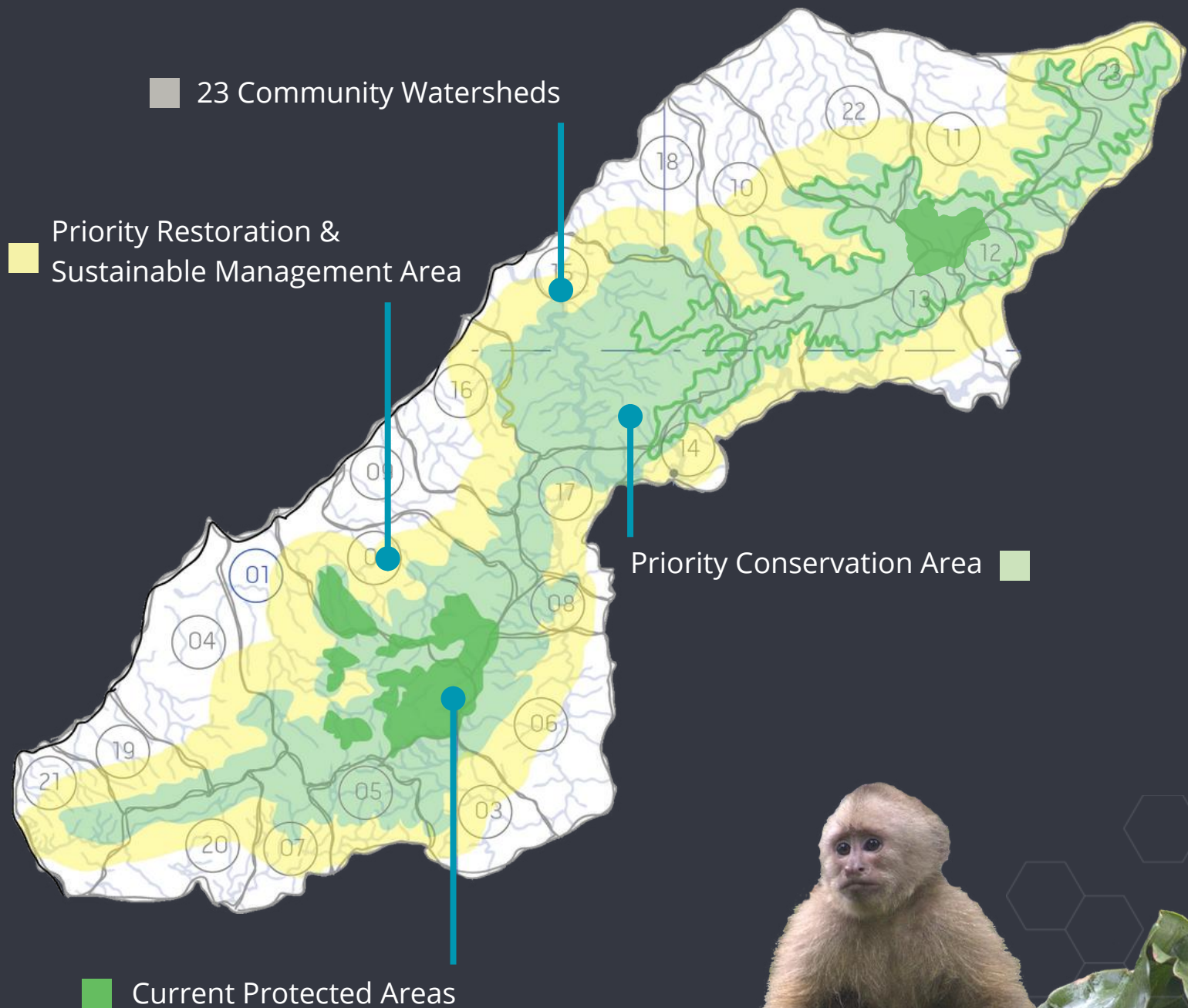
A lush tropical rainforest with a multi-tiered waterfall cascading over mossy rocks into a stream. The scene is filled with dense green foliage, including palm trees and various ferns. The waterfall is the central focus, with water flowing over several levels of dark, wet rocks. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Protecting rainforest is the simplest and most effective way to save biodiversity, combat climate change, and ensure the continuation of life on Earth.

CAPUCHIN CORRIDOR

An ambitious plan to protect and restore 35,000 acres in the heart of the Pacific Forest of Ecuador together with local communities. Success in this mission will preserve vital watersheds, provide sustainable economic opportunities for local communities, protect vital habitat for the critically endangered Ecuadorian Capuchin monkey and other threatened species, and help combat climate change.





LAND PURCHASE

This year we successfully purchased two properties to expand the size of the Jama-Coaque Reserve. The properties include protection of one of the most iconic waterfalls in the entire watershed and a reforested pasture that TMA has been involved with for many years. The two properties collectively expand the Reserve by 189 acres (77 hectares), and put us in a position to connect the core of the Reserve with strategic properties nearby that are up for sale. With these purchases, the Jama-Coaque Reserve now protects 2,718 acres (1,100 hectares) of forest in the heart of the Pacific Forest.

The properties purchased this year were made possible thanks to support from a newly created donor group (the Capuchin Collective) that is committed to providing significant and ongoing support over the years ahead. This level of support is absolutely vital to help us achieve the ambitious goal of protecting and restoring the 35,000 acre Capuchin Corridor before it is lost forever. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in providing significant and ongoing funding support to make the Capuchin Corridor a reality, please get in touch to learn more about how to get involved.



Learn More



COMMUNITY FORESTS PROGRAM

This year we developed a community-based conservation model to ensure the long-term protection and sustainable management of the Capuchin Corridor. The Community Forests Program, or Bosques Comunitarios in Spanish, directly integrates local communities in the conservation process and provides them with a financial incentive to actively protect the forest in their own watersheds.

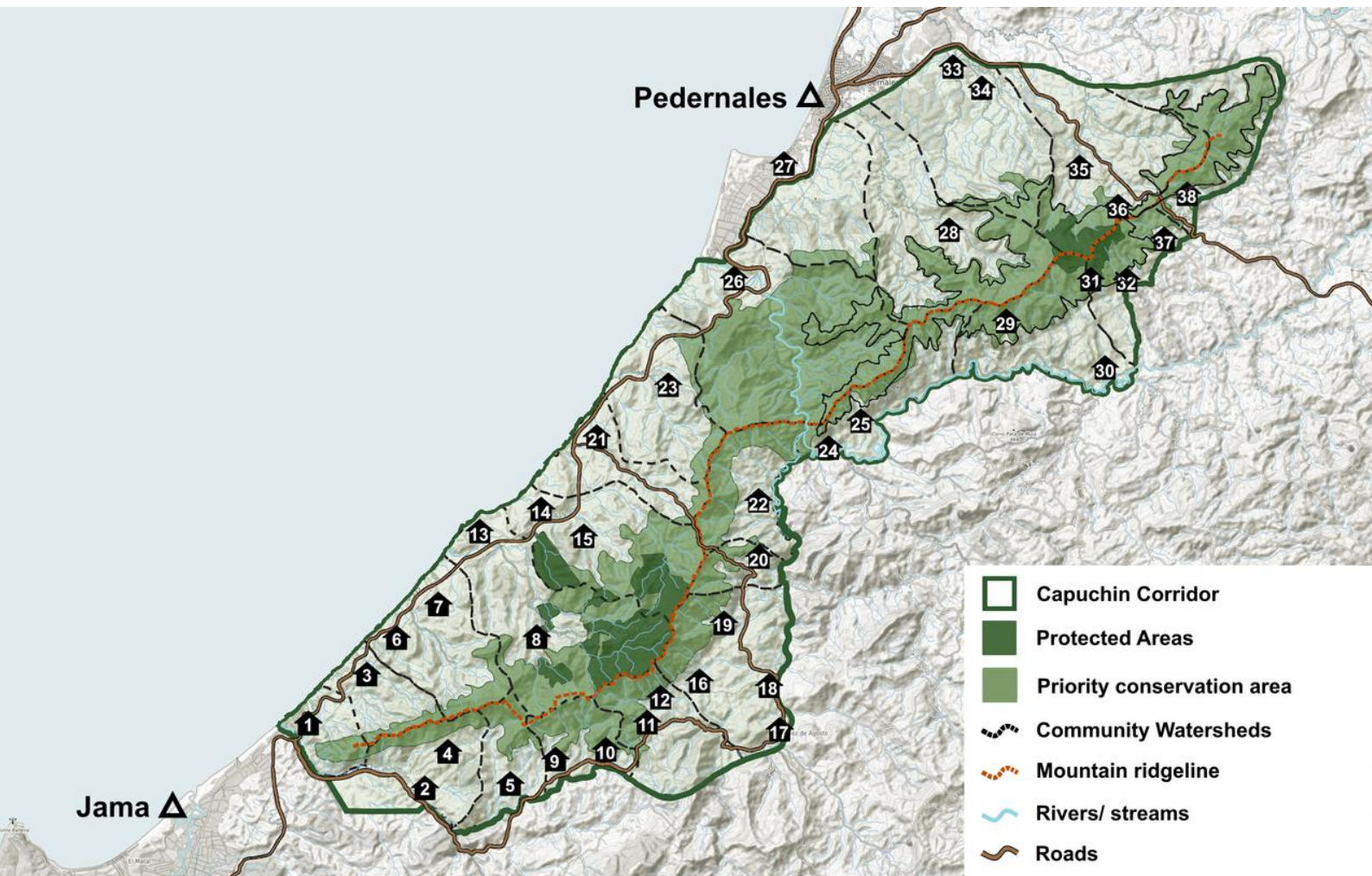
This bottom-up approach reduces the risk of local actors undermining conservation goals, addresses the underlying socio-economic drivers of deforestation, and also reduces the need for NGOs or governments to provide permanent funding support. It's a decentralized and participatory approach to forest conservation that aims to balance the needs of people and the planet. We believe it's the wave of the future.



COMMUNITY FORESTS PROGRAM

There are a total of 23 watersheds within the Capuchin Corridor. Each watershed provides freshwater and ecological services to the communities living downstream. With the design now in place, our team is actively pursuing funding to implement the first pilot project in a few of the communities living immediately adjacent to the Jama-Coaque Reserve.

The first community to pilot the project will be Camarones, who is the direct beneficiary of the conservation activities of the Jama-Coaque Reserve. Over the coming years, our community education program aims to work hand-in-hand with the youth of the community to equip them with the skill sets necessary to take on the challenge of playing an active role in the protection and management of the Reserve.



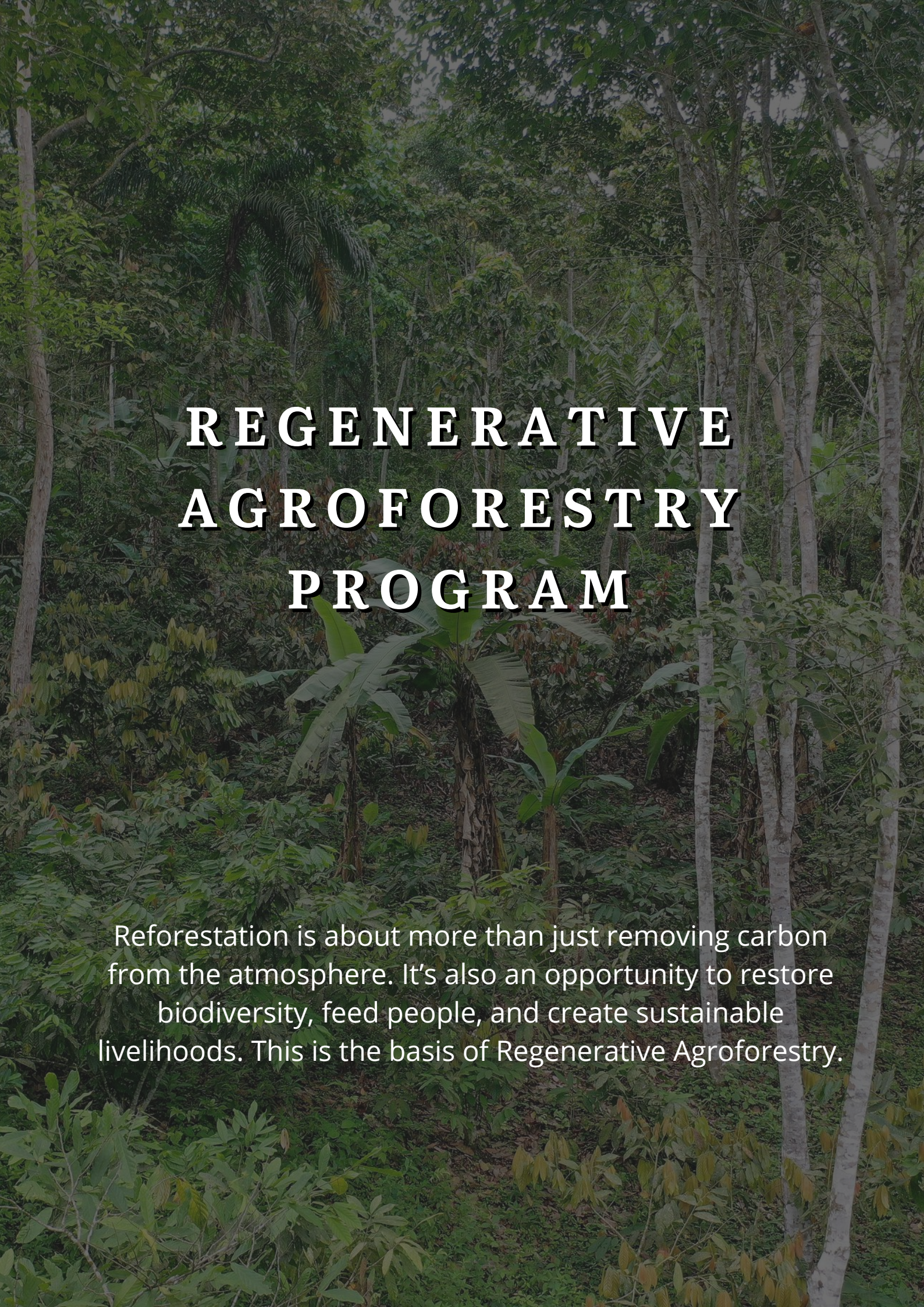
CERRO PATA DE PÁJARO RESERVE

This year our conservation efforts in the 10,707 acre (4,333-hectare) Cerro Pata de Pájaro Reserve continued to expand, with a particular focus on data collection and engaging local stakeholders. Throughout the year, our team spent countless hours speaking with local communities, mapping properties and vital water sources, and initiating community meetings and capacity-building workshops.

The Cerro Pata de Pajaro Reserve is a vital piece of our Capuchin Corridor, as it protects the highest point along the coastal ridgeline and contains some of the last remnants of primary rainforest in the region. The forest of Cerro Pata de Pajaro is also the primary source of fresh water for the nearby city of Pedernales that has a population of nearly 30,000 people.

Looking forward, TMA's conservation efforts in Cerro Pata de Pajaro will put a focus on the critical importance of healthy forests in local water cycles. The implementation of the Community Forests Program is a key piece of this strategy as it empowers local communities to take the lead on the protection and management of their precious natural resources.





REGENERATIVE AGROFORESTRY PROGRAM

Reforestation is about more than just removing carbon from the atmosphere. It's also an opportunity to restore biodiversity, feed people, and create sustainable livelihoods. This is the basis of Regenerative Agroforestry.



REGENERATIVE CACAO

This year represented an important step forward for our Regenerative Agroforestry Program. Not only did we add more families to the program, but we also completed the construction of the Capuchin Cacao processing facility in Camarones and processed our first batch of chocolate from the program. The first families to join the program in 2021 are now starting to see the fruits of their labor. Their cacao trees are beginning to produce pods, their farms are producing a variety of fruits, and the native trees are starting to provide much needed shade for their crops. The very visible success of the first cohort of families is a great sign of what's to come over the years ahead.

This year we also collaborated with a graduate student from Yale University to conduct an innovative remote sensing project on cacao farms. The goal of her project was to develop a model to identify tree species diversity using drone imagery. She began the process by identifying, measuring, and geo-locating every single tree on each cacao farm. She then used a drone to capture detailed overhead images of each farm. With these two ground-truthed data points in hand, she began to train an algorithm to automatically identify species richness at the farm level. While the model isn't yet perfect, it is promising to see how our team might be able to utilize machine-learning technology to monitor species diversity in a more cost efficient way.



Learn More



2024 REGENERATIVE AGROFORESTRY STATS

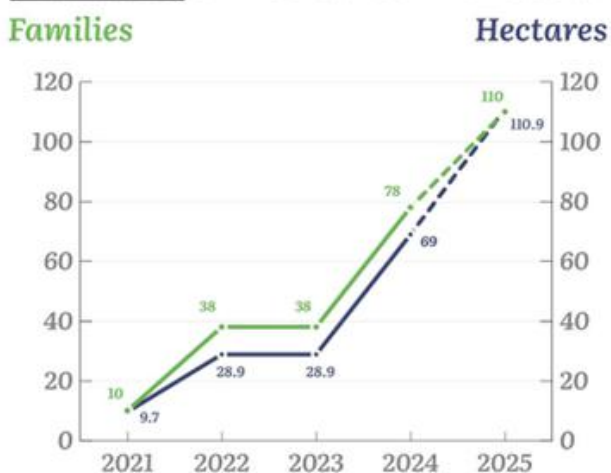
General

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Number of farmers enrolled in 2024 | 40 |
| Total farmers in program by year-end | 78 |
| Number of participating communities | 6 |

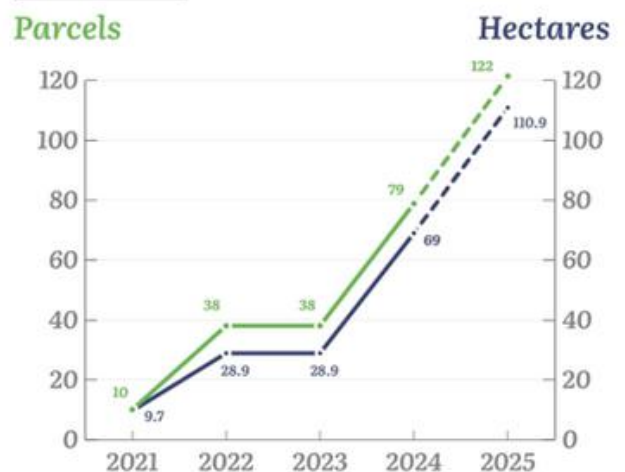
Biodiversity/ Climate

| | |
|---|---------|
| Number of acres/ hectares under restoration | 171/ 69 |
| Number of trees planted | 41,424 |
| Estimated annual carbon benefit (tons CO2) | 269 |

Families & Hectares Enrolled



Parcels & Hectares Enrolled



CAPUCHIN CACAO



In 2024, we successfully completed construction and inaugurated the Capuchin Cacao processing facility in Camarones. The facility is now up and running and TMA's local team are being trained to perform all of the necessary steps to ferment, dry, and sell premium regenerative cacao produced by our network of farmers.

As a first trial, our team processed three small harvests of 878 pounds of wet cacao, which resulted in \$1,141 in cacao sales for the farmers. This first batch of cacao was used to produce our first experimental batch of chocolate, which was packaged and gifted to TMA's staff, local residents, and all of the families participating in the program. As the program continues to expand and build more local capacity to produce high-quality cacao, the farmers will begin to earn more money from their cacao that is helping to restore and protect the Pacific Forest of Ecuador.



EXPANDING REGENERATIVE CACAO

During the second half of the year, and in preparation for the 2025 planting season, our team had three goals for expanding the Regenerative Agroforestry Program:

1. Onboard another 32 families to the program
2. Add more female farmers to the program
3. Expand the program to additional communities

By the end of the year, and through a lot of hardwork from our field team, we successfully met all three of these goals. A total of 32 families have now been onboarded to begin planting in 2025, half of the new participants are women, and we expanded to the new community of Punta Blanca on the South side of the Jama-Coaque Reserve.



COMMUNITY PROGRAM



Conservation of the Pacific Forest will require global support, but local communities and stakeholders are the most important demographic--they are the ones who depend on and manage this ecosystem day-to-day.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

TMA, in collaboration with our partners Descubriendo Ecosistemas and Fundacion Ceiba, has been offering weekly environmental education classes to local youth for the past two years. The classes, which combine both classroom and field-based activities, have provided local youth with an opportunity to learn more about the ecosystems that surround their communities. They have also provided unique insight into the direct relationship between healthy forests and oceans, and the natural resources they provide in their daily lives. Topics covered this past year include: the water cycle and water conservation, waste management and recycling, and the identification of local flora and fauna.

Thanks to these extracurricular programs, we have seen a clear shift in the perspectives and overall engagement of local youth. There is now a deep interest in learning more about the importance and functioning of their local ecosystem, and how they can play a role in its protection. These results highlight the importance of including local youth in conservation programs and providing them with the opportunity to explore potential career paths that weren't previously on their radar.



Learn More



YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Youth Leadership Program is a participatory education program that was co-designed by TMA and a group of 17 local teens from Camarones. The program was designed to address the specific needs and desires of local youth, with a particular focus on providing capacity building opportunities in the fields of teamwork, community development, leadership, and governance.

In 2024, the group selected their leadership team and focused their efforts on the design and implementation of numerous small development projects in Camarones. In addition to leading the design of the new recreation and education center, the group also helped beautify the Camarones community center by creating a nature-inspired mural, planting flowering trees, and designing a community garden. Presently, the group is actively involved in co-designing the next phases of construction for what will become the Camarones Educational Park.

Looking forward, the youth leadership group will be playing a vital role in the piloting of TMA's Community Forests Program. The group will take on key leadership roles in protecting the forest of their watershed and implementing sustainable development projects in the community.



RECREATION & EDUCATION CENTER

Over the past year, our team has worked hand-in-hand with local residents in Camarones, and in-country architecture group Taller General, to design and build a new recreation and education center for the youth of the community. The space was designed to be implemented in phases, with the first phase focusing on providing an open-air amphitheater where the kids can play and where TMA can host weekly environmental education programs.

After a year of hard work, the new space was finally inaugurated in December 2024. Families from Camarones attended the inauguration to celebrate together and begin to brainstorm the next steps. The newly formed Camarones Youth Leadership group have taken the lead on co-designing the next phases of the project, which will include a library, multi-purpose classroom, community store, native tree nursery and garden, and a workshop. Our team is actively fundraising to make this project a reality, and look forward to sharing the results over the years ahead.





INAUGURATION DAY

*Celebrating the new space with the
community of Camarones*

NEXT STEPS

Expanding the Camarones Educational Park for local youth

V Community Center

Store IV

Library III

I Amphitheater

II Canopy Lookout



COMMUNITY TEAM PROFILES

Juan Francisco Proaño



Born in Quito, Juan has a long history of supporting community-based projects across Ecuador and the world. He was initially contracted by TMA to help conduct a community-wide census in Camarones, but eventually joined the team full-time to help expand all of our community-based programs. His current focus is the development of our Youth Leadership Program.

Ingrid Lopez

Ingrid was born and raised in Camarones and has grown up following TMA's work. Her interest in childhood education eventually led her to join our community education program. Day to day, Ingrid can be found working alongside the kids and teens of the community to help provide leadership and open new learning opportunities.



A photograph of a man in a light-colored t-shirt and a backpack, viewed from the side, looking down at a smartphone. He is in a lush, green forest. A bright light source, possibly a flashlight, is illuminating a section of a tree trunk. The man's right hand is pointing at the tree trunk while his left hand holds the phone. The phone screen shows a data entry interface. The background is filled with dense foliage and tree trunks.

RESEARCH PROGRAM

An active research program that uses cutting-edge remote sensing technologies is mandatory for better understanding and managing one of the most biodiverse and threatened ecosystems on Earth.



BIODIVERSE FARMS

Since the launch of our Regenerative Agroforestry Program in 2021, our team has been monitoring changes to biodiversity on a subset of the farms. Using a combination of AudioMoth acoustic recorders and motion-triggered camera traps, our team has been documenting the variety of native wildlife species that visit the participant's regenerative cacao farms. The goal of the study is to better understand how a transition towards regenerative agroforestry can play a role in restoring habitat for local wildlife, including species on the brink of extinction like the Ecuadorian Capuchin monkey.

After a number of years collecting data, we can confidently say that the number of species observed on the farms is increasing over time. At the start of the program, when the farms were still heavily degraded and lacked forest cover, the only species documented were those that thrive in disturbed habitats like the agouti and opossum. However, once the forest cover started to recover thanks to the hardwork of the landowner, we began to document more sensitive species such as the red brocket deer, ocelot and the endangered grey-backed hawk. These results, while still preliminary, are starting to demonstrate the ecological value of cacao agroforestry systems.





BOTANICAL SURVEY

This year our team, led by Moises Tenorio and in collaboration with Ecuadorian botanist Nicanor Mejia, carried out the first botanical survey of tree species in the Jama-Coaque Reserve, Cerro Pata de Pajaro, and neighboring reserve Bosque Seco Lalo Loor. Surveys were carried out in 32 permanent biomass plots that are distributed across the landscape and encompass all forest types found in the region.

The results of the survey were shocking and demonstrate the incredible levels of biodiversity found within the greater Capuchin Corridor landscape. Nearly 250 unique species of trees, across 48 different families, have been identified to date, including a handful of species that are potentially new to science. The surveys also revealed a staggering number of species listed as Endangered by the IUCN Red List, highlighting the vital need to dramatically expand our conservation efforts in the region before these species are lost forever.



Haught's Orchid Tree

Bauhinia haughtii



Haught's Orchid Tree was described in the 1980's from a handful of specimens collected from Ecuador's Pacific Coast. Since then, very little has been known about the status of the species in the wild. When TMA took on the responsibility of managing the Cerro Pata de Pajaro Reserve a few years ago, we were surprised to find a thriving, but threatened, population of the species. Since then, our research has demonstrated that it may in fact be the last known population of the species on Earth. Given the species incredibly beautiful flowers and its ecological importance, our team is taking strides to protect and expand this last known population before it's lost forever.



FIELD TEAM PROFILES

Sixto Lopez

Sixto has spent the past few years working as a Park Ranger in the Jama-Coaque Reserve. He was born and raised in Camarones and his kids are some of the most active participants in TMA's community education programs. In 2024, he also played a key role in the construction of the new recreation and education center in Camarones.



Carlos Vite

Carlos has quickly grown into one of TMA's most versatile local employees. On any given day, he could be helping run the Capuchin Cacao processing center or helping with data collection in the Jama-Coaque Reserve. In 2024, he participated in a regenerative agriculture capacity-building workshop hosted by TMA's partner Finca Palugo.

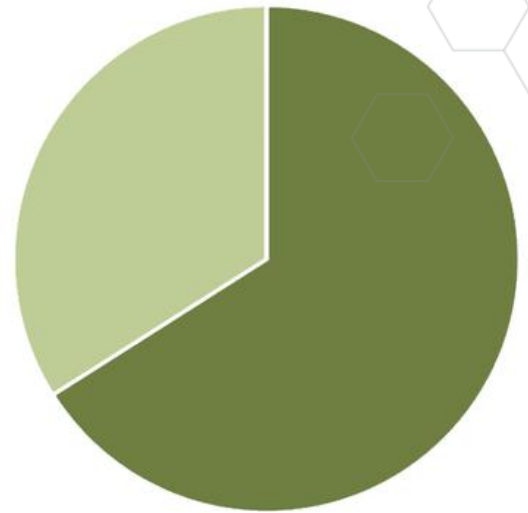


FINANCES

\$809,537

TOTAL REVENUE

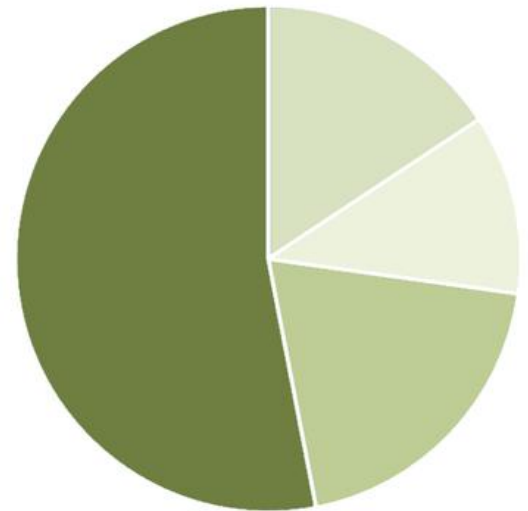
- Donations: \$534,470
- Grants: \$275,067



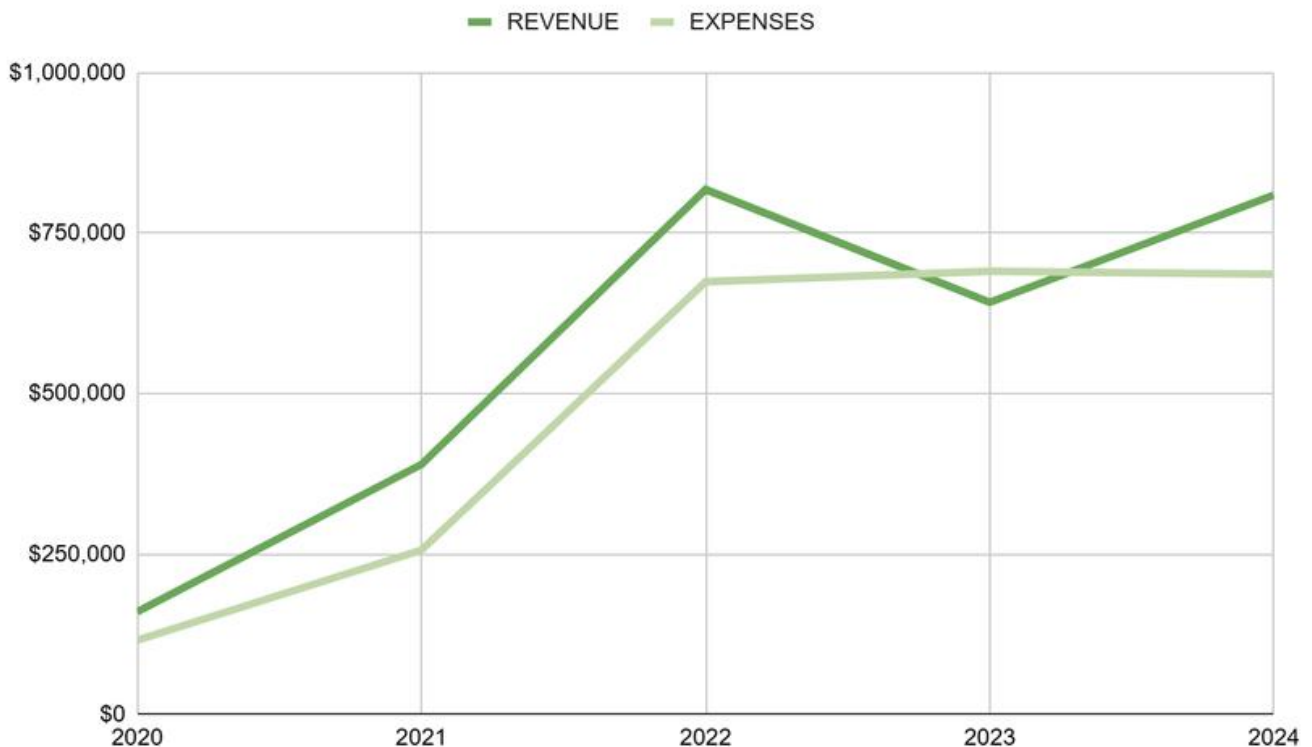
\$686,337

TOTAL EXPENSES

- Grants to TMA Ecuador: \$364,000
- Payroll: \$135,680
- Program Expenses: \$107,941
- Office: \$78,716



PAST 5 YEARS



OUR TEAM

Management Team

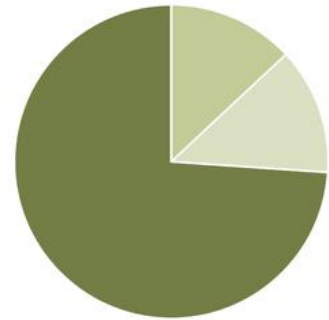
| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Ryan Lynch | Jerry Toth | Sixto Lopez |
| Carla Rizzo | Dany Murillo | Juan Proano |
| Betty Estupinan | Andrea Chica | Carlos Vite |
| Jorge Guerra | Jose Luis Medina | Mario Lopez |
| Moises Tenorio | Wilson Vite | Luis Madrid |
| Edilberto Marquez | Carlos Robles | Julexcy Mera |
| Pamela Goldhagen | Pablo Bermudez | Benilda Reynel |
| Mariano Ortiz | Ingrid Lopez | |

● Field Staff: 17

● Program Directors: 3

● Office Staff: 3

* Local Community Member Staff: 16



Board of Directors

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Isabel Davila | Naomi Kinoshita | Matt Arnoldy |
| Gavin McKay | Dr. Madeline Sides | Dr. Andrew Barron |
| Dr. Erica Dorn | Anjali Oberoi | Todd Lienart |



THE FUTURE OF THE PACIFIC FOREST DEPENDS ON YOUR GENEROSITY

Our ability to continue our conservation and restoration efforts in Ecuador is only possible thanks to the support provided by our international network of donors and partners. As we expand our efforts across the Capuchin Corridor and greater Pacific Forest, your support is more important than ever.

How You Can Help

Help save the Pacific Forest and build an ecological legacy for future generations by making a tax-deductible donation on our website, donating stocks or cryptocurrencies, or giving from your donor advised funds.

Donate Here



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Third Millennium Alliance
36900 Bodily Ave.
Fremont, CA 94536

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