JOCO TOCO

IMPACT REPORT 2025



Watch a video about our regional conservation model produced by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology above. **Read more about our regional conservation programs on page 25.**

Mushroom beetle
(Cypherotylus sp.)
Narupa Reserve
Credit: Javier Aznar



Andean Bear
(Tremarctos ornatus)
Chakana Reserve
Credit: Javier Aznar

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LETTER FROM THE CEO
MARTIN SCHAEFER

Dear Friends of Jocotoco,

This February I witnessed something extraordinary: 158 young Floreana Giant Tortoises *(Chelonoidis niger niger)*, once thought extinct, were released into the wild after nearly two centuries being absent. Jocotoco has been working to rewild Floreana, the sixth-largest island in the Galapagos, by removing non-native predators so the tortoises and other native wildlife can return. Park rangers brought the tortoises to the island, scientists fitted satellite tags, then the tortoises scampered away surprisingly quickly into the dry bush. This moment brought hope that the many other species that have disappeared from Floreana may one day return to their ancestral home.

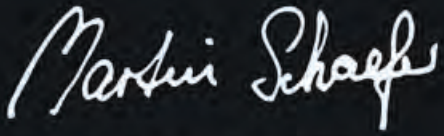
This spectacular return of nature is also happening in the Chocó rainforest. At our Canandé Reserve, most of the diversity and biomass of animals have returned to previously cleared forests that we purchased and protected within only 30 years. With 5-6 meters (16-20 ft) of rainfall per year, these are among the wettest rainforests on Earth and are as different from Floreana as possible. Yet, the healing of nature is the same.

Jocotoco transforms biodiversity hotspots into hopespots.

Our work in Ecuador spans two of the world's richest biodiversity hotspots — from both slopes of the Andes to the Pacific coast and the Galapagos. Biodiversity hotspots comprise 36 regions worldwide that share two things in common: high concentrations of species and rapid habitat destruction.

Fortunately, this is where Jocotoco excels. Where nature is most stunning and most threatened, we act quickly and effectively. We save species from extinction, help wildlife adapt to climate change, and preserve the resilience of ecosystems. The places we protect provide millions of people with fresh water, food, and pollinators for crops. Together with you, we are bringing hope to the places it is needed most.

With gratitude,

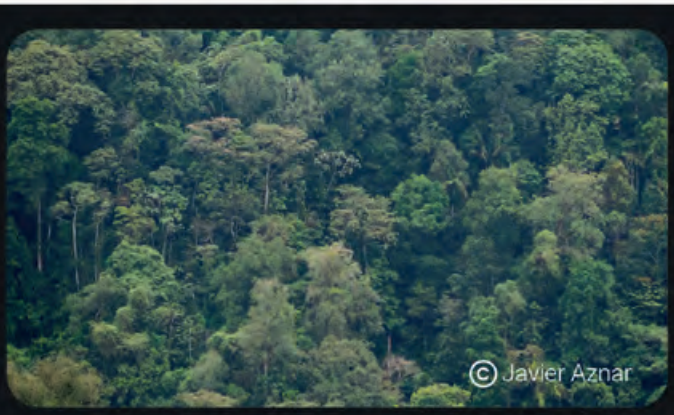


Martin Schaefer, CEO



Martin Schaefer, CEO
Floreana Island
Credit: Lucas Bustamante

JOCOTOCO GIVES REASONS FOR HOPE IN 2025



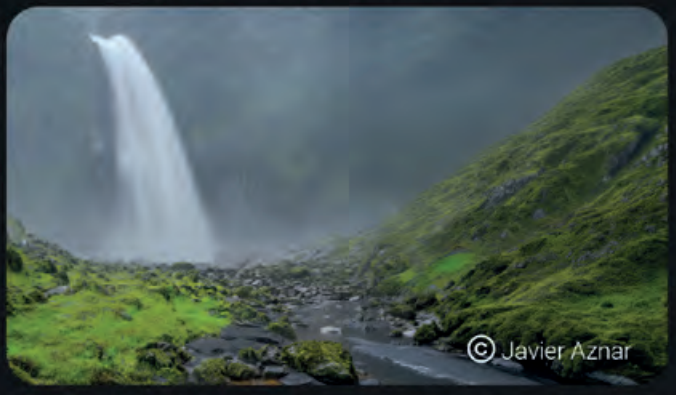
1 Expanded our reserve network by 5,500+ ha (13,600 acres), surpassing 50,000 ha (123,000 acres) protected across Ecuador.



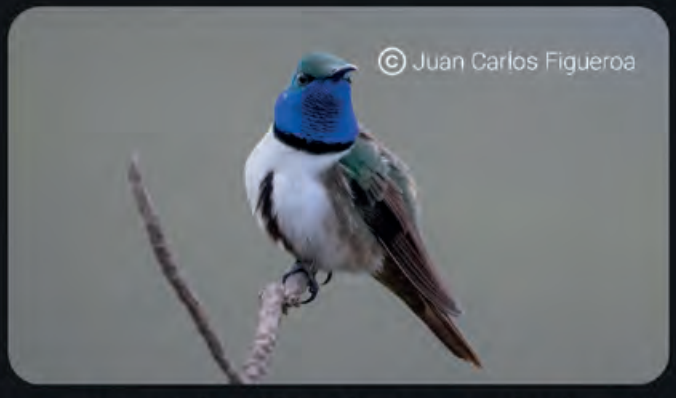
4 Cr. Endangered Brown-headed Spider Monkey *(Ateles fusciceps fusciceps)* and Lilacine Amazon *(Amazona lilacina)* numbers in our reserves exceed global estimates.



2 Helped improve the conservation status of *Magnolia dixonii*, downlisted from Critically Endangered to Endangered.



5 Established Sol del Chaco, our 19th reserve.



3 Recorded a 21%–66% increase in the global population of the Critically Endangered Blue-throated Hillstar *(Oreotrochilus cyanolaemus)*.



6 Documented seven species new to science within our reserves.



7 Developed AI tools to detect more territories of the Endangered Jocotoco Antpitta *(Grallaria ridgely)* than were previously known.



8 The Vulnerable Galapagos Rail *(Laterallus spilonota)* returned to Floreana for the first time since Darwin's visit.



9 In early 2026, partners reintroduced 158 juvenile Floreana Giant Tortoises to Floreana for the first time in nearly 200 years.

GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE



A team of international researchers called Reassembly found that biodiversity on previously cleared forests at our Canandé Reserve can recover on their own in only 30 years, validating our conservation model. Results were published in Nature, the world's leading science journal. **More on pg. 21.**

GLOBAL RECOGNITION



Paola Sangolquí, Jocotoco's Marine Conservation Coordinator seen here with Princess Anne of the U.K, won the prestigious Whitley Award for her work to protect the Critically Endangered Galapagos Petrel *(Pterodroma phaeopygia)*. **More on pg. 40.**

ECUADOR: MEGADIVERSE BUT THREATENED

Ecuador is the 9th most biodiverse country in the world. Of those countries, it is by far the smallest.







PERCENTAGE OF GLOBAL SPECIES NUMBERS IN EACH COUNTRY

BRAZIL
1st most biodiverse, 5th largest
846 million ha
(2,091 million acres)

- Mammals: 11.56%
- Amphibians: 13.46%
- Birds: 16.22%
- Reptiles: 7.01%
- Plants: 12.74%

UNITED STATES
10th most biodiverse, 3rd largest
915 million ha
(2,260 million acres)

- Mammals: 7.15%
- Amphibians: 3.88%
- Birds: 7.32%
- Reptiles: 4.51%
- Plants: 5.74%

ECUADOR
9th most biodiverse, 73rd largest
28 million ha
(68 million acres)

- Mammals: 6.62%
- Amphibians: 8.02%
- Birds: 14.52%
- Reptiles: 3.98%
- Plants: 6.84%

Jocotoco's reserves cover an area slightly larger than the City of Prague, but are home to 12% of global bird species, more than the entire U.S.



JOCOTOCO´S RESERVES
50,000 ha
(123,000 acres)
% of global bird species
12%



CITY OF PRAGUE
49,000 ha
(122,000 acres)
% of global bird species
2.5%

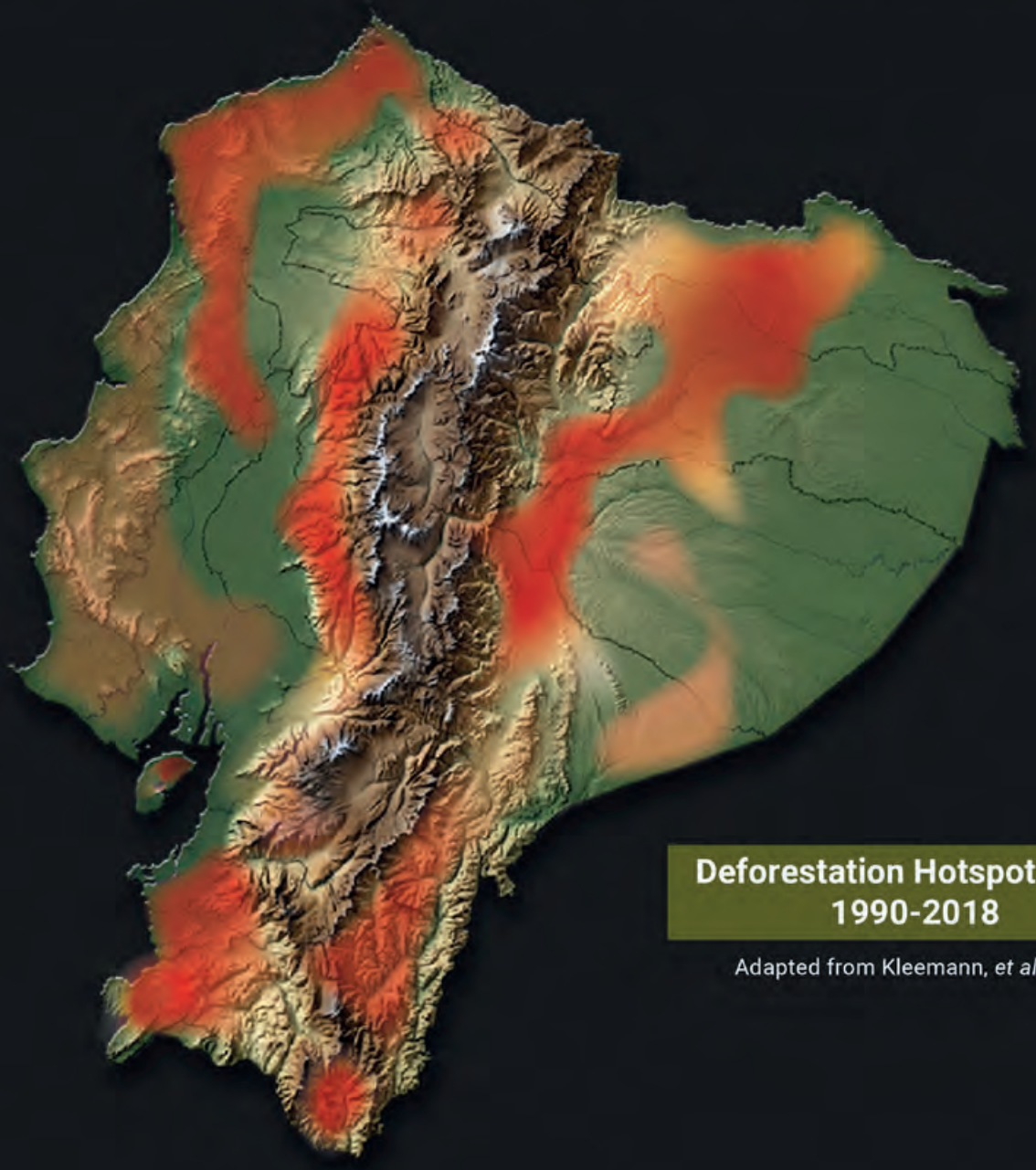
The concentration of biodiversity in Ecuador is greater than almost anywhere else on Earth.



Puma
(Puma concolor)
Narupa Reserve
Credit: Javier Aznar

DEFORESTATION: THE LEADING CAUSE OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS IN MAINLAND ECUADOR

Ecuador suffered one of the highest rates of deforestation in South America during the 20th century, and deforestation continues. Ecuador lost 21,340 km² (8,240 miles²) of forest between 1990 and 2020, 15% of its remaining forests, an area equal to the size of the country of Wales or the state of New Jersey. As a result, Ecuador has the second-highest number of threatened species of any country.



Deforestation Hotspots from 1990-2018

Adapted from Kleemann, *et al.*, 2022.



Forest clearing in northwest Ecuador.
Credit: Jaime Culebras



KEY INGREDIENTS TO JOCOTOCO'S APPROACH



Karina, conservation analyst for Jocotoco, near the Ridgely Reserve.
Credit: Afuera Producciones

GROUNDBREAKING SCIENCE

Science guides our conservation strategies. Research both validates our work and challenges our assumptions.

Along with our own staff, scientists from across Ecuador and around the world conduct research on the ecosystems we protect. We utilize the results of that research to guide our conservation strategies.

Evidence-based decision-making is what separates efforts that feel good from those that actually optimize positive impacts on biodiversity.

Evidence led us to one of our original founding strategies in the late 1990s — create new nature reserves to protect endemic and threatened species that are not protected otherwise.

Because we rely on evidence, we invest in AI-based monitoring to refine our regional conservation strategies. In our regional programs, we create connections between protected areas, allowing wildlife to move across the landscape. We strategically locate our reserves to buffer massive national parks, effectively protecting vast hinterlands beyond our reserve boundaries. We support the efforts of governments, communities, and other conservation organizations to create and manage their own protected areas that act as buffers and connectors.

2025 SUMMARY



Our work and the ecosystems we protect were featured in 26 peer-reviewed articles.



74 external researchers from 52 universities and research centers conducted studies in our reserves.



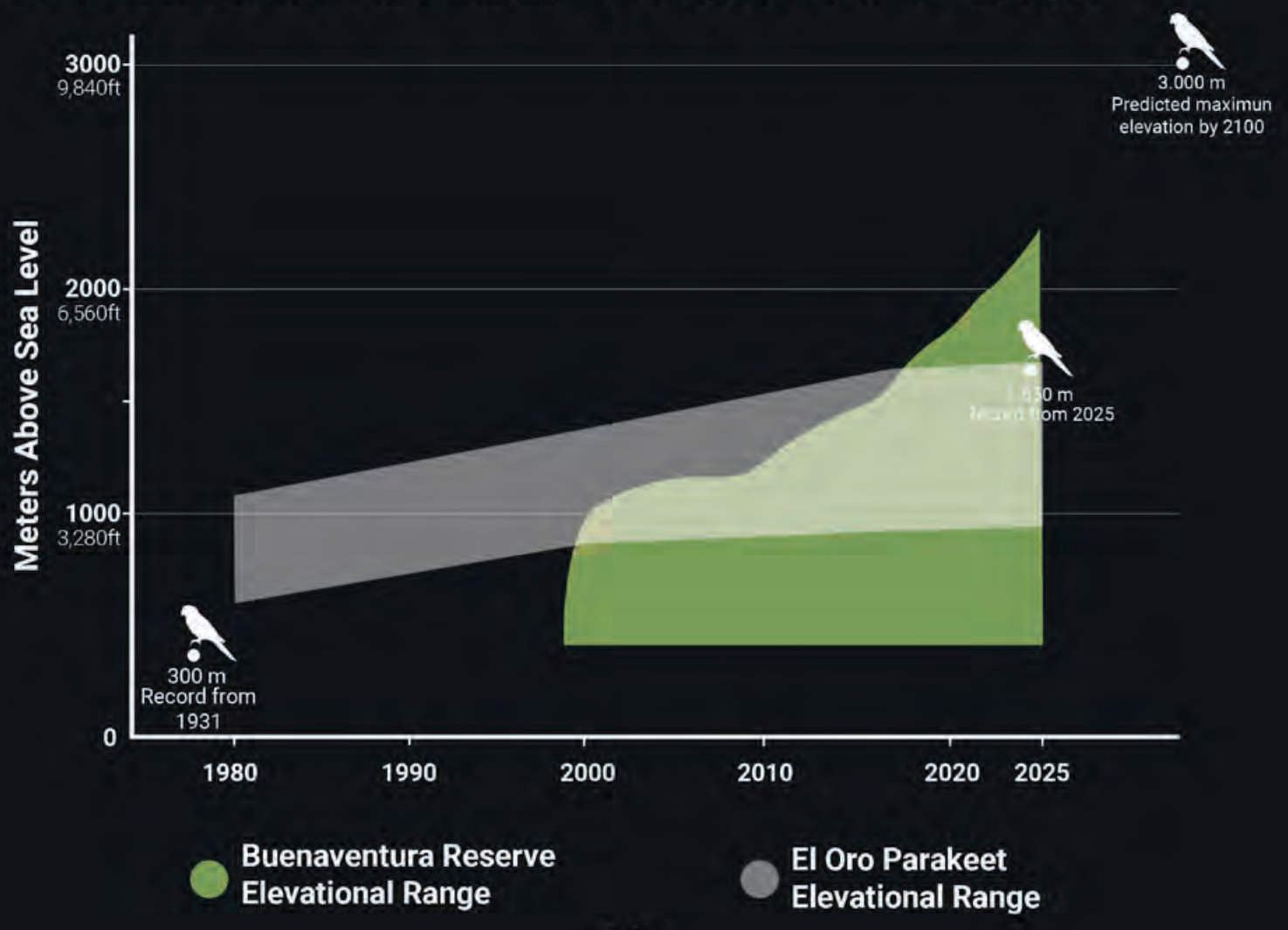
Nico Blüthgen at a dung beetle trap.
Canandé Reserve
Credit: Karsten Mody

Jocotoco was an early leader in utilizing science on climate change to drive conservation strategies.

Jocotoco created the Buenaventura Reserve in southwestern Ecuador in 1999 to protect the last remaining cloud forests in the region and to protect species like the Endangered El Oro Parakeet *(Pyrrhura orcesi)*. There were no and still are no national parks in this region.

We soon noticed that the El Oro Parakeet moved farther up in elevation over time. We suspected it was due to climate change pushing its cloud forest habitat upslope. We began expanding the reserve upslope based on our intuition. The parakeet's current elevation range is 900-1,600 m (2,950-5,250 ft) and the reserve extends from 350-2,300 m (1,150-7,550 ft), encompassing the entirety of its elevation range. However, in 2018 we published a study that showed that El Oro Parakeets will likely shift their range up to a maximum elevation of 3,000 m (9,840 ft) by the year 2100.

We must continue to expand Buenaventura upslope to allow the El Oro Parakeet and other wildlife to adapt to climate change.





The northern Andes are one of the few places in South America gaining tree species as climate change pushes lowland species upslope. This highlights the importance of the Andes in Ecuador as a climate corridor.

As in the Buenaventura Reserve, evidence on the impact of climate change leads us to protect large altitudinal gradients in our regional programs. Protected corridors that stretch from the bottom to the top of the Andes allow wildlife to find suitable habitat as the climate becomes hotter.

El Oro Parakeet
Buenaventura Reserve
Credit: Javier Aznar

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Jocotoco is deeply rooted in the ecosystems we protect. Our reserves are embedded in communities throughout Ecuador. We are committed to the long-term health of these ecosystems and communities.

Our decision-making is local. The people who live in or near the places we work are the ones guiding key decisions about how to protect those ecosystems. More than half of our staff work in the same communities they were born in. Many of them work to protect the same land that they grew up on. These local connections build trust between Jocotoco and communities.

Local connections also allow Jocotoco to be agile. If there is a problem, we solve it quickly. If there is an opportunity, we respond immediately. When a dangerous wildfire spreads, we join the local fire brigade and put it out. If a landowner wants to sell their property, we learn about it first.

Jocotoco develops leaders from within.

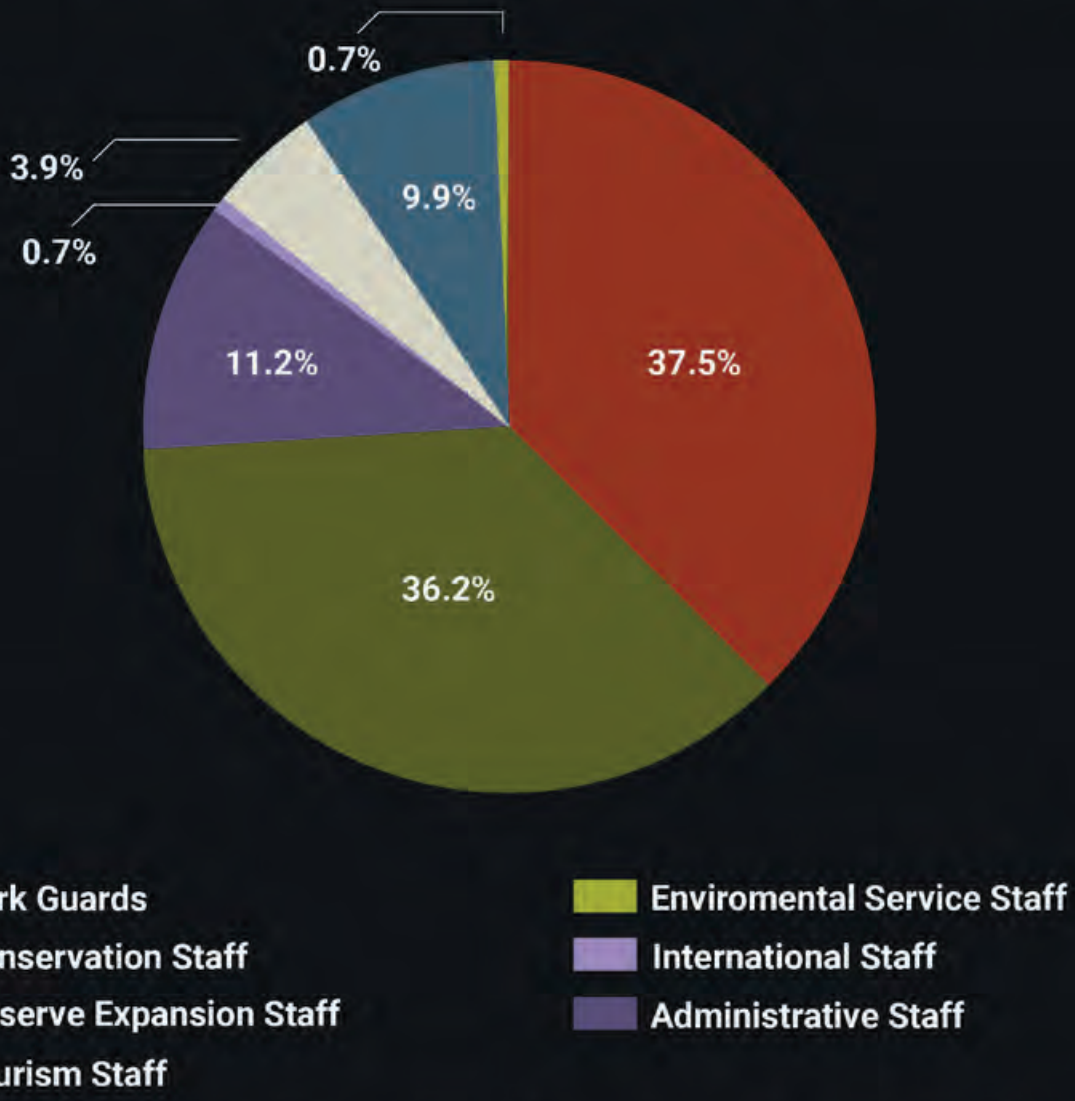
We invest in local leadership by building skills, fostering connections, and creating pathways for growth. Park guards become reserve managers, and reserve managers become regional program coordinators. Staff that work in our tree nurseries become heads of restoration programs. Maintenance staff become expert nature guides.

In turn, the leaders that we develop then reciprocate and shape Jocotoco. They improve our methods and adjust our priorities. And they pay it forward. When leaders grow with Jocotoco, they become mentors to the next generation of conservationists, helping develop the younger generation's skills and expertise.

PEOPLE
ON THE GROUND

Jocotoco's reserves have 10 to 70 times more park guards per area than national parks in large South American countries.

Jocotoco ensures its reserves are safeguarded by investing heavily in the people that protect those reserves, our park guards, representing 37.5% of all of our staff.



Our park guards are at the frontlines of conservation. Jocotoco park guards completed nearly 6,000 km (3,700 miles) of patrols in 2025. With that pace, they will have patrolled the circumference of the equator in under seven years.



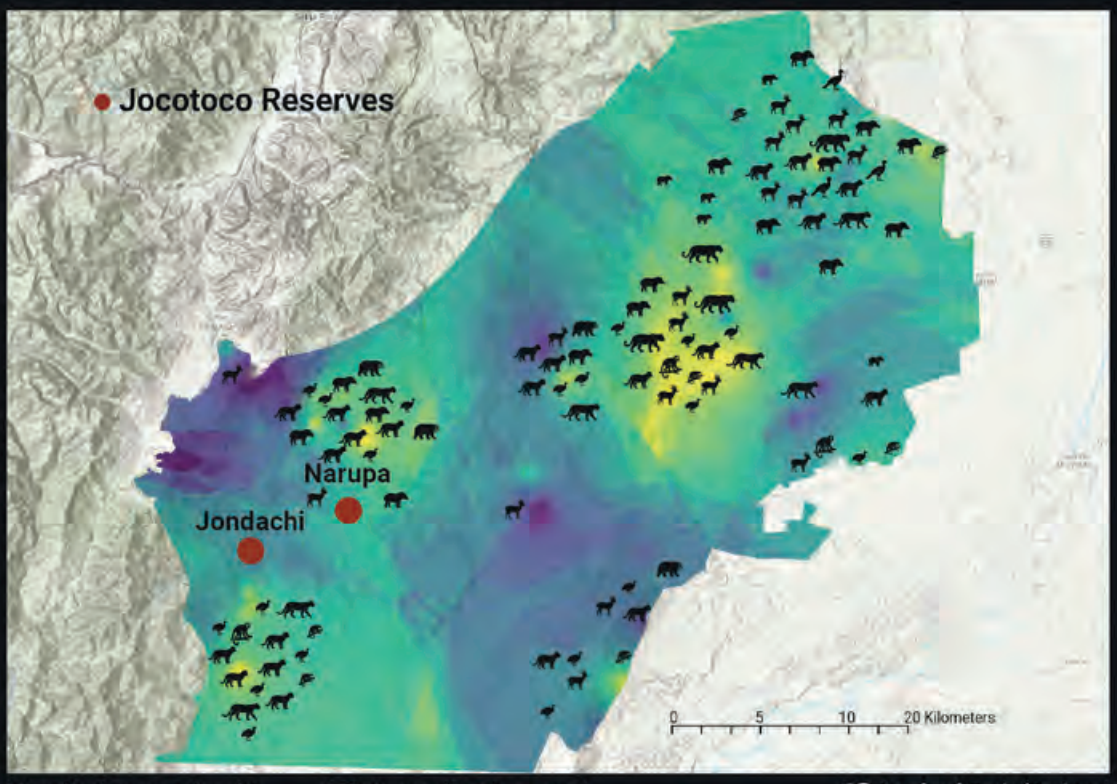
Field biologist Javier, southern reserves coordinator Jesús, and Cerro de Arcos Reserve park guard Ángel.
Credit: Lizeth Cargua

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

Jocotoco develops and deploys innovative technology to monitor large landscapes quickly and efficiently, work that people alone cannot accomplish.

We monitor the ecosystems that we protect in order to understand if our work is effective. Landscape monitoring allows us to measure the success of our regional conservation strategies. We also develop AI models to monitor specific rare and threatened species in order to refine our conservation strategies for those species.

Jocotoco uses audio recorders to monitor the sounds of birds and amphibians. We also use camera traps to monitor mammals. These data allow us to visualize how biodiversity varies across the landscape. The map below shows biodiversity in the Andes-Amazon region. Lighter colors show higher biodiversity values, and darker colors show lower biodiversity values. Such maps allow us to prioritize locations for protection by Jocotoco and by our community partners, including key wildlife corridors between protected areas.



- **Small-eared Dog** *(Atelocynus microtis)*
- **White-fronted Capuchin** *(Cebus yuracus)*
- **Ocelot** *(Leopardus pardalis)*
- **Red Brocket** *(Mazama americana)*
- **Salvin's Curassow** *(Mitu salvini)*
- **Jaguar** *(Panthera onca)*
- **Puma** *(Puma concolor)*
- **Bush Dog** *(Speothos venaticus)*
- **Southern Tamandua** *(Tamandua tetradactyla)*
- **Mountain Tapir** *(Tapirus pinchaque)*
- **Lowland Tapir** *(Tapirus terrestris)*
- **White-lipped peccary** *(Tayassu pecari)*
- **Great Tinamou** *(Tinamus major)*
- **Andean Bear** *(Tremarctos ornatus)*

We use the same audio recorders and AI models to identify threats, the sounds of chainsaws and hunting rifles. We are now utilizing technology that sends real-time alerts when threats are detected, drastically cutting down the response time of park guards.

Advanced technology allows Jocotoco to scale up.

Technology allows Jocotoco to monitor biodiversity and threats on a grand scale. While people on the ground will always be the driving force of our work, technology enables us to address conservation challenges efficiently. Those efficiencies will reduce our operational costs in the long term.

2025 Advances in AI-aided Monitoring:

- **Our AI models can now identify 596 bird and 202 amphibian species, up from 520 birds and 30 amphibians in 2024. This includes seven Critically Endangered and 25 Endangered species.**
- **In our Tapichalaca Reserve, we trained our AI models to identify the Endangered Jocotoco Antpitta, a species notoriously difficult to monitor owing to its low propensity to vocalize.**
- **In our Buenaventura Reserve, we trained our AI models to identify the Endangered El Oro Parakeet and El Oro Tapaculo** *(Scytalopus robbinsi)*. **Both species are endemic to cloud forests in southern Ecuador. The El Oro Tapaculo is especially elusive and difficult to see, making bioacoustic monitoring essential to understanding its conservation status.**
- **We identified the Vulnerable Black Tinamou** *(Tinamus osgoodi)* **in southern Ecuador near our Tapichalaca Reserve, 500 km (310 miles) south of its known range in Ecuador.**
- **We detected numerous individuals of the Critically Endangered** *Pristimantis chocoensis* **and the Critically Endangered** *Dendropsophus gryllatus*, **two endemic frogs known only from a small number of locations in western Ecuador.**
- **The models can now identify most human-made threats at 90% accuracy, like chainsaws cutting down a tree. We use this data to increase our vigilance.**

REASSEMBLY:
USING TECHNOLOGY TO VALIDATE JOCOTOCO'S MODEL AT THE HIGHEST SCIENTIFIC LEVEL

Jocotoco is one of the most effective organizations in Latin America at quantifying its outcomes and measuring its impact. Understanding what works and what doesn't allows us to adapt our strategies so they are more effective.

Together with Jocotoco staff, scientists from Reassembly, a research project at our Canandé Reserve in the Ecuadorian Chocó, found that 75% of old-growth forest wildlife species can return to former cacao plantations and pastures within just 30 years once that land is protected. Forests regenerated on their own without the need for active reforestation.

The Reassembly team included 40 researchers from more than 30 universities and research centers from Ecuador and across the world. Researchers used bioacoustics, eDNA, and AI to develop their findings. One of the world's most prestigious journals, Nature, published their groundbreaking findings in April 2026. This scientific and technological validation demonstrates that our model works — protect the land and nature returns on its own.



Read the full article in Nature



See the article in the NY Times



Diablito
(Oophaga sylvatica)
Canandé Reserve
Credit: Javier Aznar



JOCOTOCO´S IMPACT



Canandé Reserve
Credit: Javier Aznar

SUCCESSES IN REGIONAL CONSERVATION

OUR PROGRAMS AND RESERVES





Pacific Ocean

RESERVES

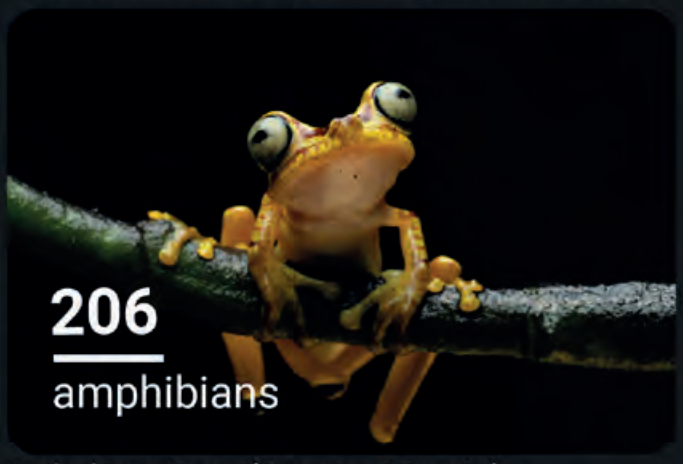
1. Tapichalaca
2. Buenaventura
3. Yunguilla
4. Canandé
5. Yanacocha
6. Utuana
7. Jorupe
8. Narupa
9. Chakana
10. Ayampe
11. Copalinga
12. Los Petreles
13. Las Balsas
14. Cerro de Arcos
15. Cuyuja
16. Jondachi
17. Mindo-Tandayapa
18. Ridgely
19. Sol del Chaco

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

- Chocó-Andes
- Andes-Amazon
- Galapagos-Pacific
- Podocarpus-El Cóndor
- Chocó-Tumbes

THE STUNNING BIODIVERSITY OF JOCOTOCO'S RESERVES

The number of species recorded on our reserves, to date:



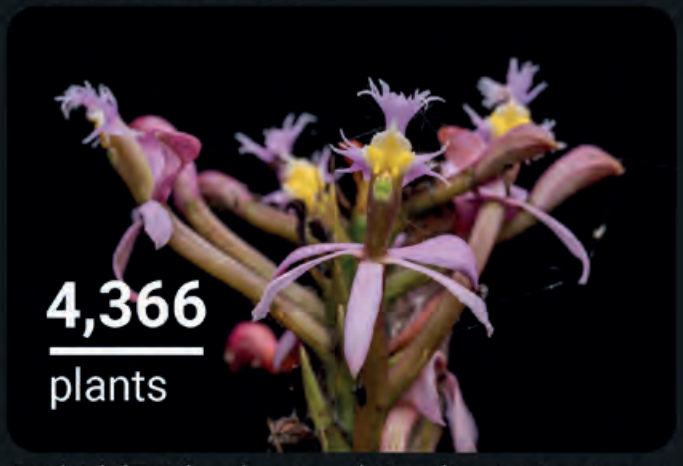
Imbabura Frog *(Boana picturata)*
Credit: Javier Aznar



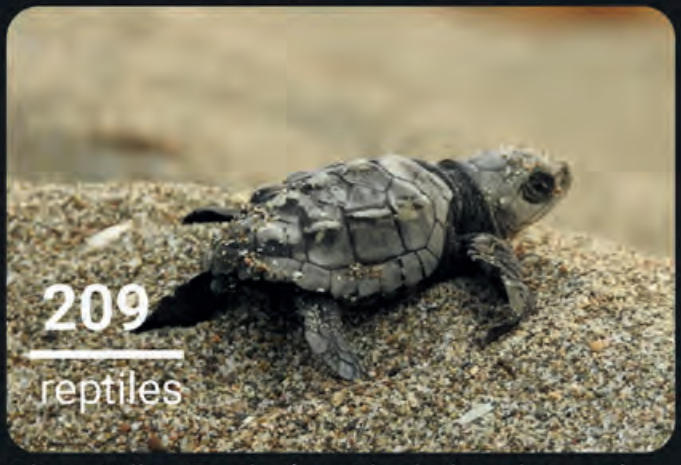
Yellow-tufted Dacnis *(Dacnis egregia)*
Credit: Meinolf Pues



Mountain Tapir *(Tapirus pinchaque)*
Credit: Nicolas Devos



Orchid *(Epidendrum sp.)* Credit: Javier Aznar



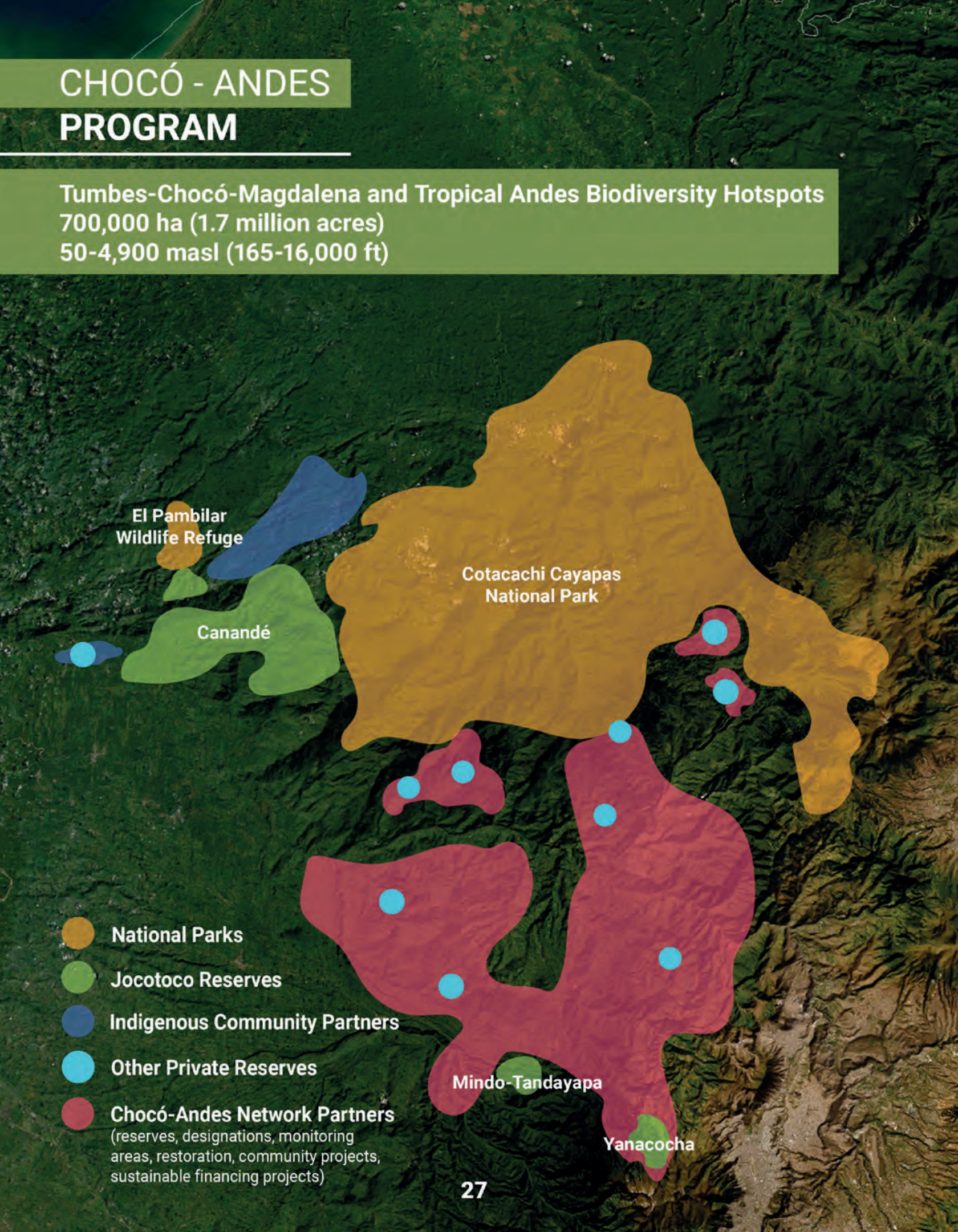
Olive Ridley Turtle *(Lepidochelys olivacea)*
Credit: Byron Delgado



Great Green Macaw *(Ara ambiguus guayaquilensis)*
Credit: Afuera Producciones

CHOCÓ - ANDES
PROGRAM

Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena and Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspots
700,000 ha (1.7 million acres)
50-4,900 masl (165-16,000 ft)





Mindo-Tandayapa Reserve
Credit: Javier Aznar

2025

JOCOTOCO HIGHLIGHTS



3,381 ha (8,355 acres) added to our reserve network.



Three communal reserves and two national parks jointly patrolled.



More than 10,000 distinct species of plants and animals identified by Reassembly researchers at the Canandé Reserve. Many of these species have not yet been described formally. Researchers also found 60,000 species of fungi, species that could be the basis of new antibiotics.



264 seedlings of threatened and endemic trees planted, including 204 Endangered *Magnolia dixonii* (downlisted from Critically Endangered to Endangered).



Monitoring revealed that biodiversity of mammals is lower in areas near roads, settlements, and logging. This may be due to subsistence hunting. Surveys show that most young people here do not hunt, indicating that hunting will be less of a problem for wildlife in the future.

Chocó-Andes Network

Stronger together, Protecting our Region

Protecting the hottest of biodiversity hotspots.

Spearheaded by Jocotoco, and led collaboratively by 11 local organizations, we are creating a 'Ring of Defense' around the Cotacachi-Cayapas National Park. We are also creating a connected corridor of protected areas from lowland Chocó rainforests to high-elevation páramos in the Andes, spanning an altitudinal gradient of nearly 5 km (3 miles), enabling climate adaptation.

Momentum Builds in 2025

EcoMinga enrolled 914 ha (2,259 acres) in the national system of protected areas (SNAP), giving them the highest level of protection possible in Ecuador.

EcoMinga received 405 ha (1,000 acres) of land donations.

CONDESAN created a new 10,000-ha (25,000-acre) municipal conservation area (ACUS).

Fundación Futuro purchased 112 ha (277 acres).

Corporación Toisán established community ranger groups to patrol four communal reserves.

Aves y Conservación planted more than 5,000 native plants restoring 20 ha (50 acres).

Near the end of 2025, the 11 organizations were awarded funding for a second phase of conservation projects.

Trainings led by network members: 200 farmers participated in workshops to develop a Life Plan, a community-led roadmap for strengthening territorial governance, cultural continuity, sustainable livelihoods, and conservation across their communities; 27 community leaders received conservation training; 20 youth were prepared as community monitors; and 32 local guides received training in environmental education and water monitoring.



Credit: Chocó - Andes Network



Credit: Chocó - Andes Network

Chocó-Andes: Allowing tens of thousands of species to adapt to a warming world, like the three below.



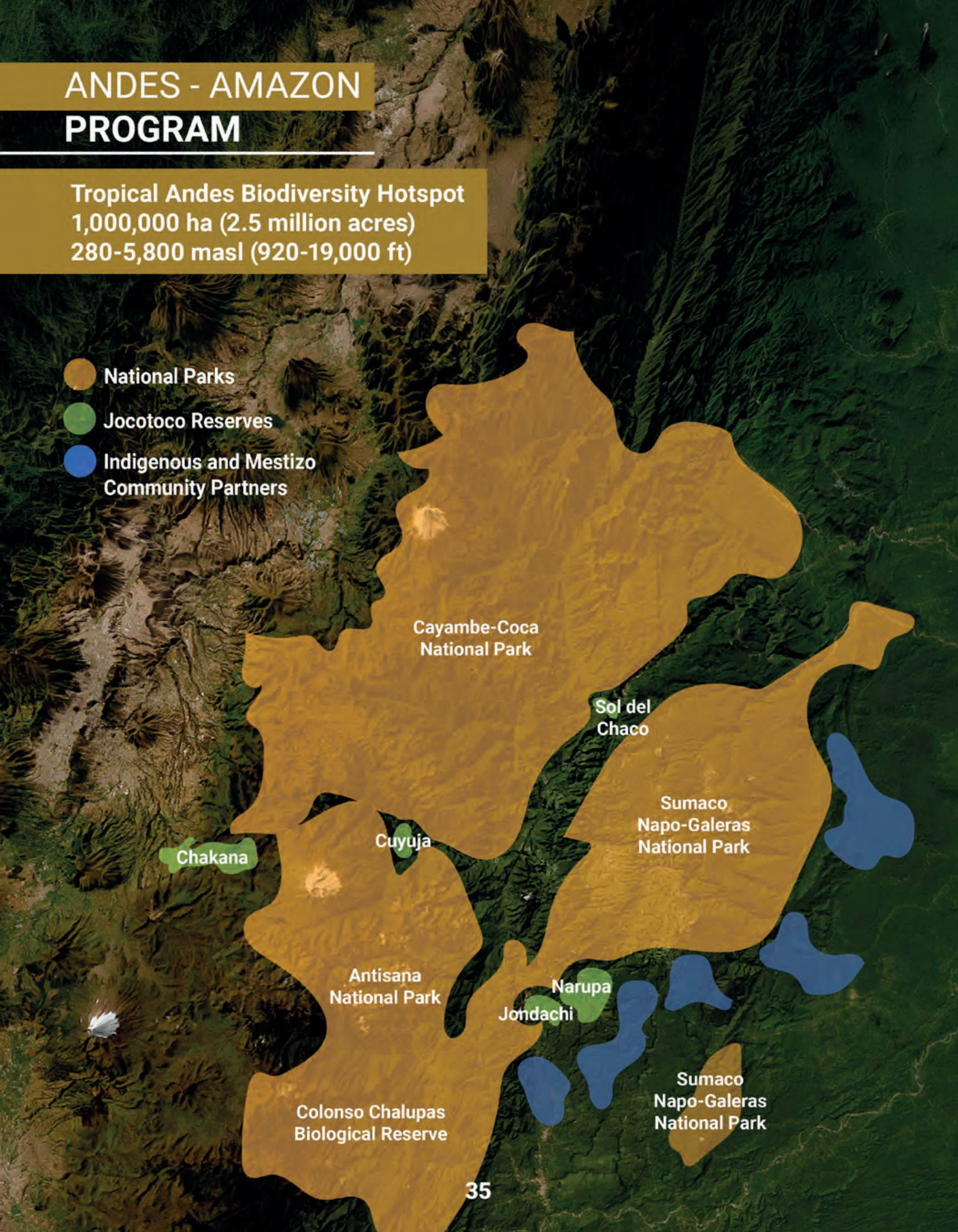
EN **Black-and-Chestnut Eagle**
(Spizaetus isidori)
1,300–3,000 masl (4,200–9,800 ft)
Credit: Meinolf Pues

NT **Plate-billed Mountain Toucan**
(Andigena laminirostris)
1,200-2,500 masl (3,900-8,200 ft)
Credit: Javier Aznar

VU **Great Curassow** *(Crax rubra)*
below 1,200 masl (4,000 ft)
Credit: Jocotoco



Canandé Reserve
Credit: Lucas Bustamante

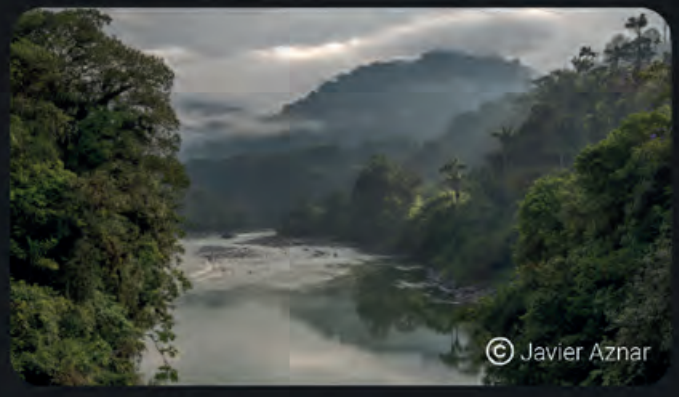

ANDES - AMAZON
PROGRAM
Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot
1,000,000 ha (2.5 million acres)
280-5,800 masl (920-19,000 ft)
National Parks
Jocotoco Reserves
Indigenous and Mestizo Community Partners
Cayambe-Coca National Park
Sol del Chaco
Sumaco Napo-Galeras National Park
Cuyuja
Chakana
Antisana National Park
Narupa
Jondachi
Sumaco Napo-Galeras National Park
Colonso Chalupas Biological Reserve

2025

JOCOTOCO HIGHLIGHTS



798 ha (1,972 acres) added to our reserve network.



One new reserve created, Sol Del Chaco.



Three communal reserves and two national parks jointly patrolled.



Monitoring revealed that biodiversity is highest in our Narupa Reserve and around indigenous communities. Deforestation is also concentrated around indigenous communities, underscoring the importance of community conservation to increase landscape connectivity and buffer national parks.

SKY RIVERS BRING LIFE

Water is the engine of life that causes Ecuador's biodiversity.

Vapor from the Pacific and the Amazon moves inland and upward along invisible sky rivers until it falls as rain along the Andes. Trees that absorb and release moisture are part of these sky rivers. The sky rivers anchor local and regional climates and provide drinking water and hydroelectric power to millions.

But this continental system is under threat. Deforestation has fragmented the forest corridors and disrupted the cycle. Without a reliable source, the systems powered by atmospheric water and water from the ocean are in danger. As deforestation continues, we see more frequent and severe droughts on both sides of the Andes, including the Chocó and Amazon rainforests. The cycle creates a negative feedback loop: deforestation leads to less moisture in the atmosphere, less moisture leads to less rain in the Andes, and less rain in the Andes leads to less freshwater to sustain forests. In Ecuador, drought results in a decrease in economic productivity, and the country turns to more extractive industries like mining, oil, and timber.

At Jocotoco we create a positive feedback loop, where nature and people thrive. We have shown that we can protect vast networks of forests. We have also shown that we can quickly restore ecosystems that have been degraded. Once ecosystems are restored, the skyrivers flow again.



Jocotoco has a network of reserves that stretch up and down both slopes of the Andes. This image shows our reserves in the Chocó-Andes on the western slope and the Andes-Amazon on the eastern slope. The forests in these reserves contribute to the sky rivers that sustain life in Ecuador and beyond.



Buenaventura Reserve
Credit: Lucas Bustamante

GALAPAGOS - PACIFIC PROGRAM

Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena Biodiversity Hotspot
325,000 km² (125,450 miles²)
Sea floor-1,700 masl (5,600 ft)



Program area also includes the first eight miles of ocean off the coast of mainland Ecuador.

Paola's acceptance speech.

Credit: Bryan Pérez Saltos

Paola Sangolquí Wins the Prestigious Whitley Award!

Paola Sangolquí, Jocotoco's Marine Conservation Coordinator, became a fellow at the Sustainable Ocean Alliance in February, completed her PhD in March, and, to top it all off, won the 2026 Whitley Award in April. She received the award for her innovative work protecting Critically Endangered Galapagos Petrel nests on private farmland collaboratively with the farmers themselves. These awards, considered to be the "Green Oscars", are held annually by the U.K.-based Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN). The ceremony, hosted by the patron of WFN, the Princess Royal of Britain, was held in April 2026 at the Royal Geographical Society in London.



Critically Endangered Galapagos Petrel
Credit: Mara Speece

2025 JOCOTOCO HIGHLIGHTS



The High Seas Treaty (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction / BBNJ) advanced toward implementation after reaching the required number of ratifying countries. Jocotoco contributed towards Ecuador being one of the countries that signed the treaty.



Jocotoco is supporting the declaration of the first marine connectivity corridor along the first eight miles of mainland Ecuador's coast, known as the "Blue Corridor," spanning 15,035 km² (5,804 mi²). The Blue Corridor will connect existing marine protected areas together, protect biodiversity, and support artisanal fishers.



Led by the Galapagos National Park Directorate and developed with community participation, a new fishing law was approved for the Galapagos Marine Reserve, outlawing long-line fishing.



The proposed zoning for the Galapagos Marine Reserve, developed with technical support from Jocotoco and partners, protects the most sensitive areas for biodiversity while supporting sustainable artisanal fishing and tourism.



Our staff and collaborators with Galapagos Reef Revival "planted" 800 corals across 500m² (5,382 ft²) of reefs near Isabela Island to restore reefs lost to El Niño in the 1980s. 7,600 corals have been planted to date covering 7,000 m² (75,000 ft²).



Thanks to the ongoing invasive predator control activities carried out by Jocotoco, new hatchlings of the Critically Endangered Galapagos Pink Land Iguana *(Conolophus marthae)* were found for only the third time since the species was described in 2009. With a global population of fewer than 400 individuals, the survival of juveniles in 2025 reflects improved conditions in their breeding grounds.



Jocotoco works beyond Ecuador in Costa Rica. Jocotoco controlled invasive and destructive wildlife on Cocos Island, off Costa Rica's Pacific coast, to improve conditions for native wildlife.

FLOREANA

REWILDING AN ENTIRE ISLAND

The most ambitious rewilding project ever undertaken in the Galapagos.

Together with many partners, we will bring back 12 endemic species that disappeared from Floreana, the sixth largest island in the Galapagos, generations ago. We eradicate invasive predators on Floreana to make the island safe for the return of its wildlife. This is the largest invasive species eradication project on a populated tropical island in the world.

Our work is paying off. Two of the 12 species have now returned: 158 Floreana Giant Tortoise were released in early 2026 and the Galapagos Rail returned on its own in early 2025.

The project is led by the Galapagos National Park Directorate and the Agency for the Regulation and Control of Biosecurity and Quarantine for Galapagos, and co-implemented by Jocotoco, the Charles Darwin Foundation, and Island Conservation, with support from many other collaborators. All 150 Residents of Floreana signed on to support the effort.

December 2023
Intensive invasive predator control was conducted across Floreana.
Partners: 1 2 3 4 5 6 8 10



© James Muchmore

February 2024
510 Darwin's finches were released after being held in aviaries to safeguard the population. Upon their return, they quickly started breeding.
Partners: 1 8 11 12 14

2023

2024

2024
The largest colony of Critically Endangered Galapagos Petrel reached more than 700 registered nests, with 154 chicks fledged. Lava Lizard *(Microlophus grayii)* populations grew eight-fold. Several endemic land snail species were recorded for the first time in decades.
Partners: 1 6 7 8 11 12 13 15



© Diego Bermeo

May 2024
Farmers reported minimal to no crop losses due to rats or mice, down from 40-60% crop losses.

Partners:

1 Galapagos National Park Directorate
2 Agency for the Regulation and Control of Biosecurity and Quarantine for Galapagos
3 Floreana community
9 Galapagos Conservancy
10 Bell Laboratories
11 Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
12 The Konrad Lorenz Research Center for Behavior and Cognition at the Universe of Vienna

An unprecedentedly strong El Niño is predicted for later this year. The El Niño is likely to seriously reduce the populations of marine wildlife. Coral is especially susceptible. Jocotoco is monitoring the situation.

Floreana Island.
Credit: Joshua Vela

February 2026
158 juvenile Floreana Giant Tortoises released.
Partners: 1 2 6 7 8 9



© Joshua Vela

February 2025
Galapagos Rail was rediscovered on Floreana for the first time since Darwin himself in 1835.
Partners: 1 6 7

2026

2025



© Marlon del Águila



© Joshua Vela

December 2025
First group of Short-eared Owls *(Asio flammeus galapagoensis)* released after being held in aviaries to protect them during invasive species control.
Partners: 1 2 8 11 12 14

June and August 2024
We detetected invasive predators in the highlands. Invasive predator control continued.
Partners: 1 2 6 8



© Carlos Espinosa

4 Junta Parroquial de Floreana 5 Asociación de Agroproductores "Floreana Verde" 6 Jocotoco 7 Charles Darwin Foundation 8 Island Conservation
13 Scripps Institution of Oceanography 14 Wildlife Drones 15 Kirtana Kumar

When Darwin visited Floreana in 1835, giant tortoises had already been nearly hunted out and he only saw empty tortoise shells.

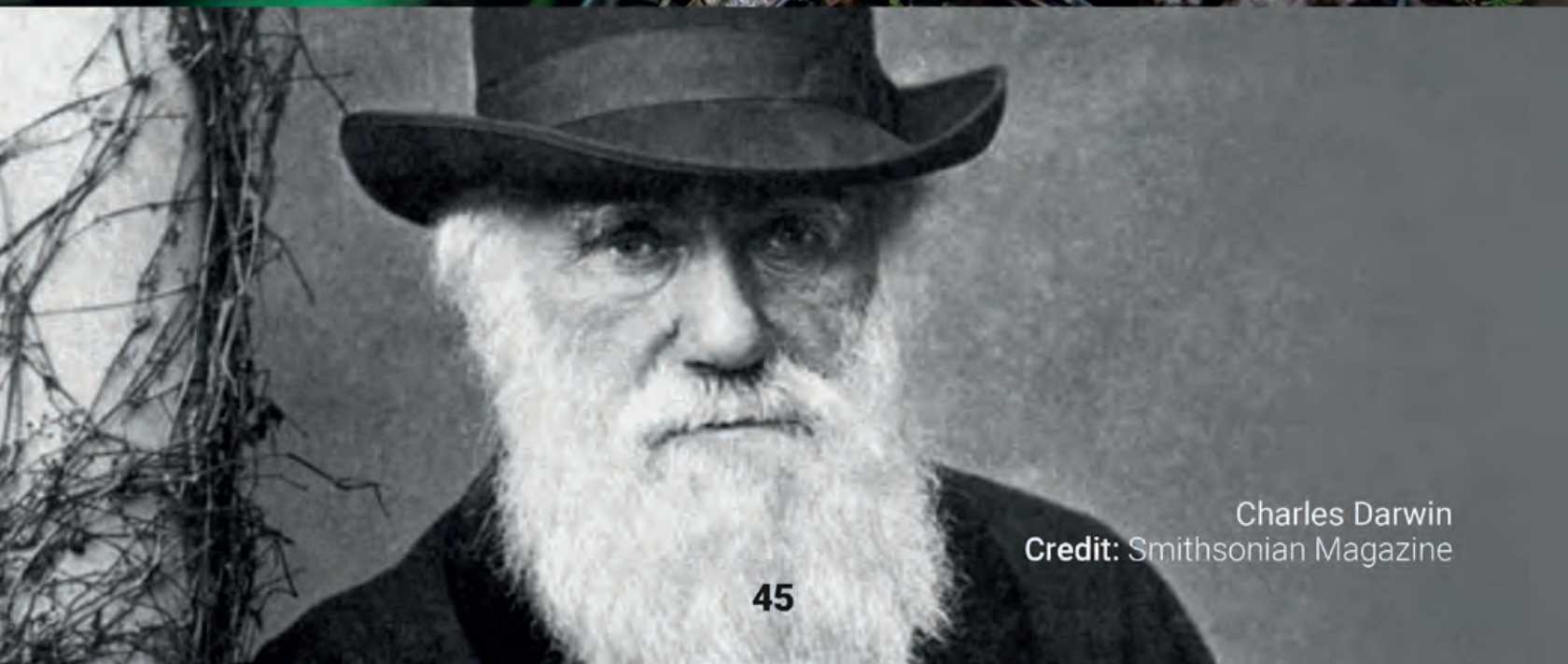


Floreana Giant Tortoise
Credit: Bryan Pérez

Darwin did see Galapagos Rail on Floreana, the last record of the rail on the island until their return in 2025.



Galapagos Rail
Credit: Carlos Espinosa



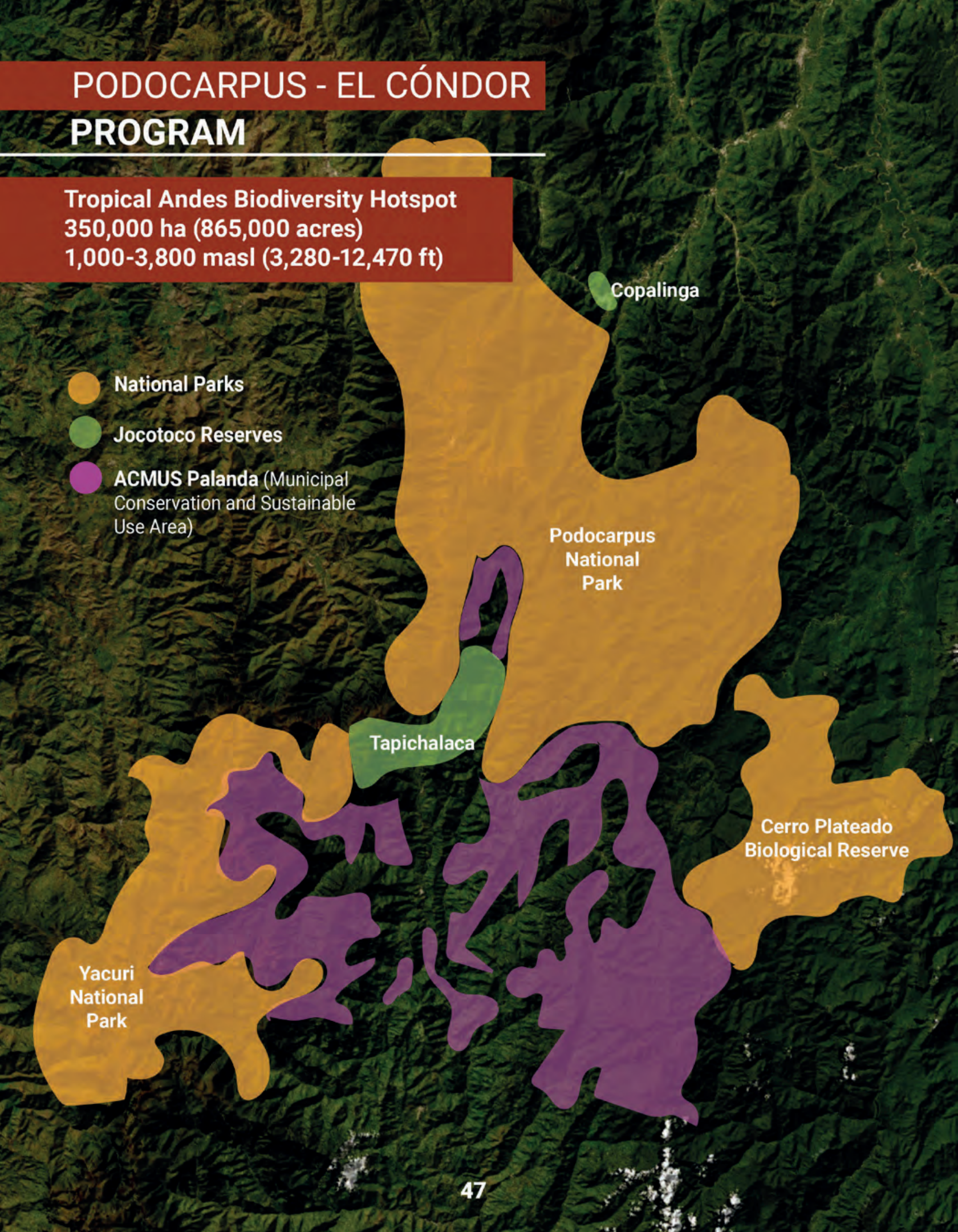
Charles Darwin
Credit: Smithsonian Magazine



Floreana Island
Credit: Marlon del Águila

PODOCARPUS - EL CÓNDOR PROGRAM

Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot
350,000 ha (865,000 acres)
1,000-3,800 masl (3,280-12,470 ft)

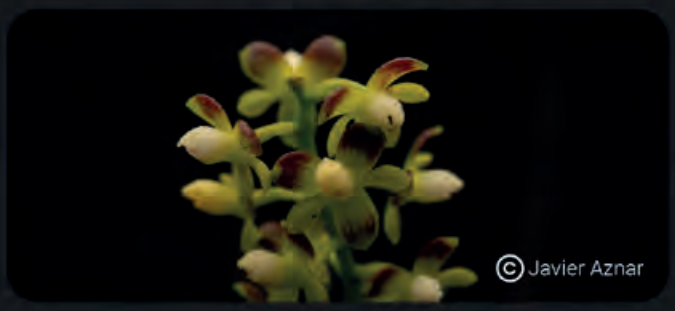


2025

JOCOTOCO HIGHLIGHTS



729 ha (1,801 acres) added to our reserve network.



2,500 seedlings of rare species planted, including endemic trees, vines, and orchids.

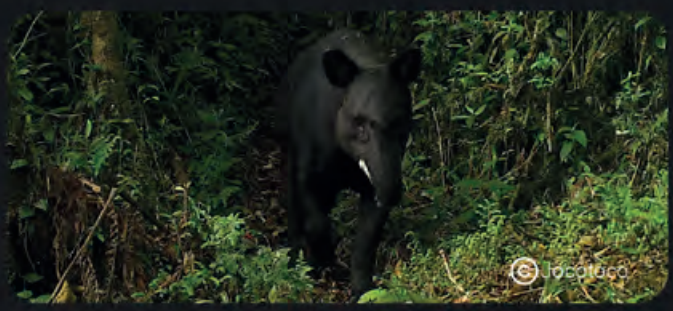


Five species newly described to science discovered in the Tapichalaca Reserve:

- One frog *(Pristimantis translucidus)*
- One caddisfly *(Chimarrhodella spinosa)*
- Three plants including a magnolia tree known from only eight individuals called *Magnolia tapichalacaensis*.



Two communal reserves and two national parks jointly patrolled.



Camera traps captured photos of Mountain Tapirs and Jaguars *(Panthera onca)* again, testifying to the importance of Tapichalaca as a connection for wildlife on a regional scale.

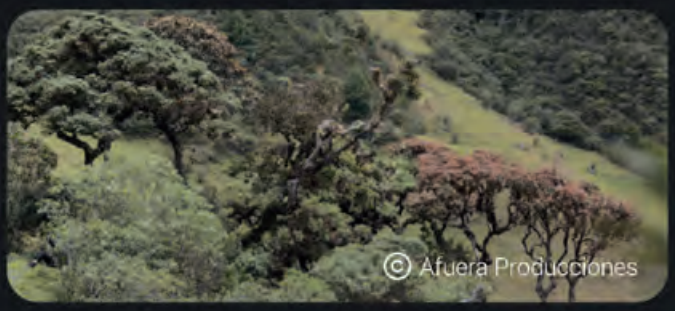
CHOCÓ -TUMBES
PROGRAM

Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena Biodiversity Hotspot
Three sub-areas:

- **Buenaventura Reserve and ACMUS Piñas:**
  24,590 ha (60,763 acres) / 200-2,300 masl (656-7,546 ft)
- **Cerro de Arcos Reserve, Ridgely Reserve, and Guambuzari community:**
  46,525 ha (114,967 acres) / 2,850-3,800 masl (9,350-12,467 ft)
- **Yunguilla Reserve and ACMUS Yunguilla:**
  1,980 ha (4,893 acres) / 1,400-2,800 masl (4,593-9,186 ft)



2025 JOCOTOCO HIGHLIGHTS



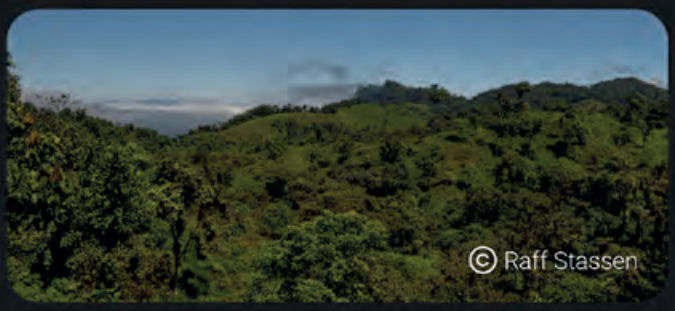
611 ha (1,510 acres) added to our reserve network.



70,840 seedlings planted to restore habitat for threatened species, including trees to restore cloud forests at Buenaventura and shrubs to restore páramo at Cerro de Arcos.



Two species newly described to science discovered in the Buenaventura Reserve, including a cherry *(Prunus luxurians)* and a caddisfly *(Chimarra buenaventura)*.



One communal reserve jointly patrolled.



The ACMUS Yunguilla was established in early 2026. This conservation area provides a legal framework for the protection of the Critically Endangered Peters' Ameiva *(Holcosus orcesi)*.

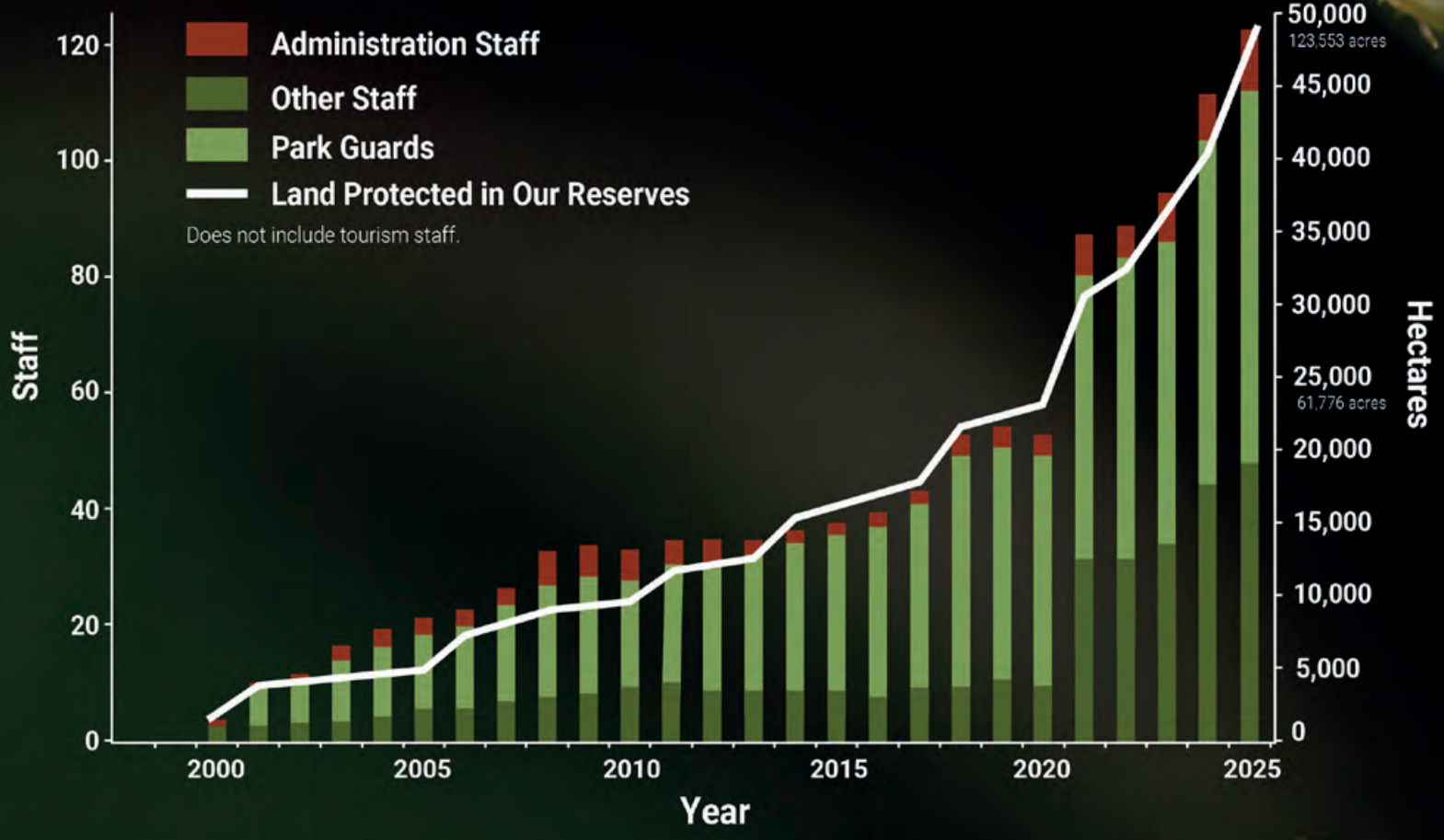
EXPANDING OUR RESERVES

Jocotoco's reserves are the anchors of regional conservation.

Jocotoco protects and manages 19 reserves that cover more than 50,000 ha (123,000 acres), while we cooperatively manage another 76,000 ha (188,000 acres) of governmental and communal protected areas. We added 5,519 ha (13,638 acres) to our reserve network in 2025.



Narupa Reserve
Credit: Javier Aznar



As we expand our reserves, our staff expands proportionally.

Mache Cochran Frog *(Cochranella mache)*
Canandé Reserve
Credit: Javier Aznar



RESTORING HABITAT



Achupaya *(Puya hamata)*, one of the páramo species we are restoring.
Cerro de Arcos Reserve
Credit: Javier Aznar

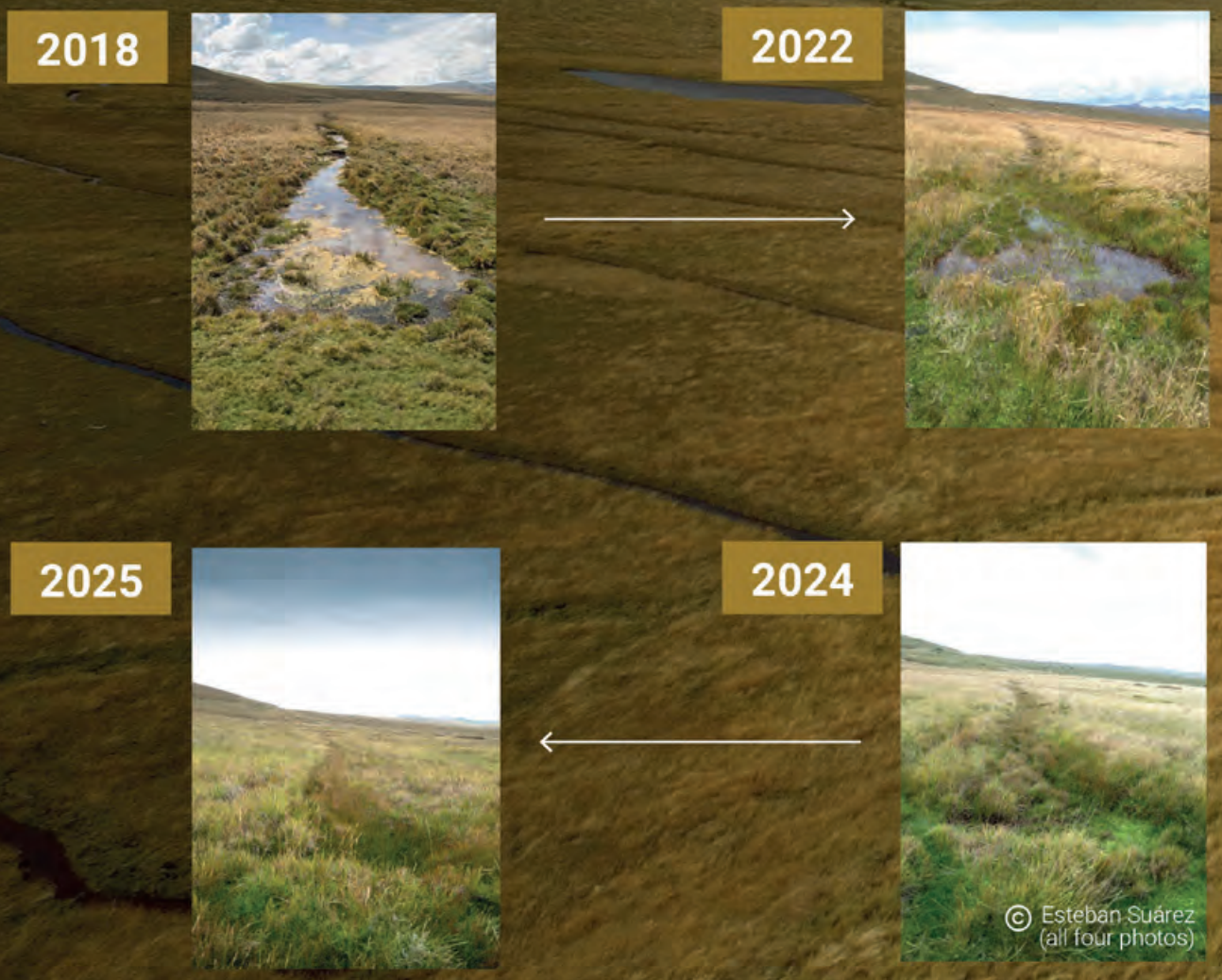
CHAKANA PÁRAMO RESTORATION

Páramos are more carbon dense than old-growth Amazon rainforests. They are the source of freshwater for millions of people.

Underneath the surface of the páramo wetlands of Jocotoco's Chakana Reserve lie more than six meters (20 feet) of accumulated layers of peat. For centuries, this land was grazed by cattle. To keep the land ideal for cattle, not only was the land burned regularly, but it was also drained.

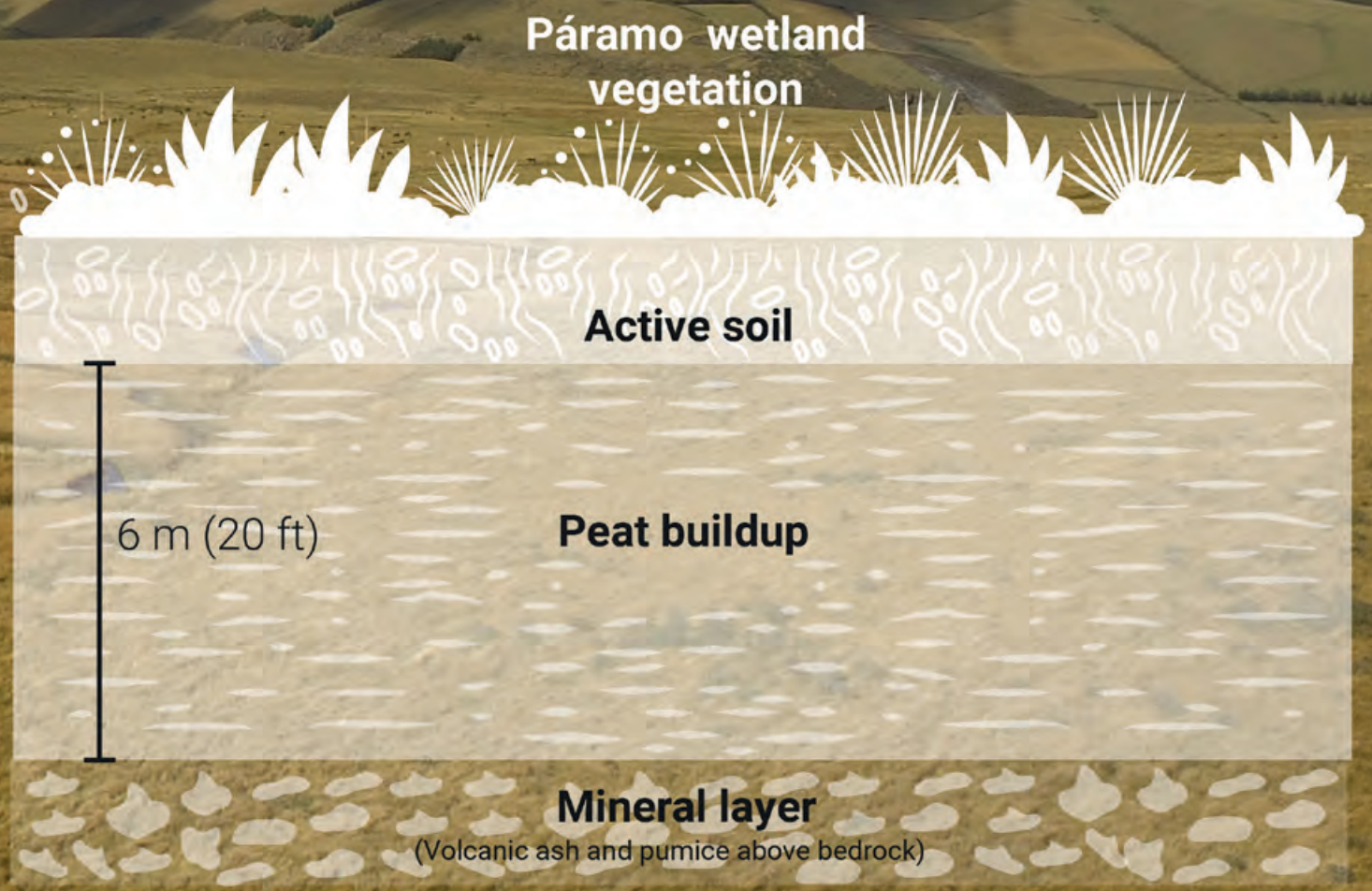
Deep drainage ditches took water off the land quickly and sent it to a nearby river. The páramos dried out, and diverse, native vegetation turned into grassy fields.

We worked with Universidad San Francisco de Quito to restore a 21-ha (52-acre) portion of Chakana by blocking those drainage channels. The water table rose 20 cm in only three years. Native páramo vegetation quickly grew back. The restored saturation level in the soil slowed decomposition, allowing it to recover its function as a major carbon sink. The páramo absorbs water like a sponge, releasing it slowly into the watershed, maintaining moisture in the soil throughout the year and providing freshwater to Quito, Ecuador's capital city.



Wildlife quickly returned to the restored wetland. In 2025, USFQ researchers observed more individuals and species of wildlife in the restored portion of the wetland as compared to unrestored portions of the wetland. Because of the increase in prey species, they recorded predators like Puma *(Puma concolor)* and Short-eared Owl *(Asio flammeus)* only in the restored wetland.

The Layers of a Páramo Wetland



Chakana Reserve
Credit: Sebastián Kohn



RECOVERING WILDLIFE



Jocotoco Antpitta
Tapichalaca Reserve
Credit: Afuera Producciones



HIGHLIGHTED SUCCESSES

RECOVERING THREATENED SPECIES

1. El Oro Parakeet **(pg.61)**
2. Blue-throated Hillstar **(pg.63)**
3. Andean Bear **(pg.65)**
4. Lilacine Amazon **(pg.67)**
5. Brown-headed Spider Monkey **(pg.69)**
6. Giant Anteater **(pg.71)**
7. Jocotoco Antpitta **(pg.73)**

IUCN Threat Status

(for the following pages)

CR Critically Endangered

EN Endangered

VU Vulnerable



5

© Michael Moens





6

© Jocotoco



3 © Michael Moens

7

© Afuera Producciones

1



© Michael Moens



2

© Murray Cooper

4



© Byron Delgado

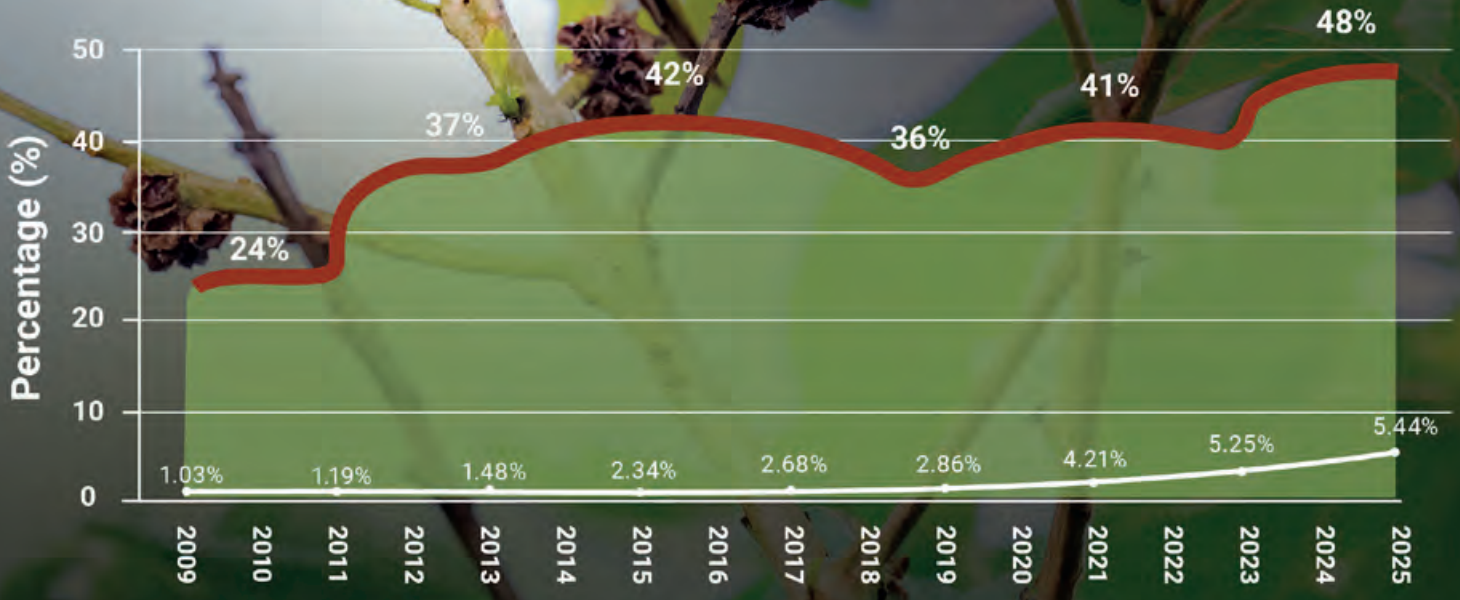
EL ORO PARAKEET

EN

Pyrrhura orcesi

The global population is dwindling. Jocotoco's Buenaventura Reserve is its last stronghold.

The Endangered El Oro Parakeet is endemic to the cloud forests of southwest Ecuador. Those cloud forests have rapidly been cut. According to a new census, the global population of the El Oro Parakeet has decreased from 1,500 in 2000 to 600 today. Fortunately, our Buenaventura Reserve has an outsized impact. It now covers just under 6% of the El Oro Parakeet's global range. The reserve protects approximately 48% of the parakeet's global population. The population in the reserve is stable and growing, estimated to be 254 individuals.

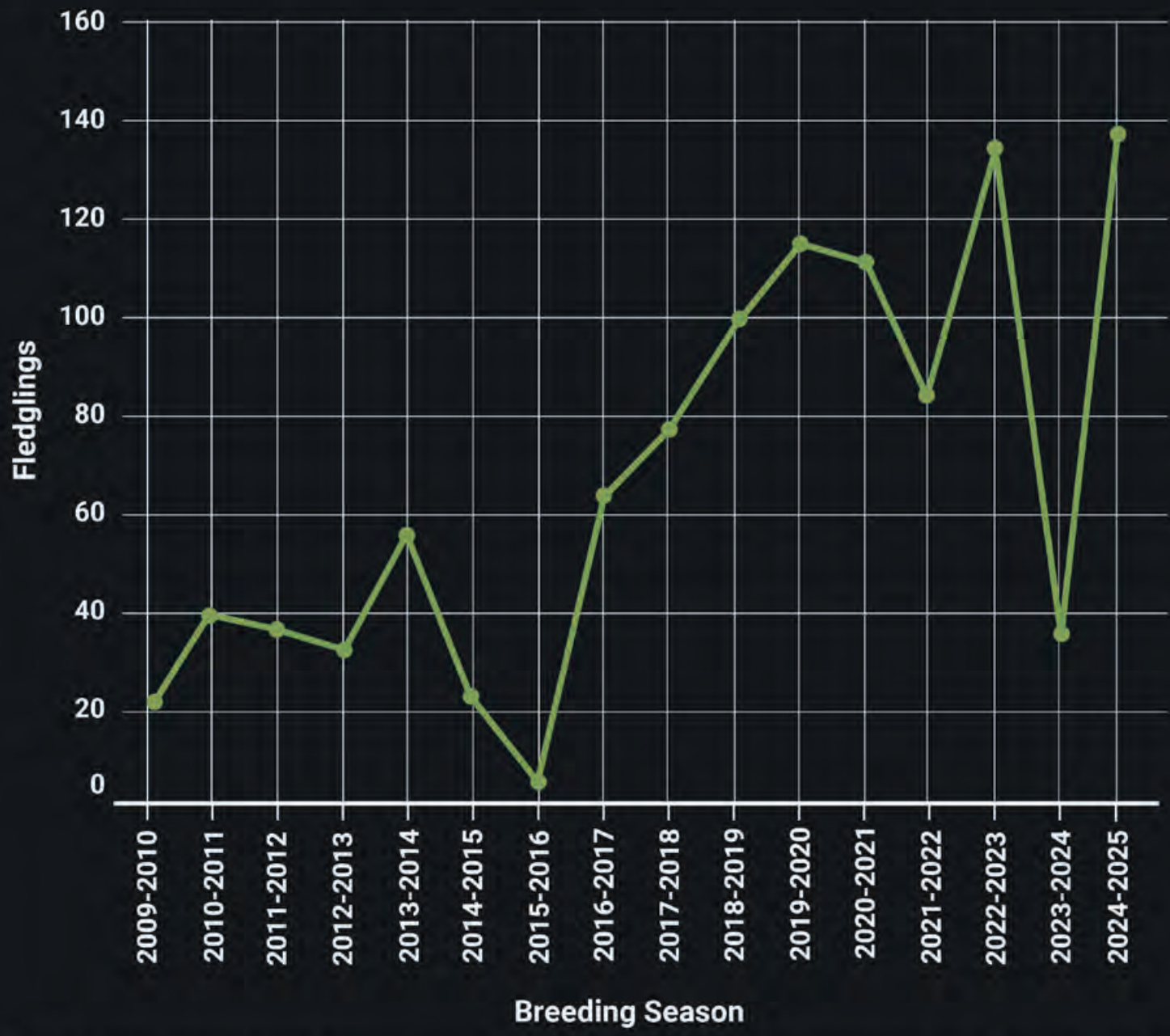


The size of the Buenaventura Reserve as a percentage of the size of the global range of the El Oro Parakeet

Percentage of the global population protected at the Buenaventura Reserve

El Oro Parakeet
Buenaventura Reserve
Credit: Javier Aznar

The 136 El Oro Parakeet fledglings in the 2024-2025 breeding season represented 23% of the global population.



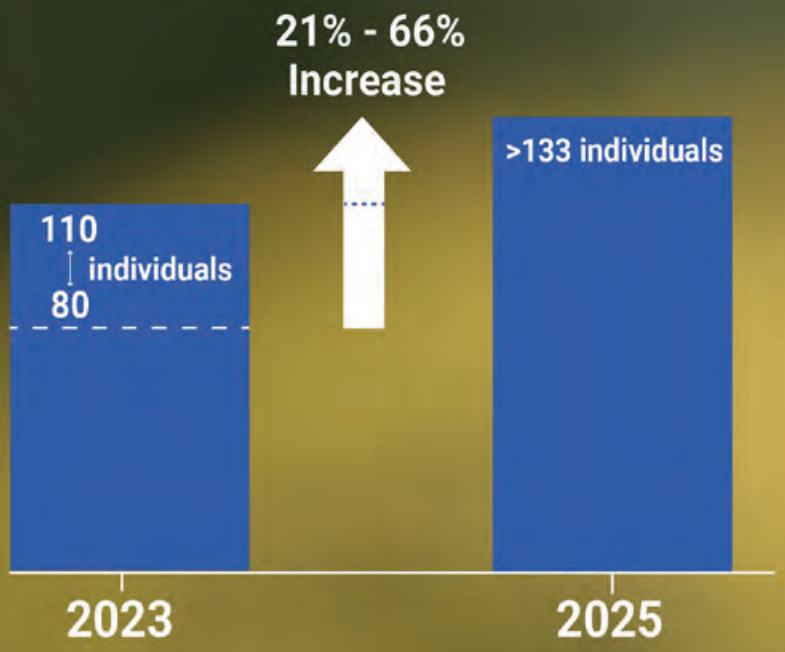
By adding more nest boxes, we have contributed to an increase in the number of fledglings annually. We have seen an average of just over 100 fledglings annually since the 2018-2019 breeding season, while the average number of fledglings between 2009-2010 and 2017-2018 was just under 40. The low number of fledglings in 2023-2024 corresponds to an overall lower number of eggs laid and low survival rate of the chicks, likely due to abnormally dry weather and the presence of parasites in the nests that reduced success.

BLUE-THROATED HILLSTAR CR
Oreotrochilus cyanolaemus

On the brink of extinction when it was first discovered in 2017.

Now, at the Cerro de Arcos Reserve, habitat protection and restoration lead to recovery.

In 2023, the global population of the Critically Endangered Blue-throated Hillstar was estimated to be 80-110 individuals. In 2025, we counted 30–33 adults and nine active nests, up from 21 adults and no more than two nests in prior years. We now estimate the global population to be at least 133 individuals, a strong increase within two years.



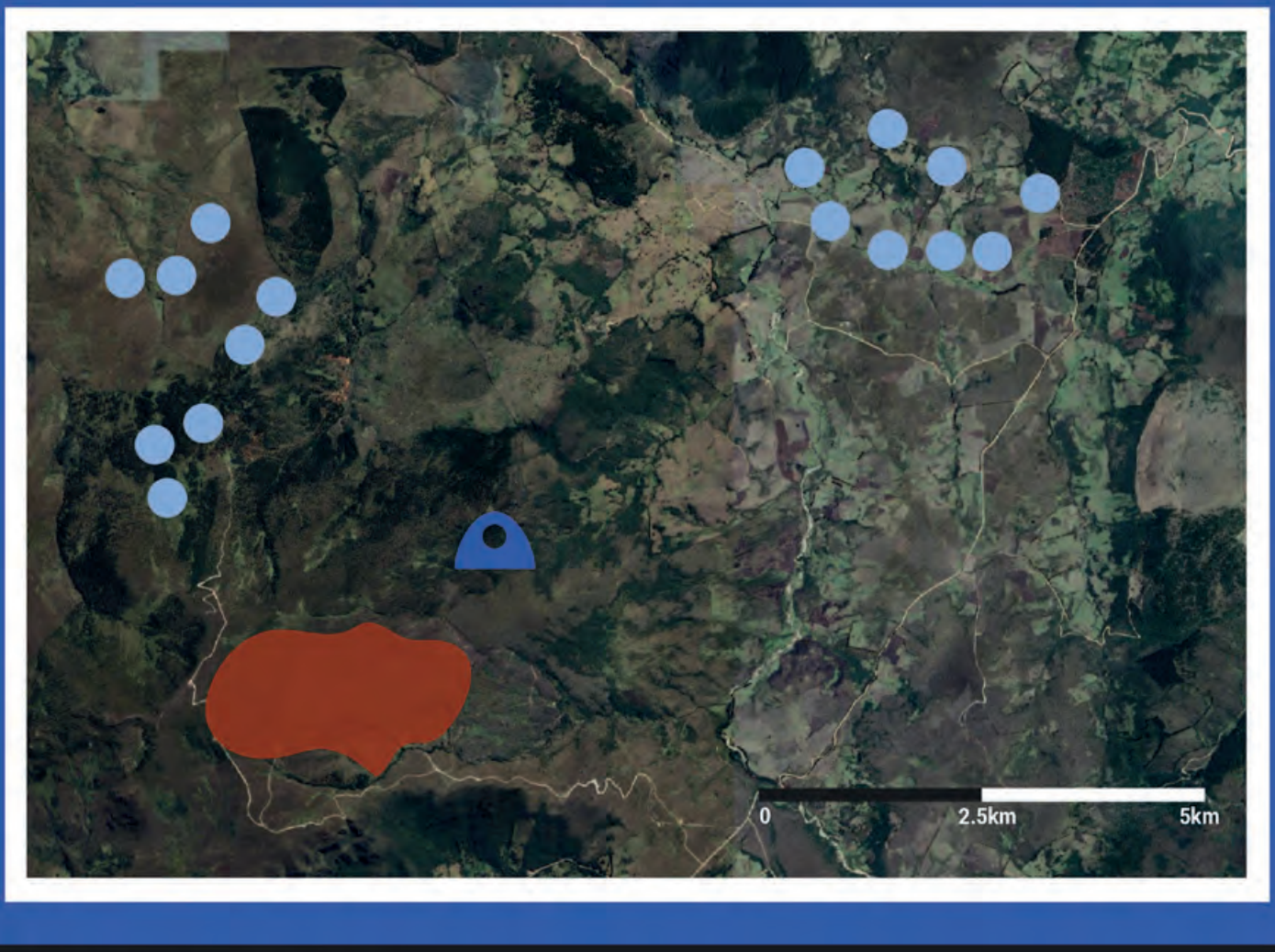
Blue-throated Hillstar
Cerro de Arcos Reserve
Credit: Paúl Molina

Restoring Habitat at the Cerro de Arcos Reserve



In 2025 we began restoring habitat for the Blue-throated Hillstar by planting *Chuquiragua jussieui*, a flowering shrub that is the hummingbird's main nectar source, along with 15 other species of páramo plants. In total, we added 61,840 plants, restoring 221 ha (546 acres).

Flowering *Chuquiragua jussieui.* Credit: Documencia



Restoration Area

Active Nest

Adult Observed

The map above shows a portion of the Cerro de Arcos Reserve that we are restoring. We planted native flowering shrubs after a non-native pine plantation was cut. Nearby, there are several Blue-throated Hillstar territories and at least one active nest. In the next two to three years, as that restored habitat matures, we hope to see Blue-throated Hillstars establishing territories in the restoration area.

ANDEAN BEAR VU

Tremarctos ornatus



Requiring unbroken habitat along seasonal migration routes, the Andean Bear is declining across its range.

The Andean Bear is categorized as Vulnerable by the IUCN. It moves seasonally across large home ranges from mid-elevational forests to high elevation páramos. Logging, agriculture, and urban expansion cause those corridors to be fragmented, reducing the bear's ability to find food.

Using camera traps, Jocotoco and its partners at the Universidad de San Francisco de Quito identified 21 bears in our Chakana Reserve between 2016 and 2025. Nine of those bears have been seen in multiple years, testifying to the importance of the reserve for their survival.

"Rayito", an Andean Bear
Chakana Reserve
Credit: Lucas Bustamante

Unique Facial Markings Differentiate Each Individual

Every Andean Bear has a unique facial pattern that can be used to identify the bear, like a fingerprint. One adult female bear, named Chuquiragua after the bright orange flower typical of páramos, has brought six cubs to Chakana since 2016.



Chuquiragua/Female
Mother

Video of Chuquiragua and her cubs.

2016



Rayito/Male
(photo on previous page)

2018



No name/ Gender unknown

2020



No name/ Gender unknown



No name/ Gender unknown

2022



Sunfo/Male



Puya/Female

These photos from camera traps show each of the 21 Andean Bears seen in Chakana.



LILACINE AMAZON

CR

Amazona lilacina

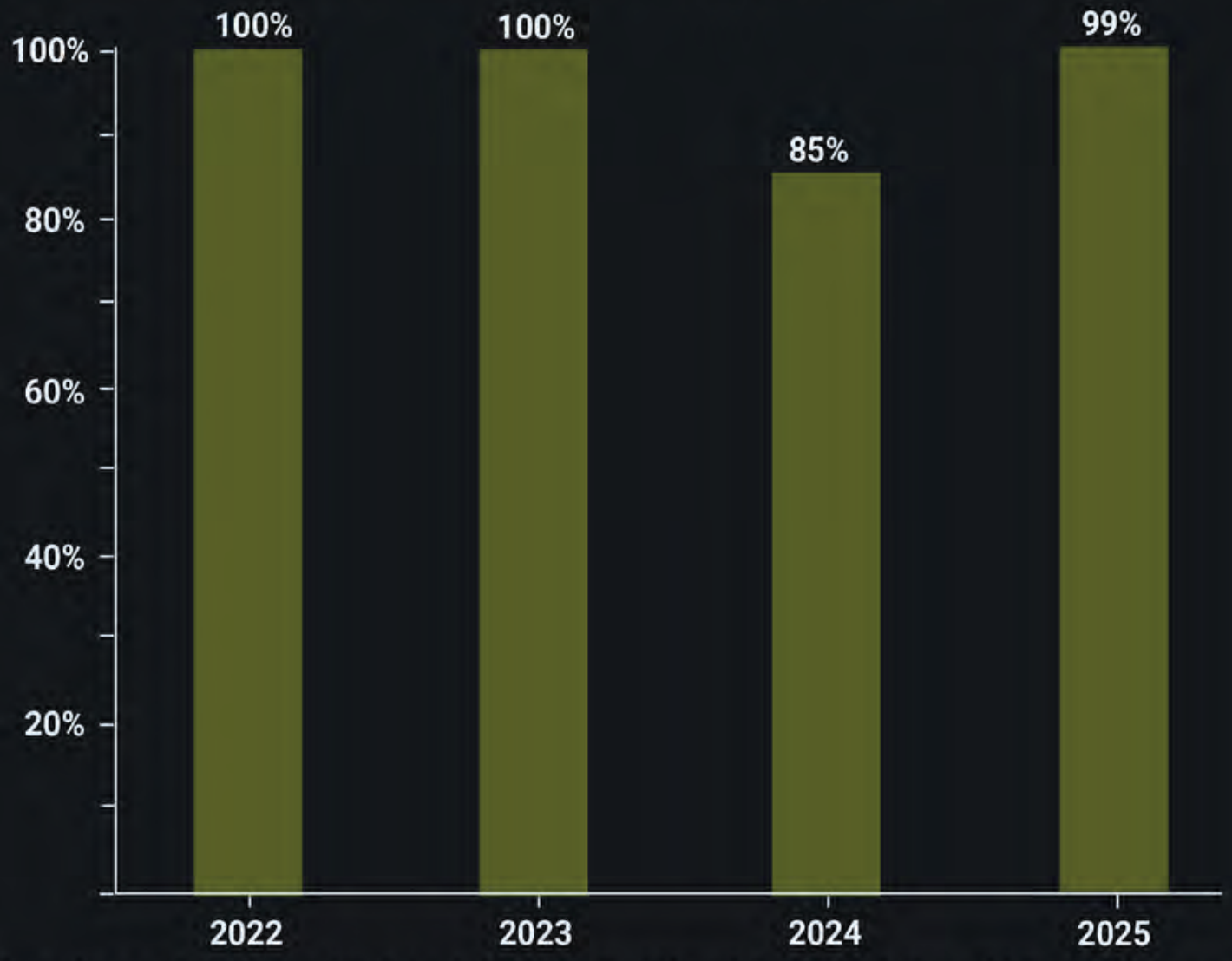


Global populations are much higher than previously thought and the population is increasing. The Lilacine Amazon could soon be downlisted from Critically Endangered to Endangered.

The Critically Endangered Lilacine Amazon is endemic to the dry forests of western Ecuador, forests that have been extensively cleared for grazing. In 2025, we counted at least 4,073 individuals in our Las Balsas Reserve alone, double the estimated global population. We estimate that more than 90% of the global population occurs seasonally in Las Balsas.

Lilacine Amazon
Las Balsas Reserve
Credit: René Zambrano

Probability that the Global Population is Increasing



Our advanced mathematical models show that the global population of Lilacine Amazon has been increasing every year since 2022. These models use the 2018 population estimates as a baseline, analyze annual population estimates, and present the probability that the population is increasing, decreasing, or stable. While this highly mobile species is difficult to monitor, the probability that the population is increasing has been at or near 100% for three of the last four years.

Reassessing Its Threat Status

With data showing that the global population is much higher than previously thought, and data that show the population is likely increasing, Jocotoco will propose that the Lilacine Amazon threat status be reassessed by the IUCN. Our findings suggest that the species should be downlisted from Critically Endangered to Endangered. Our conservation strategies for this species are working.

BROWN-HEADED SPIDER MONKEY

CR

Ateles fusciceps fusciceps

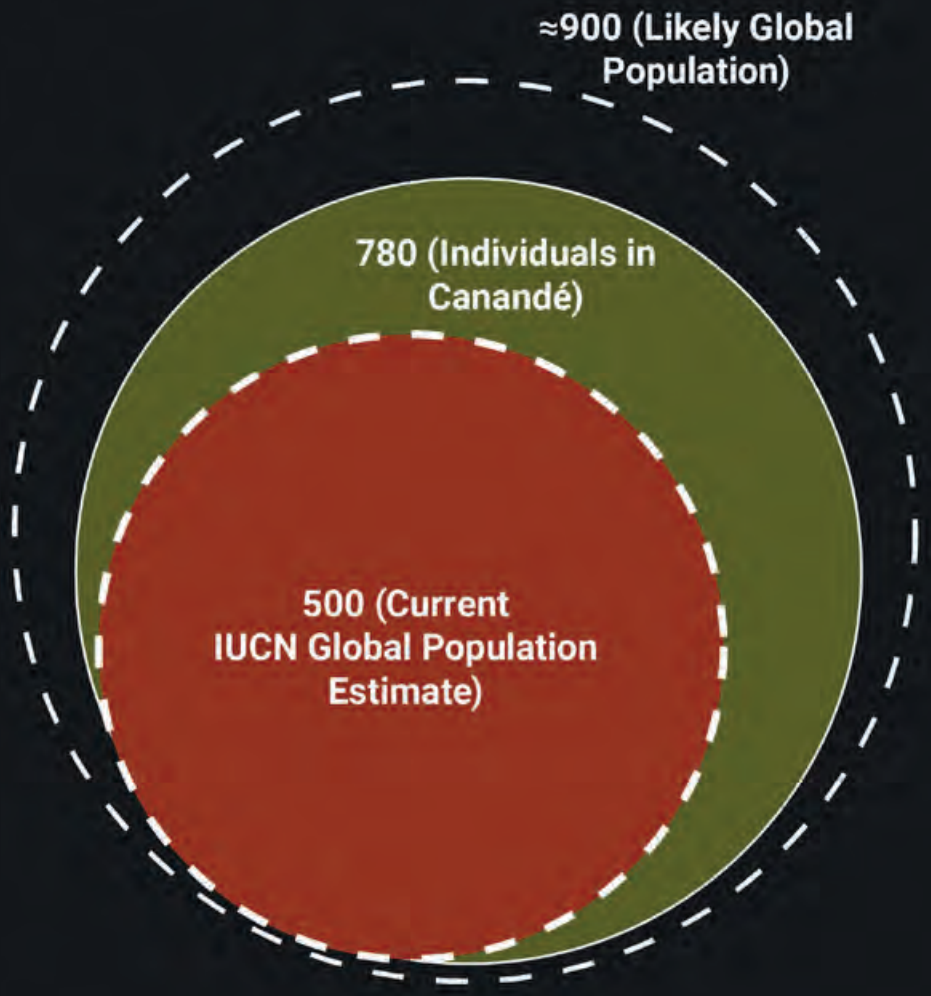


Brown-headed Spider Monkey
Canandé Reserve
Credit: James Muchmore

Considered to be one of the 25 most threatened primate species worldwide. New population counts in our Canandé Reserve exceed the total estimated global population.

The Critically Endangered subspecies of Brown-headed Spider Monkey is nearing extinction from hunting and habitat loss in the Chocó. Its global population was estimated by the IUCN to be fewer than 500 individuals.

Between 2024 and 2025, we counted 780 individuals in Jocotoco's Canandé Reserve alone. This means the global population is higher than previously thought. We believe that the Canandé Reserve is home to more than 80% of the total global population.



GIANT ANTEATER

VU

Myrmecophaga tridactyla



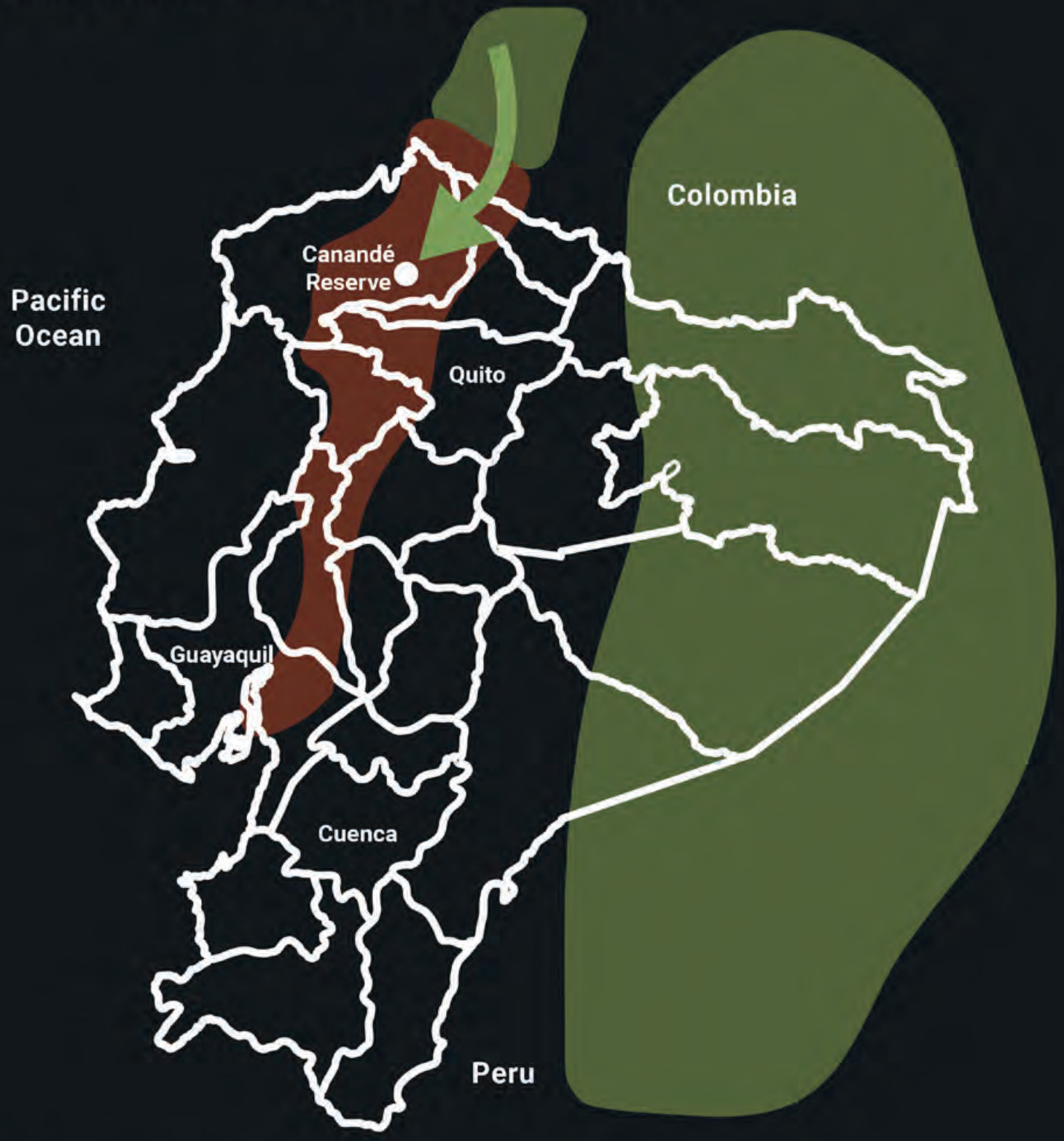
Iconic but elusive, the Giant Anteater was thought to have disappeared from western Ecuador. New photos and videos prove it has come back.

The Giant Anteater, considered Vulnerable by the IUCN, has a large range spanning much of Central and South America. Because of habitat loss and hunting, it had rarely been seen in the Chocó in western Ecuador since the mid-1900s.

The first observation in decades of the Giant Anteater in the Ecuadorian Chocó took place at El Pambilar Wildlife Refuge in 2017. It was then confirmed in Jocotoco's Canandé Reserve in 2022. We have recorded many with camera traps since then.

Giant Anteater
Canandé Reserve
Credit: Jocotoco

Giant Anteater Returns to Western Ecuador



JOCOTOCO ANTPITTA

EN

Grallaria ridgelyi

Discovered in 1997, little was known about its population. In 2025, advanced technology showed that it may be even rarer than previously thought.

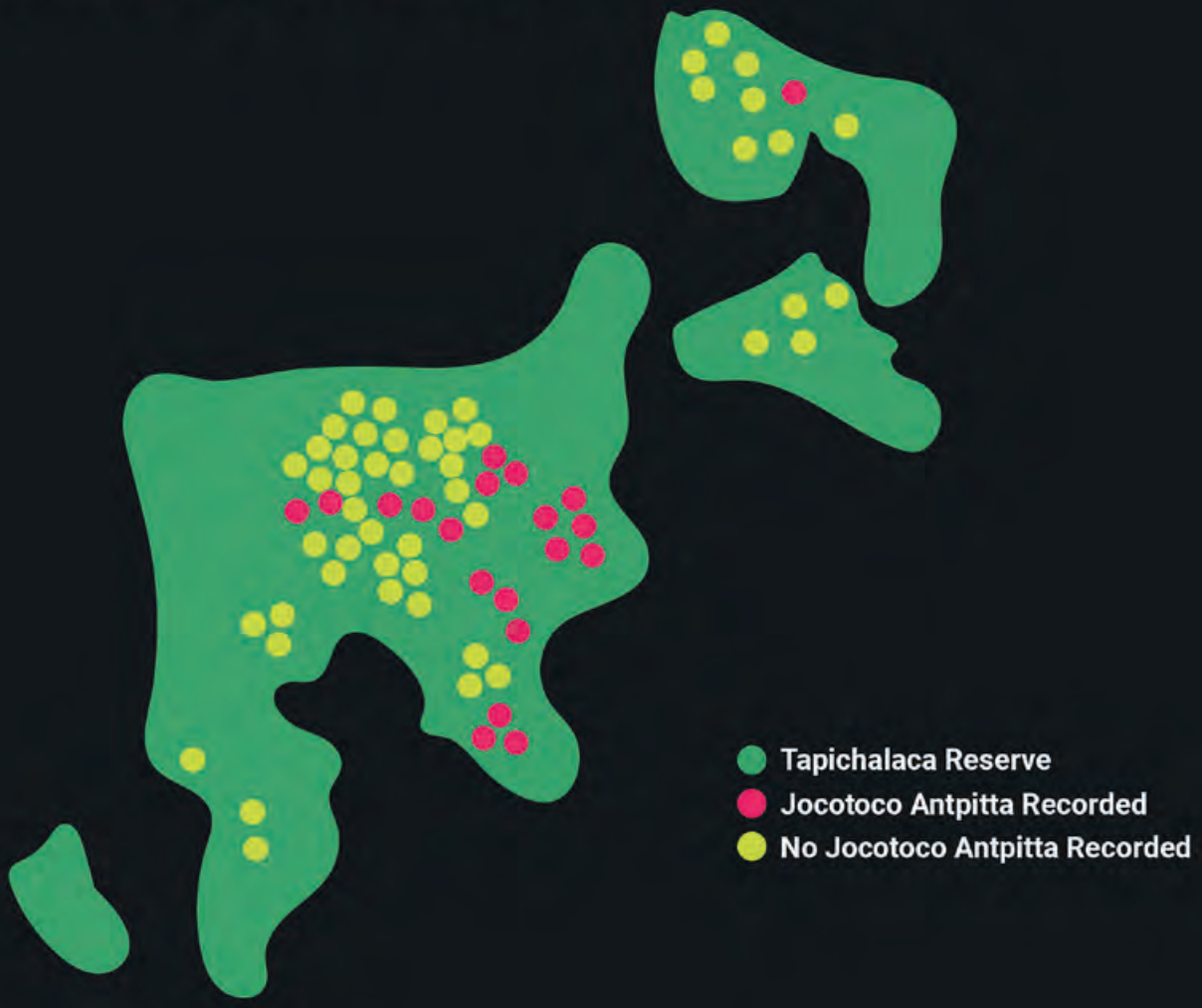
The Endangered Jocotoco Antpitta is endemic to the cloud forests in southern Ecuador and northern Peru. The antpitta is very secretive, and its habitat in dense forests and steep slopes is difficult to access. It rarely vocalizes. The global population estimate is 480-600 individuals. However, data supporting this estimate are lacking.

To update the global population estimate, we used 71 audio recorders to capture more than 14,000 hours of sound across 30 km² (12 miles²) in the Tapichalaca Reserve. Our team refined AI models to identify the vocalizations of the Jocotoco Antpitta. In total, 20 audio recorders captured the call of the Jocotoco Antpitta, representing 20 antpitta territories. With a total range of 252 km² (97 miles²), we now estimate that **the global population of the Jocotoco Antpitta may be as low as 127-169 individuals.**

In 2026 we plan to do more audio recordings, expand monitoring to other sites, and reassess a few of the previously monitored sites to examine long-term occupation by the antpitta.

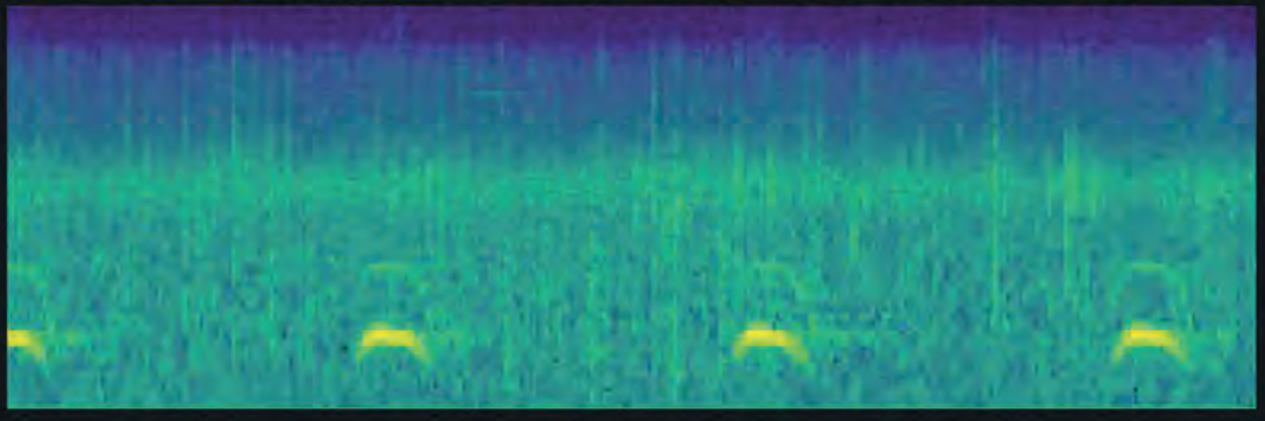
Jocotoco
Tapichalaca Reserve
Credit: Alex Wiles

Acoustic Monitoring for the Jocotoco Antpitta



Because of the power of technological innovation, we now have data that can help us protect the Jocotoco Antpitta. Creating the Tapichalaca Reserve back in 1998 no doubt helped save this species from extinction. We must now expand the Tapichalaca Reserve and support the protection of adjacent protected areas to secure the antpitta's future.

Jocotoco Antpitta Calls Visualized in a Spectogram



Listen to the call of the Jocotoco Antpitta

SUSTAINING JOCOTOCO'S **WORK, TOGETHER**



Rainbow Starfrontlet *(Coeligena iris)*
Utuana Reserve
Credit: Dustin Chen

PARTNERS

Individuals

A

Anonymous
Brian Allen
Alexander Almeida
Charlene Angel
George Armistead
Roy and Laurie Averill-Murray

B

Cynthia Barlow
Greg Barr
Kathleen Barry
Barbara Basset
Adrian Bautista
Dorothy Bedford
Stephanie Bellack
Larry Benjamin
Sophia Berg
Kenneth Berlin
Brenda Berry
David Berryman
Achim Bischoff
Ava Blitz
Patrick Blomquist
Andrew Bogott
Julie Bourns
Mónica Bradbury
Gay Browne
Martha and Don Burrows
Troy Bynum

C

Mónica Castaneda
Patience and Tom Chamberlin
Richard Chu
Paula Chu
Robert Clarfeld
Morris Clark
Damon Cole
Anthony Collerton
Warren Cooke
Ellyn Corey
Susan Cossins
Karen Cozza
Anne Cross

D

Harold Davis
Judy Davis
Cathy Dean
Nicole DeBarber
Jacqueline Devos
David Dewenter
Nikhil Dhanwatey
Janene Donovan
Pauline Doyle
Barbara Drummond
Diego Dumet
Craig Dunn

E

Laura E. Markley
Erik Eckholm
Jack Edwards
Steven Elkinton
Peggy and Jay Elliot
Gene Ellison
Thomas Eltz
Adela Espinosa

F

Andrew Farnsworth
Ramiro Farto Bello
David Fellely
Christina Feng
William Fiero
Juan Foronda
Glynis Foulk
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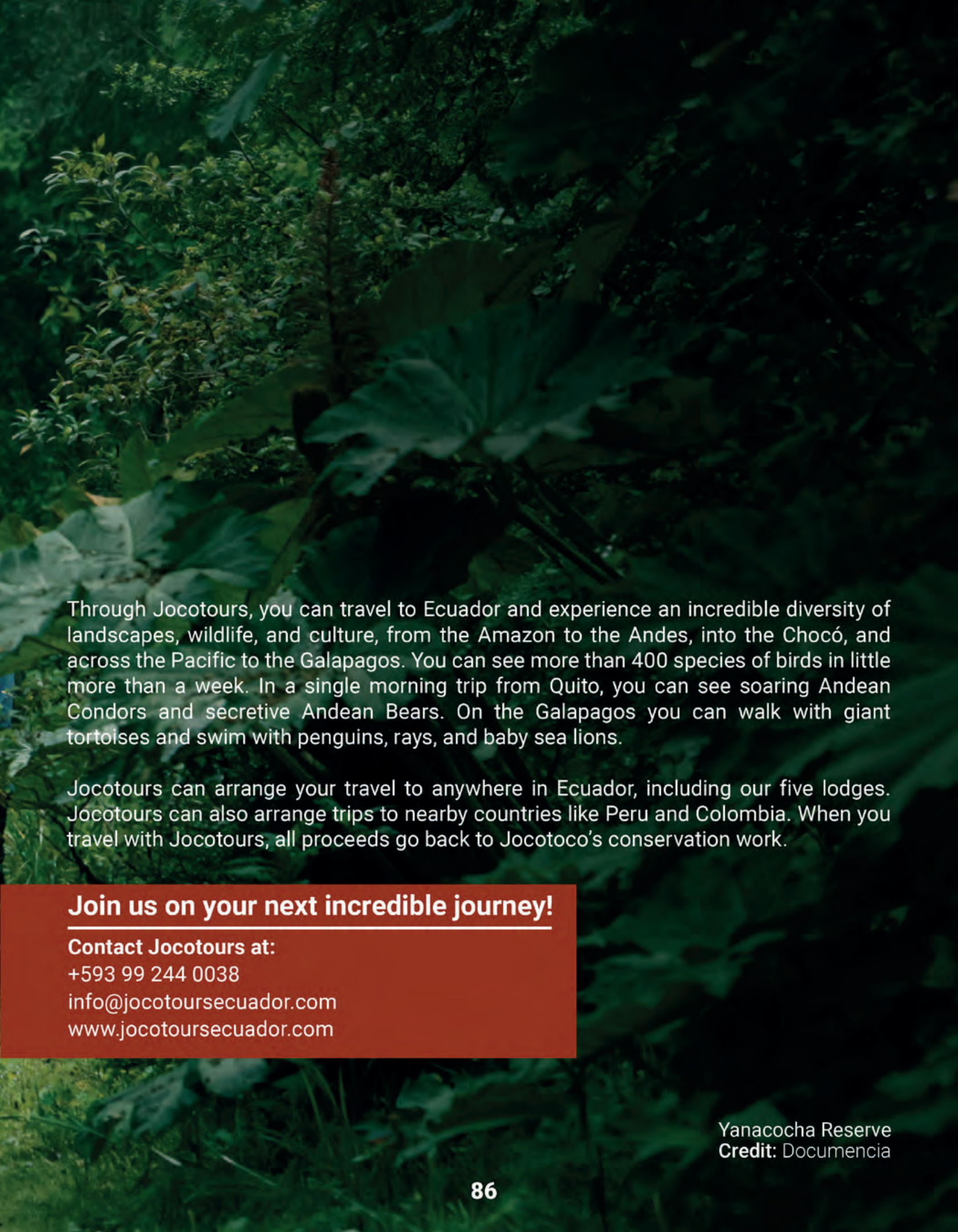
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Yanacocha Reserve
Credit: Documencia

JOCOAMBIENTE

Jocotoco's subsidiary company, called Jocoambiente, provides conservation services to our partners both in Ecuador and outside of Ecuador. Through Jocoambiente, we help establish and manage reserves for our partners. We help partners protect endangered species. We use advanced technology to help monitor biodiversity and threats across large landscapes. All of the revenue of Jocoambiente supports Jocotoco's conservation work.

If you would like to work with Jocoambiente, you can reach out to us by emailing **jocoambiente@jocotoco.org.ec.**



Diplostephium sp.
Cerro de Arcos Reserve
Credit: Afuera Producciones

THE CONDORS
JOCOTOCO'S LEGACY SOCIETY

You can join The Condors, Jocotoco's Legacy Society, by including Jocotoco in your planned giving.

- You can make a bequest to Jocotoco through your will or trust.
- You can list Jocotoco as a beneficiary on a life insurance plan.
- You can add Jocotoco as a beneficiary to a retirement plan.

If you have any questions about planned giving, reach out to Jajean Rose, Executive Director of the Jocotoco Conservation Foundation in the U.S. by emailing him at jajean.rose@jocotoco.org or by calling +1 (716) 247-1255.

Bert Harris, a Jocotoco board member and the Executive Director of the Clifton Institute, a conservation organization based in Virginia, U.S., has included Jocotoco as a beneficiary in his will.

At a young age, Bert visited Jocotoco's Tapichalaca Reserve, our first reserve and home to our namesake, the Jocotoco Antpitta. That experience led Bert to become part of the Jocotoco family. Bert found ways to stay involved. He devoted time to conserving the Esmeraldas Woodstar *(Chaetocercus berlepschi)*, a rare and endemic hummingbird now considered Vulnerable by the IUCN, in what would become our Ayampe Reserve near the Pacific Coast. These two environments — high-elevation cloud forests at Tapichalaca and coastal tropical dry forests at Ayampe — were incredibly different from one another, but they shared one thing in common: they were some of the last local remnants of these unique habitats.

Protecting these places and the wildlife they sustain became Bert's passion, and that passion has never left.

In mid-2025 Bert became a new father. By including Jocotoco in his will, Bert is ensuring that his child and many generations to come will be able to experience the unique wildlife of Ecuador far into the future.



Esmeraldas Woodstar
Credit: Murray Cooper



Thank you to all of our Legacy Society members for caring so deeply about Jocotoco.

- David Agro
- Roy and Laurie Averill-Murray
- Frank and Susan Gilliland
- John Guarnaccia
- Heather Hodges
- John Moore
- Benjamin Olewine
- Robert Ridgely
- Bert Harris
- Jajean Rose

Andean Condor *(Vultur gryphus)*
Chakana Reserve
Credit: Javier Aznar

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

Mission

Jocotoco's mission is to protect 10% of Earth's biodiversity, focusing on threatened species and ecosystems, guided by science and local leadership.

Vision

Permanently protected, connected, and resilient ecosystems in the most diverse and threatened places in Latin America, for the benefit of future generations.

Values

- Jocotoco strongly believes that nature has an intrinsic value, that wildlife has a right to exist with us. We act on our belief by creating protected areas and by supporting the conservation efforts of communities.
- We believe in people. It is our incredible community of people who inspire us and who achieve conservation successes. We strive to provide opportunities for personal growth for everyone who works with us, and for the next generation of conservation leaders.
- Our work is guided by treating others honestly, transparently, and fairly. We always strive for effectiveness and excellence.

Operational Statements

- We protect carefully chosen key places to ensure the long-term protection of endangered biodiversity and ecosystems.
- We are the steward for land we own or manage to enhance and protect ecological integrity.
- We restore degraded ecosystems, connecting the tops of mountains to offshore reefs, connecting islands together across the open ocean, and connecting habitat fragments across productive land.
- We rely on rigorous, external science to review our work, creating the most effective conservation programs possible together with local, national, and international partners.
- Our success is built on local leadership, beginning on the ground by empowering park guards, investing in their professional growth, and enabling them to advance into ever more influential roles.
- We use advanced technology to monitor and evaluate our impact, allowing us to scale up our work across vast regional landscapes.

GIVING TO JOCOTOCO

There are many ways that you can give to Jocotoco.

- **You can give to Fundación Jocotoco in Ecuador by making a bank transfer:**

  Fundación de Conservación Jocotoco
  Bank: Banco Pichincha
  Account (Cuenta): 3477081504
  Taxpayer ID (RUC): 1791422678001

- **You can give to Jocotoco Conservation Foundation, a U.S.-based not-for-profit:**

  Go to jocotoco.org and click donate.

  Donate here

  - **You can also mail a check payable to:**

    Jocotoco Conservation Foundation
    P.O. Box 496
    Garrett Park, MD 20896

  - **We accept gifts of stock, donor advised funds, and qualified charitable distributions from your IRA. You can also give to Jocotoco in your will.**

    Please contact Jajean Rose, the Executive Director of the Jocotoco Conservation Foundation, at +1 (716) 247-1255 or jajean.rose@jocotoco.org if you have any questions about how to donate.

Jocotoco Conservation Foundation is a US tax-exempt non-profit organization, under the section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All charitable donations are deductible to the full extent allowed by law. EIN: 83-2027203. Jocotoco Conservation Foundation accepts contributions restricted by donors for particular purposes but does not accept contributions that are earmarked for individual grantees. All donations are subject to the exclusive discretion and control of the Jocotoco Conservation Foundation in furtherance of the Foundation's charitable purposes.



Mantled Howler Monkey
(Alouatta palliata)
Buenaventura Reserve
Credit: Javier Aznar



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