

A close-up, front-facing portrait of a leopard. The leopard's face is the central focus, with its eyes looking directly at the camera. The fur is a mix of orange, brown, and black, with prominent dark rosettes. The leopard's whiskers are long and white, extending outwards. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural habitat.

# ANNUAL REPORT

2019

FUNDACIÓN  
REWILDING  
ARGENTINA

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

FUNDACIÓN  
REWILDING  
ARGENTINA

*Rewilding means the mass restoration  
of damaged ecosystems.*

*It involves letting trees return  
to places that have been denuded,  
allowing parts of the seabed to recover  
from trawling and dredging,  
permitting rivers to flow freely again.*

*Above all it means bringing back missing species.*

- George Monbiot

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FUNDACIÓN  
**REWILDING**  
ARGENTINA

Rewilding Argentina is a foundation created to confront and reverse the crisis of species extinction and the resulting environmental degradation, to restore the healthy functioning of ecosystems and to promote the well-being of local communities. Formed in 2010 by Argentinian conservationists and activists, Rewilding Argentina is an independent non-profit organization and a major part of the Tompkins Conservation global network..

We carry out the Tompkins Conservation's vision as part of a network of institutions together with Tompkins Conservation Chile.

We collaborate with national and provincial governments, with conservation and social organizations, both national and international, and with argentinian and global philanthropists.



# Where We Work

Our goal is to lead active rewilding projects in the most threatened ecoregions in Argentina.

Out of a total of seventeen national ecoregions, we are currently working in SEVEN: the Iberá Wetlands, the Dry Chaco, the Argentine Sea, the Patagonian Steppe, the Patagonian Forest, the Yungas, and the High Andes.

Argentina is the eighth largest country on the planet, with a territory that extends from the sub-tropics to the Antarctic. This diversity of ecosystems gives rise to outstanding biodiversity. However, many of the ecosystems in the country are degraded and sparsely represented in protected areas.

This creates a unique opportunity to implement conservation projects that include protection of land and sea through national parks and the restoration of ecosystems through species reintroduction, among other tools.

The low density of human population, the solid system of National Parks and the interest of the government in creating new parks in order to achieve the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity of the United Nations are all elements that allow an optimistic outlook when it comes to reversing the current biodiversity crisis.







Douglas Tompkins creates  
The Conservation Land Trust  
to work on large-scale projects  
in South America

1992



Fundación  
Flora y Fauna Argentina  
is created

2009

FUNDACIÓN  
**REWILDING**  
ARGENTINA

Fundación Rewilding Argentina  
is the new name for Fundación  
Flora y Fauna Argentina

2019

# A Wild Legacy



**TOMPKINS**  
CONSERVATION

## PARK CREATION



The Conservation  
Land Trust Argentina  
acquires  
the San Alonso Ranch,  
an island of 28,170 acres  
(11,400 hectares)  
in the heart of  
the Iberá wetlands.



Donation of the land  
for Monte Leon  
National Park

1997

2004

2007

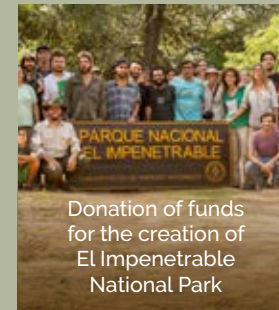
2009

## REWILDING

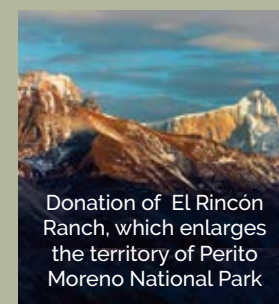
Reintroduction of first  
giant anteaters to Iberá



The Pampas Deer  
returns to Iberá.  
23 deer begin  
a new population  
inside the park.



Donation of funds  
for the creation of  
El Impenetrable  
National Park



Donation of El Rincón  
Ranch, which enlarges  
the territory of Perito  
Moreno National Park

2012

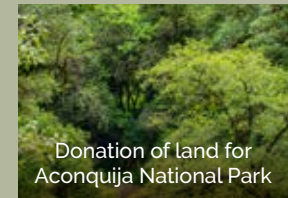


Donation of land for  
Patagonia National Park

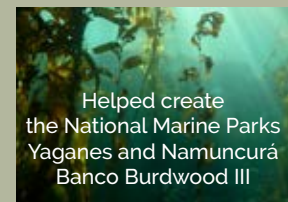
2015



Creation of  
Iberá National Park



Donation of land for  
Aconquija National Park



Helped create  
the National Marine Parks  
Yaganes and Namuncurá  
Banco Burdwood III

2018

Arrival of Juruna, Mariua,  
and Jatobazinho, wild  
brazilian jaguars soon  
to be released in Iberá



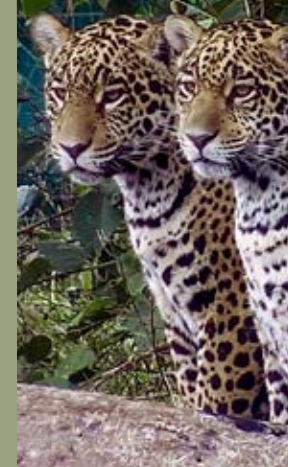
Arrival of Tobuna,  
first jaguar  
in the JRC



First collared peccaries  
population in Iberá



After 70 years  
of local extinction,  
Arami and Mbarete  
are born in the JRC



Beginning of the Giant  
Otter Reintroduction  
Project, Alondra arrives  
to San Alonso Island





Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Twenty years ago, Doug and I landed in an old Cessna 206 in the middle of a hot and humid landscape as long and flat as the eye could see. I couldn't wait to get out of there, but Doug saw something that I simply couldn't see – a gold mine of biodiversity. I would come to know this as the Iberá Wetlands, and I have been forever grateful that he did. We began another risky dream of rewilding a place together. With the help of a team, more like a family, we began asking ourselves, “Who's missing?”

Over the last 20 years we have experienced highs and lows as we realized our plan to firstly acquire the critical lands necessary to eventually protect the entire watershed and bring back the locally extinct jaguar, together with other predators, herbivores and fruit dispersing species that had been extirpated from the ecosystem, many for over 50 years. The more time I spent in Iberá, the more I understood the wisdom of our plan. We were initially met with local mistrust of our intentions and confronted opposition to the idea of conservation. We were accused of many things, including having arrived to Iberá to take over this freshwater source and sell water to China. We wanted to protect, to restore, to engage the local communities. We held to that promise, together and now, and local people and governments are today our greatest allies.

We are doing exactly what we set out to do.

Over several decades, Iberá has gone from being a degraded wetland area of nearly 2 million acres to the largest protected area in Argentina and an innovative model of conservation. As in all of our Tompkins Conservation projects, we work with an ecological vision of “the next 100 years” and everywhere we have worked we are fortunate to have a second generation of our teams who will carry on long after we're gone – in Argentina this is Fundación Rewilding Argentina, led by Sofia Heinonen who has worked with us nearly from the beginning in Iberá. We share the projects, and I can sleep at night knowing that the Rewilding Argentina teams will carry forth what Doug and I began nearly 30 years ago.

The Tompkins Conservation Network, will stay focused on the southern cone in Chile and Argentina, and, at the same time, continue to find ways that our conservation of large-scale lands and coastal marine areas and our rewilding work may be applied elsewhere in the Americas to advance the overall impact of our work. In the future, we will require and solidify more partnerships of like-minded individuals and institutions and work aggressively toward the common goal to protect and restore more ecosystems on land and sea, rewilding and working directly with communities neighboring our projects so that all will flourish – national parks and abundance wildlife are economic drivers for local communities.

Today, COVID-19 has created an unprecedented global crisis which lays bare our profound interconnectedness with all life. We continue to believe that national parks, rewilding, and local economic development continue to be potent solutions to the greatest challenges of our time

Thank you for your friendship and support throughout the years. Your commitment makes our efforts possible.

With warmest regards,

**Kristine McDivitt Tompkins**  
President of Tompkins Conservation



Photograph by Rafael Abuin.



*Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Partners,*

*We have crafted this first Annual Report to share our accomplishments and immediate plans, in addition to the daily challenges and stories that take place in the long process of achieving our goals. Within these pages, you will also find our dreams for Rewilding Argentina, we hope that with your help they may become a reality.*

*Nature, with all its beauty, diversity and infinite connections, is what motivates and inspires us, and ultimately has brought us together as a team.*

*But nature also brings us anguish, frustration and the urge to act, each time we perceive the injustices created in the name of progress and economic growth. United by this common cause, we are motivated to work harder and faster for real results. The challenges which inevitably arise offer us learning experiences, and every single accomplishment works to further unite our whole team in the urgent movement against the climate crisis and mass species extinction.*

*In recent times, country-wide fires and a global pandemic have shocked and concerned us, but these terrible crises have also made us more open to radical change. We have an unprecedented opportunity to act on behalf of our planet, and our own good. As nature itself allows us to live and thrive, our efforts to preserve it are essential.*

*Rewilding Argentina is an upbeat, invincible force of creative individuals working tirelessly on behalf of nature. I'm proud to lead this team. They act without fear of failure and are willing to learn, work towards larger goals, and unite others to join our mission to restore the health and well-being of vital ecosystems and their nearby communities.*

*At the beginning of Iberá Park, Doug and Kristine Tompkins taught us to dream big when working to recover ecosystems, to bring back every extinct species and help develop regional economies that may help sustain functional ecosystems. They also led us to study the root causes of the global crisis before creating a global strategy, and rethink our own values with an eco-centric vision of our place in the world.*

*I have spent my whole career working alongside people who have given everything to create new national parks and leave us all a better world. For fourteen years I worked with Juan Carlos Chebez in the National Parks Administration, helping to create more than twenty national and provincial parks. I spent the next twelve years sharing the battlefield of activism with Douglas Tompkins, with whom we created five new parks and began rewilding in Argentina. Both of these individuals taught me that anything is possible, and that it is worth it.*

*In 2005, I moved with both my children, Lautaro and Camila, to Rincón del Socorro, the ranch in the Iberá Wetlands where Kris and Doug spent their winters. From this spot, we started to convert cattle ranches into national parks, bring back missing species –including locally extinct jaguars– and pursue the protection of all fiscal land in the Iberá Wetlands. I still remember the 30-minute, (face to face) vision plan, when we defined those three goals, working in a traditional conservative cattle province. With plenty of adrenaline, space, and support to define our strategies, we began to form a team. Both challenges and results soon arrived.*

*Fourteen years later, cheering and jumping for joy with Kris, we celebrated the creation of two parks, the Iberá National and Provincial Parks protecting a total of 1.8 million acres –728,434 hectares–, the reintroduction of five extinct species, and the first five jaguars that will be soon released. With four local communities entering the service economy, it's also been the most successful development of a nature tourism destination in Argentina.*



Photograph by Rafael Abuin.

*Our organization has gone through name changes over the last 23 years, but we remain the same dedicated team. After Doug passed away, we matured over the next four years, with the help of Kris and Tompkins Conservation, into creating larger-scale projects which generate models of restoration, protection, and new local economies in se ecoregions of Argentina. We restructured internally through a strategic alliance with our mother entity, Tompkins Conservation, forging stronger links with the committed individuals and organizations that share our values and a willingness to work together. In 2019, we created a long-term vision for five of the eight projects planned for this decade: Iberá Park in the Humid Chaco, El Impenetrable Park in the Dry Chaco, Patagonia Park in the Patagonian Plateau and Steppe, Patagonia Azul along the Argentine coast, and Península Mitre in the Subantarctic Forest and surrounding waters. During the next ten years, we expect to add three more ecoregions as part of our full nature model projects: the Andean-Patagonian Forests, the Atlantic Forest, and the High Altitude Cloudy Montane Forests.*

*It is powerful to see so much positive change take place in one generation. My kids grew up in Iberá with me, passionately engaged in each milestone of this long story, the arrival of each anteater, marsh deer, peccary, macaw, and jaguar, which they joyfully shared with their friends in Colonia Pellegrini, the flagship town of Iberá. This deep, personal experience has brought me the determination and confidence to lead our new projects. When it comes to helping nature, we dream without limits and give it our all!*

**Sofía Heinonen**

Executive Director  
Fundación Rewilding Argentina



# How We Work

We work following an approach to development that enables the recovery of ecological integrity in areas where the biodiversity has been affected by human activities. Beginning with the richness and beauty of a complete ecosystem, wildlife viewing becomes the principal tourist attraction, enhanced by the services provided by local businesses and entrepreneurs, the National Park Administration or to the directorate of Provincial protected areas.

- We form multi-disciplinary teams, largely made up of locals, who live in the regions where we have long-term projects.
- We implement restoration projects, including the reintroduction and strengthening of populations of native species, with the goal of recovering natural ecosystems.
- We promote the creation of new “nature destinations” through experiences offered by local guides and other entrepreneurs and businesses who value wildlife and regional culture.
- We develop a joint vision of economy as a consequence of conservation in alliance with local and provincial governments.
- Finally, once the State officially creates the park and adopts a public-private co-management strategy that assures a regenerative economy in the long term, we donate the land to the National Park Administration or to the directorate of Provincial protected areas.



A clear night in the new Carambola Gateway. This hut has been built by locals for tourists to experience life in the heart of the Iberá Wetlands. Photograph by Beth Wald.



# Conservation Impacts

**2,5** MILLION  
ACRES  
ON LAND  
(1,017,500 HECTARES)

**38,610** SQUARE  
MILES  
OF OCEAN  
(100,000 KM<sup>2</sup>)

PROTECTED AREA

**1** MILLION  
ACRES  
(407,000 HECTARES)

AREA DONATED  
FOR THE CREATION  
OF NATIONAL PARKS

**15**

**SPECIES**  
REINTRODUCED  
OR IN THE PROCESS  
OF REINTRODUCTION



Jaguar, Puma, Guanaco, Giant River Otter,  
Pampas Deer, Giant Anteater, Marsh Deer,  
Collared Peccary, Red-Legged Seriema,  
Bare-faced Curassow, Red-footed Tortoise,  
Austral Rail, Wolfssohn's Viscacha,  
Red-and-Green Macaw, Lowland Tapir

**7**

**ECOREGIONS**  
BEING PROTECTED  
AND RESTORED

Iberá Wetlands, Dry Chaco,  
Patagonian Steppe, Yungas,  
Argentine Sea, High Andes,  
and Patagonian Forest

**4**

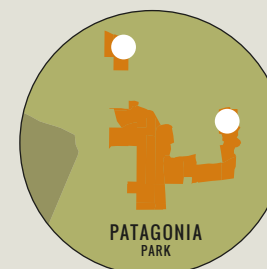
**NATURE-BASED  
TOURISM  
DESTINATIONS**  
BEING DEVELOPED

Iberá  
El Impenetrable  
Patagonia  
Patagonia Azul

**8**

**NEW AND EXPANDED  
NATIONAL PARKS**

Iberá, El Impenetrable, Aconquija,  
Patagonia, Perito Moreno,  
Monte León, Yaganes and  
Namuncurá-Banco Burdwood II

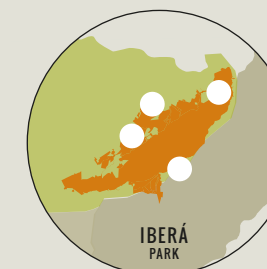


PATAGONIA  
PARK

**6**

**PARK ENTRANCES**  
-Gateways-  
WITH PUBLIC ACCESS  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

La Ascención, Cañadón Pinturas  
Laguna Iberá, San Nicolás, Cambyretá, Carambola



IBERÁ  
PARK



A photograph of a cougar standing in a field of tall, dry grass and low-lying green shrubs. The cougar is facing the camera, with its body angled slightly to the right. The background is a blurred landscape of similar vegetation under warm, golden light.

# Our Projects in 2019

IBERÁ

IMPENETRABLE

PATAGONIA

PATAGONIA AZUL

ACONQUIJA

SIN AZUL  
NO HAY VERDE

OUR MARINE PROGRAM





Laguna Fernández from the sky, nearby Uguay.  
Photograph by Rafael Abuin.

# IBERÁ



PROJECT START  
**1998**

CURRENT PROTECTED AREA  
**1,7** million acres (700,000 hectares)

ECOREGION BEING RESTORED  
Iberá Wetlands

TOTAL CARBON STORED  
**264** million metric tonnes

REWILDING SPECIES PROJECTS  
Jaguar, Giant Otter, Collared Peccary,  
Lowland Tapir, Pampas Deer, Giant Anteater,  
Bare-faced Curassow, Red-and-green Macaw

PROJECT COORDINATOR  
Marisi López

WILDLIFE PROJECTS COORDINATOR  
Talía Zamboni

MAIN PARTNERS  
Tompkins Conservation, Wyss Campaign for Nature,  
Arcadia Fund, The Bromley Charitable Trust,  
Anonymous, LC Kvaal-Halbrok,  
The Leonardo Di Caprio Foundation,  
National Geographic Society, Artis Zoo



I B E R Á

# The Origin of Rewilding in Argentina

This is where everything began. An unprotected, degraded wetland in northeastern Argentina was identified by Tompkins Conservation in 1998 as the place to create a project with significant impact in ecosystem restoration. Today, Iberá Park is the flagship project of Fundación Rewilding Argentina, offering a model case of our innovative conservation approach.

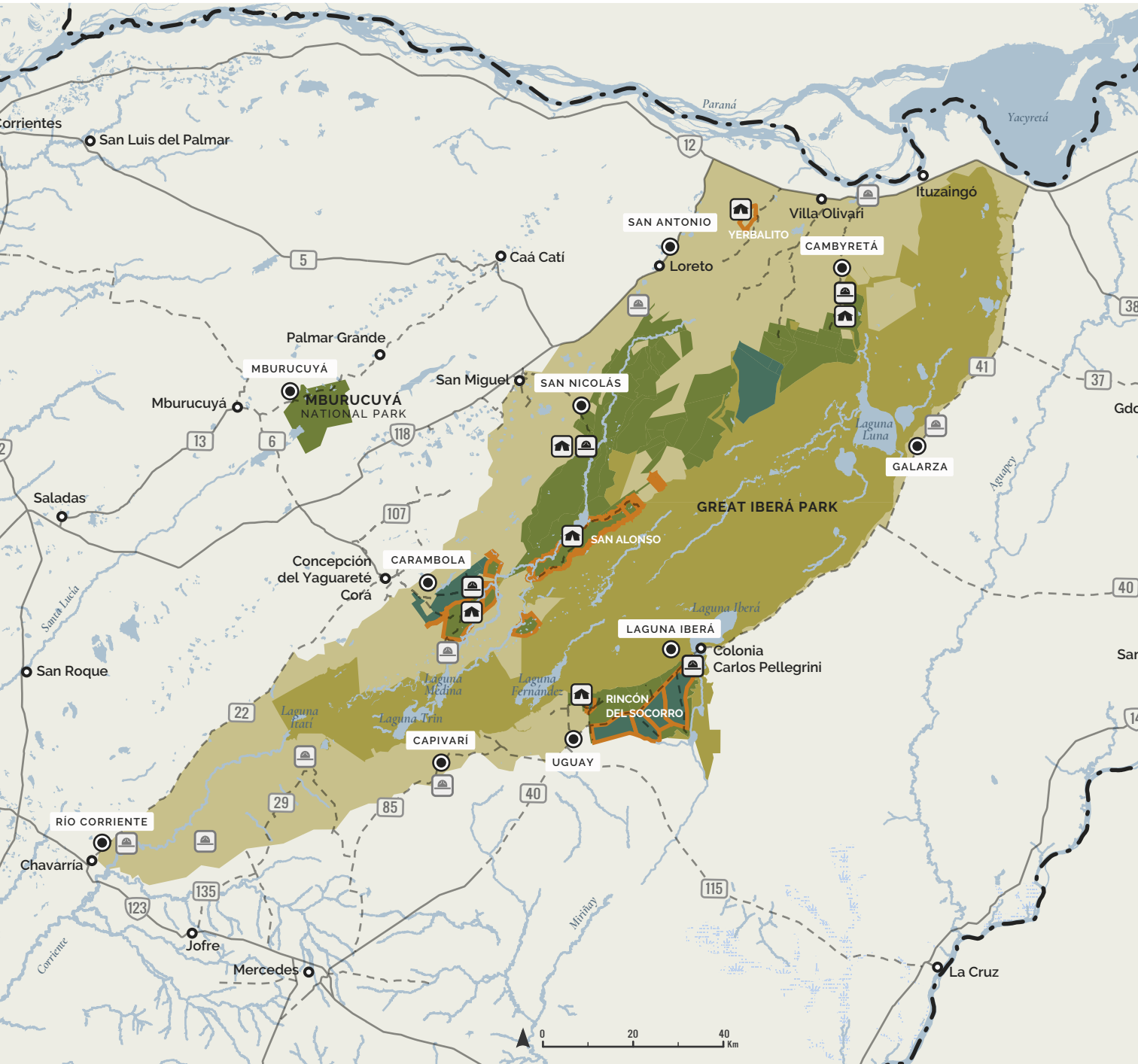
Currently, the Iberá Park encompasses 1,7 million acres (700,000 hectares) including the Iberá National Park, Iberá Provincial Park, and 3,2 million acres (1,3 million hectares) if we add the National Reserve, Provincial Reserve and Iberá Wildlife Natural Reserve. Strategically chosen for its ecosystemic importance, the Iberá Park harbors part of one of the world's largest wetlands, in addition to subtropical grasslands, a globally threatened ecosystem with many species identified by the IUCN as vulnerable or endangered. During the last century, the lack of protection and diverse forms of extraction endeavors badly eroded the functionality of these ecosystems. Now under strict and permanent protection, Iberá Park represents a unique opportunity to recover the functionality of its ecosystems by controlling threats and restoring populations of key species.

Over 21 years we have been working in close association with the National Park Administration and Corrientes province, which manages the national and provincial reserves protecting Iberá. This strong partnership resulted in an internationally recognized governance model, and the development of two solid management plans, one for the national and other for the provincial jurisdiction. The implementation of these management plans led the way to a blossoming alternative local economy of nature-based tourism, dependent on complete, healthy ecosystems with abundant and readily observable flora and fauna. Today, Iberá has everything it needs to realize its full potential: a strong and experienced Argentinian team, a complex of protected areas with long-term management plans, successful reintroduction projects, and four local communities relying on nature-based tourism. Iberá is ready to scale up.



Pancha, a giant anteater living by the coast of the Paraná Lagoon with her baby Genesis, while being closely monitored by Marianela Masat, rewilding monitor. Genesis was the first baby born in San Alonso Rewilding Station. Photograph by Rafael Abuin.

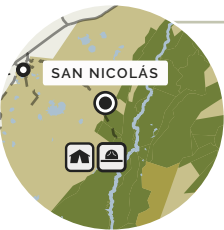




# PARK

81,512  
ACRES  
(32,987 HECTARES)

DONATION OF  
2 PARK NUCLEI



3,057  
ACRES  
(1,237 HECTARES)

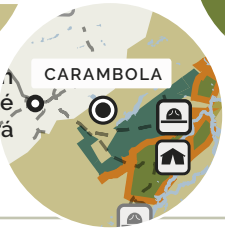
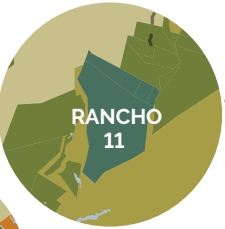
ACQUISITION  
OF PROPERTY

with an intact native  
forest, home of  
the new biological  
station Yermalito



28,649  
ACRES  
(11,594 HECTARES)

DONATION  
AND DECLARATION  
OF A NEW NATURAL  
WILDLIFE RESERVE



CARAMBOLA PARK GATEWAY



1 TRAIL



1 CAMPING  
SITE



## KEY

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| National Park             | Gateway                |
| Provincial Park           | National Park Ranger   |
| Provincial Reserve        | Provincial Park Ranger |
| Wildlife National Reserve | Biological Station     |
| Rewilding Reserve         | Provincial Boundary    |
| River                     | National Boundary      |
| Lagoon                    | Paved Road             |
| Marsh                     | Dirt road              |
| Wetland                   | City or Town           |
|                           | Hamlet                 |

We acquired Yermalito, a 3,057 acre property that harbors one of the largest patches of protected native forest in Iberá. In this area, we started the restoration of two species of seed-dispersing birds: the bare-faced curassow and the red-and-green macaw. Adjacent to the Iberá Provincial Park, this property will eventually become another park gateway.

As part of the long-term plan for Iberá Park, the second and third park nuclei were donated to the National Parks Administration, adding 81,512 acres (32,987 hectares) of protected land and new areas of public access via the San Nicolás and Laguna Iberá portals. The new Laguna Iberá gateway adds one more visiting day for tourism with three new trails, camping areas, docks, parking areas, and restrooms.

NATURE TOURISM

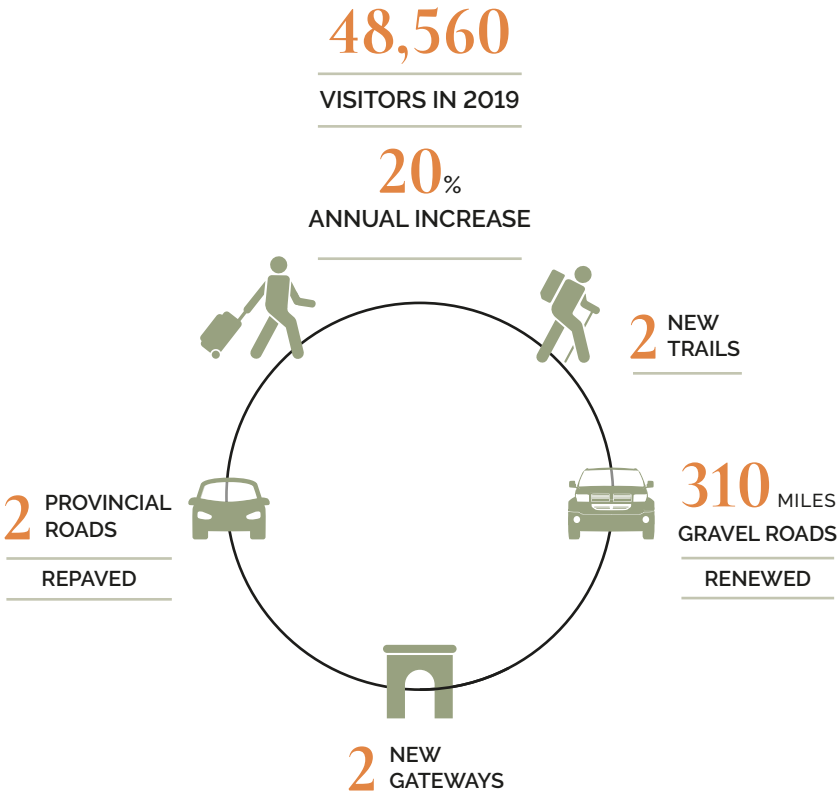
Working jointly with the provincial administration we are preparing to donate the fourth park nucleus, Portal Carambola, to the National Parks Administration. So far, we have completed the construction of the Park Rangers Office, one new trail, and the Carambolita Camping with cooking shelters, restrooms, wooden decks, trails, and docks for new wetland viewpoints.

To increase the connectivity between protected areas and private lands, and allow for natural wildlife corridors, we completed the donation of the Rancho 11 property, which encompasses 27,000 acres (10,926 hectares) of Iberá wetlands. Recently, we achieved the declaration of that property as a Natural Wildlife Reserve.

Featuring a diversity of reserve categories and private lands, the Iberá Park complex is managed through the Iberá Committee formed by NGOs, including Fundación Rewilding Argentina, and

national, provincial, and municipal authorities. The committee makes decisions about executive and legislative communication, road connectivity, energy, environmental, and modernization matters based on a shared vision. This innovative governance model has been locally and globally praised as an example of collaboration for the improvement of a protected area.

In 2019, the Iberá Committee executed a Cultural and Tourism Infrastructure Plan, the Road Plan, the Road Sign Plan, and the Educational Plan, with the goal of creating ten gateways and one scenic route to create benefits for 200,000 residents living in twenty towns around the park. Fundación Rewilding Argentina has been chosen to coordinate the processes of designing and executing both the national and provincial park management plans. As a result, both plans share conservation values regardless of jurisdictional aspects. Progress on the implementation of these plans were summarized in a book published by Fundación Rewilding Argentina.



Our steady efforts to position Iberá Park as a key destination for South American nature-based tourism showed outstanding results in 2019. Lonely Planet selected the park as one of the Best Destinations for 2020. Official data from the Iberá Committee reports a 20% increase in visitors in 2019, with some gateways even welcoming 50 to 60% more visitors than in 2018. In 2019, Fundación Rewilding Argentina gave support to the Iberá Committee to achieve key park improvements: two new gateways, five new trails, 310 miles (500 km) of resurfaced gravel

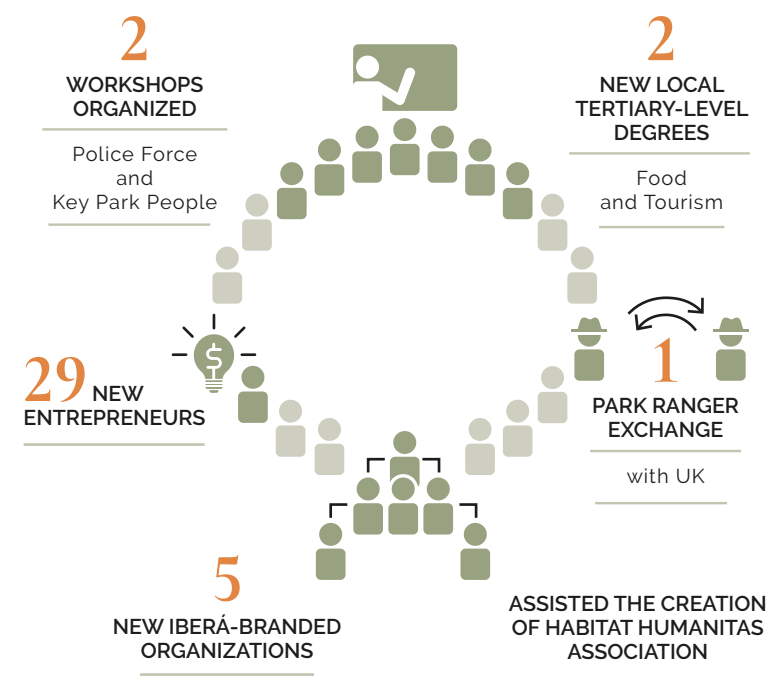
roads, and resurfaced pavement for two provincial roads connecting all gateways and improving accessibility. In addition, the projected scenic route for the Iberá Park is taking shape, with new signs for each portal, and new road crossing signs for native fauna. Our work with the Committee resulted in three main publications in 2019 which position the wetlands as a global tourism destination: an updated version of the Great Iberá Park book, a Guide for Investors in Iberá, and the latest version of the Iberá Tourist Guide.



A glance at the folkloric show in celebration for the opening of the camping grounds at Carambola Park Gateway. The couples were dancing chamamé, a cheerful musical genre from Corrientes. Photograph by Matías Rebak



COMMUNITIES



Nature tourism in Iberá has started to become an engine for local economic development. In 2019, we identified and gave support to 29 new entrepreneurs launching their endeavors in the Iberá Wetlands. Our community team has assisted these founders to overcome obstacles and obtain equipment, training, taxes and tax registration, and digital marketing and helped with testing the services they propose. Over the years, some of the previous entrepreneurs we have worked with have regrouped into organizations that will help advertise their activity to expand and grow in demand. In 2019, we helped to organize five new groups of Iberá entrepreneurs, such as local cooks “Cocineros del Iberá”, and the local certified tourism guides “Iberá Porá”.

We have also helped the Iberá Committee to develop a wide variety of workshops related to the Iberá Park. For people with a strong link to the park, such as neighbors, local authorities, tourism agencies, and people working in hospitality, we set out an integrative workshop program with modules in the nature-based tourism model and an

update on all the tourism offerings of the park. A similar program was also offered to the entire provincial police force. From an academic standpoint, we have helped to open and prepare content for two new degrees in Tourism and Gastronomy. Local people with an interest in developing a career in those disciplines do not need to migrate to large cities, as they may now enroll and take courses in the local towns of Concepción and Colonia Pellegrini. We have also collaborated in a Park Ranger exchange program between Argentina and the United Kingdom, where our rangers received training from British park rangers about wetlands as protected areas, and the English language.

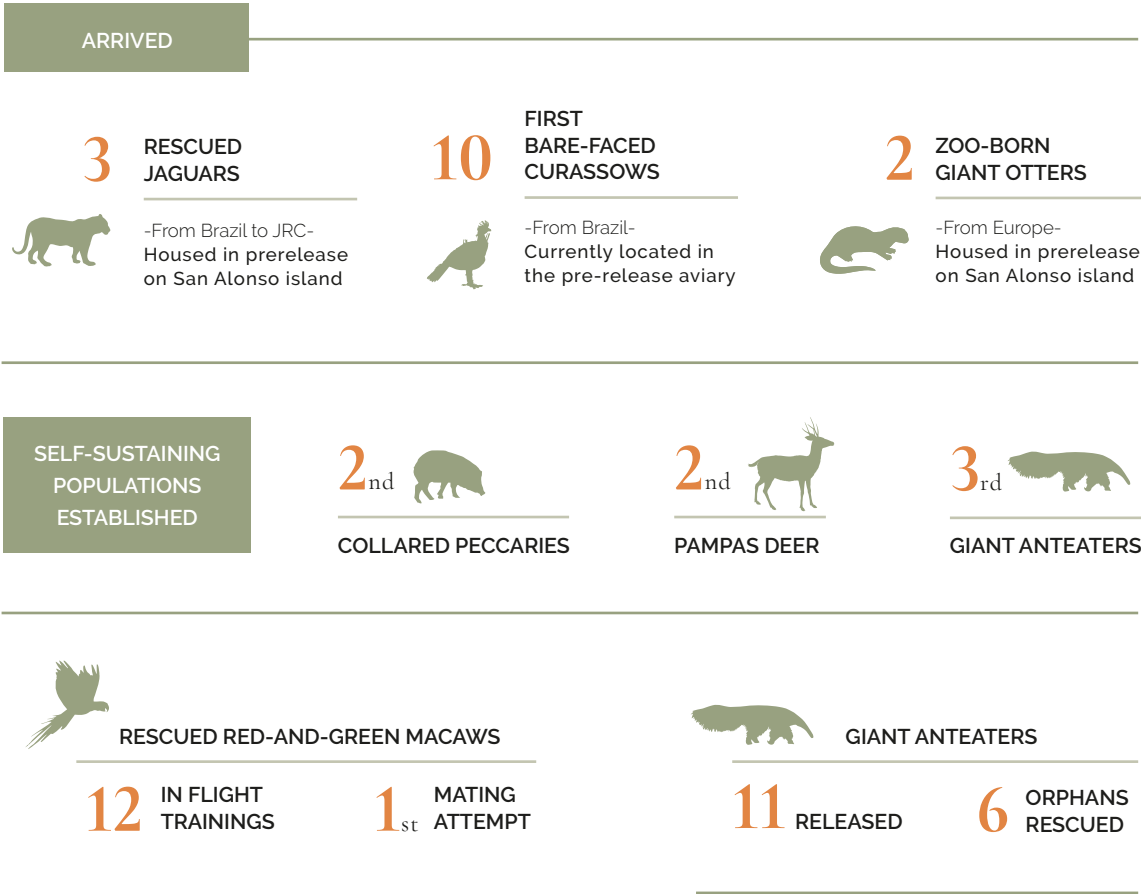
Known before as a program within our foundation, Habitat Humanitas has recently grown into an independent organization with which we will work together in Iberá communities. The forthcoming strength of Habitat Humanitas will allow for deeper local assistance following the seventeen United Nations objectives for sustainable development.



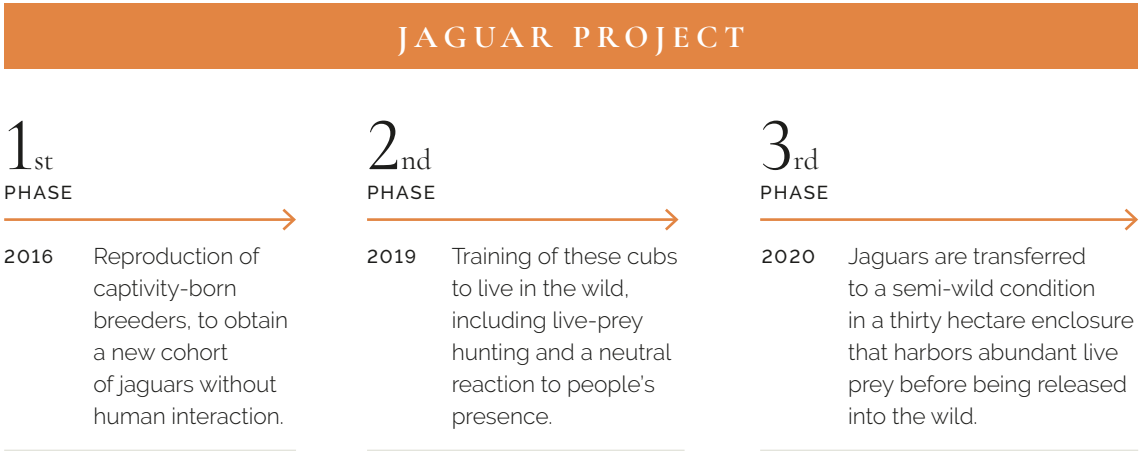
Maneko's craftsmanship is one of the many cultural treasures of the Iberá. He builds hut roofs with red thatching-straw grass, and tourist canoes with timbo tree wood. Photograph by Rafael Abuin.



WILDLIFE

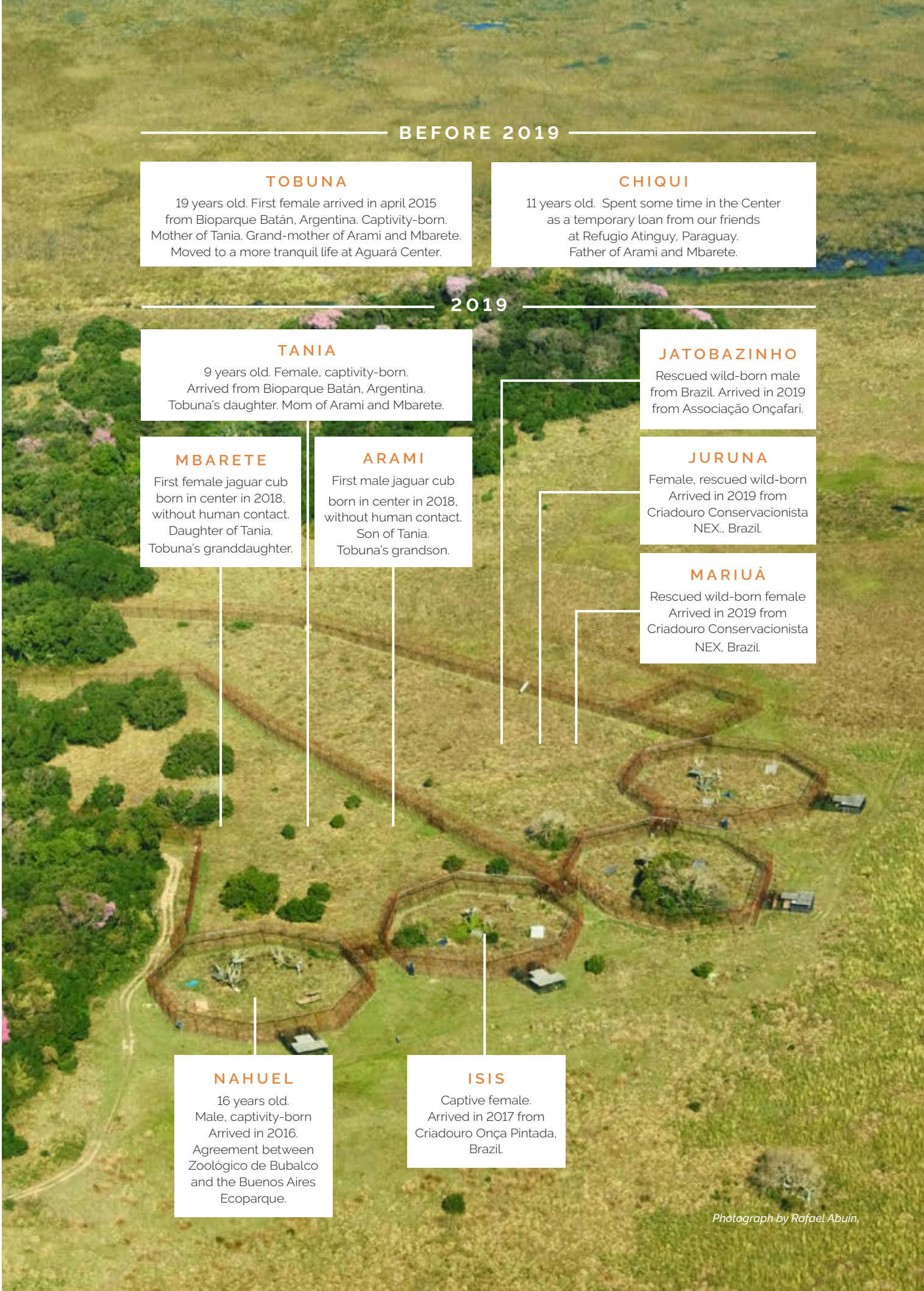






JAGUAR REINTRODUCTION CENTER

Located in the Island of San Alonso, the Jaguar Reintroduction Center hosts 8 animals; 3 captive-born breeders and 5 other animals rescued from life in the wild or born in the center without human contact.







**Giant Anteater**  
*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*

GLOBAL IUCN STATUS: Vulnerable  
ARGENTINA STATUS: Vulnerable  
ECOSYSTEM ROLE: Insectivorous, prey

This ongoing 12-year rewilding project is living proof of how bold ideas and hard work can produce an incredible outcome, such as returning a species to a region where it almost vanished forever.

The giant anteater has not only returned to Iberá but today it lives in two healthy populations that require no further human intervention. Monitoring via trap cameras shows that a large number of females gave birth in 2019. In addition, we are establishing two more populations that will be soon supplemented with new rescued individuals raised at our Rescue Center. Finally, we are extending our reintroduction efforts outside Iberá Park by supporting the creation of a fifth giant anteater population in a private reserve.



**Giant Otter**  
*Pteronura brasiliensis*

GLOBAL IUCN STATUS: Endangered  
ARGENTINA STATUS: Extinct  
ECOSYSTEM ROLE: Top predator

Thanks to an agreement with the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and the arrival of the first male and female, we began an unprecedented rewilding project to bring back the giant otter, the top freshwater predator in Iberá. The restoration of giant otters changes the fate of this species that disappeared from Argentina a few decades ago.

The project had a difficult start as our first male died in quarantine while recovering from a routine health checkup. A third European zoo has provided a second male named Coco. Currently the female, Alondra, is adapting to her future home in a prerelease pen in San Alonso island. The male will join her soon, in early 2020. This pair will be housed in the pre-release pen until they reproduce and raise their first cubs. Afterwards, they will be released so they become the first founding family group that swims freely in the lakes and streams of Iberá Park.



**Lowland Tapir**  
*Tapirus terrestris*

GLOBAL IUCN STATUS: Vulnerable  
ARGENTINA STATUS: Vulnerable  
ECOSYSTEM ROLE: Seed disperser, forest regeneration and restoration, prey

Initiated in 2016, our efforts to reintroduce captive tapirs in Iberá showed promising results during the first two years of the project. The animals quickly learned how to procure food in the wild and began reproducing. Unfortunately, in 2018 an exotic parasite which was never reported to affect tapirs, *Trypanosoma evansi*, began infecting individuals in the project, causing several mortalities. Although our team of veterinarians quickly treated the tapirs, after a period without parasites, the animals became re-infected. Thus, we decided to remove all surviving individuals from the wild and temporarily suspend the reintroduction of tapirs to Iberá.

All six surviving tapirs will become part of an ex-situ breeding program for the species. Individual tapirs bred in the program will be reintroduced in areas without the parasite where the species has disappeared. Also, we have begun research on a wild population in El Impenetrable National Park, Chaco province, where we can evaluate how wild tapirs interact with this parasite. Although the reintroduction of tapirs to Iberá is currently suspended, the imminent restoration of jaguars might bring hope. Jaguars should control the overabundant population of capybaras, a key reservoir for the parasite, creating the conditions for the tapirs to make a second and final return to Iberá.

“When you allow a species to return to an environment where it used to live you are providing the opportunity for the ecological connections to be restored too. And more, you are also providing the opportunity for people to rediscover the biodiversity they have lost. To me, as a giant otter specialist, the recovery of giant otters in the Iberá ecosystem is an example that proves that with focus and professionalism, conservation can be successful.”

Dra. Caroline Leuchtenberger  
IUCN OTTERS SPECIALIST GROUP





 **Collared Peccary**  
*Pecari tajacu*

GLOBAL IUCN STATUS: Least Concern

ARGENTINA STATUS: Vulnerable

ECOSYSTEM ROLE: Seed disperser, prey

After decades of absence, the collared peccary made a strong return to Iberá. In the last few years, we were able to reintroduce this species to four different locations inside the Iberá Park. Populations at San Alonso island and Rincón del Socorro are fully established, featuring at least 29 and 90 adult individuals, respectively, in each location. Most promising, these two populations are reproducing steadily. Now we are releasing individuals at two additional locations, Carambola and San Nicolás. These populations will be assisted during 2020 until they no longer need human intervention and begin thriving by themselves.



 **Bare-Faced Curassow**  
*Crax fasciolata*

GLOBAL IUCN STATUS: Vulnerable

ARGENTINA STATUS: Endangered

ECOSYSTEM ROLE: Seed predator and disperser

In Argentina, numbers of bare-faced curassow are declining drastically as the species' distribution range shrinks. Indeed, only a few small populations remain in the provinces of Chaco and Formosa, whereas it vanished from the three neighboring provinces, like Corrientes, that were once part of the bare-faced curassow's historical range. As this species disappears, its ecological role as a seed disperser fades, with negative effects on plant diversity.

To counteract this trend, Fundación Rewilding Argentina purchased the property Yermalito in 2019. With the largest continuous subtropical forest in Iberá, it's a prime habitat for curassows.

We began the reintroduction of this species by building a pre-release aviary in Yermalito, while obtaining the founding individuals from Brazil. The curassows successfully went through the quarantine stage and were moved to Yermalito, where they are currently adapting to their new habitat. In early 2020, this first group of birds will be released. More individuals will also arrive to supplement and reinforce the return of the bare-faced curassow to Corrientes province.



 **Pampas Deer**  
*Ozotoceros bezoarticus*

GLOBAL IUCN STATUS: Near threatened

ARGENTINA STATUS: Endangered.

ECOSYSTEM ROLE: Herbivore, prey

Globally recognized as an endangered species, our rewilding efforts of the Pampas Deer resulted in the establishment of two populations in Iberá Park. The first population is thriving on San Alonso island, where a recent survey estimated a total of 150 individuals. The second population flourishes in Rincón del Socorro, where we finished our reintroduction activities in 2019 when we translocated the last six deer. Current observations show that the Rincón del Socorro population, with an estimated size of 30 individuals, is reproducing and the population is likely increasing. We are developing new plans to continue the restoration of this species in other locations of Iberá Park and Argentina.



 **Red-and-Green Macaw**  
*Ara chloropterus*

GLOBAL IUCN STATUS: Least Concern

ARGENTINA STATUS: Extinct

ECOSYSTEM ROLE: Seed disperser

Humans drove the red-and-green macaw to extinction in Iberá and all of Argentina. Macaws feed on large fruit, playing a key role as long-distance seed dispersers. Their contribution results in

the regeneration of tree stands but also increases gene flow among these stands. Restoring macaw populations will have an important beneficial impact on native plants.

To bring back the macaw to Iberá we developed a series of partnerships with different zoos and breeding centers to provide captive individuals. Before they are released, the individuals complete a process designed to increase their chances of survival in the wild. Our team performs a series of health checkups and deploys transmitters on each individual. Then we spend several months training them to fly, find food sources, and identify predators in the wild. Finally, after carefully evaluating their individual progress, we release those that are ready to become wild.

To date, we have released 20 individuals, 16 of which are still being monitored. In 2019, we observed the first reproductive attempt: a pair of macaws laid three eggs in a nest box. Even though the eggs were not viable, new macaw parents often must make several attempts to reproduce successfully. In 2020 we will release more individuals and include a second locale to spread the restoration of this species.



## Highlights 2019

### TWO NEW REWILDING PROJECTS

#### Bare-faced Curassow and Giant Otter

In line with our ultimate goal of functional, complete ecosystems, in 2019 we have started rewilding projects for two more species: the Bare-faced Curassow (*Crax fasciolata*) and the Giant Otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*).

The Bare-faced Curassow is a large bird that went extinct in northeast Argentina during the last century and that is vulnerable world-wide. These beautiful animals play a significant ecological role as 'forests regenerators', dispersing big seeds that other birds can't eat. During 2019, ten bare-faced curassows arrived from Refugio Ecologico Bela Vista as a donation from state energy company Itaipú Binacional. After quarantines, and satisfactory adaptation, we will begin releasing curassows from a recently-built 12-metre aviary in Yerbalito, our newest rewilding station in Iberá Park. Such releases will help the curassows play their ecological role while creating a new attraction for birdwatchers, a nature-based tourism activity steadily growing in the park.

The giant otter became extinct in Argentina mainly due to alterations in their habitat and the poaching of their pelts. As the top predator of this aquatic ecosystem, this mammal plays an essential role in restoring a balanced and healthy ecosystem. It's also an important actor in nature-based tourism. With as few as 5000 left in the wild, our team has successfully launched a ground-breaking rewilding project, the first of its kind in South America. In 2019, a pre-release pen in the rewilding station of San Alonso was an optimal environment for Alondra, a female otter generously donated from the Budapest Zoo in Hungary. In 2020, Alondra will be joined by a male otter. Together, they will be the first breeding pair of their species to take their rightful place in the Iberá wetlands.

*Read more about these new projects in the Iberá Park Wildlife section of this Annual Report.*

#### The first birthday of Iberá's Jaguar Cubs

On June 6th, 2019, we celebrated the first birthday of two jaguar cubs, the first born in the province of Corrientes in over 70 years. Arami and Mbarete, sister and brother, will play a key role in our pioneering rewilding project. In the coming year, the cubs will be prepared for their eventual release in the vast protected wetlands of Iberá.

The largest feline in the Americas, jaguars were once found from southwestern United States to Argentina. Today, the species is in critical danger of extinction in Argentina, having lost 95% of its historic range. Sebastián Di Martino, our Rewilding Director, explains, "The jaguar occupies the top of the food chain in Iberá. Its presence is vital to achieve a healthy and complete ecosystem with a full complement of species serving their ecological role."

The cubs are the first of their species born in the Jaguar Reintroduction Center, a state-of-the-art facility and the largest onsite breeding center for felines in the Americas. The cubs live in a tailor made enclosure of 1.5 hectares where remote video cameras provide wildlife technicians with detailed knowledge of their development, while avoiding direct human contact which would compromise their ability to survive in the wild.

Kristine Tompkins, president of Tompkins Conservation, said, "After ten years of hard work to bring back the jaguar, we celebrate that these cubs born under our care are thriving. They will one day be the first generation of jaguars returning to roam free in the Iberá wetlands."



Celebrating the first birthday of the jaguar cubs Arami and Mbarete. Local kids from Concepción del Yaguareté Corá enjoy a puppet show. Photograph by Matías Rebak



# 2020

## OBJETIVES

- Release of 1 female jaguar and her cub
- Experimental release of first giant otter family group and arrival of new couple
- Fifth population of collared peccaries
- Keep supplementing giant anteaters and peccaries populations.
- Two group releases of bare-faced curassows
- Second population of red-and-green macaws
- Develop and approve lowland paca's reintroduction project
- Integrate two new hamlets to the nature tourism development plan
- Complete land acquisitions in Southwestern Iberá which are key to monitor jaguars and support isolated families
- Strengthen surveillance and control activities in Southern Iberá through new tourism activities
- Complete three new park gateways in Loreto, Chavarria, and Galarza, together with the Iberá Committee
- Management of exotic buffalo invasions, a recent park threat

Matias Greco, Giant Otter Project Coordinator, returns from a fishing afternoon for Alondra, a female otter arrived from a european zoo. Aware of Matias's arrival, Alondra waits for live prey in the pre-release pen here shown, where she is learning how to fish, getting ready for life in the wild Iberá waters. *Photograph by Rafael Abuin.*



# A New Economy

*Senator Sergio Flinta shares the story of the Iberá Project from the perspective of a provincial legislator*

Today, our beloved Iberá Park has become a reality and a shining model for local governance. The largest park in Argentina, it has over 700,000 protected hectares surrounded by 10 gateways, 22 towns, and more than 200,000 citizens who stand to benefit from a new economy of nature-based tourism.

The park represents a paradigm shift in wildlife conservation at both the provincial and national levels. It has brought innovative rewilding programs and a mixed park governance system led by the Iberá Committee, a group formed by members of the provincial government and different institutions to manage all Iberá Park-related issues.

However, it took a long way to get to where we are today. The first steps were taken back in 1983 when the Iberá Nature Reserve was created by law by the province of Corrientes. It took some more years to raise the wetlands protection category to a Provincial Park. But it wasn't until the arrival in the late 90s of Fundación Rewilding Argentina, which was then Conservation Land Trust, that the project accelerated, resulting in many achievements, the most important one being the recent creation of the Iberá National Park in 2018.

It was not easy. The society of Corrientes had little experience with conservation. Above all, there was a great distrust towards the "yanquis" [the Tompkins] and their intentions. Clashes with the rural, productive and political sectors eventually faded with time, confidence and work. We had to break down prejudice and old traditional practices, and to be brave enough to propose a new development model based on wildlife watching, our landscapes, and our people's culture. It was necessary to show with numbers that the province of Corrientes may not only produce rice, cattle, and timber, but that nature-based tourism could benefit all the towns of Iberá.

Today, the Iberá Committee is leading us on the journey down this path ensuring the successful implementation of the province's decision to bring back the jaguar, the giant otter, and the red-and-green macaw as symbols of the restoration of Iberá. Iberá Park has created a new economy, with opportunity for the men and women of Corrientes, and a model for development, employment, pride, conservation, and state policy around the globe.

**Sergio M. Flinta**

Current Senator of the Province of Corrientes  
and General Coordinator of the Iberá Committee





LIVES,  
REWILDEDTHE STORY OF  
LUCRECIA

*A nature guide that visited the wetlands  
for the first time when she was 33  
and it changed her life forever*



Thank you to Lucrecia for providing us with photographs from her personal archive.

For Lucrecia, the wetlands were always a mystery. Someplace everyone talked about, but only a lucky few knew, “I was dying to go, but there was no way to get there, we saw it as something unattainable.”

Lucrecia was born and raised in Concepción del Yaguareté Cora, a small municipality 27 kilometers away from Portal Carambola, the newest Iberá Park gateway that opened in 2015. “We were raised in a numerous family of 8 siblings in a tranquil town of 5000 people where we all knew each other.” Even though the Iberá Wetlands were close by, Lucrecia lived half her life in the middle of them without ever seeing the water.

When Lucrecia turned 20, her parents sent her to live 10 hours away with an aunt in Buenos Aires so she could have better opportunities. Moving from one job to another, she paid her own way to become a radiologist, staying in the capital for fourteen years. Occasionally, she would return to Concepción to visit her family. During those years, the wetlands near home had become a Provincial Park. When Lucrecia was 33, a local friend invited her to finally see the wetlands for the first time, along with a new park ranger, Adrián.

“Such immensity, and nature so pure, so pristine, only 27 kilometers away, and I had never seen it before” says Lucrecia, who fell in love with both Iberá and Adrián. A year later, she moved back to Concepción where she joined the park ranger and started a family. While working part-time in the local hospital, she enrolled in a course to become a Certified Iberá Wetlands Guide: “I would not see myself as a guide, but Adrián insisted because he knew about the upcoming opportunities and my love for this land”.

Today, Lucrecia is living the life she never thought she could have. She says, “being a guide is my passion, telling people about Iberá, the history of my town, how much it has grown.” Every morning, Lucrecia welcomes tourists on a motor boat or in kayaks, or takes them on bike tours through Concepción as a nature guide. She

has seen the wildlife transform too, “When people come here they feel the peace, the magic of the sunsets, the animals quietly staring at them, without fear.”

In the afternoons, Lucrecia still works as a radiologist, as she enjoys it as much as being in nature with tourists, “If I had to choose one of my

two jobs, I would choose both, I love taking bone pictures as much as taking pictures of people enjoying nature, my land, this wonderful place that today is protected and brings us hope”.

As the years go by, each one of Lucrecia’s siblings have also returned to live in Concepción, which has increased employment opportunities. “In such a small, forgotten town, to see people being able to choose to stay, it fills my soul”. In the future, the Carambola gateway will continue to transform. “The community will think about the new access to the wetlands as their backyard, the place behind your house that you keep clean and tidy to welcome your friends and have good times.”



Lucrecia Fader is 41 years old. President of the local Guides Association “Iberá Pora”, an Iberá Wetlands Certified Nature Guide, and a Radiologist.



# IMPENETRABLE



PROJECT START  
**2014**

CURRENT PROTECTED AREA  
**316,295** acres  
(128.000 hectares)

ECOREGION BEING RESTORED  
Dry Chaco

TOTAL CARBON STORED  
**28.2** million metric tonnes

REWILDING SPECIES PROJECTS  
Jaguar, Marsh Deer, Lowland Tapir

PROJECT COORDINATOR  
Pedro Núñez

WILDLIFE PROJECTS COORDINATOR  
Gerardo Cerón

MAIN PARTNERS  
DOB Ecology,  
Tompkins Conservation



## IMPENETRABLE

# An Oasis of Biodiversity

Located in central South America, the Gran Chaco is the largest dry forest in South America and the continent's most extensive forest outside the Amazon. It also harbors a wide variety of environments such as grasslands, shrublands, savannah, and wetlands. A region of significant biodiversity value, the Gran Chaco provides key habitat for some of the most iconic species of South America including threatened wide-ranging animals like jaguars, tapirs, giant anteaters, guanacos, pampas deer, and giant armadillos. Furthermore, the abundance and diversity of wildlife that features the Gran Chaco provide unparalleled opportunities for the development of nature tourism and wildlife watching.

The forests of the Gran Chaco have been long forgotten by the global conservation agenda; as a result, these forests have undergone one of the worst deforestation and degradation processes worldwide. Between 1985 and 2013, more than 35 million acres of Chaco forests, equaling 20% of all the forest in the Gran Chaco, was replaced by croplands or grazing lands. During the twentieth century, high loads of unmanaged livestock resulted in the encroachment and degradation of the Gran Chaco. But it's not only these forests under siege; the extensive productive grasslands have also been severely impacted. In areas where forest is still present, a lack of economic options pushed local communities to cause a dramatic defaunation. As a result, large native herbivores became rare or extinct. The Argentine portion of the Gran Chaco was not an exception, with the disappearance of key species like the guanaco, marsh and pampas deer in recent times.

In 2011, together with various local institutions, we began the process of creating El Impenetrable National Park (EINP), in a large ranch in the province of Chaco. The governor led this process, which was economically supported by national and international philanthropies. Strong federal support was channeled through the National Parks Administration, which identified the property as a top priority conservation site. The park was finally created by law in 2014, but because of legal issues, the National Park Administration took complete control of the property in 2017.

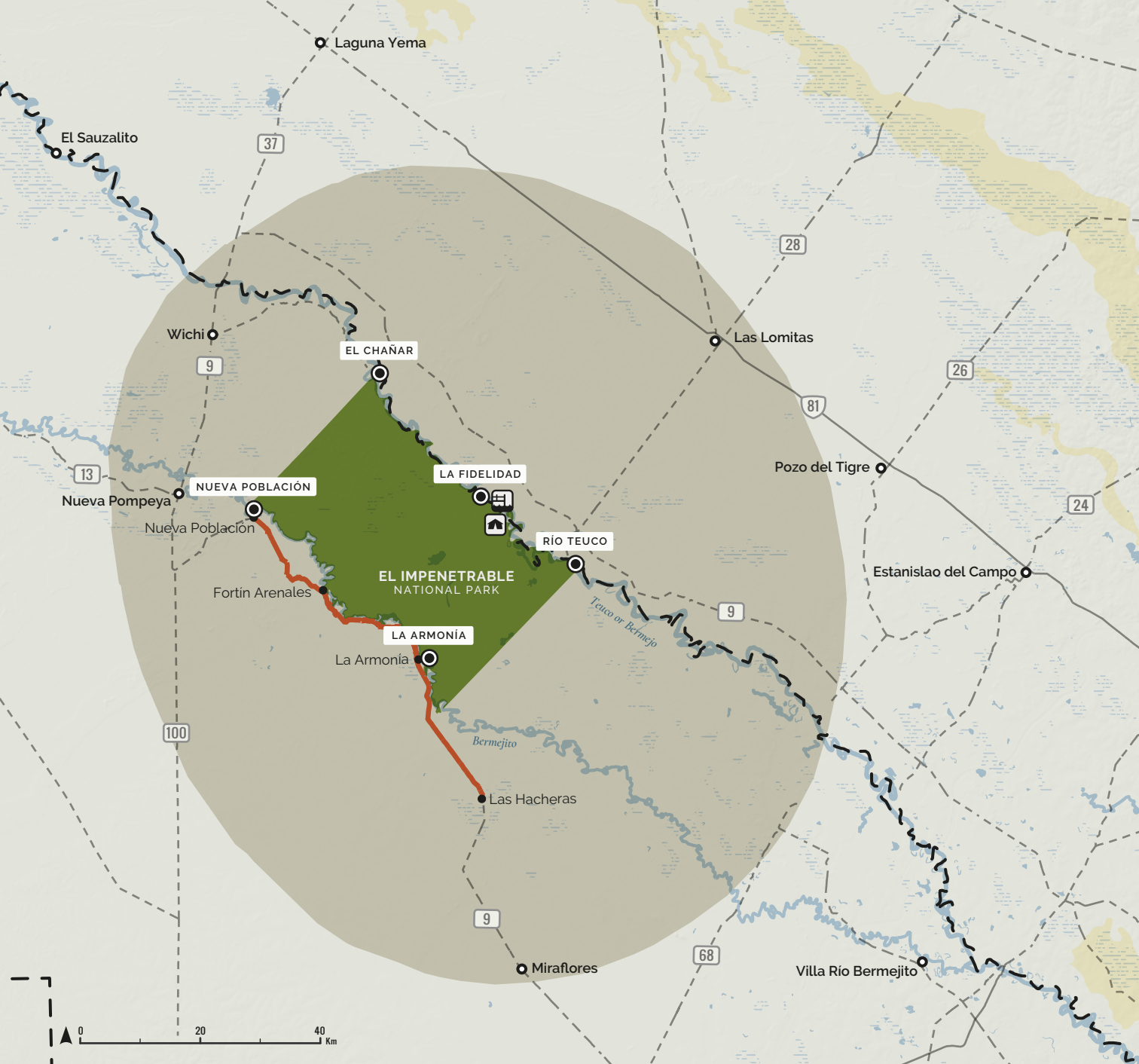
Now that the legal status of the park is firmly established, we are concentrating our efforts on (1) assembling and consolidating our team in the territory, (2) building basic infrastructure, (3) restoring habitat such as grasslands and wetlands, and extinct and artificially rare species, and (4) empowering neighboring communities so they become the park's main stewards and beneficiaries.

To do so, in December 2017 we signed a 5-year renewable agreement with the National Park Administration to establish a biological station, and a 10-year agreement to undertake rewilding and ecological restoration activities at EINP. We work closely with park rangers to ensure law enforcement, and with other NGOs and researchers to develop an ecological baseline and locally implement a development model based on nature-based tourism.



Photograph by Matías Rebak.





#### KEY

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| National Park      | Pier                |
| Influence Zone     | Scenic Route        |
| River              | Provincial Boundary |
| Lagoon             | Paved Road          |
| Marsh              | Dirt Road           |
| Grassland          | Town                |
| Projected Gateway  | Hamlet              |
| Biological Station |                     |

## IMPENETRABLE

## WILDLIFE

1154

DIFFERENT SPECIES  
IN THE PARK

Preliminary results  
of the baseline study

### REWILDING PROJECTS

1<sup>st</sup> FIRST PLANNING  
STAGES COMPLETED



Jaguar



Red-footed tortoise



Marsh deer

### TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE

Implementation  
LONGSTANDING  
MONITORING PROGRAM  
BASED ON CAMERA TRAPS



### ARGENTINE CHACO JAGUAR

1<sup>st</sup> COLLAR  
DEPLOYMENT  
AND VIDEO  
RECORD



ESTIMATED  
POPULATION

20

### ENDEMIC CHACOAN PECCARY

1<sup>st</sup> VIDEO  
RECORD



### TAPIR

Planning and implementation

1<sup>st</sup> PROJECT IN ARGENTINA  
UTILIZING COLLARS WITH  
SATELLITE CAPABILITIES  
TO UNDERSTAND BASIC  
TAPIR ECOLOGY



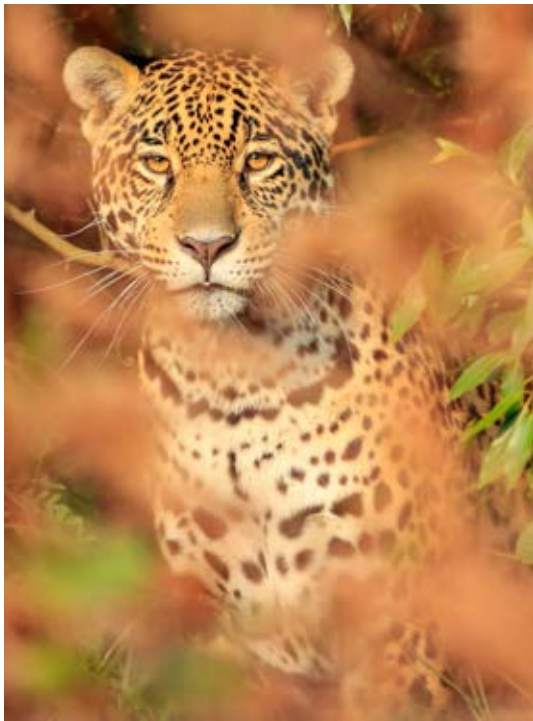
We work right at the heart of the park in a biological station under construction. In close collaboration with the National Parks Administration, local guides and visiting experts from around the globe, we are creating a list of species that inhabit the park and we are planning the implementation of three restoration projects for marsh deer, red-footed tortoise, and jaguars.

Our team has begun a baseline study of the park, registering 20 new mushroom species for the park, 308 vascular plants (1 species not known to be present in Argentina, 8 species never registered in

the Chaco province, 94 species first registered in the national park), 301 arthropods (1 new species for Argentina, all new species for the park), 65 fish (all new citations for the park), 36 amphibians including a potentially new frog species (and 15 first citations for the park), 48 reptiles (17 first citations for the park), 324 birds (4 first citations for Chaco, 76 new citations for the park) and 52 different species of mammals (11 first citations for the park). This type of study also allows us to detect species that may have recently gone extinct, and the potential causes.



Monitoring and Reintroduction Projects



 **Jaguar**  
*Panthera onca*

GLOBAL IUCN STATUS: Near threatened  
ARGENTINA STATUS: Critically Endangered  
ECOSYSTEM ROLE: Top Predator

This species is ecologically extinct in the park, where recently, and after years of surveys, one male jaguar was detected. The jaguar was captured and equipped with a collar. It is currently being monitored thanks to a seamless coordination with the National Park Administration and Wildlife Departments of the provinces of Chaco and Formosa. Plans to restore this key species are being drafted and include presenting the wild male of the park with captive females and the potential release of the cubs.



 **Marsh Deer**  
*Blastocerus dichotomus*

GLOBAL IUCN STATUS: Vulnerable  
ARGENTINA STATUS: Vulnerable  
ECOSYSTEM ROLE: Herbivore, prey

Extinct at the EINP and surrounding areas for over fifty years due to hunting, habitat loss and diseases carried by cattle. We plan to restore marsh deer by translocating animals from the Iberá National Park population. This will be the first translocation between two national parks in Argentina. This project was submitted and approved; the pre-release pen was built at EINP and is ready to receive the first group of deer.



 **Lowland Tapir**  
*Tapirus terrestris*

GLOBAL IUCN STATUS: Vulnerable  
ARGENTINA STATUS: Vulnerable  
ECOSYSTEM ROLE: Seed disperser, forest regeneration and restoration, prey

To better understand the dynamics of the tapir population that inhabits the park, we deployed camera traps, which resulted in a full year of continuous data. Preliminary results show that the tapir population in EINP appears to be uniquely abundant; thus, it represents an excellent potential source of individuals for reintroduction projects elsewhere in the country. To understand the ecological needs of tapirs, we submitted a project, already approved by the National Parks Administration, to capture, deploy collars on and monitor wild tapirs.



 **Red-footed Tortoise**  
*Chelonoidis carbonaria*

GLOBAL IUCN STATUS: Not evaluated  
ARGENTINA STATUS: Endangered  
ECOSYSTEM ROLE: Seed disperser, forest regeneration and restoration, prey

The largest tortoise in Argentina is now threatened due to habitat loss, hunting, and pet trafficking. Once widely distributed across South America, there are a few relict, fragmented populations left in Argentina. While currently extinct from the EINP, the park is an ideal place to establish a self-sustaining population in a well conserved, threat-free environment. In a joint project with The Turtle Conservancy, we propose the reintroduction of tortoises from zoos and rescue centers from Argentina and Paraguay.



## Highlights 2019

### Qaramta: One of the last jaguars in Chaco

In September 2019, the first camera trap footage of a wild jaguar was identified in El Impenetrable National Park. This is the first time in decades that a wild-born individual has been spotted in the Argentine Chaco. An imposing 5-year-old male, he was named Qaramta by local schools, meaning "the one who is difficult to destroy or kill" in the Qom language.

To protect him from threats and keep him within park boundaries, he was collared, and is now being monitored to learn more about his behaviour. This was possible thanks to the quick action of our rewilding team along with our partners, the National Parks Administration of Argentina, the National Secretariat of Environment, the Governments of Chaco and Corrientes and the Yaguareté Project. A special enclosed area was built in only three days for Tobuna, a captive female from the Jaguar Reintroduction Center in Iberá Park, who was brought to attract Qaramta and keep him in secure surroundings. Afterwards, as a replacement, Impenetrable National Park received Tania, Tobuna's adult offspring.

As we continue checking the camera trap records and signals of Qaramta's satellite collar, we are pleased that he stays close and visits Tania on a regular basis. The team will continue to monitor his movements and work on gaining the necessary permits to allow their mating.

It is of most critical importance to ensure the protection of this individual, since it is estimated that there are only about 200 jaguars remaining in Argentina, because of hunting and habitat destruction. The active management of species and environment can allow the jaguar to inhabit the area again and fulfill its key ecological role in this ecosystem.

### El Impenetrable & Iberá

#### COOKS PROGRAM

Iberá Park, in northeastern Argentina, is all about both nature and culture. In the same way that native species are being reintroduced, traditional cooking is being brought back to life.

The training program "Cocineros del Iberá" (Iberá cooks) started in 2017 with the goal of securing that culinary heritage by uniting more than 130 women and men across eight towns around the wetlands. They work together to strengthen local production of traditional cuisine and contribute to the creation of new development opportunities for their communities based on ecotourism.

The joint work of Yetapá Foundation, the National Institute of Technology (INTA) and Fundación Rewilding Argentina, and the financial support from the Nation's Ministry of Health and Social Development has allowed 57 businesses located in Iberá to attend the trainings, and upgrade their gastronomic equipment and tools.

The cooks share every product with great pride, as they know their work contributes to the conservation of the cultural heritage of Iberá. "Participating in the program makes me feel proud of belonging to Iberá, because other people value our food, what we produce with our local products", says Viviana Pavón, from Colonia Pellegrini's community.

The program has generated important employment opportunities. Participants reinvest their profit in the culinary ventures, which are now fully integrated into Iberá's tourism network. The Provincial Government of Corrientes has incorporated "Iberá cooks" as an official tourism program, which guarantees its continuity and growing impact.

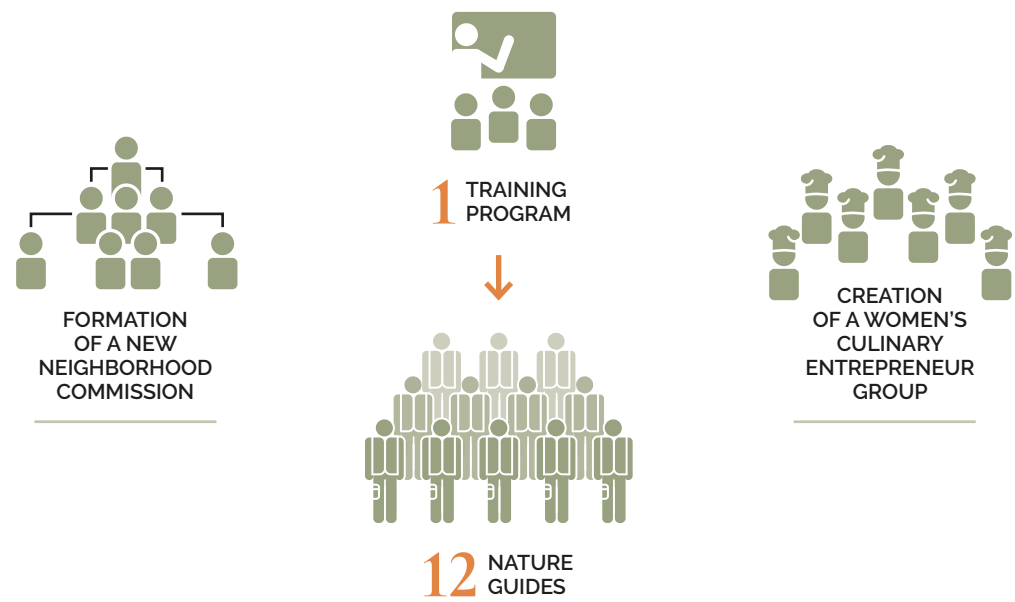
Given the success of the program, after an exchange between Iberá entrepreneurs and women from Paraje La Armonia, a small community located in the gateway of El Impenetrable National Park, today there's a growing network of "El Impenetrable Cooks" who offer their services to park visitors.



Nancy, leader of the neighbour group in Impenetrable, participated in peer to peer cooking exchange in Iberá to improve her marmalade production.  
Photograph by Matías Rebak.



COMMUNITIES



Our main focus is to understand the current situation and needs that local people have. We aim to position the Impenetrable region as a wild gem for nature-based tourism that will increase the local communities' wellbeing. While the closest town is two hours away from the one park gateway, EINP is surrounded by small settlements scattered around the protected area and the buffer zone. The creation of the national park in 2014 has triggered a change in the local people's perception of the value of their land, particularly in the people from "La Armonía," one of the communities where our work has been more intense. During 2019, the community team has focused on three areas: education about tourism, the creation of new civil organizations, and socio-economic data gathering.

Aiming to make local people aware of the park's potential as a nature tourism destination, we have offered a training program for nature guides. This allowed ten of the park neighbors to better understand the fauna, flora and the ecological dynamics of the Chaco forest. We have also helped the people from "La Armonía" to organize their own neighborhood commission, with the goals of improving their quality of life and developing traditional activities oriented towards nature tourism. At the same time, we have collaborated with the creation of a group of entrepreneurial women focused on all the food services that may be offered in park events.



Cooks and handicrafts experts from Impenetrable visit their colleagues in Iberá as part of a peer-to-peer exchange. Photograph by Matías Rebak.





Our expert team monitors the heart of Tania, a female jaguar arriving from our Center in Iberá, to anchor Qaramta, possibly the last jaguar of the Chaco province. From left to right: Gerardo coordinates all rewilding efforts in El Impenetrable, Juan Pablo, next to him, leads all enclosure construction plans, and Carolina is our wildlife veterinarian, responsible for animals during quarantine and field releases. *Photograph by Beth Wald*

## 2020 OBJETIVES

- Complete the construction of the biological station
- Complete the biological baseline study
- Submit, get approval, and begin reintroduction projects for jaguars and red-footed tortoises
- Submit a reintroduction project for guanacos
- Release first group of marsh deer
- Capture and collar 4 tapirs for monitoring purposes
- 4 new entrepreneurs providing services inside the park
- 500 park visitors
- Complete socio-economic land-ownership study
- Propose strategy to improve our neighbors' land tenure and economic opportunities in nature-based tourism



LIVES,  
REWILDEDTHE STORY OF  
ROGELIO

*After a wild childhood at the heart of the Impenetrable Forest, Rogelio recounts how he came to embrace conservation as a way of life.*



Rogelio showing his beekeeping techniques in his backyard in Colonia Dorrego. Photograph by Gerardo Cerón.

When Rogelio was a kid, his happiest moments were walking back from school. He walked the two miles barefoot, naming all the birds, hunting lizards, taking the long way through the woods with his machete. Rogelio recounts, “I would never kill the baby lizards or insects, I would be furious when some kid would”. The eldest of eight siblings, he was raised in the small village of Colonia Coronel Dorrego.

“I got my first job in the cotton fields when I was fourteen. Each year from February to July we had to leave the village and travel. It was fun for me, I did that until I was twenty”.

In his twenties he moved to Miraflores, an agricultural center four hours away where the gravel roads give way to the pavement.

“That is how I learnt to drive tractors and use all kinds of tools and vehicles to work the harvest.”

He saw poor harvests come and go, his parents, bosses, and neighbors losing everything in the blink of an eye, so he gradually started his own entrepreneurial initiative with beekeeping, “I moved back home and carried each one of the boxes with the queen bees on my motorbike.” The business grew steadily, and at some point he was keeping up to ninety hives. In 2013, half of his hive died due to an extreme drought, but Rogelio never left the bees, as they were his only source of income.

“I would never kill  
the baby lizards or insects,  
I would be furious  
when some kid would.”

The bees eventually led him to a life in conservation. The forest around his childhood home recently became part of El Impenetrable National Park. One day his cousin, a former hunter turned assistant park ranger, introduced Rogelio to the park staff to sell them honey. Pedro, the park coordinator for Rewilding Argentina, encouraged him to join the team, given his knowledge of the

land and his capabilities as a tractor driver. Today he coordinates the team working on all of the maintenance tasks, a job which he first imagined as impossible. Nowadays, Rogelio lives with his team in the new Rewilding Station in the middle of the national park,

waking up every morning alongside the Breal Lagoon.

About the future, he says, “I hope marsh deer and caiman return, because they used to live here. To be able to see jaguars living here, just like when my parents used to find their footprints. I hope for more white carob trees to recover, as we ignorantly chopped them down and sold them for nothing. Now they have gone extinct from our land.”

Rogelio plans to start planting carobs this year on his family land, and sends a final message out to the world, “help us preserve El Impenetrable National Park. Come visit, and bring ideas.”



Rogelio is 38 years old and leads our Rewilding Station at El Impenetrable National Park as the maintenance coordinator. He is also a beekeeper and entrepreneur with 17 years of experience producing honey.



# PATAGONIA PARK



PROJECT START  
**2011**

CURRENT PROTECTED AREA  
**444,340** acres  
(179,818 hectares)

ECOREGION BEING RESTORED  
Patagonian Steppe

TOTAL CARBON STORED  
**114,8** million metric tonnes

REWILDING SPECIES PROJECTS  
Puma, Guanaco, Austral Rail,  
Wolffsohn's viscacha

PROJECT COORDINATOR  
Mauro Prati

WILDLIFE PROJECTS COORDINATOR  
Emanuel Galetto

MAIN PARTNERS  
Freyja Foundation, Wyss Campaign for Nature

Tourists entering the Sendero de Colores Trail  
in the new Cañadón Pinturas Gateway at Patagonia Park.  
*Photograph by Jack Porter.*



## PATAGONIA PARK

# Building a binational circuit to benefit local communities

Identified as one of the 200 most vulnerable ecosystems of the world, the vast Patagonian Steppe occupies a quarter of Argentina but only 0.2% was protected. In 2012, we followed recommendations from a consortium of 70 experts from The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, and National Parks Administration, to protect two priority irreplaceable areas of the steppe, the Buenos Aires Lake Plateau and Pinturas Canyon. Identified as biodiversity hotspots where many endemic species have originated, this broad conservation corridor spans the Atlantic and Pacific watersheds. The plateau also harbors hundreds of nearly intact petroglyphs from an ancient Patagonian culture and a Unesco World Heritage Site of rock art that's up to 9000 years old.

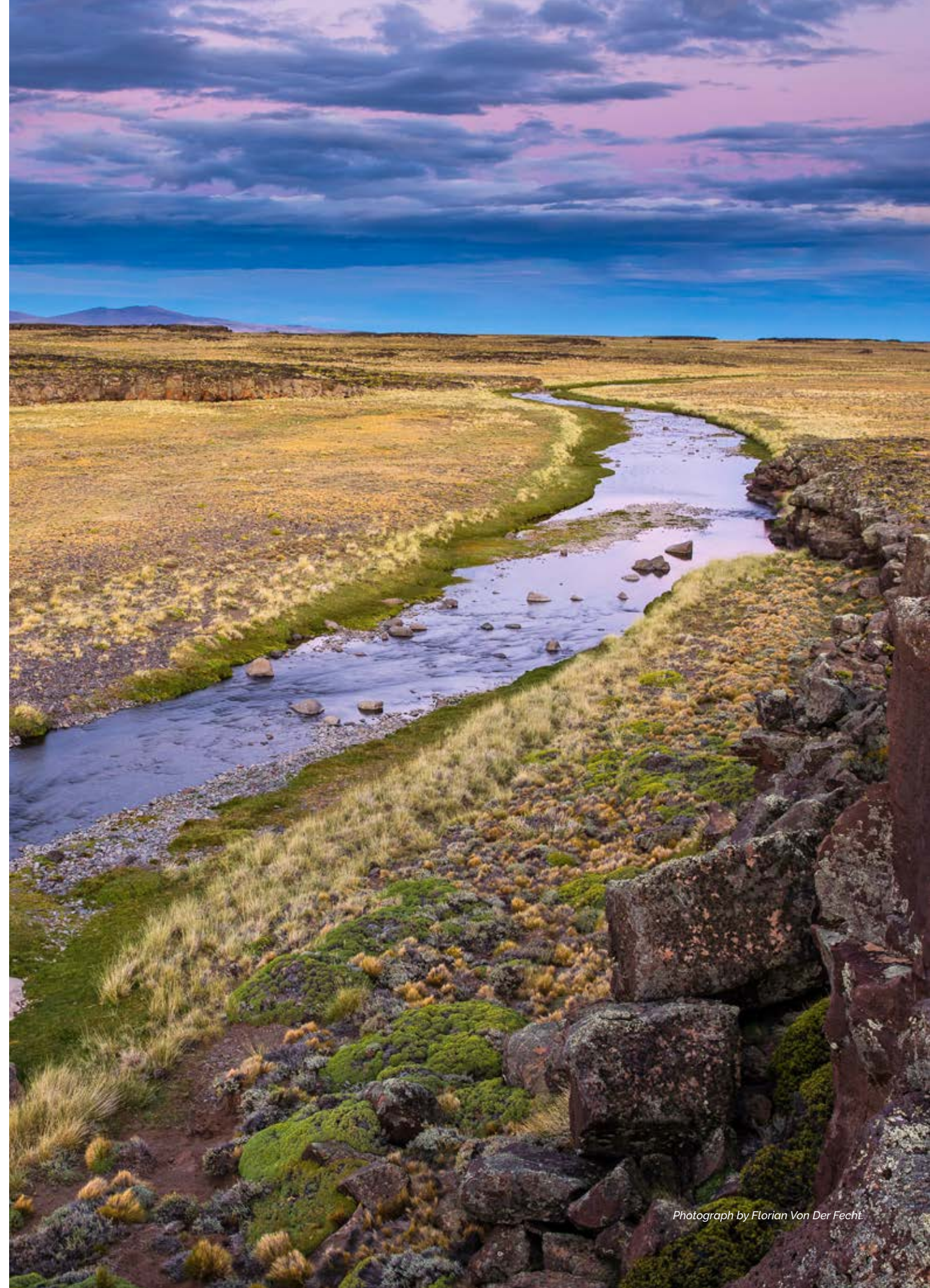
Widely unprotected for centuries, this unique region is particularly susceptible to climate change and the over-use of its soils. Although the economy of the province was historically based on sheep production, over the last decades many of the ranches have been downsized or abandoned due to volcanic eruptions and a decrease in soil productivity and grazing lands. The economic identity of the region is in flux due to changing industries, which includes increased mining industry and fine fruit farming.

In 2012, the town of Los Antiguos, the Province of Santa Cruz, and our foundation made a joint initiative for the urgent protection of the land and its biodiversity. Our vision is to conceptually unite this large protected area in Argentina with the Patagonia National Park in Chile (created with the help of Tompkins Conservation), located just across the border, to create an extensive binational circuit for nature tourism in pursuit of the conservation of the unique natural and cultural resources of greater Patagonia.

The Patagonia Park project has so far ensured the protection of 272,710 acres (110,361 hectares) by the National Parks Administration. 84% of that land has been donated by our foundation, and 171,629 acres (69,456 hectares) more are now being restored and will soon be donated to the state. Public access is now available through two of the four planned park gateways, each one directly benefiting the local communities of four towns.

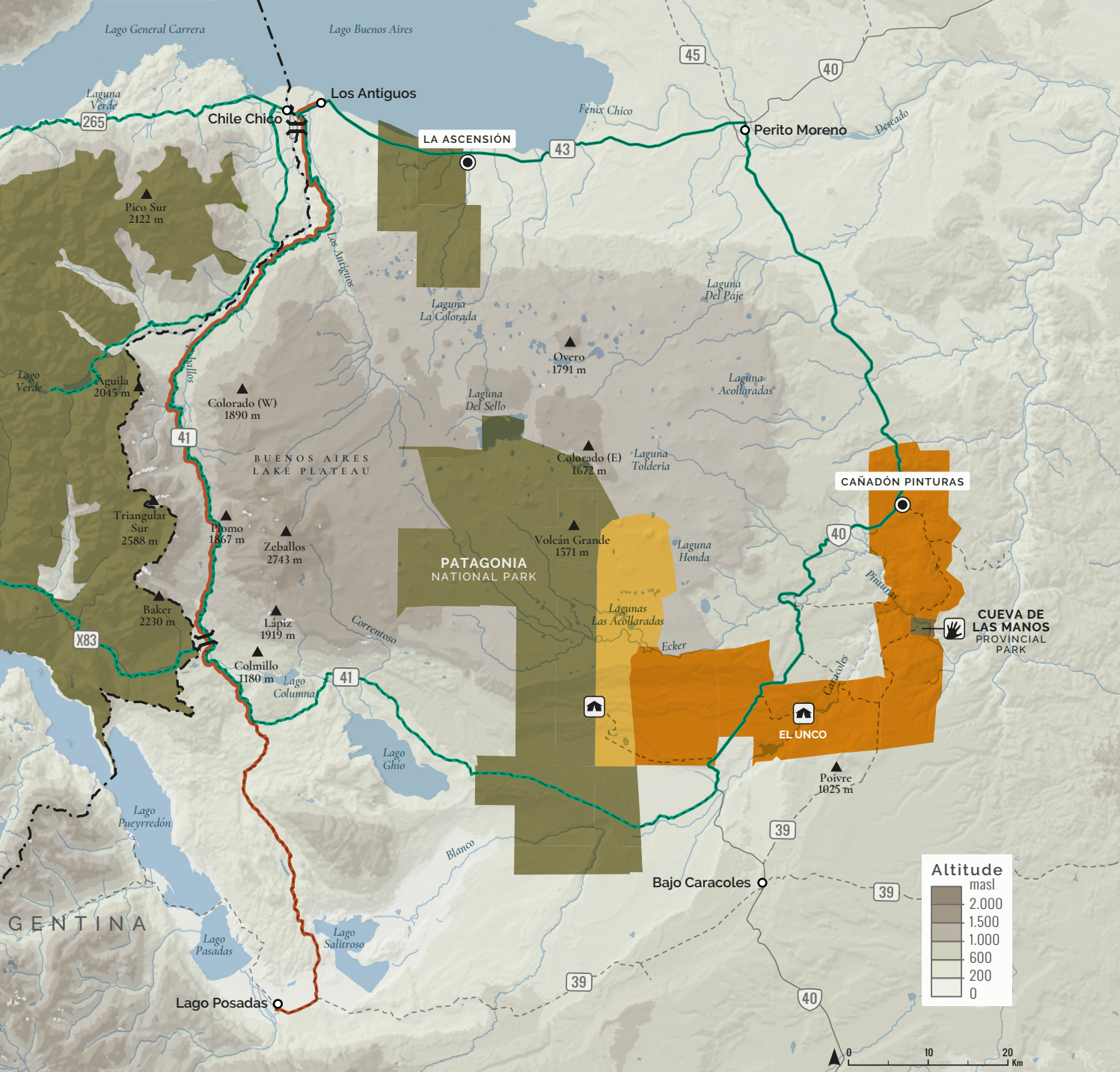
## PARQUE PATAGONIA

Santa Cruz - Argentina



Photograph by Florian Von Der Fecht





## PATAGONIA PARK

### PARK

#### LA ASCENSIÓN PROPERTY

**48,341**

ACRES  
-119,563 HECTARES-



DONATION  
TO THE STATE  
AND DESIGNATION  
AS NATIONAL RESERVE

**2,8** MILES

-45 KILOMETERS-

NEW GRAVEL  
ROADS



**4** NEW  
TRAILS

**10** MILES

-16 KILOMETERS-

**12,4** MILES

-200 KILOMETERS-

RESTORED FENCES



**1** NEW  
PARK GATEWAY  
CAÑADÓN PINTURAS



GUESTHOUSE + RESTAURANT  
LA POSTA DE LOS TOLDOS

RESTORED AREA

**25,371** SQ FEET

-2357 SQ METERS-



**130** NEW  
SIGNS  
IN ROADS AND TRAILS



NEW EL UNCO  
BIOLOGICAL STATION

UNDER RESTORATION AREA

**17,836** SQ FEET

-1657 SQ METERS-

The Patagonia Park project expanded significantly during 2019 with the donation of La Ascensión, the opening of a second park gateway, and a new biological station.

The first park gateway, La Ascensión, was donated to Argentina in 2019. This new addition to the park helps to protect 48,341 acres (19,563 hectares), of which 30% has already been designated a Natural Wildlife Reserve.

A second park gateway, Cañadón Pinturas, was opened to the public with trails and a guesthouse with a restaurant. Its new park entrance is now easily connected to the famous Route 40 through an information center and 2.8 miles (4.5 kilometers) of gravel road. We built ten miles (16 kilometers) of walking trails, with one that strategically connects to the nearby UNESCO Heritage Site “Cueva de las Manos,” which receives 16,000 visitors every year.





La Posta de Los Toldos, the new guesthouse in the new Cañadón Pinturas Gateway. *Photograph by Beth Wald.*



To keep cattle from neighboring ranches from entering the protected area, 12.4 miles (20 kilometers) of fencing has been restored. We have habilitated all basic services, including natural gas, electricity, potable water, water treatment, internet, and VHF. For a more sustainable park operation, there are new solar panels bringing 24-hour energy, and wastewater is treated with biogas. And finally, to study the impact of all public use infrastructure, The National Institute of Anthropology and Latin American Thought has performed an archaeological survey in the new gateway area.

The planned network of trails, with the ambitious goal of reaching 100 kilometers, is currently maintained, patrolled, and led by our team and a group of rotating volunteers, part of a program that extends to each one of our projects. Our volunteering program in Patagonia Park has warmly welcomed more than 50 people that have helped with fence restoration, road and trail signs, garbage management, visitors support, trail maintenance, digitalization of visitors data, and guided walks.

The Cañadón Pinturas gateway also harbors the newly restored guesthouse “La Posta de Los Toldos”, featuring nine rooms with private restrooms for 38 guests. The guesthouse also has a dining area with a locally-run restaurant, and a living-playroom where travelers learn about our projects through talks and presentations. Other renovations include a traditional stone barn, two bonfire areas with barbecue equipment, and an astronomical observatory (skies in Patagonia are classified as level 1 in the Bortle Scale, meaning they have zero light pollution).

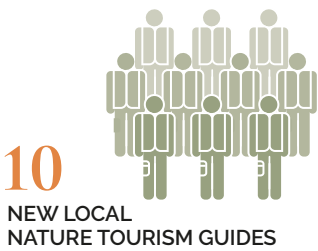
Construction of the new El Unco Biological Station started in early 2019. Located in a former sheep shearing shed, its 1657 m<sup>2</sup> are being restored to include three on-suite bedrooms, a kitchen, a dining-living room, a meeting room, a laboratory, and a storage room.

Management Plans

The foundation has actively participated in the development of two different management plans for the protected areas, one for the Patagonia National Park, and one for the Cueva de las Manos Provincial Park. For the National Park, we were involved in both coordination and planning tasks teams, taking part in all workshops with the National Parks Administration (NPA), and the local community. Those gatherings resulted in a joint definition of conservation values, threats, and public use. The final document is under revision for approval of the NPA. Following the same methodology, we helped in the coordination of teams, and the design and writing of the The Cueva de las Manos Provincial Park management plan. The document is in the last stage of revision, and will be submitted for approval by the Santa Cruz Province Government.

During the process of both management plans, our team sought and achieved a consensual vision for conservation and public use among NPA, the local people, and the government of Santa Cruz.

COMMUNITIES



We helped coordinate a Certified Guide Course with the provincial government, the Secretary of Tourism, and National Parks Administration. Ten locals were certified as guides and currently offer their services inside the park, and through local travel agencies. At Portal La Ascensión, more than 30 cultural and sports events have taken place, including plays, circus shows, live music, art exhibitions, debates, workshops, runners meetups, and a cycling race. Local entrepreneurs have offered handicrafts, food, and horseback riding to all these events year-round, but also every weekend during peak season. To bring the local communi-

ties closer to the new park gateway, we organized group visits and rewilding talks for many local schools at all levels, including a trekking school, and an outdoors school for children.

In order to avoid tensions between local stakeholders in traditional industries and our nature tourism model, we have focused our communication strategy on nature-based tourism with wildlife observation. We expect this approach to lead to an increased appreciation of conflictive species - puma and guanaco - and a change of perception regarding wildlife conservation and restoration.





NATURE TOURISM



Since the opening of Portal Cañadón Pinturas, the Patagonia Park has two access points with public use infrastructure. Both gateways together have received more than 22.000 visits in the first 27 months since opening. Cañadón Pinturas has been a success so far, welcoming 2,957 visitors in only five months. At the La Ascensión Gateway, opened in 2018, 11,610 visitors account for an annual growth of 46%. All together, the number of visits for the two gateways of the Patagonia Park confirms a successful positioning of this new tourism destination.

To prepare for the opening, the team has toured the tourism information offices of thirteen Patagonian towns and many tourism agencies. They participated in two workshops, promoted the park with 15 different radio stations, and in movie theaters and media outlets, placing wildlife and landscape displays in three main Patagonia airports. Five people were trained to provide updated information about the park in the nearby towns and visiting areas. During the first few months, the local team launched a variety of activities including a photography festival, a yoga meetup, and events for the opening of each one of the new trails. Also, road signs to promote the new park gateway were installed in the two main provincial roads, and our team has also ensured adequate road signaling in the high-volume National Route 40, by working together with the National Roads Administration.



Pablo Myburg leading a horseback riding tour in La Ascensión Gateway. Photograph by Sofía López.





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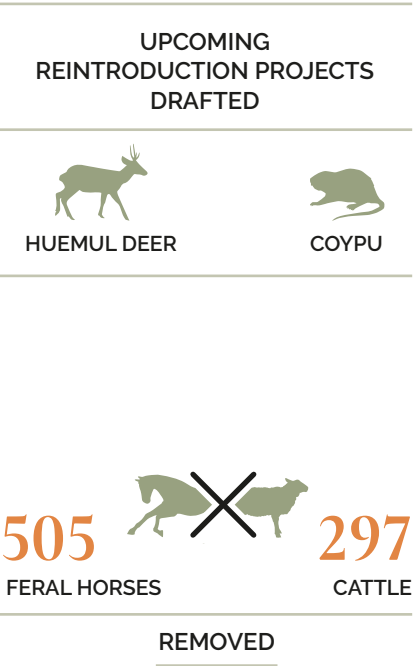
“ Rewilding Argentina has the coolest job ever: Building national parks. Our relationship with Sofía and her team is more than one of a funder and grantee, it is a partnership where we are both working towards the same goal of protecting and actively rewilding the strikingly beautiful and vast Patagonian corridor. For Freyja, Rewilding Argentina is a top international player in showing the long term systemic positive impacts conservation has on protecting the wild, sustaining livelihoods and saving the planet.”

Anne Deane  
FREYJA FOUNDATION

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REWILDING



The rewilding program in Patagonia Park relies on a wildlife project that uses state-of-the-art research techniques and a solid scientific framework to restore and conserve native species and the ecological process that depends on them species. Since January 2019, we are implementing actions directed to understand wildlife diversity, abundance, diet, movements and habitat use. We are evaluating guanaco migration and puma predation to deploy the needed actions aimed to

conserve these species and their critical ecological roles. We are producing ecological information to make informed decisions regarding the reintroduction and supplementation of species, which are currently extinct (e.g., huemul deer and coypu) and threatened (e.g., austral rail, lesser rhea and Wolffsohn's viscacha). We are assessing and managing the main threats that affect native species so their abundances increase to carrying capacity levels.

Fine scale and intensive monitoring of pumas is providing information about puma movement and prey preferences. We are specially focused on puma feeding ecology inside Patagonia Park and in neighboring ranches. Understanding the predatory habits of pumas will provide us with tools to effectively develop strategies of coexistence between this apex predator and sheep ranchers. Radio-collared guanacos are delivering first-class information on guanaco migrations, a key ecological process that has been lost over most of the guanaco geographical range. We will use this data to understand and manage the main threats that affect guanaco migratory movements. Close monitoring of austral rails is generating original information about the species' habitat use and putative migratory behavior. We will use this information to translocate individuals to wetlands within the Patagonia Park's limits, where this bird vanished. Similarly, data obtained from radio-collared vizcachas will soon allow us to be-

gin with translocations to areas within Patagonia Park, where this species was historically present but currently absent.

We conducted a deep review of literature to understand the historical distribution of species that are presently extinct in the area. We found that huemul deer and coypus were common in the area; thus, we began developing reintroduction projects for both species. The implementation of an aggressive plan to remove exotic species (i.e., feral horses and cattle), with the collaboration of local ranchers, is resulting in the recovery of grasslands with beneficial effects for native species.

At the very end, we expect wildlife to become abundant and used to the presence of people, so animals are readily observable for visitors, reinforcing the connection between nature and humans, and to develop an economy based on wildlife observation and more broadly, nature tourism.



The rewilding team in Patagonia releases a Wolffsohn's viscacha after a successful placement of a transmitter for monitoring purposes. The conservation status of the species in Argentina is unknown, and experts have classified it as "insufficient data". Photograph by Franco Bucci.





## 2020

### OBJETIVES

- Expand public use infrastructure in Cañadón Pinturas Gateway, including camping area, a new interpretation center and complete 12 miles of trails
- Complete donation of 1,235 acres to consolidate Cueva de las Manos Provincial Park
- Work jointly with the Santa Cruz Government in the regional land-use planning needed to define future protected areas
- Two-fold increase in number of radio-monitored animals
- Approval of project and first translocations of Wolffsohn's viscacha
- Restore reedbeds and expand habitat to increase austral rail populations
- Work jointly with cattle ranch neighbors to avoid puma and andean condor killings
- Focus on habituation for wildlife watching

Leandro Vazquez monitors wildlife above the Pinturas River, Patagonia Park.  
Photograph by Franco Bucci



## LIVES, REWILDED

### THE STORY OF MAURO

*A born conservationist raised among ranches, Mauro talks about going from anti-mining activism to restoring the Patagonian steppe.*



Entanglement in traditional sheep ranches wire-fences is an important cause of mortality in guanacos. This individual was rescued by Mauro 25 miles away from the Cañadón Pinturas Gateway. Photograph by Rocío Navarro.

The story of Perito Moreno, one of beauty and immense threats, shaped Mauro. Born and raised there, it's where he is now bringing up his own daughter. He says, "it's my place in this world, a place where I could never leave, which I always felt love for."

"The town of Perito Moreno had many names, the first one being Pari Aike, an aborigin word for reed bed", Mauro says. This small town of 3,000 people, in the province of Santa Cruz, is surrounded by two rivers, marshes, and a lake. An abandoned ranch right in front of his house, a natural playground for him and his siblings, one day was demolished. He recalls, "I still remember the day the powerful bulldozers arrived, tearing down century-old trees, falling like defeated giants. Those machines took everything down, our secret trails, hideaways, our childhood".

Eventually the mining industry arrived. Together with his partner, he joined neighbours in an activist campaign to defend his Patagonian town from mineral extraction. Fourteen years of exposing companies, educating the local people, and getting the media's attention led him to learn about

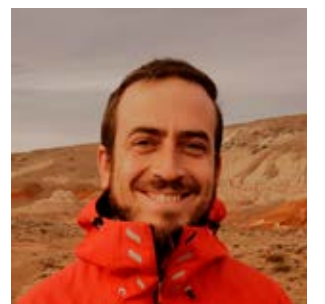
the Patagonia Park project. The creation of Patagonia National Park was also a victory for the local activist group. Mauro talks about how the park sparked in him, and many locals, the sense of belonging, "We have such a strong connection

with the land, the landscapes, the wildlife, the caves hiding all those millenary messages. All things essential to our eyes and spirits started to be reevaluated."

Today, Mauro is the Coordinator of the Patagonia Park project, working with a team acting toward the long-term care of his dear Patagonian steppe. He passionately describes his job and the project as a blessing and a gift. He explains, "for hundreds of nights and days I believed our

region was destined to become a sacrifice, but we never gave up." Looking at the future of the park, he dreams for the park to expand to be true to its original design, with all its gateways, so that it may benefit local residents, and to become a global tourism destination.

*"We have such a strong connection with the land, the landscapes, the wildlife, the caves hiding all those millenary messages. All things essential to our eyes and spirits started to be reevaluated."*



Mauro Prati Rupp is the Coordinator of the Patagonia Park Project.



# PATAGONIA AZUL



PROJECT START  
2019

CURRENT PROTECTED AREA  
49,975 acres  
(20,224 hectares)

ECOREGION BEING RESTORED  
Patagonian Steppe, Argentine Sea

TOTAL CARBON STORED  
(ESTIMATED)  
2,05 million metric tonnes

PROJECT COORDINATOR  
Diana Friedrich

WILDLIFE PROJECTS COORDINATOR  
Lucas Beltramino

MAIN PARTNERS  
Arcadia Fund, Lisa Holmes,  
Anonymous Donor

The rewilding team departs for another day of marine research near El Sauce.  
*Photograph by Rafael Abuin.*



## PATAGONIA AZUL

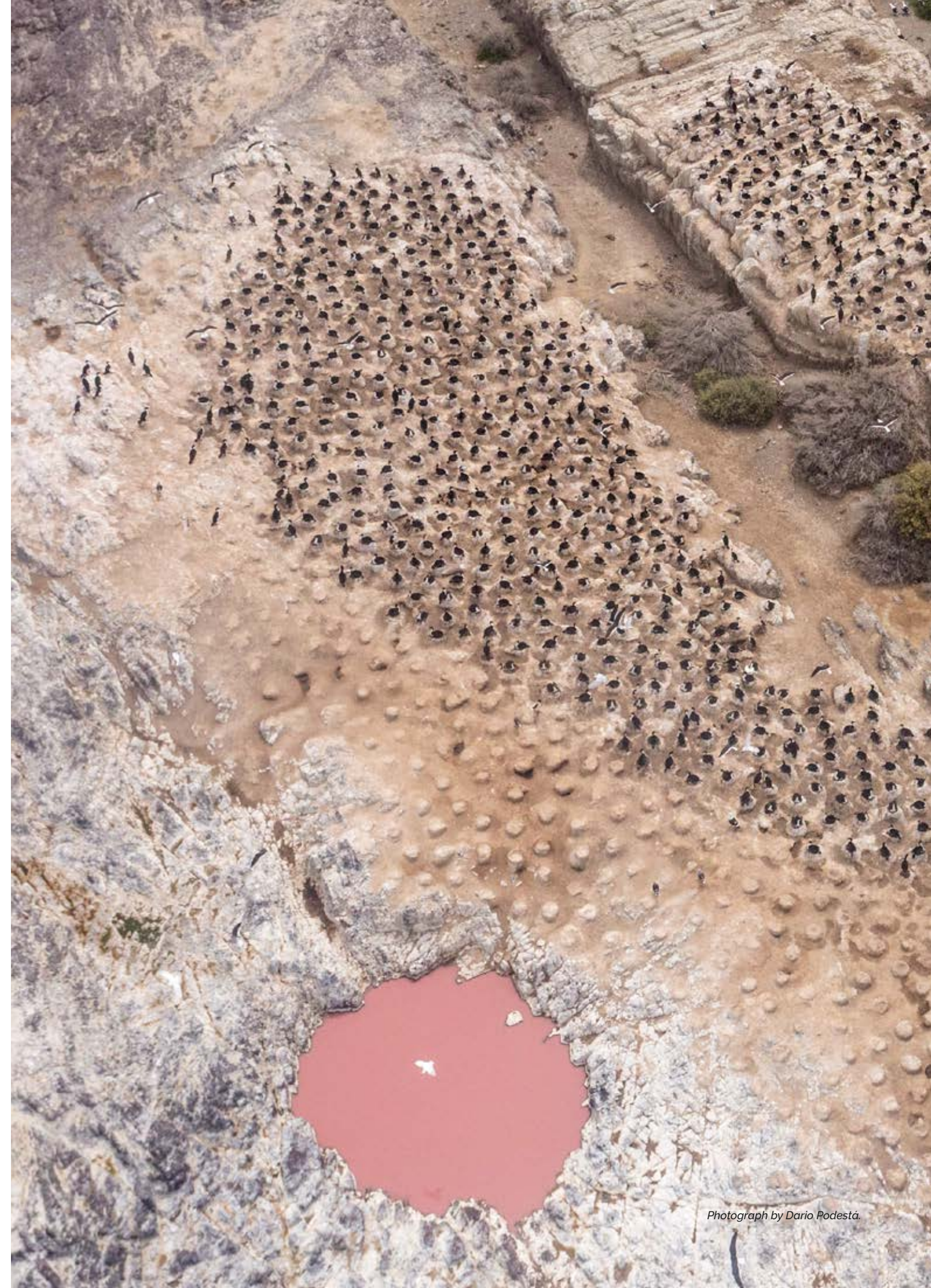
# Teeming with life on land and in the sea

**M**aking use of our expertise with land protection, we plan to protect ocean ecosystems by working to create marine and coastal corridors with key migratory routes and the feeding and breeding grounds of marine wildlife. In coastal corridors, we are working towards creating national parks for the long-term protection of intact ecosystems which also serve as nature tourism destinations.

Fundacion Rewilding Argentina's newest project is in a coastal area fed by the cold and biologically rich oceanic currents from Antarctica. These currents give rise to an ecosystem with one of the highest productivity and biodiversity rates in the Argentine sea. Its sandy beaches, rocky coves, and more than 60 islands yield key breeding, feeding and migration sites for a wide diversity of marine birds and mammals. Thirteen out of 16 migrating marine bird species in Argentina reproduce in this area, including the Magellanic penguin, blue-eyed cormorant, rock cormorant, the endemic Chubut Steamer Duck and the Olrog's Gull, an internationally threatened species. It also serves as a nursery for many species of invertebrates and fish.

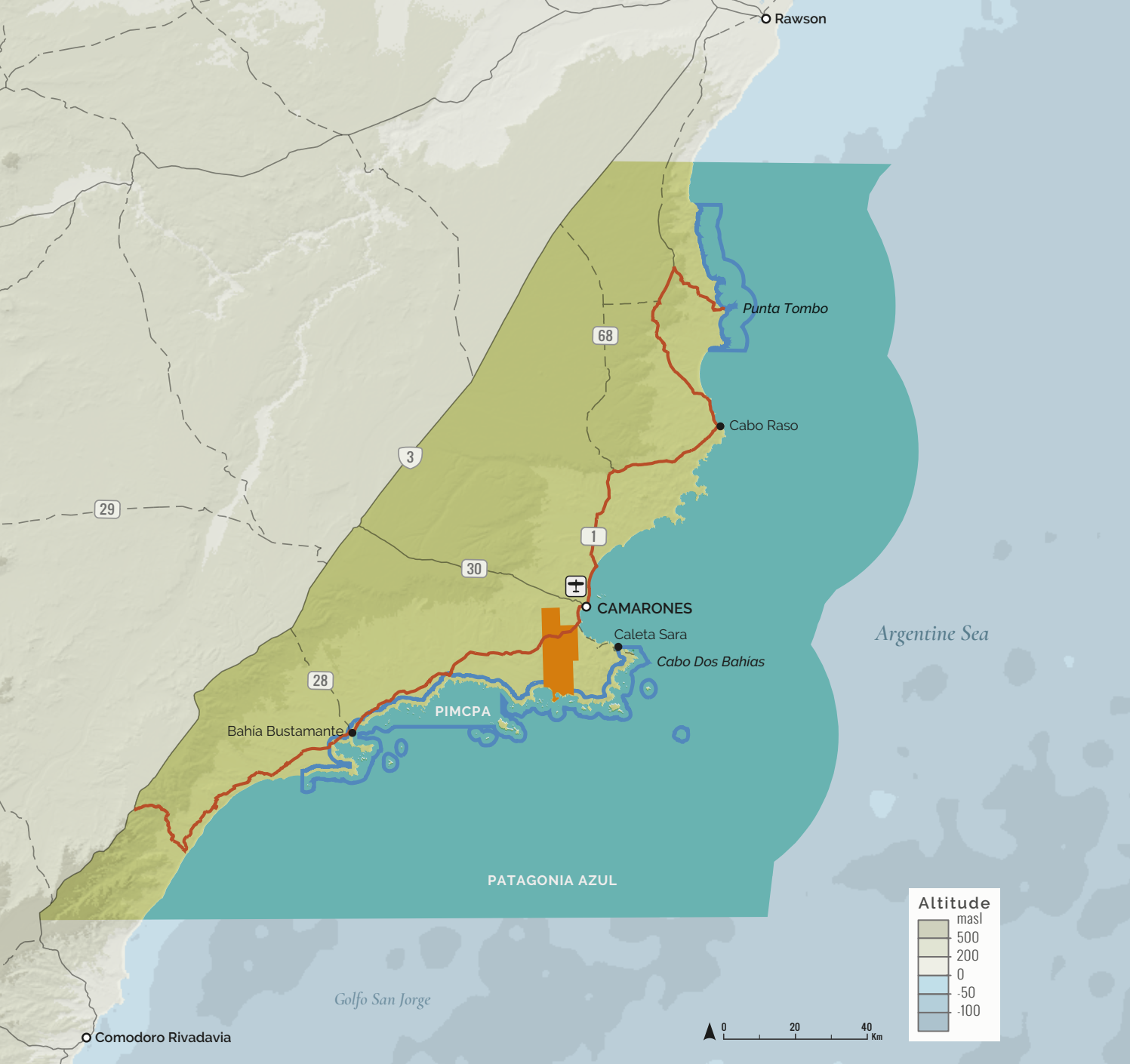
The region's extraordinary biodiversity has caught the attention of provincial, national and international authorities, and a number of conservation protections have been established. These protected areas include a coastal marine protected area (PIMCPA) which only covers 1 nautical mile into the ocean from the coast and the Patagonia Azul Biosphere Reserve. These categories demonstrate the conservation importance of the region, but are insufficient protection against industrial fishing which severely damages the ocean floor, invasive exotic species driving the native population to alarmingly low numbers, and the local extinction of top predators and big herbivores due to hunting and poaching.

Our objective is to develop a multidimensional conservation project to create national and provincial parks on land and sea. We aim to initiate the restoration of natural ecosystems, boost threatened and vulnerable populations, and help develop a sustainable local economy that respects nature.



Photograph by Dario Podesta





#### KEY

- |                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Terrestrial Protected Area | Paved Road   |
| Marine Protected Area      | Unpaved Road |
| El Sauce Rewilding Reserve | Dirt Road    |
| Scenic Route               | Town         |
|                            | Hamlet       |
|                            | Airfield     |

## PARK

## PATAGONIA AZUL



**1<sup>st</sup> PROPERTY**  
+  
**TEAM HEADQUARTERS**

ACQUIRED

AREA INVOLVED

**49,975**  
ACRES  
-20,224 HECTARES-

**10** MILES  
COASTLINE  
-16 KILOMETERS-



**MAIN HOUSE RENOVATION**  
COMPLETED



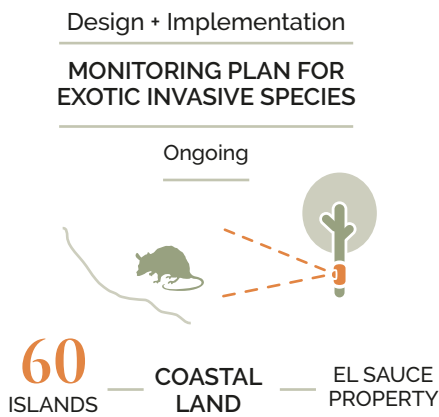
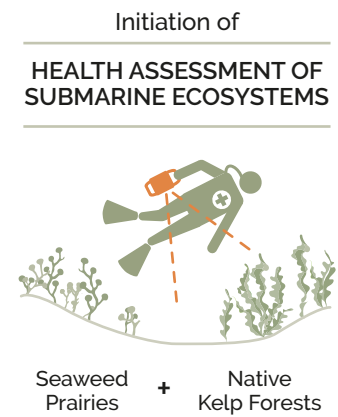
**17,300**  
ACRES  
-7,001 HECTARES-

FREE OF GRAZING

The first key achievement was the purchase of the property El Sauce, which has given us a territorial presence. As a first step, we surveyed and mapped existing infrastructure, wildlife threats and potential tourism attractions. We restored 30% of the housing facilities and trails, installed Internet and VHF for enhanced communication, and planned and designed tourism infrastructure. Now we reduced sheep numbers to make 17,300 acres free of grazing so that the land can begin its restoration process.



WILDLIFE



We started monitoring invasive species on the main islands, kelp forests present in the PIMC-PA, and native species in our property. This work should give us an essential baseline from which to create successful future efforts to control and remove exotic species and restore native ones. We developed plans to eradicate feral domestic cats, rats, rabbits and armadillos from at least 10 islands, where those species are negatively affecting nesting colonies of seabirds. Furthermore, as we have halted hunting and poaching in our property, we expect an increase in the abundance of several species, which will enhance nature tourism activities. Finally, we reviewed historical documents and interviewed specialists and residents to define the need for reintroduction efforts of some species that are currently missing or at low local numbers.



Photograph by Beth Wald.



NATURE TOURISM



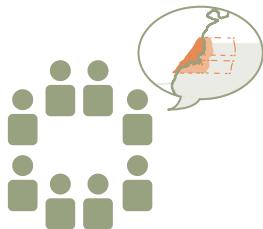
8 TOURISM REPRESENTATIVES  
TRAINED TO PROMOTE PATAGONIA AZUL

We are working together with the community to develop an economy based on nature tourism, emphasizing the environmental, cultural and economic benefits that high-end, small scale, nature-based tourism would bring to Camarones. New promotional material was designed and printed. We organized a workshop to enhance the communication skills of eight employees at the tourist information center of Camarones.

COMMUNITIES



SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
BASELINE STUDY  
FOR SUSTAINABLE,  
NON-DESTRUCTIVE,  
AND REGENERATIVE  
DEVELOPMENT  
FIRST YEAR



20 MEETINGS AND  
WORKSHOPS  
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
VALUE AWARENESS  
AND THE PROJECT



40 LOCAL CHILDREN  
ATTENDED CAMPING  
EXCURSIONS IN THE PARK



El Sauce from the sky. Once a cattle ranch, this beautiful coastal property is now the headquarters for the Patagonia Azul project. Photograph by Rafael Abuin.

The small town of Camarones, with an estimated population of 2,000, is the closest community to the Patagonia Azul project and the PIMCPA. However, the local community has no direct access to this protected area, which requires driving through many private properties which are closed to the public to reach the coast. The engagement of Camarones as the sole community adjacent to the park, is key to the successful protection of land and wildlife. We have engaged the town in different events (workshops, open talks, camping trips) to raise environmental awareness and discuss the project. Recurrent topics include rewilding, sheep-ranching in wild areas, mass versus small-scale nature tourism, and the local Sandperch Festival, an annual event threatening the population of this native marine fish.



A wide-angle landscape photograph of a rugged, rocky coastline. In the foreground, a person wearing a red jacket and a hat stands on a rocky outcrop, looking out over the sea. The middle ground features a winding path through a valley with sparse vegetation and small pools of water. The background shows a vast expanse of the ocean under a clear blue sky with some light clouds.

## 2020

OBJETIVES

- First camping ground and trail for public use at El Sauce
- Change the connection between the ocean and the town of Camarones through repurposing of the sandperch festival into an annual sea festival
- Begin experimental exotic species control and baseline study in islands and coastline
- Restore at least 24 acres of native algae intertidal environment
- Camping and boat trips for local community to get to know the project

Diana Friedrich, Patagonia Azul Project Leader, keeps on discovering new viewpoints in El Sauce, the cattle ranch turned into rewilding headquarters. *Photograph by Rafael Abuin.*



# ACONQUIJA NATIONAL PARK



PROJECT START

2017

CURRENT PROTECTED AREA

188,312 acres  
(76,207 hectares)

ECOREGION BEING RESTORED

High Andes and Yungas

TOTAL CARBON STORED

21,2 million metric tonnes

MAIN PARTNERS

Wyss Campaign for Nature

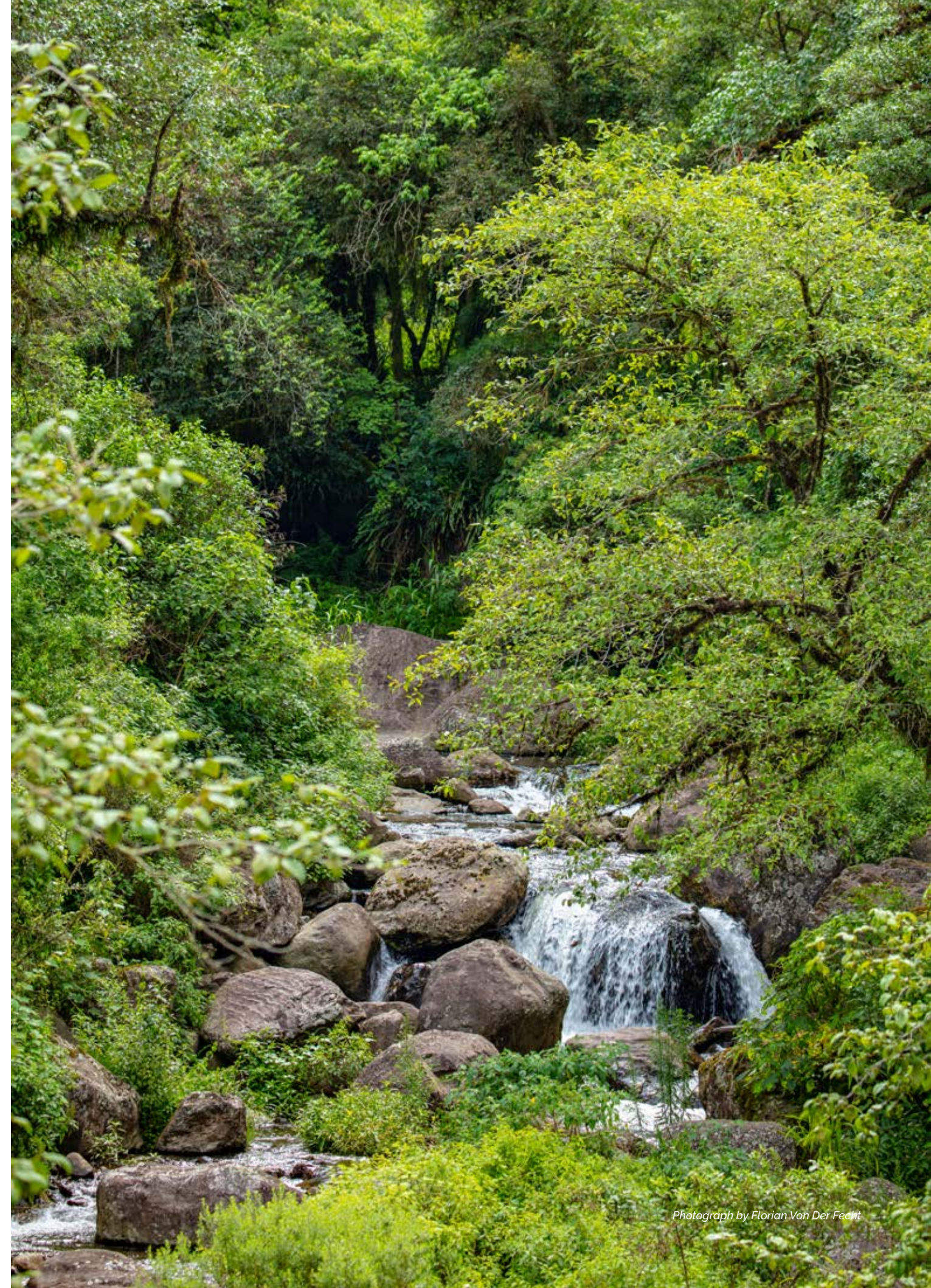


## ACONQUIJA NATIONAL PARK

# Natural and Cultural Treasure of the Andes


A key conservation area in north central Argentina, the Aconquija Mountain Range features extremely diverse environments. The abundance of landscapes ranges from subtropical montane forests at the lowest mountain sectors, to grasslands, rocky outcrops, and permanent snow found near steep peaks. There's various endemic plants and amphibians as well as key bird nesting sectors. Post colonization, certain large species of mammals became locally extinct, such as the jaguar and South American jaguar and the tapir, while other species still remain, such as the ocelot, puma, collared peccary and the globally threatened taruca (a mountain deer). As rains and mountain springs feed rivers and streams, many towns and most of the region's agricultural and livestock production depend on the water flowing from those mountains. To complete this natural treasure, many Incan ruins are scattered around the project area, and some of them are very important, such as "Ciudadita" and the Incan Road (Qhapaq Ñan), declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This extraordinary landscape with high biodiversity, archaeological and cultural significance, and hotspots for bird watching, offers a considerable potential for nature tourism.

Aconquija National Park was created by law on August 22nd, 2018. This milestone resulted from a partnership unprecedented in the history of Argentina's Parks. The law merged an already existing national park (Los Alisos, 16,067 hectares) with newly-acquired private land (118,532 acres or 47,968 hectares) which was donated to state territory. Aconquija National Park has a total extension of 76,207 hectares, directly connected to two provincial reserves (La Florida and Santa Ana) with an additional 31,000 hectares of protected land. After a long process, the final property acquisition and donation to the state happened this last December of 2019. We are proud to have helped, side by side with our partner, The Wyss Foundation, to protect this critically important mountain range in Argentina.



Photograph by Florian Von Der Fecht





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“For us, the creation of the Aconquija National Park supports the national vision for the creation of protected areas. Through our experiences in Iberá, Impenetrable and Patagonia, we have proudly contributed to the perpetual conservation of one of the most valuable wildlife regions of Argentina.”

Laura Fernández  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE. FUNDACIÓN REWILDING ARGENTINA

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Photograph by Florian Von Der Fecht





# SIN AZUL NO HAY VERDE

OUR MARINE PROGRAM

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Martina Sasso

A unique spot in the north coast of Peninsula Mitre, after a long walk during low tide in María Luisa Ranch. *Photograph by Ana María Gandino y Nahuel Stauch*

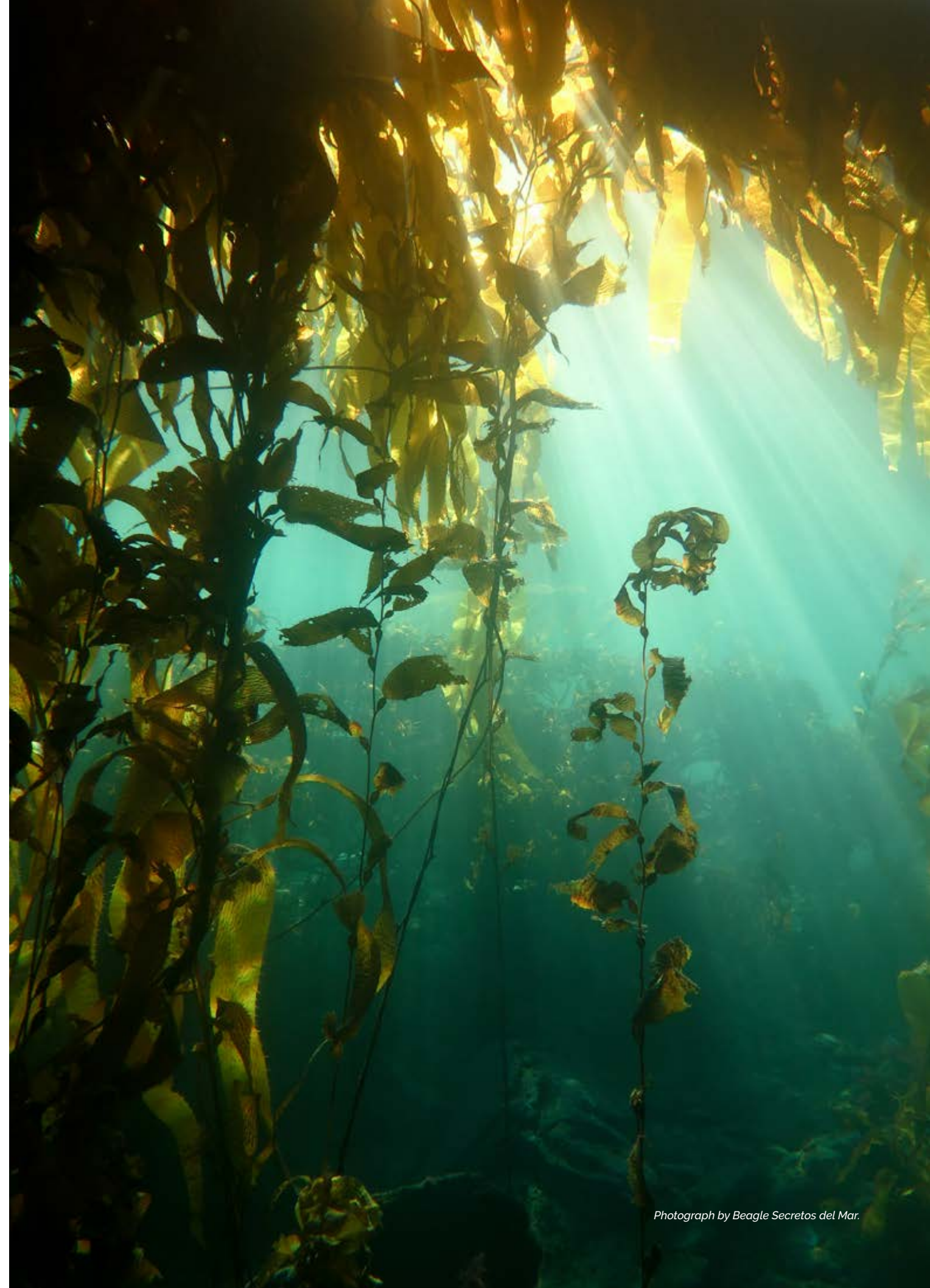


SIN AZUL NO HAY VERDE

## The Marine Program of Rewilding Argentina

In 2017, Fundación Rewilding Argentina created the marine conservation program Sin Azul No Hay Verde (No Blue, No Green) with the objective of assessing life on the Argentine Sea ecoregion in response to the current global extinction crisis. The program focuses on protecting the sea and coastlines, and the species which live there. Our goal is to protect 30 percent of the Argentine Sea to ensure the conservation and regeneration of its ecosystems by creating a network of marine and coastal protected areas. The Argentine Sea is one of the richest oceanic hotspots of biodiversity and is in great danger. Among its most serious threats are overfishing, marine damaging pollution and the consequent extinction of species. In 2019, our team focused on three main areas: the protection of Península Mitre, The fight against salmon farming in Argentina, and the governance of the first national marine protected areas.

**SINAZULNOHAYVERDE**  
SIN OCEANOS NO HAY VIDA



Photograph by Beagle Secretos del Mar.



# Protecting Península Mitre

PROJECT START: 2018  
TOTAL CARBON STORED: 391,1 million metric tonnes  
PROJECT COORDINATOR: Ángeles de la Peña  
MAIN PARTNER: Patagonia Inc. and Oceans 5

Largely undeveloped, Península Mitre forms the southeastern part of the Province of Tierra del Fuego, and constitutes, together with Isla de los Estados, the last part of the Andean mountain range. The peninsula's three ecosystems are poorly represented by the Argentine National Parks system: southern grasslands, the South Atlantic Coast and the Argentine Sea with its submarine canyons. A third of the peninsula is covered by pristine Magellanic beech forests, while it also harbors almost half of all the peatlands in Argentina and breeding colonies of birds and marine mammals. Currently, the abundance that makes Península Mitre a unique place also jeopardizes its future, given the advance of mining, timber and oil industries, and the expansion of peat extraction.

Our vision is for Península Mitre to become a provincial park with a no-take marine zone around the peninsula and Staten Island. The protected area has the potential to become an engine for local development as a unique destination for nature-based tourism.

In 2018, we joined local organizations that had been working to protect the peninsula for over 15 years. Our biggest contribution was to include all the waters surrounding the peninsula up to the open sea and the nearby Staten Island.



## 2019 KEY ACTIONS AND RESULTS

In a presidential election year, we launched a communication campaign that positioned Peninsula Mitre as a candidate, in order to empower locals to choose the protection of this region.

We worked closely with the Mayor of Tolhuin in order to position the town as the gateway to Peninsula Mitre.

We promoted a theatre play for children and gave informative talks about Peninsula Mitre in schools, clubs, and universities. These activities led to the inclusion of Mitre in the educational content at many schools.

We organized an activism workshop for the young people of Ushuaia led by Youth for Climate, Greenpeace and our team.

We positioned the endemic Southern River Otter, as the flagship species of the peninsula. A costumed otter mascot was used in both planned and surprise appearances at city events. He even appeared at the legislature asking for the bill to be considered.



# Highlight

2019

## Península Mitre identified as key carbon sink

A recent carbon study -led by the United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre and National Geographic Society- reinforces the relevant role of our mission to protect Peninsula Mitre as a way to mitigate the global climate crisis.

The study concluded that Peninsula Mitre, located at the eastern end of the southernmost tip of Argentina, is the most important carbon sink of Argentina. This is due to the existence of vast peat bogs that remain mostly unaltered by human activity.

Peat bogs are a type of wetland which function more or less as "carbon vacuum cleaners." Globally, peatlands are thought to capture twice as much carbon as all standing forests in the world and even though they

cover just 3 percent of the planet's land surface they lock one-fifth of all the carbon stored in soils. Scientists say that if just one third of this peat was destroyed, the amount of CO2 in the air would double.

In Peninsula Mitre's waters, the Atlantic, the Pacific, and the Antarctic currents meet the Andean mountain range underwater, creating a feeding ground for marine mammals and seabirds, and producing abundant biodiversity.

Few places in the world with significant ecological value remain as pristine as Peninsula Mitre. The NatGeo Carbon study highlights the urgency of protecting this vital ecosystem.

“We are excited to be supporting Tompkins Conservation’s work to oppose salmon farming and to preserve Península Mitre at the southern tip of Argentina. They are such a dynamic and effective organization that we use them as an example to show other NGOs in the USA how to run effective environmental campaigns.”

Yvon Chouinard  
Malinda Pennoyer Chouinard  
PATAGONIA WORKS FOUNDERS



A closer look at the lush peatlands of Peninsula Mitre.  
Photograph by Monica Kavanova



# Stop Salmon Farming

PROJECT START: 2019  
PROJECT COORDINATOR: Augusto de Camillis  
MAIN PARTNERS: Patagonia Inc. and Oceans 5

This industry causes irreversible damage to the environment and to local communities. Some of the consequences of this economic activity include escaped exotic salmon, manrie waste, overuse of antibiotics and chemicals, and the extinction of native species. Regarding local communities, it threatens artisanal crab fisheries, tourism, and food security as it creates overcrowded conditions that increase the spread of disease and bacterial resistance.



## 2019 KEY ACTIONS AND RESULTS

### LEGAL & DATA

We blocked the development of the industry in Tierra del Fuego and provided consumers with accurate information about salmon-based products. In order to start negotiations with key actors involved in this industry, we prepared evidence-based economic, social and environmental arguments. Together with the National University of Tierra del Fuego, we carried out an economic study that examined the potential salmon farming industry in Argentina, comparing it to the current model in Chile. The study showed that tourism and salmon farming could not coexist in the region. Salmon farming has the potential to destroy the employment of 50% of local families and the artisanal king crab fisheries. The greatest result of the study was a municipal ordinance that bans the installation of any salmon farming infrastructure in Ushuaia, the province's capital city.

### COMMUNICATION

We created five communication campaigns with the aim of achieving support from both the government and the civil society. As a result, we obtained the support of more than 40,000 people, including relevant government officials and the most influential chefs in Argentina. For the campaign, we brought together the six most renowned chefs in Argentina: Narda Lepes, Mauro Colagreco, Germán Martitegui, Fernando Trocca, Lino Adillón and Christophe Krywonis. They all pledged to stop promoting the consumption and sale of industrially-farmed salmon. Such global visibility resulted in the provincial government publicly declaring that the project was off the agenda for the time being.

### ACTIVISM

We developed activist campaigns that caused an immediate reaction from the government, who announced the decision of officially removing the topic from the agenda. These actions also helped stop the advance of salmon farming in Puerto Williams, Chile. We helped successfully position the issue on the public agenda during a crucial election year and helped mobilize youth through open talks given in the three main towns, and a protest march.

Photograph by Joel Reyero.



# Marine Protected Areas

PROJECT START: 2016  
PROJECT COORDINATOR: Martina Sasso  
MAIN PARTNERS: Wyss Campaign for Nature Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, Tompkins Conservation

The first No Blue No Green project was born from a clear goal: to develop a Marine Protected Areas National System administered by the NPA, and to create the country’s first marine national parks. After two years of working with like-minded partners, Yaganes and Namuncurá-Banco Burdwood II, were created by law. This accomplishment was an inspiring result of the long-term collaboration between the National Parks Administration (NPA) and a non-profit entity.

In 2019 we worked together with the NPA in law enforcement and management regulations. For that purpose, we helped to prepare improved sanction guidelines for the original marine park bill. The decree for these new rules has already been approved. We have also managed to stop any fishing activity within the parks until the management plan is prepared and approved. With our support, the NPA has now an internal system to assess law infringements in marine protected areas, and has incorporated a previous marine protected area -Namuncurá-Banco Burdwood I- into the National Parks System.

2020  
OBJETIVES

Collaborate towards the definite banning of all salmon farming activity in Tierra del Fuego Province

Help create the Península Mitre Provincial Park



LIVES,  
REWILDEDTHE STORY OF  
**ANGIE**

*How a curious city kid turned  
into a lawyer protecting a peninsula  
at the end of the Americas*



A wonderful day of activism for Angie and her friends from No Blue No Green. They had worked together with Patagonia Inc. to launch the Artifishal documentary and an anti-salmon farming campaign with world-class chefs. Photograph by Joel Reyero.

Angie's first gift from her father was a small card with the National Geographic logo stating she was a Junior Member subscribed to the magazine. In her apartment in Buenos Aires, young Angie explored the pages of Nat Geo with a thrilling interest in world history, ancient discoveries, cultures, and the ocean. The annual escape from the city with her family was her opportunity to explore. Angie remembers, "Every summer at the beach I would friend the lifeguard to learn about the tides and ocean currents." When high school was over, Angie debated between a career in marine biology or law and policy, without knowing one day she would work with both.

She decided to become a lawyer as a way out of the troubles of our planet, "it is such a wonderful tool to find fair solutions which equally protect people, species, and landscapes." In the first years of her career, Angie went from a law firm to an NGO helping vulnerable children, all the way to the National Congress. Though she was gaining valuable and varied experience, she was drifting away from what she really wanted to do.

A fan of the work of Tompkins Conservation, Angie proudly joined the marine team to help create Argentina's first two national marine parks.

*"I work everyday  
building bridges so  
that the Península can  
become a permanently  
protected area."*

She followed this success with a great challenge: the protection of Península Mitre, a wilderness of peatland, beech forest, and pristine waters in Tierra del Fuego. Angie fully embraced the cause, moving 2700 miles from the capital to live in Ush-

uaia, the city of the end of the world. There, her days are varied, spent on the streets meeting with people, or travelling. She says, "I work everyday building bridges so that the Península can become a permanently protected area."

After three years of working hard toward this goal, Angie hopes that her new neighbors will one day change their relationship with nature. She

thinks, "the biggest challenge we encounter is to help people understand that to protect Península Mitre, the ocean, or to ban salmon farming are not only environmental issues. They affect humanity, and if we do not change our behaviour, our role as consumers, and our ways with nature, we are not going to survive."

Ángeles de la Peña is the Coordinator of the Peninsula Mitre Project and a key member of Sin Azul No Hay Verde (No Blue No Green), the marine conservation program of Fundación Rewilding Argentina.







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“I was highly impressed with Rewilding Argentina's solid and comprehensive plans to recover several rare and locally extinct species from giant anteater, giant otter and marsh deer to jaguar. Rewilding Argentina has a team of superb professionals to achieve its goal in helping to restore these animals to Argentina's beautiful fauna. This excellent program is one from which other countries can learn and need to emulate to recover its endangered species. I wish Rewilding Argentina's team all heartfelt success.”

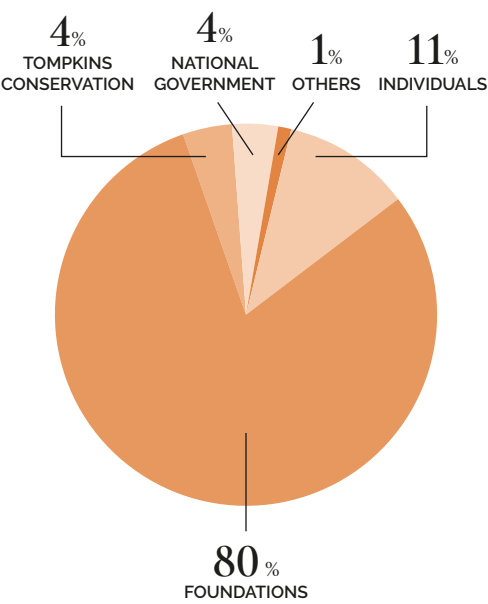
George Schaller  
FIELD BIOLOGIST AND CONSERVATIONIST

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# Our Financials

This statement shows financial information within the fiscal period from April 1st, 2019 to March 31st, 2020. Within that period, Fundación Rewilding Argentina (in 2019 Fundación Flora y Fauna Argentina) raised more than \$17.2 million in total for specific and general purposes, 8% more than the previous year. From the total revenue, 99.48% came from grants (revenue for specific purposes in the income statement). The revenue comes entirely from grant funding, largely foundations and individuals, which add up to 91% of our grants. Our total annual expenses increased by 54% when compared to 2018. Overhead in our grants has been constant at 15% of the total requested amount.



## BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Banks	2,685,718	1,358,243
Short term investments	151,658	2,637,361
Other Receivables	40,249	24,797
Total Current Assets	2,877,625	4,020,401
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Fixed Assets	11,470,654	9,755,995
Total Non-Current Assets	11,470,654	9,755,995
Total Assets	14,348,279	13,776,397
LIABILITIES		
Total Liabilities	271,455	217,751
STOCK HOLDERS' EQUITY		
(per related statement)	14,076,824	13,558,645

## STATEMENT OF INCOME

RESOURCES		
For General Purposes	89,167	138,755
For Specific Purposes	17,187,628	15,844,519
Miscellaneous	-	115
Total Resources	17,276,795	15,983,389
EXPENSES		
Administrative Expenses	(531,462)	(213,875)
Specific Expenses of Sections	(15,960,552)	(10,734,187)
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	(194,746)	(136,082)
Total Expenses	(16,686,761)	(11,084,144)
Financial and Holding Results (RECPAM included)	(71,856)	286,126
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		518,179
		5,185,371

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

CHANGES IN CASH		
Cash at Beginning of the Year	3,995,603	898,134
Cash at End of the Year	2,837,376	3,995,604
NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH	(1,158,227)	3,097,470
REASONS FOR CHANGES IN CASH		
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Collections of Resources for General Purposes	89,167	152,806
Collections of Resources for Specific Purposes	16,830,248	12,883,707
Contributions	-	(6,172)
Donations	(13,911)	(115,623)
Payments of Suppliers	(3,052,571)	(1,716,663)
Payments of Salaries and Social Contributions	(1,303,113)	(649,770)
Payments of Tax Liabilities	(33,309)	(49,244)
Financial Results Collect	1,292,929	1,176,781
RECPAM Cash	(1,364,785)	(710,048)
Collection from Sales of Fixed Assets	-	11,283
NET CASH FLOW PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	12,444,655	10,977,057
INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES		
Fixed Assets Purchases	(13,602,882)	(7,879,587)
Net Cash Flow used in Investments Activities	(13,602,882)	(7,879,587)
NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH	(1,158,227)	3,097,470

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

CAPTIONS	FOUNDER'S CONTRIBUTIONS			ACCUMULATED RESULTS	TOTAL STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY
	CAPITAL STOCK	CAPITAL ADJUSTMENT	TOTAL		
BALANCES AT MARCH 31, 2018	311	3,087	3,398	8,369,876	8,373,274
Profit for the year	-	-	-	5,185,372	5,185,371
BALANCES AT MARCH 31, 2019	311	3,087	3,398	13,555,248	13,558,645
Profit for the year	-	-	-	518,179	518,179
BALANCES AT MARCH 31, 2020	311	3,087	3,398	14,073,426	14,076,824

\* These financial statements include the audited financial statements of the foundation for the year ended March 31, 2019 and non audited financial statements at March 31, 2020. These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Argentine GAAPs and were converted into dollars at the exchange rate at closing. The audited annual financial statements and the auditor's report thereon are available for inspection at the company's registered office. The directors take full responsibility for the preparation of the summarized financial statements and the financial information has been correctly extracted from the underlying annual financial statements.





Laura Fernández, Director of Finance, walking next to Sebastián Di Martino, Director of Conservation.

## *Laura Fernández, our CFO, tells her life story following the Tompkins' legacy*

*I met Doug and Kris Tompkins twenty years ago, when I was working as an audit manager for PricewaterhouseCoopers. They were some of my first clients, and undoubtedly, the most loving ones. I fondly remember how Debbie Ryker, already leading the financial team of Tompkins Conservation, invited me to join them in their conservation cause with a visit to the Iberá Wetlands.*

*On a trip to check on the construction progress of the Rincón del Socorro lodge, I witnessed an entirely local team of authentic Correntino gauchos who showed Doug true affection and respect. They were not alone in their esteem. Doug's humble attitude, ethical values, generosity, audacity, his conviction of the need to change, and his long-term vision beyond his own life have been decisive in my life. By the end of 2002, I joined the local team, and years later I proudly helped create a foundation fully composed of Argentines and intrinsically based on Doug and Kris' values and spirit.*

*During these 20 years, thanks to the bold and committed work of Fundación Rewilding Argentina team and our partners, we have ensured the protection of 1.2 million hectares in Argentina. My work has been focused on different land protection strategies, including the purchase and donation of land to the state to create protected areas, helping to convert fiscal land into protected areas, and fundraising and providing technical advice for the creation of protected areas. As a result, I have successfully helped lead the creation of Monte León National Park, Iberá National Park, El Impenetrable National Park, Aconquija National Park, Patagonia National Park, Cueva de las Manos Provincial Park and Burdwood II and Yaganes National Marine Parks, with the latter securing the protection of 10% of the Argentine sea.*

*I still remember the excitement at the arrival of the first anteater in Iberá back in 2007, I recently had the same feeling when the first giant otters safely arrived from Europe to Argentina. In the thirteen years between those two key events for our foundation, our team has successfully managed to establish self-sustaining populations of giant anteaters, collared peccaries, and pampas deers in protected areas, to maintain a healthy flock of free red-and-green macaws, to work with tapirs, marsh deer, bare-faced curassows, and to build a jaguar reintroduction center unique in all of Latin America, after the species' 80-year extinction in the Iberá Wetlands. In Patagonia, we are evaluating the behavior of pumas, guanacos, lesser rheas, austral rails, and wolffsohn's viscacha in the vicinity of Patagonia Park to prepare for active management programs in the near future.*

*In only twenty years, our team has transformed each of those joyful achievements into the necessary know-how and encouragement to keep on protecting Argentina's ecosystems in harmony with nearby communities that may benefit from nature-based tourism, even in its early stages. We also rely on the support of our donors and partners, expecting that the current widespread environmental awareness helps us amplify our voice and actions.*

*Following the words of Edward Abbey, "Sentiment without action is the ruin of the soul." Fundación Rewilding Argentina is acting in the face of the species extinction crisis. We are happy to confirm our commitment and social responsibility, and invite you to join us in this challenge that gives transcendent meaning to each of our days.*

**Laura Fernández**

Director of Finance  
Fundación Rewilding Argentina



# Thank You

*The essence of the beautiful is unity in variety*, said Felix Mendelssohn. We believe that to be true. Rewilding Argentina is just the visible face of an extraordinary group of people and institutions joining forces to make all of these conservation and restoration efforts possible. From partners who share their strategic visions and financial resources, to volunteers who share their time and talents. Government institutions that ensure the necessary permits and approvals, and overall provide the support needed to create new parks, reintroduce new species and work together with new local communities. Scientific and technical institutions who share their knowledge with us, and zoos and rescue centers that donate animals so that they can occupy their rightful place in the ecosystem. Thank you all for being a part of this wild team and making it stronger.

## DONORS

Wyss Campaign for Nature, Arcadia Fund, DOB Ecology, Freyja Foundation, National Geographic, Oceans 5, Patagonia Inc., Mimi and Peter Buckley, Leonardo Di Caprio Foundation, The Bromley Charitable Trust, LC Kvaal Habrok, David and Susan Rockefeller, Parrot Wildlife Foundation and Artis Zoo.

## IN-KIND DONORS

Corporations and Private Institutions, Entidad Binacional Yacyretá, Ternium, Techint, Pomera Maderas, Itaipú Binacional, Gruppo Modena, and Viviendas Roca.

## NATIONAL DONORS OF INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS

Ecoparque Buenos Aires, Temaikén Bioparque, Reserva Experimental Horco Molle, Estación de Fauna Autóctona, Zoológico de La Plata, Complejo Ecológico de América, Bioparque de Olavarría, Zoológico de Córdoba, Reserva Guaycolec, Ecoparque Mendoza, Parque Ecológico Urbano de Río Cuarto, Centro de Preservación y Rescate Yastay, Centro de Recupero de Morteros, Bioparque Batán Bubalcó Patagonia, Centro de atención de la Fauna Autóctona.

## INTERNATIONAL DONORS OF INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS

Associação Onçafari (Brasil), Criadouro Onça Pintada (Brasil), NEX No Extinction (Brasil), Refugio Faunístico Atinguy (Paraguay), World Parrot Trust (United Kingdom), International Studbook for Giant Otters, Parken Zoo (Eskilstuna, Sweden), Budapest Zoo & Botanical Garden (Hungary), Gilvskud Zoo (Denmark).

## GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

Gobierno de Corrientes, Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de Chaco, Ministerio de Turismo, Administración de Parques Nacionales, Dirección de Parques y Reservas, Ministerio de Turismo de Corrientes, Dirección de Comercio Exterior (SENASA), Coordinación de Exportación e Importación de Animales en pie, Subproductos y Material Reproductivo (SENASA), Dirección General de Aduanas, Ministerio de Ecología (Misiones), Dirección de Policía Ambiental (Ministerio de Coordinación, Córdoba), Dirección de Fauna y Áreas Naturales Protegidas (Chaco), Dirección General de Bosques y Fauna (Santiago del Estero), Secretaría de Ambiente y Producción Sustentable (Salta), Departamento de Fauna Silvestre, Dirección de Recursos Naturales Renovables, Secretaría de Ambiente y Ordenamiento Territorial (Misiones), Consejo Agrario Provincial (Santa Cruz), Dirección de Fauna Silvestre y Área Protegidas, Delegación técnica de APN Patagonia Sur (Calafate), Secretaría de Estado de Cultura de la Provincia de Santa Cruz, SENASA Delegación Corrientes.

## SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS, AND NGOS

Centro de Reasilvestramiento Aguará (Estación Biológica de Corrientes), Instituto de Biología Subtropical (IBS, Conicet), Dirección de Epidemiología y Análisis de Riesgos (SENASA), Estación Experimental (INTA Mercedes), Instituto de Biotecnología, Laboratorio de Hemoparásitos (INTA Castelar), Servicio de Análisis Clínicos de la Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias (Universidad Nacional del Nordeste), Cátedra de Patología Animal (UNNE), Hospital de Clínicas (Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias, Universidad Nacional del Nordeste), Servicio de Cirugía y Anestesiología (Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias, Universidad Nacional del Nordeste), Servicio de Electrocardiografía -Ecografía y Radiografía (Corrientes), Centro de Investigación y Transferencia (CIT Formosa - CONICET y Universidad Nacional de Formosa), Laboratorio de Diagnóstico de Enfermedades Infecciosas (Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias, Universidad de Buenos Aires), Instituto de Virología Dr. José María Vanella (Universidad Nacional de Córdoba Laboratorio de Biología de la Conservación), Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral (CONICET), Clínica Veterinaria Dei Gratia, Clínica Veterinaria del Sol, Zoológico de Huachipa (Perú), IUCN Otter Specialist Group, Turtle Conservancy, European Association of Zoos and Aquaria.


## TEAMS WORKING IN THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Parques Nacionales Iberá, El Impenetrable, El Rey, Pilcomayo, Copo, El Palmar, Chaco, Reserva El Bagual, Reserva La Aurora del Palmar, Reserva Privada El Potrero, Reserva Don Luis, Parque Nacional Patagonia.

## VOLUNTEERS

Our work would not be possible without the support of our hardworking volunteers. This year, we counted the support of 167 volunteers from Argentina and around the world - Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Venezuela, England, Paraguay, Germany, Spain, Guatemala, France - that helped out with our on-the-ground wildlife reintroduction projects.





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“When I reflect on my time with Fundación Rewilding Argentina, the word that best captures my experience of the people, the place, and the wildlife is “joy.” The hopefulness that radiates from this project is truly special.”

Sarah Joseph  
SENIOR PRODUCER, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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The wildlife team from Iberá celebrates the new  
rewilding station in Yerbalito. *Photograph by Rafael Abuin*



# Get Wild

*In ways large and small, as individuals and as groups, we have the power to alter the trajectory of life on Earth toward a future of beauty, diversity, wildness, and health.*

*Our dedication and hard work to protect Argentina's wildlife and wild places are inspired by the passionate support of our global community. Our supporters come from both capital cities and rural communities, from the business world to private foundations and government. Together, we all have an important part to play in making a better future for the planet, its communities and diverse forms of life.*

*Be part of our legacy. Join Rewilding Argentina and help us create and defend terrestrial and marine protected areas, recover native species, and foster economic prosperity through conservation. We stand for bold action with great impact, but we cannot do this work all on our own. From reintroducing jaguars in Iberá and Chaco, to protecting Península Mitre, a key carbon sink, we can do so much more, with greater expediency, together.*

*We would love you to join our community. There are many ways to get involved: visit the parks, become a volunteer, or make a donation.*

*Please get in touch, we would love to hear from you!*

Luli Masera  
Director of Development,  
Fundación Rewilding Argentina  
[luli@tompkinsconservation.org](mailto:luli@tompkinsconservation.org)

Gwen Obermeyer  
Director of Development,  
Tompkins Conservation  
[gwen@tompkinsconservation.org](mailto:gwen@tompkinsconservation.org)

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*If you would like to donate directly online, please visit  
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Twitter: [@RewildingArg](https://twitter.com/RewildingArg)  
[rewildingargentina.org](https://rewildingargentina.org)

*General inquiries:*  
[info@rewildingargentina.org](mailto:info@rewildingargentina.org)

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Federico Fernández, local guide and native from Paraje Carambola, proudly leads a fun ride inside the heart of the wetlands. *Photograph by Beth Wald.*



OUR LEADERSHIP

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Laura Fernández

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Sebastián Di Martino

CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

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