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White-tipped Quetzal  
© Julián A. Gómez Díaz

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Cover art by: Alfred Edmund Brehm (1876)

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## Message from the Executive Director

Dear friends,

What a year it has been. When we introduced the name Biome Conservation, the response was immediate and heartfelt. You got it! Same heart, same core values, bigger reach.

This year, we focused on doing more with less: strengthening our team and sharpening our approach so that every dollar, every partnership, and every project goes further. And the results speak for themselves in the pages that follow.

The world can feel heavy right now. We know. But we hope that as you read these stories, you feel something stir. Each story is yours too. You are woven into all of them.

Our partners are beautifully diverse. Different languages, different ecosystems, different ways of knowing the land. But sit any two of them down together and they will find each other immediately, because they share the same love for this planet and the same stubborn commitment to protect it. So do we, and we know, so do you.

With deep gratitude,

**Ana Mandri**  
Executive Director  
Biome Conservation / ICFC

### Symbols used in this report for primary focus of projects

-  Land (and its biodiversity)
-  Aquatic ecosystems
-  Threatened species as primary focus
-  Climate benefits
-  Benefits to people including education and training

### IUCN Red List codes used in this report

- CR – Critically Endangered
- EN – Endangered
- VU – Vulnerable
- NT – Near Threatened



We're proud to have earned a 5-star / A rating from Charity Intelligence Canada, reflecting our commitment to transparency and to directing 100% of public donations to programs, made possible by a core group of supporters who cover our operating costs.



**Biome staff and board members**

**Back row:**

Diane MacDiarmid, Matt Aruch, Marta Acuña Lishman, Anne Lambert, Andre Boraks

**Middle row:**

Carmen Lishman, Tamara Martin, John Meisner, Nana Collett, Ana V Mandri Rohen, Ruthmery Pillco Huarcaya

**Front row:**

Carlos R. Garcia, Adrian Forsyth, Phil Otto, Laurie Havinga, Tom Welch, Scott Hecker, Jackie Leppard, Adriano (Pingo) Jerozolimski

**Not pictured:** Katie MacDonald, Florence Wallace, Keith Abriel



Atop a canopy tower in the Osa Conservation campus in Costa Rica are Paco Vega, Ruthmery Pillco, Ana Mandri, Andre Boraks, Kenneth Barbozand Navarro, and Adrian Forsyth

# We work where nature needs us most

In 2025, thousands of frontline conservationists supported by Biome worked across 38 programs in 25 countries.



MEXICO

**Volunteer beach guardians** installed 17 km of fencing and stood watch as 10,000 visitors arrived, protecting thousands of red knots feeding on spawning grunion during their journey to the Arctic.



PANAMA

**Wounaan territorial monitors** use live satellite data to detect illegal land clearing across a critical corridor, triggering government enforcement that has led to 24 prosecutions.



PERU

**Rangers patrol daily** in the remote 146,000-ha Los Amigos Conservation Concession, and it's working: illegal logging has been virtually eradicated since Biome's support began in 2011.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

**Regional insecurity in 2025** did not impede progress on implementing community management and protection of forests.



BRAZIL

**16 Kayapo guard posts**, staffed by rotating teams of 5–6 Kayapo youth, patrol 9 million hectares of Amazon, keeping out illegal miners, loggers and fishers. In 2025, not a single new invasion was recorded in protected alliance territories.



KENYA

**Mukutan Conservancy:** In 2025 a new species was discovered in this 365-sq-km reserve that is vital for biodiversity and is excelling in its relations with neighbouring communities of five tribal groups.



MALI

**473 elephants were counted in 2025**, a big increase from 2023. Two decades of improved resource management by communities is paying off for Mali's desert elephants.



CAMBODIA

**Marine patrols intercepted illegal vessels on 72% of their 154 patrol trips** in 2025. Their work has reduced illegal, destructive bottom-trawling in this Mission Blue Hope Spot — and dugongs are returning.



INDONESIA

**Indigenous Papuan communities** are the front line for the largest intact forest in Asia-Pacific. In 2025, our partner gained legal authority to issue research permits, strengthening their ability to protect this irreplaceable ecosystem.

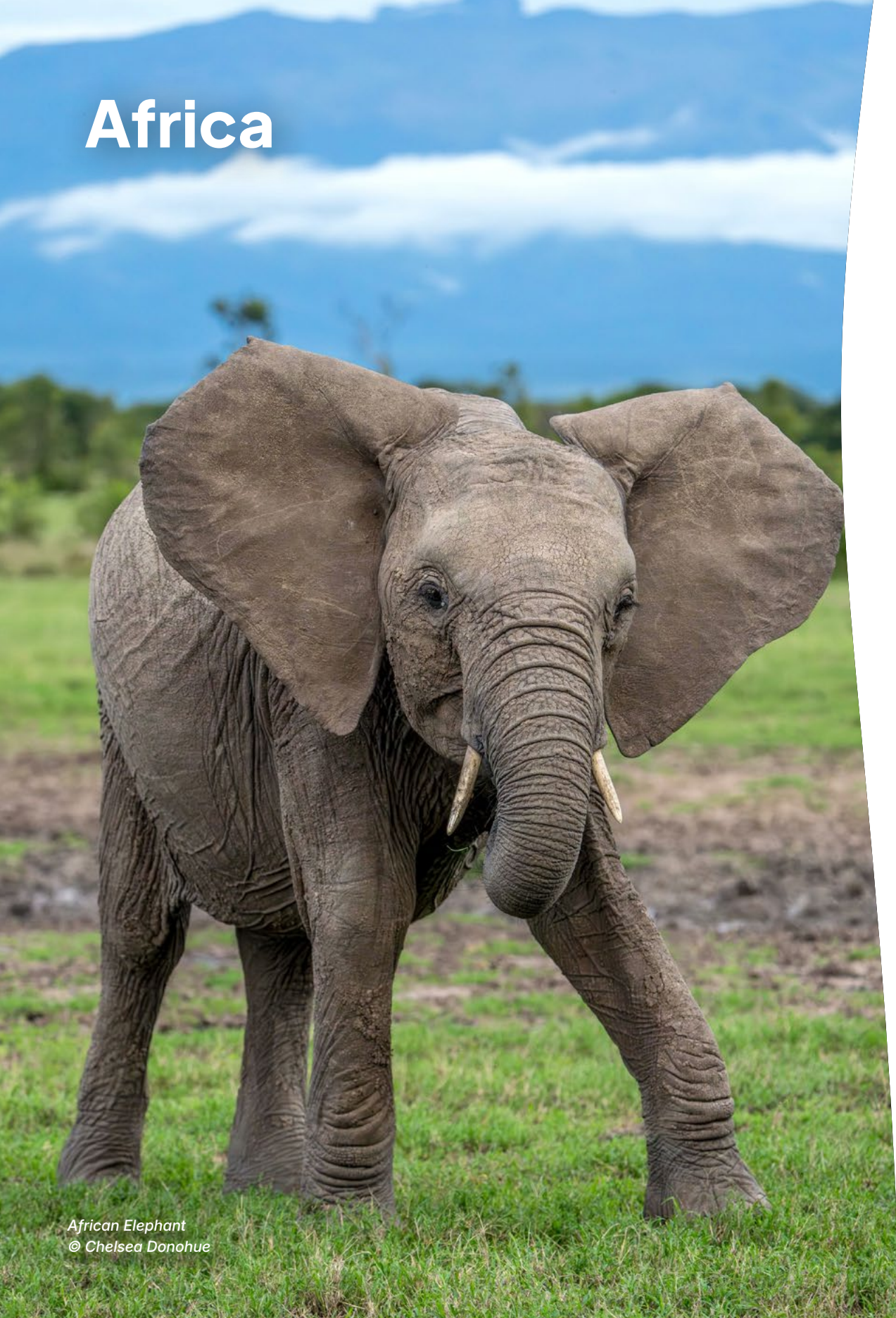


ASIA (BANGLADESH · CHINA · MYANMAR · THAILAND)

**Only 200 pairs remain.** Field teams across four countries remove illegal nets, stand guard at key wintering sites, and track birds by satellite — and the rapid decline of 'Spoonies' has nearly been stopped.

This map shows all current and complete project locations.

# Africa



African Elephant  
© Chelsea Donohue

MADAGASCAR 

## Farankaraina Forest

### What and Why

The Antongil Bay area of northeastern Madagascar has about half of Madagascar’s biodiversity and has the highest diversity of Madagascar’s emblematic lemur species and more than half the known endemic species on the island. The 2,770-hectare Farankaraina Forest is located here and lies between Makira Natural Park and Masoala National Park. Forests are under pressure from the growing demand for land for subsistence farming, illegal logging, some artisanal mining, and poaching. Our field partner, Fandroakando NGO, works with two village associations (VOIs) to protect and restore Farankaraina Forest.

### 2025 Highlights

Illegal logging and forest clearing continue to be the main offenses detected during patrols. The good news is that the **number of infractions declined to 88 in 2025 from 212 in 2024.**

Local community and VOI restoration efforts increased in 2025, with the planting of 3,555 trees on degraded land.

No law enforcement took place in 2025, as the VOIs plan to standardize enforcement of the “Dina” in 2026 (the Dina is a traditional local charter or pact



Top:  
White-fronted brown lemur.

Bottom:  
Red-tailed mongoose

Photos:  
Fandroakando NGO



that governs behavior and social interactions). This will be done in coordination with Fandroakando NGO.

Fandroakando conducted awareness campaigns (or *Sensibilisation* in French) in the nine villages surrounding the Farankaraina Forest.

Fandroakando was accepted as a member of the Global Landscape Forum which provides an opportunity to collaborate with and learn from other conservation organizations around the world. The platform has vast resources that can help Fandroakando achieve its conservation objectives.

Looking ahead, Fandroakando is working with a Malagasy organization called Association Vahatra to do a comprehensive biological survey at the Farankaraina Forest in 2026.

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SIZE OF AREA:	<b>2,770 hectares</b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Fandroakando NGO</b>
SINCE 2021:	<b>\$541,109   IN 2025: \$88,468</b>

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KENYA

### Mount Elgon elephants rediscover lost range

The only elephants known to go deep into caves to “mine salt” occur at Mount Elgon in Kenya. There, we are helping protect a critical ecosystem and the communities that depend on it.

Three female elephants on Mount Elgon were monitored using satellite tracking collars, providing valuable data on movement patterns and interactions with farmland. In 2025, tracking revealed that a group of 60 to 100 elephants extended their range 10 km into Uganda, within a protected national park. This marks a pivotal step toward reoccupying their historical range.

Community scouts maintained an active role in the landscape, working closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Forest Service to curb illegal activities in the park and forest reserve. Our scouts guided wildlife officials to areas of intense charcoal production, leading to the cessation of charcoal burning at those sites.

Elephants are afraid of bees! So the project is experimenting with “beehive fences” for turning elephants away from maize crops. As an added benefit, honey production is an important source of income.

SIZE OF AREA: **73,700 hectares**  
 FIELD PARTNER: **Mount Elgon Foundation**  
 SINCE 2022: **\$354,050** | IN 2025: **\$136,386**



Processing honey harvested from beehive fences.

Photos: Mount Elgon Foundation

KENYA

### Mukutan Conservancy shores up community support

Covering an area of 365 km<sup>2</sup> on the western edge of the Laikipia Plateau, Mukutan Conservancy is an important refuge for wildlife, including elephants, lions, leopards, and giraffes. Its 400 bird species include the Critically Endangered Rüppell’s and hooded vultures.

2025 highlights included cheetahs returning to Engelesha Forest and the discovery of a new moth species, *Lichterfeldia olarinyiroensis*—the conservancy’s sixth known endemic species. Habitat management included clearing 100+ acres of leleshwa (see sidebar).

In 2025, ranger teams covered more than 89,000 km in foot and vehicle patrols, maintaining surveillance and deterring illegal activity. The K9 tracker unit received advanced certification and assisted with law enforcement. Two new drones enhanced aerial monitoring capabilities. Human–wildlife conflict spurred rapid response by the conservancy’s security team who dealt with instances of crop raiding and livestock predation (particularly along the unfenced western boundary).

Community engagement through the Mshipi forum continued to strengthen inter-community



relations, improve grazing management, and reduce conflict.

Livelihood programs including wild honey and avocado production provided economic benefits to over 100 farmers, while structured cattle grazing supported 8,000 head across 150 households and employed 156 community members in various roles. Assistance with medical and dental services reached over 300 residents, reflecting the conservancy’s commitment to community wellbeing.

**Special thanks to the Elliott Family Foundation** for replacing a hobbled truck and seeding a LoRaWAN network – critical tools!

SIZE OF AREA: **36,500 hectares**  
 FIELD PARTNER: **Gallmann Memorial Foundation**  
 SINCE 2017: **\$3,593,101** | IN 2025: **\$923,082**

#### A developing source of revenue

Leleshwa (camphor bush) is a native shrub rich in aromatic oils, used as fuel, for charcoal, and as traditional building material.

#### Mukutan has too much of it!

And a promising opportunity is being exploited by harvesting lelesha shrubs and converting them in anaerobic kilns to high-value, high-carbon charcoal.

This enterprise could scale to yield significant revenue, while rebalancing the ecosystem to make it more favourable to herbivores and better for wildlife viewing.

As well, leleshwa leaves are distilled at the conservancy to produce essential oils that can be used in beauty products.

Top: Mukutan Conservancy has started a primary school for children from the Pokot community.

Photo: Biome Conservation

**KENYA**

## Kijabe Forest Rangers meet the challenge

This project shows just what active protection and restoration can do. Before ranger patrols began in 2017, Kijabe Forest—part of the eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot—was undergoing slow “death by a thousand cuts”.

The picture is different now. Our community rangers had an active year in 2025, conducting extensive patrols while monitoring biodiversity and illegal activities across the forest. Traversing over 24,000 kilometers, their efforts led to the removal of 294 snares and the arrest of a poacher carrying 81 snares, highlighting the scale of the threat and the growing effectiveness of enforcement. Rangers disrupted illegal charcoal production, dismantling kilns and supporting arrests.

Rangers received training in forest fire management from the Kenya Forest Service, and this capacity was tested when teams responded to a forest fire

using established fire stations and coordinated suppression measures.

Forest restoration efforts continued year-round, with planting of native seedlings in degraded areas. Previously restored juniper trees (*Juniperus procera*) are maturing and produce more berries that are sold to the gin industry, earning sustainable income. And an essential oils program is providing income for local women.

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SIZE OF AREA:	<b>5,000 hectares</b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Kijabe Forest Trust (KFT)</b>
SINCE 2017:	<b>\$764,312</b>   IN 2025: <b>\$131,486</b>

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*Straddling the eastern wall of the Great Rift Valley, the altitudinal variance of roughly 1,000 metres is reflected in floral communities of Kijabe Forest. Photo: KFT*



**KENYA**

## Protecting an important bat roost

Harrison’s long-eared giant mastiff bats (VU) inhabit a small number of lava tube caves on the slopes of Mount Suswa along the Kenyan Rift Valley. The caves are critical to its survival and are protected by Mount Suswa Conservancy.

Community engagement has continued to shift local perceptions by dispelling myths about bats and highlighting their ecological importance. Local bat guardians monitor caves, guide visitors, and enforce seasonal access restrictions, while noting concerns and bat mortality events.

The project is evaluating the impacts of a proposed nearby geothermal development and studying bat movement and risks associated with infrastructure.

Mount Suswa is being considered for designation as a Key Biodiversity Area.

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SIZE OF AREA:	<b>5,000 hectares</b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Angaza Vijiji</b>
SINCE 2021:	<b>\$167,014</b>
IN 2025:	<b>\$31,927</b>

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**KENYA**

## Important raptor sites protected

In the Great Rift Valley, the Maasai-led Kwenia Vulture Sanctuary is protecting critical habitat for Rüppell’s Vulture (CR) and other raptors while building a foundation for long-term community-led conservancy.

The Vulture Guardian team paired biweekly vulture monitoring with field research and camera trapping, which provided first recorded evidence of a striped hyena consuming honey—resulting in a published article, in a scientific journal, authored by the guardians.

Drought in late 2025 led to increased livestock movement that disrupted wildlife corridors and heightened predator-livestock conflicts. These were effectively managed through community leadership, with guidance and

support from the program.

This project has changed lives. In creating employment for 18 individuals from 18 different families, it is one of the largest employers in the area and one that links financial benefits to conservation outcomes.

Robert Kaai is the manager for this project and is Biome’s 2025 Featured Field Partner. [Read his story on page 40.](#)

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SIZE OF AREA:	<b>3,671 hectares</b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>The Kenya Bird of Prey Trust</b>
SINCE 2021:	<b>\$234,994</b>
IN 2025:	<b>\$66,751</b>

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*Above: Maasai at Kwenia.*

*Left: David Wechuli holds a Harrison’s long-eared giant mastiff bat.*

*Photos: Scott Hecker*



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**MALI** 🌿

## Mali Elephant Landscapes

The new name for this project, replacing “Mali Elephant Project”, reflects its benefits to humans and all flora and fauna occupying the range of Mali’s remarkable “desert elephants”.

Good news! An elephant census in 2025 counted 473 elephants—an increase of 50% from the 316 individuals in 2023! This suggests a stable or increasing population, reflecting the success of this project in establishing community-based natural resource management over the last twenty years.

Ecoguards, hired from local communities and mostly young, are key to the project. In 2025, 121 of them were involved in the ground count of elephants, and 75 new ecoguards were onboarded.

During the year, 44 community-led initiatives were supported and 1,284 community members were trained in natural resource management, restoration, and monitoring.

Coexistence strategies and strengthened local stewardship are working. Incidences of human–elephant conflict decreased by 25%.

This project was started by Dr. Susan Canney and WILD Foundation with the bold aim of ensuring the survival of this iconic elephant population. From small beginnings in a complex and challenging environment, against a backdrop of intense threats, it has expanded to an area of influence of 6 million hectares.

Last year we reported that Nomba Ganamé, the project’s Head of Field Operations, received the prestigious Prince William Award for Conservation in Africa. We are also proud that in 2025, project director Susan Canney was awarded the Prix d ‘excellence by the Sahel & Sahara Interest Group.

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SIZE OF AREA:	<b>22,000 hectares</b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Project director Susan Canney and Field Manager Nomba Ganamé</b>
SINCE 2019:	<b>\$4,576,358</b>
IN 2025:	<b>\$309,223</b>

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*Right: The Dallah Women’s Association doing traditional weaving. Improved livelihoods is one of the project goals.*

*Photo: MEL*

**MALAWI** 🌿

## Fish for Tomorrow: communities taking control

In 2025, fish conservation efforts in Lake Malawi went “swimmingly”, with strengthened enforcement, community engagement, and public awareness.

Beach Village Committees (BVC), who play the central role in fisheries management, held 416 meetings. As well, 364 broader community meetings drew over 19,000 participants. Key messaging concerned the ban on monofilament fishing nets, adherence to closed seasons, and the importance of sustainable practices.

BCVs continued to address illegal fishing gear: 300 km of confiscated nets were destroyed publicly to deter further use. Task forces worked to prevent the sale of illegal nets at retail outlets, although challenges remain in fully eliminating their circulation.

Ripple Africa evaluates the work of BVCs and works to strengthen local governance, this year restructuring and retraining 23 Beach Village Committees.

Visits to 45 schools educated students about fisheries management and conservation responsibility.



Despite this progress, challenges continue, with fuel shortages, political turnover, and ongoing infractions.

An encouraging sign are the fishers who are voluntarily adopting more sustainable gear. This is thanks to years of commitment by BVCs.

Each meeting, inspection, and enforcement action contributes to the continued recovery of fish stocks and the resilience of lakeshore communities. Biome’s support for this important work continues in 2026 and beyond.

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SIZE OF AREA:	<b>736 km of lakeshore</b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Ripple Africa</b>
SINCE 2019:	<b>\$2,905,757</b>
IN 2025:	<b>\$ 719,511</b>

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*Top: BVC checking fish net during monitoring.*

*Middle-left: BVC members confiscate a monofilament net.*

*Middle-right: Extension worker showing the size of chambo being caught in Mangochi District*

*Photos: Ripple Africa*

**SOUTH AFRICA** 🌿

## Rhino poaching declines 19%

### What and Why

South Africa is home to two rhino species—the black and white rhinoceros—and protects around 80% of the world’s remaining rhinos. About a third are held within private reserves. Persistent trade in rhino horn involving criminal syndicates poses a significant threat. Biome’s partner, Stop Rhino Poaching (SRP), works to reduce poaching by strengthening security systems across reserves with significant rhino populations. This involves enhancing security methods, supporting coordinated protection clusters, deploying advanced technologies, and delivering specialized training.

In 2025, 352 rhinos were poached in South Africa—68 fewer than in 2024—reflecting a modest but important improvement. SRP’s strategic initiatives contributed to multiple arrests, the deployment of early-warning technologies, upgrades to a high-functioning operations room, the introduction of UAV (drone) capability, and ongoing investigative and analytical support.

A core focus of SRP’s work is training anti-poaching rangers and security personnel. By integrating best-practice conservation skills with force-



multiplying technologies, SRP strengthens the ability of reserve teams to protect rhinos.

In 2025, ranger training included a program that equips dogs, handlers and anti-poaching units to operate as highly coordinated, rapid-response teams.

**Thanks to the Elliott Family Foundation for its support for this project.**

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SIZE OF AREA:	<b>400,000 hectares</b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Stop Rhino Poaching</b>
SINCE 2019:	<b>\$877,390</b>   IN 2025: <b>\$189,962</b>

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*Left: The white rhinoceros is designated as Near Threatened.*

*Above: Tracking dogs and their trainer are a highly effective tool for apprehending poachers.*

*Photo: Stop Rhino Poaching*



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

## Grauer’s gorilla project carries on despite insecurity

In 2025, eastern DRC was beset by instability and insecurity with the invasion of the Rwanda-backed rebel group M23. Much of the area where Strong Roots operates was not affected, although advances by M23 rebels led to the temporary relocation of Strong Roots personnel.

The first years-long phase of the project consisted of securing 25 Forestry Concessions for Local Communities (CFCLs) covering 601,438 ha. Of these, 23 CFCLs have been granted titles of legal recognition and two are pending.

In 2025, training in community forestry was carried out with 3,762 community members, including 889 women and 149 Indigenous Batwa, and local



authorities and guardians of customs.

The project assisted in developing management plans for individual CFCLs and the Corridor Management and Conservation Plan that will unify ecological and social goals across CFCLs.

Support to smallholder farmers included the provision of improved seeds and training in agroecology techniques, forest governance and management.

Looking forward: Other funders are supporting the second phase of establishing new CFCLs, which involves securing additional 400,000 ha. Biome is supporting the implementation of sustainable management of established CFCLs.

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SIZE OF AREA:	<b>112,300 hectares</b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Strong Roots</b>
SINCE 2020:	<b>\$1,223,904</b>
IN 2025:	<b>\$ 74,548</b>

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*Above: The customary guardians of the Basile and Wamuzimu chiefdoms receive a copy of their vademecum on biodiversity conservation in the Lega culture.*

*Below: development officer of the Bakisi Chiefdom speaks about the corridor and community forestry to the community of Bamuguba North.*

*Photos: Strong Roots*

# Latin America



Strawberry Poison Dart Frog  
© Chelsea Donahue



**COLOMBIA** 🌿

## The world's most threatened toads

### What and Why

The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta is the highest coastal mountain in the world and is designated a Key Biodiversity Area. It is home to 17 endemic amphibians, including 5 species of harlequin toads (*Atelopus*), the world's most threatened genus of amphibians due to disease transmission of "Bd" fungus and habitat loss. Fundación Atelopus monitors the populations and epidemiological status of two *Atelopus* species and works with rural communities to take on-the-ground conservation measures.

### 2025 Highlights

Eight field expeditions collected data on the Santa Marta harlequin toad (*A. laetissimus*; EN) and the starry night toad (*A. arsyecue*; CR). In San Pedro de la Sierra, 109 Santa Marta harlequin toads were recorded while in the Indigenous community of Sogrome, 93 starry night toads were tallied. The analysis shows the populations are stable, with high survival rates but low recruitment rates; hence fragile.

To protect amphibian habitat, a nursery capable of producing 5,000 native seedlings was established in San Pedro de la Sierra, and agroforestry practices were implemented in Sogrome farmland.

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SIZE OF AREA:	<b>2,520 km<sup>2</sup></b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Fundación Atelopus</b>
SINCE 2021:	<b>\$233,450   IN 2025: \$ 75,800</b>

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Top left: Photo by Instituto Juruá  
Right: Children from the Indigenous community of Sogrome take part in monitoring toads. Photo: Fundación Atelopus



**BRAZIL** 🌿

## Fairtrade certification achieved for community-managed fishery

### What and Why

The Juruá River meanders for ~3,500 km in Brazil, through productive floodplains—linked by thousands of channels connecting old and new oxbow lakes—that support important freshwater fisheries, many fish-eating birds and mammals, and several threatened and historically overexploited species such as the air-breathing pirarucú (*Arapaima gigas*)—the world's largest scaled freshwater fish—and the giant South American river turtle (*Podocnemis expansa*). We are helping our partner, Instituto Juruá, expand its community-based fisheries management work, which has led to pirarucú population recovery.

### 2025 Highlights

For the first time, a freshwater fishery in the Amazon achieved Fairtrade certification, which entails compliance with rigorous social, environmental, and governance standards. It involves more than 600 small-scale fishers, with Instituto Juruá as the implementing organization, and gives access to premium international markets.

A **turtle conservation** workshop trained 70 community monitors in egg protection and management of juvenile and adult turtles and the number of protected nesting beaches and sandbanks increased to 31 in 2025, from 24 in 2024.

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SIZE OF AREA:	<b>~3,500 km of Juruá River; community-based protection spanning ~200,000 hectares</b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Instituto Juruá</b>
SINCE 2023:	<b>\$164,227   IN 2025: \$51,733</b>

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BRAZIL

## Kayapo: the synergy of protection, education and enterprise

In 2025, the Kayapo Project's territorial surveillance efforts succeeded in protecting more than **9 million hectares** in the southeastern Brazilian Amazon. Approximately **2,000 km of territorial borders** remained largely intact despite intense and persistent pressure from illegal goldmining, logging, ranching expansion, and commercial fishing.

Territorial protection remains the foundation upon which all other Kayapo Project activities function, including sustainable enterprise development. While Brazil's federal political climate remains broadly supportive of Indigenous rights, enforcement agencies lack the resources necessary to adequately protect Amazonian Indigenous territories. As a result, frontline defense of Kayapo lands

continues to depend primarily on the Kayapo themselves and their NGO partners.

### Territorial surveillance

In 2025, **16 guard posts** operated across four Kayapo Indigenous territories. These function as permanent territorial sentinels at strategic entry points. Guard teams of five to six Kayapo rotate weekly or biweekly, combining territorial defense with equitable income distribution across Kayapo communities to broadly engage young Kayapo and reduce vulnerability to bribery by illegal actors.

### Sustainable enterprises

Harvesting **Brazil nuts** is a traditional activity carried out across broad areas of Kayapo lands, strengthening the Indigenous territorial presence and monitoring. Harvesting, done from fallen fruits, promotes sustainable management and conservation of Brazil nut groves

while reinforcing Kayapo culture. Commercialization of Brazil nuts is organized by the COOBAY Kayapo cooperative. Between 2017 and 2025, 9,618 hectoliters of Kayapo Brazil nuts were sold, yielding 2.7 million BRL (about \$730,000 CAD) to the communities. Along with Brazil nuts, the Kayapo collect and sell other products including **cumaru and cacao** through companies such as Carrefour, a French multinational, and Lush, a cosmetics company.



Kayapo women play an active role in the collection and processing of Brazil nuts. Photo: COOBAY

Kayapo men and women are globally renowned for their **artisan crafts**. Visit any Indigenous event in Brazil and you will see people wearing Kayapo designed bracelets, earrings, and T-shirts. Kayapo baskets, warclubs and bows and arrows are also admired.

Other enterprises developed by the Kayapo Project include **sportfishing** and ecotourism at two remote locations in Kayapo lands and an **internship and field course** at a Kayapo village.

### 2025 Highlights:

- Western guard posts carried out 130 patrols traversing 5,969 km
- River systems including the Xingu, Iriri, Pitxatxa (Curuaes), Riozinho, and Curua were systematically monitored
- Eight groups of illegal fishermen were removed
- No new logging or goldmining invasions were recorded in protected alliance territories

The visible presence of organized Kayapo guards continues to be an effective deterrent against invasion.

### The Kayapo Forest School and education

The Kayapo Forest School, known by the Kayapo as "Bakra", meaning "children of the forest", is a successful program of awareness raising, capacity-building, and traditional knowledge transmission from elder to youth based at a "campus" on the Xingu River. The objective is to empower youth with traditional knowledge,



technology, and understanding about the vital importance of their territory for their future. This is the first generation of Kayapo to grow up under sustained contact with the outside world. The idea of Bakra is helping youth navigate this foreign world by understanding both opportunities and pitfalls. Bakra thus prepares the next generation of territorial and cultural guardians and stewards.

The Guard Post education program is a film-based curriculum delivered to about 2,500 Kayapo guardians circulating through the 16 guard posts. Every day after work, Kayapo guardians view and discuss a **set of films** designed to solidify their understanding of their role in protecting their lands and culture for their future and the future of the planet.



Top: Kayapo woman learns to operate drones.

Below: Kayapo elder demonstrates weaving technique.

Photos: Marcos Hlacc

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SIZE OF AREA:	<b>9 million hectares (90,000 km<sup>2</sup>)</b>
FIELD PARTNERS:	<b>Associação Floresta Protegida, Instituto Kabu, Instituto Raoni, Pykôre Associação Indígena</b>
SINCE 2007:	<b>\$25,146,007</b>   IN 2025: <b>\$3,303,237</b>

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**BOLIVIA**  

## Record count of blue-throated macaws at Barba Azul reserve

2025 was a year of breakthrough discoveries and advances at the Barba Azul Nature Reserve, following more than 15 years of dedicated habitat restoration. The 2025 global blue-throated macaw census confirmed that Barba Azul and its surrounding landscape host the largest population of macaws—well over 200 individuals. Importantly, a previously undocumented roost for 140 macaws was found near Barba Azul.

Biodiversity surprises also defined the year. The presence of the dwarf tinamou (EN)—previously thought to occur only in Brazil—was confirmed in 15-year-old savannas. Its dependence on mature savanna and on burrows created by the recently returning Brazilian guinea pig highlights the importance of long-term habitat protection. These species help sustain predators such as pampas cat, bush dog and the maned wolf, which was observed by 60% of visitors in 2025!

Management and infrastructure advanced significantly, **thanks to support from the Poon Fund**. Visitor cabins were upgraded with climate-resistant, bat-proof roofing. The fire tower was constructed and aided in spotting naturally caused fires. The cattle herd, which is part of the grassland management program, was increased to 1,200, the level determined as sustainable for grazing rotations.

SIZE OF AREA: **11,000 hectares**  
FIELD PARTNER: **Asociación Armonía**  
SINCE 2010: **\$678,280** | IN 2025: **\$49,565**

**GUATEMALA** 

## Laguna Grande: from land purchase to lasting protection

Over a decade ago, ICFC supported the purchase of land to establish the Laguna Grande Reserve—a stunning mosaic of karst landscapes, towering 100-meter cliffs, spring-fed rivers, and mangrove lagoons within the larger Río Sarstún protected area. This ecologically rich reserve lies at the heart of a region where conservation, biodiversity, and community well-being are deeply intertwined.

In 2025, Biome concluded 4 years of support for FUNDAECO at this important site.

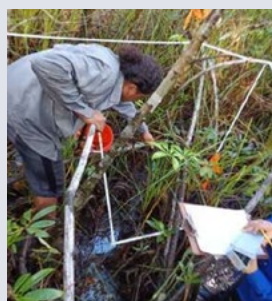
### Here are the highlights from the final year:

- A new collaboration began to protect an additional 276 ha of forest in La Coroza.
- Protection continued for the original 2,049 ha of coastal hardwoods and mangroves.
- With REDD+ funds, 4,035 ha were protected in the Río Sarstún ecosystem.
- 54 stakeholders from 8 institutions were engaged to complete a National Manatee Strategy.
- Health services were provided for 1,167 people (60% women)
- 11 girls were supported through a scholarship program

SIZE OF AREA: **2,025 hectares**  
FIELD PARTNER: **FUNDAECO**  
SINCE 2021: **\$290,545** | IN 2025: **\$37,013**

Above: Maned wolf.  
Photo: Fabian Pinasco

Right: Monitoring mangrove forest health and regeneration.  
Photo: FUNDAECO



**ARGENTINA** 

## Pino Paraná: communities and threatened species

### What and Why

The Atlantic Forest region—a top conservation priority—is almost gone due to habitat conversion and degradation. In Argentina, a project begun more than a decade ago engages farmers and local youth to protect tree species needed by specialist cavity-nesting birds, and to take other measures that have slowed down degradation and even reversed it in some areas.

### 2025 Highlights

Project staff made 39 visits to 19 rural primary schools, reaching 821 students with interactive activities focused on themes like “Reconnecting the value of local culture and practices with the conservation of native ecosystems and their services” and “Identification and conservation of native woodpeckers in the Misiones jungle”.

The team led field trips for two school groups to the Araucaria Provincial Park, where participants identified native species and increased their understanding of their ecological roles. Students also distributed posters and educational cards about woodpeckers and owls in the area.

On social media, project staff responded to questions from residents of San Pedro and raised awareness about ongoing research in the region. Along with external experts, they co-created locally relevant, thought-provoking content about the biodiversity of the province of Misiones.

SIZE OF AREA: **100,000 hectares**  
FIELD PARTNER: **Proyecto Selva de Pino Paraná**  
SINCE 2013: **\$181,367** | IN 2025: **\$29,030**

**ARGENTINA** 

## Restoring Reserva Natural Rincón de Santa María

### What and Why

The 2,500-hectare Reserva Natural Rincón de Santa María in the Mesopotamian Savanna ecoregion is important for Canada's migratory birds, notably common nighthawk and upland sandpiper. Over 250 bird species are protected in the reserve, including 12 globally threatened species and neotropical migrants such as greater yellowlegs (NT), lesser yellowlegs (VU), plumbeous kite, Mississippi kite and osprey. The reserve is home to the largest Argentinean population of sickle-winged nightjars (VU), a rare species throughout its range. The conservation concern is the aggressive invasion of exotic tree species – pine and eucalyptus especially. These invade native grasslands, disrupting the flow of water and impacting grassland species. This project is reversing this.

### 2025 Highlights

Control of exotic species was carried out on 100 hectares of invaded grasslands. The work is rough and laborious, as workers must navigate through dense undergrowth to clear vegetation using machetes or chainsaws. To improve the signage within the reserve, the team made wooden signs showing native plant names and one to indicate a tree planting plot.

With help from volunteers and park rangers, project staff planted 500 native seedlings (raised in the project's nursery) during a 20-day campaign. They delivered 456 native plants to local community members.

Ten Environmental Education and Awareness Campaigns were carried out in local communities.

SIZE OF AREA: **3,568 hectares**  
FIELD PARTNER: **Nestor Fariña leads a team of naturalists and volunteers**  
SINCE 2015: **\$140,518** | IN 2025: **\$23,650**

PERU 

## Andean bears and cloud forest

### 2025 Highlights

Community-based reforestation along the upper boundary of Manú National Park continued in 2025. The goal is to restore the habitat for the long-term survival of Andean bears and to raise local awareness about the plight of cloud forest ecosystems in the face of climate change.

Educational activities to strengthen community leadership were consolidated at the Wayqecha Biological Station. The project's Nature Kids Academy ramped up, and 16 local schools participated in structured visits at the Wayqecha Biological Station. Visits ranged from one-day to immersive multi-day experiences with overnight stays at the station.

The project's **Conservation Ambassadors Program** welcomed eight participants, who were selected based on their sustained commitment to conservation-related activities. A three-day workshop addressed key themes of conservation, biodiversity, community organization, and community-based ecotourism. The process emphasized participatory learning and exchange, supporting locally driven ideas for future conservation initiatives.

Overall, 2025 was a year of project consolidation and organic growth, with increasing interest shown by schools, communities, and local actors at the provincial and regional levels.

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SIZE OF AREA: **9,119 hectares**

FIELD PARTNER: **Conservación Amazónica (ACCA)**

SINCE 2021: **\$170,886** | IN 2025: **\$ 56,221**

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### Ecological importance of the Andean bear

At the upper limit of the cloud forest in the Peruvian Amazon, the need to restore forest and control burning is urgent. Cloud forests are rich in endemic species and play a key role in the hydrology of the Amazon basin. In this habitat, the Andean bear is facing various threats. These highly arboreal bears are the only mammal species to move freely from cloud forest into the upper elevation grasslands. They play an important role in dispersing seeds. As climate change shifts ranges of flora and fauna, understanding and maintaining natural seed dispersal mechanisms is important.

PERU 

## Continuing success at Los Amigos Conservation Concession

Los Amigos Conservation Concession (LACC) lies at the mouth of the Los Amigos River in southeastern Peru, protecting its watershed and more than 146,000 hectares of diverse Amazonian forest. It also serves as a buffer zone to the southern portion of the remote *Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve*, a region used sporadically by a population of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation or Initial Contact (PIACI for its acronym in Spanish), safeguarding this vulnerable group from invaders.

To protect LACC from threats of illegal logging and goldmining, Biome is supporting *Promotores de Conservación*, who carry out patrols by river and land, now aided by high-resolution satellite monitoring (0.5m from Skysat) and drone overflights. This has resulted in the almost total eradication of illegal logging within the conservation concession.

### 2025 Highlights

- *Promotores* carried out 211 patrols (20 fluvial, 16 terrestrial, and 175 mixed)
- Only one minor incident of illegal logging was detected
- ACCA acquired a Matrice 350 RTK drone with a LIDAR system. This will provide new data on digital elevation, carbon capture, tree height, and other "dasometric" parameters, aiding ecological research and improving detection of human impacts.
- *Promotores* received training from ACCA's GIS staff for using EarthRanger to collect geospatial data on patrols and facilitate biological monitoring.

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SIZE OF AREA: **146,000 hectares (1,460 km<sup>2</sup>)**

FIELD PARTNER: **Conservación Amazónica (ACCA)**

SINCE 2011: **\$1,512,241** | IN 2025: **\$ 260,339**

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PERU 🌿

## Biome Field Training Fellowship

In 2025, the Field Training Fellowship continued to build on its refined approach of smaller cohorts and extended training periods, enhancing the depth and quality of learning at the Manu and Wayqecha biological stations.

Training aims to develop capable and grounded field biologists. Fellows engaged in Andean bear monitoring, entomological sampling, botanical collection, nursery management, and scientific communication. Practical field experience in wildlife monitoring, data collection, synthesis, and communication are foundational skills for budding conservationists.

Fellows learned skills in seed germination protocols, seed viability analysis, and plant propagation,

ECUADOR 🌿

## Next Generation Club

### What and Why

In 2022, the grassroots NGO Fundación para la Conservación de los Andes Tropicales (FCAT) and Biome launched The Next Generation Club to provide local youth with essential skills in conservation biology, sustainable practices, and community leadership. In 2025, the club graduated its second cohort of students. Program graduates continue to set a powerful example for other youth in the Chocó region.

### 2025 Highlights

The Next Generation Club's 12 workshops focused on bird observation and identification, botanical explorations along the FCAT Reserve trails, and bird and amphibian ecology. This was enriched through cultural exchanges with the Junior Researcher Group from Tulane University (New Orleans). That

*"I'm passionate about strengthening the connection between natural systems and local practices to support ecological restoration and sustainable management in the Amazon."*

- Alejandra, Peru

contributing to reforestation efforts. Their work extended to herbarium maintenance, ecological data processing, and the use of smartphone apps for monitoring and mapping. Participation in environmental education and outreach further strengthened their communication skills and connection to local communities.

The 2025 cohort gained valuable experience while contributing to ecological restoration and long-term monitoring of flora and fauna. We are fostering the next generation of conservationists, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience to drive meaningful change in Peru.

FIELD PARTNER: **Conservación Amazónica (ACCA)**  
 SINCE 2010: **\$883,247** | IN 2025: **\$205,163**



reinforced the view that protecting nature is a shared global responsibility. About 180 hours of training were provided to Rural Youth Extensionists—alumni from The Next Generation Club who now serve as liaisons with about 80 families participating in FCAT's agroforestry project.

**Big thanks to The Kingfisher Foundation for supporting this work.**

SIZE OF AREA: **1,200 km<sup>2</sup>**  
 FIELD PARTNER: **Fundación para la Conservación de los Andes Tropicales (FCAT)**  
 SINCE 2022: **\$510,256**



COSTA RICA 🌿

## Osa Youth Nature Club

### What and Why

Since its launch in 2021, Osa Conservation's Youth Nature Club has provided local youth with immersive learning experiences, fostering the next generation of nature stewards.

### 2025 Highlights

558 local children took part in the club and broader environmental education activities in 2025. Nature field excursions included:

- 🌿 planting mangrove; exploring river habitats
- 🌿 tropical restoration planting
- 🌿 a wildlife monitoring workshop
- 🌿 overnight nature bootcamps
- 🌿 ecotourism and media workshops
- 🌿 freshwater habitats to learn about macro-invertebrates and water quality
- 🌿 sea turtle patrols and snorkeling excursions
- 🌿 whale/dolphin trips and beach clean-up

OC recognized Youth Rainforest Heroes at its Rainforest Heroes Festival attended by over 400 community members from across southern Costa Rica—including over 150 youth from every chapter of the Youth Nature Club.

A new group—the Ridge to Reef Adolescent Club—was established to address the needs of youth aged 13-17, transitioning out of kids' clubs who wanted to remain engaged in conservation related activities. About 15 teens are taking part—perhaps tomorrow's decision makers?

**A big thank you to the Paul W. O'Leary Foundation for supporting this work.**

COSTA RICA 🌿

## Osa Ridge to Reef Initiative

### What and Why

The Osa Peninsula has the largest mesic rainforest remaining on the Pacific slope of Central America. Osa Conservation (OC) is leading a conservation effort that mobilizes citizen scientists, community members, ecotourism operators, park administrators and NGOs to preserve the globally significant biodiversity of the Osa Peninsula and establish a conservation corridor connecting it with the high-elevation Parque Internacional La Amistad in the Talamanca Mountains.

### 2025 Highlights

294,971 trees were planted (43% mangrove)—the biggest planting season to date. OC's Restoration Network grew to 372 landowners committed to regenerative practices and biodiversity-friendly production.

With its Farms for Nature Initiative, OC has developed a debt-for-biodiversity approach that provides micro-loans and rewards small and mid-sized farmers for measurable biodiversity outcomes. In 2025, restoration was completed on four cattle ranches and a coffee farm.

To address barriers to wildlife movement, OC has created canopy connectivity with 36 arboreal bridges (six newly installed in 2025). Arboreal bridges are used by 15+ species, including threatened species. OC's AmistOsa Biodiversity Survey is building local capacity for biodiversity monitoring using citizen science tools like iNaturalist. There were 10,529 new entries during the year, including 593 new species.

Lastly, OC provided training to 44 park rangers to improve park ranger response to environmental crimes.

SIZE OF AREA: **1,093 km<sup>2</sup>**  
 FIELD PARTNER: **Osa Conservation (OC)**  
 SINCE 2017: **\$1,657,567** | IN 2025: **\$293,228**  
*(RIDGE TO REEF)*  
 SINCE 2021: **\$763,772** | IN 2025: **\$161,195**  
*(OSA YOUTH NATURE PROGRAM)*

*Top: The Youth Nature Club now has around 115 members in 16 chapters across the Osa Peninsula. Photo: Osa Conservation*



**NICARAGUA** 🌿

## Saving sea turtles: Salinas Grandes

### What and Why

Biome supports a grass-roots sea turtle conservation effort at Playa Salinas Grandes—located 26 km from the city of León. The project maintains a community-run sea turtle hatchery and provides opportunities for school children to learn about the need for sea turtle conservation at Playa Salinas Grandes and beyond.



Salinas Grandes has the only hatchery in the region that operates from April to August. Other nurseries begin operation in mid-August during the height of the sea turtle arribada—a mass synchronized sea turtle nesting phenomenon, common to both the olive ridley and Kemp's ridley sea turtles.

### 2025 Highlights

Of 17,821 sea turtle eggs placed in the hatchery, 16,123 hatchlings (90%) were safely released into the ocean. Since the project began in 2020, 77,960 hatchlings have been successfully released. The year was marked by an increase in the “arribadas” of the Vulnerable olive ridley sea turtle—a good sign!

The project's education component is making a difference. Project staff have seen an increased awareness of the need for sea turtle conservation and a positive change in the behavior of the children who participate in the project's Sea Turtle Environmental Education and Protection Program.

SIZE OF AREA: **8 km of beach**  
 FIELD PARTNER: **Gabriela Paredes and the community**  
 SINCE 2020: **\$ 278,092** | IN 2025: **\$52,837**

*Top & Left: Without the conservation work at Salinas Grandes, most or all sea turtle eggs would have probably ended up in the black market for consumption.*

*Photos: Gabriela Paredes*

**COSTA RICA** 🌿 🏠

## The evolving role of Parataxonomists

### What and Why

Área de Conservación Guanacaste (ACG), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is remarkable in several respects. Over decades, the Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund (GDFCF) played a key role in expanding ACG from a small national park to one spanning 163,000 hectares and extending from a marine sector through dry forest to rainforest and cloud forest.

Led by biologists Daniel H. Janzen and Winnie Hallwachs, GDFCF pioneered (i) the use of “parataxonomists” hired from local communities, (ii) innovative land restoration, and (iii) an in-the-field nature education program for school children that has forged a bioliterate population.

### 2025 Highlights

Parataxonomists completed their decades-long inventory of Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies), which has added so much to our understanding of tropical ecosystems. New priorities for the parataxonomist workforce have been set that align with conservation and management needs in biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem protection, and site presence.

2025 marked a decisive step toward Costa Rica-based leadership and governance as the new Asociación de Conservación Guanacaste Bosque y Mar began operation under the leadership of Dr. Bruce Young. GDFCF will continue its funding and oversight functions, and its founders Dan Janzen and Winnie Hallwachs remain engaged as advisors.

SIZE OF AREA: **163,000 hectares**  
 FIELD PARTNER: **Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund**  
 SINCE 2012: **\$900,605** | IN 2025: **\$146,249**



*Top: Parataxonomists return from the forest with bags containing new caterpillars along with the leaves they were eating.*

*Bottom: Parataxonomist Sergio Salas Ríos carefully removes one leg off a moth to send to the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario at the University of Guelph for DNA barcoding.*

*Photos: GDFCF*

### Why insects matter

Insects play a vital ecological role:

- They break down dead plant and animal remains and recycle the nutrients back into the soil, helped by microbes and fungi.
- They are a primary source of food for most vertebrates.
- Around 80% of wild plant species rely on insects for pollination, as do three-quarters of global food crops.

This is why they are called **“the little things that run the world”!**

**PANAMA** 🏠 🌿

## Wounaan gain recognition as allies for Panama’s environmental protection authorities

In the Maje Mountains and Darien of Panama, 30,000 hectares of untitled Indigenous Wounaan territories provide habitat connectivity to protect the Bay of Panama Wildlife Refuge and lands that buffer Darien National Park. Wounaan territories need defending against illegal loggers, cattle ranchers, and colonists.

While the communities seek to collectively title their land, the Wounaan Territorial Monitoring Program is reporting environmental damages to Panama’s environmental authorities. Since the program began, 24 individuals have been penalized or prosecuted for their environmental damages to Wounaan territories.

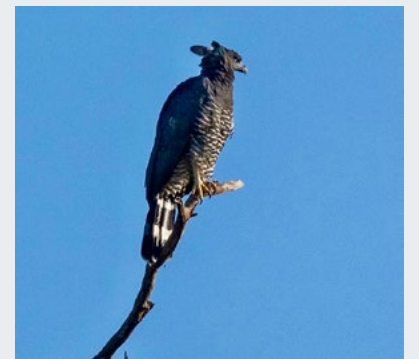
In 2025, territorial monitors, community leaders, and the Ministry of Environment met to strengthen their collaboration and improve early warning systems, environmental complaint reporting, and forest fire fighting.

Five years ago, Wounaan communities felt helpless against the ever-increasing assaults on their land. Today there is hope. Rio Hondo’s community leader explains, “Before, we would present proposals but there wasn’t an immediate response from the government. This time, there was, and there is follow-up. We are excited.”

SIZE OF AREA: **22,326 hectares**  
 FIELD PARTNER: **Native Future**  
 SINCE 2021: **\$304,594** | IN 2025: **\$95,591**

*The crested eagle is designated as Near Threatened by the IUCN and occurs on Wounaan lands.*

*Photo: Anita Holtz*



# Southeast Asia

INDONESIA 

## YAPPENDA gains research capacity, improving biodiversity outlook

New Guinea is the most biologically diverse island on Earth. Its vast lowland rainforests and highland ecosystems support extraordinary species found nowhere else.

Scientific field research is vital for developing human capacity for conservation in Papua, as was demonstrated in Papua New Guinea. Locally hired field assistants end up as researchers and decision makers. A mission-critical advance for YAPPENDA in 2025 was the signing of an MoU with the National Research and Innovation Agency. This provides the legal framework for YAPPENDA'S research operations, including the ability to arrange research permits.

Collaboration with universities and international institutions is laying the groundwork for long-term biodiversity monitoring and a broader research program across Papua.

The operating environment in Papua remains complex and, at times, dangerous. Conflict between pro-independence groups and security forces has escalated, spreading beyond the usual hotspots of Nduga and Intan Jaya. In 2025, violence intensified in Yahukimo, posing real risks to environmental



activists and researchers. This caused the project to pause restoration efforts in Doyo.

In 2025, 14,733 trees were planted on steep slopes or in areas of heavy forest usage. There was high mortality at reforestation plots of earlier years, with an estimated 50% loss of fruit trees and 20% loss of other trees. We expect improved coordination in remote areas to reduce tree mortality in future.

Together, these efforts contribute to the long-term protection of Papua's forests, strengthening both biodiversity conservation and the communities that depend on these globally significant ecosystems.

SIZE OF AREA:	<b>2,700 hectares</b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>YAPPENDA</b>
SINCE 2022:	<b>\$1,441,624</b>
IN 2025:	<b>\$490,935</b>

*To address forest degradation, YAPPENDA continues to operate tree nurseries and implement restoration efforts in both regions. Photo: YAPPENDA*

### Deforestation Threat

In 2025, South Papua witnessed rapid development of the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate—planned for 3 million hectares, one of the largest commercial deforestation sites in the world.

While not directly affected, we are taking heed and strengthening local capacity in our focal areas in the provinces of Papua and Highland Papua.

**INDONESIA** 🌿

**Sulawesi: new species & new science on the maleo**

Under AIto's conservation partnership with Taima village, maleo numbers remain robust at the flagship Libuun maleo nesting site! Reduced egg and chick predation is the result of strong local support, improved fencing and snare management. AIto continues to protect smaller maleo nesting sites and conserve roosting bats and sea turtles.

AIto's conservation impact is now reported in the scientific literature. The first range-wide assessment of the maleo highlighted both the species' historical decline and its recovery in Tompotika. Camera traps documented other rare Sulawesi wildlife and led to the discovery of a new species, the Mount Tompotika spiny rat (*Crunomys tompotika*).

The sixth phase of AIto's "Heart of Tompotika" forest initiative continued to focus on areas under threat from nickel mining. AIto expanded its capacity to address these risks by adding legal expertise to complement its ongoing government and community outreach. As mining pressures increase, this strengthened ability to represent conservation interests is critical.

SIZE OF AREA: **250,000 hectares**  
 FIELD PARTNER: **Alliance for Tompotika Conservation**  
 SINCE 2010: **\$2,692,836** | 2025: **\$244,788**



**NEPAL** 🌿

**At the limit of the Red Panda range**

In 2025, monitoring continued in 19 community forests by a growing network of 34 Forest Guardians.

Forest Guardians, alongside Community Forest officials and government staff, carried out anti-poaching patrols along 76 kilometers of steep and rugged terrain. Training and awareness activities included a workshop for local livestock herders and a school program.

Habitat restoration remained a priority. Two waterholes were restored in key forest areas, supporting wildlife in critical habitats. Twenty monitoring plots were established to track the growth and survival of planted

seedlings. These activities provide local employment and strengthen community support.

Improved cookstoves were distributed to 80 households across three districts. These lower fuelwood demand and reduce pressure on forest resources.

Forest fire management capacity was strengthened through training provided to local communities and police, along with the provision of firefighting equipment.

SIZE OF AREA: **261,600 hectares**  
 FIELD PARTNER: **Red Panda Network**  
 SINCE 2017: **\$461,170**  
 IN 2025: **\$104,241**

Above: In Nepal, a women-led wool enterprise group was formally established; a new sustainable livelihood opportunity.

Right: Red panda

Bottom left: Maleo pair at nest site. Photo: Kevin Schafer.



**CAMBODIA** 🌿

**Fishery Productivity Structures work!**

**What and Why**

Illegal bottom trawling in Cambodia, notably by Vietnamese trawlers, has ravaged the shallow marine ecosystems. Biome's partner, Marine Conservation Cambodia, has devised an effective, low-cost anti-trawling device that snags trawl nets and provides an effective deterrent.

Called Fishery Productivity Structures (FPS), they also serve as an artificial reef—a mecca for marine life.

**2025 Highlights**

Marine patrolling efforts intensified in 2025, with 154 patrol trips of which 72% intercepted illegal activity. Patrols identified 281 illegal vessels.

The Kep Marine Fisheries Management Area continues to expand and strengthened enforcement and habitat restoration efforts are delivering measurable gains for marine biodiversity.



Habitat restoration and protection have scaled significantly with the deployment of 817 Fishery Productivity Structures in 2025.

Monitoring shows strong ecological results: fish abundance at FPS sites is six times higher than in surrounding areas, with greater species diversity and improved conditions for juvenile fish, supporting population recovery.

Recovering seagrass meadows across 208 FPS sites (~3,000 hectares) demonstrate their effectiveness in reducing bottom trawling.

These habitats are important for biodiversity, coastal protection, and carbon storage. Their expansion signals improving ecosystem health.

Marine mammal monitoring continues to document the presence of species such as Irrawaddy dolphins (CR) and dugongs (VU).

Together, these results demonstrate that targeted enforcement, innovative restoration approaches, and strong partnerships are contributing to the recovery and resilience of Cambodia's marine ecosystems.

SIZE OF AREA: **16,900 hectares**  
 FIELD PARTNER: **Marine Conservation Cambodia (MCC)**  
 SINCE 2016: **\$1,612,739** | IN 2025: **\$188,623**

Above: Fishery Productivity Structures deter illegal fishing in protected areas and provide a substrate for marine life.

Left: A diver assembles an FPS.

Photos: MCC





# Shorebirds & other waterbirds

Red Knots in Flight  
© Fabian Pinasco

## CHILE

### Mauullín – Safeguarding coastal wetlands at scale

Our original goal in 2015 was to protect Hudsonian godwits and other shorebirds at a few small bird sanctuaries on the coast and along Rio Mauullín to Lake Llanquihue. Now the work has expanded to over 8,000 ha and includes northern portions of the Chiloé archipelago, famous for its abundance of sea birds and sea mammals.

During the non-breeding season, the tidal mudflats sustain half of the Pacific coast population of Hudsonian godwits, as well as thousands of whimbrels and other shorebirds.

Highlights in 2025 include the fencing of areas on Chiloé Island to prevent vehicle access within the Bahía Curaco de Velez Nature Sanctuary. This prevents disturbance to thousands of foraging shorebirds and protects an American oystercatcher nesting colony from feral cats and other predators. Fencing along with the removal of invasive grasses led to increased nesting pairs and hatching success. Camera traps are deployed to monitor disturbance and measure success.

Bird ecotourism has proven a boon for the local economy. Community engagement is multifaceted: an annual bird fair, training sessions for municipal officials and young biologists, printed guides, posters and signs, expansion of blinds and boardwalks, and involvement of local businesses.

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SIZE OF AREA:	<b>8,152 hectares</b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Fundación Conservación Marina</b>
SINCE 2015:	<b>\$905,105</b>
IN 2025:	<b>\$108,591</b>

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Above: Hudsonian godwits

Left: Red knots are among 20 species of shorebirds that benefit from this project.

Photos: Fabian Pinasco



## MEXICO

### Protecting a key Pacific stopover for red knots

The Pacific subspecies of red knot (*roselaari*) has the smallest population of red knots, about 22,000 individuals. To migrate back to its Arctic breeding grounds from the Pacific coast, the red knot needs a full tank of fuel. And one major fuel stop is in the upper Gulf of California.

Since 2021, Pronatura Noroeste's staff and volunteers prepare for the knot's arrival at the Golfo de Santa Clara just before Holy Week. By the time millions of grunions (a sardine-like fish) are spawning and red knots arrive, project personnel and national guards have roped off miles of beach from cars, pets, and people.

In 2025, they installed 17 km of temporary fencing and protected 25 square kilometers of grunion and shorebird habitat. They recorded 13,600 shorebirds of 20 species. Red knot numbers doubled to 4,200 individuals. Beach goer numbers climbed to 10,000, making beach guardians and restricted vehicular access more vital than ever.

The community outreach program is second to none. The grunions are concentrated along a 1.3-km-long area in front of the village, and this is where staff and volunteers erect a makeshift "museum" of "palapas" constructed with wooden poles and roofing. The guardians spoke with 1,984 tourists, of whom 90% expressed support for the fenced area.

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SIZE OF AREA:	<b>17 km of beachfront</b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Pronatura Noroeste</b>
SINCE 2021:	<b>\$185,899</b>
IN 2025:	<b>\$64,440</b>

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ARGENTINA 

## Magellanic Plovers (VU) and Hooded Grebes (CR)

Two rare bird species live within sight of each other, but are found only in small numbers across hundreds of blue, cold lakes on the dry, barren plateaus of southern Patagonia. After the ice and snow melt, both return from the the south Atlantic coast to nest—the plover laying eggs directly on rocky shorelines, and the grebes on a floating nest of milfoil. Arriving before them are the dedicated field biologists who search hundreds of lakes to find and protect them. It is estimated that only 1,000 of each species remain.

**After years of declines, a recovery appears underway for both species**, and this past breeding season has been one of the best on record! Prior to the nesting season, biologists camped at the lakes and used black Labrador retrievers to locate and trap non-native mink (a single mink has been known to kill 50 grebes in one night).

For the grebes, artificial floating nest platforms are anchored offshore to supplement natural nests, and windbreaks are installed as protection against winds that can reach 100 km/hr.



These measures contributed to a **record 12 hooded grebe nesting colonies that hatched 146 chicks**.

For the plovers, the succesful experiment using fence to protect their nests from predators resulted in **100% hatching success on the 14 nests** “exclosed”, while 6 other nests served as a control (no fence) and suffered a total loss. Next year all nests will be exclosed.

SIZE OF AREA:	<b>575,000 hectares</b>
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Aves Argentinas</b>
SINCE 2012:	<b>\$1,091,827   IN 2025: \$122,990</b>



**P. 36 |** Above: Magellanic plover seen near its nest “predator exclosure” and approaching its clutch of two eggs. Photo: Gonzalo Pardo  
Left: Hooded grebe pair with chick. Photo: Macá Tobiano Foundation

**P. 37 |** Top: Spoon-billed sandpiper Photo: Khalid Sharif  
Bottom: Diadamed Sandpiper-Plover Photo: Ian Davies

ARGENTINA **NEW** 

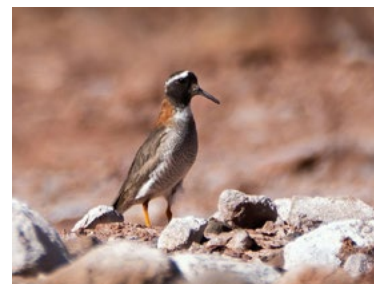
## Diademed Sandpiper-Plover and Fuegian Snipe

In 2025, our team at Macá Tobiano Foundation focused on two new shorebird species endemic to the Andes and Patagonia. The diademed sandpiper-plover (CR) nests at 2,500 to 4,500 meters in the Andes. The bad news is that there has been a 90% reduction in nesting pairs since a survey was done there 15 years ago. They did find a few nests and there was time to test a “predator exclosure”, which showed that this species didn’t hesitate to enter to incubate its eggs. In the next breeding season in October 2026, more pairs will be protected from predators and the abundant grazing goats.

A search began in late 2025 for breeding pairs of Fuegian snipe in southwestern Santa Cruz Province and Tierra del Fuego. The aim is to determine its current distribution including through innovative techniques of acoustic recorders and environmental DNA sampling.

By next year we should better understand the threats to this species, which may include American mink and livestock grazing.

FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Macá Tobiano Foundation</b>
IN 2025:	<b>\$38,612</b>



SOUTHEAST ASIA 

## Spoon-billed Sandpipers: encouraging results

This project continued in coastal landscapes across four countries (China, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Thailand), with a total count of 130 spoon-billed sandpipers—28% of the world population—up from 103 in 2024.

Also tallied were 85,000 other waterbirds of 68 species, many Red-listed by IUCN.

The habitats protected for Spoonies (an “umbrella” species) supported approximately 360 Nordmann’s greenshanks (EN), 8,000 great knots (EN), 3,210 curlew sandpipers (VU), 11,000 red-necked stints (NT), 1,030 Eurasian curlews (NT), 7,240 curlew sandpipers (VU), 800 Asian dowitchers (NT), 400 red knots (NT), 2,109 black-tailed godwits (NT), and 250 bar-tailed godwits (NT).

Bird guards in Bangladesh focused on 39 sites, and incidents of poaching decreased overall. There was no hunting pressure at the main Spoonie sites and educational outreach expanded in local schools.

In China, 47 spoonies were counted and patrol teams continued to search for illegal mist-nets which are used to catch birds. Environmental education, birdwatching trips, and community training workshops are underway.

In Myanmar, work resumed on the Gulf of Mottama under difficult field conditions. Patrol teams encountered illegal hunters and worked with all stakeholders to reduce these pressures by promoting alternative livelihoods.

In Thailand, the capacity for field work increased, and Pak Thale nature reserve continued to receive more visitors hoping to see the spoon-billed sandpiper. The number of Spoonies overwintering there doubled from 4 to 10. One Spoonie has returned to Pak Thale for its 9<sup>th</sup> year!

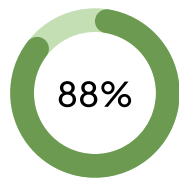
FIELD PARTNER:	<b>Sayam Chowdhury and partner NGOs in Bangladesh, Myanmar, China, Thailand</b>
SINCE 2016:	<b>\$854,588</b>
IN 2025:	<b>\$207,337</b>

# 2025 IMPACT

Conservation is long-term work. Since 2007, we've partnered with local communities, Indigenous people, and conservation leaders to protect critical ecosystems and threatened species worldwide. Today, our programs continue advancing biodiversity protection, habitat conservation, and community resilience across three continents.

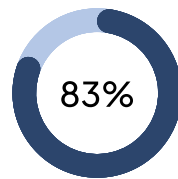
### Progress to 2030 Goals

#### Project area



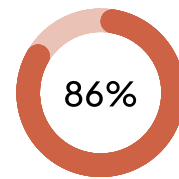
● **2025:** 16,952,257 ha  
● **2030 Goal:** 20 million ha

#### Freshwater area



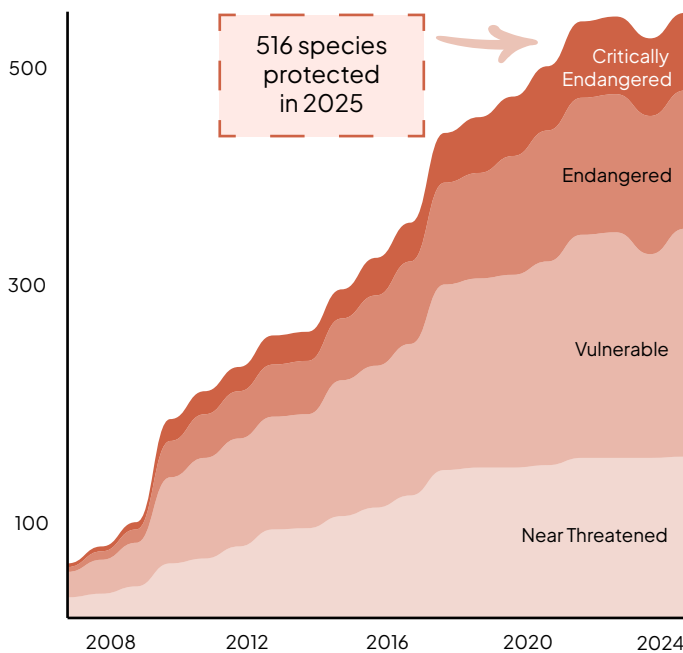
● **2025:** 3,321 km  
● **2030 Goal:** 4,000 km

#### Species protected



● **2025:** 516 species  
● **2030 Goal:** 600 species

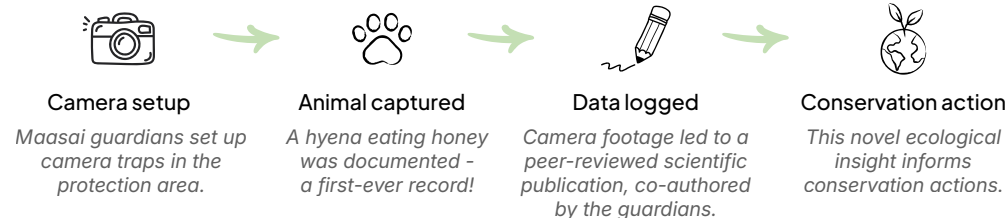
### Species protected over time



### People & equipment

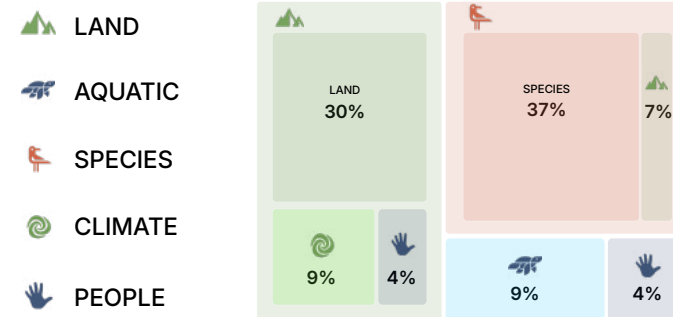
**1,686** people employed in conservation activities  
**DOZENS** camera traps purchased  
**MILLIONS** wildlife captured on camera

### Camera Traps: in action



### Program Category

Biome's projects are categorized by a primary focus area and sometimes a secondary one, as illustrated in this chart for 2025.

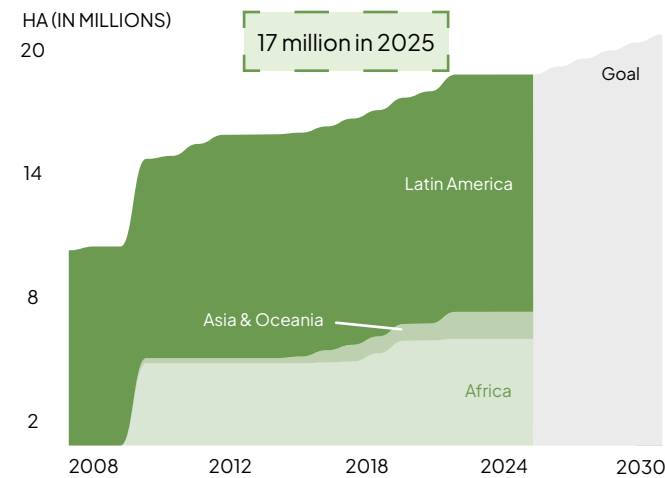


### Average Project Duration

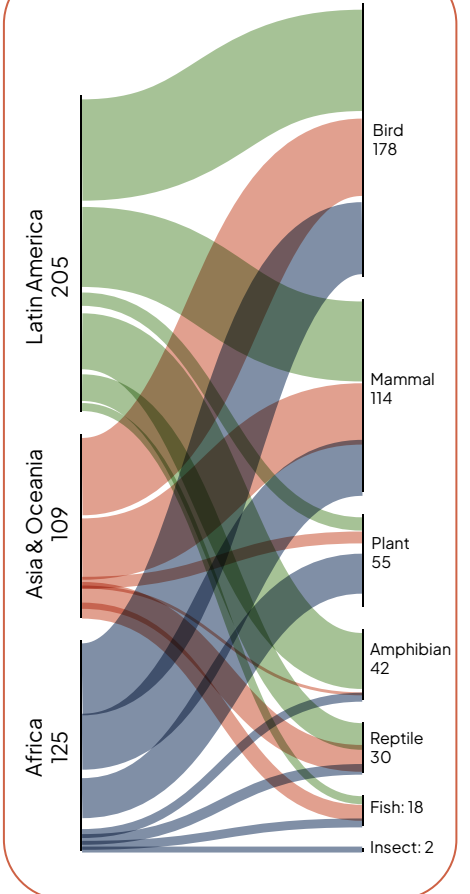
68 total projects initiated since 2007; 37 remained active in 2025. On average, Biome projects last a little over 6 years.



### Total project area by year & geography



### Species protected by region



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

ASSETS	2025	2024
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	703,094	281,303
Accounts receivable	30,288	32,825
Project advances	0	531,170
	<b>733,382</b>	<b>845,298</b>
<b>Capital Assets</b>		
Unrestricted investments	52	60
Capital Assets	99,350	97,508
	<b>99,402</b>	<b>97,568</b>
<b>Restricted Assets</b>		
ACG Parataxonomist Fund	3,428,538	3,274,399
Los Amigos Conservation Concession Fund	1,848,386	1,928,345
Poon Fund for Tropical Nature Reserves	944,322	1,265,204
General Fund (formerly Fund for Jocotoco Reserves) *	49	1,304,631
Administration Fund	805,340	783,003
	<b>7,026,635</b>	<b>8,555,582</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>7,859,419</b>	<b>9,498,448</b>

### LIABILITIES

#### Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	313,098	219,557
Deferred income	28,950	17,350
	<b>342,048</b>	<b>236,907</b>

#### Fund balances

General fund	490,736	705,959
Restricted fund	7,026,635	8,555,582
	<b>7,517,371</b>	<b>9,261,541</b>

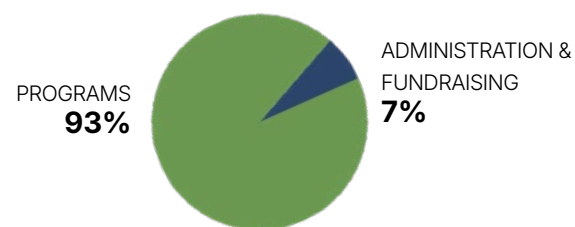
#### TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES

**7,859,419**      **9,498,448**

\* By mutual agreement of the three organizations involved, the Sustainability Fund for Jocotoco Reserves was transferred from Biome/ICFC to Birds Canada.

### Biome (ICFC) Expenditures

(excluding transfer of trust fund assets)



### Message from Biome's Chief Financial Officer

Our 2025 financials reflect a transition in how Biome records program expenditures. Until 2024, funds sent to field partners were recorded as expenses in our accounting system when we received the detailed expense report from the field partner. In 2025, Biome transitioned to a granting model in which disbursements are recorded as expenses at the time of transfer. As a result, the 2025 figures include some 2024 field partner expenses reported in 2025, along with the full 2025 grant disbursements. This one-time change "inflates" certain values for the transition year of 2025.

- Keith Abriel

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

### REVENUE

Donations	8,887,722	9,861,103
Gain/(Loss) on investment and foreign currency	793,534	1,752,693
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>9,681,256</b>	<b>11,613,796</b>

### EXPENSES

Argentina: Diademed Sandpiper	38,612	--
Argentina: Hooded Grebe & Magellanic Plover	122,990	110,497
Bahamas: Salinas Long Island Restoration	--	89,881
Bolivia: Blue-Throated Macaw	49,565	83,988
Brazil: Jurua Aquatic Biodiversity	51,733	49,387
Brazil: Kayapo Project	3,303,237	4,061,506
Cambodia: Marine Conservation	188,623	207,017
Chile: Maullin Coastal Wetlands	108,591	124,078
Colombia: Harlequin Frogs	75,800	53,151
Costa Rica: ACG Parataxonomists & Marine Education	146,249	132,624
Costa Rica: Osa Ridge to Reef	293,228	292,001
Costa Rica: Osa Youth Nature Program	161,195	160,198
Democratic Republic of Congo: Grauer's Gorilla	74,548	139,631
Guatemala: Laguna Grande Reserve	37,013	56,568
Indonesia: Papua Forest Conservation	490,935	455,258
Indonesia: Sulawesi Threatened Wildlife	244,788	224,020
Kenya: Kijabe Forest	131,486	120,618
Kenya: Kwenia Vulture Sanctuary	66,751	35,208
Kenya: Mount Elgon Elephants	136,386	148,308
Kenya: Mukutan Conservancy	923,082	695,977
Madagascar: Farankarina Community Forest	88,468	86,155
Malawi: Lake Malawi Fish Conservation	719,511	889,592
Mali: Desert Elephant Landscapes	309,223	94,606
Mexico: Vaquita Porpoise	--	70,060
Nepal: Red Panda Project	104,241	82,046
Nicaragua: Sea Turtle Project	52,837	50,696
Panama: Maje Mountains Indigenous-led Conservation	95,591	63,396
Peru: Conservation Graduate Research Fellowship	55,355	100,619
Peru: Biome Field Training Fellowship	149,808	227,965
Peru: Los Amigos Conservation Concession	260,339	225,474
South Africa: Rhino Conservation	189,962	137,926
Southeast Asia: Spoon-billed Sandpiper	207,337	98,491
Small Projects (various countries)	292,795	289,903
Rainforest Trust project (Guinea, saving wildlife from mining)	1,308	108,187

#### SUB-TOTAL Program Expenses

9,171,588      9,765,032

Jocotoco Trust Fund assets assigned to Birds Canada

1,490,878      --

#### TOTAL Program Expenses

10,662,466      9,765,032

Fundraising  
Administration

180,807      136,317  
582,154      716,155

#### TOTAL EXPENSES

**11,425,427**      **10,617,504**

#### EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES

**-1,744,170**      **996,292**



**FEATURED FIELD PARTNER**

## Robert Kaai Vulture Guardian

Before dawn, when the savanna was still dark and cold, a young boy would leave his home in Kwenia, Kenya, and begin walking. Thirteen kilometres to school, alone, with no food until evening. His name was Robert Kaai, and the great red cliffs above his home, alive with the slow circling flight of vultures, were the only world he had known.

Then one night, everything changed. When Robert was 12, a small plane fell out of the sky.

A British ornithologist named Dr. Simon Thomsett had crash-landed his homemade aircraft near the cliffs. Guided to safety by Robert's mother through sign language, Simon returned later to retrieve his plane and met young Robert, who, to his delight, spoke perfect English. The next day, he drove the boy to the cliff and handed him a spotting scope. For the first time, Robert saw what had been above him his entire life:

Rüppell's vultures, one of the most endangered raptors on Earth, nesting on the ancient rock face above his home. In that moment, something locked into place.

Robert had always loved science, winning a national award for inventing glue from tree resin and animal hooves. He had a gift for business too, later helping Maasai women create beadwork on denim jackets that sold for \$1,300 a piece in Nairobi's finest shops. But it was always Kwenia that called him back.

The road from that boyhood moment to today was anything but straight. Robert pursued it through drought and hunger, interrupted schooling, and countless community meetings where neighbours thought he was simply dreaming. But he never stopped believing that those cliffs held something worth protecting, and that protecting them could transform his community.

That belief found a partner in Biome Conservation, which has supported the Kwenia Vulture Sanctuary since 2019. Today, the sanctuary employs 19 people and positively impacts over a

*“Kwenia is me,  
and me is Kwenia.”*

thousand lives. Giraffes drink from a tank outside Robert's door. Cheetahs have returned. This season, 14 vulture pairs are brooding chicks. And for the first time, parents in Kwenia can afford to send their children to school.

Robert was the first person in his village to earn a university degree. Others now follow in his footsteps. And his vision reaches far beyond where the project stands today: a world-class conservancy of hundreds of thousands of acres, wildlife multiplied tenfold, and thousands of Maasai livelihoods transformed by a community that has learned to love its natural world.

*Above: Robert Kaai at the Kwenia cliffs. These ancient rock faces provide essential nesting sites for the Rüppell's vulture, the world's highest-flying bird, capable of reaching altitudes over 11,000 metres. Photo: Kenya Bird of Prey Trust*

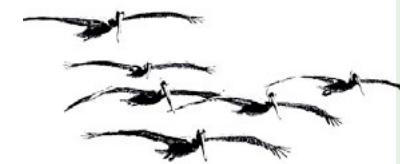
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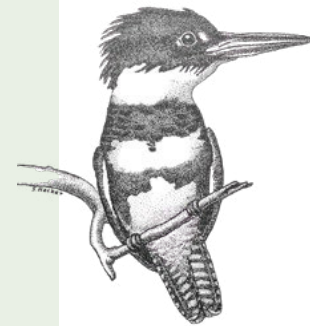


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