

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a camouflage-patterned long-sleeved shirt, khaki pants, and yellow rubber boots, is watering a small plant in a black plastic pot. He is holding a large black watering can and pouring water onto the soil. The background is a lush green garden with various plants and trees.

**#AQUÍHAGOMIPARTE**

# Doing our part for nature

**Para la Naturaleza  
Annual Report 2015**

**para la  
Naturaleza**





**La Robleda Natural  
Protected Area, Cayey**



An aerial photograph of a lush forest on a hillside. The trees are predominantly covered in vibrant pink blossoms, likely cherry blossoms, which stand out against the green foliage. The terrain is hilly, and the perspective is from above, looking down into the forest canopy. The sky is visible in the upper left corner, showing a soft, overcast light.

# **45 YEARS EMBRACING CHANGE TO ADVANCE CONSERVATION**

Para la Naturaleza turned 45 this year! As we reflect upon our work of nearly five decades, it is evident that we have evolved and expanded greatly since our beginnings in 1970. From land conservation and historic preservation to promoting volunteerism and citizen science programs; from facilitating research and analysis to advancing critical policy changes, constantly assuming new challenges and roles has been an essential part of our organizational journey. 2015 was no exception. Explore inside to learn about our exciting year and what the future ahead looks like as we continue to move towards our goal of protecting 33% of Puerto Rico's territory by 2033.

**1970**

The Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico is established as a charitable trust.

**1971**

The Trust's first conservation easement is completed at Finca Foreman in Adjuntas, a pioneering mechanism for land conservation.

**1974**

The acquisition of 803 acres at Cañón de San Cristóbal in Barranquitas, used as a landfill, saves one of Puerto Rico's natural wonders.

**1975**

The Trust makes strategic acquisitions including 2,183 acres at Hacienda La Esperanza in Manatí and 316 acres at Cabezas de San Juan Nature Reserve in Fajardo, among others.

**1987**

Hacienda Buena Vista becomes our first site to open a Visitor Center.

**1989**

The Árboles + Árboles program is created at the Cañón de San Cristóbal and in Río Piedras to help reforestation efforts after Hurricane Hugo.

**1992**

The restored Faro Cabezas de San Juan in Fajardo opens to the public and earns an American Express Preservation Award.

**1995**

Casa Ramón Power & Giralt opens to the public and becomes the Conservation Trust's headquarters.



**2001**

The Conservation Easements Law of Puerto Rico – spearheaded by the Trust – is adopted, establishing tax benefits to advance land conservation through donations and conservation easements.

**2008**

Our first Citizen Science project is launched at Hacienda La Esperanza in Manatí.

**2010**

The Map of Life Program develops an island-wide initiative to create a conservation strategy for Puerto Rico that calls for the protection of 33% of the island's territory by 2033.

**2012**

The Trust receives the Land Trust Alliance Commission Accreditation, certifying that it meets stringent national standards and practices in conservation and becomes the first organization in Puerto Rico admitted to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

**2013**

Para la Naturaleza, a new unit of the Conservation Trust, is established to put conservation in people's own hands and further our goal of conserving 33% by 2033.

**2014**

Para la Naturaleza launches its Volunteer Program.







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## Dear friends,

2015 was a special year for Para la Naturaleza. Not only did it mark our 45th anniversary, but we also reached important milestones in our quest to achieve the protection of 33% of Puerto Rico by 2033. Through generous donations, easements and strategic acquisitions, the total amount of land we protect rose to 30,072 acres, making us Puerto Rico's second largest land conservator.

Our educational, research, volunteer and community engagement programming continued to grow in both reach and variety during this signature year and we also took on exciting new projects, such as the planned restoration of the Culebrita Lighthouse and Allora & Calzadilla's Puerto Rican Light installation in Cueva Vientos.

Of utmost importance was the approval of the first Land Use Plan for Puerto Rico, after ten years of hard work by the conservation community.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of our donors, AMIGOS and collaborators. Even amid trying times, individual and corporate donations exceeded established goals, and we were able to break new ground in our efforts to diversify funding sources.

Beyond doubt, Para la Naturaleza's vision reached new levels in 2015, with more and more people taking conservation in their own hands and embracing it as a key variable to Puerto Rico's long-term progress. Nowhere was this more evident than in the work of our more than 4,000 loyal volunteers. Their passion and commitment is our greatest source of inspiration and, most of all, of hope.

As we move forward, continuing to foster knowledge and action for nature will remain a seminal part of who we are and what we do as an organization.

On behalf of the Para la Naturaleza team, we thank you for joining us and becoming part of an important transformation for our islands. Puerto Rico urgently needs to return to its roots, recover its natural strength and regain its path to prosperity. Our commitment to making this a reality is stronger than ever.

Sincerely,

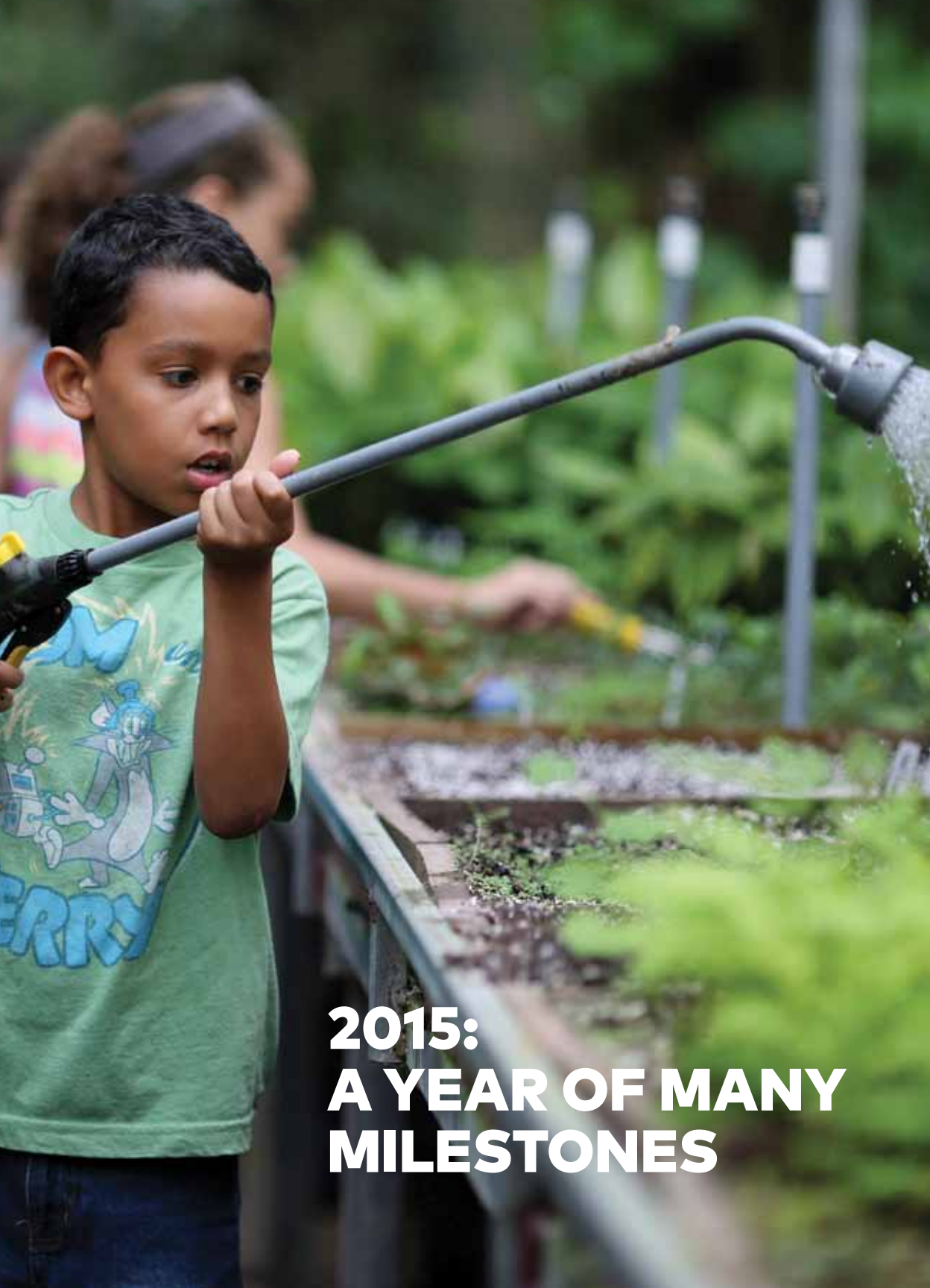


Fernando Lloveras San Miguel, Esq.  
President  
Para la Naturaleza



Immersion Workshop in  
Hacienda Buena Vista, Ponce





**2015:  
A YEAR OF MANY  
MILESTONES**

**10**

Summer  
immersion workshops

**3,127**

Tours

**240**

Workshops

**197**

Community  
events

**522**

Citizen Science  
activities

**4,763**

Data collection hours  
for our Mapa de Vida  
initiative

**2,200**

Individual  
AMIGOS

**21**

Corporate  
AMIGOS

**100,000+**

Para la Naturaleza  
Facebook followers

**206,264**

Visitors to Para la  
Naturaleza website

**1,540**

Volunteer  
events

**77,382**

Volunteer hours  
donated



**4**

Visitor  
centers

**82,821**

Visitors

**262,021**

Impact  
hours

**58**

Natural Protected  
Areas

**30,072**

Total acres  
protected

**1,647**

New acres acquired  
through land purchases  
and donations  
(110% of goal)

10

School tree nurseries  
(Biocomisos) supported

3,000

Native trees  
planted

86

Tree species produced in  
our three nurseries

5,000

Trees distributed for  
free at our Feria  
Para la Naturaleza

91,842

Sapo Concho tadpoles  
released to reintroduce  
this endangered species

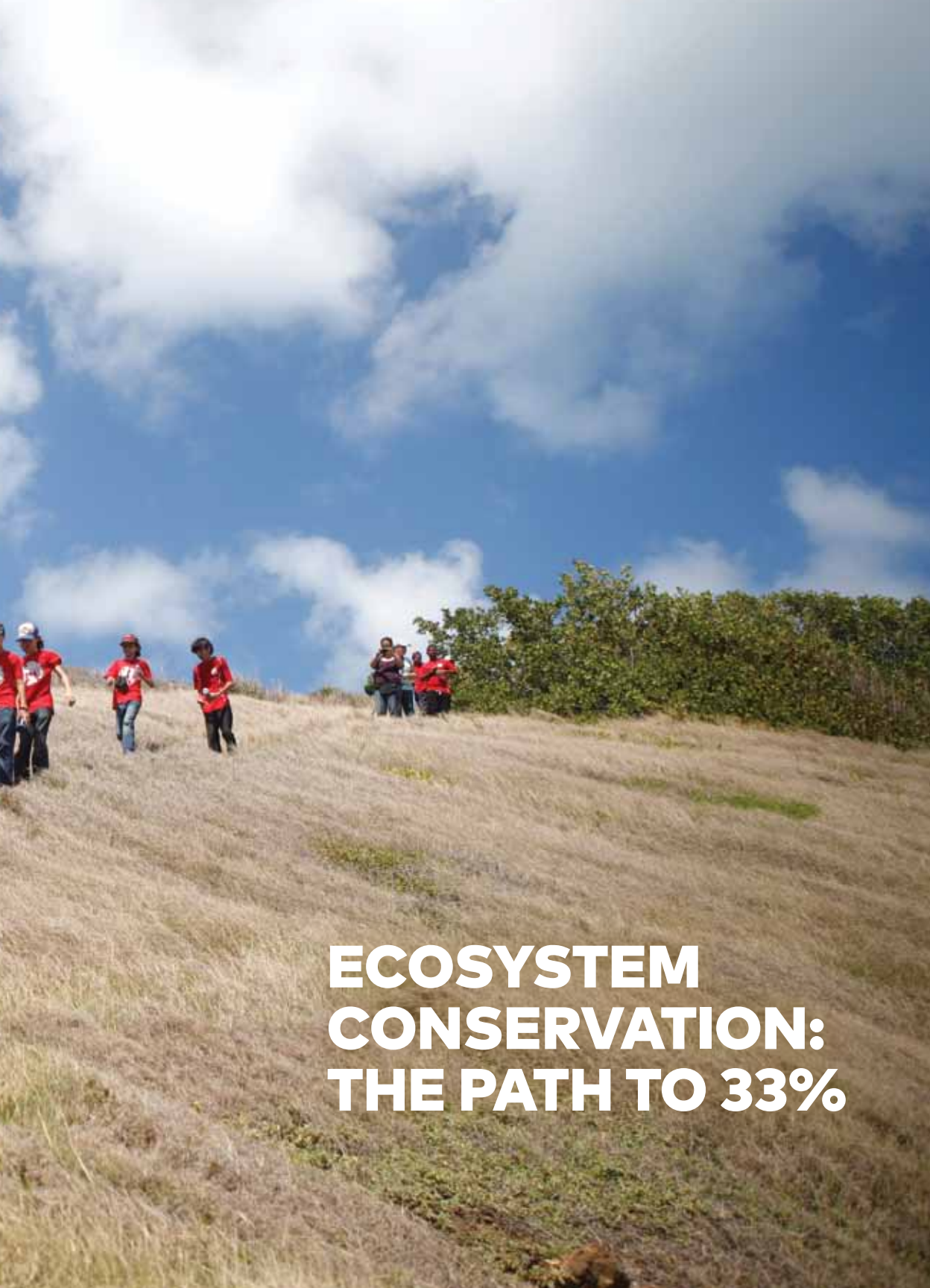
353

Bird species documented  
and counted



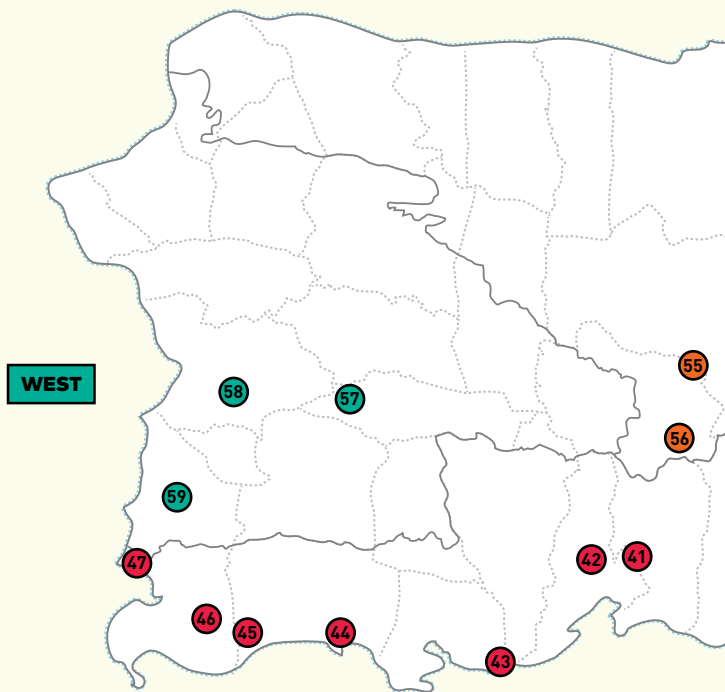
**Cabezas de San Juan  
Nature Reserve, Fajardo**





**ECOSYSTEM  
CONSERVATION:  
THE PATH TO 33%**

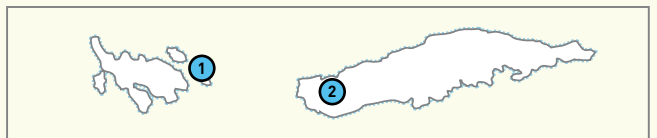
- 1 NPA Culebrita Lighthouse
- 2 NWR Cerro El Buey
- 3 NPA Medio Mundo y Daguao
- 4 NR Cabezas de San Juan
- 5 CE Finca Gulín
- 6 NPA Finca Shapiro
- 7 NR Humacao Pterocarpus Forest
- 8 NPA La Pitahaya
- 9 Finca Colón (Forest Service)
- 10 Finca El Verde
- 11 CE Palmas del Mar
- 12 NR Inés María Mendoza
- 13 NPA Sierra La Pandura
- 14 NPA Luz Martínez de Benítez
- 15 Finca Los Frailes
- 16 Río Piedras Aqueduct (San Juan Waterworks)
- 17 NPA Ulpiano Casal
- 18 NPA Jorge Sotomayor del Toro
- 19 NPA Río Guaynabo
- 20 NPA Hacienda Lago
- 21 Casa Ramón Power y Giralt
- 22 NPA Culebras
- 23 NPA La Robleda
- 24 NPA Río Bairoa
- 25 NPA Las Lunas
- 26 NPA Hermanas Sendra
- 27 NPA San Juan Park
- 28 CE El Rabanal
- 29 CE Centro Espíritu Santo
- 30 NPA Cañón San Cristóbal
- 31 NPA Marín Alto
- 32 NPA Punta Pozuelo
- 33 NPA Jájome
- 34 CE Siembra Tres Vidas
- 35 SE Montes Oscuros
- 36 NPA Los Llanos
- 37 NPA Ojo de Agua
- 38 NPA Toa Vaca
- 39 NPA Punta Cabullones



- |                             |                                  |                               |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 40 NPA Hacienda Buena Vista | 47 NR Punta Guaniquilla          | 54 NPA Río Encantado          |
| 41 NPA El Convento          | 48 NPA Dorado Pterocarpus Forest | 55 NPA Hacienda Pellejas      |
| 42 NPA Cerro La Tuna        | 49 CE Finca El Tambor            | 56 CE Foreman                 |
| 43 CE NR Punta Ballenas     | 50 NPA Río Sana Muerto           | 57 NPA Río Maricao            |
| 44 NR La Parguera           | 51 NPA Río Toro Negro            | 58 NPA Cerro Las Mesas        |
| 45 CE Finca María Luisa     | 52 CE Finca Ledesma Moulrier     | 59 NPA Cordillera Sabana Alta |
| 46 NPA El Conuco            | 53 NR Hacienda La Esperanza      |                               |



**NPA** = Natural Protected Area  
**NR** = Natural Reserve  
**CE** = Conservation Easement  
**SE** = Scenic Easement  
**NWR** = Natural Wildlife Reserve





# Natural Protected Areas

## Descriptions



1

### NPA CULEBRITA LIGHTHOUSE

4.37 acres  
Dry forest  
Dry scrub



6

### NPA FINCA SHAPIRO

4.86 acres  
Subtropical moist forest



2

### NWR CERRO EL BUEY

799.82 acres  
Mangrove  
Sandy coast  
Rocky coast  
Savanna  
Subtropical dry forest  
Marine grass prairie



7

### NR HUMACAO PTEROCARPUS FOREST

766.48 acres  
Freshwater swamp  
Lagoons  
Mangrove



3

### NPA MEDIO MUNDO Y DAGUAO

3,328.01 acres  
Subtropical dry forest  
Freshwater swamp  
Coral reef  
Mangrove  
Sandy coast  
Marine grass prairie



8

### NPA LA PITAHAYA

108.25 acres  
Forest  
Creek  
Grasslands and pastures



9

### FINCA COLÓN (FOREST SERVICE)

9.71 acres  
Forest  
Creek



4

### LAS CABEZAS DE SAN JUAN

431.77 acres  
Subtropical dry forest  
Bioluminescent bay  
Mangrove  
Sandy coast  
Marine grass prairie



10

### FINCA EL VERDE (FOREST SERVICE)

31.87 acres  
Subtropical forest



5

### CE FINCA GULÍN

24.42 acres  
Forest  
Creek



11

### CE PALMAS DEL MAR

164.8 acres  
Forest  
Wetland  
Creek

**12**



**NP INÉS MARÍA MENDOZA  
(PUNTA YEGUAS)**

281.37 acres  
Subtropical moist forest  
Sandy coast

**18**



**NPA JORGE SOTOMAYOR  
DEL TORO**

61.81 acres  
Subtropical moist forest  
Creeks  
Falls  
Sierra palm forest

**13**



**NPA SIERRA LA PANDURA**

173.99 acres  
Guajonales (rock formation)  
Creeks  
Subtropical moist forest

**19**



**NPA RÍO GUAYNABO**

25.25 acres  
Creeks  
Subtropical moist forest

**14**



**NPA LUZ MARTÍNEZ  
DE BENÍTEZ**

131.07 acres  
Moist forest  
Moist grasslands and pastures

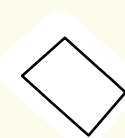
**20**



**NPA HACIENDA LAGO**

52.72 acres  
Forest  
Moist scrub and stand  
Moist grasslands and pastures

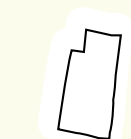
**15**



**FINCA LOS FRAILES**

679.55 acres  
Mangrove  
Salt flat  
Wetland

**21**



**CASA RAMÓN  
POWER Y GIRALT**

0.12 acres  
Central offices

**16**



**RÍO PIEDRAS AQUEDUCT  
(SAN JUAN WATERWORKS)**

12.62 acres  
River  
Subtropical moist forest

**22**



**NPA CULEBRAS**

33.99 acres  
Forest  
Creek

**17**



**NPA ULPIANO CASAL**

318.49 acres  
Moist grasslands and pastures  
Subtropical moist forest

**23**



**NPA LA ROBLEDA**

255.12 acres  
Moist grasslands and pastures  
Subtropical moist forest



24

### **NPA RÍO BAIROA**

584.43 acres  
Subtropical moist forest  
Moist scrub and stand  
Moist grasslands and pastures



25

### **NPA LAS LUNAS**

18.75 acres  
Wet woodland and shrubland  
Moist grassland



26

### **NPA HERMANAS SENDRA**

13.23 acres  
Volcanic moist forest



27

### **NPA SAN JUAN PARK**

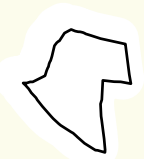
26.21 acres  
Subtropical moist forest  
Moist grasslands and pastures



28

### **CE EL RABANAL**

15.66 acres  
Subtropical moist forest  
River



29

### **CE CENTRO ESPÍRITU SANTO**

5.29 acres  
Forest  
Creek



30

### **NPA CAÑÓN SAN CRISTÓBAL**

1,730.35 acres  
Subtropical moist forest  
Farallon  
River



31

### **NPA MARÍN ALTO**

124.20 acres  
Forest  
Agriculture areas  
Grasslands and pastures



32

### **NPA PUNTA POZUELO**

124.55 acres  
Dry forest  
Dry scrub and stand  
Salt wetland  
Dry grasslands and pastures



33

### **NPA JÁCOME**

658.10 acres  
Forest  
Moist grasslands and pastures



34

### **CE SIEMBRA TRES VIDAS**

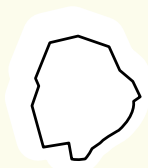
9.71 acres  
Subtropical moist forest  
Moist grasslands and pastures



35

### **SE MONTES OSCUROS**

7,279.92 acres  
Volcanic mountains  
Coastal flat plains



**36**

**NPA LOS LLANOS**

116.72 acres  
Dry forest  
Dry grasslands and pastures



**37**

**NPA OJO DE AGUA**

1,386.91 acres  
Dry forest  
Dry stand  
Dry grasslands and pastures



**38**

**NPA TOA VACA**

291.462  
Subtropical moist forest  
Moist grasslands and pastures



**39**

**NPA PUNTA CABUYONES**

531 acres  
Dry grasslands and pastures  
Lowland dry aluvial woody vegetation  
Mangrove  
Salt and mudflats  
Sand and gravel coast



**40**

**NPA HACIENDA  
BUENA VISTA**

79.41 acres  
Subtropical moist forest  
River



**41**

**NPA EL CONVENTO**

862.81 acres  
Cave system  
Limestone formations  
Canyon  
Subtropical dry forest  
Rivers  
Creeks



**42**

**NPA CERRO LA TUNA**

167.01 acres  
Dry forest  
Dry scrub and stand  
Grasslands and pastures



**43**

**CE PUNTA BALLENAS  
NATURAL RESERVE**

162.89 acres  
Subtropical dry forest  
Sandy coast  
Mangrove  
Lagoons  
Coastal shrubland



**44**

**LA PARGUERA  
NATURAL RESERVE**

1554.84 acres  
Coral reefs  
Bioluminescent bay  
Subtropical dry forest  
Rocky coast  
Mangrove  
Salt flat

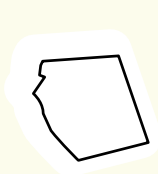


**45**

**CE FINCA MARÍA LUISA**

755.40 acres  
Forest  
Dry grasslands and pastures





46

### **NPA EL CONUCO**

37.41 acres  
Dry grasslands and pastures  
Lowland dry woody vegetation



51

### **NPA RÍO TORO NEGRO**

143.71 acres  
Forest  
Creek  
Agriculture areas  
Moist grasslands and pastures



47

### **NR PUNTA GUANIQUILLA**

473.10 acres  
Subtropical dry forest  
Mangrove  
Limestone formations  
Lagoons  
Inlet  
Coastal shrubland



52

### **CE FINCA LESDEMA MOULIER**

33.94 acres  
Forest  
Moist grasslands and pastures  
Agriculture areas



48

### **NPA DORADO PTEROCARPUS FOREST**

30.08 acres  
Freshwater swamps  
Mangrove



53

### **NR HACIENDA LA ESPERANZA**

2,137.43 acres  
Freshwater swamp  
Lagoons  
Mangrove  
River  
Estuary  
Salt flat  
Caño



49

### **CE FINCA EL TAMBOR**

217.16 acres  
Creek  
Subtropical moist forest



54

### **NPA RÍO ENCANTADO**

2,211.03 acres  
Limestone formations  
Cave system  
Underground river



50

### **NPA RÍO SANA MUERTO**

107.74 acres  
Forest  
Creek  
Moist grasslands and pastures



55

### **CE FOREMAN**

41.02 acres  
Subtropical moist forest  
River



**56**

**NPA RÍO MARICAO**

141.46 acres  
River  
Subtropical wet forest



**57**

**NPA CERRO LAS MESAS**

10.04 acres  
Subtropical moist forest

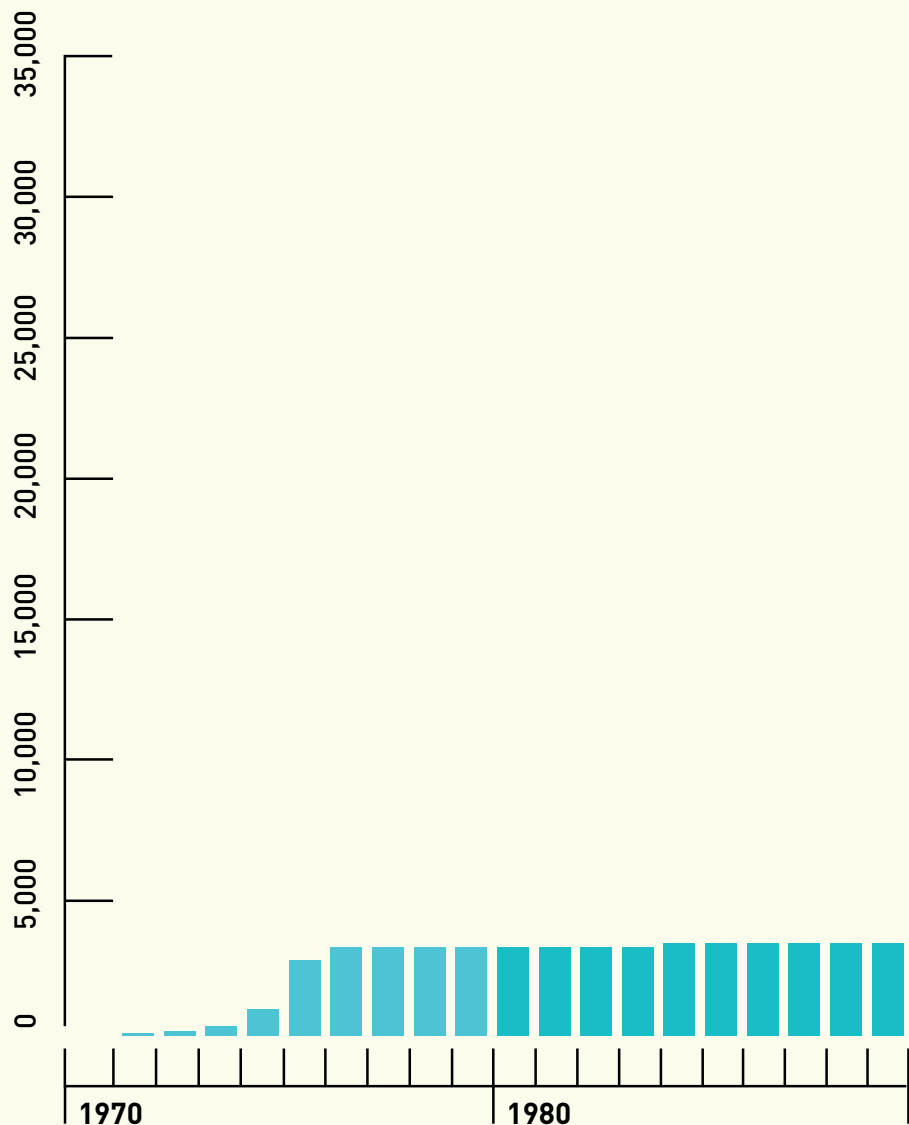


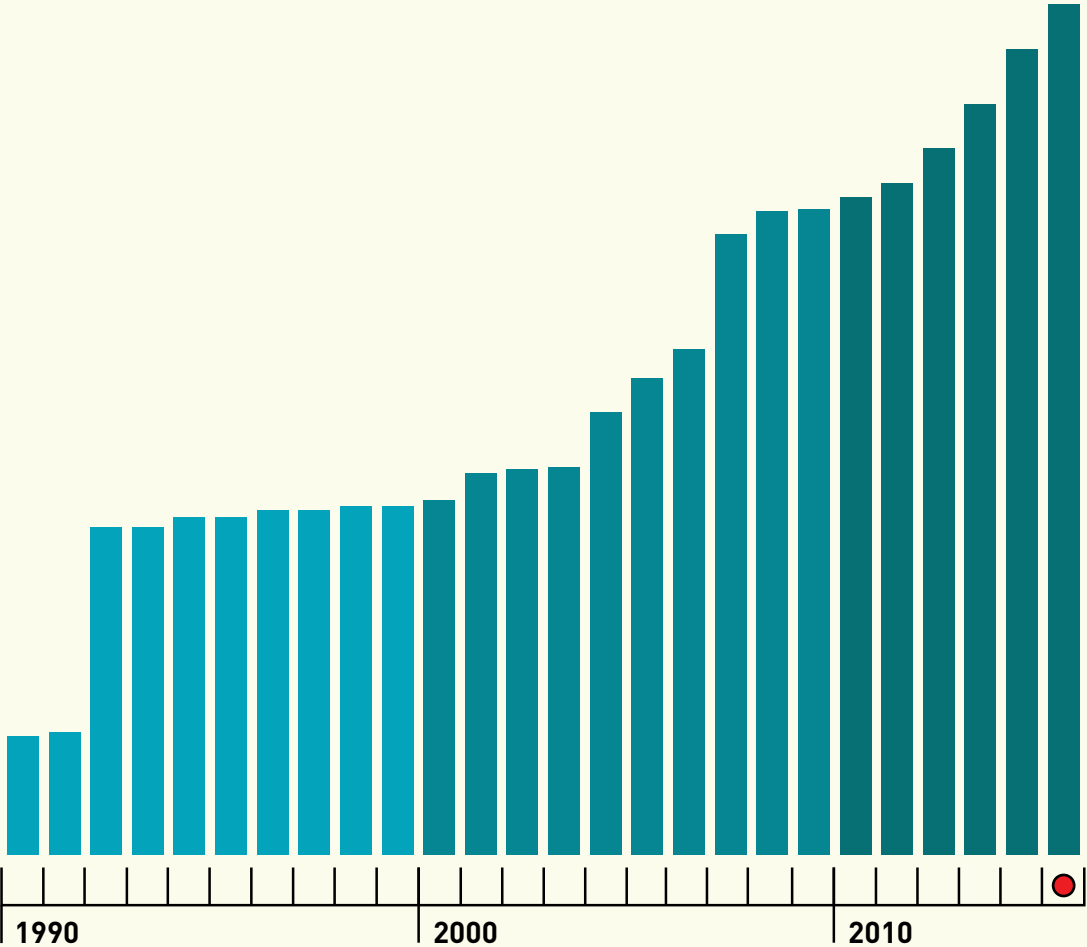
**58**

**NPA CORDILLERA  
SABANA ALTA**

47.18 acres  
Forest  
Scrub and stand  
Salt wetland  
Moist grasslands and pastures

# Natural Protected Areas (in acres)









Jájome Natural  
Protected Area, Cayey



**EVENTS THAT  
GIVE HOPE**





**Las Lunas Natural  
Protected Area, Caguas**





## The Puerto Rico Land Use Plan: Leveling the playing field for conservation

For over a decade, Para la Naturaleza has supported the establishment of a land use plan for Puerto Rico, working closely with the Puerto Rico Planning Board to secure areas of high ecological value and create a sustainable vision for our islands.

On November 19, 2015, with Las Lunas Natural Protected Area as the setting, the governor of Puerto Rico signed the Puerto Rico Land Use Plan into law, ushering in a new era of responsible and intelligent land use. Municipalities have two years to amend their land use plans to comply with the new, islandwide plan. Para la Naturaleza will continue its work actively educating and empowering citizens on the importance of implementing the Plan's principles and provisions.

### Fast Facts:

- In addition to the island's natural protected areas, the land use plan safeguards an additional 16% of our territory now classified as rural lands especially protected for their ecological, hydrological or landscape values.
- An additional 28% is especially protected for agricultural uses.





Río Piedras Aqueduct,  
Río Piedras

## Río Piedras Aqueduct: Once Again Safe

Our efforts to protect the magnificent Río Piedras Aqueduct and the Piedras River's last remaining natural meander started to bear fruit in June 2015, when the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announced that they would redesign the Piedras river flood control project in order to avoid impacts to the aqueduct and surrounding historical site. This critically important decision came after several years of advocacy work in favor of the Aqueduct, which most recently resulted in its designation as a National Treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP). More than 1,000 citizens from Puerto Rico and abroad signed an online petition requesting the USACE to revise their proposal, sending a strong and clear message about the importance of preserving this unique landmark. The resolution of this issue clears the path for Para la Naturaleza to focus on the next stages of this project, which so perfectly merges our organization's historic preservation and ecosystem restoration mission.

### Fast Facts:

- The Antiguo Acueducto del río Piedras (Río Piedras Aqueduct) is the only known Spanish-period aqueduct in existence in all of the United States and its territories.
- The original design, inspired by the most modern aqueducts of its time, was proposed by Engineer Juan Manuel Lomber in 1847.
- It was built around the time of the Spanish-American War. An important expansion was completed years later, between 1917 and 1918.
- The Department of the Interior's National Park Service included the site in the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.
- The Aqueduct has an unparalleled natural location, nestled in the heart of the Río Piedras Botanical Garden, and adjacent to the Piedras river's last remaining natural meander—originally 26 in total—and its associated ecosystem.
- Para la Naturaleza manages nine acres within this historic site, which host a small weir that supplied water from the Piedras River; a valve room; six sedimentation and filtration tanks; an engine room with its carbon deposit; and an employee house.
- Para la Naturaleza intends to restore the site's facilities for use as a visitor center dedicated to research, recreation, and education about the importance, benefits and management of water. The University of Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority and community-based organizations are active partners in this project.





Restored steam engine at  
Hacienda La Esperanza, Manatí

## Full steam at Hacienda La Esperanza's sugar mill

The completion of Hacienda La Esperanza's landmark 1861 sugar mill engine restoration project, after years of meticulous work, became the latest accomplishment in recovering the living history of Puerto Rico. An Open House event to share this accomplishment was held in November 2015 and brought in over 6,000 visitors, matching this year's Feria Para la Naturaleza attendance and establishing a new record for our open houses. Visitors got a first-hand look at the restored 1861 West Point Foundry steam engine sugar mill and witnessed the historical machinery in full steam operation for the first time since the 1880's. The restoration project began in 2002 and involved expert mechanical engineers from Puerto Rico and abroad, including Professor Cecil O. Huey Jr. from Clemson University and representatives from the London Water and Steam Museum. Their valuable work was essential to the entire process, from studying old drawings and building replacement parts, to developing a management protocol for the steam mill and training Para la Naturaleza's operators.

### Fast Facts:

- The decorated steam engine was manufactured in 1861 and is the only West Point Foundry beam engine known to survive in the world.
- The last known date that cane was processed at the Hacienda was around 1887 so it likely sat unused for 128 years.
- The Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico acquired Hacienda La Esperanza in 1975, and the following year representatives of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) visited the Hacienda to record and document the site.
- In 1979 the engine was officially designated a Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).
- Following acquisition by the Conservation Trust, the engine and mill were dismantled and sheltered from further deterioration for almost 20 years.
- The machinery was remarkably complete for an abandoned engine of its age when restoration finally initiated in 2002.
- In 2010 the sugar mill was partially inaugurated powered by a provisional hydraulic engine.
- In 2015 all restoration work was completed and the engine and mill began operating on 100% steam power for the first time since the 1800s.





**El Convento Natural**  
Protected Area, Guayanilla

## Cueva Vientos: Art and nature with Puerto Rican light

In September 2015, Para la Naturaleza entered exciting and uncharted territory with the opening of Puerto Rican Light (Cueva Vientos), a site-specific installation created by renowned Puerto Rico based artists Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla, located at El Convento Natural Protected Area. Bringing a work of art inside a remote limestone cave in Southwestern Puerto Rico has been an immensely rewarding challenge.

The project, presented in collaboration with the Dia Art Foundation, is attracting art enthusiasts from around the world, eager to transcend traditional museum and art gallery settings. Visitors to Puerto Rican Light enjoy a complete immersion in nature, as they hike the trail towards the cave set in the karst zone between Guayanilla and Peñuelas. The installation, which will be available for viewing through 2017, represents an important step in Para la Naturaleza's interest to expand the role of art, history and culture as vehicles to enhance our respect, appreciation and knowledge of nature. This is the first time Para La Naturaleza lends a natural protected area for a site-specific art installation, and Dia's first long-term installation commissioned outside the United States in 33 years.

### Fast Facts:

- Puerto Rican Light (Cueva Vientos) is a reinterpretation of Dan Flavin's 50-year old work Puerto Rican Light (To Jeanie Blake).
- The original 1965 work by Dan Flavin, Puerto Rican Light (to Jeanie Blake) was powered by an electric charged battery.
- Allora and Calzadilla's reinterpretation uses solar powered batteries.
- The name Puerto Rican Light was inspired by a comment made by a friend of Flavin's who praised the work's color by saying it reminded her of Puerto Rican lights.
- Project costs are covered with a \$100,000 biannual contribution from Dia Art Foundation.



Cullebrita Lighthouse,  
Cullebrita





## Recovering Puerto Rico's eastern frontier: the Culebrita Lighthouse

January 26, 2015 will be forever remembered as an important date for Culebra and for Para la Naturaleza. After decades trying to rescue the Culebrita Lighthouse from its advanced state of decay, local government officials and community groups gave their beloved gem a second chance to shine, with the transfer of the Lighthouse and surrounding areas to Para la Naturaleza. Under the usufruct agreement entered between the municipality of Culebra and Para la Naturaleza, the municipality will retain ownership of the site, while Para la Naturaleza will assume leadership of the restoration process and the protection of the area's vast biodiversity. Partnering with local community groups like the Fundación Culebra we intend to turn the restored Lighthouse into a center for scientific research, education, and community outreach focused on citizen science activities. The task at hand is huge and the logistics of working in a remote island location will add more complexity to the project. However, the Culebrita Lighthouse is a true diamond in the rough well worth our every effort.

### Fast Facts:

- It is the only Spanish era building remaining in Culebra, located in the small uninhabited island of Culebrita, a nature reserve east of the island municipality of Culebra known for its scenic beauty and ecological value.
- It was built by the Spanish Government in 1882 in a site at the highest point of Culebra's archipelago, in order to increase protection against British and Danish troops.
- Because of its remote location, accessible only by boat, its construction was extremely expensive and difficult. The transport of labor, materials, food and water to the area was and continues to be a challenge.
- Its "E" shape architectural design has peculiar features that distinguish it from other lighthouses in the Caribbean.
- Construction materials were imported from the United States and Europe and included luxurious elements such as Italian marble floors and a dome made of bronze that is today missing.
- After the 1898 Spanish American War, the United States took over the Lighthouse and the U.S. Navy used it as an observation post until 1975.
- In 1981 it was officially registered in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.
- In 2003, the Municipality of Culebra assumed jurisdiction of the Lighthouse and surrounding areas.



Quebrada Batista at  
Río Encantado Natural  
Protected Area, Ciales



A photograph of a stream with a large log in the foreground and dense green foliage in the background. The text "PEOPLE TAKING CONSERVATION IN THEIR HANDS" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font at the bottom right.

**PEOPLE TAKING  
CONSERVATION  
IN THEIR HANDS**





## **Idabel Torres**

### **Volunteer and Founder Marueño Community Garden, Ponce**

Three years ago Idabel Torres, a resident of the Jaguas sector in the Ponce borough of Marueño, volunteered in a cleanup event of the nearby Pastillo River. The experience inspired her to become a regular volunteer at Hacienda Buena Vista, and as her relationship with Para la Naturaleza deepened, Idabel wondered if we would be willing to help her establish a community orchard in her neighborhood. Her interest quickly turned into action and the Marueño Community Garden became a reality after an initial Vegetable Garden Workshop was offered for 17 area residents.

Originally comprised of six terraces, the space currently boasts over 10 terraces planted with peppers, eggplants and other vegetables that are tended by area volunteers. As the garden has blossomed, so has the community's relationship with our Hacienda Buena Vista team. Para la Naturaleza has continued to offer technical assistance and materials for the garden's upkeep and many Marueño residents have joined our volunteer events donating time in clean ups, bird counts, open houses and at Hacienda Buena Vista's medicinal garden. They have become stewards of the Marueño Natural Protected Area, helping us to keep it garbage free and have assisted us in our educational outreach efforts at the local elementary school. Moreover, they have shared their orchard knowledge with our summer immersion program participants, and even participated in this year's Feria Para la Naturaleza, selling their garden's production to raise funds for its maintenance.

Idabel's dream has evolved into a true partnership marked by the values of collaboration, community building and respect for nature. Marueño residents are proud of their garden and now see their surroundings in a completely new light. As Idabel herself has said: "I have lived in the countryside all my life but I had never had an experience like this...The passion I feel, when planting a seed and then watching it grow...That is the most beautiful thing to watch."







## **Kimberly Meléndez Rodríguez**

**Community citizen project co-creator**

**Citizen Science Project: Exploring Life at the  
Río Grande de Manatí River Basin**

**Birds investigation**

Kimberly Meléndez Rodríguez seems like a typical 14 year old, but her knowledge about birds and their habitats may render most adults speechless. A home schooler living in Corozal, her parents Mary Rodríguez and Danny Meléndez are always looking for real life experiences to enrich her education. That was how, two years ago they enrolled her in a West Indian Whistling-Duck (Chiriría) Workshop at Hacienda La Esperanza Nature Reserve. That workshop led to many others and finally gave way to a newfound passion that has deeply transformed her and her family.

At present, Kimberly is part of a group of community volunteers collaborating with expert scientists in Para la Naturaleza's citizen science project, "Exploring Life at the Río Grande de Manatí River Basin". This multi-year program funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) hosts five different scientific investigations, each focusing on a particular aspect of the biodiversity found along the river basin. Working hand in hand with José Salguero Faría, Kimberly has developed her own research investigation to document and count the diverse bird species present in the Monte Choca State Forest located near her home.

With the support of her parents, who have also become citizen scientists, Kimberly dedicates a minimum of 2 days a week to this task. In the process she has learned to differentiate each species, recognizing their particular hums and sounds, and analyzing their diverse reactions and behaviors.





## Héctor Rivera Claudio

**Community citizen project co-creator**

**Citizen Science Project: Exploring Life at the Río Grande de Manatí River Basin**

**Archaeology investigation**

From our first tours to the beginnings of our volunteer offerings and the launching of the Para la Naturaleza brand, Héctor has lived through many of our institutional stages. And in the same way that we have grown, so has his commitment to conservation. A member of the AMIGOS Para la Naturaleza program since the early 90's, for more than 20 years he has actively participated in all of our programming, most recently as a citizen scientist.

There is no Para la Naturaleza tour that he has missed, nor a single Natural Protected Area that he has not visited. But for this retired accountant, swimming teacher and amateur photographer, it has been through volunteering that he has found a unique space to nurture new interests. Since 2010, Héctor has collaborated in diverse citizen science volunteer initiatives including bird counts, coastal and river water monitoring and bats research. During the past year, he has become a key member of the archaeology team headed by Dr. Isabel Rivera Collazo, studying how human life patterns, from pre-columbian times to the present, have impacted the Río Grande de Manatí and Río Encantado river basins. This research is one of 5 investigations funded by the National Science Foundation under the "Exploring Life at the Río Grande de Manatí River Basin" project.

This summer, Héctor took part in the American Society of Archaeology's national convention in California, where he talked about his experiences in this project to which he has dedicated about six hours a week and in which he conducted both field work and data analysis. "Archaeology is a fascinating field but it is important that the work is done properly in order to minimize its impact on nature. Knowing that I am working with artifacts that were at one point used by our indigenous people is something that moves and inspires me," he explained.





Medio Mundo y Dagua  
Natural Protected Area, Ceiba



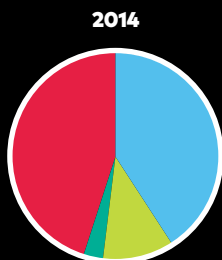


# FINANCIALS





## Sources of funds



### LAND DONATIONS AND EASEMENTS

2014	2015		
9,999	13,178	32%	↑

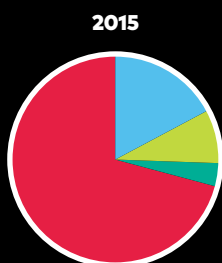
\* \$ IN THOUSANDS



### DONATIONS, GRANTS AND OTHER INCOME

2014	2015		
2,396	1,519	-37%	↓

\* \$ IN THOUSANDS



### INVESTMENT INCOME

2014	2015		
9,248	-3,247	-135%	↓

\* \$ IN THOUSANDS



### OTHER INCOME

2014	2015		
614	699	14%	↑

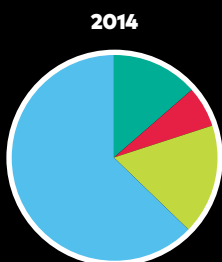
\* \$ IN THOUSANDS

### TOTAL

2014: \$22,257

2015: \$12,149

## Uses of funds



### DEVELOPMENT

2014	2015		
1,217	1,634	34%	↑

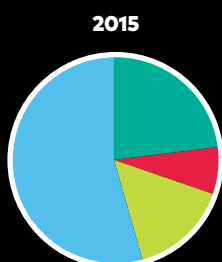
\* \$ IN THOUSANDS



### MANAGEMENT & SUPPORT

2014	2015		
3,315	3,461	4%	↑

\* \$ IN THOUSANDS



### PROGRAM SERVICES

2014	2015		
12,118	12,401	2%	↑

\* \$ IN THOUSANDS



### CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

2014	2015		
2,579	5,199	102%	↑

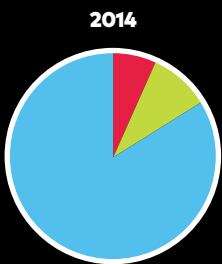
\* \$ IN THOUSANDS

### TOTAL

2014: \$19,229

2015: \$22,695

# Capital investments



## LAND ACQUISITION

2014	2015		
246	2,057	736%	↑

\* \$ IN THOUSANDS



## FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

2014	2015		
169	170	1%	↑

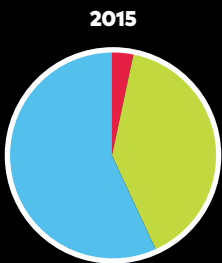
\* \$ IN THOUSANDS



## SITE DEVELOPMENT & IMPROVEMENTS

2014	2015		
2,164	2,972	37%	↑

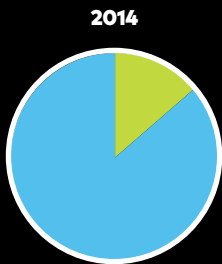
\* \$ IN THOUSANDS



## TOTAL

2014: \$2,579  
2015: \$5,199

# Total uses of funds



## CAPITAL

2014	2015		
2,579	5,199	102%	↑

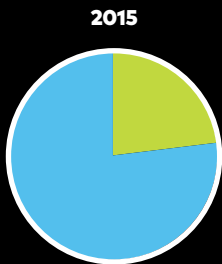
\* \$ IN THOUSANDS



## OPERATING

2014	2015		
16,650	17,496	5%	↑

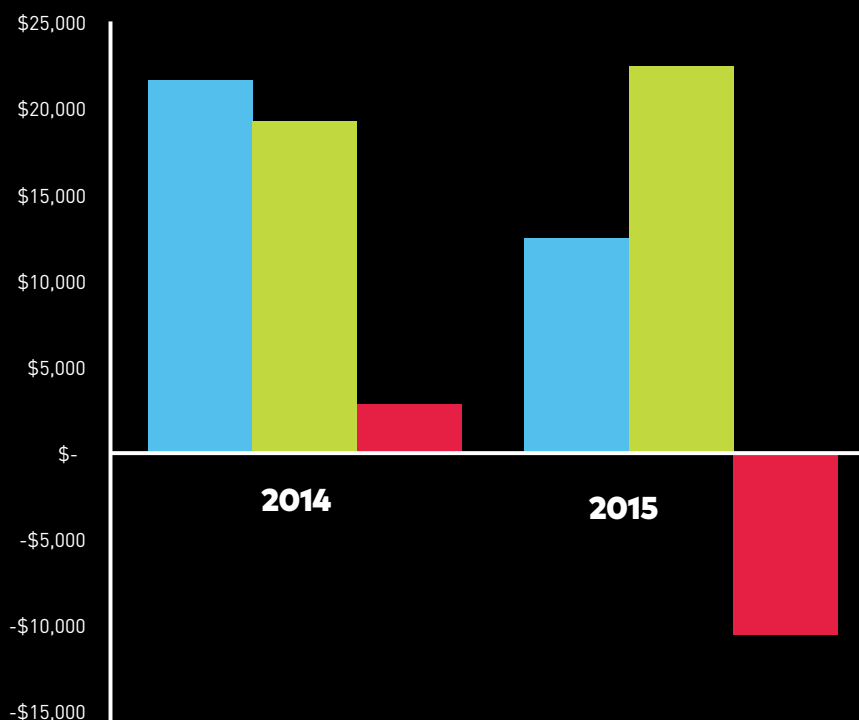
\* \$ IN THOUSANDS



## TOTAL

2014: \$19,229  
2015: \$22,695

## Allocation of revenue



### REVENUES

2014	2015		
22,257	12,149	-45%	↓

\* \$ IN THOUSANDS



### USAGE OF FUNDS

2014	2015		
19,229	22,695	18%	↑

\* \$ IN THOUSANDS



### EXCESS FUNDS

2014	2015		
3,028	-10,546	-448%	↓

\* \$ IN THOUSANDS





Hacienda La Esperanza  
Nature Reserve, Manatí



**OUR FRIENDS  
AND SUPPORTERS**



## \$1,000 — \$5,000

Andrew Light & Juliet Eilperin  
Andrew Janszky & Patricia Ferrari  
Ángel Colón  
Aon/Hewitt  
Assurant Solutions  
Casillas, Santiago & Torres, LLC  
Destilería Serrallés, Inc.  
Douglas W. Domenech  
Fiddler, González & Rodríguez, P.S.C.  
Francisco J. Brugueras & Marie Shaub  
Francisco Xavier González Calderón  
Fresh  
Fundación Plaza Las Américas, Inc.  
Fusionworks, Inc.  
Gregory Kaufman & Ellen Seidman  
Herrans Group  
Iván Alonso Costa  
John Perell  
M Salomé Galib & Duane McLaughlin  
Magic  
Marcos Rodríguez  
Marie Salerno  
Marsh Saldaña  
Mary McFadden & Lawrence Stifler  
Pan Pepín  
People's Advantage, Inc.  
Periódico Presencia  
Popular Auto  
Semana Caguas  
Tech Pal  
Werner Segarra





## **\$5,000 — \$10,000**

Axiomática, Inc.  
César Montilla  
County Square, LLC dba Pikayo  
Estereotempo  
Ford Motor Company  
KQ 105  
Latino Footprint  
Merrill Lynch  
MillerCoors  
National Geographic Foundation  
NYPROCOA, Inc.  
The Dorothea L. Leonhardt Foundation  
Total Petroleum P.R. Corp.  
Walmart



## **\$10,000 – \$75,000**

ADP, LLC  
Eduardo Soria Rivera  
Fundación Ángel Ramos  
Fundación Banco Popular  
Microsoft  
Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, LLC

## **\$75,000 – \$200,000**

Geographic Mapping Technologies  
GFR Media LLC  
Joaquín B. Viso & Olga Lizardi  
Liberty Cablevision  
Salesforce Foundation





Hacienda La Esperanza  
Nature Reserve, Manatí





**OUR  
LEADERSHIP**



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Para la Naturaleza is a nonprofit organization that integrates society into the conservation of its natural ecosystems. Its goal is to ensure the percentage of protected lands in Puerto Rico is 33% by the year 2033. Para la Naturaleza provides each person and each community with transformative experiences in nature that inspire and motivate concrete actions in favor of its protection, such as doing volunteer work, donating money and land, or establishing conservation easements. The organization leads educational programming, volunteer events in citizen science or natural area management and fundraising initiatives. Para la Naturaleza also manages visitor centers and natural protected areas throughout Puerto Rico, including Hacienda Buena Vista in Ponce, Hacienda La Esperanza in Manatí and Cabezas de San Juan in Fajardo, among others.

**Visit:**

[www.paralanaturaleza.org](http://www.paralanaturaleza.org)

**Write:**

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