

A black and white photograph of a dense forest. A large, light-colored tree trunk with peeling bark is the central focus, extending from the bottom left towards the top. The background is filled with other trees and a thick canopy of leaves, creating a complex pattern of light and shadow.

# **FIVE DECADES**

**Conserving  
the future**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

**para la  
Naturaleza**





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Hacienda La Esperanza  
Manatí, Puerto Rico

The adversities faced during 2020 challenged us all in unprecedented forms, resulting in experiences and lessons that have altered fundamental premises of our development model. The worldwide impact of the Covid-19 pandemic caused a hindrance to everyday life unveiling the results of our questionable planetary decisions.

Overcoming these hardships has been an individual and collective process of learning, growth, and projections of what the future may hold if we don't react and respond.

It is with paramount appreciation that I acknowledge the strength of Para la Naturaleza's admirable workforce and extended family, particularly during the present year's afflictions.

This year also marks a momentous achievement, being it the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust's Five Decades Anniversary. Notwithstanding the celebratory year's plans' setbacks, we recognize the achievements and conservation breakthroughs attained. The gigantic list of achievements (of which a list of 50 is incorporated in this annual report) were the result of amazing ingenuity and hard work of a very passionate team. To each one of our employees, collaborators and supporters that have accompanied us through the last half century my most profound thanks. Yet we need to recognize there is still a lot of work to be done. Thus our call once again to the perseverance, sustainability, fortitude, passion and utter devotion and commitment to all who share the urgency of wellbeing for our communities and ecosystems as we face the next fifty years.

It is through nature's collaborative imperative that we have overcome obstacles, and it is through the recovery of an ecological culture that we can regain our path forward.

The past Five Decades exemplify major accomplishments in land conservation and protection, as well as preservation of cultural heritage. We aim that in the next five decades all communities in Puerto Rico embrace a culture of collaboration and respect with our own natural peers and habitats.

The present change of paradigm, regardless of the drawbacks unveiled, bestows the opportunity to regain strength - out of exhaustion - and embed nature's values and principles as integral part of our existence.

Fernando Lloveras San Miguel  
President



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Commemorating 50 anniversary  
Hacienda La Esperanza

## Taking on the Challenge Remote Professional Development Program

If 2020 taught us something is that adaptability is our best tool going forward. With safety protocols and quarantine periods in place, our employees spent the first few months of the year mostly working remotely. Para la Naturaleza adopted new professional development strategies so all employees were able to remain current within their respective areas, tasks and trainings.

During March, Para la Naturaleza's Virtual Library was developed within the organization's Portal. This Virtual Library encompasses over 150 educational resources, including: online seminars, instructional videos, informative and reading material, access to other websites with free online resources, among others. It is divided into 28 categories with relevant topics for each working group, such as: Agroecology, Science, Conservation, Environmental Interpretation, Leadership, OSHA, Chainsaw Management, Eco-friendly Practices, Customer Service, Technology, Volunteers, among others. Also included is an important "Compliance" category where updated information on Para la Naturaleza's policies and protocols related to Covid-19 can be found.

With the constant legislation changes related to the pandemic, the Human Resources team actively engaged in workshops and reading on topics related to the management of labor issues and Covid-19. During two days, employees had the opportunity to receive information on different topics, such as: Sahara Dust, Earthquakes, Covid-19, Emotional Management, among others. In addition, a "Conversatory" was held with the presence and participation of

Mr. Joaquín Viso, President of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Ana María García Blanco, President of the Advisory Council and our President, Atty. Fernando Lloveras with more than 90% of our employees.

Overall, the Professional Development Program, accumulating over 5,245 hours of training, impacting practically 100% of our employees, including classroom and virtual activities and the resources included in the Virtual Library.

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**225**  
training hours for issues related to Covid-19

**276**  
training hours in technology trainings  
(InterpTech 2.0)

**480**  
training hours of GIS training

**680**  
training hours in major Conferences  
(NAOC VII + PastForward)

**5,245**  
total hours of training

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*"I am grateful for how the organization has treated us. The workshops have been important tools to understand what is happening. Neida Pumarejo, Jorge Báez, and Human Resources were a positive and calming influence during the earthquakes at the beginning of the year. I am very happy to work at Para la Naturaleza."*

Jean Carlos López Rentas,  
Maintenance Assistant

## Regaining Security

### The South Region is Tested Again

There are few instances that can instill as much insecurity as the continuous movement of the firmament that supports our own existence. The southwestern part of the island was struck by an earthquake swarm, including eleven that were of magnitude 5, or greater. The largest and most damaging of this sequence was of magnitude 6.4, which occurred on January 7. Damage to homes was extensive and by January 14, more than 8,000 people were homeless and camping outdoors in various types of shelters. Despite the great insecurity of potential landslides or collapsing bridges, Para la Naturaleza reacted by supporting communities, improvised camps, and our own family of colleagues.

Just days after the 6.4 magnitude earthquake that originated in Guánica the Region's team began collaborating with other local organizations, including ISER Caribe, Centro de Apoyo Mutuo de la Montaña and Puerto Rico al Sur to assess the most pressing needs in our surrounding communities. Affected families received tarps, tents, portable showers, inflatable mattresses, sleeping bags, water tanks and filters, as well as first necessity articles.

Among the directly impacted by the events were twenty-three of our team-mates, who were included among the assistance efforts, receiving food as part of the distribution efforts

organized by our Human Resources team. Housing structures of sixteen members of our team were assessed by our long-term collaborator and esteemed member of our team, Civil Engineer Ángel Colón, who provided free inspections and safety consultations of the affected dwellings.

The second phase of our community response included making Hacienda Buena Vista available to schools in need of a safe space to engage their students, having many of these schools been considered structurally unsafe by the Department of Education. The South Region soon developed the Aulas Para la Naturaleza initiative, focused on the objective of providing educators throughout affected areas with a space to offer academic courses, including an interpretive tour of the site and its surroundings. After the seismic events, forty-eight students and four teachers from two regional schools (Escuela Emeterio Colón and Colegio Santísima Trinidad of Ponce) benefited from this initiative, which was sadly affected by the pandemic lock-downs.

With every new experience comes a new challenge, and once again—the crucial importance of natural protected areas during these moments of change is exemplified; also demonstrating our increasing capacity of adaptability and growing resilience.



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Clean up crews  
Guánica, Puerto Rico



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Earthquakes affected many families  
South Region, Puerto Rico

*“I still remember the feeling of helplessness, of pain in my chest, when I saw the first settlement of people on the side of Highway #10 on the way to Adjuntas. I will never forget the image of families with small children sleeping in their cars and cooking in a fire pit. With each aftershock and as night fell these destitute camps multiplied. As soon as we were able to get supplies these were among the first camps we supported.”*

**Mariana Rivera,**  
Superintendent-South Region

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### South Region's 2020 Affected Community Response:

**48**  
school students attended classes in Hacienda Buena Vista

**29**  
delivery missions coordinated

**68**  
communities benefited

**04**  
municipalities outreached

**1,500**  
estimated number of people that received support



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Interview with José Salguero  
an extraordinary ornithologist

## Ecotono an Extraordinary Year of Nature Stories

Amidst the overwhelming wave of pandemic content that swept across social networks and the media this year, Ecotono became a balm for those yearning to get back in touch with nature. The Ecotono podcast became a welcomed connection with nature for those missing that important relationship during the forced lockdown.

*“I always listen to Ecotono with my 11-year-old twins. Both Nairy and Alek really enjoy learning about nature and particularly our island’s nature. I am convinced that love and protection of the environment should be developed from birth. Thank you for your much needed contribution to a better world.”*

**Saturnino Figueroa Cartagena,**  
resident of Naguabo

Ecotono podcasts combine interviews, field trips and narrations, inviting the public to observe our islands’ natural world with curiosity. Among topics discussed and presented of which to learn from during the current year’s Ecotonos are: ‘What pollinators do in spring,’ ‘When migratory birds nest in Puerto Rico,’ and ‘What happens in the forests when there is drought.’ The public’s reception to the programming on social media was such that it prompted the launch of a live version of the podcast on Facebook.

This version now discusses current issues such as: citizen participation in the management of bodies of water and coral reefs, the integration of agroecological initiatives in public schools, how to enjoy nature responsibly, and more.

Episodes are available on: Spotify, Apple Podcast, Google Podcast, Breaker, Overcast, Pocket Cast, RadioPublic, and Anchor FM.

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**28**  
Ecotono radio releases  
(784 minutes of content)

**19**  
Ecotono live releases  
(774 minutes of content)

**80,200**  
Reproductions

**46,853**  
Interactions

**65**  
Total Episodes Produced

**2,063**  
Total hours of original  
educational content

**80,200**  
Times Played

**46,853**  
Individual Engagement on FaceBook

## Ecological Calendar Internationally Recognized

The Ecological Calendar was created for Para la Naturaleza's 30th Fair as a proposal to reconnect time, and our notion of it, with natural processes. A calendar is a cultural tool that represents the passage of time through a series of common and recurring events in nature.

The Ecological Calendar, developed by the Para la Naturaleza Design Team under the leadership of Anayra Santori Jorge, was a chosen finalist in the Ibero-American Design Biennial held in Madrid, Spain this past fall. The Ecological Calendar is a graphic representation of natural cycles that guide our climate and ecological processes during our calendar year, and invites us to integrate nature's cycles into our own human cycles, thus fostering the development of an ecological culture.

*"Because the calendar represents nature, the circular design moves away from the linear notion of time, representing the cyclical events of natural processes,"*

explained Ramdwin González, the graphic designer responsible for its creation.

In this way, this digitally crafted design serves as a reference for noticing changes in natural patterns and cycles, allowing us to acquire and associate these events with our human calendar, while drawing on new experiences and practical knowledge. In fact, subsequent versions of the calendar include data to facilitate the observation of migratory birds, the

monitoring of sea turtles and marine events. A digital version that would allow citizen participation and real time data is envisioned, to connect the user with new patterns and connections with nature in real time.

The impact the Ecological Calendar has in the observer is immediate. On his 93rd birthday, Mr. Noel Colón Martínez received it as a gift, and after a moment of contemplation exclaimed,

*"This is not just a pretty poster, this is a school!"*

**730**  
total moon phases

**3,308**  
nature data points evaluated

**24**  
static data points about  
precipitation and solar hours

**127**  
species of trees shrubs and native plants

**254**  
data points of florification and fructification

**2,862**  
data points about migratory birds

**54**  
species of migratory birds

**192**  
monthly bird data sets

**16**  
endemic species and nesting periods





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**Botany Workshop**  
Río Piedras Tree Nursery

## Citizen Botanists Sowing the Way

Volunteers are the back bone of any movement, and our volunteer team is no different. As a growing ecological community, Para la Naturaleza's personnel and volunteer force consists of a highly dedicated and motivated group of individuals that believe in the organization's mission, but above all -share a deep love for the Planet, Puerto Rico and their fellow humans. Notwithstanding the pandemic, local and international volunteers made themselves available to support the organization in any way they could, as soon as it was safe to do so.

During 2020, over 807 volunteers contributed over 5,000 hours to Reforestation efforts. Their support included actions in tree nurseries, seed collection, planting and forest maintenance. This momentum paved way to a newly formed and eager Citizen Botanist team, created to lead volunteer efforts as part of Para la Naturaleza's Reforestation Unit. Their training included five virtual workshops with Dr. Eugenio Santiago, where they learned the basics on Botany and Plant Ecology as part of their capacity building.

Rosa, a newly minted Citizen Botanist commented that;

*“working with the Reforestation Team has shown me a lot about gender equality. Girls can grab heavy tools and get dirty working in the soil, and planting trees -something taught in our society that girls are not supposed to do.”*

An ancient Chinese philosopher, Confucius, believed in the importance of learning from experience, and wrote;

*“I hear and I forget; I see and I remember; I do and I understand.”*

Para la Naturaleza's family and volunteer force fully understand the knowledge that derives from a direct experience, and how 'getting our hands dirty in the soil' grants us a unique acquisition of learning with long-lasting effects.

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### Community Impacts through Reforestation Efforts in 2020:

**807**  
Volunteers supported reforestation efforts

**5,000**  
Estimated hours dedicated to reforestation

**1,213**  
Total participants in reforestation activities

**05**  
Workshops with Dr. Eugenio Santiago

**04**  
New capacity videos produced

**20**  
New Citizen Botanists

## AComPAÑA: Promoting Community Empowerment

Para la Naturaleza launched a pilot project with four communities to design and implement an organization-wide participatory model for the conservation of our natural protected areas that includes our neighboring communities in our management actions. The three-year project follows the guidelines established by the Land Trust Alliance, IUCN and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We hired a consulting firm to design the project's work plan: El Enjambre, led by former Advisor Lyvia Rodríguez and Alejandro Cotté, both with vast experience working with communities.

There is no successful conservation project without community participation and involvement. Global analyses suggest that project design, particularly capacity building in local communities, is critical in generating success across all outcomes.

AComPAÑA is a project where Para la Naturaleza accompanies the community to identify a priority need and works to obtain a concrete result, promoting community empowerment through the active participation of its people, in harmony with the environment.

The selected communities to participate in this pilot program are: Cialitos (North Region), Papayo (South Region), Las Croabas (East Region), and Venezuela (Metro-Center Region); representing different areas of Puerto Rico and diverse levels of community organization.

The pandemic most definitely limited the action plan established for the year, however, important advances were made and each participant community evaluated their experience positively, and their trust in Para la Naturaleza increased.

*“What we are experiencing, although devastating for everyone, illustrates the need for this project. We have seen that the communities have grown and strengthened, despite the lack of support and resources. The communities are now most important, when the economic system we created is crumbling, for better and worse. It reinforces that this is the right way to go: conservation within the framework of the Community’s perspective. Thank you for what you are doing!”*

Fernando Lloveras,  
President



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Cialitos Resilient Center  
Ciales, Puerto Rico

### AComPAÑA's 2020 Achievements:

**51**  
Meetings between  
Para la Naturaleza  
promoters and communities

**04**  
Capacity  
workshops

**03**  
Defined  
projects

**1,364**  
Hours vested by  
Para la Naturaleza  
promoters

**2,212**  
Hours vested by  
community members



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Finca Pueblo Nuevo  
Ciales, Puerto Rico

## Agroecology Program Receives Strong Support from The Rotary Club

Under the Agroecology Program, Para la Naturaleza supported an increasing number of farmers, committed to agriculture in tune with nature, through educational workshops, micro-grants, tree donation and produce distribution to communities in need. With the support of external funds, Para la Naturaleza acquired food boxes to provide fresh and healthy food and develop vegetable gardens in vulnerable communities during the difficulties brought upon by the pandemic.

The Rotary Club's generous contributions supported over one-hundred hours of workshops with the participation of over six-hundred farmers; donating \$118 thousand among forty-seven farmers to support change and innovation, as well as providing 4,200 fruit trees free of charge to promote diversity, shade, soil recuperation, and buffer zones in their fields. The continuous commitment of The Rotary Club to this program has made this organization the leading partner of Para la Naturaleza.

In addition, in 2020 we started a series of seventeen workshops aimed at the general public covering: urban gardens, permaculture, rainwater collection and management, seed germinations, and food preservation; fostering the transition from agrochemical systems

to an ecological culture throughout our farmers and communities.

With the support of the Boston Foundation, we expanded the workshops to the south-east region where we started a technical assistance program for regional farmers, to redesign their processes and increase production sustainably. The educational effort laid the groundwork for the identification of key farmers with whom to work with during the second component of the Project, aiming this technical and economic assistance to key producers in the region.

*“Thanks to the grant we received from Para la Naturaleza and the Rotary Club, our project counts with adequate space to increase the production of food. The new space has allowed us to amplify our work, including the propagation of trees for reforestation of our farms and distribution for home gardens. The efficacy and access to these functional spaces have improved our spirits -I’m spending so much more time in the greenhouse!- and it has allowed us to keep working, even during the rainy season. We are so thankful for the support.”*

Aixa Tolentino,  
Proyecto Agroecológico Campesino, Lares

*“This help from Para la Naturaleza y and the Rotary Club has made possible for us to maintain and improve the necessary infrastructure on the farm, providing a safe space to work on our seed bank and to process the harvest, in addition to providing much needed storage space for the work equipment.”*

**Augusto Feliciano,**  
Farmer, Lares

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### **Agroecology 2020 Metrics:**

**1,170**  
boxes and over  
**24,000** pounds  
of food distributed

**03**  
communities supported:  
Las Croabas, Daguao and  
Maizales

**116**  
hours of The Rotary Club  
supported workshops

**600**  
farmers participated  
in workshops

**\$18,000**  
donated to  
**47** farmers  
supporting  
change

**4,200**  
fruit trees  
donated



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**Agroecology Project**  
Ciales, Puerto Rico



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**Self-guided trails**  
Punta Guaniquilla, Cabo Rojo

## A year of Adaptation and Solidarity

Early on, 2020, made us quickly realize this would be a year of adaptation and solidarity. In response to the challenges met, we created the Para la Naturaleza Solidarity Fund (PLNSF), an initiative that presents nature-based solutions for the challenges we face as a society.

It is undeniable that our individual health is interdependent with the health of nature. The Solidarity Fund aims to help restore the health and well-being of Puerto Rico's communities and ecosystems through reforestation, agroecology, community collaborations, historical preservation, and the creation of self-guided trails in five of our natural protected areas where people can connect with nature. Thanks to our donors, the private sector, and our alliances with other organizations and government agencies, the Para la Naturaleza Solidarity Fund produced remarkable results in a matter of months.

At its core, the Para la Naturaleza Solidarity Fund is a continuation of the mission we began in 1970. At that time, our founders understood that the way we relate to nature is directly related to our health and wellbeing. Now fifty-years later, heartened with the support of a growing ecological community that transcends the geographical boundaries of the Puerto Rican archipelago and extends across the United States, we continue forward. What has changed is the time we have left to make the changes nature requires from us.

*"All the workshops were very enriching because I learned about the importance of agriculture for our daily life and how to adapt it to my environment."*

**Liza Rodríguez,**  
resident of Canóvanas

*"I liked everything, I had many misconceptions and I learned how to do it correctly. The resources were very professional and demonstrated extensive knowledge of the topics. I congratulate you, thank you very much!"*

**Nilda García,**  
resident of San Juan

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### Solidarity Funds 2020 Metrics:

**\$956,146.00**  
Raised during its initial phase

**80,000**  
Native and endemic trees produced

**4,500**  
Participants in online agroecology workshop series for home food gardens

**1,100**  
Local organic food boxes delivered in 6 communities

**21**  
Community centers refurbished throughout the islands

**06**  
Self-guided trails in our natural protected areas where people can experience the transformative power of nature

## Ecodetours

### Making a Lasting Impact

During 2020, Ecodetour completed thirteen successful immersion in nature experiences, with a total of 169 visitors received. Ecodetour's programming response to the pandemic has successfully faced present challenges, following strict protocol for all staff and participant's safety and wellbeing.

An impactful Ecodetours was the Rotarians Club Cadre Ecodetour in January, in collaboration with our advisor Leslie Mattingly, showcasing eight agroecological farmers. Another key ecodetour occurred in February, with the Environmental Defense Fund Trustees, meeting in Casa Ramón Power y Giralt, with afternoon activities in Hacienda La Esperanza.

Our first virtual Ecodetours was conducted with the Transhemisferica group, promoting exchanges and exploring scientific and artistic perspectives with our Nordic counterparts on climate change and its impact in both regions. Another virtual experience occurred during the Advisory Council and Board of Director's Meeting in June, where Ecodetour gave a short live-tour from Las Cabezas de San Juan promontories, in Fajardo.

Another significant visit during the third trimester was in September at Las Cabezas de San Juan, where we offered a short tour of the reserve and the bioluminescent lagoon, to Admiral Brown (Special representative for Puerto Rico's Disaster Recovery) and Juan Andrés Caro (Energy Policy Advisor at White House).

Our final ecodetour of 2020 was done with representative of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). We hosted a total of twenty-five participants (some engaging remotely). Seven of these participants were representatives of Federal agencies: three from DOI (Sarah Jorgenson, Gregg Renkes, and Rob Wallace), one advisor to the White House (Juan Andrés Caro), two on behalf of USFWS (Edwin Miranda, and Susan Silander), and lastly one representative from NRCS (Luis Cruz). The immersion in nature activities included a visit to Joquin Viso's farm on the foothills of El Yunque National Forest in Naguabo, preceded by a botanical tour of the property and ending with a "Paso Fino" horse show. Also incorporated in the agenda for the following day were hiking along the Karst trail, an interpretative walk along the coast, and a reforestation activity in Hacienda La Esperanza, Manatí -where 50 pterocarpus trees were planted. The last day focused on our reforestation projects with USFWS, at Laguna Cartagena Wildlife refuge and another at El Conuco, natural protected area in Lajas; ending the experience with a tour of Hacienda Buena Vista in Ponce.

*"Fernando -In a nutshell, you host a hell of an event! Thank you for your gracious hospitality and the opportunity to tag along with Doug these past few days. I'm impressed by the talent of your staff and the caliber of your work. Kudos on all of it."*

**Rob Wallace,**  
DOI



\*  
Immersion in nature  
La Robleda, Cayey



\*  
Sandra and Elsie in action  
La Parguera, Lajas

## Forests of the Future Honoring Conservationists

In early December, a guayacan (*Guaiacum officinale*) tree forest was planted in honor of the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico's (CTPR) Five Decades of commitment, and in particular honor of the admirable professional trajectory of two highly esteemed and distinguished colleagues: Sandra Franqui and Elsie Aponte Florenciani, who have recently retired after serving in the organization for twenty-three and twenty years, respectively.

The event was held in La Parguera natural protected area in Lajas, the first protected area of the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico in the early 1970s. Para la Naturaleza presently manages around 1,600 acres of dry forest in this region. The guayacan was the selected species in representation of our honored colleagues, as it is a long lived tree with noble wood from the southern habitats of Puerto Rico, as well as a national symbol of abundant strength and tenacity.

*"In that moment we planted dreams, hopes and wishes and we could see a brighter future through that planting, not only for Puerto Rico, but the world,"*

expressed an emotive Sandra Franqui, proud to know that this future forest

is part of her legacy for upcoming generations to enjoy, as these ecosystems were under her care for over two decades.

*"Each tree reminds me of my colleagues during my years of service, my time there and the diversity of experiences lived during that time because some of the trees planted are tall, others shorter, some have flowers and some are leaning towards each other just like we did in Para la Naturaleza,"*

expressed Elsie Aponte, whose mission is to nurture and care for these trees over time with the hope of inspiring knowledge and courage.

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### Reforestation Unit's 2020 Ongoing Efforts:

**29,512**  
native and endemic  
trees planted

**11,012**  
trees donated  
to citizens

**1,896**  
trees sold

## Farm-to-Table

### Recipes for the Future

On Saturday, December 5, 2020, Para la Naturaleza celebrated the third edition of its annual benefit. In previous years, friends, collaborators, and first-time donors joined our team in Hacienda La Esperanza for an afternoon in communion with nature, hands-on workshops, and to enjoy an exquisite dinner prepared by a local top-chef. The event has grown significantly in just a few years. For us, it has become a meaningful opportunity to connect personally with those who make our work possible.

For all these reasons, we decided to re-think and move forward with the event in 2020. The result was Recipes for the Future, a digital culinary experience that raised over \$130,000 in support for agroecology,

Recipes for the Future developed into a commemorative event in honor of our Fiftieth Anniversary. A group of five world renowned chefs that included: Juan José Cuevas (1919), María Grubb (Gallo Negro), Francis Guzmán (Vianda), Gabriel Hernández (Verde Mesa) and Natalia Vallejo (Cocina al Fondo), created five enticing recipes. Each recipe showcased a special ingredient

sourced from one of five different farms within our agroecological network.

Over 200 guests participated, reserving their participation online, where they were able to select a recipe in order to receive a box with locally sourced ingredients delivered directly to their homes. Our guests were transported with the flavors of Puerto Rico through a variety of local gastronomical products. Once the digital experience began, guests engaged with each other during a live culinary session, where they were able to follow the instructions directly from their selected chef to confectionate their delicious dinners in their own kitchens.

At a time when we are forced apart by difficult circumstances, it was a true gift to feel so close to the generous individuals who have supported Para la Naturaleza over the past five decades. We are grateful to our development task force members, our Board of Trustees, corporate allies, and everyone who made the night possible. Thanks to them, Recipes for the Future served as the perfect appetizer to kick-off the next five decades of nature conservation.



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Mise-en-place  
Las Lunas, Caguas



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Time Capsule  
Ciales, Puerto Rico

## Celebrating Five Decades

The current year closes The Puerto Rico Conservation Trust's first fifty-years of committed efforts towards nature conservation and preservation of historical heritage. Though this year posed one of our greatest challenges faced yet, we were able to start it off with the celebration of our Five Decade Anniversary in Hacienda La Esperanza. On said afternoon, -unbeknownst to us that it would be the last time in 2020 we would all be (physically) together,- we shared with all our collaborators our deep gratitude, and reminisced on the great achievements that have paved way towards our present accomplishments.

The closing of this year also demarcates the beginning of the next fifty-years of conservation efforts, historic preservation and community engagement; the next Five Decades of our fast-developing ecological culture. Today, our mission becomes more relevant than ever: ensuring the increment of natural protected areas reaches 33% by 2033. We must achieve the total protection of at least 33% of our ecosystems,

providing open spaces for regenerative agriculture, and guaranteeing intelligent and sustainable land use to protect and move our society forward.

In reaffirming our commitment to nature -for the upcoming half-century-, we marked the Anniversary year's end with a different form of commemoration. On January 22, 2021, under Covid-19 restrictions and security protocols, Para la Naturaleza held a ceremony, closing the first half-century cycle by burying a Time Capsule in the heart of Puerto Rico, in which a selection of items representing our 50-year legacy were guarded, scheduled to be opened on January 22, 2070 by today's children, the future agents of ecological, social, and economic change for our islands.

*"Mami, this gives me a lot of hope, I hope to be able to visit this place in 50 years and that nature will be healthy, that the trees we planted today will be forests where children can learn."*

Itzel Z. Almánzar Bunce  
(8 years old)

## Major Achievements of the Past Five Decades

With great joy, and reflecting on hurdles overcome and goals achieved, we share with you a short list of a long-run of accomplishments alongside our teacher and constant inspiration, nature:

- 
- 1970**  
establishment Deed of Constitution of the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico as a charitable trust
  - 1972**  
La Parguera, Lajas (1,554.84 acres)
  - 1974**  
Cañón San Cristóbal, Barranquitas (1,730.35 acres)
  - 1975**  
Hacienda La Esperanza, Manatí (2,150.55 acres)
  - Las Cabezas de San Juan, Fajardo (431.77 acres)
  - 1977**  
Punta Guaniquilla, Cabo Rojo (473.10 acres)
  - 1985**  
Hacienda Buena Vista, Ponce (630.75 acres)
  - 1989**  
Árboles+Árboles
  - 1990**  
Pterocarpus Forest, Humacao (886.76 acres)
  - 1991**  
Casa Ramón Power y Giralt, Old San Juan (0.12 acres)
  - Conservation Easement Punta Ballena, Guánica (162.89 acres)
  - 1992**  
Scenic Easement Montes Oscuros, Salinas (7,279.92 acres)
  - 1993**  
first Nature Immersion Summer Camp
  - 1995**  
AMIGOS Program is established
  - 1999**  
PR government commits allocating \$0.46 per gallon of the Rum Cover-Over to PRCT
  - 2000**  
Río Encantado, Ciales (2,150.55 acres)
  - 2004**  
Cuevas El Convento, Peñuelas-Guayanilla (975.24 acres)
  - 2006**  
Antiguo Acueducto de Río Piedras, San Juan (9 acres)
  - 2007**  
Puerto Rico Shines Naturally
  - 2008**  
Medio Mundo y Dagua, Ceiba (7,279.92 acres)
  - 2009**  
Ecodetours
  - 2010**  
Las Lunas, Caguas (2,150.55 acres)  
Citizen Science Program
  - 2012**  
El Conuco, Cabo Rojo (255.88 acres)  
Puerto Rican crested toad reintroduction  
La Robleda, Cayey (255.12 acres)  
Land Trust Alliance Commission Accreditation
  - 2013**  
Para la Naturaleza, new unit launching, new branding  
Marín Alto, Patillas (225.18 acres)  
Conservation Easement María Luisa, Lajas (755.40 acres)  
Map 33
  - 2014**  
Community Conservation  
Volunteer Program  
Ojo de Agua, Juana Díaz (1,386.91 acres)  
Punta Cabullones, Ponce (531.00 acres)
  - 2015**  
Culebrita Lighthouse, Culebra (4.37 acres)  
Land Use Plan
  - 2016**  
Hacienda Pellejas, Adjuntas (1,331.96 acres)
  - 2017**  
Land Trust Alliance Reaccreditation  
Agroecology Program
  - 2018**  
Hacienda Margarita, Lares (1,399.21 acres)  
Resilient Community Centers
  - 2019**  
Aviary Reconstruction for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
After School Program  
Ecotono
  - 2020**  
Puerto Rico Conservation Trust's Five Decade Anniversary  
AComPAÑA Community Conservation Program

## Awards and Recognitions

**1979**  
National Historic Mechanical Engineering  
Landmark, Hacienda La Esperanza Sugar Mill

**1994**  
National Historic Mechanical Engineering  
Landmark, Hacienda Buena Vista Machinery

**1996**  
American Express Preservation Award,  
(Casa Ramón Power y Giralt)

**2009**  
Architecture Medal from the Puerto Rico  
Professional Association of Architects &  
Landscape Architects

**2013**  
MAPFRE Foundation's Best Environmental  
Management Prize for Puerto Rico Shines  
Naturally Program

**2016**  
Honor Award for Built Projects from the  
Puerto Rico Chapter of the American Institute

of Architects for the new additions to Hacienda  
La Esperanza's historic campus

**2017**  
American Institute of Architects, Washington,  
DC Chapter's Excellence Award in the  
Professional- Commissioned Projects category  
for the Recovery of the Piedras River Meander  
and Historic Aqueduct

One of Caribbean Business' Person of the Year  
"María's Unsung Heroes"

**2018**  
Honor Award in Research & Publications for  
Map of History Test of Time Award for the  
Visitors Pavilion at Las Cabezas de San Juan  
in Fajardo

**2019**  
Urban Design & Architecture Design Award -  
Landscape Design, Antiguo Acueducto de  
Río Piedras



\*  
Hacienda La Esperanza  
Manatí, Puerto Rico

## Public Policy Successes

**1966**  
Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall visits  
Puerto Rico to discuss the establishment of  
petrochemical refineries, highlighting the need  
for a fund devoted to conservation efforts

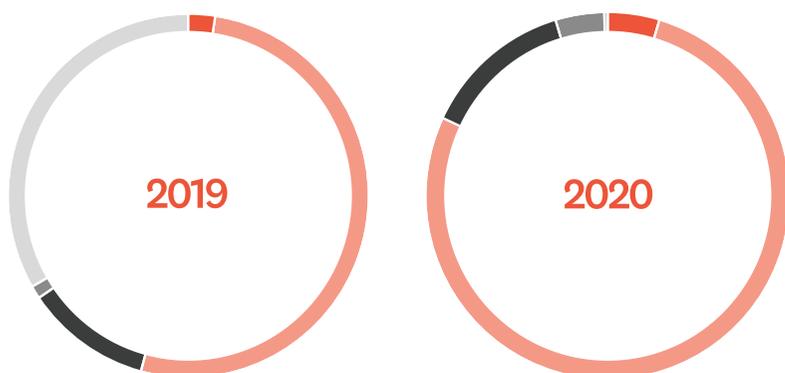
**1970**  
The Deed of Constitution establishing the  
Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico as a  
charitable trust is signed on January 23

**1981**  
The Trust begins participating in the Section  
936 qualified possession income fund

**1999**  
Rum Cover-Over Funds increased by \$2.75; PR  
government commits to allocating \$0.46 per  
gallon to PRCT

**2001**  
Conservation Easements Law of Puerto Rico is  
adopted, establishing tax benefits to advance  
land conservation through donations and  
conservation easement Land Use Plan

## SOURCES OF FUNDS



	2019	2020	%	
Income from Notes and Preferred Securities	\$ 704	\$ 908	29%	↑
Portfolio Income*	15,326	15,335	0%	↑
Donations, grants and other gifts	3,335	2,655	-20%	↓
Other income	341	858	152%	↑
Land Donations and easements	9,850	60	-99%	↓
Total	29,556	19,816	-33%	↓

\*unrestricted portfolio income  
+ authorized endowment draw

\*Selected Financial Data

## OPERATING USES OF FUNDS



	2019	2020	%	
Program Services	\$ 18,869	\$ 16,462	-13%	↓
Management & Support	4,973	4,831	-3%	↑
Development	789	709	-10%	↓
Total	\$ 24,631	\$ 22,002	-11%	↓

\*Selected Financial Data

## CAPITAL INVESTMENTS



	2019	2020	%	
■ Land Acquisition	\$ 1,771	\$ 579	-67%	↓
■ Site Development & Improvements	1,472	221	-85%	↓
■ Furniture & Equipment	774	209	-73%	↓
Total	\$ 4,017	\$ 1,009	-75%	↓

\*Selected Financial Data

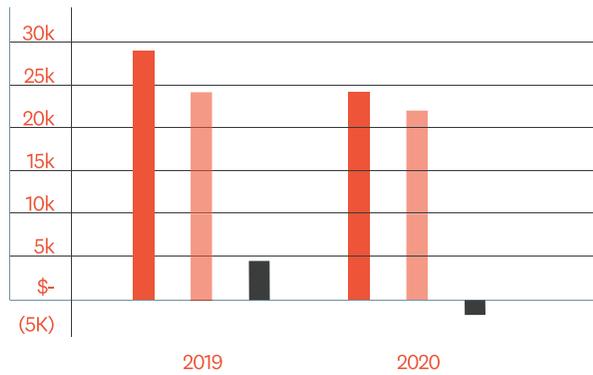
## TOTAL USES OF FUNDS



	2019	2020	%	
■ Operating	\$ 24,631	\$ 22,002	-11%	↓
■ Capital	4,017	1,009	-75%	↓
Total	\$ 28,648	\$ 23,011	-20%	↓

\*Selected Financial Data

# REVENUE LESS OPERATING EXPENSES



	2019	2020	%	
Operating Revenues	\$ 29,556	\$ 19,816	-33%	↓
Operating Expenditures	24,631	22,002	-11%	↓
Excess Funds	4,925	(2,186)	-144%	↓

\*Selected Financial Data



\*  
Puerto Rican Tody  
*Todus mexicanus*

## Friends and Supporters

### \$1,000 – \$4,999

Aida Cardona  
American Ornithological Society  
Andrew Darrell  
Andrew Light & Juliet Eilperin  
Anne Huber  
Anonymous (9 donors)  
Antonio L. Ferré Rangel  
Axel Ramírez  
Barbara N. Fuldner  
Blas Fonalledas & Diana Pérez  
Brands of Puerto Rico  
Carlos J. Sagardía Abreu &  
    Ana A. Vallejo Vélez  
Candy Bobonis Roig &  
    William Lockwood Benet  
Carrión, Lafitte & Casellas, Inc.  
Casillas, Santiago & Torres, LLC  
Cindy Ginés Sánchez  
Cindy Golbert  
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David Fong  
Dulce Caña  
EcoEléctrica, L.P.  
Eddie Echevarria Arce  
Emajyn Volunteers  
Enrique Alejandro & Jannette Silva  
    Environmental Grantmakers Association

E-Production Services  
EVERTEC  
Familia Meléndez Umpierre  
Félix Matos Rodríguez & Liliana Arabía  
Fernando Lloveras & Michy Marxuach  
Filantropía Puerto Rico  
Guillermo Cordero  
Hacienda Santa Clara  
Ileana Toledo Coira  
IPR Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
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Jeff Nicholson  
José A. Negroni Díaz  
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Lemuel J. De Jesús Varona  
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M Salomé Galib & Duane McLaughlin  
Mapfre  
Marcos A. Rodríguez  
Margarita Garriga  
Marie Martinez-Wolcott  
Mario R. Nevárez Alonso  
Mary Reid & Richard Dumler  
Matthew Erickson

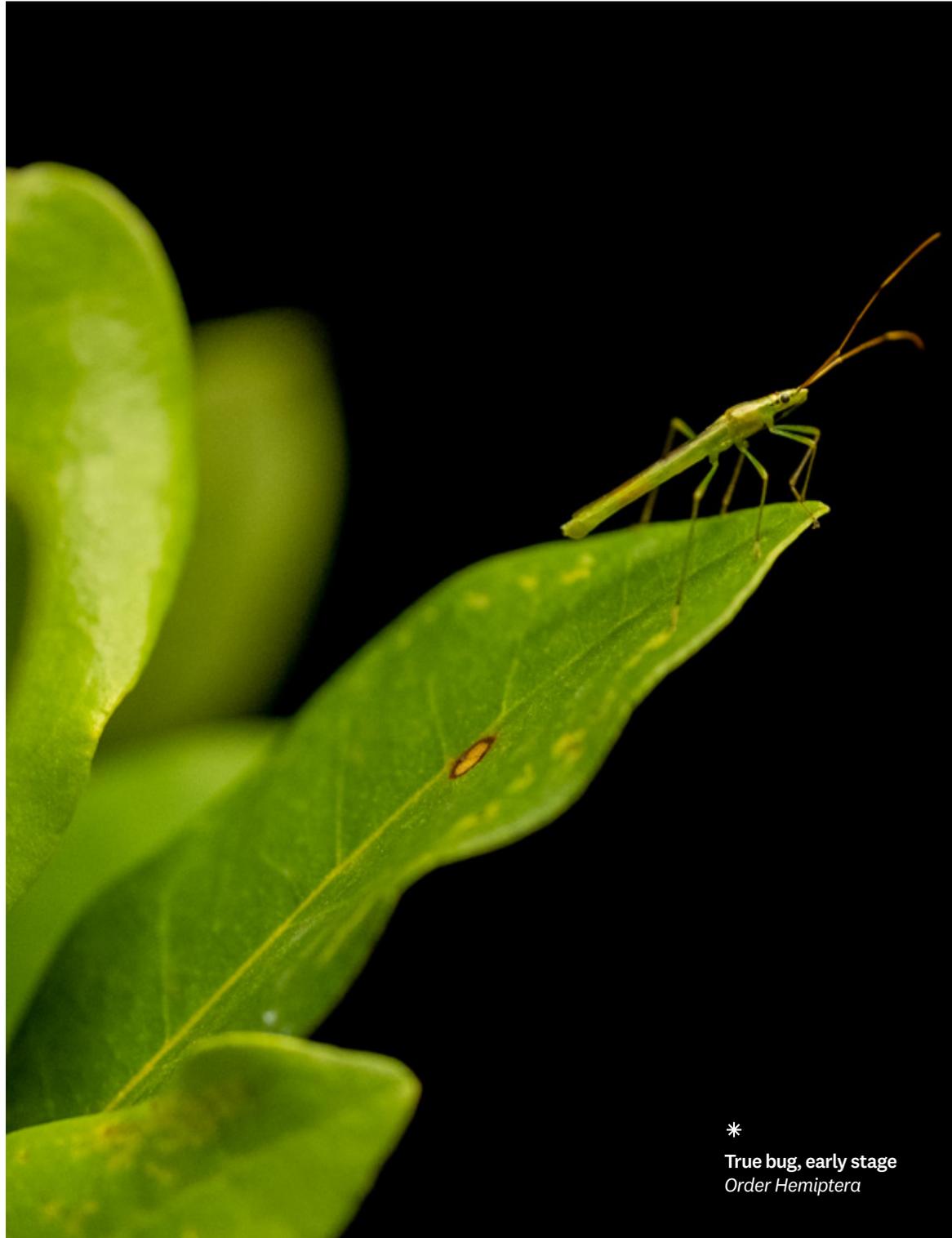
### \$5,000-\$9,999

Michael López  
Model Offset Printing  
Nicholas J. Moore  
Plaza Food Systems  
Price Waterhouse Cooper  
Puerto Rico Farm Credit  
Rebecca Marvil & Brian Smyth  
Robert Iscaro & Fernando Martínez  
Rotary Club of Santa Monica  
Salva Rincón  
Semillero Ventures, LLC  
The Clip Family  
    The Coach and Kate Spade  
    New York Foundation  
Thomson Reuters  
Tony Casellas  
Universal Insurance Company  
V. Suárez & Co., Inc.  
Vidal, Nieves & Bauzá, LLC  
Walmart  
William Berry & Lisette Núñez  
William Richardson  
Yoly Villamil-Davis & Mark Davis

Anonymous  
Casa Grande  
David H. Anderson  
Destilería Serrallés, Inc.  
Edwards Lifesciences Foundation  
Familia Crespo  
Genevieve Rosie Wiggins Antill  
Hispanics in Philanthropy  
Interlink Group  
Jason Borschow  
Judith Ruiz  
Merrill Lynch  
Olie Gray  
Ross Antill  
Surfrider Foundation  
The Herrans Group  
William Townsend-Picó

## \$10,000-\$99,999

Arizona State University  
Bank of America Foundation  
Carmen Báez  
Elizabeth & Caton Burwell  
Empowered by Light  
Fulcro Insurance, Inc.  
Fundación Colibrí  
Hispanic Federation  
INFIVA  
Kenneth R. Woodcock  
Liberty Foundation  
Oriental Bank  
Pan American Development Foundation  
Peter & Katherine Scudera  
PR Textile Recycling, LLC  
Resort Homes at Dorado Beach, S.E.  
Rotary Club of Lansing Foundation  
The Bee Cause Project  
The Dorothea L. Leonhardt Foundation  
TOTE Maritime  
U.S Forest Service  
USDA Rural Development Agency



\*

True bug, early stage  
Order Hemiptera

## \$100,000 +

Anonymous  
Arbor Day Foundation  
Center for Disaster Philanthropy  
Joaquín B. Viso & Olga Lizardi  
National Recreation Foundation  
USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
PRxPR  
Rainforest Trust  
The Boston Foundation  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
USDA Farm Service Agency



\*

**Punta Guaniquilla**  
*Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico*

# MANIFESTO

## Para la Naturaleza

*The islands of Puerto Rico, with their warm tropical climate, are endowed with a great biological diversity that is nourished by the variety of their soils —volcanic, alluvial and karst—, from aquifers to the north and south, from the trade winds that cool and oceans teeming with marine life. The people who live here are part of this wealth and adorn it with a happy and caring Caribbean culture.*

*After 50 years of protecting the most sensitive ecological areas in order to sustain biological diversity on these islands, Para la Naturaleza recognizes that the proportion of land protected —16% of its territory and 24% of its coastal and marine areas— it is not enough to stop the climatic, ecological and human deterioration that we are experiencing.*

*Nature is responding to our aggressions. The most recent extreme events —hurricanes, earthquakes and the pandemic— are clear messages that motivate us to examine the premises and transform the foundations of our economic and social systems. Only then can we find a new direction to change our destiny.*

*We believe that in the great vital web that is the natural world, the life of all beings sustains that of others. We affirm that our primary responsibility is to recognize and nurture these ties and that there should be no human development at their expense.*

*We believe in the ability of every human being to participate in a life of full coexistence, based on equity among all species, and on the well-being of ecosystems and habitats.*

*We believe in a life system that only subsists and is regenerated by the co-existence of all species, and in a system of values and rights that reflects and treasures the fundamental principles of this diversity and interdependence.*

*—*  
*We call for (at least) 33% of the ecosystems of the islands of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean to enjoy full protection, in order to enjoy open spaces for recreation and fertile lands for agroecological production.*

*We call for islands where the historical and cultural legacy are well known and respected, these are a complete record of our successes and errors, and an accurate guide to a better future.*

*We call for healthy islands capable of sustaining our wellbeing with food grown without detriment to the land and its other inhabitants, islands accessible through trails that promote recreation, sports and exercises and that allow us to enjoy their great beauty.*

*We call for our communities and our families to be the central axis of our collective well-being, becoming the source —and not the recipients— of sustainable growth, guided by equity and solidarity. This is how we achieve peace.*

*We call for an ecological culture that teaches all human beings to respect the integrity of all ecological systems and to live in balance with our biodiversity.*

*We call for a different legal-constitutional system that recognizes the inherent rights of other living beings and that establishes the foundations that guide the coexistence among all.*

*—*  
*Our current actions and daily life threaten the existence of life on the planet as we know it. This manifesto commits to a change of course. We are running out of time. We hope to achieve it.*



\*

**Common Dwarf Gecko**  
*Sphaerodactylus macrolepis*

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\*as of May 4, 2021



