



**WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION  
ASSOCIATION**

# **2022 ANNUAL REPORT**









**SEA TURTLE  
CONSERVATION**



**WATER  
QUALITY**



**BIODIVERSITY**

**CURRENT  
PROGRAMS**



**MARINE LIFE**



**EDUCATION**



**SUSTAINABLE  
TOURISM**





WCA

## WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

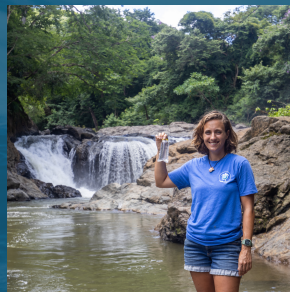
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## GOALS

- 1 Inform safe beach going year-round
- 2 Increase awareness about wastewater management
- 3 Take action to improve water quality

# 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- ✓ **LAB UPGRADE**  
Addition of Enterococcus testing parameter
- ✓ **REPORT PUBLISHED**
- ✓ **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES & EVENTS**  
Wastewater Guide  
Septic & Drainfield Guide  
3 Community Events (Broadcast)  
Newsletters & Blogs
- ✓ **MEDIA COVERAGE**  
Nosara Podcast  
La Voz de Guanacaste
- ✓ **COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS**  
Submitted 2 Grants with Ridge to Reefs  
Established Discount with Bionest  
Established Financing with Banco Nacional  
Established Partnership with Surf Simply

**48**  
WEEKS OF  
MONITORING

**286**  
SAMPLES  
ANALYZED

We collect samples weekly at 3 locations in Nosara and test for Fecal coliform and Enterococcus bacteria. Check weekly results at:



WCA



wca\_nosara



wca.nosara



SWIM  
GUIDE

A Swim Drink Fish Initiative

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



BLUE  
WATER  
TASK FORCE

[www.bwtf.surfrider.org](http://www.bwtf.surfrider.org)

# 2023 GOALS

- Continue weekly testing and ADD testing in Pelada & Ostional
- Implement community wastewater treatment solutions
- Offer consulting services for wastewater treatment options
- Host WCA Lab tours to raise funds and educate the community
- Capacity training events for wastewater treatment





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## BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

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## GOALS

- 1 Collect and compile biodiversity data
- 2 Engage the community as citizen scientists
- 3 Increase awareness about biodiversity
- 4 Promote and support actions to reduce our impact on wildlife

# 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- ✓ **iNATURALIST PROJECT GROWTH**
- ✓ **14 CAMERA TRAPS INSTALLED**  
Checked monthly and shared on iNaturalist
- ✓ **COMMUNITY EVENTS & NATURE TOURS**
- ✓ **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES DISTRIBUTED**  
Tourism Outreach Flyers  
Local Wildlife ID Guide  
Ocean-Friendly Home Guide  
Construction Guide
- ✓ **PARTNERSHIPS MAINTAINED**  
Maintained Mango Realty Partnership  
Collaboration with Nosara Civic Association, Del Mar Academy, Ostional National Wildlife Refuge, and Harmony Hotel to install camera traps



9,076

OBSERVATIONS

↑779%

1,664

SPECIES

↑319%

513

OBSERVERS

↑389%

We install and check camera traps monthly for observations of wildlife.

Citizen scientists from the community collect geo-referenced wildlife observations on the iNaturalist app, which generate validated data.

# 2023 GOALS

- Monitor existing camera traps and install additional traps
- Host 2 community events related to Biodiversity in Nosara
- Continue to increase project growth
- Establish more partnerships with hotels and businesses
- Host nature tours to raise funds for the program and educate visitors





## SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

**SUBMIT A  
REPORT**



## GOALS

- 1 Monitor sea turtles at Playa Pelada and Guiones
- 2 Increase community awareness about threats to sea turtles
- 3 Improve local conservation management

## 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ **24 COMMUNITY REPORTS**  
Casual sightings reported by 10 people
- ✓ **3 VOLUNTEERS TRAINED**  
Surveys conducted 5 days a week to monitor sea turtle activity in Playa Guiones and Pelada
- ✗ **OPERATION SUSPENDED TEMPORARILY**  
In-water drone research on hold due to the harmful algal bloom (red tide) and poor visibility



Volunteers conduct monitoring surveys five times a week for sea turtle activity at Playa Guiones and Pelada. Community members can also report casual sightings of activity.

Additionally, we study sea turtle behavior using an underwater drone.

## 2023 GOALS

- Resume in-water drone research of sea turtles
- Increase community outreach and volunteer base
- Increase the number of reports submitted





## MARINELIFE PROGRAM

EXPLORE BUOY DATA



## GOALS

- 1 Monitor oceanographic variables relevant to climate change mitigation
- 2 Monitor marine biodiversity and reef ecosystem health
- 3 Engage and work with local fishing communities

We maintain a marine buoy that monitors oceanographic data, including temperature data relevant to monitor the impacts of climate change. We also conduct surveys of the marine ecosystem to monitor its health.

Additionally, we will host events to teach tour operators, fishing communities, and tourists to submit observations.

## 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ **INSTALLED & RETRIEVED MARINE BUOY**  
Unfortunately, the buoy was vandalized 2 weeks after installation.
- ✓ **INITIAL MARINE MONITORING SURVEY**  
Conducted initial survey of the reef site and collected footage
- ✓ **RECEIVED PARTS FOR REPAIR**  
Ordered parts to repair the marine buoy



## 2023 GOALS

- Outreach and education with local fishing communities
- Re-install the marine buoy
- Conduct four research expeditions and dive surveys
- Create educational materials and media
- Increase iNaturalist marine observations





## EDUCATION PROGRAM



## GOALS

- 1 Develop interactive and engaging educational materials
- 2 Provide immersive educational talks and experiences
- 3 Increase awareness and inspire sustainable actions

## 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### ✓ EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Ocean-Friendly Home Guide  
Wastewater Guide  
Construction Guide  
Wildlife ID Guide

### ✓ EDUCATIONAL TALKS

Sea Turtles  
Conservation & Sustainability  
Water Quality  
Wastewater solutions

### ✓ COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wastewater Action Forums  
Nature Hikes  
iNaturalist Promotion



34

STUDENTS



6

EDUCATIONAL TALKS



5

COMMUNITY EVENTS

We develop educational materials and media content in line with each of our programs to raise awareness and inspire action.

We also develop and implement educational talks and events, which are often broadcast and recorded to reach a broader audience.

## 2023 GOALS

- Launch of rolling-course for Virtual Field School
- Develop and publish Sea Turtle ID Guide
- Host four educational talks at local schools
- Host four community events
- Make all WCA content available in both English and Spanish





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## SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PROGRAM

[BOOK A TOUR](#)



## GOALS

- 1 Provide an exceptional visitor experience
- 2 Minimize the impact of tourism on sea turtles and wildlife
- 3 Generate revenue to be reinvested in conservation and the community

We offer arribada, boat, nature, and program tour activities to raise funds for our organization.

We collaborate with the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge, local guides, and fishing communities to manage and improve the visitor experience.

# 2022

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### NEW & UPDATED TOUR OFFERINGS

THOUSANDS OF TURTLES TOUR  
 BLUE SEAS TOUR  
 DIVE DEEPER EXPERIENCE  
 SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION  
 NATURE TOUR  
 WATER QUALITY

# 14

TOURS

# 51

VISITORS

# \$2,653

INCOME GENERATED  
FOR WCA

# \$400

CONTRIBUTION  
TO REFUGE

REVENUE  
\$4,890

EXPENSE  
\$2,237

# 2023 GOALS

- Continuously re-evaluate WCA tour business model
- Develop short educational videos for tours
- Continue providing logistical support to the Refuge
- Continue developing virtual and in-person tour content





WCA

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

APPLY NOW



## GOALS

- 1 Offer a training program for volunteers to participate in and learn from our day-to-day activities.
- 2 Engage community members in our organization's work

# 2022

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# 9

VOLUNTEERS

# 360

HOURS



Authored a series of educational blog posts



Contributed photo and video content for educational materials



Developed fundraising and outreach for our programs



Collected water samples for analysis



Conducted surveys for sea turtle activity

We accept remote and in-person volunteers for a minimum time commitment of three months. Volunteers are assigned a specific project in addition to assisting with other day-to-day tasks of the organization.

## 2023 GOALS

- Increase number of volunteers (15+)
- Increase number of volunteer hours (500+)





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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

[LEARN MORE](#)



## GOALS

- 1 Create an integrated system of spaces that help to make the refuge's natural capital profitable
- 2 Promote the construction of a resilient community in balance with nature

## 2022

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ **COLLABORATION WITH NATURAL BALANCE REGENERATIVE VILLAGE**  
Mediated and worked with the owner to establish a supportive relationship between the development located at Playa Nosara and the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge. Construction will occur in phases, tentatively starting in 2023.
- ✓ **DISCUSSION WITH OTHER LAND OWNERS**  
Met with private land owners regarding their interest to include infrastructure for the campus at their property in Pelada.

We meet with interested stakeholders, potential donors, investors, and community members to continuously promote and move this initiative forward.

## 2023 GOALS

- Continue developing relationships with prospects for land and investments
- Continue working with Natural Balance Regenerative Village on plans for a visitor center and research housing near Ostional





# 2022 Financial Summary

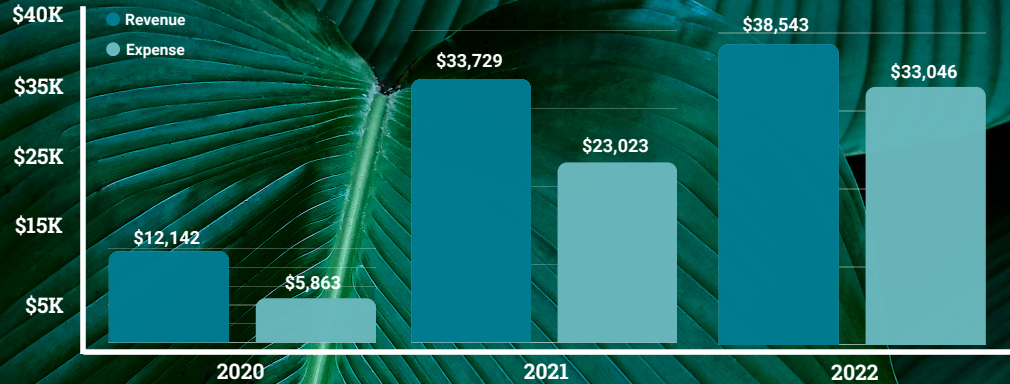
## REVENUE

# \$38,543

## EXPENSE

# \$33,046

As of November 21st



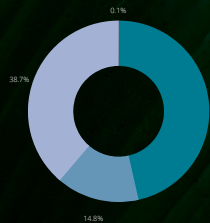
## 2022 BALANCE

# \$4,606

## ACCOUNT BALANCE

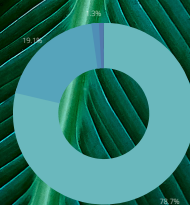
# \$33,932

## SOURCES OF REVENUE



- Grants & Matching Funds (\$7,181; 21%)
- Private Donors (\$20,873; 62%)
- Programming Activities (\$5,257; 16%)
- Merchandise (\$415; 1%)

## EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION



- Professional Services (\$18,109; 79%)
- Supplies (\$4,406; 19%)
- Permits & Fees (\$308; 1%)
- Contribution to Refuge (\$200; 1%)

## REVENUE & EXPENSE BY PROGRAM



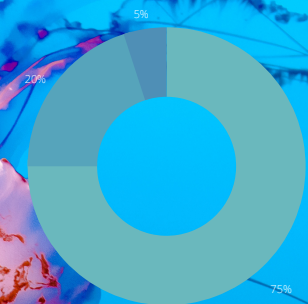




# 2023 Budget

Our goal for this coming year is to continue the implementation and growth of all of WCA programs.

In response to our growth, we will continue to include and expand stipends and salaries for research, accounting, social media, and media content production associated with our important community work.

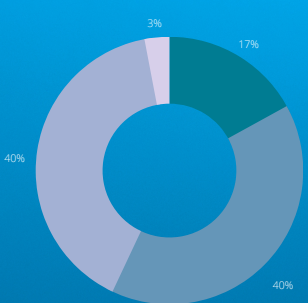
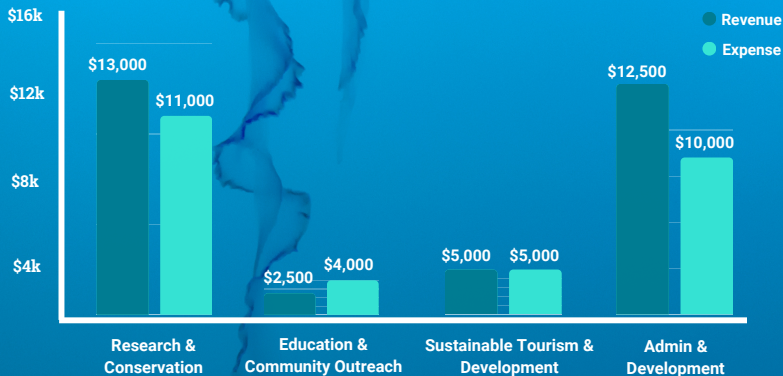


## \$30,000

## OPERATIONAL COST

- **Professional Services (\$23,000; 75%)**  
Stipends for scientific research and media content production, plus legal, accounting and marketing advisory services
- **Supplies (\$6,000; 20%)**  
Research and office supplies and online marketing tools
- **Permits, Taxes & Fees (\$1,000; 5%)**

## REVENUE & EXPENSE BY PROGRAM



## \$33,000

## PROJECTED REVENUE

- **Grants (\$7,000; 21%)**  
Grants with GCF and Harmony Fund
- **Programming Activities (\$10,000; 30%)**  
Income from our programming and partnerships with local businesses and organizations
- **Private Donors (\$15,000; 46%)**  
Contributions from private individuals and organizations
- **Merchandise (\$1,000; 3%)**