

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

ÁREA DE CONSERVACIÓN GUANACASTE

WORLD HERITAGE SITE 928 (BIS)



Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura



Área de Conservación
Guanacaste
inscrita en la Lista del
Patrimonio Mundial en 1999



Decision: 44 COM 7B.196

December 2022

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1- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In compliance with Decision 44 COM 7B.196 issued by the World Heritage Committee for the Natural Heritage Site Area de Conservación Guanacaste (928 bis) during the 44th session, held in Fozhou (China), the State of Conservation Report of the Heritage Site is presented, covering a period of two years (2021-2022); thus responding in the first part to the Decision and presenting in the second part information related to the management of the property.

This report once again confirms to the Committee that there are no infrastructure projects or initiatives of an industrial or other nature (geothermal, wind, large-scale agriculture, etc.) that are being planned by the State or private companies in the agro-landscape zone (buffer zone) or within the Heritage Site. Once again, the non-approval of the private company initiative CANSEC.S.A. by the corresponding state authority was ratified and the possibility of a new private company initiative called AMEGA was announced, which potentially involves a new proposal for the construction of an inter-oceanic dry canal, an initiative that still lacks documentation.

This report once again confirms to the Committee that there are no infrastructure projects or initiatives of an industrial or other nature (geothermal, wind, large-scale agriculture, etc.) being planned by the State or private companies in the agro-landscape zone (buffer zone) or within the Heritage Site. Once again, the non-approval of the private company initiative CANSEC.S.A. by the corresponding state authority was ratified and the possibility of a new private company initiative called AMEGA was announced, which potentially involves a new proposal for the construction of an inter-oceanic dry canal, an initiative that still lacks any type of formal documentation in the Office of Concessions of the Ministry of transportation.

The Heritage Site authorities express that they continue in their efforts to carry out the recommendations made by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring Mission and previous decisions; associated with the issue of road impact mitigation, minor boundary modification to include the Marine Management Area within the Heritage Site, the implementation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and presents a brief explanation of its progress status.

During this reporting period, one of the key elements to highlight and that has different implications in the management of the Heritage Site and the regional Conservation Area (agro-landscape), has been the strong financial crisis in which the State Party finds itself, which has led to drastic measures of containment of public spending and the impossibility of hiring staff with public resources. These two negative elements have partly reduced the property's capacity to respond adequately to some situations; however, thanks to the support of NGOs and strategic allies, the Heritage Site has made progress in meeting its conservation objectives. It is reported that the State Party is working on new financial mechanisms to provide economic resources to the Costa Rican Conservation System, including the Heritage Site.

Climate change is another of the elements with the greatest impact on the property, and this report shows some mitigation and adaptation actions that the Heritage site has implemented during the period, such as the "Educational Guide: Four Windows to Climate Change" and the "Biodiversity Resources Management Plan", which is under construction. All of the above thanks to the contribution on NGO's.

The improvement in the operational capacities of the Fire Management Program and of the volunteer forest firefighting groups (brigades), together with greater technical-scientific information on the subject, have undoubtedly contributed to a "greater professionalization of fire management"; which is very important in a scenario where the prevailing conditions due to the impacts of climate change, make foresee much more complex future conditions to face for the dry ecosystem and intermediate dry-humid zones of the Natural Heritage Site. This is reflected in the fact that despite the more extreme conditions that the Heritage Site faces today, the average number of fires per season and the rate of damage remain very similar to what happened in the last decade, which has strongly favored the restoration of the dry forest, being this effort recognized internationally as a case of success and study.

Also during this period, the existence of several terrestrial and marine monitoring plans and activities carried out in this field are documented, in accordance with the institutional effort of biodiversity monitoring carried out by the State Party, which seeks to contribute to meeting the obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and specifically with Article 7. However, the Site authorities recognize that the current situation of scarce economic resources and lack of sufficient personnel may delay the development of terrestrial and marine monitoring plans.

The pandemic caused by Covid-19 during the year 2020 seriously impacted tourist visitation at the Heritage Site, receiving 66,530 visitors in the year, which represented a 59% drop compared to 2019 and the lowest number of visitors received in 20 years. The year 2021 closed with more positive figures in terms of tourist arrivals, with an increase of 31% over 2020 reaching the sum of 87,207 visitors and in the year 2022 the trend has continued to rise, so it is expected in 2023 to have figures close to the pre-pandemic years in terms of visitation. The website and social networks are an important and valuable window of communication with society and have been used by the Site to disseminate the values of the property.

This Management Report is accompanied by 40 active links in the text, most of them coming from the Guanacaste Conservation Area website, as well as other national and international websites and 45 annexes containing letters, reports, plans, which as a whole should be read or reviewed by the reader for a greater context and better understanding of what is indicated in the responses to Decision 44 COM 7B.196 and what is described with respect to the management of the Heritage Site.

The State Party and authorities of the Heritage Site are clear about their limitations and have demonstrated their capacity to solve the different situations they face by different means and/or strategies, and especially will continue to be attentive and vigilant of those situations that may endanger the Integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the ACG Heritage Site (UNESCO, 928 bis).



Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.196

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 43 COM 7B.24, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Welcomes the refusal in 2020 of the proposed Interoceanic Dry Canal project following an appeal by the project proponents;
4. Notes with appreciation that no industrial infrastructure of any kind has been permitted within the property, and also welcomes the confirmation that the property remains off-limits to industrial development infrastructure, as provided for under national legislation;
5. Further welcomes that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for proposed infrastructure projects in the vicinity of the property are now required to include consideration of potential negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
6. Welcomes furthermore the recommendations made by the Regional Directorate of the Área de Conservación Guanacaste (ACG) to the National Environmental Technical Secretariat (SETENA), requesting the developers of the "Santo Tomás Beach" hotel project to elaborate an EIA of the project during its pre-feasibility phase, and requests the State Party to submit the document, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, once finalized;
7. Noting the measures taken to build capacity on conducting Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), reiterates its request to the State Party to develop an SEA before considering of any further renewable energy projects in order to identify the best means to harmonize renewable energy initiatives and biodiversity conservation objectives, considering the multiple existing and proposed projects and development pressures near the property;
8. Takes note of the current measures to mitigate the effects of the Inter-American highway, including the inter-institutional cooperation, and encourages the State Party to ensure continued measures along the sections of the highway within and bordering the property, and to ensure similar activities are integrated into the upgrading of Ecological National Route 918, whilst reiterating its request that the State Party explore all future options to mitigate the impacts of the highway on the property, including the feasibility to improve National Road 4 as an alternative route;

9. Also encourages the State Party to continue the development of Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) to include the new Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area within the property and also recommends the State Party to consider the wider terrestrial area referred to as the Conservation Area or “protected block” for inclusion in the property in order to harmonize the boundary of the property with other existing management units across the terrestrial and marine environment;

10. Welcomes moreover the confirmation that the State Party is continuing to develop the National System of Conservation Areas to create effective wider protection of the property, and further encourages the State Party to continue consolidating the integration of conservation considerations into the wider landscape and seascape to ensure effective buffering of impacts on the World Heritage property;

11. Also takes note of the strategies and instruments elaborated to address the issue of climate change, and encourages furthermore the State Party to continue its efforts in this regard to minimize the negative impacts of climate change, such as the development of a “Regional Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change for the Guanacaste Conservation Area”;

12. While acknowledging the current human and financial capacity limitations, also requests the State Party to fully implement all recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property;

13. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2023.

;



2- RESPONSE TO THE DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision 3. Welcomes the refusal in 2020 of the proposed Interoceanic Dry Canal project following an appeal by the project proponents;

For the State Party, it is important to ratify once again the non-approval of the proposal of a private company initiative called the Interoceanic Dry Canal (CANSEC .S.A.) by the Technical Secretariat of the National Concessions Council (CNC) of the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation (MOPT); as reported to the Committee in response to decision **43 COM 7B.24**.

However, it is important to report that despite the denial, the company CANSEC .S.A. continued considering the possibility of making their initiative and specific proposal viable for the development of a dry canal for the international transportation of cargo between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific coast.

In the context of the presidential elections in the country and the prospect of the change in administrations, the CANSEC company approached various political groups and presidential candidates to offer them the idea of the dry canal as an important proposal for economic reactivation in response to the serious financial crisis that the country is suffering, which was aggravated by the effects of the pandemic and the drop in tourism, the main source of income for the national economy. **(Appendix 1)**

Once the change of government occurred on May 8, 2022 and with the arrival of the new authorities to the Executive and Legislative Powers, the company CANSEC became more visible in the media and some political parties and congressmen expressed positive and supportive reactions to the initiative. **(Appendix 2)**

In the face of this new impulse that the initiative was taking in the media and among political actors, despite having been formally denied its proposal by the National Concessions Council (technical body of the government) and being an initiative that had already been discarded **(Appendix 3)**; The Regional Council (CORAC), which acts as the governing body of the Area de Conservación Guanacaste, sendt note CORACG-011-2022 **(Appendix 4)** to the National Council of Conservation Areas, the highest body for environmental decisions in Costa Rica (Biodiversity Law No. 7788), with the following agreement:

AGREEMENT No. 7. The Regional Council of the Area de Conservación Guanacaste agrees to urge the National Council of Conservation Areas (CONAC), to take preventive and consultative measures in the face of the possibility of the creation of the Dry Canal, which may affect the Conservation Areas in the north of the country. Reason for which the corresponding analysis is requested, in order to make the most accurate decisions in order to avoid irreparable environmental damage. **AGREEMENT UNANIMOUSLY AND STRONGLY APPROVED.**

Before this petitioner, the Minister of Environment in his capacity as president of CONAC and in compliance with what was discussed and agreed in the Ordinary Session No. 13-2022, held on June 14, 2022, through note SINAC-CONAC-SA-125 -06-2022 **(Annex 5)** instructed the Secretary of the Council and Executive Director of the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC), to implement the agreement reached:

AGREEMENT 11. The National Council of Conservation Areas, after being aware of Agreement 7 of the Ordinary Session N°3 of June 01, 2022 of the CORAC of the Area de Conservación Guanacaste related to the Dry Canal project, agrees to request the Executive Secretary, in his role as Executive Director, to form a commission integrated by representatives of the four Conservation Areas (ACTo, ACAHN, ACG, ACLAC) that would be impacted by this project and a representative of the technical part of the Executive Secretariat, in order to be involved in the development of this project and guide or lead the technical part according to the competencies of the institution and that this project has all the technical criteria, studies, inputs and other requirements, in case it advances in any of its phases, including planning and preliminary stages. Said commission could be expanded at any time with other officials or invited experts, as the case may be. **AGREEMENT STRONGLY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

By note SINAC-CONAC-SA-131-06-2022 the Executive Secretary of CONAC informs the Directors of the Conservation Areas of Tortuguero, Huetar Norte, Guanacaste and Amistad Caribe of the formation of a commission to follow up on agreement 11 of the National Council of Conservation Areas. At the same time, the Heritage Site informed by note SINAC-ACG-DIR-266-2022 who their representatives before this commission will be **(Appendix 6, 7).**

Subsequently, the authorities of the Heritage Site sent notes SINAC-ACG-DIR-300-2022, SINAC-ACG-PI-017-2022 to the higher authorities of the Ministry of the Environment reminding them of the importance of complying with the practical guidelines of the Convention and presenting a brief historical summary of the relationship and follow-up that the Committee has given to this issue of the dry canal and the commitments that the State Party must assume **(Appendix 8).**

The exposure in the media and the resurgence of the initiative led the new authorities of the Legislative Assembly (Congress) to convene a working session with both representatives of the private company CANSEC and the Director of the National Advisory Council present to provide information and explain the status of the project.

Before the legislative representatives and the public opinion it became evident that the initiative proposed by CANSEC lacked technical and financial support, had incomplete documentation and had multiple inconsistencies, which made it an irresponsible and unfounded proposal, arguments that were exposed and ratified by the Director of the National Council of Concessions stating that this project as such was not viable and that it had been filed years ago and was not currently present as an initiative under study by the government authorities. **(Annex 9, 10, 11).**

In congruence with the above, the State Party once again ratifies the NON-APPROVAL of the private company initiative called Interoceanic Dry Canal (CANSEC S.A.) as it was conceived and proposed.

However, as a State Party, it is important to inform the Committee that at this moment there is another private company initiative for the development of the project of a Mega Atlantic Transshipment Terminal (MTA), led by the international consortium Americas Gateway Development Corporation Ltd.

- <https://www.cnc.go.cr/proyectos/en-desarrollo/mega-terminal-de-transbordo-del-atlantico-amega-mta>
- <http://www.amegaholdingsinc.com/project.html>

This mega container transshipment terminal project is contemplated to be developed in the vicinity of the current ports that the country has in the Caribbean Sea, Limón Province: APM Terminal (<https://www.apmterminals.com/es/moin>) and the seaport of Moín administered by the State through the Administrative Board of Economic Development (JAPDEVA) (<https://www.japdeva.go.cr>).

From the available public information gathered, it is clear that the Mega Container Transshipment Terminal will be the first and second phase of a project that aims to create a "Hub" in the Caribbean to serve ports in the US, Europe and South America, to be a destination for the transshipment of containers from "new Panamax" ships and to consolidate cargo for regional distribution and intercontinental routes, with state-of-the-art security and scanning technology.

Once this Atlantic Mega Transshipment Terminal is established and if the project is successful, the initiative contemplates in a third phase the possibility of expanding the Mega Terminal with the construction of an Interoceanic Dry Canal by means of a high-speed railroad that will link both terminals and a similar transshipment port terminal in the Pacific Ocean, to be called Mega Pacific Terminal (MTP).

Recently in November, Heritage Site authorities and scientific advisors met with representatives of the AMEGA company to learn more about their plans, concepts, ideas and status of the initiative, and to inform them of the existence of the Heritage Site, compliance with the guidelines and the Convention in case this initiative is later proposed as a viable alternative.

For the moment this idea is conceptual and there are no studies or documents that can be provided, however the State Party in compliance with **Recommendation 2** of the 2018 Monitoring Mission, ratifies that it will remain vigilant and in case this private initiative proposal moves forward, it will follow up and supervise for timely compliance with national legislation and the requirements of the World Heritage Convention for the safeguarding of the Integrity and Exceptional Universal Value of the Area de Conservación Guanacaste Heritage Site. (928 bis).

Decision 4. Notes with appreciation that no industrial infrastructure of any kind has been permitted within the property, and also welcomes the confirmation that the property remains off-limits to industrial development infrastructure, as provided for under national legislation;

Following up on **Recommendation 1** of the 2018 Monitoring Mission and as reported to the Committee in response to decision **43 COM 7B.24**, the State Party confirms and ratifies that there is no industrial infrastructure of any kind within the property or in the annexed conserved areas that make up the 163,000 hectares of the protected wilderness block Area de Conservación Guanacaste, precisely because the objective and ultimate purpose of this protected wilderness block is the restoration and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems in perpetuity.

In the case of geothermal development on the margins of the Rincón de la Vieja Volcano National Park, it is ratified that the current Pailas I and Pailas II projects and the new Borinquen I and Borinquen II projects are outside the property boundaries and that all these projects have fully complied with national standards and regulations, a situation that was informed by note DM-1112-2016 by the Minister of the Environment in 2016.

(Appendix 12)

It is also reported that to date there are no industrial or other initiatives (geothermal, wind, large-scale agriculture, etc.) that are being planned to be developed by the State or private companies in the agro-landscape zone (buffer zone) of the Heritage Site.

Currently, only the two wind energy projects (both established years ago) in the neighboring agroscape of the Heritage Site (Orosi and Alisios projects) are currently in operation: Orosi and Alisios projects, located in the community of Quebrada Grande, have both complied with national laws and carry out ecological monitoring on their wind farms, as well as strong environmental and social responsibility programs.

Following up on **Recommendation 5** of the Reactive Mission, the Heritage Site authorities ratify that they remain vigilant to any possible impact on the Universal Value of the property resulting from these renewable energy projects **(Appendix 13)**.

In early 2022, the Wildlife Programs of the Guanacaste and Arenal-Tempisque Conservation Areas coordinated the signing of a cooperation agreement with the company CMI, owner of the wind projects, in order to implement a project that supports the Wildlife Programs in both Conservation Areas, to strengthen operational capacities that allow effective care of wildlife and in turn, the awareness of the communities about the importance of conserving flora and fauna. **(Appendix 14)**

- <https://www.businessnews.cr.com/index.php/negocios/energia/593-costa-rica-abre-espacio-para-el-desarrollo-de-hidrogeno-verde-en-el-pais-2>
- <https://adiariocr.com/ambiente/cmi-energia-recibe-reconocimiento-tras-ayudar-a-la-conservacion/>

The Las Pailas and Borinquen Geothermal Fields of the Costa Rican Electricity Institute (ICE) continue with the research and biological monitoring program for their flora and fauna. The objective of this program is to monitor the diversity of wildlife species present in the geothermal fields in order to implement environmental measures to mitigate and/or compensate for the possible impact of the works on the environment as part of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Wildlife monitoring was conducted at seven monitoring transects located within the Geothermal Field and one within the Rincon de la Vieja National Park (Heritage Site). Each site or transect is monitored on a quarterly basis, which allows ICE biologists, foresters, and technicians to have greater surveillance of the environment surrounding the geothermal projects, including the Heritage Site. **(Appendix 15)**.

The State ratifies that in accordance with **Recommendation 6** of the 2018 Monitoring Mission the authorities of the Heritage Site and the Guanacaste Conservation Area (agroscape) will remain vigilant so that in the event of a new renewable energy project in the neighboring agroscape of the Heritage Site, the World Heritage Centre is notified in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and an Environmental Impact Assessment is implemented with a specific assessment of the impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Environmental Assessment Advisory Note.

5. Further welcomes that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for proposed infrastructure projects in the vicinity of the property are now required to include consideration of potential negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

The State Party, the authorities of the Heritage Site, authorities of the Conservation Area (Agri-landscape) ratify that in case of any infrastructure project of public or private initiative and/or a combination of both (public works concession) in the vicinity of the Heritage Site, as required by national legislation, the technical regulations of the Environmental Technical Secretariat (SETENA) shall be complied with.

In response to **Recommendation 6** of the 2018 Monitoring Mission, the authorities of the Heritage Site and authorities of the Conservation Area (Agri-landscape) inform that they are clear that it is important that these environmental assessments are carried out considering the possible negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and they will inform SETENA, stakeholders, authorities and proponent institutions in order to be in line with compliance with the technical guidelines and to be taken into account in the studies, as recommended in the IUCN Advisory Note on Environmental Assessment of World Heritage.

6. Welcomes furthermore the recommendations made by the Regional Directorate of the Área de Conservación Guanacaste (ACG) to the National Environmental Technical Secretariat (SETENA), requesting that the developers of the "Santo Tomás Beach" hotel project elaborate an EIA of the project during its pre-feasibility phase, and requests the State Party to submit the document, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, once finalized;

The authorities of the Heritage Site and authorities of the Conservation Area (agrolandscape) inform that the so-called "Playa Santa Tomas" project has not yet begun its pre-feasibility phase and ratify that they are vigilant so that through the Environmental Technical Secretariat, the developers are duly informed of the need to draft the environmental impact assessment as recommended in the IUCN Advisory Note on Environmental Assessment of World Heritage, as reported in the previous Management Report.

7. Noting the measures taken to build capacity on conducting Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), reiterates its request to the State Party to develop an SEA before considering any further renewable energy projects in order to identify the best means to harmonize renewable energy initiatives and biodiversity conservation objectives, considering the multiple existing and proposed projects and development pressures near the property;

The State Party, the authorities of the Heritage Site and the authorities of the Conservation Area (Agrolandscape) ratify their commitment to act in line with the practical guidelines, and inform that in the event that any new concept or initiative for a renewable energy project of a private or state nature is presented, every effort will be made within the current environmental regulations to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment before considering any further renewable energy projects in order to identify the best means to harmonize renewable energy initiatives and biodiversity conservation objectives, considering the multiple existing and proposed projects and development pressures near the property.

Currently, the State and the authorities of the Heritage Sites are beginning to have experience in the coordination, follow-up and development of the Strategic Environmental Assessments, with the execution of the assessment that has been generated in the Heritage Site Reserves of the Talamanca-La Amistad Mountain Range / La Amistad National Park (205 bis); which was recently concluded.

The State Party commits in the year 2023 to organize a workshop among the national Heritage Sites to learn and share the experience generated by the La Amistad Heritage Site, in order to inform and train the authorities of the Heritage Site and other authorities involved, on the topic of Strategic Environmental Assessments, and thus be better prepared and know the requirements and demands for its implementation.

Following up on **Recommendation 8** of the 2018 Monitoring Mission, the Heritage Site authorities will be advised by the La Amistad Heritage Site authorities on initiating steps to obtain the required resources and authorizations from higher authorities to establish the roadmap for a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the entire Conservation Area, including the property, to assess the cumulative impacts of expanding renewable energy developments on the property's EUV, including its integrity conditions and the balance of conservation with competent land use interests.

8. Takes note of the current measures to mitigate the effects of the Inter-American highway, including the inter-institutional cooperation, and encourages the State Party to ensure continued measures along the sections of the highway within and bordering the property, and to ensure similar activities are integrated into the upgrading of Ecological National State of conservation of properties WHC/21/44. COM/7B, p. 485 inscribed on the World Heritage List Route 918, whilst reiterating its request that the State Party explore all future options to mitigate the impacts of the highway on the property, including the feasibility to improve National Road 4 as an alternative route;

Related to **Recommendations 3 and 4** of the 2018 Monitoring Mission, the State Party reports that the authorities of the Heritage Site and the Conservation Area (agrolandscape) have remained vigilant and proactive in terms of inter-institutional coordination with the competent entities for the proper management and management of route No. 1 Interamerican Highway North, in the 13-kilometer route known as "Túnel Verde y Vivo de Biodiversidad" (Green and Living Tunnel of Biodiversity).

- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-acg/4242-tunel-verde-y-vivo-de-la-biodiversidad-carretera-de-interamericana-norte-la-cruz-guanacaste>

Unfortunately some of the authorities and officials of the National Roads Council (CONAVI), the entity in charge of the national road network, were involved in a serious case of corruption that came to public light in June 2021.



- https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caso_Cochinilla
- <https://semanariouniversidad.com/pais/caso-cochinilla-evidencio-urgencia-de-reestructurar-el-conavi/>

This fact generated as a consequence strong criticism of the management of CONAVI and a rethinking in the national discussion on the closure of this autonomous, decentralized institution, to give way to its centralization as a dependency of the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation (MOPT).

- <https://semanariouniversidad.com/pais/mopt-propone-eliminar-el-conavi-cosevi-y-ctp/>

The current state of the situation has not yet allowed the Site authorities to reestablish and resume conversations with CONAVI authorities to continue positioning the existence of the "Green and Living Biodiversity Tunnel" and its special management as we had previously discussed between the National System of Conservation Areas and CONAVI.

However, at the regional level, the authorities of the Heritage Site were able to get the local government (Municipality) of the canton of La Cruz to include in its Tourism Development Plan for La Cruz, Guanacaste (March 2022) the "Green and Living Biodiversity Tunnel" project as one of its priority projects to be developed within the framework of this Plan. **(Appendix 16)**

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"7.2 "Túnel verde y vivo de la biodiversidad" Project: a window into the conservation of the Tropical Dry Forest.

Description: This project lies in the consolidation of vegetation cover in 13 km along the Interamerican Highway North, to reduce the effects of forest fragmentation and promote the connectivity of the Tropical Dry Forest as an exceptional universal value of the Canton of La Cruz.

Scope: Management at the political level (special declaration of conservation and scenic beauty of value to tourism) to maintain this national route with the current dimensions and thus reduce the mortality of wildlife species, as well as management actions to reduce the presence of jaragua (*Hiperemia rufa*) and accelerate tree regeneration on the margins of the road and create this route as a tourist attraction, the only green and living tunnel in Central America on this international highway.

Goal: Design and build structures that allow the appreciation of the landscape and reduce the speed of passing vehicles and transform the tunnel into an attraction that complements the scenic beauty of the canton.

The recognition and formalization of the "green tunnel" by the local government as a special route of tourist interest will undoubtedly help to generate initiatives and manage resources for signage and signposting, improve existing wildlife crossings and build new ones, and achieve greater positioning in local, regional, and national society.



The Institutional Environmental Management Plan (Plan de Gestión Ambiental Institucional, PGAI) and the "Quiero Dejar un Huella Verde" (I Want to Leave a Green Footprint) program organize waste collection activities along the margins of the Inter-American Highway along the 13 km of the Green Tunnel. In these campaigns, which take place once or twice a year, the Heritage Site manages to attract between 50 and 60 people, including civil servants, volunteers from private companies, students, and personnel from other institutions such as the Ministry of Health, the Municipality, Transit, and others.

The Institutional Environmental Management Plan (Plan de Gestión Ambiental Institucional, PGAI) and the "Quiero Dejar un Huella Verde" (I Want to Leave a Green Footprint) program organize waste collection activities along the margins of the Inter-American Highway along the 13 km of the Green Tunnel. In these campaigns, which take place once or twice a year, the Heritage Site manages to attract between 50 and 60 people, including civil servants, volunteers from private companies, students, and personnel from other institutions such as the Ministry of Health, the Municipality, Transit, and others.

- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/biodesarrollo/huella-verde>
- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-acg/5611-en-acg-celebramos-el-recorrido-de-la-antorcha-de-la-libertad-2022>

Researchers from the International Institute for Conservation and Wildlife Management (ICOMVIS) of the National University, in collaboration with the Heritage Site have continued monitoring wildlife mortality in the 13 km of the Green Tunnel and have recently produced a new version of the document "**Impacts of wildlife roadkill on Interamerican Highway North, Guanacaste Conservation Area: Use of culverts as wildlife crossings and accessory mitigation measures**"; where based on scientific information gathered over the years, some measures to improve the current wildlife crossings and other mitigation measures are proposed. **(Appendix 17)**

By the beginning of 2023, a pilot project will be carried out with the intention of improving one or two wildlife crossings and monitoring them with camera traps to analyze their effectiveness. It is expected that this pilot project will serve as a basis for generating key information that will allow the Heritage Site and the researchers to scale up the project, seek economic resources and expand to other mitigation measures in the Green Tunnel.

With respect to route 918 (National Ecological Route 918) that extends from the city of Liberia to Colonia Blanca and Colonia Libertad (Upala), it is reported that there is no progress to report because due to the difficult fiscal situation of the country and the institutional crisis that was generated in CONAVI as a result of the corruption case reported above, initiatives or new projects to improve national roads have largely been suspended or stalled. Heritage Site authorities remain vigilant and have participated in two meetings with authorities from local governments (Liberia, Upala), ICT, Community Development Association, and Assembly deputies. These meetings have ratified the importance of considering and raising environmental restrictions as a significant part of the route passes through the Rincon de la Vieja National Park, which has been declared a Heritage Site and therefore specific evaluations of impacts to the Outstanding Universal Value should be considered, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Environmental Assessment Advisory Note.

9. Also encourages the State Party to continue the development of Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) to include the new Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area within the property and also recommends the State Party to consider the wider terrestrial area referred to as the Conservation Area or "protected block" for inclusion in the property in order to harmonize the boundary of the property with other existing management units across the terrestrial and marine environment;

The Heritage Site authorities report that the Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area (AMMBSE) still lacks the necessary administrative conditions to guarantee its adequate conservation and management, especially due to the lack of personnel and economic resources for marine management and the implementation of the different Work Plans (management, tourism, marketing, funding, financial) that were developed in the process of its formation and establishment as a new conservation category, which incorporates the community in the conservation and sustainable use of the resources. The Heritage Site, together with allied NGOs and universities, has been working with different community stakeholders to generate and strengthen local capacities for entrepreneurship, leadership and environmental commitments so that the coastal communities of Cuajiniquil, El Jobo and Puerto Soley become more environmentally aware and play a more active role in the administration, conservation and management of the AMMBSE.

- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/corredor-turistico-costero-la-cruz>
- <https://www.lacruzguanacaste.com/>

Researchers from the International Institute for Conservation and Wildlife Management (ICOMVIS) of the National University, in collaboration with the Heritage Site have continued monitoring wildlife mortality in the 13 km of the Green Tunnel and have recently produced a new version of the document "**Impacts of wildlife roadkill on Interamerican Highway North, Guanacaste Conservation Area: Use of culverts as wildlife crossings and accessory mitigation measures**"; where based on scientific information gathered over the years, some measures to improve the current wildlife crossings and other mitigation measures are proposed. **(Appendix 17)**

By the beginning of 2023, a pilot project will be carried out with the intention of improving one or two wildlife crossings and monitoring them with camera traps to analyze their effectiveness. It is expected that this pilot project will serve as a basis for generating key information that will allow the Heritage Site and the researchers to scale up the project, seek economic resources and expand to other mitigation measures in the Green Tunnel.

With respect to route 918 (National Ecological Route 918) that extends from the city of Liberia to Colonia Blanca and Colonia Libertad (Upala), it is reported that there is no progress to report because due to the difficult fiscal situation of the country and the institutional crisis that was generated in CONAVI as a result of the corruption case reported above, initiatives or new projects to improve national roads have largely been suspended or stalled. Heritage Site authorities remain vigilant and have participated in two meetings with authorities from local governments (Liberia, Upala), ICT, Community Development Association, and Assembly deputies. These meetings have ratified the importance of considering and raising environmental restrictions as a significant part of the route passes through the Rincon de la Vieja National Park, which has been declared a Heritage Site and therefore specific evaluations of impacts to the Outstanding Universal Value should be considered, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Environmental Assessment Advisory Note.

9. Also encourages the State Party to continue the development of Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) to include the new Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area within the property and also recommends the State Party to consider the wider terrestrial area referred to as the Conservation Area or "protected block" for inclusion in the property in order to harmonize the boundary of the property with other existing management units across the terrestrial and marine environment;

The Heritage Site authorities report that the Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area (AMMBSE) still lacks the necessary administrative conditions to guarantee its adequate conservation and management, especially due to the lack of personnel and economic resources for marine management and the implementation of the different Work Plans (management, tourism, marketing, funding, financial) that were developed in the process of its formation and establishment as a new conservation category, which incorporates the community in the conservation and sustainable use of the resources. The Heritage Site, together with allied NGOs and universities, has been working with different community stakeholders to generate and strengthen local capacities for entrepreneurship, leadership and environmental commitments so that the coastal communities of Cuajiniquil, El Jobo and Puerto Soley become more environmentally aware and play a more active role in the administration, conservation and management of the AMMBSE.



One of the proposed initiatives has been the involvement of coastal communities in a citizen science project led by researchers from the Center for Research in Marine Sciences and Limnology of the University of Costa Rica, in which local people have been trained to participate with researchers in the external tagging of snappers in the AMMBSE, using the release capture technique to study their spatial behavior, in order to complement the monitoring with acoustic telemetry that is carried out at the site. This scientific study aims to improve the baseline information for the extractive fishing that may be authorized in the Bay, so the participation of fishermen and local people in the citizen science component is directly supporting the efforts of the Heritage Site for the community to take greater ownership of the site. **(Appendix 18)**

The Heritage Site authorities postponed the initiative raised in the previous Management Report, in response to **Recommendation 13** of the 2018 Monitoring Mission that encouraged the State to submit the AMMBSE to Heritage Site status. It was considered that at least at the time of this report the local biopolitical conditions were not in place to submit this designation. Prevailing conditions such as the COVID pandemic and its impact on local economies, the strong economic crisis that the country is going through, the change in administration and the new government's alignment, and the strategy of building stronger relationships and working more closely with the fishing communities prior to the potential designation of Santa Elena Bay as a Heritage Site, were all considered in this decision.

Nevertheless, the authorities of the Heritage Site consider that in the year 2023 **Recommendation 13** of the 2018 Monitoring Mission will be viable.

10. Welcomes moreover the confirmation that the State Party is continuing to develop the National System of Conservation Areas to create effective wider protection of the property, and further encourages the State Party to continue consolidating the integration of conservation considerations into the wider landscape and seascape to ensure effective buffering of impacts on the World Heritage property;

The State Party ratifies that it continues to work on the development and consolidation of the National System of Conservation Areas, created by the Biodiversity Law No. 7788, exercising its functions as a decentralized and participatory institutional management and coordination system, which integrates competencies in forestry, wildlife, protected areas and the protection and conservation of watersheds and water systems, among other responsibilities. All this in order to dictate policies, plan and execute processes aimed at achieving sustainability in the management of the country's natural resources, in a regionalized and decentralized manner.

11. Also takes note of the strategies and instruments elaborated to address the issue of climate change, and encourages furthermore the State Party to continue its efforts in this regard to minimize the negative impacts of climate change, such as the development of a "Regional Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change for the Guanacaste Conservation Area".

The State Party appreciates the Committee's encouragement to continue promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in the Heritage Site and reports that it has continued working in this direction.

Through the NGO Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund (GDFCF), the Committee began in 2021 the process of negotiation and fundraising for the acquisition of three properties that together total approximately 750 hectares located on the northwestern slope of the Orosi volcano, which are mostly covered by dry forest-transition to rainforest poorly represented in the Heritage Site. Currently, more than 500 hectares have been integrated into the conservation portfolio of the protected block and, undoubtedly, due to their location on the slopes of the volcano and being in an ecosystem transition zone, these are essential properties to improve the resilience of the protected block in the context of climate change and its effects at the local level.

Another important aspect to highlight in the period has been the implementation of the guide "**ACG Four Windows to Climate Change**" by the educational centers surrounding the Heritage Site. This document is a didactic guide prepared by staff of the Biological Education Program (PEB) of the Heritage Site, so that teachers of the second cycle of the Ministry of Public Education have an educational tool for teaching the issue of climate change to their students.

The didactic guide contains 24 activities linked to the school curriculum of the Ministry of Public Education, based on the 4 basic subjects: Spanish, Social Studies, Science and Mathematics. All the activities are based on examples of how climate change affects the ecosystems and species of the protected block that includes the Heritage Site and the mitigation and adaptation activities that can be carried out at an individual and collective level. This tool will undoubtedly allow the biological educators of the Site and the teachers and professors of the neighboring schools to approach the topic of climate change in a much more efficient and understandable way for the school population. **(Appendix 19)**

- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/36-espanol/noticias/noticias-eduacion-biologica/5338-guia-didactica-acg-cuatro-ventanas-al-cambio-climatico-estrategias-de-mediacion-pedagogica-para-el-aprendizaje-del-tema-del-cambio-climatico>

Currently the Heritage Site is in the final stages of a consultancy supported through the Forever Costa Rica Program (<https://costaricaporsiempre.org/programa-areas-protegidas/>) for the preparation of the "Biodiversity Resources Management Plan", which aims to establish the roadmap and actions to be developed in the coming years in relation to the most active intervention to mitigate climate change. This plan will include activities and implementation with respect to the provision of water for fauna by improving some semi-artificial reservoirs (lagoons) used at the time when the Heritage Site was a cattle ranch, establishing the roadmap to generate baseline information with a view to the rehabilitation of mangroves affected by extreme events and fuel management (dry standing trees) to reduce the risk of fires in forest areas that were affected by the 2015-2016 mega El Niño event.

Climate change is undoubtedly one of the main threats affecting the Heritage Site, especially manifested through extreme drought and precipitation events in the Central American Pacific dry corridor region.

Recently, in June 2022, the local government of the canton of La Cruz, with the support of the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica (MINAE) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in the framework of the project Plan-A: Resilient Territories to Climate Change, with funding from the Green Climate Fund, developed the "**Action Plan for Climate Adaptation of Canton La Cruz**". **(Appendix 20)**.

Since more than half of the territory of the Heritage Site is located in the canton of La Cruz, this plan will undoubtedly support the mitigation and adaptation actions being carried out in the protected area as well as in the agricultural and marine landscape surrounding the property.

12. While acknowledging the current human and financial capacity limitations, also requests the State Party to fully implement all recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property;

The State Party, the authorities of the Heritage Site and the Area de Conservación Guanacaste regional (agroscape) ratify before the Committee that in the context of the financial and human capacity limitations faced by the Heritage Site, the National System of Conservation Areas and in the context of the strong financial crisis that Costa Rica is going through; all possible efforts are made to implement the recommendations issued by the 2018 Monitoring Mission and to comply with the different Decisions of the Heritage Committee.

The Heritage Site is clear about its limitations and has demonstrated its ability to use different means and/or strategies to solve the different situations it faces and is especially attentive and vigilant of those situations in its marine and terrestrial environment that may endanger the Integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the ACG Heritage Site (UNESCO, 928 bis).

Processes such as land planning to integrate conservation considerations in the landscape or marine spatial planning to generate a buffer zone to the Heritage Site occur in the context of the territorial approach implemented by SINAC and/or in coordination with other binding institutions (SETENA, INCOPECA, local governments) in the application of environmental regulations in force in the country.

13. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2023.



3- OTHER CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE(S) PARTY(IES) WHICH MAY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE PROPERTY'S OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

Undoubtedly, a major conservation problem associated with the 163,000 ha. terrestrial and 43,000 ha. marine protected wildlife block that make up the Guanacaste-Silvestre Conservation Area is the lack of an adequate budget to meet the challenges and needs for better administration, management and management of the protected area, including the Heritage Site. One of the causes is the country's severe financial crisis. **(Annex 21, 22)**

- <https://www.bancomundial.org/es/country/costarica/overview>
- <https://www.larepublica.net/noticia/costa-rica-al-borde-de-una-recesion-economica-esto-dicen-los-expertos>

The lack of adequate economic resources in the budgets allocated by the central government and the limited capacity to hire more employees are situations that affect the operation of the Heritage Site and have an impact on the fulfillment of plans.

The Heritage Site has conducted different analyses of its staffing needs and estimates the need for 68 new staff members to be incorporated in the Technical Programs of Research, Control and Protection, Biological Education, Restoration and Silviculture, Protected Areas, Ecotourism and Fire Management. This need to incorporate new personnel to the Heritage Site is all the more pressing when the average age of the current staff is currently around 44 years old and in the last five years we have had the loss of experience accumulated by several employees who have retired. For a protected area and Heritage Site that has been a pilot project at the tropical level in a new way of conservation and biodevelopment, it is essential to have new staff to ensure generational replacement based on the philosophy, principles and objectives that have inspired the ACG.

Likewise, in economic terms, despite the support of friendly NGOs that contribute to bear some of the costs and burdens of the administration and management of the Heritage Site, in addition to the State's contribution, these resources are not entirely sufficient for the proper management of the Site. **(Annex 23)**

The country is facing a strong fiscal crisis that has led the Government to take important measures to contain public spending and impose strong restrictions that affect the operation of public institutions, including the National System of Conservation Areas. In 2018, the Law for the Strengthening of Public Finances (No. 9635) is approved, where the Fiscal Rule is established which defines, "that the growth of current expenditure of the entities of the non-financial public sector will be determined by the level of debt of the Central Government as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product."

Cuts in government budgets and the application of the Fiscal Rule have had a strong impact on the Conservation System, compounded by the lack of fresh revenues derived from the decline of the tourism industry during the peak of the pandemic in the years 2020 and 2021.

Decree 43164-H-Scope N° 176 published in La Gaceta N° 172-2021, on August 23, 2021,

MEASURES TO CONTROL AND REDUCE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

“ARTICLE 2. The organs of the Government of the Republic included in the Laws of the Ordinary and Extraordinary Budget of the Republic for the Economic Exercises corresponding to the years 2021 to 2025, may not exceed in their annual execution, the limits that in the item for economic classifier of expenditure

- a. In 2021, the upper limit will be 92.50% of what was executed in 2020.
- b. In 2022, the upper limit will be 85.56% of what was executed in 2020.
- c. In 2023, the upper limit will be 79.15% of what was executed in 2020.
- d. In 2024, the upper limit will be 73.21% of what was executed in 2020.
- e. In 2025, the upper limit will be 67.72% of what was executed in 2020.

Cuts in the budget for fuel, vehicle maintenance, framework contracts (purchasing plan), patrols and fire roads, among other items have suffered a reduction in the 2021 and 2022 Heritage Site budgets. **(Annex 24)** This condition has also aggravated the Conservation System's capacity to invest adequately in the infrastructure required for tourism and protected area management. **(Annex 25)**

Notwithstanding the strong economic impact faced by the Heritage Site, the authorities of the property and the regional Conservation Area (Agropaisaje) have made important efforts with the help of their NGO friends (Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund, National Parks Foundation, Forever Costa Rica Association) to reduce as much as possible the impact on key activities and processes that are fundamental for the conservation of the integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The Heritage Site has made extraordinary efforts to keep operational the terrestrial and marine control and protection programs, forest fire control, biological education, visitor services, research management, among other processes that have been kept in development, trying to suffer the least possible impact.

Faced with this situation, the State Party has explored and is trying to obtain resources for the Conservation System using other mechanisms and opportunities that arise, which are directly linked to the management of the Heritage Site.

In 2020, the United Nations awarded the Global Climate Action Award to the Environmental Services Program (PES) of the National Forestry Financing Fund (FONAFIFO) and through the efforts of more than 10 years of work, the Green Climate Fund approved the proposal for results-based payments for the recognition of emission reductions for the 2014-2015 period in the amount of 54.1 million, after verifying that Costa Rica's forests removed 14.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. From this process arises the "Results-Based Payments" project, which refers to recognition for conservation efforts demonstrated in the past. **(Annex 26)**

- <https://reddcostarica.net/fondo-verde-para-el-clima/>

Part of these resources correspond to the National System of Conservation Areas to invest in three important strategic axes of the institution: Forest Fire Control, Wildlife Protected Areas (Control and Protection) and State Natural Heritage (Forestry Development Plan). SINAC is currently working on internal administrative-financial mechanisms to execute these resources in the different Conservation Areas, including the Guanacaste Conservation Area (Heritage Site), which is expected to be in better operational condition by 2023. **(Annex 27).**

Another important financial mechanism that is being negotiated is the creation of a Trust Fund to improve the infrastructure of the protected wildlife areas in order to increase visitation and, therefore, the collection of entrance fees that support the financial sustainability of the Conservation Areas. **(Annex 28).**

This project is being carried out within the framework of UNDP's BIOFIN (Finance for Biodiversity) strategy through the green bond mechanism; a debt instrument that makes it possible to raise funds through the financial markets, investing these funds in projects with positive environmental impacts and guaranteeing a competitive return on investment.

This financial solution from BIOFIN seeks to strengthen the sustainable finance framework for SINAC through the issuance of a green bond for investment in infrastructure in the Protected Wildlife Areas. With this, it seeks to diversify and improve tourism services, which in turn will allow a greater possibility of expanding concessions for Non-Essential Services and Activities (SANE) and improve SINAC's income and financial sustainability.

- <https://biofin.cr/soluciones-financieras/bono-verde/>

The financial mechanisms that are being developed, which can be framed in the context of Recommendation 9 of the 2018 Monitoring Mission, will make it possible to attract new financial resources for the management of the Heritage Site and are expected to contribute to solving some of the problems currently faced, such as lack of infrastructure, replacement of vehicle fleet, improvements to property boundaries, acquisition of firefighting equipment, among others.



4. IN CONFORMITY WITH PARAGRAPH 172 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES, DESCRIBE ANY POTENTIAL MAJOR RESTORATIONS, ALTERATIONS AND/OR NEW CONSTRUCTION(S) INTENDED WITHIN THE PROPERTY, THE BUFFER ZONE(S) AND/OR CORRIDORS OR OTHER AREAS, WHERE SUCH DEVELOPMENTS MAY AFFECT THE OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING AUTHENTICITY AND INTEGRITY.

The State Party reports that no constructions, restorations or developments of different nature that may affect the integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the property have been developed and/or are currently under development within the Heritage Site or in the agro-landscape zone (buffer zone).

However, as reported in section 2 of this report in response to Recommendation 3, regarding the Interoceanic Dry Canal project, the private initiative maintains the conceptual idea of a dry canal and a mega port terminal for container transshipment in the Pacific Ocean, in the northern region of the country.

The State ratifies that at the moment the idea is conceptual and depends on the compliance, viability and success of the two previous phases involving the development of the Mega Port Terminal in the Caribbean and that to date there are no documents that can be provided, however the State Party in compliance with Recommendation 2 of the 2018 Monitoring Mission, ratifies that it will remain vigilant and if this private initiative proposal moves forward, it will follow up and supervise it for timely compliance with national legislation and the requirements of the World Heritage Convention for the safeguarding of the Integrity and Exceptional Universal Value of the Area de Conservación Guanacaste Heritage Site. (928 bis).

The following is general information on some of the processes, activities and results of the operational management of the Site, carried out in these two years of reporting. The information presented is accompanied by links to the website www.acguanacaste.ac.cr where, through this platform and social networks, the management of the Heritage Site is shared with society and some specific documents are provided as examples of management.

The authorities of the Heritage Site wish to inform the Committee that despite the strong economic crisis that the country is going through, which has undoubtedly affected the budget allocated to the Heritage Site and the problem of lack of human resources, the core processes of management, administration, management and conservation associated with the block of protected areas and related areas that make up the Guanacaste-Heritage Site Conservation Area and the core actions in the Agropaisaje have been continuously maintained.

Some activities, management processes and information related to the Natural Heritage Site.

A. Campaign: My Habitat is my Home (Yellow-naped Parrot, *Amazona auropalliata*)

We have continued with the educational and awareness processes towards society in general about the problem of the use of wildlife species as pets, especially the captive possession of the Yellow-naped Parrot (*Amazona auropalliata*).

With the support of private enterprise, the Wildlife Program of the Regional Conservation Area will initiate in January 2022 a campaign in social networks, mass media, schools and strategic actors with the objective of implementing a series of communication and public awareness actions to raise awareness, prevent and reduce the negative impact of the extraction of parrots from their natural habitat to keep them as pets.

- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-oficina-subregional-de-liberia/5377-campana-mi-habitat-es-mi-hogar>



Charla  En vivo

Campaña:

 **MI HÁBITAT ES MI HOGAR**

23
Feb
2022

 **5:00**
pm

Facebook
@ACG.CR

Expositora: Evelyn Solano
Programa de Vida Silvestre ACG



Foto: Pepe Manzanilla



 **MI HÁBITAT ES MI HOGAR**

"No soy una mascota, déjame en mi hogar"

Denuncie al 1192

Te invitan:



The practice of keeping parrots and parakeets as pets comes from a historical custom deeply rooted in popular culture, especially in rural regions, but has been decreasing over the years and especially since 2012, when an amendment to the Wildlife Law (No. 7317) prohibits and establishes penalties for the extraction, trade and possession of wildlife in captivity.

Article 110. Whoever has in captivity or as a pet, without authorization from the National System of Conservation Areas, wild animals in danger of extinction or with reduced populations, shall be sanctioned with a fine of two to four base salaries, and with a fine of fifty percent (50%) of one base salary to two base salaries, in the case of wild animals that are not in danger of extinction or with reduced populations. In both cases the animals will be confiscated.

However, in the region where the Heritage Site is located, parrot extraction events continue to occur, although in smaller numbers compared to previous years. Nevertheless, this is a specific problem that must be addressed because it is an iconic and endangered species.

In June 2022 organizations, researchers and biologists who have been monitoring the yellow-naped parrot population throughout the northern Pacific region of the country (and other parts of Mesoamerica) organized a full week to conduct a general population count of yellow-naped parrots. In this activity the regional Conservation Area (agropaisaje) and Heritage Site staff played a very important role in this effort.

- https://parrotcensus.com/en_us/

La Gran Semana de la Lora de Nuca Amarilla
The Big Week for the Yellow-Naped Amazon

La lora nuca amarilla es la joya de Centro América, pero hoy están en **peligro crítico** debido al saqueo de nidos

¡Trabajemos juntos para salvar a las loras!

Loras nuca amarilla serán contadas a lo largo de Costa Rica del **11 al 18 de Junio, 2022**

Descubre como es que **TU** puedes participar en:
<https://parrotcensus.org>

¡Dejemos a las loras volando libres!!

Logos at the bottom: 

It is expected that this regional census will continue to be conducted on a frequent basis to establish a more solid baseline of information to better understand the population trend of yellow-naped parrots over time and to generate information for decision making at the level of the northern pacific region of Costa Rica, including the regional Conservation Area (Agropaisaje) and the Heritage Site.

B- Actions in Fire Management

The cut in the 2021 and 2022 government budgets, following the guidelines of the Law for Strengthening Public Finances, had direct implications on the Heritage Site Fire Management Program, since during the 2022 season it was not possible to temporarily hire a brigade of 10 forest firefighters to support the actions of the Program, as had been done in previous years. **(Annex 29).**

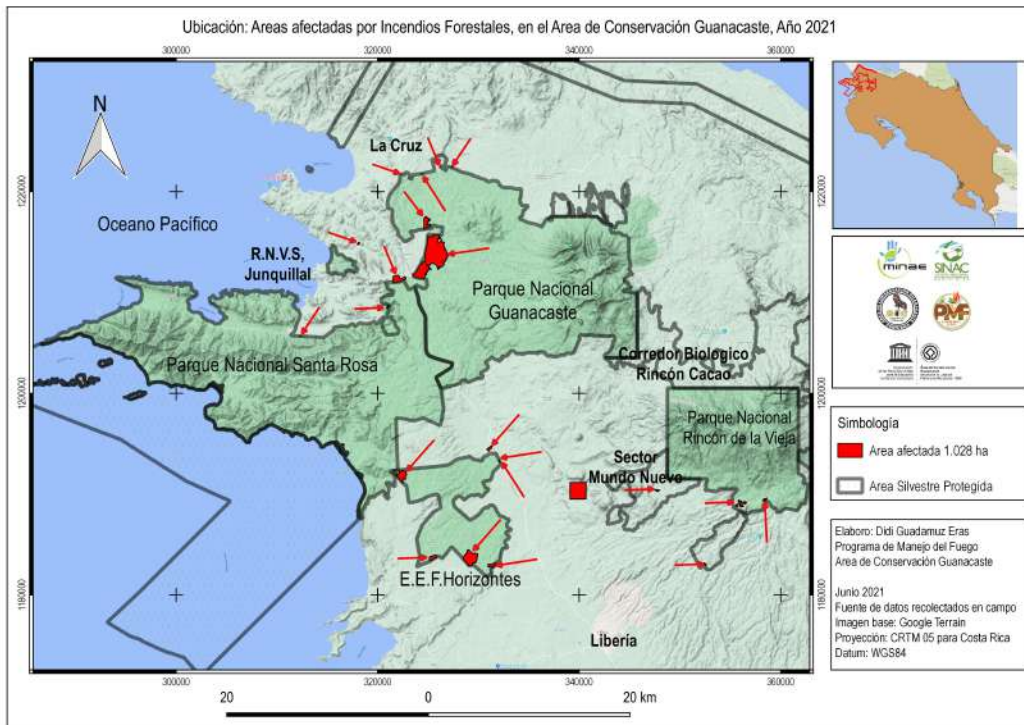
Thanks to the support of resources from the NGO Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund and private donors, this situation was partially solved by hiring a crew of local people to support the maintenance and cleaning of roads and internal roads of the Heritage Site, and a group of forest brigadiers was hired to support the control and firefighting during the most critical period of the season. This support from local people, plus the volunteer brigade members, personnel from the Heritage Site and the regional Conservation Area, was fundamental to attend to the different fires that occurred and reduce the number of hectares affected in both seasons to a minimum.

Fire Season 2021

The number of fires recorded and attended in the 2021 season remained below the average of the last 10 years. A total of 21 forest fires were attended, of which 15 were inside the Heritage Site and 6 in neighboring farms, which were controlled so that they did not enter the protected wildlife area.

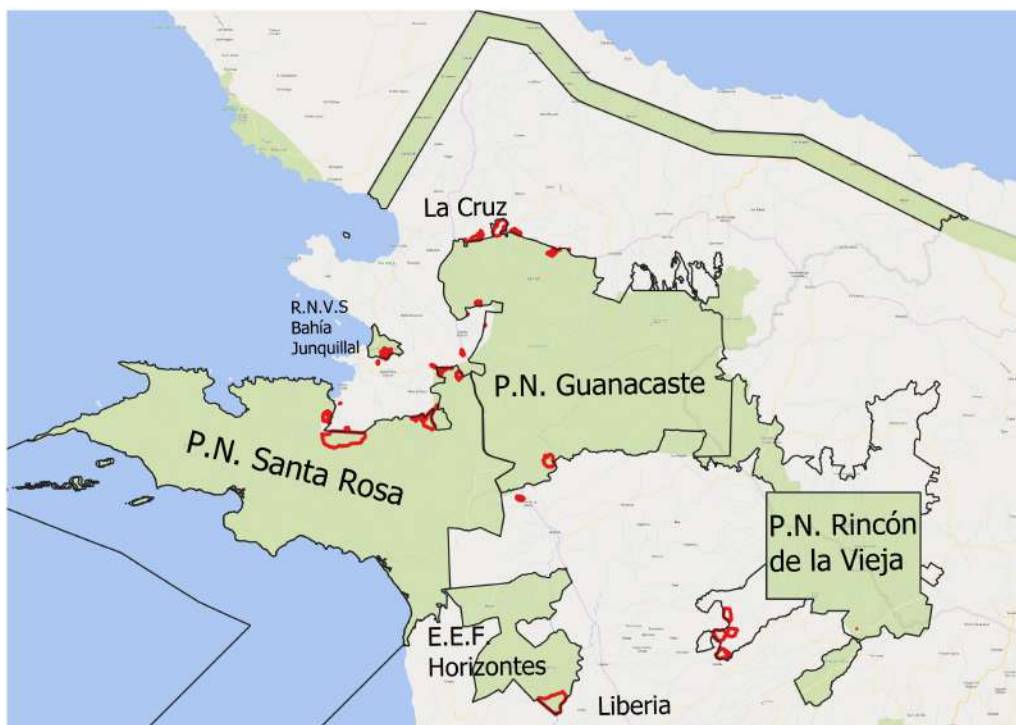
The total number of hectares burned that affected the subseasonal stages of the dry forest ecosystem was 1030 hectares, of which 679.8 hectares corresponded to a single fire that was favored by high temperatures and strong winds. In the farms neighboring the Heritage Site, 6 fires were attended and a total of 80 hectares of private property were affected.

- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-programa-de-proteccion-e-incendios/5202-atencion-de-incendio-forestal-en-sector-pocosol-parque-nacional-guanacaste>
- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-programa-de-proteccion-e-incendios/5307-temporada-de-incendios-forestales-2021-area-de-conservacion-guanacaste>



Fire Season 2022

In the 2022 season, a total of 41 fires were attended, of which 30 occurred within the Heritage Site and 11 fires were attended in neighboring private properties. A total of 1425.93 ha. were burned, of which 1310 ha. were burned in the Heritage Site and 115.93 ha. were burned in neighboring Agropaisaje territory. **(Annex 30,31).**



Volunteer Forest Fire Brigades

There are currently seven active volunteer forest fire departments (114 people), formed by people from the local communities neighboring the Heritage Site and two new brigades in formation (33 people); for a total of 147 volunteer firefighters who actively participate in the various training, education, awareness-raising activities on the problem of fire and in fighting the various fires that occur during the dry season. These groups constitute a strong support from the local community to the efficient management of the Heritage Site in the fight against forest fires.



The Heritage Site continues to make progress by promoting and facilitating the development of studies associated with the topic of forest fires by the academia, so that today we already have a good base of technical-scientific information for analysis and decision-making based on in situ data, which will be fundamental for the coming years, when meteorological models predict a greater increase in drought as a result of climate change. During the period, two important articles were generated. **(Annex, 32, 33)**

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-programa-de-proteccion-e-incendios/5641-ii-rally-femenino-de-tecnologias-2022>

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/36-espanol/noticias/noticias-educacion-biologica/5315-acciones-de-restauracion-ecologica-y-biocultural-en-el-area-de-conservacion-guanacaste>

- A geomorphometric model to determine topographic parameters controlling wildfires occurrence in tropical dry forests.

- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/38-espanol/noticias/noticias-programa-de-investigacion/5495-modelo-geomorfometrico-para-determinar-parametros-topograficos-que-controlan-la-ocurrencia-de-incendios-forestales-en-el-bosque-tropical-seco>

- Application of calcination indices for forest fires in the 2020 season, in the Area de Conservación Guanacaste, Costa Rica.

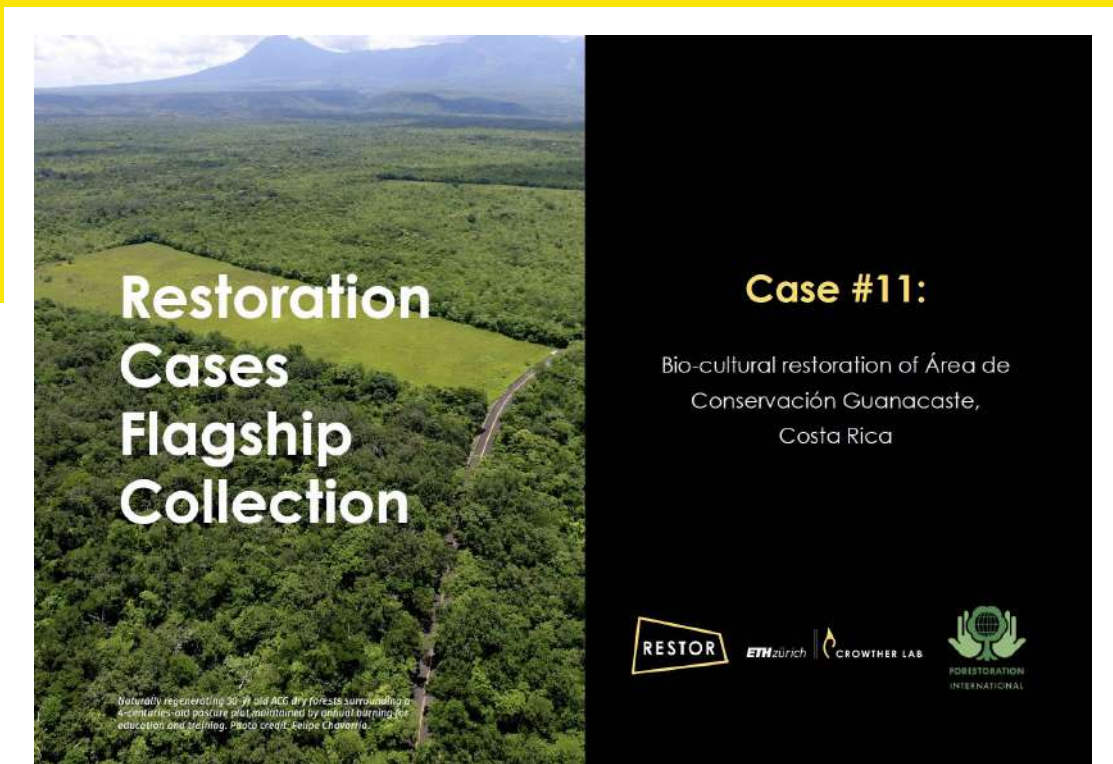
One element to highlight thanks to the excellent results of preventing, controlling and fighting forest fires (along with other parallel actions that the Heritage Site has implemented) has been the recovery of tens of thousands of hectares of dry forest ecosystem. Today, the Heritage Site continues to be one of the most successful and central examples in the world in terms of landscape recovery, a condition that in 2022 was highlighted in the RESTOR platform, which is the largest network of conservation and restoration sites worldwide (**Annex, 34**).

- <https://restor.eco/es/>

Exemplary practices

“The formation of ACG required a paradigm shift toward a local-based conservation and management approach based on strategic land purchase and government permissions, elimination of fires, local employment at all administrative levels, and field-based biological education. These actions created and protected sufficient habitat to sustain native species, thereby providing goods and services to local communities to compensate them for their engagement in wildland conservation and restoration and promoting and assisting the natural forest regeneration process to restore and connect forest ecosystems within a heterogeneous landscape. Local communities were engaged in ACG through educational programs, training of local naturalists to conduct biological inventories, voluntary fire-fighting brigades, government employment, and regional and national advisory councils”

- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/35-espanol/noticias/noticias-acg/5570-acg-como-estudio-de-caso-emblematico-de-restauracion>



The improvement in the operational capacities of the Fire Management Program and community brigades, the new specialized firefighting vehicles (VIR), the System for the Management and Handling of Forest Fire Incidents, plus the technical and scientific information that is being developed on the subject, undoubtedly contribute to a "greater professionalization of fire management", in a scenario in which the prevailing conditions due to the impacts of climate change make future conditions much more complex to face for the dry ecosystem and intermediate dry-humid zones of the Natural Heritage Site.

C- Actions Research and Ecological Monitoring

One of the important strengths of the Heritage Site has been its strong willingness to receive, promote, support and encourage scientific research projects, which generate information and knowledge that can be used as a tool for the administration and active management of the protected area. In spite of the pandemic-related hiatus in 2020 and most of 2021, the Heritage Site remained active in the development of long-term research projects (monkeys, butterfly larvae, inventories terrestrial and marine inventories, forest plots, sea turtles, sharks, etc.) and sporadic projects carried out by national researchers.

By the end of 2021 and throughout 2022 the Site gradually registered an increase in the amount of research to reach an annual average of 65 to 70 authorized research projects, involving national and international researchers. Where the increase has been slower is in relation to the number of university courses that visit and use the Site for the development of their academic teaching activities. However, in the last semester of 2022, an increase in the number of visiting courses began to be noticed and it is expected that by the summer of 2023, the trend will increase to reach the pre-pandemic normal of 30-40 university courses per year.



Ecological monitoring

At the institutional level, the State Party has established the National Ecological Monitoring Program (PRONAMEC) through Executive Decree N0 39747-MINAE of May 18, 2016. **(Annex 35)**

The general objective of PRONAMEC is to "generate and disseminate reliable scientific information on the conservation status of the country's biodiversity and its trends, which is useful for decision-making at local and national scales, in terrestrial, inland water and marine environments." The specific objectives are:

1. Assess and understand the status and trends of the country's biodiversity and ecosystem health for decision making.
2. Evaluate the fulfillment of the objectives of creation, effectiveness and ecological integrity of the Wildlife Protected Areas and the biological corridors that interconnect them.
3. Generate information required for the development of national biodiversity indicators.
4. Manage the preparation of biodiversity statistics required to evaluate the effectiveness of the management of those institutions that carry out activities related to biodiversity conservation.

Marine monitoring

With the support of the Forever Costa Rica Program, carried out by the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) through the Forever Costa Rica Association, a series of projects have been developed over the last five years to generate plans, protocols and indicators of terrestrial and marine ecological integrity.

The Heritage Site has participated in two consultancies: one focused on the construction of the **Marine Ecological Monitoring Plan for Santa Rosa National Park and the Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area, Guanacaste Conservation Area**" and another consultancy to validate the protocol and train personnel in the application of the protocols: **"Protocol for the Ecological Monitoring of Coral Formations"** and **"Protocol for the Ecological Monitoring of Aquatic Mammal Aggregations"**. (**Annex 36, 37**)

The site has a "Marine Monitoring Unit" made up of five staff members who have been trained in scuba diving and in the application of protocols, in addition to having the basic equipment required.

In 2021 SINAC published the **"First Technical Report on the results of the first three sessions of ecological monitoring implementation in each of the 9 MPAs"**, which shows the partial results of the implementation of marine ecological monitoring in Santa Rosa National Park and the Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area, indicating:

"According to the average value obtained from the measurement of indicators in two monitoring with a difference of three years (2017-2020), the Coral Formations of Santa Rosa National Park have a score of 4 (3.0 - 3.74), which indicates that their ecological integrity is within an acceptable range of variation, although some human intervention may be required for their maintenance." **(Annex 38, p.34)**

During the period of this report, with the support of a consultancy sponsored by the NGO Forever Costa Rica, the Marine Monitoring Unit conducted two work sessions per year, with coral formations and marine mammals. Currently the Heritage Site is working on the preparation of an article "Ecological integrity of the coral formations of the marine protected area of Santa Rosa National Park, Guanacaste Conservation Area (Costa Rica)"; to be published in a conservation journal.

Terrestrial monitoring

In the terrestrial area, within the framework of the PRONAMEC Program, the Heritage Site participated in a process to identify indicators of ecological integrity in continental terrestrial protected areas and build the "Specific Monitoring Plan for the Ecological Integrity of the Guanacaste Conservation Area for Santa Rosa, Rincón de la Vieja and Guanacaste National Parks" (**Annex 39**).

The main objective of this plan is to generate robust technical information on the conservation status of the protected area's biodiversity to support decision-making and adaptive management of the ACG. This process also implies the articulation of the monitoring results with the management processes established in the General Management Plan or other strategic decisions of the ACG-Silvestre.

The implementation of the monitoring of the defined indicators is established on a biannual basis and for a period of 10 years, in line with the follow-up, evaluation and updating of the Management Plan. The authorities of the Heritage Site expect to start in 2023 with some of the planned monitoring, in order to at least in the next five years to generate experience and form a "Terrestrial Monitoring Unit"; as well as to establish at least a baseline of information for subsequent monitoring. They also recognize that the current situation of scarce resources and lack of sufficient personnel may hinder the development of this plan.

Christmas Bat Count

Since 2013, when the Latin American Network for the Conservation of Bats (RELCOM: <https://www.relcomlatinoamerica.net/>) declared Santa Rosa National Park as an Area of Importance for the Conservation of Bats (AICOM), the authorities of the Heritage Site, in coordination with strategic allies, have carried out an annual activity called "Christmas Count of Mesoamerican Bats".



In December 2021, the Heritage Site carried out the IX edition of this count, documenting 936 individuals of 17 species in the Santa Rosa Sector (dry forest), of which 90 were captured in nets and 846 were counted in shelters. The activity was also carried out in the Santa Maria Sector (humid forest), recording 70 individuals of 14 species. The Site authorities are preparing to carry out this year's count in December.

- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-programa-de-investigacion/5445-resultados-del-ix-conteo-navideno-de-murcielagos-mesoamericanos-2021>

Christmas Bird Count

For more than 10 years authorities of the Heritage Site in coordination with strategic allies have carried out the activity called Christmas Bird Count, in line with the requirements of the Audubon Society, which promotes the largest citizen science project in the world to census birds.

Currently, we have a historical record of very valuable information from this activity for the Santa Rosa (dry forest, coastal area) and Cacao (rainforest and cloud forest) Sectors, which is awaiting analysis.

- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-acg/4852-conteo-navideno-de-aves-2019-en-los-sectores-santa-rosa-y-cacao-de-acg>
- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-acg/5423-conteo-navideno-de-aves-2021-en-los-sectores-santa-rosa-y-cacao-de-acg>

Ornithological Group ACG

Motivated and supported by strategic allies, Heritage Site staff has ventured into birdwatching and today is an active group that records information on the Naturalista and Costa Rica-Inaturalist platforms.

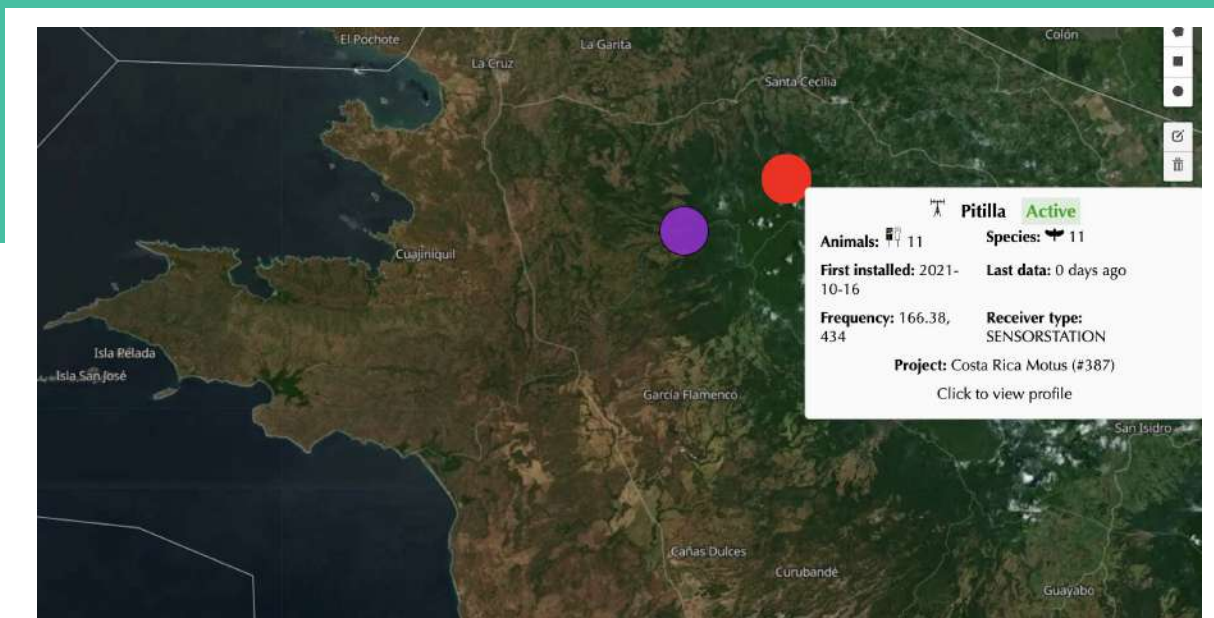
- <https://www.inaturalist.org/places/costa-rica>
- <https://www.naturalista.mx/projects/grupo-ornitologico-acg>
- <https://www.inaturalist.org/places/costa-rica#taxon=3>

MOTUS Stations at the Heritage Site

With the support of the NGO Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund (GDFCF) and through the BioAve project (<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-programa-de-investigacion/3766-proyecto-de-aves-migratorias-bioave>), in October 2021 the first wildlife monitoring station for scientific and educational purposes (MOTUS) was installed in the Pitilla Biological Station (Caribbean rainforest) (<https://motus.org/>), making the Heritage Site the first state protected area to take advantage of this technology and participate in this global monitoring network.

MOTUS is the world's largest collaborative automated radio telemetry array and central hub for detection data from over 750 receiving stations, as well as station metadata (location, deployment dates, height, antenna orientation) and tags (species, location and deployment date). Data from the entire network is provided to researchers and a condensed version is shared with the public.

In 2022, another MOTUS station was installed at the Martiza Biological Station (western slope of the Orosi Volcano) and by 2023, two more stations are planned for the Santa Rosa Sector and the Horizontes Sector (dry forest), to complete a network of four monitoring stations with which to study and monitor the passage of migratory birds in the gradient of ecosystems of the Heritage Site.



This network of MOTUS stations will track Neotropical bird migration routes and generate data on the passage of migratory birds on their way to Panama, South America and back to North America, among other possibilities that are now available at the Heritage Site. In addition to generating different opportunities for studies with birds and other groups of birds that once tagged with radio telemetry can be tracked on their local movement routes or continental migration routes.

Other projects:

In terms of inventory, research and biological monitoring, the Heritage Site has had the support of the NGO GDFCF and researchers from different public universities who, through their projects, have generated valuable information for the understanding and decision making of the authorities of the Site and the regional Conservation Area (agro-landscape).

Jaguars

A recent scientific article published by the Institute of Conservation and Wildlife Management (ICOMVIS) of the National University, based on results from camera traps and satellite telemetry, established the population density of jaguars at 2.6 females and 5.0 males per 100 km² in the Santa Rosa Sector of the Heritage Site. For the State Party and the authorities of the Heritage Site, these data are very valuable because they ratify the achievement obtained in 40 years of efforts to connect and restore the ecosystems, ensure their conservation and biodeterioration, and achieve the Integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the property. **(Annex 40).**

Also in the area of biodiversity inventories, the Heritage Site in partnership with the GDFCF has continued to promote and develop the BioAlfa Project (<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/bioalfa>), which has generated thousands of new species for science, especially in the arthropod group, which continues to position the State Party and the Heritage Site as one of the most barcoded places in the tropics. **(Annex 41)**



BioMar

The first Mini-symposium of the BioMar-ACG project (Marine Biodiversity of the Area de Conservación Guanacaste) was held in October 2022. This project consists of four pillars: 1st Government (Heritage Site), 2nd Academy (University of Costa Rica), 3rd Community (Marine Parataxonomists) and 4th NGO (Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund); has generated a continuous pulse of scientific activities and taxonomic inventory, classification and identification of marine species; As well as its registration in databases, integration with national and international scientists, generation of local capacity and dissemination of knowledge through traditional publications (scientific articles) and publications in the new ways of disseminating information generated by the internet (web, electronic publications, social networks, guides, image galleries, databases, among others).

- <https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-programa-de-investigacion/5667-mini-simposio-biomar-acg-2022>

For the State Party and the Heritage Site, this type of project not only promotes the recording and cataloguing of marine species, but also opens and defines a new form of collaboration between the parties involved, by enabling a relationship that links and benefits local communities and marine scientists directly with conservation.

In summary, this institutional effort of biodiversity monitoring by the State Party seeks to contribute to the country's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and specifically Article 7, which calls on each Contracting Party to establish, as far as possible, monitoring programs for the components of biological diversity that are important for its conservation and sustainable use. However, the Site authorities recognize that the current situation of scarce economic resources and lack of sufficient personnel may delay the development of terrestrial and marine monitoring plans; nevertheless, they will do their best to continue with efforts in this line, together with friendly NGOs, academia and researchers who develop projects in the ACG.

D- Other reports (visitation, social networks, general management report 2021)

Visitation

The pandemic caused by Covid-19 during 2020 seriously impacted tourist visitation at the Heritage Site, receiving 66,530 visitors during the year, which represented a 59% drop compared to 2019 and the lowest number of visitors received in 20 years.

The year 2021 closed with more positive figures in terms of tourist arrivals, with an increase of 31% over 2020, reaching 87,207 visitors. The behavior of visitation in 2022 has continued to rise and a significant increase is expected with the arrival of high season in the month of December and during the year 2023. **(Annex 42, 43)**

Website and Social Networks

The Heritage Site has a website where information on the management of the Technical Programs and activities that are routinely carried out is made available to society, and also serves as a platform for the development of information campaigns, dissemination and interaction with people through its link with the different social networks.

More than 20,000 virtual visitors per month make use of the information available on the website, among them important national media. During the period covered by this report, more than 97 news items have been generated on various topics related to the management of the Site, 50 videos have been produced for the ACG YouTube channel (currently more than 350 have been published) and more than 60 live broadcasts have been made on the Facebook social network, where 67,000 followers follow the publications of the Heritage Site. The social network Twitter ACG with 2,059 followers has become an important communication and information network for the research community of the Guanacaste-wildland Conservation Area. **(Annex 44)**



General Management Report 2021

To complement the information presented in this Management Report to the Committee, the State Party and Site authorities attach the 2021 Achievements Report, which provides an overview of the achievements of the different Programs and Departments that manage and administer the Guanacaste Conservation Area (regional/agro-landscape) and the Protected Wildlife Area (Heritage Site) (**Annex 45**). The ACG 2022 achievements report is under preparation.

1. AMEGA Atlantic Mega Transshipment Terminal (MTA)

<https://www.cnc.go.cr/proyectos/en-desarrollo/mega-terminal-de-transbordo-del-atlantico-amega-mta>

2. AMEGA web site

<http://www.amegaholdingsinc.com/project.html>

3. APM Terminals Moin

<https://www.apmterminals.com/es/moin>

4. JAPDEVA

<https://www.japdeva.go.cr>

5. CMI Energía's wind farms sign agreement with government entities for the protection of wildlife for the protection of wildlife

<https://www.businessnews.cr.com/index.php/negocios/energia/593-costa-rica-abre-espacio-para-el-desarrollo-de-hidrogeno-verde-en-el-pais-2>

6. CMI Energía receives recognition after aiding conservation

<https://adiariocr.com/ambiente/cmi-energia-recibe-reconocimiento-tras-ayudar-a-la-conservacion/>

7. Green and Living Biodiversity Tunnel, North Interamerican Highway, La Cruz, La Cruz.

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-acg/4242-tunel-verde-y-vivo-de-la-biodiversidad-carretera-de-interamericana-norte-la-cruz-guanacaste>

8. Cochinilla Case

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caso_Cochinilla

9. "Cochinilla" case highlighted urgency of restructuring CONAVI

<https://semanariouniversidad.com/pais/caso-cochinilla-evidencio-urgencia-de-reestructurar-el-conavi/>

10. MOPT proposes elimination of CONAVI, COSEVI and CTP

<https://semanariouniversidad.com/pais/mopt-propone-eliminar-el-conavi-cosevi-y-ctp/>

11. I want to leave a green footprint

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/biodesarrollo/huella-verde>

12. ACG celebrates the 2022 Freedom Torch Run

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-acg/5611-en-acg-celebramos-el-recorrido-de-la-antorcha-de-la-libertad-2022>

13. La Cruz Coastal Tourist Corridor: The place to explore!

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/corredor-turistico-costero-la-cruz>

14. La Cruz Coastal Tourist Corridor: The place to explore!

<https://www.lacruzguanacaste.com/>

15. ACG Teaching Guide, Four Windows to Climate Change. Pedagogical mediation strategies for learning about climate change.

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/36-espanol/noticias/noticias-educacion-biologica/5338-guia-didactica-acg-cuatro-ventanas-al-cambio-climatico-estrategias-de-mediacion-pedagogica-para-el-aprendizaje-del-tema-del-cambio-climatico>

16. Protected Areas Program (Forever Costa Rica Association)

<https://costaricaporsiempre.org/programa-areas-protegidas/>

17. Costa Rica: overview (World Bank in Costa Rica)

<https://www.bancomundial.org/es/country/costarica/overview>



18. Costa Rica on the verge of an economic recession? This is what experts say

<https://www.larepublica.net/noticia/costa-rica-al-borde-de-una-recesion-economica-esto-dicen-los-expertos>

19. Green Climate Fund (REDD +, Costa Rica)

<https://reddcostarica.net/fondo-verde-para-el-clima/>

20. Green Bond for ASP (Finance for Biodiversity)

<https://biofin.cr/soluciones-financieras/bono-verde/>

21. Área de Conservación Guanacaste, web site

www.acguanacaste.ac.cr

22. Campaign: my Habitat is my Home

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-oficina-subregional-de-liberia/5377-campana-mi-habitat-es-mi-hogar>

23. Mesoamerican Parrot Census Network

https://parrotcensus.com/en_us/

24. Attention of Forest Fire in Pocosol Sector Guanacaste National Park

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-programa-de-proteccion-e-incendios/5202-atencion-de-incendio-forestal-en-sector-pocosol-parque-nacional-guanacaste>

25. Forest Fire Season 2021, Área de Conservación Guanacaste

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-programa-de-proteccion-e-incendios/5307-temporada-de-incendios-forestales-2021-area-de-conservacion-guanacaste>

26. II Women's Technology Rally 2022

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-programa-de-proteccion-e-incendios/5641-ii-rally-femenino-de-tecnologias-2022>



27. Ecological and biocultural restoration actions in the Área de Conservación

Guanacacaste

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/36-espanol/noticias/noticias-eduacion-biologica/5315-acciones-de-restauracion-ecologica-y-biocultural-en-el-area-de-conservacion-guanacaste>

28. Geomorphometric model to determine topographical parameters that control the occurrence of forest fires in the tropical dry forest

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/38-espanol/noticias/noticias-programa-de-investigacion/5495-modelo-geomorfometrico-para-determinar-parametros-topograficos-que-controlan-la-ocurrencia-de-incendios-forestales-en-el-bosque-tropical-seco>

29. Global Platform for Nature Restoration

<https://restor.eco/es/>

30. ACG como estudio de caso emblemático de restauración

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/35-espanol/noticias/noticias-acg/5570-acg-como-estudio-de-caso-emblematico-de-restauracion>

31. Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Conservation of Bats

<https://www.relcomlatinoamerica.net/>

32. Results of the IX Mesoamerican Bat Christmas Count, 2021

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-programa-de-investigacion/5445-resultados-del-ix-conteo-navideno-de-murcielagos-mesoamericanos-2021>

33. Christmas Bird Count 2019 in the Santa Rosa and Cacao sectors of ACG

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-acg/4852-conteo-navideno-de-aves-2019-en-los-sectores-santa-rosa-y-cacao-de-acg>

34. Christmas Bird Count 2021 in the Santa Rosa and Cacao sectors of ACG

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-acg/5423-conteo-navideno-de-aves-2021-en-los-sectores-santa-rosa-y-cacao-de-acg>



35. Naturalist

<https://www.naturalista.mx/projects/grupo-ornitologico-acg>

36. iNaturalist Costa Rica

<https://www.inaturalist.org/places/costa-rica#taxon=3>

37. Migratory Birds Project (BioAve)

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-programa-de-investigacion/3766-proyecto-de-aves-migratorias-bioave>

38. MOTUS (Wildlife Tracking System)

<https://motus.org/>

39. BioAlfa: Costa Rica's Biodiversity Inventory

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/bioalfa>

40. BioMar-ACG 2022 Mini-Symposium

<https://www.acguanacaste.ac.cr/noticias/noticias-programa-de-investigacion/5667-mini-simposio-biomar-acg-2022>



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4. CORACG-011-2022 Canal Seco
5. SINAC-CONAC-SA-125-06-2022 Agreement 11 SO 13-2022
6. SINAC-CONAC-SA-131-06-2022
7. SINAC-ACG-DIR-266-2022 Dry Canal Project Commission
8. Notes Vice Minister Canal Seco July 2022
9. CANSEC S. A. CANSEC S.A. is a ghost company, without investments or accredited capital in Costa Rica
10. Technical analyzes described dry channel plan as illusory, speculative and without technical support
11. Inconsistencies surround the Cansec group's proposal for a dry canal plan
12. DM-1112-2016 Borinquen statement
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17. Run over report 2.0 Saenz
18. AMBSE Citizen Science
19. ACG Four Windows to Climate Change

20. Action Plan CC Canton La Cruz
21. Costa Rica on the verge of an economic recession?
22. Costa Rica Overview
23. Presentation of financial data and human resources ACG
24. Note PPI-005-2021
25. National Parks/ the nonsense of the state with tourists |La Nación
26. UNDP transfers \$23.9 million from the Green Climate Fund to MINAE
27. SINAC-REDD Strengthening Plan-11082021
28. National Parks Trust ago2022
29. SINAC-DE-014-2021 Permanent Alert System
30. Fire Report 2022 ACG
31. Talk closing fire season 2022
32. Application of calcination indices for forest fires season 2022 ACG
33. A geomorphometric model to determine topographic parameters
34. Restor case study case 11 Costa Rica
35. PRONAMEC Decree No. 39747- MINAE
36. PRONAMEC Protocol Aquatic Mammals
37. PRONAMEC Protocol Reefs
38. Pronamec Annual Report Marine Monitoring
39. Final ACG Terrestrial Monitoring Plan
40. The use of camera traps
41. Science gives Costa Rican identity, La Nación 21ago22



42. ACG visitation report 2020

43. CG visitation report 2021

44. Communication Report

45. ACG Achievements Report 2021

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0AI8TPIM3CHn5Uk9PVA>



5. PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

The State Party expresses its approval for this report to be uploaded for public access public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>).

6. SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORITY

Report prepared by:

Roger Blanco Segura (rblanco@aguanacaste.ac.cr)
Research Program - Heritage Site Manager

María Marta Chavarría Díaz (mmcha@acguanacaste.ac.cr)
Research Program - Heritage Site Manager (marine section)

Marco Bustos Salazar (mbustos@acguanacaste.ac.cr)
Director of protected wild areas

Reviewed by:

Alejandro Masis Cuevillas (amasis@acguanacaste.ac.cr)
ACG Regional Director

Mahyar Shirazinia Riggioni (mahyar.shirazinia@sinac.go.cr)
Focal Point Natural Heritage

Translation:

Richard Joyce Vandusen (richardvanjoyce@gmail.com)
Monteverde

Frank Joyce (frankjoycejr@gmail.com)
Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund

Layout and Design:

•Melisa Espinoza Rodríguez (melissa.espinoza@acguanacaste.ac.cr)
Comunicación



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Area De Conservación Guanacaste ACG



Área de Conservación Guanacast



@ACGuanacaste



(506) 2666 5051



acg@acguanacaste.ac.cr

