



# THIRD MILLENNIUM ALLIANCE

# 2018

## ANNUAL REPORT



The background of the page is a photograph of a dense, misty forest. The trees are covered in thick fog, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. On the right side of the page, there is a vertical decorative border with a repeating geometric pattern.

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# Letter To Our Supporters

Prior to the nineteenth century, most people viewed nature solely as a resource - as something that provided food and shelter.

Then in 1872, the United States Congress took a dramatic departure from this perspective by establishing the world's first national park: Yellowstone National Park. The goal of this brave and important action was to set aside public lands specifically for the protection of wildlife and the enjoyment of future generations. This simple act set the foundation for the modern day conservation movement, and has resulted in a network of protected areas that now protects more than 84 million acres of land across the U.S. alone.

Third Millennium Alliance (TMA) and its network of donors and supporters are doing in this century what some of the great conservationists in the United States did at the turn of the previous century. Through strategic land acquisition in conjunction with a host of corollary activities, we are protecting a planetary treasure from imminent deforestation and preserving an ecological legacy for the next millennium.

This conservation work has never been so important. With more than 75% of all plant and animal species in the world living in the tropics, **our conservation efforts in the Jama-Coaque Reserve (JCR) of coastal Ecuador protect more species from extinction than any national park located in the U.S. or Europe.** TMA staff and visitors to JCR witness the positive impact of our conservation efforts on a daily basis when a troupe of critically endangered Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin monkeys or a flock of endangered Grey-cheeked Parakeets pass through the forest canopy adjacent to the Bamboo House.

Having the opportunity to experience the tropical rainforest and the incredible wildlife that call it home in this way wouldn't be possible without the steady support of our donors and partners. It is thanks to your generous contributions that we achieve the conservation results described in this annual report - from extending the size of JCR through our 16th land purchase, to the restoration of 37-acres of degraded land, and the initiation of a youth university scholarship program.

## You help keep our programs alive!

We are grateful that you have chosen to support TMA and share our vision of setting aside land specifically for the protection of wildlife and the enjoyment of future generations. We look forward to sharing more successes with you over the coming years, and sincerely hope all of you will have the opportunity to experience the magic of the Jama-Coaque Reserve in person sometime soon.

Sincerely,



Ryan L. Lynch  
Executive Director



## **Our Mission**

To preserve the last remnants of the Pacific Ecuadorian Forest and to empower local communities to restore what has been lost.

## **Our Vision**

TMA envisions a culture in which local communities recognize both the practical and intrinsic benefits of forest stewardship and manage the land accordingly, fostering economic and environmental sustainability throughout the region.

# Our Approach

TMA prides itself in its comprehensive holistic approach to conservation. The key to our success is the combination of a hands-on Conservation plan, the extensive use of habitat Restoration, active on-the-ground Research, engaging Education, and a Community outreach program. Together these five aspects of our work make us one of the most dynamic conservation organizations working in coastal Ecuador.



Conservation



Research



Community



Restoration



Education



Click this symbol on any of the following pages to learn more about each project on our new website.

## Jama-Coaque Reserve Expansion

This year we completed the Jama-Coaque Reserve expansion plan, which is a guiding document for TMA's future conservation activities. The plan outlines specific conservation activities, principally land purchase and conservation easements, that aim to achieve two primary objectives:

- Increase the amount of contiguous protected forested habitat for local wildlife
- Protect the headwaters of streams that are vital to local human and wildlife communities

The Expansion Plan outlines a 1,400-acre expansion of the Jama-Coaque Reserve through six targeted property purchases, effectively doubling the size of the Reserve. The effort will require significant funding support from donors and institutional partners, but our initial efforts are already paying off. In December we completed the 16th property purchase for TMA, which brings the total size of the Reserve to 1,475-acres, and we have already raised half of the funds required to purchase the next property on the southern extension of the Reserve. The completion of the Expansion Plan will result in the protection of approximately 30% (4,000-acres) of our Important Bird Area, including the headwaters of 17 local streams.

**IN 2018 WE MADE  
OUR 16TH LAND  
PURCHASE FOR  
CONSERVATION,  
INCREASING THE  
SIZE OF THE JAMA-  
COAQUE RESERVE  
TO 1,475-ACRES**



## Reforestation

TMA has been actively reforesting 135-acres of degraded land surrounding the Jama-Coaque Reserve since 2013. With funding support from partners SavingSpecies and the Amersfoort Zoo, in 2018 we focused on efforts on a 37-acre property that was previously clear-cut and managed as a Balsa plantation. Given the fact that this property was never used as cattle pasture, and as a result wasn't overgrown with the invasive pasture grass, our team elected to use a combination of tree planting and natural regeneration to restore the landscape. The first step of the process was to walk the entire property mapping each native tree we wanted to keep. We then planted a variety of quick-growing native trees in gaps where no trees we're naturally regrowing. Early results already demonstrate that this methodology is both quicker and more cost effective compared to previous restoration work carried out in pure cattle pasture.

## Agro-restoration

In addition to our pure reforestation work, we are also carrying out an agro-restoration pilot project that uses a combination of canopy trees and a rare variety of heirloom cacao that is endemic to Ecuador. The objective of this project is threefold:

- Improve the quality of degraded pastureland for wildlife
- Create forest-friendly economic opportunities for land owners
- Preserve high-quality nacional cacao genetics

TMA is working closely with partner To'ak Chocolate on this project, who brought National Geographic to the Reserve to film our innovative nacional cacao conservation project. Moving forward we plan to expand this project to create a sustainable agroforestry buffer-zone along the periphery of the Jama-Coaque Reserve and Conservation Corridor.



# Research

## Jama-Coaque Bird Observatory

In 2017 we launched Ecuador's first and only constant-effort bird banding program. The overarching goal of this project is to monitor population trends for all bird species found in our Important Bird Area (EC 010), and provide quality research education to Ecuadorian and international students.

2018 represented our first complete year of data-collection, thus setting baseline knowledge for all future years. Some of the highlights from our hard work includes:

- 171 species banded - represents 55% of the species in our IBA
- Added 10 species to the Jama-Coaque Reserve bird list
- Documented 23 internationally threatened species in our IBA, which is more than any of the 109 IBA's in the entire country
- 72 unique species we're banded at our reforestation site
- 10-30% recapture rate - demonstrating high residency

## Canopy Camera Trap Project

The high forest canopy (115+ feet) represents one of the last remaining unexplored ecosystems of the world. With the addition of Dr. Shawn McCracken to the TMA team, who studied canopy dwelling amphibians in the Ecuadorian Amazon for his PhD, we successfully initiated an innovative canopy camera trap study in the Jama-Coaque Reserve this year. This project aims to document biodiversity in the forest canopy in the Jama-Coaque Reserve and monitor how species move across our Conservation Corridor. In 2018 our team has captured photos and videos of a large diversity of mammals and birds using camera traps, including the Critically Endangered Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin Monkey.

**COLLECTING IMPORTANT  
BIOLOGICAL DATA TO INFORM  
OUR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES**



# Highlight Species



Slaty Becard  
*Pachyramphus sporiurus*

The Slaty Becard is an extremely rare resident species of drier forests in coastal Ecuador. IUCN estimates that as few as 600 - 1,700 mature individuals of the species remain. Deforestation and loss of habitat continues to threaten the species, highlighting the importance of TMA's ongoing Ornithology research and conservation program in the Jama-Coaque Reserve.



Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin  
*Cebus aequatorialis*

The Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin is an emblematic species of monkey found almost exclusively in western Ecuador. Unfortunately the species is Critically Endangered due to widespread loss and fragmentation of its habitat. Thanks to more than a decade of conservation work in coastal Ecuador, the Jama-Coaque Reserve is one of the few places where the species is reliably found.



## New Outdoor Classroom

With support from the Prince Bernhard Nature Fund we successfully built a new outdoor classroom in the Jama-Coaque Reserve this year. The building is built entirely out of sustainable Guadua bamboo and has an incredible view of the rainforest-covered valley below. The classroom was immediately put to use in August when TMA hosted Ecuador's first international bird banding workshop. Biology students and park rangers from across Ecuador joined TMA expert staff and a number of international partners from the U.S. and Costa Rica to learn how to safely work with and monitor bird populations through bird banding. The course was a complete success and represented a big step forward in our mission to provide more research-driven capacity building opportunities to Ecuadorians.

## Ornithology Field Techniques Internship

We had another successful year of offering our Ornithology field techniques internship in the Reserve. In 2018 we hosted 21 long-term student interns in the Reserve, including individuals from the U.S., Australia, Zimbabwe, and Venezuela. Many of the interns who participated in our internship have either gone on to graduate school or are in the process of applying, which demonstrates the academic quality we aim to achieve with our internship.

**PROVIDING HANDS-ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF TROPICAL ECOLOGISTS  
& CONSERVATIONISTS**



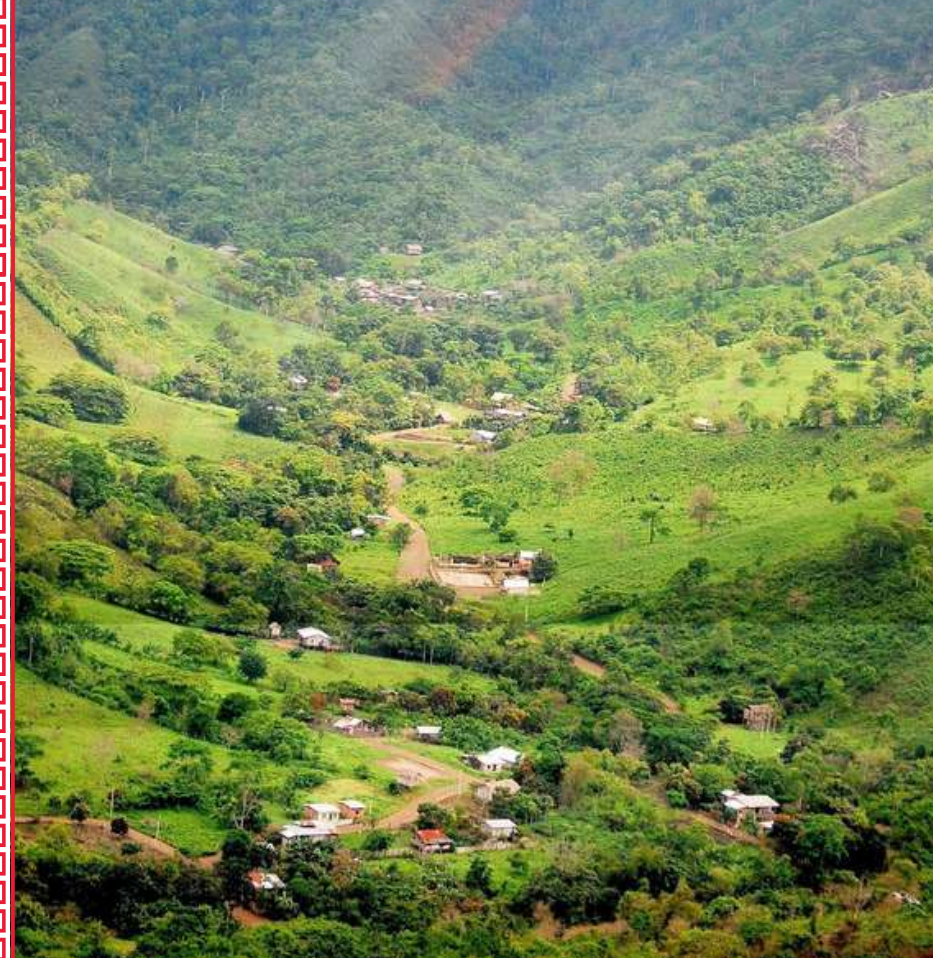
## University Scholarship Program

At the start of 2018 we launched a new university scholarship program for local youth from our neighboring community of Camarones. The objective of the program is to provide the financial support necessary for local youth to attend university - something very few individuals from Camarones have an opportunity to do due to the financial hurdles. Thanks to a dedicated group of donors we we're able to offer the first scholarship to Jomar Vaca, who is currently studying Agricultural Sciences at the local university in Pedernales. Jomar plans to finish his studies and then return to Camarones to help advance sustainable agroforestry practices in the Reserve and elsewhere.

**EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR OWN FUTURES THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING**

## Camarones Community Center

Camarones has lacked a communal area for meetings and educational events since the 2016 earthquake, so towards the end of the year we began working with local leadership to design and build a new community center. TMA and in-country partners are helping to fund the purchase of the necessary materials, and a group of community members are joining together to carry the construction. The center will be a multi-purpose space that community members can use for meetings and where TMA can host a variety of environmental education activities that are planned for next year. The first phase of the project is already underway thanks to the generous support of TMA donors and in-country partners, with the core structure and roof already complete, and completion is planned for mid-2019.



# Financial Overview: 2018

In 2018, our revenue decreased by approximately half. This decrease was largely due to a decrease in grant money brought in through our institutional partners for land purchase. As we begin 2019 we are focusing heavily on turning this trend around through an active land purchase program, of which our private donor base will play an incredibly important role.

In 2018, our expenses remained fairly similar to 2017. A vast majority of our annual expenditures continue to go directly to program services in the field. We strive to be as efficient as possible, directing as much of our annual budget directly towards our conservation mission as possible. We believe that every dollar contributed to TMA makes a bigger conservation impact than most other organizations.

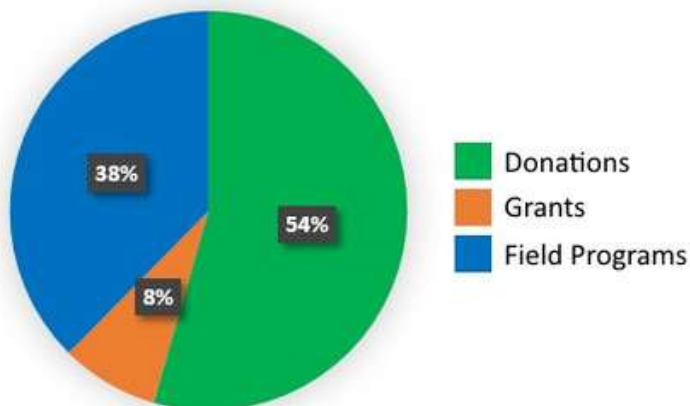
## Revenue

	2018		2017	
Donations	\$	88,630	\$	100,320
Grants	\$	12,970	\$	107,448
Field Programs	\$	61,153	\$	102,661
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>162,753</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>310,429</b>

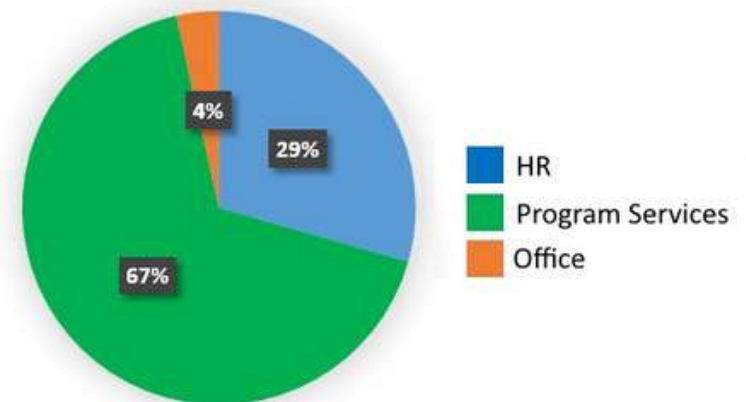
## Expenses

HR	\$	66,272.00	\$	80,554.00
Program Services	\$	151,233.00	\$	158,226.00
Office	\$	7,858.00	\$	9,305.00
Land	\$	-	\$	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>225,363.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>248,085.00</b>

Revenue



Expenses



# Our Team

TMA's staff is a select group of dedicated people who believe in working together to protect the threatened forests and wildlife of coastal Ecuador. Although the work is frequently difficult and wearing, our commitment to conservation does not waver.

## Board of Directors

Isabel Davila  
President

Jerry Toth  
Treasurer

Bryan Criswell  
Secretary

Matt Arnoldy  
Board Member

Erica Dorn  
Board Member

Peter Dlugosch  
Board Member

Anjali Oberoi  
Board Member

## Management Team

Ryan L. Lynch  
Executive Director

Betty Estupinan  
Administrator

Mike Ellis  
Director of Research

Jerry Toth  
Director of Agroforestry

Shawn McCracken  
Director of Educational Programs

Dany Murillo  
Manager of Field Operations

Holly Garrod  
Head of Bird Observatory Operations

Edilberto Marquez  
Park Ranger

Uver Vaca  
Station Manager

# Our Partners & Funders

## Institutional Supporters

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Netherlands  
Dick and Nancy Arnoldy Foundation  
Saving Species  
The Prince Bernhard Nature Fund  
To'ak Chocolate  
Amersfoort Zoo  
Lookfar Conservation  
Verified Conservation Areas (VCA)  
Unite Fitness  
Vortex Optics

## Partners

Texas State University  
The Institute for Bird Populations  
Aves y Conservación  
Ecociencia  
The Biodiversity Group  
Finca Mono Verde  
Ceiba Foundation  
Amphibians Survival Alliance (ASA)  
Nahual Expeditions  
Universidad San Francisco de Quito  
Nature Stills  
NeoSelva  
Photo Wildlife Tours  
Tropical Herping

Conservation is only  
achievable when  
working together.  
We're proud to work  
with some of the  
world's best and most  
respected  
conservation  
organizations.





THIRD MILLENNIUM ALLIANCE

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