



# THIRD MILLENNIUM ALLIANCE

2019

ANNUAL REPORT





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# Letter To Our Supporters

Over the past few years I've been fortunate enough to represent TMA, alongside Directors of some of the most effective conservation NGO's in the world, at a number of international conservation symposiums. These small and intimate gatherings have a single purpose - unite NGO leaders from across the globe to share experiences, offer advice, and provide mentorship to their colleagues. As a relatively young Executive Director, running a relatively small NGO, these symposiums have been absolutely priceless in my personal development, which in turn has helped TMA mature and grow as an NGO.

After attending meetings in Ecuador, the U.K., and Mexico these past few years, and interacting with Directors from more than twelve different countries, the most important thing I've learned is that conservation work really boils down to two things: dedicated people and financial sustainability. If an NGO has a dedicated team of employees and supporters, and the financial means to ensure sustainability and growth, the conservation impact they can make is nearly limitless.

Over the past thirteen years, TMA has been lucky enough to have hundreds, if not thousands, of people help advance the mission of protecting the last remnants of rainforest in coastal Ecuador. From passionate local employees who have been around since the beginning of the project in 2007, to donors who contributed to purchase and protect an acre of rainforest in the Jama-Coaque Reserve for the first time this year, we have been incredibly fortunate. All of us, working hand-in-hand to protect and sustain one of the most biologically rich and threatened ecosystems in the world, is something we can be incredibly proud of.

Your passion, enthusiasm, support, and financial contributions over the years has made an immensely powerful and long-lasting impact on the protection of life on this planet. The Jama-Coaque Reserve exists and has grown to over 1,600-acres of pristine rainforest thanks to you!

However, the fight to continue growing our conservation impact is not over. As I write this letter, the planet is experiencing the frightening spread of the Covid-19 virus. Many of us are confined to our homes to prevent further spread of this dangerous virus, and many of us have or will soon be impacted by the economic depression resulting from the virus. In an economic climate like this, your support is more meaningful than ever. One of the most powerful things we can do as a species to minimize and prevent global pandemics and the loss of life is to protect and restore native ecosystems. Ecosystems function similarly to the human body: when they are healthy, they are more resistant to disease. Thriving ecosystems, such as the Jama-Coaque Reserve, provide incalculable benefits to life on Earth, including our own lives.

So as we make our way through this pandemic together, we would like to thank you for supporting TMA year after year. Your constant support, especially during tough times like this, is what make everything we do possible. All of us at TMA hope you, your friends, and family are staying safe, and look forward to expanding our conservation impact in 2020.

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 believes that people are the key to conservation. Talented, well-trained, and dedicated individuals, who spend every day fighting for the protection of nature, are the ones who make all the difference. Likewise, local community members who live and work adjacent to the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world, also play a critical role in the future of our planet. For this reason, TMA believes that investing in people is the best way to achieve long lasting conservation success! The TMA Conservation Model consists of the following four focal areas:



## Conservation

Purchase and protect the last remnants of rainforest in coastal Ecuador.



## Restoration

Empower community members to transition land management activities to more sustainable and restorative practices.



## Research

Carry out ecological research that informs our conservation activities,



## Education

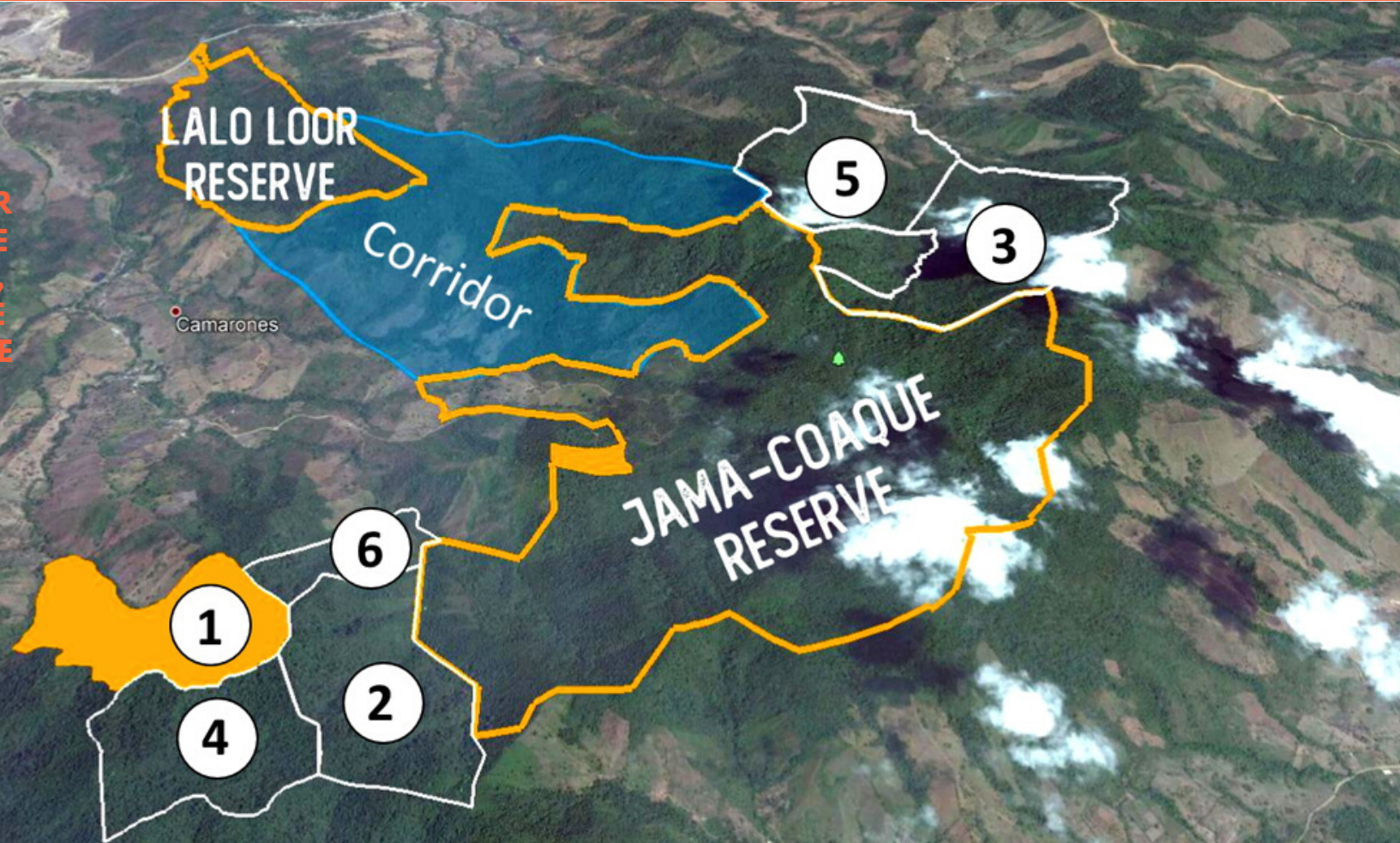
Providing hands-on and field-based learning opportunities for the next generation of conservationists

# Conservation

## Jama-Coaque Reserve Expansion

With deforestation pushing more species to the brink of extinction every day, it is our mission to purchase and protect as much habitat as possible. This year we completed the first property purchase outlined in the Jama-Coaque Reserve Expansion Plan, which was a strategic 180-acre property on the South side of the Reserve. The property, which had already been partly deforested by previous owners, plays a critical role in TMA's ongoing efforts to protect the forested headwaters of all of the streams that provide clean water to the numerous coastal communities living adjacent to the Reserve. The protection and restoration of tropical rainforests is by far our best tool to ensure ecosystem services (i.e. clean air and water) for people across the planet, especially as we observe the increasingly severe impacts of global climate change. Fundraising efforts are already underway to purchase and protect the next strategic property outlined in our Expansion plan, which we hope to finalize in 2020.

**IN 2019 WE MADE OUR 17TH LAND PURCHASE FOR CONSERVATION, INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE JAMA-COAQUE RESERVE TO 1,600-ACRES!**

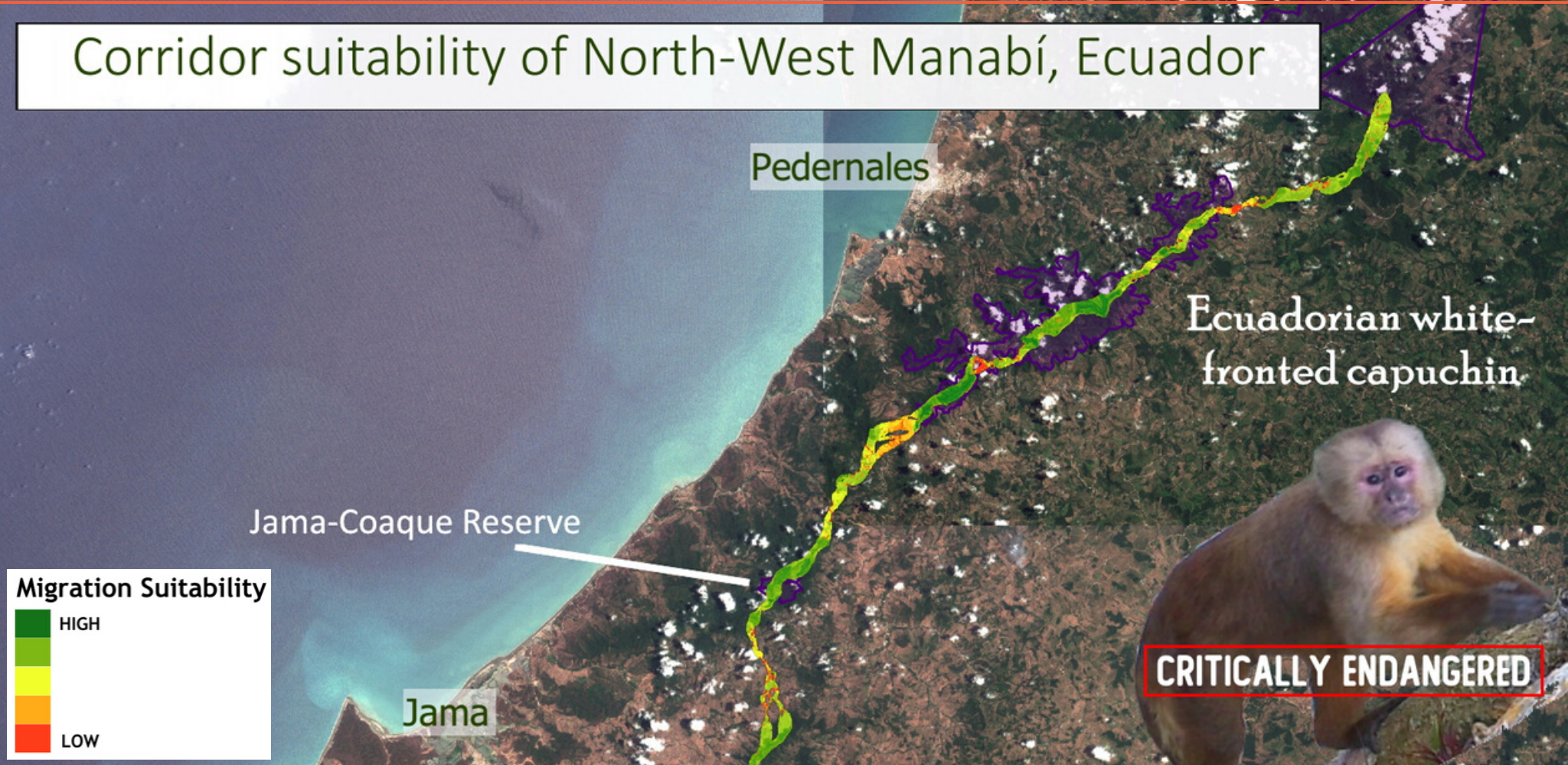


# Conservation

## Wildlife Corridor Planning

This year we worked closely with a team from our partner IUCN Netherlands to develop and test a conservation corridor mapping toolkit for conservation practitioners. The goal of the project was to develop an easy to use mapping tool that researchers, conservation organizations, and governments could use to determine the best suited habitat for threatened species to move across the landscape. Once the tool was developed we used it to map the habitat suitability for the Critically Endangered Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin monkey - one of the top 25 most endangered primates on the planet. The map that was created (below) highlights only a few areas where the Capuchin will have difficulty moving between forest patches (red patches). We are using this information to inform our ongoing and future conservation activities, including strategic land purchases moving North towards the Mache-Chindul National Park.

### Corridor suitability of North-West Manabí, Ecuador



# Restoration

## Reforestation

With support from our partners SavingNature and the Amersfoort Zoo, our team continued their efforts to restore the native forest on a property TMA purchased in 2016. Our efforts this year focused on cleaning the weedy understory choking out the trees planted the year before and on planting additional native hardwoods. The property was previously used as a Balsa timber plantation, so we have been working hard to plant native trees and keep the invasive pasture grass under control the past few years. With a forest canopy now somewhat formed by trees planted in previous years, our efforts this year focused on planting Guayacan seedlings, which is a local hardwood that was pushed to the brink of extinction due to its unbelievably strong wood being used in construction.

## Cacao Agro-restoration

This year our team continued management of the Nacional cacao genetic bank in the Reserve. Additional cacao trees were planted, and the TMA team and community members were trained to graft and clone clippings from the trees originally planted two years ago. With the genetic bank now approaching its third year, we are getting close to our goal of being able to produce and share high-quality locally grown cacao seedlings to local farmers in Camarones and Tabuga as part of our community agroforestry program. By the start of the 2021 planting season, our community cacao program should be ready to start working on the capacity building and farm restoration efforts at the heart of this project. The overarching goal of this program is to use high-quality genetic cacao to improve the quality of degraded pastureland surrounding the Reserve, while also providing economic opportunities to local land owners.





# Restoration

## Jama-Coaque Coffee Project

This year our Agroforestry department successfully produced a commercial batch of organic and shade-grown coffee from the Reserve. The coffee plants are managed by a group of locals from Camarones and grown using forest-friendly agroforestry management practices in order to demonstrate alternatives to slash and burn agriculture practiced by most local farmers. We worked with the specialty coffee roaster Traviesa in Quito to roast, package, and sell the coffee locally. The product was announced at a launch party at one of Traviesa's coffee shops, where visitors were able to taste the final product, learn more about TMA, and view a photo gallery of imagery from the Reserve. The proceeds from the sale of the coffee exceeded the amount necessary to cover all of the costs associated with our coffee agroforestry program, including the creation of three part-time jobs for locals from Camarones. Stay tuned if you're interested in buying a bag from our 2020 batch!



# Research

## Jama-Coaque Bird Observatory

In 2017 we launched Ecuador's first 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.

2019 represented our second complete year of data-collection, and our work continued to highlight the important conservation value of the Reserve. Nearly 20% of all of the species in the Reserve are either threatened with extinction or have extremely small ranges.

Additional highlights from 2019 include:

- 117 species banded - represents 37% of the species in our IBA
- Banded 1,709 individual birds
- 24% of the individuals we're recaptures
- Added 8 species to the Jama-Coaque Reserve banded list
- Documented a Laughing Falcon nest in the canopy of one of the trees in the Reserve with a camera trap.

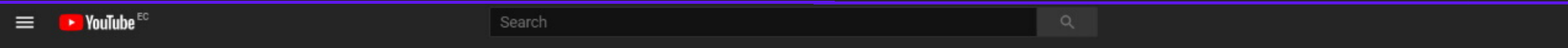
COLLECTING IMPORTANT  
BIOLOGICAL DATA TO INFORM  
OUR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES



# Research

## Canopy Camera Trap Project

Thanks to the receipt of a Rufford Small Grant this year we were able to dramatically expand the network of camera traps in the high canopy of trees in the Reserve. Camera traps and automated audio recorders are permanently set-up on horizontal branches of large canopy trees in order to monitor arboreal wildlife and detect any potential illegal activities (i.e. hunting, logging) taking place in or around the Reserve. Twenty-two monitoring stations with camera traps and audio recorders are now monitoring wildlife across a seven mile stretch of forest that extends from the low elevation dry forest of neighboring Reserve Bosque Seco Lalo Loor all the way up to the cloud forests at the top of the Jama-Coaque Reserve. The canopy-based recording stations are now being managed by a Masters student at Texas State University, who will be using the photos, videos, and audio to document the presence and movement of the Critically Endangered Ecuadorian White-fronted Capuchin monkey (among other species) in the Reserve and along our conservation corridor. Click below to view an interactive 360° tour of one of our camera trap stations in the Reserve (you can grab and move the video screen with your mouse to look around in any direction!)



# Education

## Ornithology Field Techniques Internship

We had another successful year of offering our Ornithology field techniques internship in the Reserve. In 2019 we hosted 7 long-term student interns in the Reserve. Following their time in the Reserve, one of the interns went on to pursue a PhD at the Field Museum in Chicago, where he will be building on his field experience with us in the Reserve over the years ahead.

At the end of 2019 we decided to take a break from offering the year-round internship program to focus our attention on more community driven education programs. So while we will likely still offer seasonal field courses in the Reserve for international students, our focus for the years ahead will be turning back to the residents of local communities Camarones and Tabuga.

## Providing valuable hands-on and field-based learning opportunities for the next generation of conservationists

## Texas State Study Abroad Program

This year we hosted the Texas State Study Abroad group to Ecuador for the fourth consecutive year. A group of 11 students from the university joined professors and TMA staff on an educational tour of the Jama-Coaque Reserve and Ecuador, learning about the complex ecological processes of tropical rainforests and the threats they are facing due to human activities. This year the university also sent two reporters with the class to document their time in the Jama-Coaque Reserve, and produced a written and visual summary of the trip, which can be seen by clicking the image below.



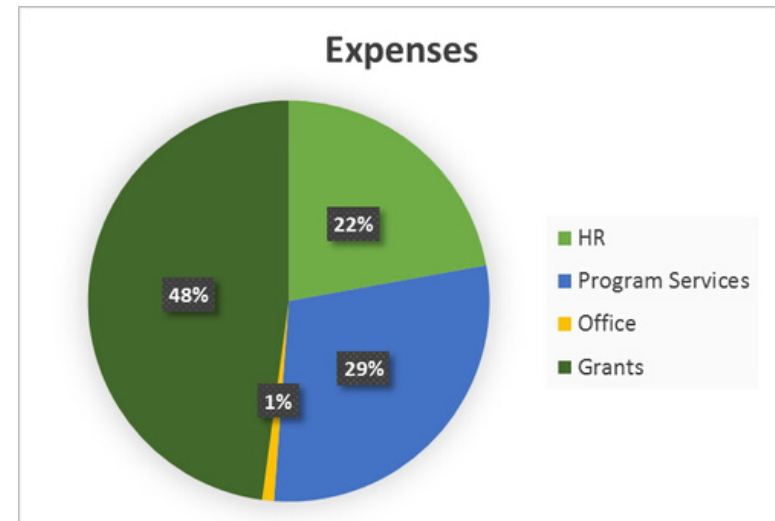
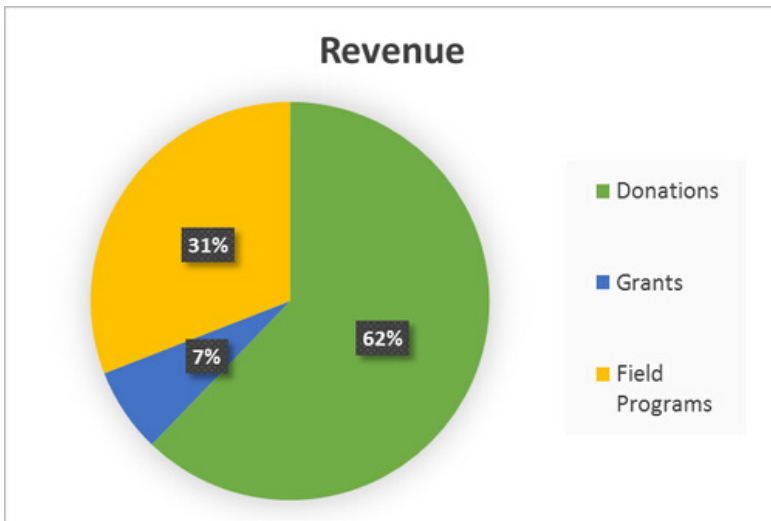
# Financial Overview: 2019

In 2019, our revenue increased from the previous year thanks to increased giving from dedicated TMA donors and the acquisition of new donors. Much of this increase was due to a multi-month long fundraiser that we hosted in partnership with To'ak Chocolate to raise funds for land purchase on the South side of the Reserve, which was successfully purchased in September.

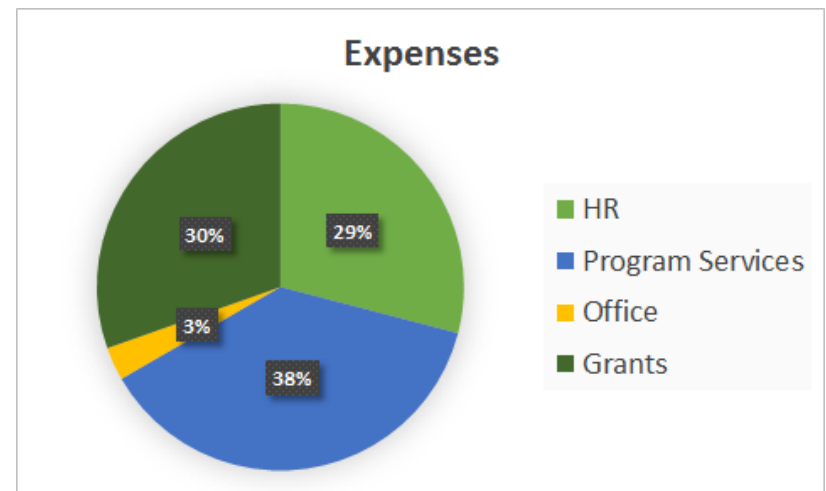
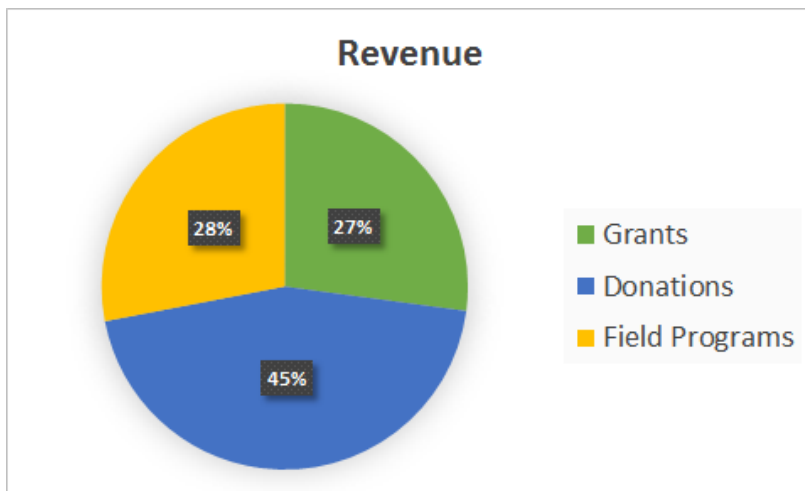
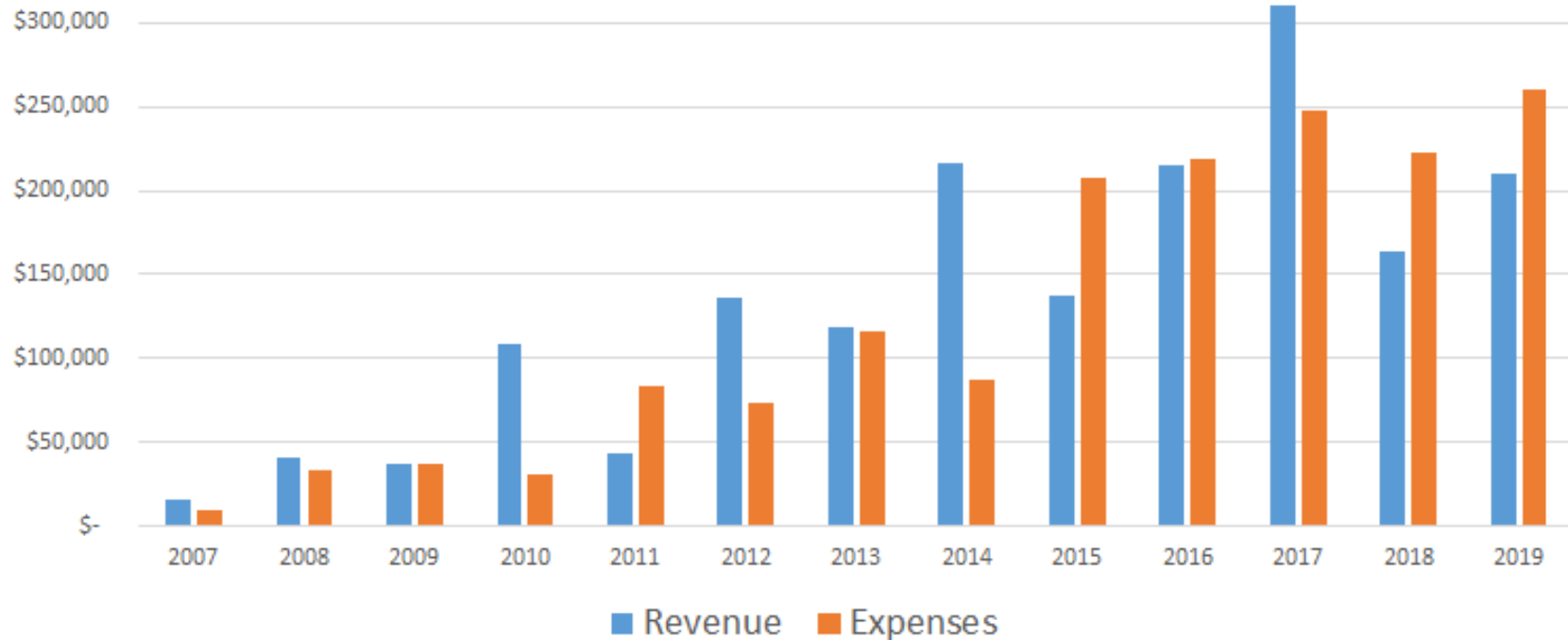
In 2019, our expenses increased from 2018. The increase was largely due to the fact that we purchased two properties during the year. 2019 represented the second consecutive year where expenses exceeded revenue, which highlights the need to increase fundraising to support continued growth going into 2020.

REVENUE	2019		2018	
Donations	\$	130,909	\$	89,070
Grants	\$	14,497	\$	15,630
Field Programs	\$	65,064	\$	59,034
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>210,469</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>163,734</b>

EXPENSES	2019		2018	
HR	\$	57,600	\$	63,272
Program Services	\$	75,511	\$	69,779
Office	\$	2,458	\$	5,678
Grants to Ecuador	\$	124,500	\$	84,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>260,068</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>222,729</b>



# Financial Overview: Historical



# 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 Netherlands  
Dick and Nancy Arnoldy Foundation  
Saving Species  
The Prince Bernhard Nature Fund  
Rufford Small Grants  
To'ak Chocolate  
Amersfoort Zoo  
Lookfar Conservation  
Verified Conservation Areas  
Unite Fitness  
Vortex Optics

## Partners

Texas State University  
The Institute for Bird Populations  
Aves y Conservación  
Ecociencia  
AgroTabuga  
The Biodiversity Group  
Finca Mono Verde  
Ceiba Foundation  
Amphibians Survival Alliance (ASA)  
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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