



Natura
International

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Natura International works to create and strengthen protected areas that conserve biodiversity, natural ecosystems, and cultural heritage throughout Latin America. In 2024, we supported projects in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, in collaboration with a diverse group of local conservation partners. These efforts aim in particular to conserve two of the planet's most biodiverse ecosystems, the rich Andean cloud forests and the lowland Amazon rainforests.

Our strategy to advance these projects is to support and build the capacity of local conservation groups who work directly with the governments and communities to establish protected areas in high biodiversity ecosystems.

A notable success this year was the declaration of Argentina's largest mosaic of municipal reserves, in Catamarca province, conserving 370,500 acres of rich Yungas cloud forests. Species protected include the taruca deer, the endangered Black-and-chestnut Eagle, and guanacos, foxes and chinchillas. Our partner Natura Argentina helped the municipalities initiate this process, and provided the technical information and support needed for their declaration.

In Ecuador, we supported our partner Paisajes Sostenibles to expand the Santa Elena Provincial reserve towards a target size of 277,000 acres, by working both with the province and the 32 local communities residing within the area. These areas will protect much of Santa Elena Province's native coastal forest, protecting the many endemic species of the Tumbesian ecosystem.

In Peru, we supported projects with three partners that work with local and indigenous communities to conserve lands in northern and central Peru: Asociación Amazónicas por la Amazonía (AMPA) to work with the Shawi Nation to conserve a 143,000-acre reserve; Spectacled Bear Conservation-Peru to work with the Salas community to establish a 24,000-acre community reserve; and Upper Amazon Conservancy to work to title 150,000 acres of Amazon rainforest with the Alto Esperanza indigenous community that will connect with three other protected areas to form a major forest corridor.

In the Andes of Colombia, we supported Nature and Culture International in the creation of new protected areas in the cordillera occidental, and to strengthen the management of these areas by building local institutional capacity.

In Brazil, and in collaboration with Natura Argentina, we supported Instituto Juruá to launch a new program focused on conserving the 27,000-acre Surara Community Protected Area (APCS) of rich Amazon rainforests.

And finally, in Bolivia, we supported Conservación Amazónica –ACEAA to support a forest-based economy and in fighting record-breaking fires in the Pando region.

Argentina Conservation Program

Natura Argentina advanced conservation projects to establish large protected areas in eight ecoregions of northwestern Argentina, including Chaco forests, thorn forests, puna grasslands, Andean montane forests, and Yungas cloud forests. These ecoregions host considerable biodiversity and numerous threatened and endemic species. The project locations and ecosystem highlights are depicted in their provinces below:



Sierras de Ambato, Catamarca

Our partner Natura Argentina's extensive work with local municipalities achieved a significant success in 2024 with the creation of Argentina's largest mosaic of municipal reserves protecting 370,500 acres of rich Yungas cloud forest. Education workshops with schools and municipalities strengthened local awareness and management capacity, while partnerships with academia and NGOs expanded research and governance.



Conserving Mar Chiquita – Ansenuza National Park

We have supported Natura Argentina over the past several years to help conserve Mar Chiquita and its associated wetlands, an area of global importance for its concentrations of migratory shorebirds and flamingos. In 2024, the team worked to consolidate the management of the Ansenuza National Park and Reserve created in Cordoba province in 2022, and to expand protection to the east to conserve the rich wetlands of the Rio Dulce and to support management of this area, providing technical expertise to local municipalities, and educating and mobilizing residents.

Uspallata Valley – Mendoza province

Natura Argentina is working with both government authorities and local communities to establish a formal protected area in the Uspallata Valley, and to strengthen the protection of the Uspallata Defense Nature Reserve, under Army stewardship. Through participatory mapping and workshops, the team developed inputs for the reserve's first Master Plan and initiated collaborative governance between the Army and local stakeholders.

Sierras de Famatina – La Rioja province

We supported our partner Natura Argentina in working to protect over 400,000 acres of this high Andean ecosystem, with the goal of safeguarding water sources and biodiversity from mining threats, and promoting sustainable tourism as an engine for the regional economy.

2024 achievements included agreements with municipalities and universities, monitoring of species such as puma, taruca, and the Andean cat, and development of sustainable tourism plans. Communication strategies, training on smart tourism, and trail enhancements reinforced conservation while highlighting cultural values.

Santa Rita Yungas Forest – Jujuy province

This initiative seeks to secure a biological corridor vital for jaguars, tapirs, and other species. During 2024, the team built institutional ties with local municipalities, completed initial ecological and social assessments, and held local workshops. The project now has a participatory roadmap to guide future protection and ensure connectivity between key northern Argentina reserves.

Ecuador Conservation Program

Santa Elena Provincial Reserve

We supported the local group Fundación Paisajes Sostenibles (PASOS) in successfully creating a Provincial System of Conservation and Sustainable Use Areas, and designating 114,333 acres as the Santa Helena provincial reserve in August 2022. In 2024 the project had to change course after reaching about 60% of the goal of a 277,000-acre provincial protected area, to protect the remaining forests as municipal protected areas.

The goal is to protect endangered Tumbesian dry forest, an endangered ecosystem that is restricted to Southwest Ecuador and Northwest Peru with many endemic and endangered species. Once complete, this protected area will almost double the size of the adjacent Machalilla National Park.

Along with the formal conservation plan, PASOS is working to promote the development of local communities within the reserve area. Specific programs implemented are the Conservation Guardians Program, training local residents to guard conservation areas that do not have forest rangers; and a Field to Fork small farm training program focused on environmentally friendly production methods, including all aspects of agricultural production, marketing and finance.

Peru Conservation Program

Achieving Title for Indigenous Alto Esperanza Community

We support the work of the Upper Amazon Conservancy (UAC) to advance the land titling application for the Alto Esperanza Indigenous community in the department of Pucallpa that would protect over 150,000 acres of Amazon rainforest. We achieved success in 2024 when the Ucayali's titling office recognized the demarcation of Alto Esperanza's territory, rejecting other claims. This effort will make Alto Esperanza the first community in initial contact with modern society to receive



land title in Peru's history, and by doing so protect one of the most intact yet threatened parts of the Peruvian Amazon. This area forms part of a massive 10-million-hectare mosaic of conservation areas and indigenous lands that contains some of the most remote and least disturbed forests in the entire Amazon basin, and one of the highest concentrations of isolated people on Earth.

Salas Community – Spectacled Bear Conservation



*Weaving training session with women in El Naranjo.
Photo: SBC-Peru*

The Spectacled Bear Conservation- Peru team are working to protect the habitat of the spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), also known as the Andean bear, within a conservation mosaic in the Lambayeque region. We are supporting the plan to help the Salas community establish a 24,000-acre community reserve. This effort includes promoting sustainable productive activities and strengthening capacities of the community board in the process of establishing the protected area.

Shawi Nation Protected Area

Our partner Amazonicos por la Amazonía (AMPA) is providing technical support to the leaders of the Shawi Nation to promote a community-based conservation initiative to safeguard approximately 143,000 acres of their ecologically-rich ancestral territory, under threat from a 34-mile road project. The main objective is to ensure the legal protection of their territorial security while developing a collaborative relationship based on trust.

2024 activities included participation in a local community festival where AMPA staff engaged with around 150 people while promoting environmental education activities, including the distribution of children's books with beautiful forest conservation stories in the Shawi language. AMPA also delivered a presentation to a large audience of Shawi community leaders about the process of establishing a protected area known as a Conservation Concession that would be held by the community but establish use limitations.



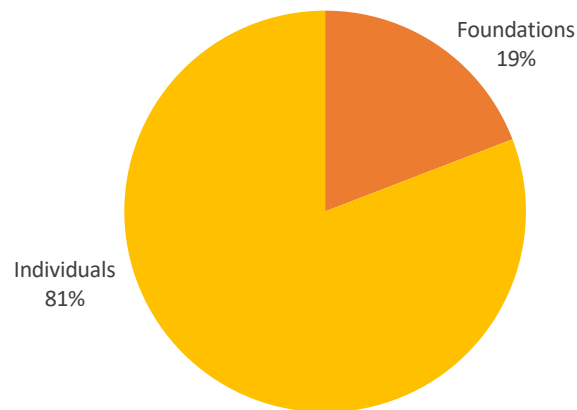
*Shawi children with AMPA books and materials.
Photo: AMPA*

2024 Financial Report

Natura International works to be as efficient as possible with its funds, and we are proud that 94% of our 2024 expenses directly supported our Latin American conservation programs.

In 2024, we raised \$266,000, and we would like to thank our individual and foundation donors whose generous support allowed us to increase our scope of grants in 2024 to fund on-the-ground conservation programs! We recognize and thank also the following foundations for their ongoing support: the Conservation, Food & Health Foundation, Starfall Education Foundation, Triangle Community Foundation, Wild Waters Foundation, Wild Woods Foundation and Viridi Futuro Foundation.

2024 Income Sources



2024 Expenses

