



**NATURE** AND  
**CULTURE**  
INTERNATIONAL

# 2011

## ANNUAL REPORT

*The most critical issue of our times is the conservation of nature and the ecosystems that sustain all life on earth. We work to accomplish this in the rainforests and critical habitats of Latin America in a way that is led by and strengthens local peoples and cultures.*

*— Ivan Gayler, Founder of Nature and Culture International*

Dear Friends,

Nature and Culture International dedicates itself to conserving Latin America's most extraordinary yet highly threatened ecosystems and cultures. We do this by saving endangered habitats, developing and strengthening local institutions and supporting local communities. We believe we have been extremely effective, due in part to our ethic of not building our US staff, but devoting over ninety percent of our resources to in-country programs and to build local capacity.

We achieved major successes in 2011:

- The dedication of almost one million acres of rainforest for the Maijuna Regional Conservation Area in the Amazon rainforests of Loreto, Peru (formally designated in early 2012);
- A multifaceted program to conserve the remote and beautiful Nangaritza Valley in southern Ecuador, a region with some of the highest plant diversity on earth. Results here included land acquisitions and the creation of the Tepuis reserve, the first in Ecuador to be co-managed by both indigenous Shuar and local farming communities.
- Major steps to conserve endangered tropical deciduous forests in the Americas through the creation of the 69,000 acre Salitral-Huarmaca Regional Conservation area in northwestern Peru and the expansion of our Alamos reserve in Mexico.

We are proud that over our history since 1996, we have been able to:

- **Purchase 62,240 acres of land that conserves critical ecosystems;**
- **Created 16 community reserves that protect 120,000 acres and allow local communities to continue their traditional lifestyles;**
- **Worked with governments to create 8.5 million acres of national, regional and municipal protected areas that conserve vast forest ecosystems.**

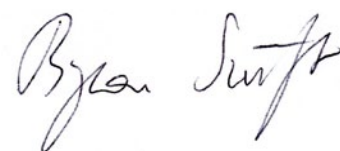
In all these projects we build local capacity and work to establish long-term conservation efforts that integrate local communities, and so are sustainable in biological, social and political terms.

Please join us in this rewarding and exciting work to save the miraculous diversity of life, ecosystems and cultures on our planet. These are now at risk, yet the opportunities to conserve them are enormous. The destiny of creation, and of our own well-being, lies in the hands of our generation.

Sincerely,



Ivan Gayler  
Chairman of the Board



Byron Swift  
President



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# 2011 Highlights

## ECUADOR

### Watersheds Conserved, Forests Saved

More than a million people benefit from NCI's work to establish a regional watershed protection program in Ecuador's Loja, Zamora and Cuenca provinces. FORAGUA, a regional fund that NCI initiated, now protects over 100,000 acres of biodiverse cloud forests as reserves in headwater areas that provide clean water to 15 municipalities.

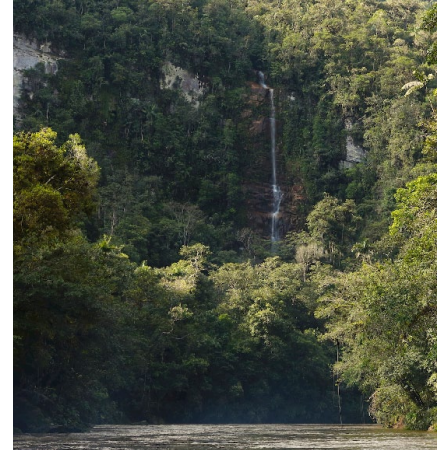


Photo courtesy of Charles Smith

## PERU'S AMAZON

### Nearly One Million Acres Protected in New Reserve

Our efforts in 2011 led to the Regional Government of Loreto's designation of 970,000 acres of primary rainforest as the Maijuna Regional Conservation Area in Peru in early 2012. This protects a vast area of Amazon rainforest – larger than California's Yosemite National Park – and all of its extraordinary biological diversity including peccaries, tapirs, jaguars, giant river otters and many species of monkey. It also protects the ancestral home of the Maijuna People – one of the most vulnerable ethnic groups in Peru, who number fewer than 500 people.



Photo courtesy of Charles Smith

## PERU'S Northwest

### New Protection for Species-rich Tropical Deciduous Forest



Photo courtesy of J.Fabian Rodas

Nature and Culture's efforts led to the designation of 69,000 acres of endangered tropical deciduous forest as the new Salitral-Huarmaca Regional Conservation Area in northwestern Peru. This magnificent area shelters critical habitat for the White-winged Guan, whose population is less than 350 individuals, and a wide variety of other endemic species representative of this ecosystem. NCI prepared the technical documents for this new area and worked with local communities in the region to ensure that their objectives were represented in the final documents presented to the Peruvian government.

# 2011 Highlights

## MEXICO: ALAMOS

### New Additions to Dry Forest Reserve

In Mexico, NCI added 3,000 acres to expand our reserve within the Sierra de Alamos, which protects the most northerly tropical dry forest in the Americas. Conserving this dry forest ecosystem is a top priority, as only 15% remains of this biome – that once extended from Sonora to southern Central America. This reserve protects one of the last pristine watersheds in the region, as well as a wide variety of animal and plant species restricted to the spectacular Sierra Madre Occidental of western Mexico.



Photo courtesy of Fabián Robas

## PERU: AMAZONAS

### New 26,600 Acre Andean Forest Protected Area



NCI is working in the Peruvian Region of Amazonas to establish a Regional protected area system complemented by community and private reserves that protect key habitats. In 2011 we worked with local communities to bring about the creation of the new Molino Pampa Protected Area, a community reserve that ensures the conservation and sustainable use of this rich cloud forest for generations to come.

## CONSERVATION POLICY

### Building Sustainability

NCI tries to carry the lessons learned from our field work to the policy level to help protect natural ecosystems and build sustainability in the countries where we work. In Ecuador, we are working with the Environmental Ministry of the national government to implement the “bio-knowledge program,” a sustainable development strategy that includes creating reserves, developing ecologically sustainable industries and empowering local communities to improve their own lives while protecting their threatened ecosystems.

# The Future – 2020 Vision



Since 1996, working with local and indigenous groups and governments, NCI has conserved over 8.7 million acres of vital rainforests and other ecosystems. Our work is embraced by the communities that it benefits, and our accomplishments stand as a lasting testament to the power of local action.

During the rest of the decade, our major push will be to bring an even greater number of threatened tropical forests under protection. We're calling it The 2020 Initiative, a program to grow the total number of acres we've saved to **20 Million by the year 2020.**

## **Nature and Culture will:**

- Work to create major new Biosphere Reserves in Ecuador's Cajas region and southern seasonal forests;
- Collaborate with the Government of Ucayali to create a million acre rainforest reserve;
- Develop a regional system of conservation areas in the Peruvian Regions of Amazonas and Piura; and
  - Buy land to double the size of our reserve at Alamos, Mexico.

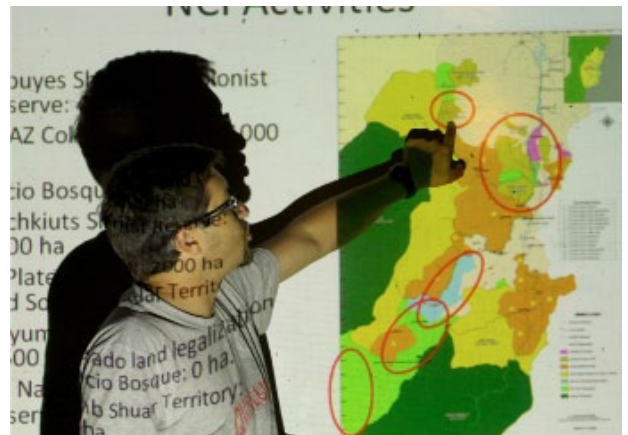


## Land Conservation

Nature and Culture International's mission is to conserve priority lands and their ecosystem functions in a way that involves and benefits local peoples. We work to protect land through direct land purchase, the creation of reserves through community efforts, and declarations of reserves by municipal, regional and national governments. In 2011 we purchased over 6,000 acres in Ecuador, Peru and Mexico, and are working with communities to protect many more acres as community reserves. We are also working with regional governments in Ecuador and Peru to declare large ecosystems as state protected areas.

### National and Regional Protected Areas

NCI works with local, regional and national governments to support the declaration of protected areas that cover large areas of forests – one of the most productive and effective methods of land conservation. We have already helped support the Regional Government of Loreto create four major Regional Conservation Areas that together protect close to 5.5 million acres of extraordinarily diverse tropical forest. At present, NCI is working to create these integrated major conservation areas:



- A Biosphere Reserve of one million acres of species-rich cloud forest and paramos surrounding the Cajas National Park in Ecuador;
- A group of protected areas in the paramos of Piura to conserve 70% of Peru's paramo ecosystem;
- Several important large areas of Amazon rainforest in northern Peru that will protect exceptional biodiversity while greatly improving the welfare of surrounding communities;
- An integrated marine and coastal protected area surrounding Isla Foca in northern Peru;
- An integrated protected area system for the Region of Amazonas Peru, one of the most biodiverse regions on the planet.

Assisting local governments with land conservation is another focus, and NCI has been particularly successful in helping municipalities protect forested watersheds and indigenous and farming communities to declare community reserves. This includes our continued work with Shuar communities to designate and protect rainforest lands as community reserves in the Yacuambi Mountains and the Nangaritza River Valley of Ecuador.



## Land Purchase

Many endangered rainforest lands are in private hands, making land acquisition an important tool for habitat conservation. Purchasing land requires a direct and fair approach to property owners in order to protect these critical areas of high biodiversity. In many cases, land purchase is a terrific outcome for all concerned. Through the acquisition of crucial parcels, Nature and Culture has been able to expand existing national parks, create new natural reserves and help preserve important watersheds.

In 2011, NCI purchased more than 2,000 acres with funds from World Land Trust to protect the highly biodiverse cloud forests of the Jambue and Numbala valleys in Ecuador's Condor Biosphere reserve, and purchased 3,000 acres at Alamos, Mexico to protect the northernmost tropical dry forest in the Americas.

NCI also continued its innovative land-for-rights program to protect the spectacular cloud forests in and around the Podocarpus National Park in southern Ecuador. In this program, NCI trades lands in areas outside the park that are less valuable for conservation purposes, to people who cede their rights to lands within the park. This win-win situation allows people and nature to flourish.



## Scientific Investigation



On the northern edge of Podocarpus National Park in Ecuador is Nature and Culture International's **San Francisco Scientific Station** that sits on 2,500 acres of mountainous cloud forest. Here, the German Research Foundation (DfG) and 17 German and Ecuadorian universities conduct one of the largest ecosystem studies worldwide, investing \$3 million a year in interdisciplinary study of tropical mountain forests. The DfG's research plan going forward gives greater emphasis to maintaining the region's ecosystems with the practical application of research to aid in conservation efforts. Results to date include over 100 Doctoral and Masters theses (many of which are Ecuadorian), training of 500-700 research interns from local universities, and many papers published in peer-reviewed journals. To learn more, see [www.bergregenwald.de](http://www.bergregenwald.de) and [www.tropicalmountainforest.org](http://www.tropicalmountainforest.org).

In Peru, NCI assists the government park service with scientific information on the biodiversity priorities in its national reserves such as the Cota de Caza Angolo. In a program called DarwinNet, we work with the Regional Government of Piura, providing information on the biodiversity of its dry forests and paramos to improve its planned regional system of conservation areas ([www.darwinnet.org](http://www.darwinnet.org)).



## Environmental Management

NCI is helping Ecuador become a leader in the development and promotion of environmental goods and services. This innovative “bio-knowledge” program integrates the conservation, research and production sectors to increase sustainable development with the conservation of natural ecosystems. Encouraging programs that enhance human prosperity while conserving nature is a founding principle of Nature and Culture International. Elements of the program will include ecotourism ventures, carbon sequestration programs, the valuation of ecosystem services for protection of watersheds, adding nutritional value by tapping the vast potential of plant diversity, and the training of high-level professionals in the aread of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.



Through this multifaceted, integrated approach, Ecuadorian leaders hope to make their country a recognized leader in biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. This aim is to guarantee a high quality of life for both people and wild species, now and in the future.



Photo courtesy of Charles Smith

## Valuing Ecosystem Services

A pressing conservation task is that of valuing the ecosystem services that provide us with so many of life's essentials such as air, water and climate stability. Nature and Culture International is actively advancing projects that impart economic value to these critical life-support systems, that lead to their better protection.



Water is an especially important resource, and NCI has succeeded in helping municipal governments in southern Ecuador create the regional fund FORAGUA as a sustainable mechanism by which municipalities manage, project and pay for watershed conservation. This fund is the first of its kind to integrate a number of different municipalities in a single watershed conservation trust that collects funds from the water use fees and uses it for watershed management purposes. Under this innovative program, many towns, including the provincial capitals of Loja and Zamora, have purchased, reforested and protected over 100,000 acres of cloud forest lands in the watersheds that provide them with drinking water.

Though this program, conservation of these forests simultaneously:

- protects the very high species diversity of these tropical cloud forests;
- provides clean water and related health benefits to the citizens downstream; and
- creates climate benefits by saving virgin forests and reforesting degraded lands.

NCI is also proud to have helped enact regulations in Amazonian Peru that protect fragile Amazon headwater basins in order to enhance the supply of water that is the lifeblood of the rainforest and its people. NCI is now working to implement this innovative strategy, which covers 18 million acres, by working to develop local watershed protection committees and regulatory bodies in Peru.

## Sustainable Community Development

As is evident throughout this report, a core element of the NCI ethic is to link the well being of local people with environmental conservation activities. The transformative power of working with communities to enhance economic benefit through sustainable use of natural resources is visible in the reduction of local activities that degrade forest ecosystems, and in the protection by residents of “their” forests



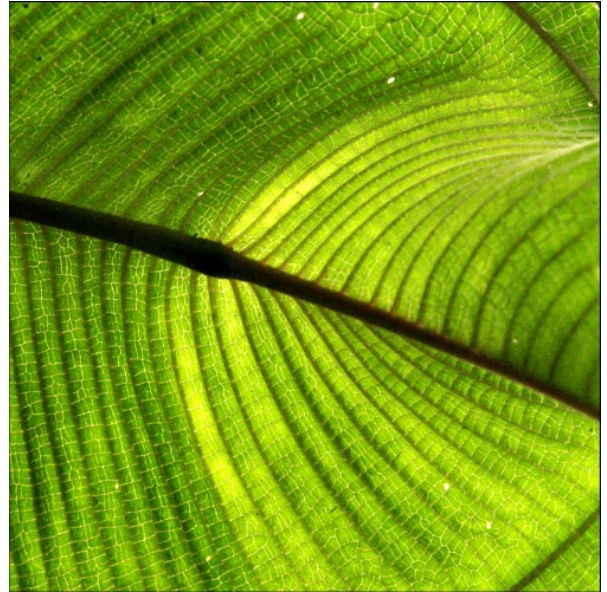
Our “productive conservation” strategy enhances the lives of many communities in the Peruvian Amazon, where we helped to improve designs and quality of artisanry from the fibers of the Chambira palm tree. These beautiful artistic pieces are now being sold at the San Diego Zoo and San Diego Natural History Museum. Working with the government of Loreto, we successfully expanded this program to other reserves and communities, and to more products such as jewelry. NCI also strengthened four community forestry associations near the Nanay Regional Conservation Area by helping them adopt sustainable forestry practices, allowing them to market their products directly at fair prices to local enterprises in Iquitos.

In Peru, our ongoing work along the Yanayacu River has led to the recovery of resources, notably of fish - the main source of protein for the region’s inhabitants. One fisherman from the area, Armando Chanchari describes the changes that have happened in his community since work with NCI began 5 years ago:

“After years of overfishing, our rivers and streams were empty and our children were going hungry. But after just 5 years of work with NCI, the rivers are healthy again and the fish are plentiful!”

# Our Methods

In Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru, Nature and Culture is promoting programs to help make effective use of environmental goods and services. Renewable forest products, ecotourism ventures, natural resources management, and the training of conservation professionals are just some examples of the many possibilities that this program is setting in motion. By providing resource management training, by empowering people to take control of the protection of their forests, and by finding ways for communities to earn a sustainable livelihood, we are helping to change the long term outlook on the ground.



Our multifaceted development approach seeks to foster leaders in biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural wealth in order to guarantee the quality of life for all forest inhabitants—now and for the generations to come.

## **Palo Santo Project Adds Value, Saves Forests in Southern Ecuador**

The conservation of 7,500 acres of endangered tropical dry forests is made possible through the sustainable use of the Palo Santo tree, with land-owning communities deriving benefit from the sale of essential oils to the Brazilian cosmetics group, Natura. The local people are protecting the forest effectively, and have been granted certification of sustainability by guaranteeing that the environment will not be damaged, and the functionality of the ecosystem will not be affected, and the people who live in these natural ecosystems will benefit economically from the activity. This project is recognized as a model of sustainable use and conservation, which we will duplicate and hope that others will emulate. We thank the entities collaborating with NCI on this initiative, which are the Environmental Ministry, the Technical University of Loja, and Natura.



## Environmental Education

Nature & Culture International seeks to develop an environmental ethic within society through programs for children, youth and adults. By stressing the management of natural resources for sustained use, active participation in community decisions, and the importance of living in healthy ecosystems free of contamination, NCI encourages local people to take control of their environments.



In southern Ecuador, our public outreach effort includes publication of a full weekly page of local conservation news in the leading regional newspaper, and workshops that reach rural populations across the region. NCI offers environmental education programs for children from the first through twelfth grades, and organizes annual Science and Technology fairs and Encounters for Creativity, which have reached 200,000 students in southern Ecuador and northern Peru.

NCI is also active locally in the regional capital, with training programs and a campaign for the recycling of batteries offered with the EcoClubs of Loja, and programs on fire prevention offered in conjunction with Podocarpus National Park and the Zoological Gardens of Loja.

In addition, NCI works with the Piura Department of Education to deliver specialized training courses to elementary and high school teachers. Several ecoclubs are also successfully utilizing our environmental education platform, DarwinNet, as an information resource and as a tool for coordinating events (<http://www.darwinnet.org/>)



# Finances & Administration

Overall, our 2011 revenues were \$3,044,620 and costs were \$3,255,708 (expenses plus land and building purchases). We are proud that over 91% of all costs were spent within our project countries, building capacity where it is needed most.

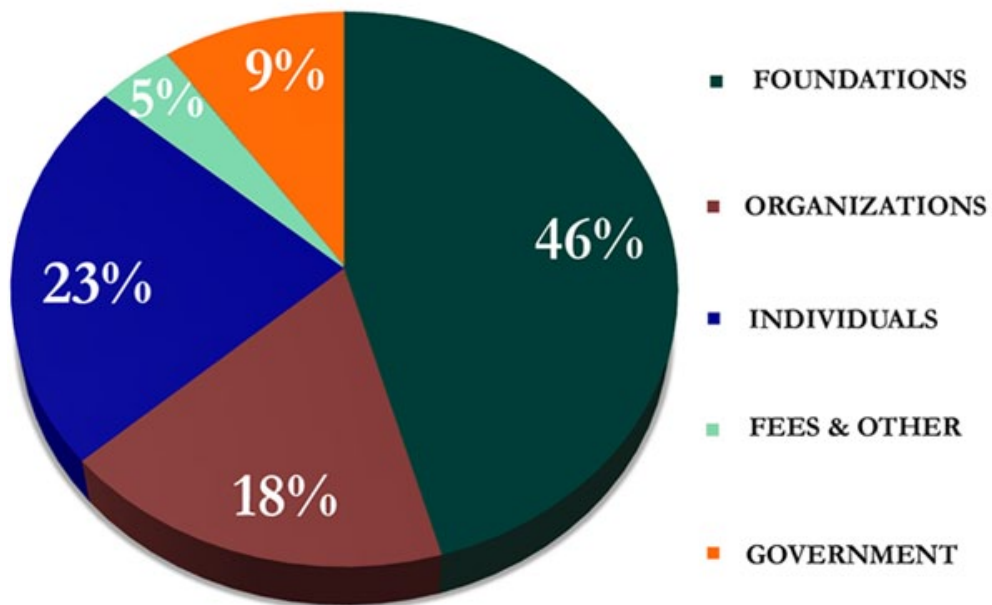
## Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2011

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 878,484
Pledged	132,289
Prepaid expenses & deposits	137,165
Total current assets	<u>1,147,938</u>
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT (at cost)	
Conservation land	2,487,636
Building & improvements	226,242
Furniture & equipment	48,781
Vehicles	268,922
Less accumulated depreciation	(215,114)
Total property & equipment	<u>2,816,467</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,964,405</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$ 25,157
Accrued payroll & vacation	95,871
Deferred revenue – grants	484,191
Total current liabilities	<u>605,219</u>
NET ASSETS	
Conservation land	2,487,636
Other property & equipment	328,830
Other net assets	
Unrestricted	276,346
Temporarily restricted	266,374
Total net assets	<u>3,359,186</u>
Total liabilities & net assets	<u>\$ 3,964,405</u>

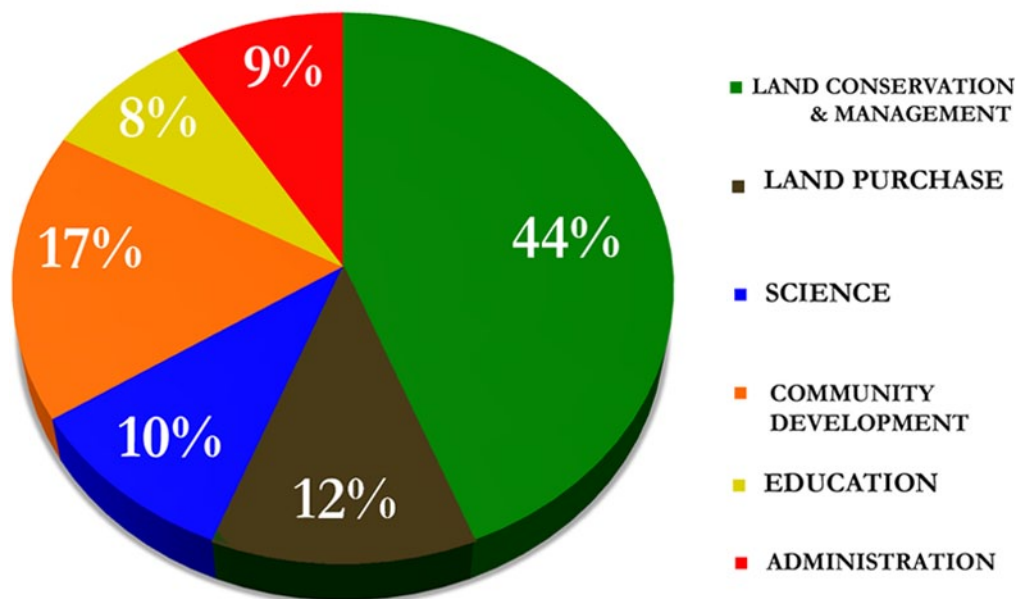
## Statement of Activities For the year ended December 31, 2011

REVENUES	
Grants & Contributions	
Foundations	\$ 1,388,768
Governments	146,876
Individuals	697,161
Organizations	543,152
Fees	267,681
Interest	189
Total revenues	<u>\$ 3,043,827</u>
EXPENSES	
Auto	63,609
Consultants	148,625
Insurance	42,384
Office Expense	61,948
Other direct costs	158,339
Outside services	30,466
Project grants	876,137
Publications	29,938
Repairs & Maintenance	14,268
Salaries & related benefits	1,205,444
Supplies	21,105
Telephone & Communications	37,000
Travel	145,159
Utilities	11,808
Depreciation	53,300
Total expenses	<u>\$ 2,899,530</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	
Land & buildings	\$ 227,370
Other	(83,073)
Total change in net assets	<u>\$ 144,297</u>
NET ASSETS AT Jan. 1, 2011	<u>\$ 3,214,889</u>
NET ASSETS AT Dec. 31, 2011	<u>\$ 3,359,186</u>

# 2011 Income Sources



# 2011 Cost Categories



# Board & Officers

**Ivan Gayler**, Chair, President, Del Mar Partnership; Board member and past President, San Diego Museum of Man

**David Welborn**, Vice-Chair, Director, Hunter Industries; San Diego Foundation. Environmental Working Group

**Sheldon Engelhorn**, Entrepreneur, Surfer, Cofounder of NOVEX; UCSD Alumni Association

**John Gartman**, Lawyer and Environmentalist; Chairman of San Diego Zoo Global Foundation Board

**David Neil**, PhD, Missouri Botanical Garden; Founder, National Herbarium of Ecuador

**Doug Sheres**, Partner, Rice Hall James & Associates; Former Mayor, Solana Beach

**Charles Smith**, Founder, Knowledge Factor; photographer

**Ann Hunter Welborn**, Director, Hunter Industries; Board Member, National Environment Trust

**David J. Winkler**, CEO, Del Mar Partnership; Chair, Whittier Institute of Diabetes

**Byron Swift**, President

**Renzo Paladines**, Vice-President and Director, NCI-Ecuador

**Sara Dozier**, Chief Financial Officer

## Conservation Partners & Donors

We wish to thank the following donors, whose generous support has been essential to carrying out our conservation activities:

Regional Government of Amazonas, Peru

Birdlife International

Belgian Forestry Fund

Blue Moon Fund

Community Foundation

EcoFund of Ecuador

European Union

Flemish Fund for Tropical Forests

Global Environmental Fund /Mountain Institute

Hunter Industries

Jewish Community Foundation

Institute for the Investigation of the

Peruvian Amazon

RARE

Regional Government of Loreto, Peru

The Gordon and Betty Moore  
Foundation

Municipality of Loja, Ecuador

Netherlands National Committee:

The World Conservation Union

Overbrook Foundation

Regional Government of Piura, Peru

The Stewart Foundation

United Nations Environmental Program

United Nations Science and Culture Organization

USAID

USFWS

Virginia Cabot Foundation

Wildlife Conservation Society

Wild Waters Foundation

Robert Wilson Charitable Trust

World Land Trust

World Land Trust-US

The Zoological Society of San Diego

DLA Piper (donated legal services)

Del Mar Partnership (donated space and  
accounting services)

Many generous individual donors

# Senior Staff Members

**Byron Swift**, President, has worked with local partners throughout Latin America for three decades to improve land and resource conservation and environmental policy. An environmental lawyer, Byron is an expert in private lands conservation and has published widely on natural resources and biodiversity, industrial pollution and climate change. He has directed the energy program at the Environmental Law Institute (1994-2004) and the US office of IUCN - World Conservation Union (1988-1994).

**Renzo Paladines**, Vice-President, has been Director of our program in Ecuador since 1996. Renzo has broad experience in conservation, served as Coordinator of the United Nations Geo-Loja report, and was President of the Regional Council of the Catamayo-Chira river basin. Renzo received the Podocarpus Award of Loja's Provincial Council for his efforts in conservation and environmental management and has a master's degree in Zootechnics from the People's Friendship University, Moscow.

**Sara Dozier**, Secretary and Treasurer, has held an Officer position as a volunteer Chief Financial Officer with NCI since its founding in 1996. She has worked in the accounting field for 20 years with Del Mar Partnership, Inc. and supervises NCIs financial affairs.

**Alex Moore**, biologist, is head of our northwest Peru office. He also administrates DarwinNet, a binational initiative that aims to gather, analyze and disseminate conservation information. Alex has conducted biodiversity surveys in northwest Peru since 2002, and has worked on information management systems with the Institute for Investigation of the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP).

**Cesar Aguirre** is an environmental lawyer and veterinary doctor. He worked for several years on conservation projects for the Podocarpus Foundation before joining Nature & Culture International. Cesar created the Protective Forest "Servo Aguirre" over forest lands he owns, and he founded a regional organization BOPRISUR for conservation landowners.

**Eduardo Cueva**, forester, has studied and published on the native fruits of southern Ecuador, the growth of the forest species and seeds, and reforestation. He carried out postgraduate work at the National Herbarium of Ecuador in Quito, and completed his Doctorate studies at the University of Bayreuth, Germany.

**Galo Carrillo**, education coordinator, has trained a generation of environmental activists in southern Ecuador, where he has taught high school since 1970. Galo works with Nature & Culture to implement the national and binational Science Fairs, the Encounters of Children's Creativity program and the network of Loja EcoClubs. He has a degree in Education.

**Priscila Dávila**, Head of Finance, has worked at Nature & Culture International since 2000. Previously, she was head of control for the Banco de Loja (1999-2000) and credit officer at Banco del Austro. Priscila has a Doctorate in accounting.

**Mike McColm**, Director of NCI Amazonas, is an expert in conservation, sustainable development and environmental education. He worked for 20 years in Ecuador as Development and then Executive Director of the Jatun Sacha Foundation, leading it to become one of Ecuador's preeminent conservation organizations. He has a doctorate in Administration from the University of California and a Masters in Environmental Studies.

**Roger McDonough**, Communications Coordinator, manages Nature and Culture International's marketing and communications efforts and website. He holds dual masters degrees in Development Management & Policy from Georgetown University and Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina.

**Juan Ordoñez** is head of administration for NCI Ecuador. His experience includes over 26 years as Chief Financial Officer for the Ecuadorian Subcommission (PREDESUR), and with the Zamora Chinchipe Provincial Government, the Provincial Government of Loja, the Society to Combat Cancer, as well as time as the Chief of Revenue for the Municipal Township of Loja, and two years as a university professor.

**Bruno Paladines**, Ecologist, directs Nature & Culture International's programs for community development in southern Ecuador, working on both social and environmental aspects. He also directs Nature & Culture International's largest project at La Ceiba-Pilares in the dry forests of Zapotillo. Bruno has a degree in Ecology from the University of Brussels, Belgium.

**Pedro Paladines** is Administrator of the San Francisco Scientific Station. He has a degree in Environmental Management from the Technical University of Loja, and postgraduate studies at the Peoples Friendship University, Moscow.

**Trotsky Rivera**, Environmental Engineer, coordinates Nature & Culture International's Zamora office. Trotsky is a specialist in habitat restoration, and conducted his thesis at Nature & Culture International's San Francisco Scientific Station. He is also a professor at the Technical University of Loja.

**Fabián Rodas**, Biologist, became the head of NCI's Cuenca office in 2010, where he coordinates a multi-institutional effort to establish and strengthen a wide variety of conservation areas and programs. He has published on bird conservation and on the use of GIS for protected areas. He served as a university professor and has a post-graduate degree in Population Ecology from the University of Costa Rica.

**José Romero**, a biologist, leads NCI's efforts on watershed conservation in our offices in Loja, Ecuador. He is also involved in helping rural communities and businesses gain access to Ecuador's innovative SocioBosque forest conservation program.

**Felipe Serrano** is Coordinator of the Biosur project, the Biosphere Reserve program, and the community programs at Colambo-Yacuri. He has a Masters in Management of Tropical Biodiversity from San Pablo University, Spain, and was a university teacher (1999 - 2002). Felipe is the founder of the Azuay Herbarium and president of Funbotánica.

**Noam Shany**, leader of NCI's programs in Loreto and Ucayali, Peru, is co-author of the book *Birds of Peru*. He is Nature and Culture International's liaison to the Program for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Regional Biodiversity of Loreto (PROCREL), and has helped implement a variety of important conservation initiatives in the region.

**Silvia Usuriaga**, Program Coordinator, was born in Iquitos, in the Peruvian Amazon. She was staff director of NCI's Loreto program where she worked closely with Peruvian local, state and national governments and over 40 indigenous and farming communities, donors, and the private sector to develop and manage an integrated program to protect over 4 million acres of Amazon rainforest.



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