ANNUAL BEPORT 2022

WORLD

REWILDING

WILD NEW WORLD

ANNUAL REPORT

2022







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Thank You

OUR LEADERSHIP

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Dear Friends.

Restoring natural ecosystem functionality, reintroducing keystone species, and restoring the land's ability to sequester carbon, are the best-known technologies to reverse the environmental crises affecting Argentina. We work to face these crises together with neighbours, local communities, and governments, who support the return of wildlife and the eradication of catastrophic threats. Together, we dream of transforming the areas where we all live in, into the best wildlife-watching tourism destinations in South America.

As 2022 draws to a close, our minds turn to celebration, which is important in a world rife with environmental crises. Below, I'm delighted to share the progress and challenges of our teams in Argentina for this year.

Following the release of the first jaguars in Iberá in 2021, this year we witnessed the birth of the first four cubs in the wild. At the same time, the breeding and release project in El Impenetrable National Park, witnessed the birth of the offspring of Mbarete (brought from the neighbouring province of Corrientes) and Qaramta (the wild male in El Impenetrable). This was a bold venture of active management that sets precedents for this magnificent carnivore's conservation.

At El Impenetrable National Park we also built a breeding centre to recover the ecological role of another apex predator: the giant otter. Concurrently, the Chaco Province issued a decree proclaiming it necessary to recover extinct species in the region and supporting rewilding provincial protected areas. This drives us to continue recovering a rich ensemble of species to get closer to a complete, functional, and prosperous ecosystem.

In concert with local communities, we have been preparing the areas where we work in to receive visitors eager to discover wildlife and experience restored, beautiful, and healthy landscapes. We have been heavily focused on developing campgrounds, glamping sites, look points, ports, and nature tourism. As a result, all of the projects received a record amount of tourists, generating new income for local people -including youth and women- while allowing them to stay close to home.

After thirty years of continued efforts, the legislators of Tierra del Fuego in the far south of Argentina— have passed a law to protect Peninsula Mitre and the surrounding sea. When the environment is protected and threats are diminished, wildlife makes a bid to take its rightful place and nature recovers its ability to repair itself, even in very damaged areas. We celebrate the protection of this emblematic natural area, which is Argentina's most important carbon sink.

The work of Economy of Nature—in which neighbouring rural communities generate income as a result of the restoration of complete and functional ecosystems—goes on. Moreover, it has become a spark of hope that is spreading to other Argentine provinces. Corrientes is leading this model and is proud to share the formula with other provincial governments and nearby municipalities, whose knowledge will help its incorporation into their economic plans. On the world environmental stage, Argentina is starting to be known for the rewilding efforts it is spearheading.

This long-term work is just getting started in the forests of Chaco, the Patagonian coast, and in the Pinturas River Canyon in Patagonia Park. In Iberá we still have a long way to go before the economic model gains enough momentum to reach more families that surround the park. Therefore, Rewilding Argentina commits in the long term, working in tandem with the communities and together with the government, to show examples of coexistence, while promoting wellbeing and values that can reverse the worldwide crises we are facing.

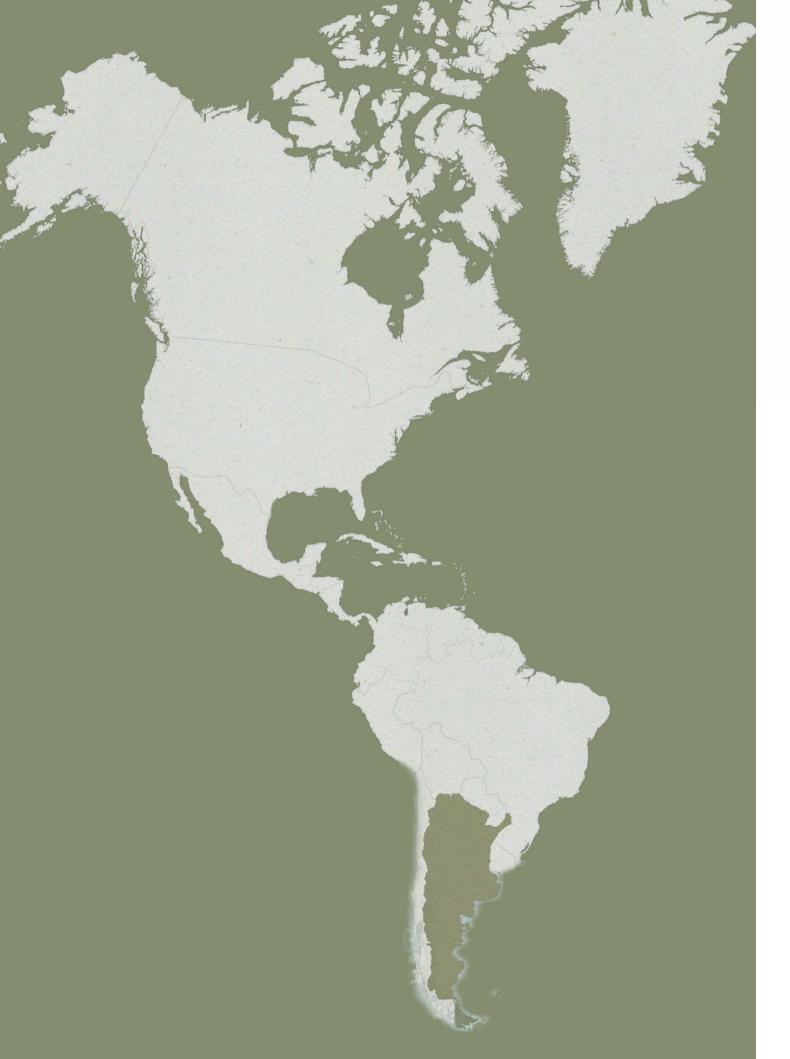
Together, we want to learn, communicate, and find solutions, so that our children and future generations see that we are as concerned and engaged as they are to promote regenerative economic change, for us all to experience a complete and functional form of nature in which wildlife plays a central role.

Thank you to all the people and organisations that support us in so many different ways every day. We honestly could not have done it without all of you.

SOFIA HEINONEN, Executive Director of Rewilding Argentina







ABOUT US

Rewilding Argentina works to reverse the biodiversity crisis, restore healthy functioning ecosystems, and promote the well-being of local communities.

Formed in 2010 by Argentinian conservationists and activists, Rewilding Argentina is an independent nonprofit organization and the offspring of Tompkins Conservation, continuing the vision initiated by Doug and Kris Tompkins in 1998. We are united in our strong commitment to the restoration of natural beauty, in our belief in the intrinsic value of all species, and in the possibility of creating a model of local development based on conservation and rewilding.

Our multi-disciplinary teams live in the areas where we have our projects. This allows us to intimately know and understand the environments where we work, to make accurate diagnoses of threats that they face, and to intervene rapidly and effectively to assure their restoration and conservation.







PROTECTED AREAS

WE HELP TO CREATE AND MANAGE PROTECTED AREAS IN LAND AND SEA, BUILD PUBLIC-ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE, AND PROMOTE THE PARKS AS ENGINES FOR A NEW LOCAL ECONOMY

COMMUNITIES

WE WORK WITH LOCAL PEOPLE TO IMPROVE THEIR WELL-BEING AND PRIDE IN THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, FOR PUBLIC EMPOWERMENT, AND FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

RESTORATIVE **ECONOMY**

OUR

MODEL

WE BUILD A TERRITORIAL BRAND ASSOCIATED WITH NATURE TOURISM EXPERIENCES AND EXPORTABLE REGENERATIVE **ARTISANAL PRODUCTS**





WILDLIFE

WE RESTORE COMPLETE AND FULLY FUNCTIONAL ECOSYSTEMS BY REINTRODUCING EXTIRPATED SPECIES, SUPLIMENTING AND MONITORING DIMINISHED POPULATIONS

2022 BYTHE UMBERS

PARK **CREATION**

5,764 **HECTARES**

PROTECTED **AREA CREATED: PENINSULA MITRE**

ACQUIRED TO BE RESTORED

PROTECTED AREA EXPANDED-ACONQUIJA NATIONAL PARK

1,500 HECTARES ACQUIRED AND DONATED TO THE GOVERNMENT

CONSERVATION

GUARDIANS

WORKING ON THE GROUND

NEW GATEWAYS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

54

KILOMETRES OF TRAILS BUILT

15

KILOMETRES OF ROADS BUILT

53 **KILOMETRES OF INTERNAL FENCES** REMOVED

NEW CAMPING SITES

15 **KILOMETRES OF** TRAILS RESTORED

132

104 **KILOMETRES OF** FENCES BUILT TO **CONTROL EXOTIC**

SPECIES

KILOMETRES OF FIRE LINES BUILT

KILOMETRES OF FENCES RESTORED

KILOMETRES OF ROADS RESTORED

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH **PROJECTS TO INCREASE WILDLIFE** POPULATIONS

WILDLIFE REINTRODUCTION PROJECTS TO **RESTORE LOCALLY EXTINCT SPECIES**

4

17 **EXOTIC SPECIES BEING ERADICATED**

NEWLY-FOUNDED WILDLIFE POPULATIONS

AT LEAST

120

ANIMALS

TRANSLOCATED

JAGUAR CUBS CONCEIVED AND BORN IN COMPLETE FREEDOM

VHF AND GPS DEVICES DEPLOYED **TO MONITOR** WILDLIFE

14

15

COMMUNITIES

152

LOCALS VISITED THE SPECIES REINTRODUCTION PROJECTS

26

PUPPET SHOWS ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROVIDED IN

20 **RURAL SCHOOLS** 17

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TALKS PROVIDED TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

26

FAMILIES BENEFITED FROM FOOD SECURITY PROJECTS

LOCAL FAMILIES BENEFITED FROM CATTLE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

RESTORATIVE **ECONOMY**

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS CREATED

INTERCULTURAL **EXCHANGES**

157 NEW ENTREPRENEURS **BY NATURE**

TRAINING COURSES PROVIDED TO ENTREPRENEURS

WORKING GROUP INAUGURATED



OUR IMPACT SO FAR

We donated over 410 THOUSAND hectares of land to create and expand NINE national and provincial parks that safeguard over 1,5 MILLION hectares

> At sea, we helped protect 97 THOUSAND SQUARE KILOMETERES of the Argentine Sea with the creation of the FIRST TWO

> > national marine parks in the country.

of land. This protected land sequestres more than

938 MILLION metric tons of carbon.

We are reintroducing FOURTEEN missing species to their natural habitats, and working with research and active management of ELEVEN threatened species to increase their population numbers.

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SIX ecoregions are being positively-impacted by territorial conservation models:

THE IBERÁ WETLANDS, THE GRAN CHACO, THE PATAGONIAN STEPPE, THE ARGENTINE SEA, THE YUNGAS, and THE PATAGONIAN FOREST.

We are helping to create FOUR nature-based tourism destinations: IBERÁ, EL IMPENETRABLE, PATAGONIA, and PATAGONIA AZUL, where we are developing THIRTEEN park gateways with public-use infrastructure linked to local communities.

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PATAGONIA

PATAGONIA PARK

MONTE LEÓN NP Santa Cruz

PENÍNSULA MITRE

PERITO MORENO NP

EXPANSION Santa Cruz

AZUL PROJECT

BOLIVIA

NATURAL PROTECTED AREA

NAMUNCURÁ-BANCO BURDWOOD II MARINE PROTECTED AREA Argentine Sea

YAGANES MARINE PROTECTED AREA

EXTINCTION IS LONELINESS by ALEXA JEDDĀ FIRMENICH

You're walking in the forest. With every step you are being bathed in wafting clouds of terpenes, aromatic volatiles, pheromones, tree sperm, mushroom spores, witch hazel and lily pollen. All of this is invisible to the eye, but viscerally detectable in the nostrils, in the brain, where nature's compounds bind to receptors waiting with open tendrils for their fix. Here, life is humming, life is binding, making more and more and more of itself, beckoning with sweet scents to make love in a symbiotic embrace of earthy chemicals and lustful plant life.

All this, and you, an innocent receiver within this decadent soup. Now a different scene. Fifty million years ago in deep time. Your body is winged, antennae quivering, abdomen poised. You detect my familiar scent on the breeze – a spicy ambrosial elixir, milky warm. It is irresistible. I drop everything and make my way over to you, burying myself in your dusty folds, scooping out your cool nectar chambers into my mouth. You'll feed and immunise my young, and their young, and all those who come after me, and all this as a highly-tuned murmur that you've learned for no one else but me.

Our human bodies and the delicate skin of the Earth are covered inside and out with a staggering bedlam of microfauna, bacteria, microbes and fungi that provide an interdependent and complex web of needs and wants to each other and to ourselves. Every millisecond, plants the world over are releasing tonnes of fructose, amino acids, enzymes, lipids, antibacterials, a whole cocktail of chemicals





into the underground rhizosphere (the mycelium strands that link up entire ecosystems like the internet). These plant-bacterial populations have been exchanging and interacting in this way from anywhere between 140 to 700 million years.

Imagine that for a second. It would be as if you had a next-door neighbour with whom you had exchanged pastries, cheese, honey and gossip with for 700 million years. Despite their tired bad jokes, that bond, that friendship, that reliance, and the specificity of your interaction, is more ancient than continents.

Birds collect medicinal plants and weave them into their nests so that their volatile oils prevent infestations and boost the immune systems of their young. Sawflies gather terpenes from pine trees and recombine them in their bodies, to spray at any attacking predator. The lumbering post-hibernation bear digs up the osha root with her claws, munches on it then uses it to disinfect her stomach from intestinal worms and clean her fur. Pregnant elephants consume tree bark to stimulate birth contractions. Squid fill themselves with bioluminescent bacteria to blend in with the stars and moon at night, camouflaging them from predators. All these tightly woven interdependencies, these enmeshed intelligences, break down notions of species barriers. It's a symbiotic world.

What happens when millions of years of codependent and entwined feedbacks and relationships just vanish? What happens when you go to that 400-million-year-old neighbour's door, and it flaps open on the wind, empty inside, silence thundering in a dead home?

Extinction is loneliness. I can see it in no other way. How else would the beetle, the acacia ant, the bacteria, the salmon, experience the absence of part of themselves? To have your song be greeted, forever, by nobody. To have no one left to come visit you. To have no one who will carry your delicate powdery

seeds from one place to the next. This is heartbreak. This is an outstretched hand waiting millennia for anybody to greet its soft warm flesh.

When we understand the stories and deep relationships that lie behind abstract terms like 'biodiversity' and 'ecosystems', we begin to perceive what is being lost. We have all known the feeling of shattering loneliness. We all know what it's like not to be met, not to be seen, not to feel like there is anybody out there. Now imagine that, into infinity. Imagine having to reshape your entire body just to take on the form of some new world, but that new world keeps shifting so quickly, it keeps changing at such breakneck speed that you simply can't keep up. And so you fade away, as well. You disappear. And so will all those who relied on you.

This is what extinction is. This is 'species die-off'. That is what we are enabling by encroaching deeper and deeper, building roads and high-rises, feeding the incessant lust for controlled inputs, tightening the noose around the neck of life. Absence, invisibility, a silent death of a million cuts.

Imagine now a planet of hollow shapes. Shapes that once held unimaginable forms of life, shapes designed to entice, feed, procreate, generate, shapes that hold the negative empty space of what no longer is. An orchid's womb carved into the shape of the female honeybee who used to come to visit. Nothing of the extinct bee remains, but we can detect its ghost from the shape of the orchid, who herself is slowly dying unfertilised and solitary in a forest grove.

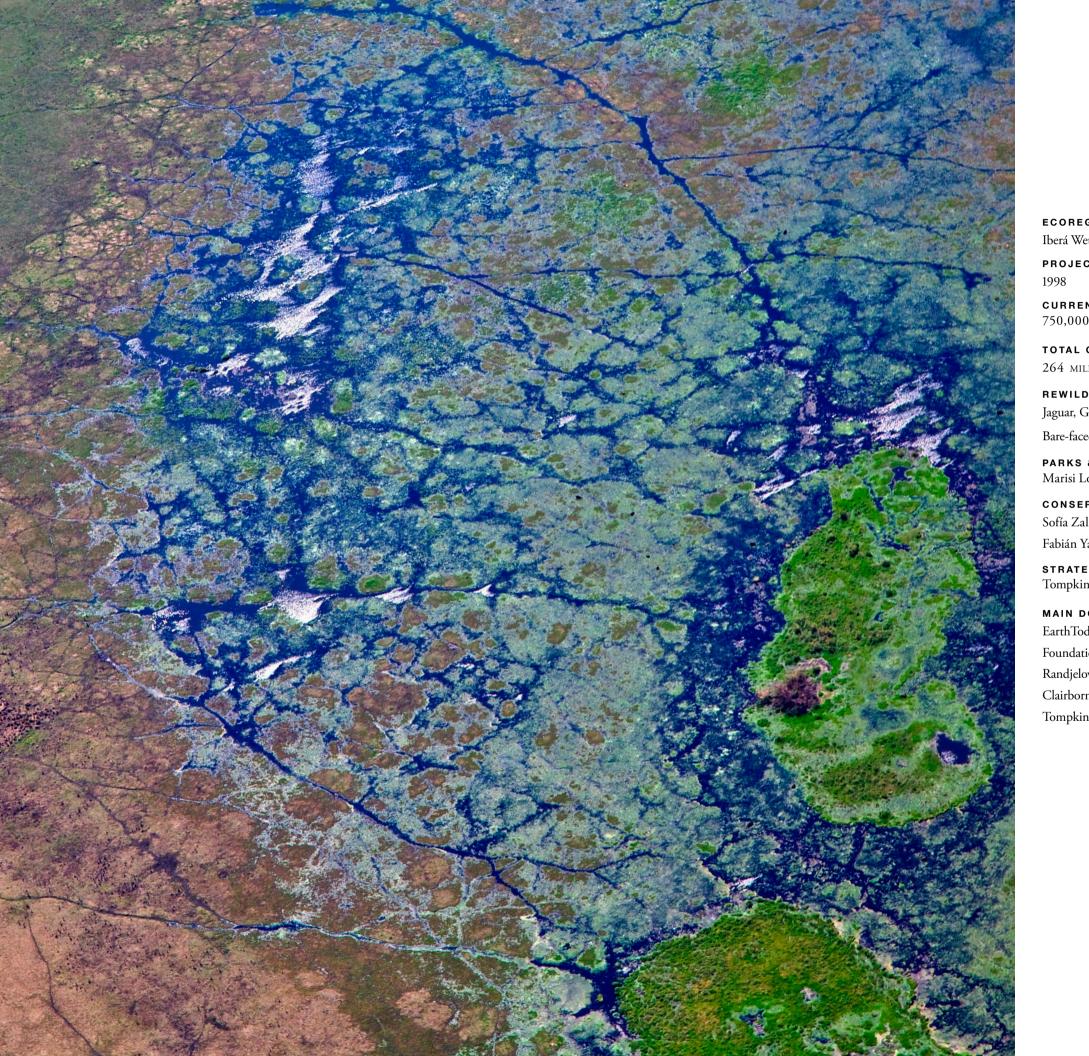
There will be collective amnesia and there is already a shifting baseline syndrome. New generations will be blinded to what has been lost for the innocent reason that they never knew it. A tree farm looks like a healthy forest for those who have never stepped foot in old growth. A silent

sunrise is just another sunrise for those who never knew the symphony of birdsong.

Perhaps this is better. Perhaps the less we know of what has been lost, the less we will suffer grief. And yet... And yet... I cannot help but intuit that our bodies remember and our bodies know. Our bodies know what it feels like to be inside of a climax, vividly generative, overflowingly generous ecosystem. Our bodies know what it's like to be bathed in life's exclamations and cabaret of pheromones. We know.

Let's remember what extinction is. What it feels like to those who are dying. Let's bring it closer to home, envelop it in our arms, and promise, not on my watch. Let's be the ones who take on the old shapes, the new shapes, pouring ourselves into the voids of extinction, the cognition of our fleshy bodies and synapses fusing again to make entirely new million-year dependencies. Let's remember, we are good company for the ones who are still here and they want to know who we are.







ECOREGION BEING RESTORED Iberá Wetlands

PROJECT START

CURRENT PROTECTED AREA 750,000 HECTARES

TOTAL CARBON STORED 264 MILLION METRIC TONNES

REWILDING SPECIES PROJECTS

PARKS & COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR Marisi López

CONSERVATION MANAGERS

STRATEGIC PARTNER Tompkins Conservation

MAIN DONORS

EarthToday, Laura Crawford Williams, Mimi and Peter Buckley, Oak Foundation, Rolex Perpetual Planet Initiative, Segre Fondation, Slobodan Randjelovic & Jon Stryker, The Bromley Charitable Trust, The Liz Clairborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation, The Plum Foundation, Tompkins Conservation, White Cedar Fund, Wyss Campaign for Nature.



Jaguar, Giant Otter, Collared Peccary, Pampas Deer, Giant Anteater, Bare-faced Curassow, Red-and-green Macaw, Ocelot, Maned Wolf, Puma.

Sofía Zalazar, Marianela Masat, Augusto Distel, Magalí Longo, Fabián Yablonsky, Juan Cruz Minvielle, Alicia Delgado, Elena Martin. IBERÁ

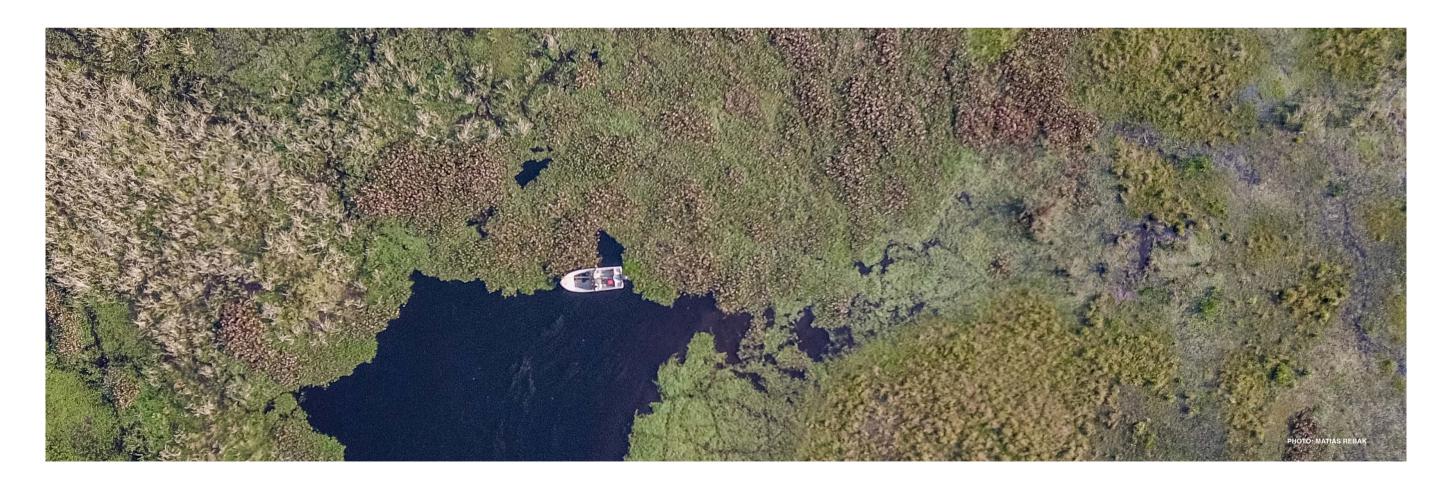
THE REALM OF REWILDING

The Iberá wetlands are an unparalleled jewel of biological importance. Filled with freshwater lagoons and reservoirs, they connect diverse ecoregions such as the Upper Paraná and the Atlantic Forest to the north, the Espinal to the south, the Chaco forest to the west and the Pampas grasslands to the southwest. During the last century, the Corrientes Province underwent a severe defaunation process which resulted in a further degradation of nature, traditional knowledge, and ways of living of the local communities.

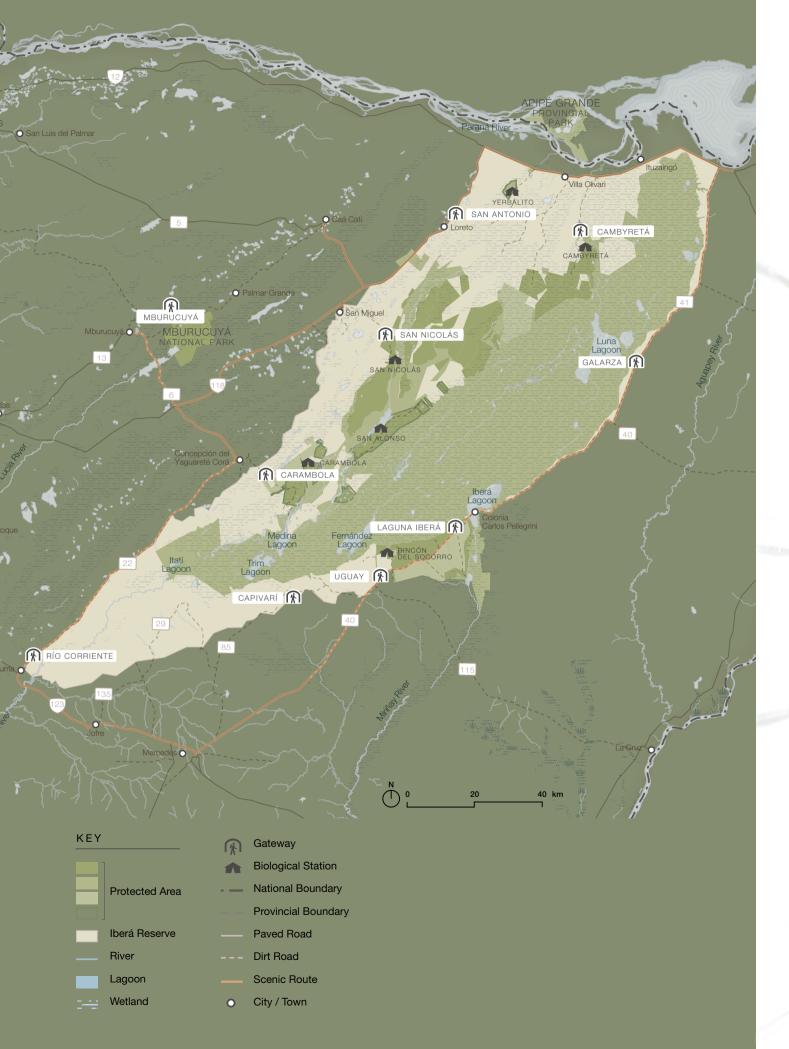
The future of this area began to change with the arrival of Kris and Doug Tompkins in 1998, who started buying land to develop an ambitious conservation and restoration project. Twenty years later, the Iberá Park (750,000 hectares) was created in collaboration with the national and provincial governments. Iberá became the regional birthplace of rewilding, where the return of locally lost keystone species has helped to shift the extractive economy towards a restorative one based on nature tourism, impacting ten communities with a total population of 100,000 people. During the first months of 2022, a series of devastating fires scorched the Corrientes Province, consuming more than 170,200 hectares of Iberá Park (23% of its territory). Extreme drought conditions generated the conditions for massive fires in as area that is usually covered by water. This new threat reminds us of the necessity of having teams on the ground that can swiftly react to emergencies, and develop strategies that can adapt to new threats. We expect wildfires to continue to be a pressing issue in Iberá, so we are training our teams on fire prevention and control.

Kris Tompkins, president of Tompkins Conservation, was named Guest of Honor by the Government of Corrientes. In a meaningful moment, Governor Gustavo Valdés expressed his "eternal gratitude" for the more than twenty years of work that Kris, together with Doug Tompkins and Rewilding Argentina, spearheaded in the conservation and restoration of the biodiversity of Iberá, which is fostering a new model of local development.

Despite the adversities faced in 2022, the Iberá project continues to be a success story of an alternative and resilient economic model in which local communities and nature thrive together.



IBERÁ



PARK 2

SPECIES REINTRODUCTION **CORRALS REBUILT**

159

KILOMETRES OF PERIMETER FENCING RESTORED

148 **KILOMETRES OF FIREBREAKS BUILT**

> 140 NATIVE TREES PLANTED

5,261 **HECTARES LIT FOR** PRESCRIBED BURNS

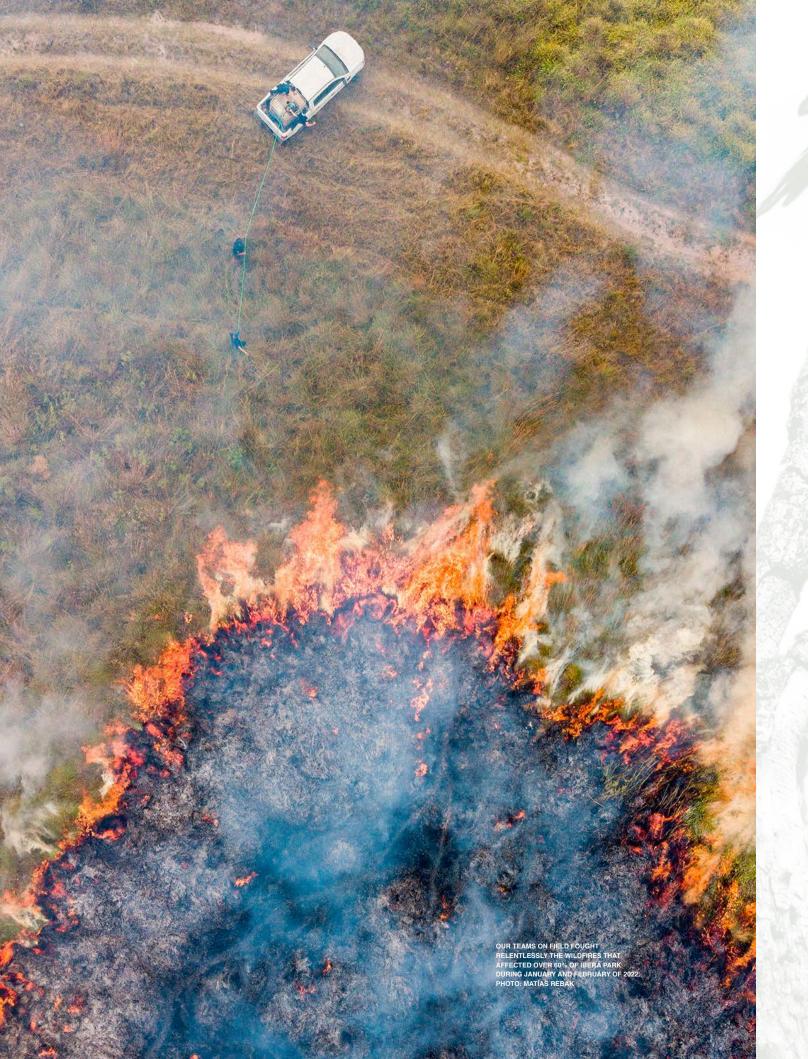
1,500 HECTARES PURCHASED, DONATED, AND **INCORPORATED TO** THE PROVINCIAL PARK

IBERÁ

After the massive wildfires, we launched a national and international fundraising campaign to finance the restoration of (1) public use infrastructure in two gateways, (11) two species reintroduction corrals, (111) more than 159 kilometres of perimeter fencing, and (IV) Yerbalito's forest.

The damaged infrastructure was replaced and we repaired more than ninety kilometres of fencing, six of them with fireproof or reused materials. We also planted more than 140 native trees in Yerbalito's forest. With an eye towards preventing similar future catastrophes and strengthening field teams we: (1) constructed more than 148 kilometres of firebreaks; (11) carried out prescribed burns on 5,261 hectares; (111) purchased firefighting equipment; (1V) conducted firefighting training.

Mindful of strengthening local community economies and improving the cultural and nature-based tourism offer in the Carambola Gateway, we acquired a 1,500-hectare property, which was donated to the Corrientes Province and incorporated into the provincial park.



WILDLIFE

12 JAGUARS ROAMING FREE

4 WILD-CONCEIVED

CUBS

GIANT OTTER

ADDED TO THE

REINTRODUCTION

PROJECT

GIANT ANTEATERS RESCUED AND REHABILITATED AND

10 RELEASED

COLLARED PECCARIES INCORPORATED AND

RELEASED

RED-AND-GREEN MACAWS INCORPORATED AND

> 13 RELEASED

EQUIPPED WITH TRACKING COLLARS AND

MANED WOLVES

PUPS REGISTERED

16 BARE-FACED CURASSOW CHICKS BORN

ACED SSOW BORN

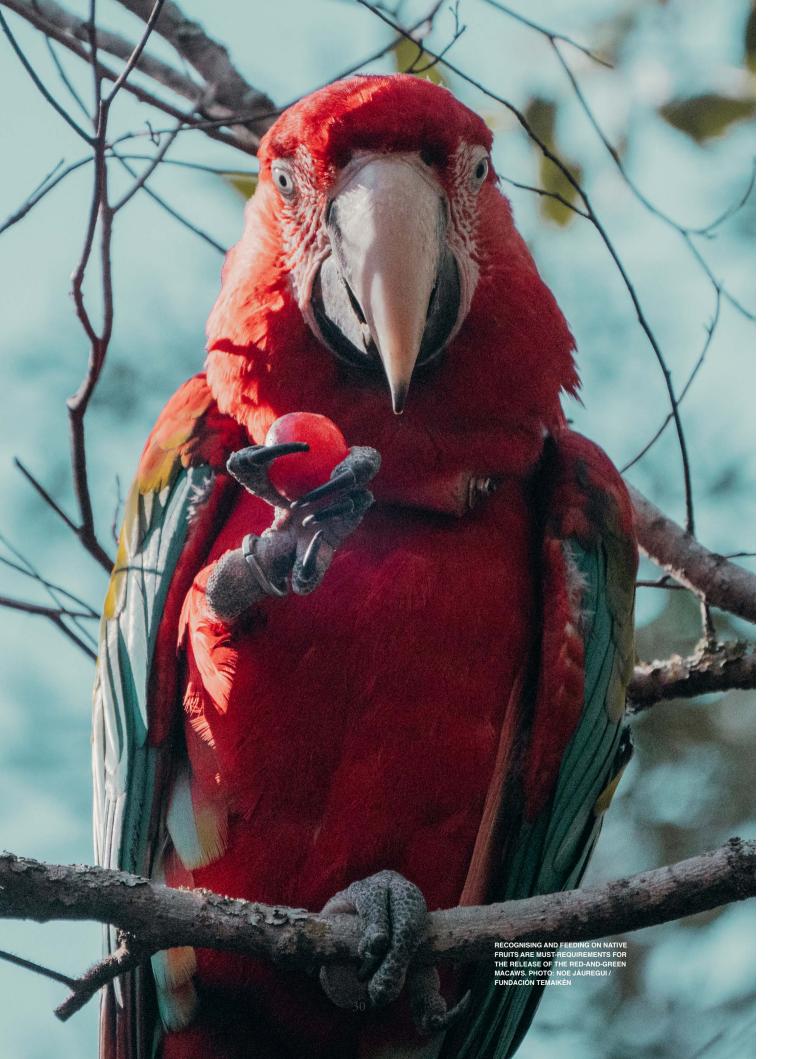
D PUMAS RECORDED

OCELOTS ADDED TO THE REINTRODUCTION PROJECT The first four wild-conceived **jaguars** were born. A year after the first individuals were released, we now can confirm a population of twelve jaguars who have remained within Isla San Alonso hunting native prey, reproducing, and coexisting in harmony with the families that live within their range. To increase the new population's genetic variability, four new individuals were attained, a captive-raised female from the Tabaré González Sierra Native Wildlife Reserve (Uruguay), and two males and a female from Faro Moro (Paraguay).

We imported a **giant otter** from the Douéla-Fontaine Biopark (France) and placed her in a pre-release pen together with the male Nanay. They quickly became the second bonded pair of the reintroduction project. We registered several instances of mating between them, which gives us hope for future births. Alondra, the female of the first family group, died from a lung infection possibly due to her advanced age, or the stress provoked by the wildfire evacuation. Since giant otters form close family groups with a breeding pair at the helm, we will import two additional females-one from Los Angeles and the other from Madrid—and two males from Peru. Our hope is that one of the females joins the first family group, and that the remaining individuals establish new breeding pairs.

IBERÁ





The Second International Giant Otter Workshop was carried out in Ituzaingo, Corrientes, which led to the formation of the International Giant Otter Alliance that aims to bring together conservationists and researchers working with the species. The organisation's objective is to define research and conservation priorities, develop a united front for scientific dissemination, and create a coordinated structure to provide management recommendations.

We added fourteen **red-and-green macaws** to the reintroduction project, seven from collaborating organisations (Temaikèn Foundation and Buenos Aires' Ecopark) and seven rescued from illegal wildlife trafficking. In all, thirteen animals were freed—nine in Yerbalito and four in Cambyreta.

At the beginning of 2022, two macaw chicks were born but had to be rescued due to the wildfires. They were kept in the Aguará Conservation Centre together with two born in October 2021, and one breeding pair. Unfortunately, the two youngest chicks suffered smoke inhalation and could not be saved. The two older chicks were hand-fed and after successfully completing their flight training were freed again. During the breeding season that started in September of 2022, three pairs of red-and-greenmacaws mated and laid three eggs.

Ten **bare-faced curassows** were born, of which six survived. As the fire affected the aviary in Yerbalito, ten individuals were evacuated to the Aguará Conservation Centre until the aviary could be repaired. During the current breeding season, three pairs mated and laid eight eggs. To improve outcomes, we removed the eggs from the nests and placed them in incubators, where six chicks hatched. As the bare-faced curassow is prey for other species, this method is fundamental to maintain a minimum viable population that can survive in the wild.

IBERÁ WILDLIFE



CAMERA TRAPS RECORDED MARIUÁ—THE FIRST FEMALE JAGUAR TO BE RELEASED IN IBERÁ PARK—GROOMING HER NEWBORN CUB. PHOTO: CAMERA TRAP / REWILDING ARGENTINA



NANAY-THE MALE GIANT OTTER IMPORTED FROM SWEDEN IN 2021 - AND ARIRANHA-THE FEMALE RECENTLY INCORPORATED TO THE REINTRODUCTION PROJECT-QUICKLY BONDED, FORMING THE SECOND REPRODUCTIVE COUPLE. PHOTO: SEBASTIÁN NAVAJAS



DUE TO THE WILDFIRES, THE TWO ELDEST RED-AND-GREEN MACAW CHICKS HAD TO BE SEPARATED FROM THEIR PARENTS. TO PREVENT HUMAN-IMPRINTING, THEY WERE HAND FED WITH THE AID OF A PUPPET. PHOTO: MATIAS REBAK



RESCUED ORPHAN GIANT ANTEATER PUPS ARRIVE AT THE AGUARÁ CONSERVATION CENTRE WHERE THEY ARE REHABILITATED. ONCE THEY ARE FULLY GROWN, THEY ARE RELEASED INTO THE WILD. PHOTO: SEBASTIÁN NAVAJAS

IBERÁ WILDLIFE

Two male **ocelots** from the Biodiversity Park of Cordoba and CAFAJu (Jujuy's Native Fauna Attention Centre) were added to the reintroduction project. After quarantine at the Corrientes Biological Station, we brought them to Rincón del Socorro for pre-release and they have quickly adapted to the new environment, hunting prey supplied to them. The third largest feline in the Americas, the ocelot, is locally extinct in Iberá.

We rescued and rehabilitated five giant anteaters and released ten individuals in three population nuclei. Of these nuclei, four are self-sufficient and among them at least sixteen pups have been recorded in 2022. The remaining nucleus consists of six individuals.

Seven collared peccaries were inconporated into the reintroduction project and five were released into three population nuclei, all of which are self-sufficient. Four of them are made up of between twenty and thirty peccaries, and one of them has approximately sixty individuals. Fortyone offspring were recorded in 2022.

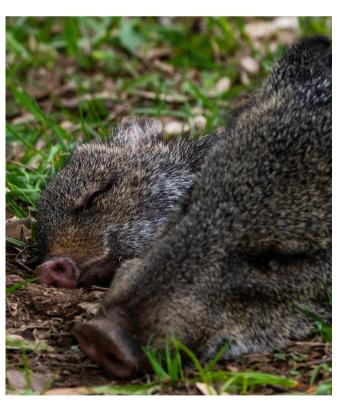
We continue monitoring the two populations groups of **pampas deer.** Between them, we recorded twenty-nine births in 2022.

Three maned wolves were captured and fitted with radio tracking collars. In total, seven individuals-three pairs and one female-are being monitored. In 2022, two pairs had six pups in total. This conservation project is aimed at the quantitative study of the spatial and population ecology of this species within and outside of Iberá Park.

We registered six **pumas** within the four gateways of Iberá Park, so we installed more camera traps to continue monitoring this species. These records indicate that pumas are slowly returning to Iberá.



LUNA. ONE OF THE FEMALE OCELOTS THAT ARRIVED AT IBERÁ PARK PHOTO: SEBASTIÁN NAVAJAS



A PIGLET PEACEFULLY RESTS WITH ITS MOTHER, MARGE, IN SAN LONSO ISLAND. ONCE HUNTED AND DRIVEN TO EXTINCTIO COLLARED-PECCARIES ARE NOW THRIVING IN IBERÁ PARK PHOTO: SEBASTIÁN NAVAJAS

RESTORATIVE ECONOMY

63 K **VISITORS TO IBERÁ PARK**

18 **NATURE TOURISM TRAININGS FOR**

> 356 **PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES**

> > 8

NEW

ENTREPRENEURS,

250 **IBERÁ ARTISANS**

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CARAMBOLITA

NATURE CLUB

OF THEM WORKING IN NATURE TOURISM

NATURE TOURISM **CIRCUIT ADDED**, AND

VISITORS TO CARAMBOLA GATEWAY

106

COOKS AND PRODUCERS IN THE IBERÁ COOKS PROGRAM

After the wildfires were extinguished, the Iberá Committee and the government of Corrientes launched a mass communication campaign to boost visitation and help those entrepreneurs affected by the fires. The campaign was a success with more than 63,000 visitors to the park during 2022, an increase of 25% over the previous year, and a record for the park.

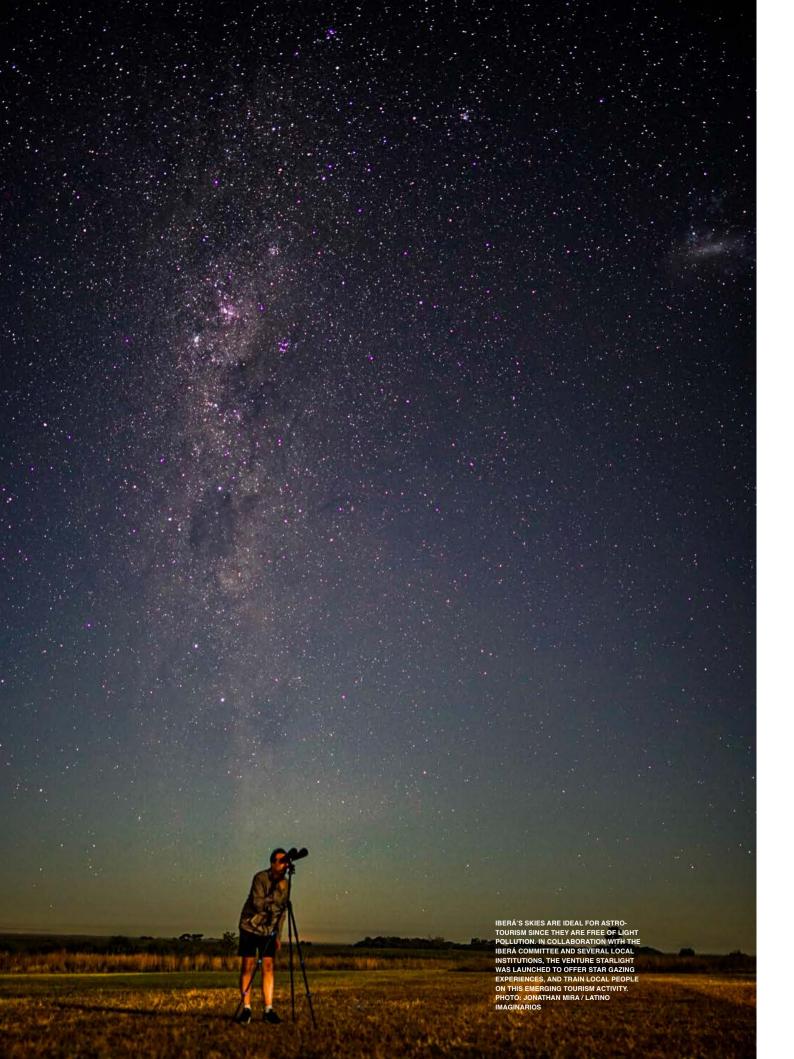
We ran eighteen additional nature tourism programs, training, and courses in the neighbouring areas for 356 people and businesses. In the Carambola Gateway, eight new local entrepreneurs began to offer wildlife watching and cultural tours. In this gateway we continue to develop a tourist circuit that crosses the wetlands and added horseback ridings to the Lechuza Cua Refuge, which is run by local communities. In addition to offering unique experiences, these activities generate meaningful jobs and reinforce the pride of local communities, who provide lodging, guide services, transportation, and gastronomic experiences to visitors.

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IBERÁ



The artisans and cooks of Iberá represented the regional culture and traditions at sixty-eight events and fairs throughout Argentina, which reinforced their visibility and contributed to their ongoing growth. Under the program Artisans of Iberá, nine trainings were provided for a total of 111 people, while the Cooks of Iberá program gave ten courses for more than ninety people.



With the support of the Iberá Committee and the Province of Corrientes, we developed a new environmental education program with different nature-based tourism enterprises: the Club de Naturaleza Carambolita (Carambolita Nature Club). Thirty-four young people from





FUN CAMPING AND OUTDOORS ACTIVITIES WERE ALSO CARRIED OUT AT THE CARAMBOLITA NATURE CLUB. PHOTO: TERRIER FILMS

IBERÁ RESTORATIVE ECONOMY

four nearby communities immersed themselves in Iberá Park's nature during ten meetings, in which they obtained new knowledge and tools to eventually start their own businesses. Eleven of them are now working in nature tourism.

TRADITIONAL EXCURSIONS —IN CANOES PULLED BY HORSE OR POLED BY HAND— HAVE BECOME A TOURISM ATTRACTION THAT VISITORS ENJOY AT THE CARAMBOLA GATEWAY. PHOTO: JULIO ANDI VILLARREAL

THIRTY-FOUR YOUNG PEOPLE FROM FOUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES JOINED THE CARAMBOLITA NATURE CLUB, AND DURING TEN MEETINGS THEY LEARNT MORE ABOUT NATURE TOURISM, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION. PHOTO: ANDREA

IBERÁ

COMMUNITIES

10

LOCAL INDEPENDENT WORKERS CONTRACTED FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES

LOCAL FAMILIES PERIODICALLY ASSISTED

40 INFORMATIVE VISITS TO LIVESTOCK FARMS AND FORESTRY PROPERTIES

> 3,150 DOMESTIC ANIMALS VACCINATED

CAMPAIGN DESIGNED AND LAUNCHED – CORRIENTES, LAND OF JAGUARS

WORKSHOPS ON THE JAGUAR REINTRODUCTION PROJECT FOR

6

145 PEOPLE



In the Carambola Gateway, we hired twelve local people to rebuild the fences damaged by the wildfires, and remove the livestock that entered to the park.

We periodically visit the **families that live in the wetlands**, providing help and transportation to nearby towns and key information on the jaguars and their whereabouts, since they live within the species' range. In gratitude for their cooperation with the jaguar reintroduction project, we asked two neighbours to pick the Guaraní names for the cubs, Yvoty (flower) and Mombyry (far).

More than **thirty-five livestock farms and five forestry properties** close to Iberá Park were provided with general information about the species, and how to contact us in case of signs or sightings of the jaguars. Landowners and administrators showed interest in the species' reintroduction project.

We continue developing the **livestock management project** to improve the cattle's health



SCAN TO WATCH A VIDEO ON THE NAMING OF THE JAGUAR CUBS. and prevent the transmission of diseases to wildlife. Thus, we coordinated two vaccination campaigns with the national agriculture entity

CORRIENTES TIERRA DE YAGUARETÉS



CORRIENTES VUELV



"In Corrientes Province we celebrate being major players in this historic event to recover the great cat of the Americas. The jaguar, which was always a part of our culture, is now part of our wildlife and is the pride of the people of Corrientes."

GUSTAVO VALDÉS, Governor of the Corrientes Province

IBERÁ COMMUNITIES

IBERÁ COMMUNITIES



THE FAMILIES THAT LIVE IN THE WETLANDS PROVIDED KEY INPUT FOR THE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CORRIENTES, LAND OF JAGUARS CAMPAIGN PHOTO: JUAN AGUIRRI

for approximately 3,150 animals. By improving the condition of livestock, local families can also augment their incomes while reducing the number of domestic animals, and lower the impact that cattle has on the wetlands.

Six **workshops** about the jaguar reintroduction project were held for 145 people in four neighbouring communities, and two workshops were organised for the forestries employees. We also organised two courses and a trip to Cerrado (Brazil) so that the field teams could learn more about how to prevent human-wildlife conflicts.

We designed and launched the campaign, "Corrientes, Land of Jaguars" after consulting with locals about the slogan and message. Their support was key to the campaign design, which highlights the cultural, ecological, and economic value of the jaguar's return to Iberá and the pride of the Correntinos.

BIGHT: ONE OF THE BANNERS DESIGNED FOR THE CORRIENTES, LAND OF JAGUARS CAMPAIGN. DESIGN: ANDREA VILLARREAL

OBJECTIVES 2023:

•Acquire at least one property to improve the design of Iberá Park.

• Increase of the jaguar genetic pool In Iberá Park through the breeding of wild males that inhabit El Impenetrable National Park with a captive-bred female.

•Import three giant otters to establish a third family group.

Incorporate ten red-and-green macaws to the reintroduction project.

Promote new touristic activities linked to Iberá's traditional ways of living to strengthen the local economies.

Continue developing the Carambolita Nature Club so that at least 25% of the participants work on nature tourism ventures.

CORRIENTES RERRADE ACCUARENES





IBERÁ

LIVES, REWILDED \mathcal{C} The Story of Pascual

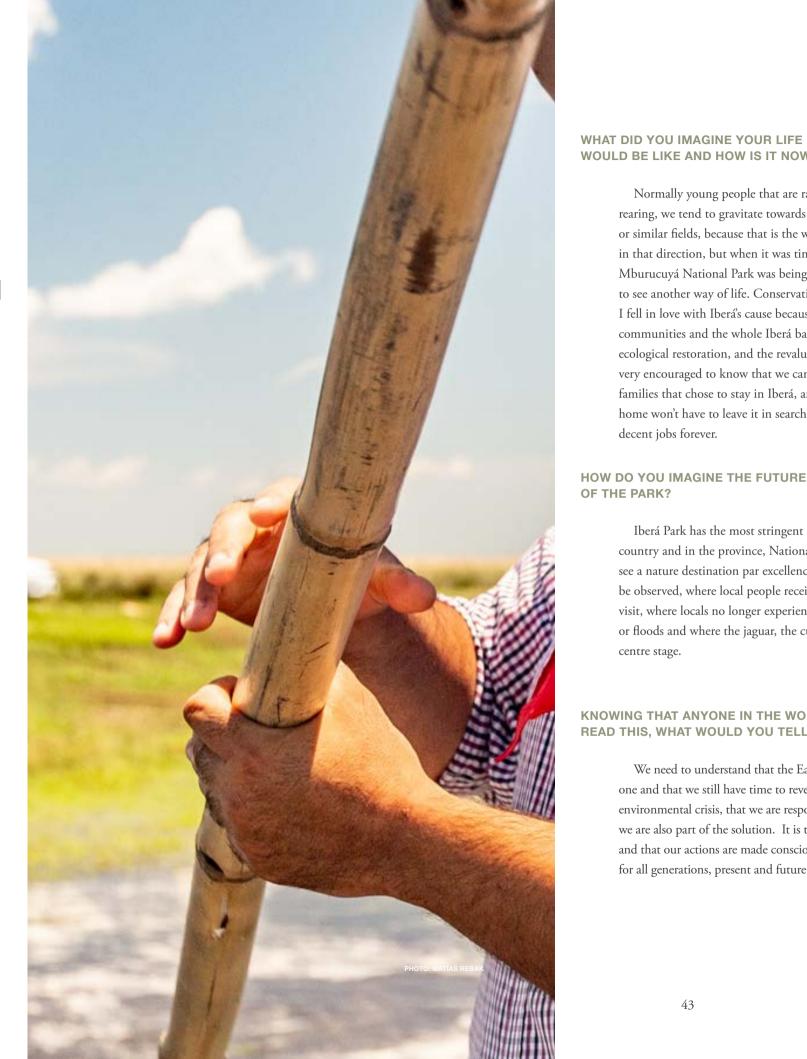
WHERE WERE YOU BORN? WHAT WAS YOUR LIFE LIKE AS A CHILD?

I was born in Mburucuyá, Corrientes in a middle-class, working family. My mother was a nurse and my father was a small-scale cattle rancher, and every few years he would plant some hectares of cotton. I am the youngest child and have three older sisters. I always liked the outdoors, the countryside, and a sense of freedom. Since I was quite young, I would accompany my father on his trips to the countryside to do various tasks. Sometimes we would go on horseback or at other times in a "jardinera," (a type of animal-drawn cart). I enjoyed spending time with the local hunters living inside the wetlands, and learned a lot from them, living in nature and practising my Guaraní skills, as at home and in the village it was not spoken much. For example we can speak, but did not learn to write Guaraní.

HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW **REWILDING ARGENTINA?**

I studied to be a park ranger for two years in San Pedro, Misiones. When I returned to Mburucuyá to spend Christmas and New Years in 2006, I heard that Tompkins Conservation was looking for park rangers who could ride horses and who were willing to learn Guaraní, two important elements for working in the interior of Iberá. These are central to my identity, so I went to the interview and ever since then I have done my part here in Iberá in all aspects (conservation of natural and cultural resources, development of communities based on tourism, etc).

I am increasingly convinced that Iberá is a nature tourism destination, it is a landmark of a culture to be protected, and it is the land of the jaguar.



WOULD BE LIKE AND HOW IS IT NOW?

Normally young people that are raised with cattle or sheep rearing, we tend to gravitate towards veterinary medicine, agronomy or similar fields, because that is the world we know. I was moving in that direction, but when it was time for me to decide, the Mburucuyá National Park was being created and that helped me to see another way of life. Conservation, would have been fine, but I fell in love with Ibera's cause because it looked at surrounding communities and the whole Iberá basin, the different gateways, ecological restoration, and the revaluation of the culture. I am very encouraged to know that we can create opportunities for the families that chose to stay in Iberá, and that people who love their home won't have to leave it in search of their future and can have

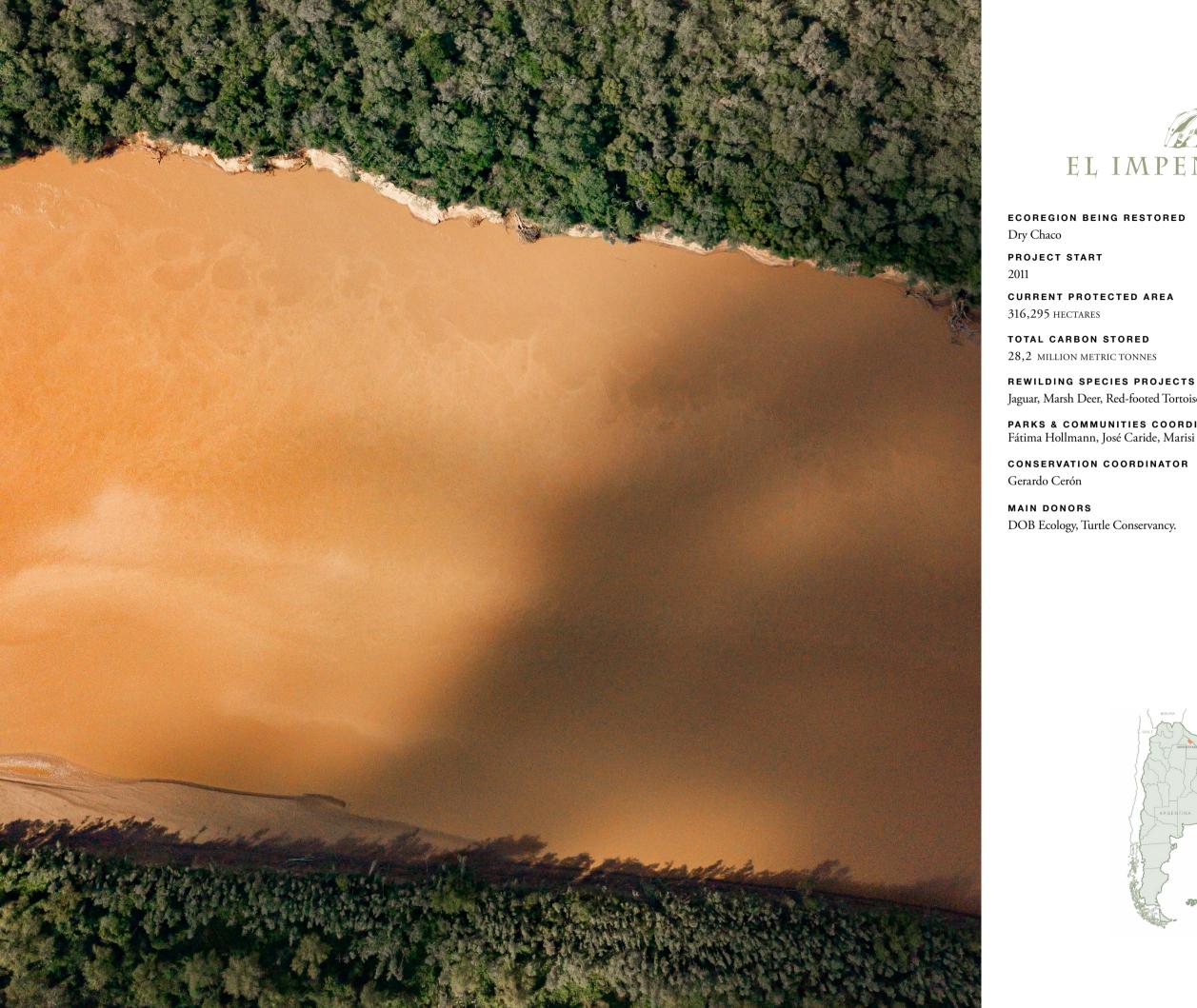
Iberá Park has the most stringent conservation criteria in the country and in the province, National Park and Provincial Park. I see a nature destination par excellence, where endangered fauna can be observed, where local people receive those who have chosen to visit, where locals no longer experience great loss due to droughts or floods and where the jaguar, the culture and the communities are

KNOWING THAT ANYONE IN THE WORLD COULD **READ THIS, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM?**

We need to understand that the Earth is one and that we still have time to revert the environmental crisis, that we are responsible and we are also part of the solution. It is time to act and that our actions are made consciously good for all generations, present and future.

43







Jaguar, Marsh Deer, Red-footed Tortoise, Guanaco, Giant Otter.

PARKS & COMMUNITIES COORDINATORS Fátima Hollmann, José Caride, Marisi López, María Eugenia Valfosca



EL IMPENETRABLE

UNVEILING THE CHACO FOREST

The Gran Chaco is one of the world's last remaining great wildernesses. Home to South America's second largest forest, this vastly biodiverse region is one of the most deforested and threatened areas on the planet due to expansion of the agricultural frontier. From 2011 to 2014, Rewilding Argentina participated in the process of the creation of the El Impenetrable National Park, and as of 2017 has teams living inside the park in agreement with the National Parks Administration. These teams are working to reduce threats to the protected area, reintroduce locally extinct keystone species, and settle the foundations for a restorative local economy based on nature tourism.

The El Impenetrable National Park is progressively becoming a driving force for the local economy. Our vision and work model have sparked the attention of provincial authorities with whom we have built a strategic relationship to position this emerging

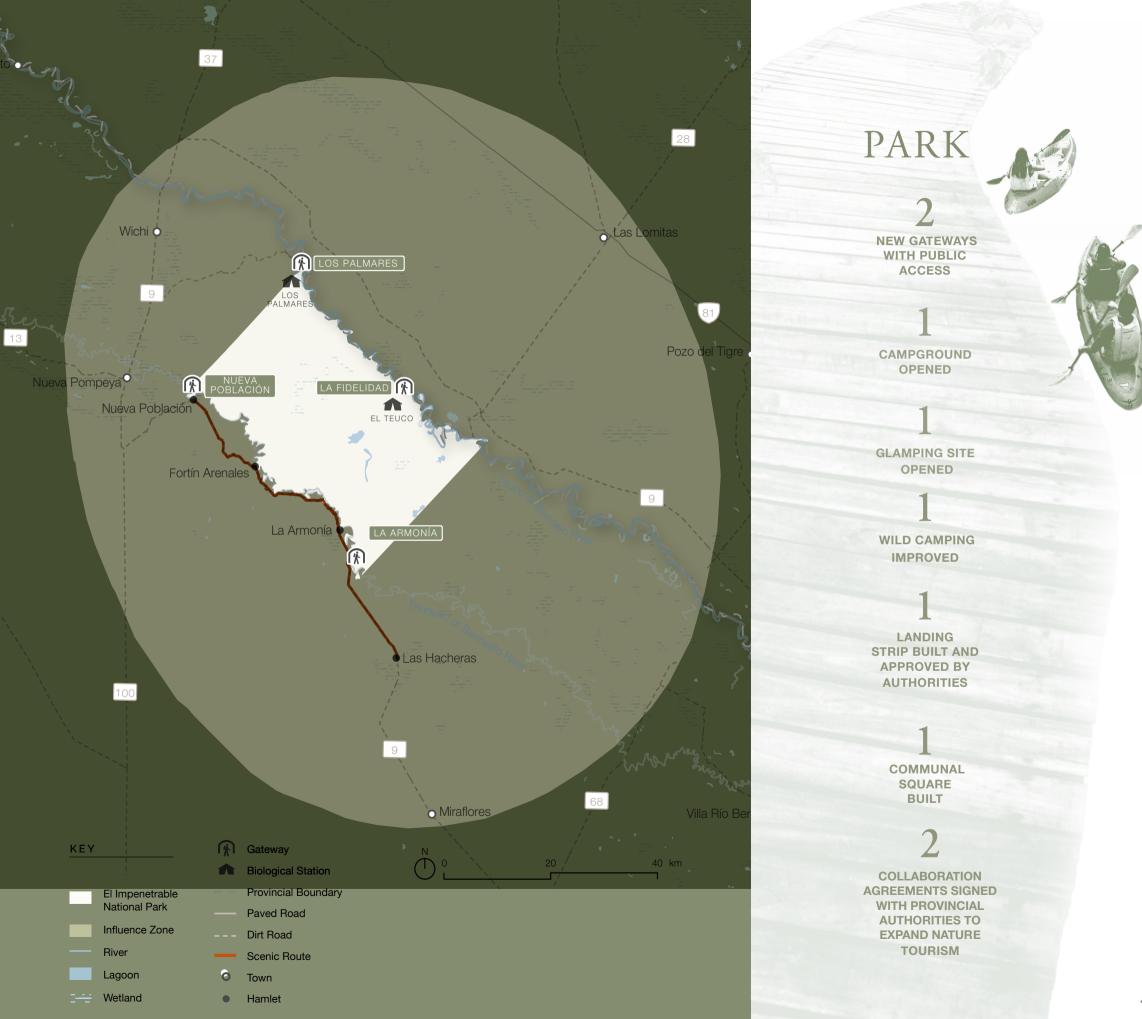
nature tourism destination. Through this collaboration, public lands are being transformed into park gateways, where public-use infrastructure is being built and training on nature tourism is being provided to local communities. Indeed, the local economy is transitioning from an extractive one to a restorative one that contributes to the creation of meaningful work and the ecosystem's recovery.

Through the discovery of a dispersing male jaguar (almost regionally extinct), and a giant otter (nationally extinct) we confirmed the importance of the Bermejo River as a biological corridor that connects the Cloud forest with the Atlantic forest. Through an innovative mating system, Qaramta—the forest-dwelling jaguar—fathered four cubs with two captive females brought from Iberá Park. The presence of Teuco—the wild giant otter—called for his protection, and prompted the launching of a one-of-a-kind reintroduction project.

In order to fully protect this life-sustaining corridor against deforestation and poaching, it is essential to acquire strategic land adjacent to the Bermejo River in the coastal part of the Formosa Province, expanding the El Impenetrable National Park towards the north.



EL IMPENETRABLE

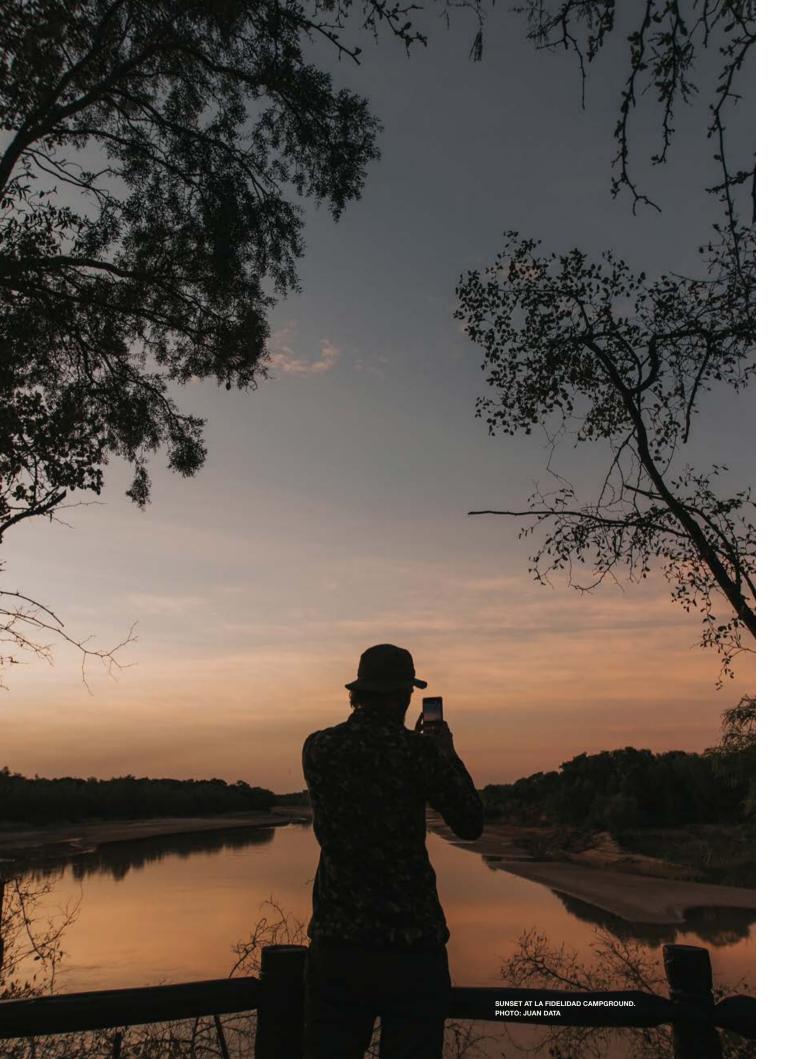


EL IMPENETRABLE

Over the course of the last two years, Rewilding Argentina has invested heavily in the infrastructure of the park and its gateways to help position it as an emerging nature tourism destination. We opened **two new gateways** to El Impenetrable National Park, La Fidelidad and Los Palmares, each with top-level visitor infrastructure. These are in addition to the pre-existing gateway La Armonía, which has been open to the public since 2019.

We opened the **La Fidelidad Campground** located within El Impenetrable National Park, at a ceremony attended by government authorities and rural communities from the surrounding area. The campsite's facilities and trails were designed to minimise the environmental impact on the national park, and the tourist services are managed by the Neighbor's Association of La Armonía, to ensure that revenues directly benefit their community. The free campsite has ten platforms overlooking the Bermejo River, and a cafeteria that serves native dishes prepared mainly with local ingredients.

We also opened a **glamping site** at Los Palmares gateway, on the northwest corner outside of the park. There are three fully-outfitted glamping tents and a dining tent with a living room-like space—all overlooking the Bermejo River. This glamping site is managed by the Rewilding Experience agency, which is part of the Conservation Land Trust and whose proceeds help fund our local conservation and rewilding projects. Visitors can go on guided hikes, do horseback riding, go on kayak excursions, and take a boat trip on the Bermejo River which ends at the La Fidelidad Campground.





THE LA FIDELIDAD CAMPSITE HAS TEN PLATFORMS TO SET UP TENTS OVERLOOKING THE BERMEJO RIVER. PHOTO: MIRANDA VOLPE



THE COMMUNAL SQUARE AT LOS ALGARROBOS WAS BUILT WITH LOCAL MATERIALS FOLLOWING THE VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE. PHOTO: GUADALUPE MOLINARO



A TAPIR SIGHTING DURING A BOAT NAVIGATION IN THE BERMEJO RIVER, DEPARTING FROM LOS PALMARES GLAMPING. PHOTO: MIRANDA VOLPE

We built a **landing strip** on the outskirts of the town of Misión Nueva Pompeya, which has been approved by the Chaco Province aeronautic authorities, and will make it easier for visitors to get to Los Palmares.

In the village of **Nueva Población**, we made improvements to the existing wild camping area, Los Algarrobos, and built a communal square which local entrepreneurs can use to cook traditional dishes and show off their handicrafts and products.

We signed **two agreements** with the Chaco Tourism Institute to further expand and strengthen tourism options in El Impenetrable. One of the agreements will promote nature tourism in the village of Nueva Población. The second will develop "La Huella del Impenetrable," a network of eight kilometres of trails through the southern area of the National Park, to connect the communities of La Armonía and Nueva Población, and the neighbouring villages of Fortín Arenales and Bajo Hondo, which will increase tourist activity.

All of these undertakings have the goal of promoting nature tourism to achieve two objectives: to drive economic growth in the communities and to reduce existing threats in the National Park, such as hunting, fishing, deforestation, and cattle ranching, by using tourist services as an incomegenerating alternative.

EL IMPENETRABLE PARK



EL IMPENETRABLE

WILDLIFE

4 SPECIES DECLARED OF SPECIAL VALUE BY THE CHACO PROVINCE

2 NEW JAGUAR ENCLOSURES

BUILT

RED-FOOTED TORTOISES TRANSLOCATED

40

20

RED-FOOTED

TORTOISES

REINTRODUCED

2 JAGUAR CUBS BORN

> 3 JAGUARS

JAGUARS TRANSLOCATED FROM SANTA CRUZ TO LA PAMPA PROVINCE

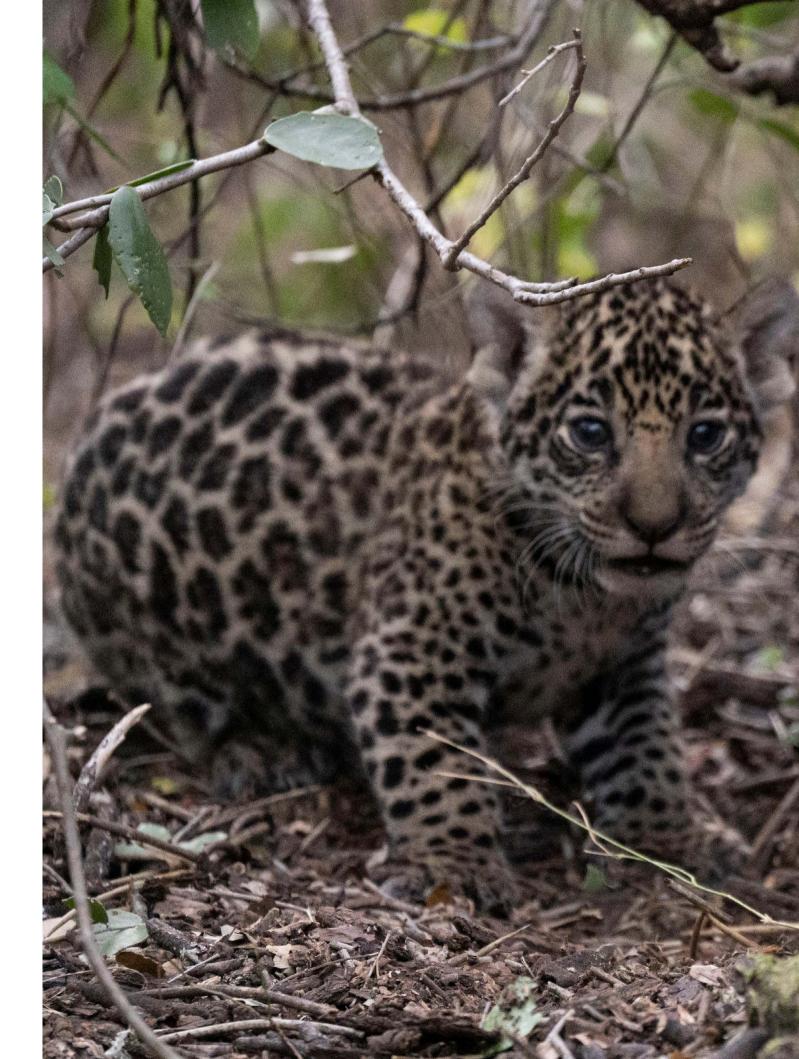
NEW WILD MALE JAGUAR CAPTURED AND COLLARED

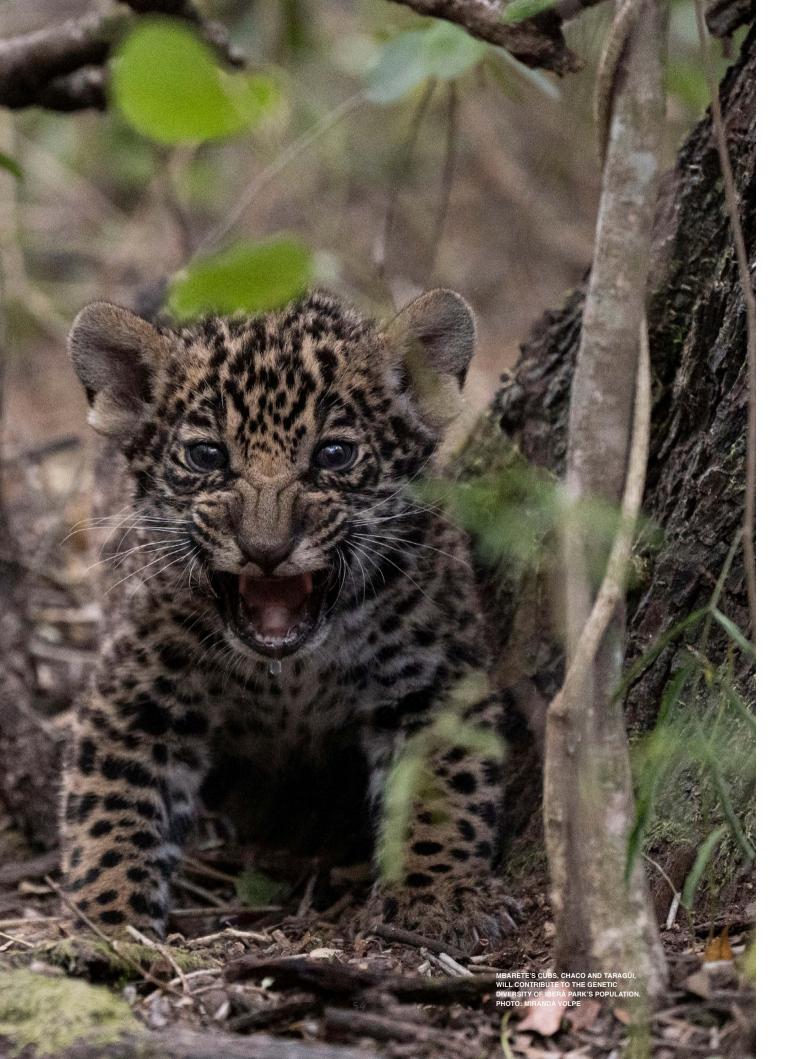
GIANT OTTER ENCLOSURE BUILT

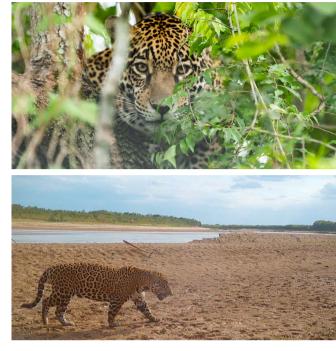


The Chaco Province has declared the redfooted tortoise, the giant otter, the guanaco, and the pampas deer (which disappeared from the area between 100 and 150 years ago) **"species of special value,"** while the jaguar and the marsh deer—which still inhabit the province in small numbers—have been classified as "natural monuments" for several years. Understanding these species special status, we began to work with the provincial authorities to reintroduce all of them in the interstream area between the Bermejo and Bermejito Rivers, where El Impenetrable National Park is located.

We transferred a female **jaguar** from the Jaguar Reintroduction Centre in Iberá Park to El Impenetrable National Park to mate with Qaramta, the Chaco forest-dwelling wild male. In anticipation of the female's arrival, we built two new enclosures at the Jaguar Reproduction Centre located in the park: one large 1.5-hectare corral to house the female, and a 1,600-square metre pen for animal management. Their mating was successful, and resulted in two cubs. Within a month, we transferred them to a pre-release enclosure in Iberá Park. Unfortunately, shortly after, the female (Mbarete) died due to a wound in her front leg-whose origin could not be determined-that led to an infection. Her living in semi-freedom conditions made her difficult to capture and heal. When we could finally attain her, the infection was very advanced. Her cubs remain in perfect health, and will contribute to that jaguar population's genetic diversity once they are released in Iberá Park.







TOP: MBARETE, THE JAGUAR FROM IBERÁ (2018-2023). PHOTO: MATÍAS REBAK

BOTTOM: TEWUK, THE WILD JAGUAR, ON THE BANKS OF THE BERMEJO RIVER. PHOTO: REWILDING ARGENTINA

The jaguar cubs born in 2021 (offspring of Qaramta and a captive female) were separated from their mother. This caused her to go into estrus, and was again mated with Qaramta. This mating was also successful and additional offspring are expected in 2023.

Two new wild male jaguars were recorded by camera traps: one on private property downstream of the Bermejo River and the other one inside the National Park. The presence of females in the Jaguar Reproduction Centre attracted the second male, so we took the opportunity to capture him and fit him with a satellite collar. This will allow us to learn more about his habits, protect him from threats-such as huntingand try to get him to breed with the females at the Jaguar Reproduction Centre. To this end, authorization was requested to the National Parks Administration for the construction of a new enclosure within the centre.

EL IMPENETRABLE WILDLIFE

These undertakings, including increasing the jaguar populations in Iberá and the Gran Chaco, contribute to realising our goal of creating a northern Argentine corridor connecting the isolated jaguar populations in the Cloud forest and the Atlantic forest, thereby increasing the number of wild jaguars living in the country (currently estimated at between 200 and 250 specimens).

Tracks of a **giant otter**—extinct in Argentina—were spotted on the banks of the Bermejo River, which we suspect were made by Teuco, the wild male last sighted in November 2021. In order to monitor him, we set camera traps at different sites and, with the support of the National Parks Administration, we also built a giant otter enclosure in the park that will ultimately house a female from Iberá Park.



RED-FOOTED TORTOISE IN EL IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK, PHOTO: JUAN DATA

EL IMPENETRABLE WILDLIFE

We expect the presence of the female to allure Teuco to the safety of the park, and that eventually they will form the first family nucleus of giant otters in Chaco.

Forty **red-footed tortoises** were transported from the Corrientes Biological Station to El Impenetrable. Twenty of them were released, becoming the first species to be reintroduced to El Impenetrable. Those remaining in the pre-release pens will be released as soon as the rainy season starts, when they have a better chance of finding food. Several mating and egg-laying events, both inside and outside of the pens, have been reported. With the goal of expanding this incipient population, we will import forty additional tortoises from Paraguay in the near future. We translocated the first group of five **guanacos** from Parque Patagonia (Santa Cruz province) to La Pampa province. This experience has allowed us to improve herding, capture, and transfer techniques, and to evaluate the animals' survival; all necessary elements to ultimately carry out the translocation from Santa Cruz to El Impenetrable (a much longer journey).

The National Park's **biodiversity baseline** continues to grow: 91 new species of arthropods, 81 species of plants, 4 species of birds, 2 species of fish, and 24 species of fungi have been recorded during 2022. In total, 624 species of arthropods, 508 plants, 349 birds, 57 mammals, 51 reptiles, 36 amphibians, 74 fish, and 24 fungi have been found there.



GUANACOS ARRIVE IN LA PAMPA AFTER A 1600-KILOMETRE ROAD TRIP FROM PATAGONIA PARK, ARGENTINA. PHOTO: EMANUEL GALETTO

RESTORATIVE ECONOMY

245 ENTREPRENEURS IN THE PROGRAM, OF WHICH + 50%

ARE WOMAN

NEW COMMUNITY

INCORPORATED

INTO THE

PROGRAM

132

TRAINING

SESSIONS AND

455 GUESTS STAYED

AT THE GLAMPING BERMEJITO

BOOKINGS TO LOS PALMARES GLAMPING SITE

95

INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGES

3,000 TOURISTS TO THE EL IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK

1,334 PEOPLE STAYED AT LA FIDELIDAD CAMPGROUND The **Entrepreneurs by Nature** program has grown to encompass a network of more than 245 participants (157 more than in 2021), 120 of whom receive regular income, and more than 50% of whom are women. We extended the program to the Los Palmares area, where we contacted seventy-five additional neighbouring families from which a new working group of sixty-two entrepreneurs emerged.

One hundred and thirty **training sessions** were held for the entrepreneurs focusing on nature tourism and handicraft production. We organised four intercultural exchanges to different national destinations. Thirteen entrepreneurs participated and shared experiences, knowledge, and techniques with other nature tourism providers. The entrepreneurs also participated in four regional festivals and fairs, where they were able to display their products for sale.

We added four **new points of sale** for the entrepreneurs' products: Glamping Los Palmares, Hostería Rincón del Socorro, and two stores, for a total of six points of sale. In addition, their products keep being promoted and sold through an e-commerce platform.

Opening the La Fidelidad Campground to the public and launching a digital campaign to promote this emerging destination have boosted visits to the National Park, reaching a record of nearly three thousand tourists in 2022 (3.5 times more than in 2021). **Each of these visits contributes to generating a local development model where the standing forest and its wildlife help increase community well-being and revalue culture.**



"I am thrilled to be part of the Entrepreneurs by Nature program. It has really changed my life because before I had to sell animals, with all the hard work that entails, and the long years of waiting involved. I like to weave and now even more than ever because I have the chance to weave and sell. Previously I weaved but I didn't sell anything. And now I see that my work has great value."

EL IMPENETRABLE RESTORATIVE ECONOMIES

MARGARITA IBÁÑEZ, weaver for Entrepreneurs by Nature, El Impenetrable project

EL IMPENETRABLE

COMMUNITIES

152

NEIGHBOURS VISITED EL TEUCO BIOLOGICAL STATION

PUPPET SHOW TOURS TO 26 RURAL SCHOOLS

35 NEIGHBOURS BENEFITTED FROM DRINKING WATER PROGRAMS

OBJECTIVES 2023:

• Acquire strategic land adjacent to the Bermejo River in the Formosa Province.

•Open the Nueva Población Gateway to the public.

•Translocate a female jaguar from Iberá Park and release the first individuals in El Impenetrable National Park.

 Translocate a female otter from Iberá to El Impenetrable National Park.

•Develop the La Huella del Impenetrable trail network.

•Incorporate at least seventy new entrepreneurs to the Entrepreneurs by Nature program.

We continued working to change the local perception of nature, to spark interest in protected areas and the native species that inhabit them, and to highlight their value for local communities.

Over 150 neighbours visited the El Teuco Biological Station and learnt about the species reintroduction projects, particularly that of the jaguar. We gave **environmental education talks** in six rural schools about the importance of native species for the ecosystem. A children's puppet show called "The Species that Return" was performed by a local theatre company that crafts their puppets from post-consumer waste in twenty-six rural schools surrounding the El Impenetrable National Park.

We continued to **strengthen our relationship with government authorities and decision-makers** so they keep investing in road construction and maintenance, connectivity, and the legalisation of land titles for the families of El Impenetrable, while improving drinking water and electricity availability. As a result, 154 cisterns and 189 water collecting roofs were installed in homes, of which thirty-five neighbour El Impenetrable National Park.

We provided assistance to two families for them to legalise their land tenure.





A GROUP OF NEIGHBOURS VISITS EL TEUCO FIELD STATION AND THE JAGUAR REINTRODUCTION CENTRE IN EL IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK, WHERE THEY LEARN ABOUT REWILDING AND THE ECONOMY OF NATURE MODEL, AND MEET THE CAPTIVE JAGUARS. PHOTO: MIRANDA VOLPE

EL IMPENETRABLE



LIVES, REWILDED \mathbf{C}

The Story of Veda

WHERE WERE YOU BORN? WHAT WAS YOUR LIFE LIKE AS A CHILD?

My name is Veda Palavecino, and I was born in El Impenetrable, in the Chaco Province. When I was a child, my mother taught me to knit. It wasn't something I particularly liked. I would rather have ridden horses and helped my father to herd cows.

HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW **REWILDING ARGENTINA?**

I heard about the program Entrepreneurs by Nature through Guadalupe and Alejandro, two members of Rewilding Argentina who came to my home to tell me about the program. I have now been in the program for eighteen months and I belong to a group of entrepreneurs from Nueva Población. In total we are about twenty women.

Before joining the group, I used to knit but at some point I stopped because everything I made would remain within the family, and I couldn't make money out of it.

But today all that has changed. I knit in my free time, during siesta or maybe in the afternoon while drinking mate. What I really love is to dye wool. I love seeing what colour you can get from each plant. My knitting now makes me money, and my creations travel to other provinces of Argentina. It makes me really happy to see that something I make with such great care can reach a distant place. It is a profitable activity, and it is gratifying to sell my knit items with the territorial brand of El Impenetrable.

I also became a trainer for women neighbours in my own community, which is really gratifying, and makes me happy, because I am proud to show other people what I know how to do.



women from Santiago del Estero.

I also travelled to Buenos Aires to represent Entrepreneurs by Nature and El Impenetrable at a national event at Mercado Libre, an e-commerce platform. I was really so pleased, so happy, and very proud to be able to represent El Impenetrable. It was a lovely experience; I enjoyed it all because it was really so beautiful. I enjoyed taking a flight and being able to see my sisters, who I hadn't seen in years.

spend more time with them.

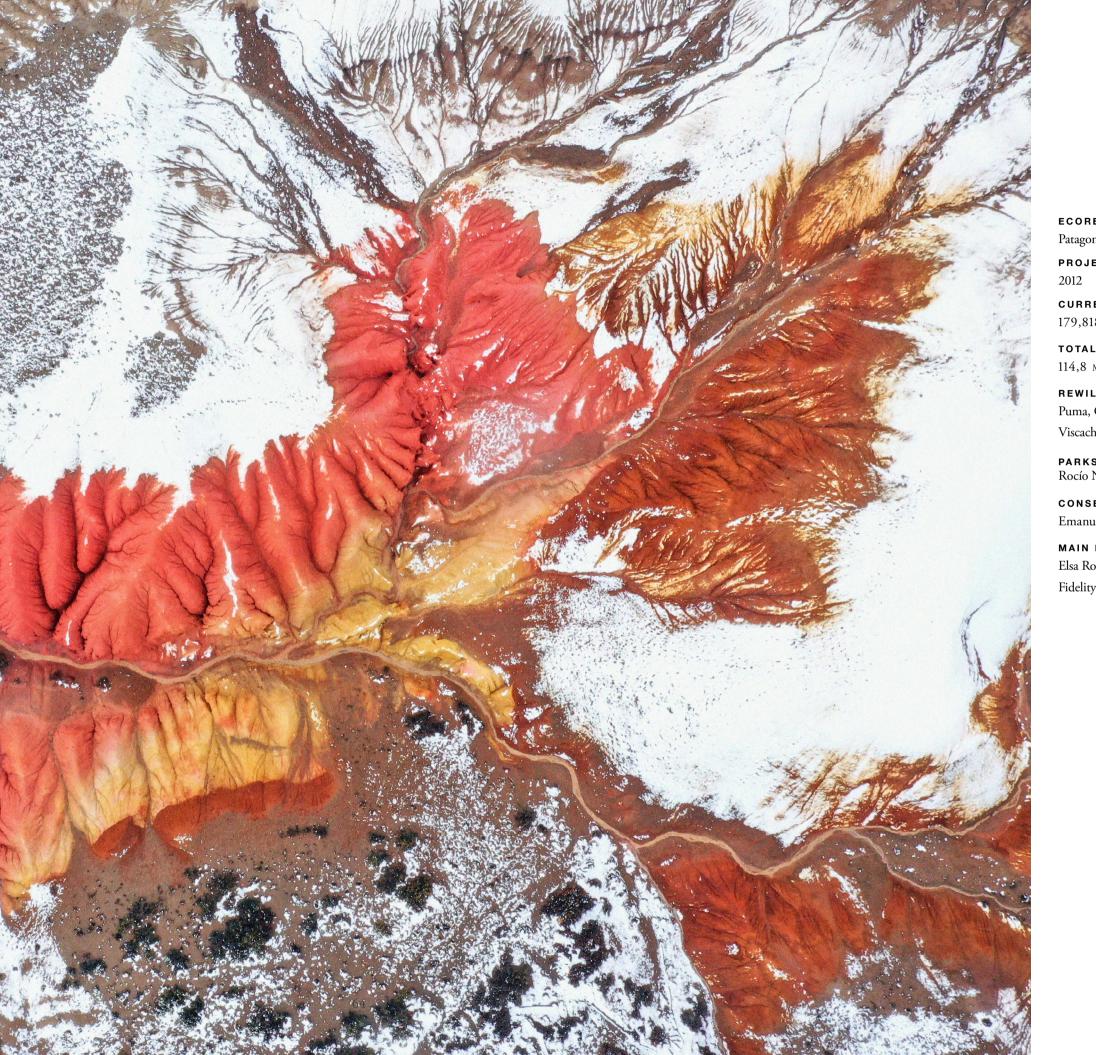
WHAT DID YOU IMAGINE YOUR LIFE WOULD BE LIKE AND HOW IS IT NOW?

In 2022, together with some other women entrepreneurs, we travelled to Santiago del Estero where we got to know women who work with (wool) fibre. We learned a lot, and of course at the same time got to know the place. The main takeaway and challenge of the trip was exchanging traditional knowledge and weaving techniques with the

A few months ago I also began to receive tourists in my home, which is a dream come true. We offer them a walk on our trail-five kilometres out and back-which leads to the Bermejito River, where we have a snack with regional products. Today it is an economic activity that complements the sale of knitted items and the work I do in the field.

During the walk the tourists seem to feel and enjoy the tranquillity that we have here in El Impenetrable. They walk looking at the plants, asking about each one of them, and if an animal crosses the path they're so impressed. For example, on my trail sometimes they'll see an anteater and they get so excited about that. I enjoy spending time with the tourists, speaking with them, and seeing their joy. They leave here happy, they thank you. That kind of reception is utterly fulfilling and makes me want to continue. That's why I'd like to have my own place just to receive tourists, to give them a place to sleep and to be able to

I can see things differently now, and it is much more on par with what I was before, and what I wanted for myself. Because there are few job opportunities here. If it were not for what is happening now with Rewilding Argentina I would only have my snack stand. With the training they provide, we are growing and expanding our minds. There are many possibilities. We help each other by example.



ECOREGION BEING RESTORED Patagonian Steppe

PROJECT START

CURRENT PROTECTED AREA 179,818 HECTARES

TOTAL CARBON STORED 114,8 MILLION METRIC TONNES

REWILDING SPECIES PROJECTS Puma, Guanaco, Lesser Rhea, Austral Rail, Wolffsohn's Viscacha, Coypu, Huemul Deer, Gray and Red Fox.

PARKS & COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR Rocío Navarro

CONSERVATION COORDINATOR Emanuel Galetto

MAIN DONORS Elsa Rosenvasser Feher, Freyja Foundation, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, Wyss Campaign for Nature.



PARQUE PATAGONIA SENDERISMO Y AVISTAJE DE FAUNA



A LAND OF TIMELESS WONDERS

The Patagonian steppe covers around a quarter of Argentina, yet only less than one percent of it is protected. Since 2012, Rewilding Argentina has been working in the region with the objective of increasing the legal protection of the land, restoring wildlife populations, developing first-class tourist infrastructure and public access to protected areas, and promoting one-of-a-kind nature tourism experiences. To this end, we acquired 180,000 hectares in the areas of the Buenos Aires Lake Plateau and the Pinturas Canyon, of which 104,000 hectares were donated to the government and are legally protected.

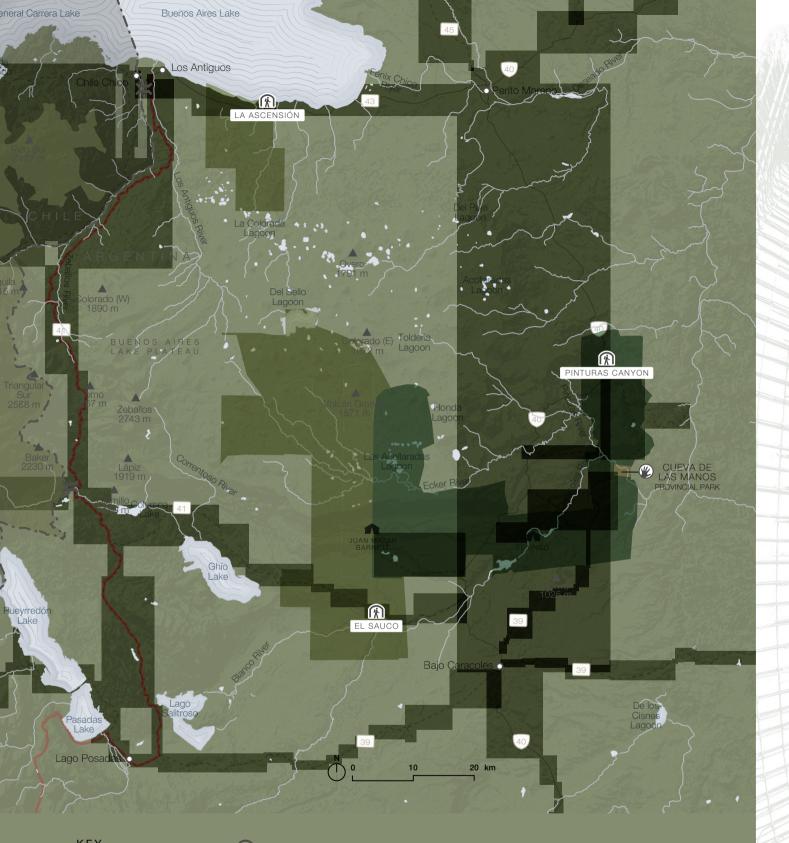
Here, keystone species like the huemul deer have disappeared at the regional level, while the Wolffsohn's viscacha, the coypu, and the austral rail suffered local extinction. Other species such as the puma, the guanaco, and the lesser rhea have also suffered drastic reductions in their populations, threatening some of their key ecological processes. To this end, we are reintroducing species that were once absent, increasing the numbers of those that were decimated, and ensuring a peaceful coexistence between wildlife and productive human activities.

At La Ascensión and Cañadón Pinturas Gateways, we are working with the communities of Los Antiguos, Perito Moreno, and Lago Posadas on the development of gainful enterprises associated with tourism and public use of the park. More specifically, in the Cañadón Pinturas Gateway, experiences are offered around wildlife, trekking, hiking, and environmental education that have resulted in neighbouring communities actively participating in these natural and public areas.

The Monte Zeballos area–which encompasses the largest extra-Andean glacier in the region–was recently declared of public interest by the municipality of Los Antiguos, a prerequisite for its protection on a provincial level. This would safeguard the glacier's hydrological resources, and further position the Patagonia Park circuit as one of the main nature tourism attractions in the region.



PATAGONIA



 · · ·
Patagonia Park
 Cueva de las Manos

Rewilding Argentina

Provincial Park

Lake or Lagoon

Reserve

River

Mount

- Gateway
- Biological Station
- National Boundary
- International Crossing
 - Paved Road
- Dirt Road
- Scenic Route
- O City / Town

PARK





3 **NEW TRAILS BUILT**

WILD CAMPING AREAS AND LATRINES CONSTRUCTED AND **OPENED TO THE**

PUBLIC 2

HOUSES BUILT TO LODGE THE TEAMS

The construction of the Elsa Rosenvasser Feher Interpretative Center and Planetarium is is complete, and it is due to open in May, 2023, once the exhibits are complete. They will focus on the evolution of humans and their arrival in the Americas, the geological history of Patagonia, and the ecosocial crisis. The visit will end in the planetarium, where visitors will discover the Patagonian skies and ecosystems, and will be invited to be part of their restoration through nature-based tourism. In the Cañadón Pinturas Gateway, together with Freyja Foundation, we built three new trails, twenty latrines and two wild campgrounds for up to twelve people. Currently this Gateway has eleven trails and three campgrounds.

We helped the Cueva de las Manos Provincial

Park design an accessible tourism experience at the Gradin Museum in the town of Perito Moreno, and did maintenance on the boardwalks, which had been damaged in a rockslide and were necessary for the re-opening of the park during the spring season. We also enabled visitor access from the Cueva de las Manos to the Pinturas Canyon and to the trails in the southern area of the gateway.

We built two houses for the Freyja Foundation and Rewilding Argentina teams.

PATAGONIA









PATAGONIA PARK

LA SEÑALADA WILD CAMPGROUND IS LOCATED ON THE MAIN ROAD TO THE PINTURAS RIVER CANYON. IT HAS SIX STRUCTURES ALLOWING THE PITCHING OF TENTS, AN OUTDOOR AREA WITH TABLES AND SITTING SPOTS, AND A STORE THAT OFFERS HOME-MADE MEALS AND FRESH BEVERAGES. PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI

LA SEÑALADA WILD CAMPGROUND AERIAL VIEW. PHOTO: FRANCO BUCCI

THE REPAIRED BOARDWALKS OF THE CUEVA DE LAS MANOS PROVINCIAL PARK. PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI

PATAGONIA

WILDLIFE

13 PUMAS WERE

EQUIPPED WITH SATELLITE COLLARS

B HUEMUL DEER WERE EQUIPPED WITH SATELLITE COLLARS

COYPU FITTED WITH TELEMETRY EQUIPMENT

AUSTRAL RAILS

TAGGED

LESSER RHEAS

EQUIPPED WITH GPS COLLARS

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT SIGNED TO DEVELOP THE HUEMUL DEER REINTRODUCTION PROJECT

20 WOLFFSOHN'S VISCACHAS WERE CAPTURED AND

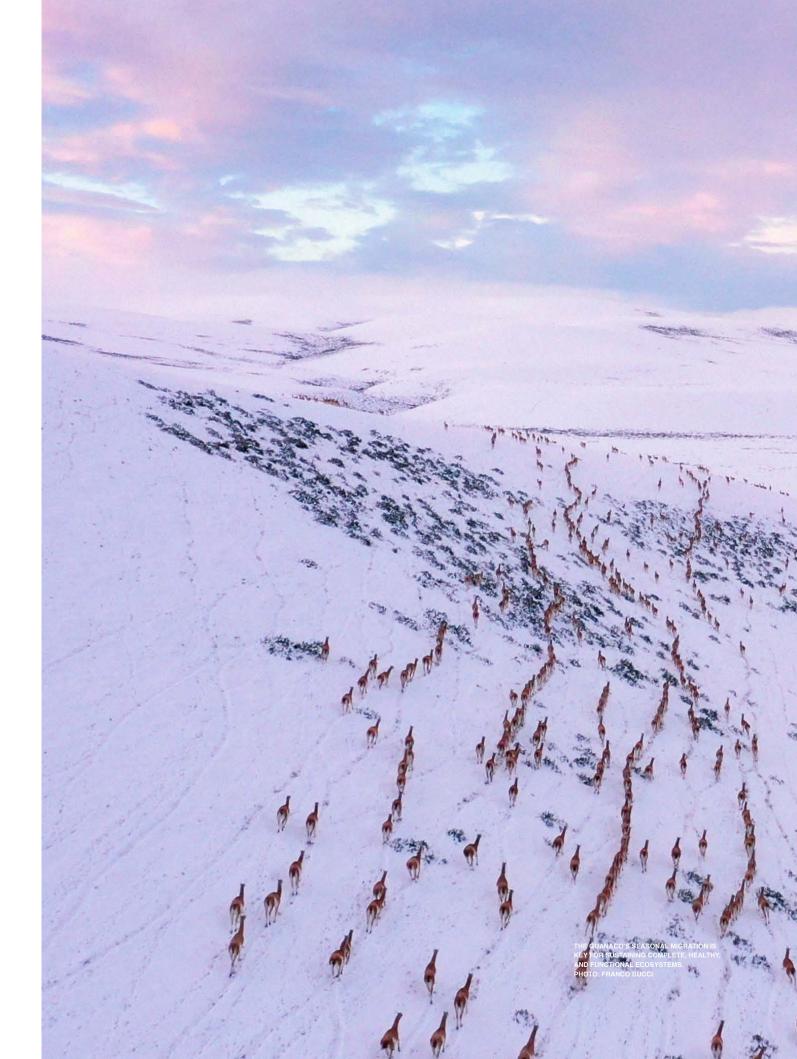
> FITTED WITH TELEMETRY COLLARS

GUANACOS WERE EQUIPPED WITH SATELLITE COLLARS



Fourteen adult **pumas** were captured, out of which ten were fitted with satellite collars. The monitoring data allows us to study the importance of this apex predator in the environment, its interaction with other species, and to create solutions to help them coexist with livestockrelated activities. We registered the birth of eleven puma cubs, out of which three were fitted with telemetry collars. This monitoring, which is unprecedented in Latin America, will be key to learn more about cub and juvenile survival, the age at which they become independent, their dispersal, and other behaviours.

We captured three **huemul deer** in the Río Toro Reserve (Santa Cruz Province), which were fitted with satellite collars. We are now monitoring a total of twelve individuals in the Los Huemules and Río Toro Reserves, and in Los Glaciares National Park. We are studying this species to obtain solid scientific knowledge about their biology and ecology, to understand why their populations are not recovering -even when they inhabit protected areas- and to develop new conservation actions to reintroduce this elusive species in Patagonia Park. In this regard, we entered an agreement with the Huilo-Huilo Reserve (Chile) through which they will provide us with three huemul deer and share their experiences and knowledge about the species. We have initiated paperwork to import the huemul deer to Argentina,



PATAGONIA WILDLIFE

begun construction of a corral, and submitted the species reintroduction project to the province's Fauna Delegation for approval.

Twenty Wolffsohn's viscacha were translocated from the Pinturas Canyon to eleven walls of the Caracoles Canyon. To better understand the species' spatial ecology and behaviours, fourteen of them were fitted with telemetry collars. Through monitoring, we registered at least six births, indicating that the translocated individuals have quickly adapted to their new environment.

We captured four **guanacos** and fitted them with satellite collars, yielding a total of forty-one monitored guanacos in Patagonia Park. Over the course of three years we studied their seasonal migration and presented the results in a scientific publication, showing that 74% of the monitored guanacos migrate and that these migration patterns tend to repeat.



To monitor the development of the covpu reintroduced in the Caracoles Canyon, we tagged ten individuals with telemetry equipment. In this same population,

SCAN TO ACCESS THE SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION ON GUANACO MIGRATION IN PATAGONIA.

we registered seven offsprings and observed that the individuals have constructed floating rafts for resting. Four of these coypu were translocated from the Caracoles Canyon to the Deseado River, in the Pinturas Canyon, where they are starting a new population nucleus.

We captured and ring tagged six **austral rails** for a total of forty-three individuals captured and monitored. Key to the recovery of this species was restoring the reed beds, leading to a relative abundance increase of 8.5 times.

For the first time, we captured a pair of grey foxes and a female red fox and fitted them with GPS collars. By continually monitoring individuals of these two species we will obtain more detailed knowledge of their biology, ecology, and interactions with prey and predator species.

We captured seven lesser rheas and fitted them with GPS collars, yielding a total of thirteen individuals monitored in Patagonia Park. Because the species population is abundant in this area, we put together a project with Rewilding Chile to translocate and reintroduce the species in Chile's Patagonia Park.



MONITORING HUEMUL DEER PROVIDES US WITH KEY INFORMATION ON THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION, BEHAVIOURS, AND REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF THIS CERVID PHOTO: FRANCO BUCCI



A CAMERA TRAP PLACED IN THE CARACOLES CANYON REGISTERED TWO RED FOX PUPS. THE STUDY OF THIS SPECIES WILL PROVIDE US WITH KEY INFORMATION ON THEIR INTERACTIONS WITH PREYS AND PREDATORS PHOTO: HERNÁN POVEDANO

RESTORATIVE ECONOMY

INFORMATIVE MAPS OF PATAGONIA PARK WERE INSTALLED IN

NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES

+20

TALKS ON THE **PATAGONIA PARK DESTINATION GIVEN AT UNIVERSITIES**

NEW TEAM TRAINED TO WORK IN THE LA POSTA DE LOS **TOLDOS LODGE**

24,000

VISITORS TO LA ASCENSIÓN AND CAÑADÓN **PINTURAS GATEWAT**

With the goal of promoting Patagonia Park and Cañadón Pinturas Gateway as hiking and wildlife watching destinations, we worked with the provincial authorities to update the information published in the Santa Cruz Patagonia app. We also updated the signage in two regional airports and printed and installed maps of Patagonia Park in five neighbouring information centres. We gave talks about the destination at more than twenty national and provincial universities, and participated in tourism fairs and conferences. At the same time, in coordination with Frevia Foundation we updated tourism pamphlets, the Patagonia Park's website, and worked on a digital campaign and a press trip with international journalists to promote this tourist destination in Europe and North America. We also provided workshops on nature-based tourism and rewilding to various educational establishments, as well as local tourism offices and operators.

PATAGONIA

To facilitate visitor entry at the Cañadón Pinturas Gateway, we implemented an online registration, which gives better information about visits and collects feedback about their experience at the gateway.

As the concessionaire of La Posta de Los Toldos lodge terminated their contract, we formed and trained a new team of twelve people, and



redecorated the lodge. It is currently being managed by Rewilding Experience.

We hired seven people to act as **park rangers** at the Cañadón Pinturas Gateway. The park rangers provide information to orient and assist visitors and keep the gateway clean, by removing trash found on the trails and in the rustic campgrounds.







PATAGONIA RESTORATIVE ECONOMY



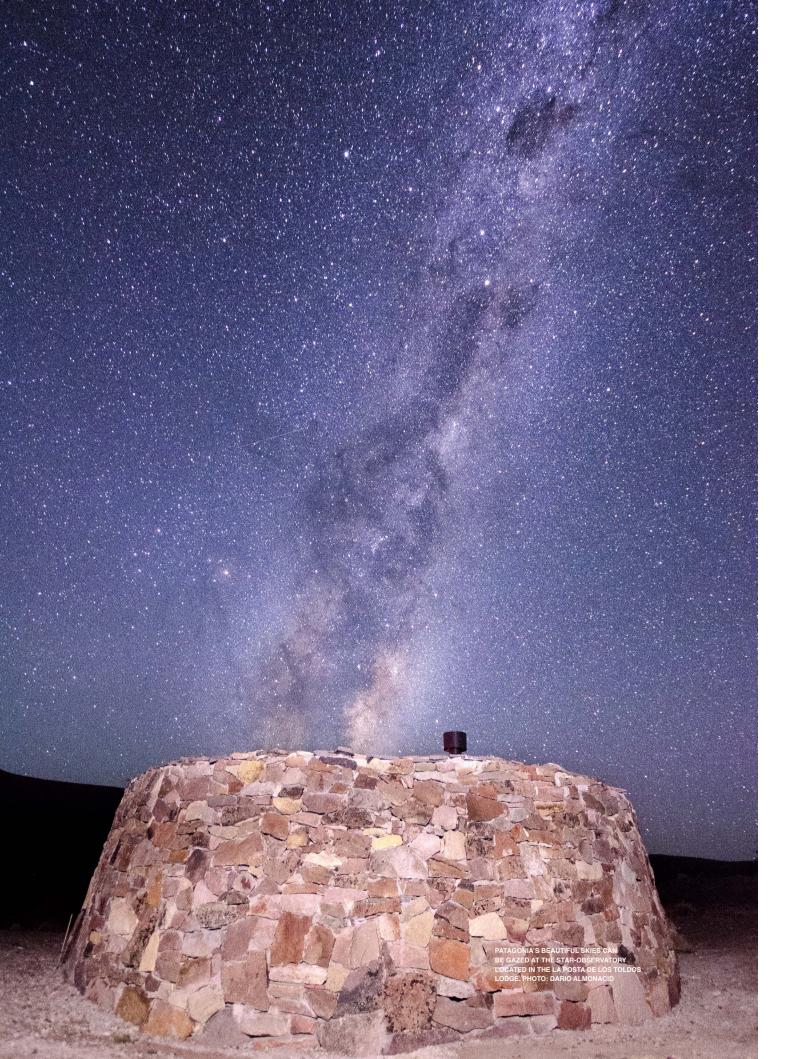
RENOVATED WEBSITE.

This hard work has paid off. In 2022, the La Asención and Cañadón Pinturas Gateways received nearly **24,000** visitors.

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS VISITED THE ALERO THE CHARCAMATA SITE. WHICH HAS GREAT ARCHELOGICAL VALUE DUE TO ITS CAVE PAINTINGS. PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI

WE BUILT NEW WILD CAMPGROUNDS AND TRAILS TO OFFER A WIDER VARIETY OF HIKING AND OUTDOORS ACTIVITIES IN THE CAÑADÓN PINTURAS GATEWAY. PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI

A MAP OF PATAGONIA PARK INSTALLED IN THE INFORMATION CENTRE OF LAGO POSADAS. PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI



"Parque Patagonia is a place where the past is preserved, and the future is being re-imagined... The landscape is ancient but ever-changing. Today, the sons of ranchers guide tourists to see animals hunted by the previous generation. And on the steppe and as you hike the canyons, among guanacos, pumas and condors, Parque Patagonia feels alive – roaring with new, ancient life"

STUART KENNY, Journalist – Metro newspaper

PATAGONIA RESTORATIVE ECONOMY

PATAGONIA

COMMUNITIES

+ 500

VISITORS PARTICIPATED OF INTERPRETATIVE WALKS

136

CHILDREN JOINED THE PATAGONIA PARK EXPLORERS PROGRAM

PROJECT – THE PATAGONIA PARK EXPLORERS PROGRAM– DECLARED OF PROVINCIAL INTEREST During the 2021-2022 tourist season we organised **interpretive walks** on different trails at the Cańadón Pinturas Gateway on topics such as native flora and fauna, geology, nature photography, and good hiking practices, among others.

The **Patagonia Park Explorers**, an environmental education project created and financed by Freyja Foundation and run by Rewilding Argentina, is well underway. The project is aimed at local children between the ages of ten and fourteen, and seeks to forge a deep connection between the explorers and nature by combining environmental-related topics –such as the geological and anthropological history of the region, biodiversity and ecosystem services, and astronomy– with outdoor adventure. To date, 136 children have participated, and the Santa Cruz Provincial government has recognized it as a project of provincial interest, which shows the growing interest on the part of Santa Cruz residents in environmental education and outdoor activities.

Given the program's popularity, the Patagonia Park Explorers participated–along with fourteen local educational and governmental organisations–in several community activities, including fairs and meet ups.

OBJECTIVES 2023

•Inaugurate the Elsa Rosenvasser Feher Interpretive Center and Planetarium

•Finish building the Bajada de los Toldos trail

•Open the Cueva de las Manos Gateway to the public

*Launch the huemul deer reintroduction project



PATAGONIA



WHERE WERE YOU BORN? WHAT WAS YOUR LIFE LIKE AS A CHILD?

> I was born near Perito Moreno, in Santa Cruz Province. When I was a child I liked to spend time in the countryside, go out on horseback riding, and explore the vastness of the Patagonian steppe.

HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW **REWILDING ARGENTINA?**

I got to know Rewilding Argentina in 2017 when they were developing the La Ascensión Gateway. I offered to photograph and spread the word about the work of the entrepreneurs program. Then in 2019, I moved on to the wildlife program.

WHAT DID YOU IMAGINE YOUR LIFE WOULD BE LIKE AND HOW IS IT NOW?

Before, my life was office work from Monday to Friday, waiting for the weekend to go out in nature and do the things that I like, like photography and fly fishing. Today I live and work in nature, and feel it is a privilege to be able to work in natural surroundings and use photography to help protect nature.

HOW DO YOU IMAGINE THE FUTURE **OF THE PARK?**

I imagine Patagonia Park as a powerful engine for the development of the local economies that, besides showcasing our natural and historical richness, will promote awareness about the importance of protecting our wildlife and its ecosystem.



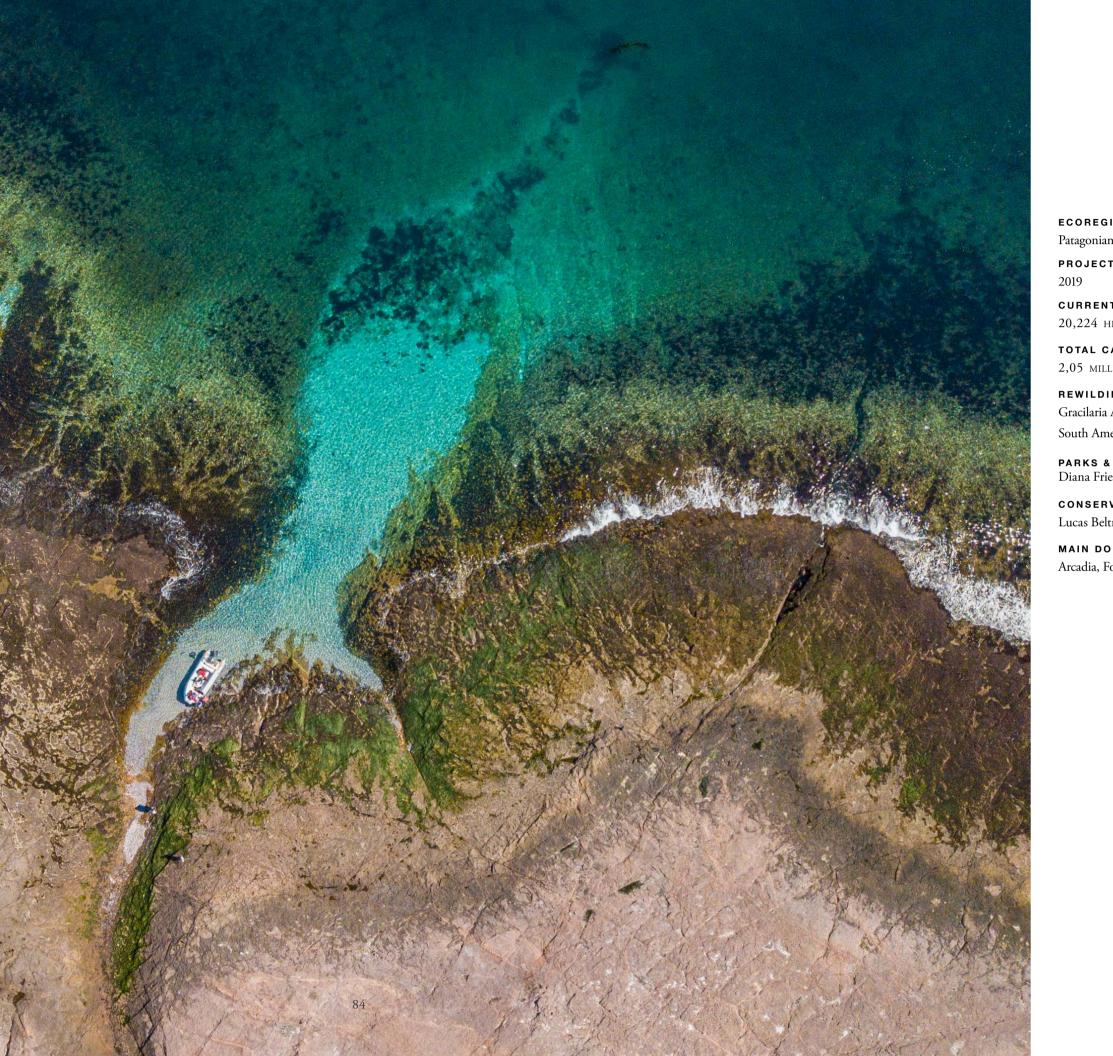
READ THIS, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM?

time to reverse the damage we have caused.

KNOWING THAT ANYONE IN THE WORLD COULD

I would tell people to support conservation projects, or to launch projects that aid the conservation of the planet, because we still have





ECOREGION BEING RESTORED Patagonian Steppe, Argentine Sea

PROJECT START

CURRENT PROTECTED AREA 20,224 HECTARES

TOTAL CARBON STORED 2,05 MILLION METRIC TONNES

REWILDING SPECIES PROJECTS Gracilaria Algae, Puma, Guanaco, Lesser Rhea, South American Fur Seal, Humpback Whale, Sei Whale

PARKS & COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR Diana Friedrich

CONSERVATION COORDINATOR Lucas Beltramino

MAIN DONORS



PARQUE PATAGONIA AZUL

Arcadia, Foundation Elzéard, Lisa Holmes, OAK Foundation.



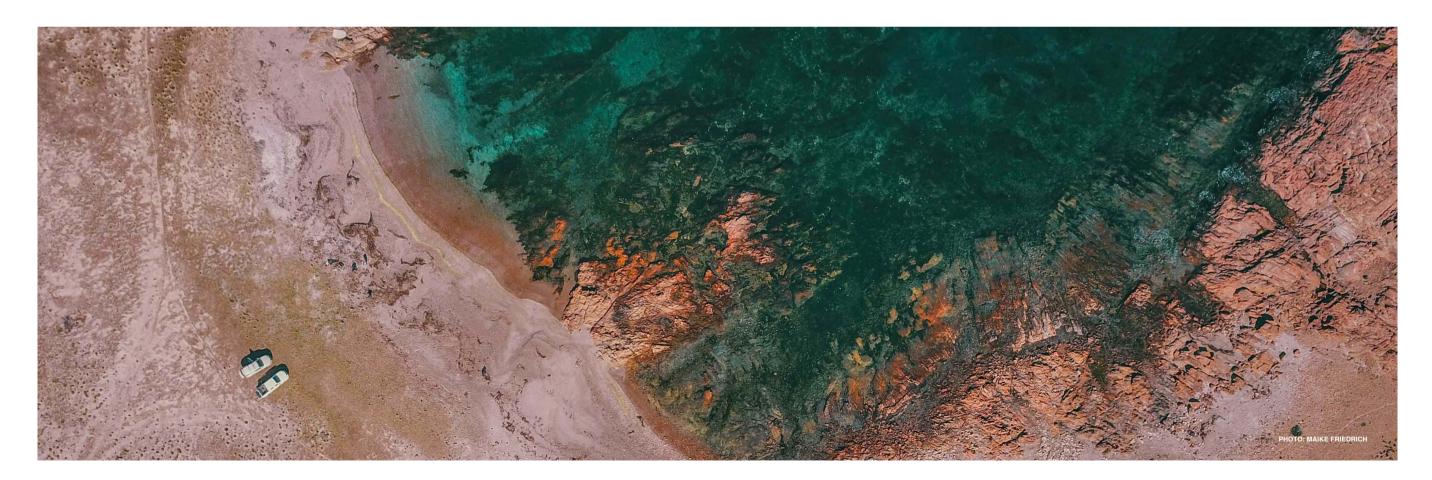
A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SEA

The Patagonia Azul project is located in the south part of the Argentine Sea, within the UNESCO Patagonia Azul Biosphere Reserve, a key biodiversity area and home to massive colonies of marine birds and mammals. The project area includes more than sixty islands and several bays, where many species of marine birds and mammals feed and reproduce. Their presence, together with the extensive kelp forests and algae prairies, translates into unusually high levels of biodiversity.

The project area is immersed in the 1,900,000-hectare UNESCO Patagonia Azul Biosphere Reserve and also covers the Patagonia Austral Interjurisdictional Marine Coastal Park (PIMCPA). Although these conservation categories confirm the environmental value of the region, their protection is neither sufficient nor adequately enforced, which leaves most of the landscape and its biodiversity vulnerable to harmful human activities such as industrial fishing, invasive exotic species, and poaching. On land, a century of intensive sheep ranching has led to the desertification of the fragile Patagonian steppe and threatened the remaining apex predators and herbivores.

Rewilding Argentina has been working in the project area for over three years. Thus far, we have acquired two properties that protect almost 26,000 hectares of coastal land, and are building public use infrastructure such as camping sites, refuges, and trails. We are rewilding the coastal ecosystem by restoring depleted algae prairies and eradicating exotic species from the islands where there are seabird nesting colonies.

Together with the people from the town of Camarones, we envision a more local and restorative economy through nature tourism and restorative production, such as regenerative ocean farms. We are currently supporting the first local entrepreneurs to develop their projects, while promoting a new nature tourism destination. The Ocean Club was created for the purpose of bringing children, young adults, and women closer to the ocean. Together with locals from Camarones we built the CHISPA community garden, including a 500-square-metre greenhouse, to produce local agro-ecological fresh food. Finally, we are developing strategic political relations to gain support and traction to shift the economy and legally protect the Patagonia Azul coastal ecosystem.



PATAGONIA AZUL



PARK

PROPERTY **PURCHASED** -LA IBÉRICA



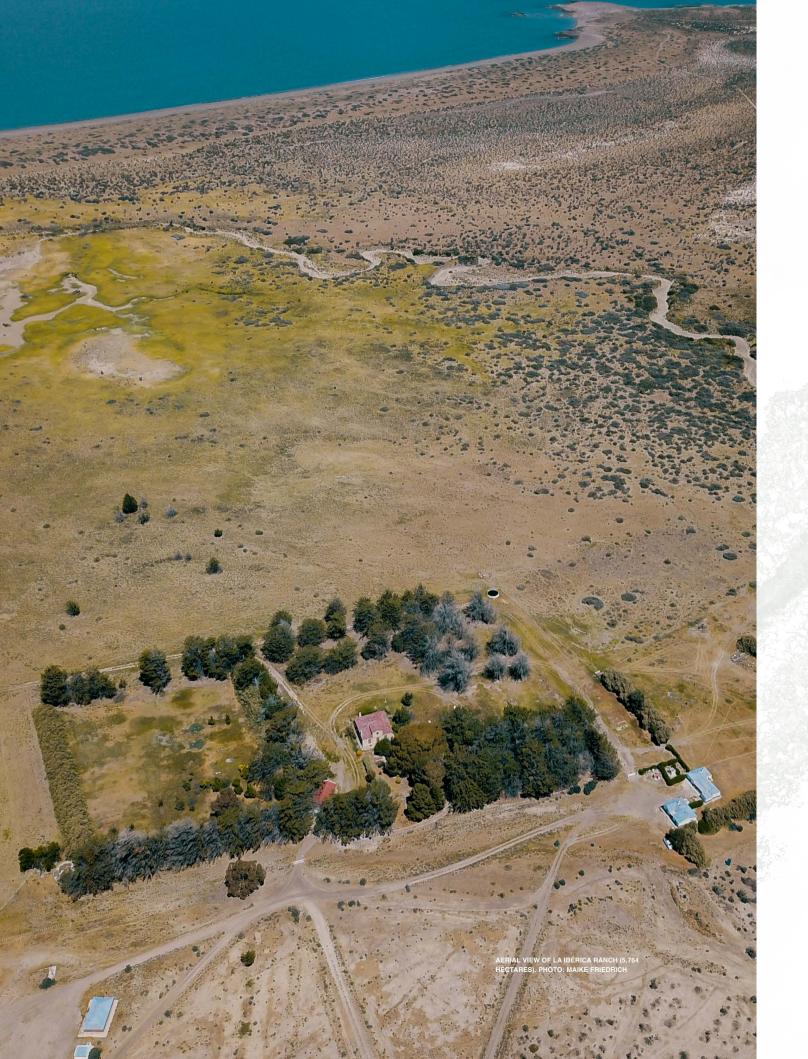
CAMPGROUNDS **ARE BEING** BUILT

PATAGONIA AZUL

We finalised the purchase process of La **Ibérica ranch** (5,764 hectares) which stretches fifteen kilometres through Chubut's coast. Acquiring this property is strategically important to the goal of creating a coastal network of protected areas that promote a restorative local economy, as it allows us to open a new gateway to the future park. In addition, we took possession of the convergence area between the Marea Stream and the coast, which is inside the property and was illegally used by fishermen, seaweed collectors, and families. Thus, we are building a campground for up to fifteen people and a campervan area.

On the coast of the Isla Leones Gateway, we are building a wild campsite for thirty people that we expect to inaugurate in 2023. The campground will have an associated shelter with a kitchen and living room area, and access to a network of trails where visitors can explore immense rocky landscapes with ocean views.

The inauguration of these campgrounds will mark an important milestone for the surrounding communities who have historically had little access to most of the coastal areas of the region.



WILDLIFE

3rd ANNUAL CENSUS OF GUANACOS

AND LESSER RHEAS

568

EXOTIC AND INVASIVE ANIMALS ERADICATED FROM

> 3 **ISLANDS**

3 **HECTARES OF** GRACILARIA GRACILIS **PLANTED AND** MONITORED

SOUTH AMERICAN FUR SEALS MONITORED

20 **NEW HUMPBACK WHALES** REGISTERED

To recover **native algae prairies** on the coast of Bahía Arredondo, we planted two additional 1.5 hectares of Gracilaria gracilis, making a total of four hectares. The two new plots are developing favourably, with a 75% survival rate among the newly-planted algae.

Isla Rasa is home to 60% of the reproductive population of the **South American fur seal**. We fitted four seals-three females and a juvenile malewith satellite telemetry devices and learned that they have an extensive range: the colonies located within PIMPCA are interconnected with others outside the province and the country.

PATAGONIA AZUL

We conducted the third annual census of guanacos and lesser rheas. The results were markedly higher than in previous years and we believe it is due to reproduction, additional migration of individuals from neighbouring cattle ranching properties, and the protection the park provides.

We continued to develop our experimental project to eradicate invasive exotic species from the PIMPCA islands, which are important nesting sites for marine birds. On Valdés Islandwhich has been free of rabbits since the end of 2021-we monitored the recovery process of the native flora and fauna, while on Tova, Tovita, and Gaviota Islands we began the eradication of exotic species, which consisted of 384 dwarf and hairy armadillos, 21 cats, and 163 rabbits. The armadillos were transported to the mainland, to which they are native.



For the second consecutive year, **humpback** whales were sighted in the Patagonia Azul coasts, including twenty new individuals which brings the total number to fifty-eight individuals seen in these waters thus far. Two whales that visited in 2021 have been seen again. For the third consecutive year, we have also observed **sei whales**. They spent two months in these waters during the southern autumn and were often seen feeding in small groups. These observations and reports are key to understanding the size and makeup of the cetacean populations present in Patagonia Azul, identifying their migration routes and time of stay on these coasts, as well as their feeding sites.



THE MONITORING OF SOUTH AMERICAN FUR SEALS ALLOWS US TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPECIES' HOME RANGE AND FEEDING AREAS. PHOTO: MAIKE FRIEDRICH



TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE HUMPBACK WHALE'S FEEDING, MIGRATION, AND REPRODUCTIVE PATTERNS, WE ARE CARRYING OUT AN IDENTIFICATION PROCESS OF THE INDIVIDUALS PRESENT IN PATAGONIA AZUL'S COASTS. PHOTO: MAIKE FRIEDRICH

PATAGONIA AZUL WILDLIFE



THE CAÑADÓN GRANDE SITE, LOCATED BY THE SEA AT ISLA LEONES GATEWAY, IS ONE OF THE MANY FABULOUS LANDSCAPES HIDDEN IN THIS SEEMINGLY BARREN LANDSCAPE. PHOTO: MAIKE FRIEDRICH

PATAGONIA AZUL

RESTORATIVE ECONOMY

COLLABORATION AGREEMENT SIGNED TO DEVELOP A MARICULTURE HATCHERY

LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS JOINED MAYMA AZUL

2 LOCAL OPERATORS OFFERING NEW TOURISM SERVICES

L YOUTH-ORIENTED PROGRAM CREATED



In order to implement the **regenerative ocean farming** pilot project, we visited the Huiro mariculture establishment (Chile), and signed a collaboration agreement with the San Juan Bosco University of Patagonia and a local producer to develop a mariculture hatchery in the city of Comodoro Rivadavia.

Two **local entrepreneurs**—Carola Puracchio and Marisa Palomeque—joined Mayma Azul, a training program for regenerative aquaculture and triple-impact ventures. We also worked with several local entrepreneurs to ensure a wider variety of tourism services in the area. For example, we encouraged a local bike rental venture to build their business and purchase the bikes. Meanwhile, a tour operator that provides boat excursions began to offer snorkelling and diving activities, and added a guide to its team, whom we trained. To further strengthen the local economy, we also collaborated with local establishments to provide better lodging and gastronomic experiences.

The **Youth For Nature program** was created and will be launched in early 2023 to give young locals tools to inspire future tourism enterprises in the region.

We also developed a tourism brochure, worked together with regional tourism agencies, and participated in tourism fairs to promote Ruta Azul as an emerging **nature tourism destination**.



WE CARRIED OUT A PILOT TEST OF THE YOUTH FOR NATURE PROGRAM PRIOR TO ITS LAUNCHING, IN 2023. PHOTO: MARIANA CASSINI

in the

PATAGONIA AZUL

COMMUNITIES

2nd EDITION OF THE FESTIVAL OF THE SEA

15 MEETUPS OF

THE OCEAN CLUB FOR MORE THAN

> 20 CHILDREN

NEW COMMUNITY GROUP ESTABLISHED – WOMEN'S OCEAN CLUB

AREA DECLARED OF MUNICIPAL INTEREST – ISLAS BLANCAS

OBJECTIVES 2023:

• Open the Bahía Bustamante Gateway to the public.

• Inaugurate two wild camping areas and a glamping site in the Isla Leones and Bahía Bustamante gateways.

• Continue eradication tasks of exotic and invasive species in Gaviota, Tova, Tovita, and Leones islands.

• Study the spatial ecology and behaviours of marine bird, mammal, and fish species.

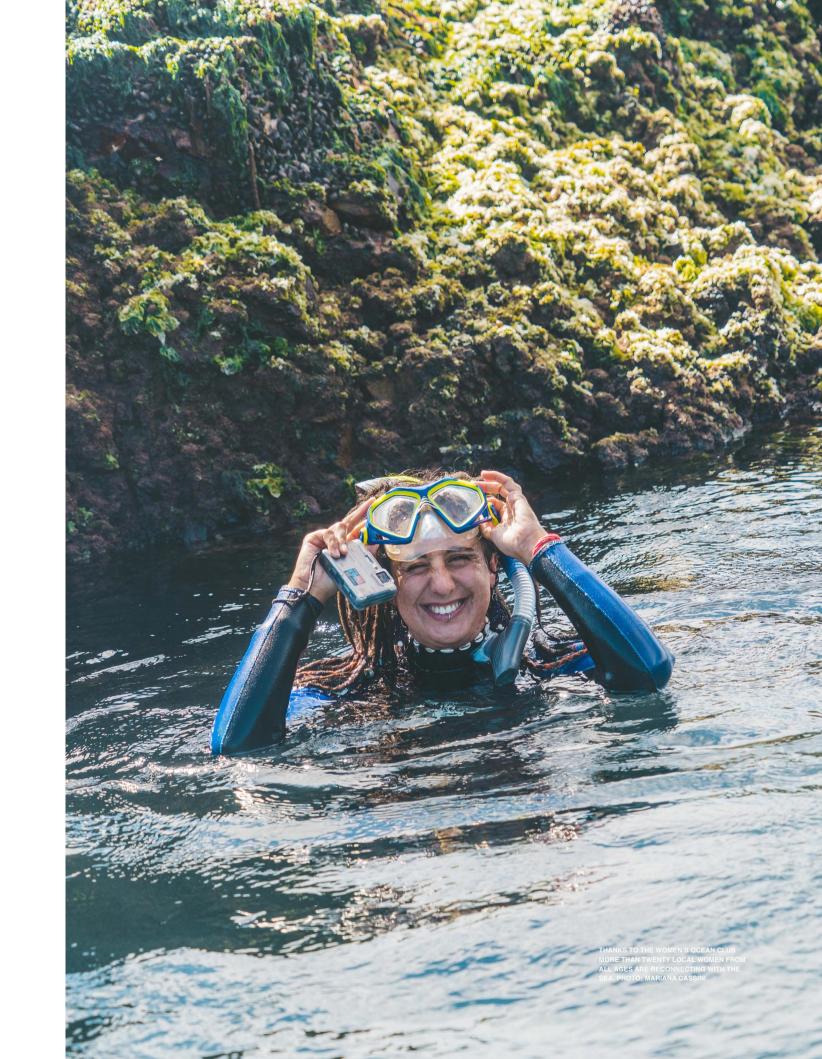
In collaboration with the Municipality of Camarones we organised the second **Festival of the Sea,** which included various recreational activities to celebrate the connection between the community and the ocean.

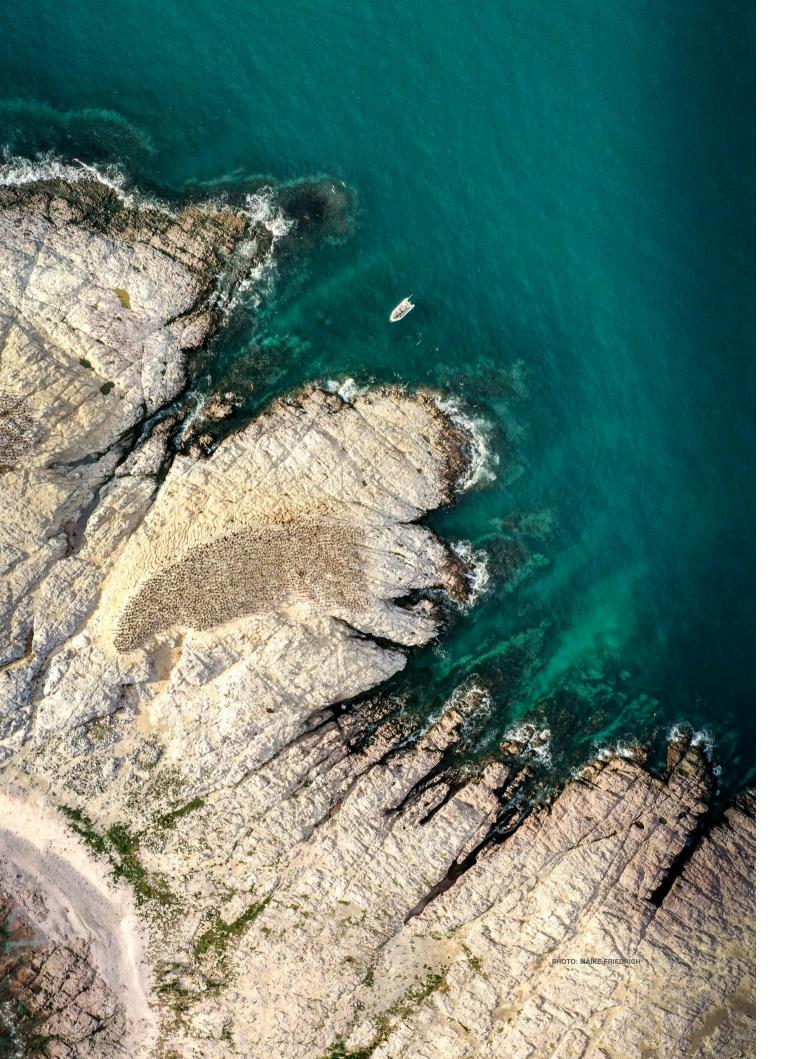
With the same objective, we organised fifteen Ocean Club meetups through which more than twenty children went snorkelling, kayaking, and diving, and established a new group called the Women's Ocean Club which seeks to connect women more closely with the ocean.

The local activist group, **Friends of the Sea** undertook six beach cleanings within PIMPCA, and together with the the National Parks Administration, Parley Argentina, and Rewilding Argentina, carried out the cleanup of Valdés Island where they removed more than a ton of debris, most of it plastic, which was then transported to the mainland for waste management.

Authorities from the city of Comodoro Rivadavia visited the CHISPA agro ecological project and were delighted with their results, proposing exchange with farmers in their municipality.

Through the **Camarones Environmental** Advisory Council, we were able to change some of the rules of the Sandperch Festival—a fishing tournament deeply rooted in the local community—and thereby reduce its impact on the marine environment. The Council also proposed creating a provincial protected area around Islas Blancas, one of the largest deep-water rocky reefs in the region. The area was declared of municipal interest, a prerequisite for eventually petitioning for its protection on a provincial level.





"This plan that we have been working on with Rewilding Argentina has a real commitment to the environment and conservation of our natural areas, but at the same time, it also harnesses the potential to generate tourism and employment. It is an excellent opportunity to showcase this magnificent place while also protecting the environment."

JUAN PABLO LUQUE, Mayor of Comodoro Rivadavia

PATAGONIA AZUL COMMUNITIES

PATAGONIA AZUL



LIVES, REWILDED \mathbf{C} The Story of Carola

WHERE WERE YOU BORN? WHAT WAS YOUR LIFE LIKE AS A CHILD?

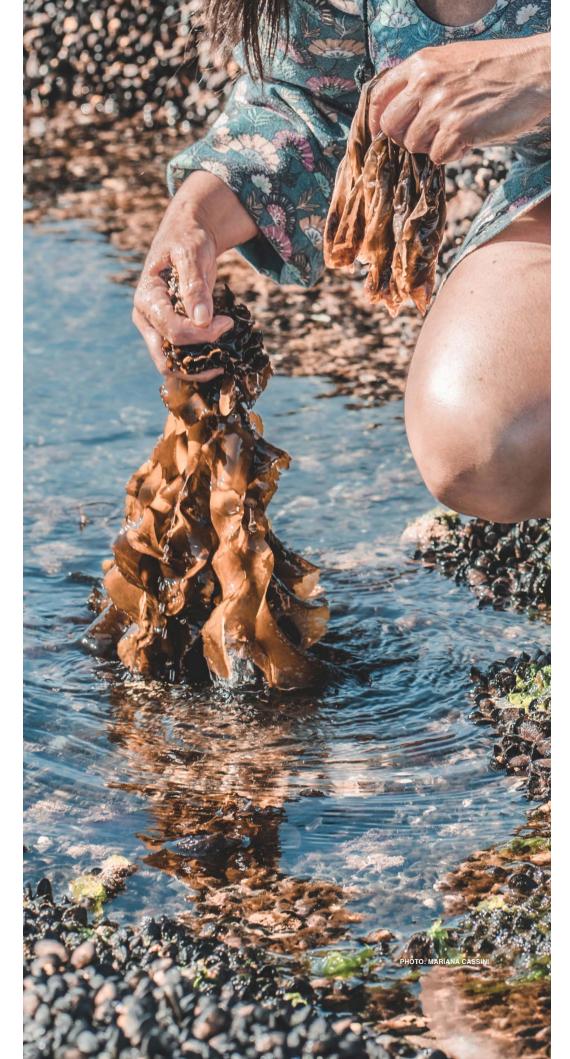
> My name is Carola Pucchiaro and I was born in Camarones, Chubut Province. Back then, it was a town of about 700 people, very family-oriented. I loved growing up in Camarones. I always say it was a beautiful childhood, with tremendous freedom to wander in the countryside, on the beach, wherever I wanted. The town was like a large family and the whole community organised different activities. My childhood was lovely, so idyllic. I would wish for that kind of childhood and freedom for every child. I lived in Camarones until I was fourteen. But even afterwards, I always felt the ocean was my home, and I always taught others to care for it.

HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW **REWILDING ARGENTINA?**

I am always thankful for the people that I come across in life and take something positive from those encounters. I learned about Rewilding Argentina through Carolina Pantano, who approached the restaurant where I was working asking to do a gastronomic workshop with exotic seaweed. These algae are invasive on Chubut's coast and are being eradicated. I thought it was important to remove them and put them to use. On the basis of that workshop, a beautiful friendship blossomed which woke up something that was dormant in me.

WHAT DID YOU IMAGINE YOUR LIFE WOULD BE LIKE AND HOW IS IT NOW?

My getting to know Rewilding Argentina was a happenstance. Because even though I always loved cooking-which I got from my father, who had a restaurant in Camarones-and I knew a little about



Working with seaweed created a synergy between my two loves, the ocean and cooking, and from them the incredible project of opening a restaurant was born. My dream is to find a place for this type of seaweed in people's daily diet and, thereby, help to restore native algae prairies. I hope that more and more cooks use them in recipes and that they become a Patagonian marine ingredient.

HOW DO YOU IMAGINE THE FUTURE **OF THE PARK?**

We all know that if we take care of our home, we live better. Here, the sea is our home and for me it's important that we all play a part in taking care of it.

KNOWING THAT ANYONE IN THE WORLD COULD **READ THIS, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM?**

Take care of nature, of the planet, and protect it. The earth, the sea, they give us everything we need to live. We have to understand that if we don't take care of what we have, our existence is going to be difficult. We need to learn to coexist and show respect, to have a healthier relationship with nature. That is what is missing nowadays. We need to make friends with nature and take better care of it.



cooking with seaweed, I lost some of that when I left town. That workshop was just the thing to bring me back to it, and here we are. I'm delighted to be able to give new use to these products and develop novel recipes. Our star dish is marinated seaweed.

ACONQUIJA

PROTECTING THE STREAMS PRESERVING THE PRISTINE

A key conservation area in north central Argentina, the Aconquija Mountain Range has extremely diverse environments. The abundance of landscapes ranges from subtropical montane forests in the lowest mountains, to grasslands, rocky outcrops, and permanent snows found near steep peaks. Post colonization, certain large species of mammals became locally extinct, such as the jaguar and the tapir, while other species remain, such as the ocelot, puma, collared peccary and the globally threatened taruca (a mountain deer). Rains and mountain springs feed rivers and streams, and many towns and most of the region's agricultural and livestock production depend on the water flowing from those mountains. Several Incan ruins are also found around the project area, such as "Ciudacita" and the Great Inca Road (Qhapaq Ňan), declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This highly biodiverse landscape of archaeological and cultural significance offers a key potential for nature tourism. The Aconquija National Park was created by law in April 2018. This milestone resulted from an unprecedented partnership in the history of Argentina's parks. The law merged a pre-existing national park (Los Alisos, with 16,067 hectares) with newlyacquired private land that was donated to the National government; creating the Aconquija National Park (76,207 hectares) that is directly connected to two provincial reserves of 31,000 hectares.

After a lengthy process, in 2019 Rewilding Argentina acquired and donated the private properties that currently are encompassed by the Aconquija National Park. In 2022, the park was legally expanded to approximately 85,000 hectares. Thus, we are working on the acquisition and donation of the properties that will be incorporated into the park.



ACONQUIJA

PENINSULA MITRE

A VICTORY FOR LIFE AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Península Mitre is located on the tip of the island of Tierra del Fuego, in the south of Argentina. Traveling naturalists like Charles Darwin were the first to document this remote area, which to date has remained nearly intact, conserving its wild and indomitable state. Here, the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans meet, generating a productive front where many endangered and threatened species live, migrate, and feed. Vast and mostly intact kelp forests surround the massive peatlands, which constitute Argentina's largest carbon sink.

In 2019 Rewilding Argentina joined the local efforts to protect this mostly pristine ecosystem. This collective hard work started to pay off in June 2021, when the Tierra del Fuego Province passed a law prohibiting the salmon farming industry from operating in provincial waters. In this way, Argentina became the first country to ban this industry. We assisted in this feat by communicating the importance of protecting the Beagle Channel's ecosystem against this destructive activity, and by organizing several actions to draw attention to this problem.

In December 2022, the Península Mitre Natural Protected area was created. This new park encompasses 300,000 hectares on land, and 200,000 on sea, and protects massive peatlands and kelp forests. We assisted in this victory by communicating the conservation values of the area, developing environmental education activities, and providing technical advice to decision-makers. To raise awareness on the need to protect Península Mitre, we joined nationally-recognised artists and released the song entitled "Es Por Hoy" (It's For Today) on two media platforms. We premiered the short documentary about Peninsula Mitre's marine ecosystem titled "The Thin Blue Line", which was filmed during a scientific expedition in 2021.

In 2022, the team in charge of the Peninsula Mitre project created a new marine conservation organisation, "Por el Mar" (PEM), in order to continue to work in the area, and to implement different strategies to achieve marine conservation goals in the Argentine Sea.



PENINSULA MITRE



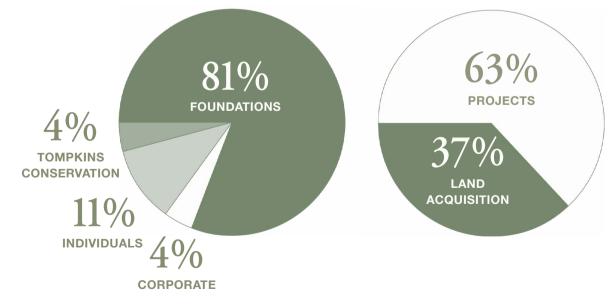
OUR FINANCIALS

The attached statements show the financial information for the last three fiscal periods ending in March 31 of 2020, 2021, and 2022. They were prepared according to generally accepted local accounting standards and converted into dollars at the exchange rate at each year end.

Additionally, the two graphics show the donations received by Rewilding Argentina during the 2022 calendar year which amounted to a total of USD 11.9 MM. The donations originate mainly from foundations, 4% are from Tompkins Conservation, 5% from corporations, and 11 % from individuals (all listed in the Thank You page of this report).

This was an unusual year in terms of fundraising efforts, mainly due to the wildfires that affected the Iberá wetlands and the immediate support received, not only from our local and foreign donors, but also from local citizens and local corporations who committed to Rewilding Argentina for the first time, and assisted with specific needs, helping to restore most of the affected infrastructure and with the acquisition of fire prevention equipment and training for our teams in the field.

As in previous years, most of the donations received are related to specific projects, while a small percentage are for general purposes. The second chart shows that 37% of the funds received were applied to the acquisition of land to expand the Iberá and Patagonia Azul projects, while the rest of the donations were used for other areas of Rewilding Argentina's ongoing projects.



USE OF FUNDS

BALANCE SHEET

	03.31.22 USD	03.31.21 USD	03.31.21 USD
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Banks	3,791,285	2,400,529	2,685,718
Short Term Investments	961,751	189,989	151,658
Other Receivables	262,507	5,187,674	44,177
Total Current Assets	5,015,542	7,778,192	2,881,553
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Fixed Assets	26,321,669	13,499,818	11,470,654
Other Assets	2,061,289	1,202,965	-
Total Non-Current Assets	28,382,958	14,702,784	11,470,654
Total Assets	33,398,500	22,480,975	14,352,207
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Total Current Liabilities	448,620	236,720	275,383
Total Non-Current Liabilities	151,773	-	-
Total Liabilities	600,394	236,720	275,383
Founder's Contributions	4,360	3,393	3,398
Other Assets Revaluation Reserves	109,890	34,317	-
Retained Earnings	32,683,856	22,206,545	14,073,426
Equity	32,798,107	22,244,255	14,076,824
Total Liabilities & Equity	33,398,500	22,480,975	14,352,207

STATEMENT OF INCOME

	03.31.22 USD	03.31.21 USD	03.31.21 USD
RESOURCES			
For General Purposes	92,394	86,494	89,167
For Specific Purposes	9,276,826	12,068,662	17,187,628
Miscellaneous	63,546	189,065	-
Total Resources	9,432,765	12,344,220	17,276,795
EXPENSES			
For General Purposes	(789,828)	(431,651)	(531,462)
For Specific Purposes	(5,489,634)	(4,484,548)	(16,329,030)
Miscellaneous	(589,256)	(362,782)	(194,746)
Total Resources	(6,868,718)	(5,278,981)	(17,055,239)
Other Income	(155,314)	59,809	_
Financial and Holding Results	1,740,307	1,026,622	296,622
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	4,149,040	8,151,670	518,179

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

	03.31.22 USD	03.31.21 USD	03.31.21 USD
CHANGES IN CASH	000	055	000
Cash at the Beggining of the Year	3,328,746	2,833,636	3,995,603
Cash at the End of the Year	4,753,035	2,590,518	2,837,376
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash	1,424,289	(243,118)	(1,158,227)

REASONS FOR CHANGES IN CASH

OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Collections of Resources for General Purposes	102,340	99,720	85,573
Collections of Resources for Specific Purposes	8,439,834	5,796,665	16,806,749
Contributions	(481,179)	(487,723)	-
Donations	(103,271)	-	(13,911)
Payments of Suppliers	(3,308,260)	(3,649,129)	(3,038,620)
Payments of Salaries and Social Contributions	(2,754,591)	(1,252,198)	(1,302,681)
Payment of Tax Liabilities	(65,725)	(60,963)	(30,802)
Loans Received	217,791	-	-
Financial Results Collect	3,827,500	2,579,649	1,292,929
Inflation Adjustments	(1,690,936)	(1,011,645)	(1,248,977)
Net Cash Flow Provided by Operating Activities	4,183,505	2,014,377	12,550,260
INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES	03.31.22 USD	03.31.21 USD	03.31.21 USD
Fixed Assets Purchases	(2,846,689)	(2,014,377)	(13,708,488)
Collection from Sales of Fixed Assets	87,473	300,839	_
Net Cash Flow (Used in) Investment Activities	(2,759,216)	(2,257,495)	(13,708,488)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash	1,424,289	(243,118)	(1,158,227)

THANK YOU

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our collaborators, partners, and donors for their unwavering support during this challenging year. Thanks to your contributions, we have been able to continue to work towards a more beautiful, vibrant and wild world. Your support has made a tremendous difference, and we could not have done it without you.

A special thank you to Tompkins Conservation, our mother organisation and collaborator of our rewilding projects.

FISCAL SPONSOR

Re:wild

DONORS

Asociación de	Foundation Elzéard	Mark Andre Ankner
Concesionarios Toyota de la República	Freyja Foundation	Martha Davis
Argentina (A.C.T.R.A.)	Fundación Hermanos	Mimi and Peter
Arcadia	Agustín y Enrique Rocca	Buckley
ArcelorMittal Acindar	Fundación Leo	Nancy Gibson & Ron Sternal
Royal Zoo ARTIS Amsterdam	Werthein	Naranja X
Amsterdam Chester Lo	Georgia Aquarium	Oak Foundation
	Globant	Patagonia
Diego Gutiérrez Zaldívar	Heather Loomis & Brett Tighe	Rabobank Argentina
DOB Ecology	Julie Fortabat	- Oficina De Representación
EarthToday	Laura Crawford	Rolex Perpetual Planet
Ellen & Duncan	Williams	initiative
McFarland, The Bromley Charitable	Lisa Holmes, Martha	Segre Fondation
Trust	and Hunter Grubb Foundation	Slobodan Randjelovic & Jon Stryker
Elsa Rosenvasser Feher	Lookfar Conservation	The Embassy of
Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund	Marin Community Foundation	Australia in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay
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Mark Andre Ankner	The Freer Family
Martha Davis	The Liz Claiborne & Art
Mimi and Peter	Ortenberg Foundation
Buckley	The Ocean Foundation
Nancy Gibson & Ron	The Plum Foundation
Sternal	Tompkins
Naranja X	Conservation
Oak Foundation	Toyota Argentina
Patagonia	Turtle Conservancy
Rabobank Argentina	Union of Nature
Rabobank Argentina - Oficina De	Union of Nature Foundation
0	
- Oficina De Representación Rolex Perpetual Planet	Foundation
- Oficina De Representación	Foundation White Cedar Fund
- Oficina De Representación Rolex Perpetual Planet	Foundation White Cedar Fund Wyss Campaign for
- Oficina De Representación Rolex Perpetual Planet initiative	Foundation White Cedar Fund Wyss Campaign for Nature
- Oficina De Representación Rolex Perpetual Planet initiative Segre Fondation	Foundation White Cedar Fund Wyss Campaign for Nature
 Oficina De Representación Rolex Perpetual Planet initiative Segre Fondation Slobodan Randjelovic 	Foundation White Cedar Fund Wyss Campaign for Nature

IN-KIND DONORS

Hierros Lider S.A.	Tenaris
Orbis Mertig SAIC	Ternium
SIDERCA S.A.I.C.	Viviendas Roca

NATIONAL DONORS OF WILDLIFE SPECIMENS

Bioparque Batán, Bioparque de Olavarría, Bioparque La Plata, Centro de Atención de la Fauna Autóctona de Jujuy, Ecoparque Buenos Aires, Ecoparque de Mendoza, La Peregrina (Roque Pérez, Buenos Aires), Parque de la Biodiversidad (Córdoba), Parque Ecológico Urbano Río Cuarto, Reserva Experimental Horco Molle, Reserva Guaycolec, Temaikèn Bioparque, Directorados de Fauna de Chaco, Tucumán, Salta, y Entre Ríos.

INTERNATIONAL DONORS OF WILDLIFE SPECIMENS

Asociación Mata Ciliar, Associação Onçafari (Brazil), Bioparc Doué La Fontaine (France), Breeding Station of Native Wildlife Cerro Pan de Azúcar (Uruguay), Budapest Zoo & Botanical Garden (Hungary), Criadouro Onça Pintada (Brazil), Gilvskud Zoo (Denmark), International Studbook for Giant Otters, Jundiaí (Brazil), NEX No Extinction (Brazil), Refugio Bella Vista, Itaipu (Brazil), Parken Zoo (Eskilstuna, Sweden), Refugio Faunístico Atinguy (Paraguay), Refugio Urutaú (Paraguay), World Parrot Trust (United Kingdom).

GOVERNMENT **INSTITUTIONS**

Administración de Parques Nacionales, Consejo Agrario Provincial (Santa Cruz), Delegación Técnica de APN Patagonia Sur (Calafate, Santa

Cruz). Dirección de Biodiversidad de la Provincia de Misiones, Dirección de Biodiversidad y Áreas Protegidas de la Provincia de Jujuy, Dirección de Comercio Exterior (SENASA), Dirección de Dirección de Flora, Dirección de Dirección de Recursos Naturales Renovables de la Provincia de Mendoza. Dirección de Fauna de la Provincia de Chaco, Dirección de Fauna Silvestre y Áreas Protegidas, Dirección de Fauna y Áreas Naturales Protegidas de la Provincia de Chaco, Dirección de Flora y Fauna de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Dirección de General de Bosques y Fauna de la Provincia de Santiago del Estero, Dirección de Parques y Reservas de Corrientes, Dirección de Recursos Naturales y Gestión de la Provincia de Formosa, Entidad Binacional Yacvretá, Fauna Silvestre y Suelos de la Provincia de Tucumán, Gobierno de Corrientes, Instituto Chico Mendes para la Conservación de la Biodiversidad ICMBio (Brazil), Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros de Santa Cruz, Ministerio de Ambiente (Uruguay), Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible - MADES (Paraguay), Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable del Chaco, Ministerio de Ecología y Recursos Naturales Renovables de la Provincia de Misiones, Ministerio de Turismo de Corrientes, Ministerio de Turismo, Secretaría de Ambiente de la Provincia de Córdoba, Secretaría de Ambiente y Producción Sustentable de la Provincia de Salta, Secretaría de Biodiversidad y Desarrollo Sustentable de la Provincia de Jujuy, Secretaría de Estado de Ambiente de Santa Cruz, Secretaría de Estado de Cultura de Santa Cruz, Secretaría de Estado de Responsabilidad Social de Santa Cruz, Secretaría de Estado de Turismo de Santa Cruz, SENASA Delegación Corrientes.

SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS, AND NGOS

Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral (CECOAL), Centro de Investigación y

Transferencia (CIT Formosa – CONICET y Universidad Nacional de Formosa), Centro de Reasilvestramiento Aguará (Estación Biológica de Corrientes), Clínica Veterinaria Dei Gratia, Clínica Veterinaria del Sol, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET), Criadouro Científico De Fauna Silvestre Para Fins de Pesquisa (Brazil), Dirección de Epidemiología y Análisis de Riesgos (SENASA), Dirección Nacional de Migraciones, EAZA Giant otter EEP, Ecografía y Radiografía (Corrientes), Estación Experimental (INTA Mercedes), European Association of Zoos and Aquarium (EAZA), Hospital de Clínicas (Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias, Universidad Nacional del Nordeste), Instituti Reprocon, Instituto de Biología Subtropical (IBS, Conicet), Instituto de Biotecnología, Instituto de Virología Dr. José María Vanella (Universidad Nacional de Córdoba Laboratorio de Biología de la Conservación), IUCN Otter Specialist Group, Laboratorio de Biología de la Conservación, Laboratorio de Diagnóstico de Enfermedades Infecciosas (Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias, Universidad de Buenos Aires), Laboratorio de Hemoparásitos (INTA Castelar), Parque Provincial San Cayetano (Corrientes), Servicio de Análisis Clínicos de la Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias (Universidad Nacional del Nordeste), Cátedra de Patología Animal (UNNE), Servicio de Cirugía y Anestesiología (Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias Universidad Nacional del Nordeste), Servicio de Electrocardiografía, Turtle Conservancy, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul (Brazil), Zoológico de Huachipa (Perú).

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VOLUNTEERS

Our work would not be possible without the support of our hardworking volunteers. This year, we counted the support of many volunteers that helped out with our on-the-ground wildlife reintroduction projects.

TEAMS WORKING IN THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Parques nacional y provincial Iberá, Parque Nacional El Impenetrable, Parque Nacional Aconquija, Parque Nacional Patagonia, Parque Interjurisdiccional Marino Costero Patagonia Austral, Área Natural Protegida Península Mitre, Reserva Don Luis.











