



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

FUNDACION
REWILDING
ARGENTINA

OUR LEADERSHIP

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A high-angle, close-up photograph of a dense tropical forest. The image is filled with vibrant green leaves and branches, creating a complex, textured pattern. Several thin, light-colored vines hang vertically from the upper canopy, adding to the sense of depth and wildness. The lighting is dappled, with some areas appearing brighter than others, highlighting the rich green hues of the vegetation.

*« In nature,
nothing exists alone »*

Rachel Carson

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A LETTER FROM SOFÍA HEINONEN

Executive Director at Rewilding Argentina

“We have witnessed numerous «impossibles» become «possibles», from our growing jaguar population to the strengthening of local conservation networks. These successes fuel our hope for a future where humans and wildlife thrive together in vibrant, complete ecosystems”.

Dear Wild Friends,

Two thousand and twenty-four will be remembered in Argentina as a **landmark year for wildlife conservation**, with the first-ever reintroduced jaguar population showing an extraordinary growth in Iberá and reaching **33 free living jaguars** by the end of the year. This achievement has not only brought hope to the future of imperiled species, but also shaped our vision for future conservation action in South America.

The vitality of the reintroduced population of jaguars became particularly evident as young males born in 2022 and 2023 began **dispersing** along riverine corridors. Indeed, we documented several remarkable journeys. One young jaguar crossed the Paraná River multiple times, moving between Argentina and Paraguay while searching for an area where he could establish his territory. A second sub-adult male traversed the wetland and established himself near the town of Colonia Carlos Pellegrini, showing up every now and then in camera traps around our Rincón del Socorro lodge. A third jaguar was observed dispersing southward along the Corrientes River. Far from causing concern, **these movements fostered positive interactions between our team, neighboring ranchers, and rural communities around small towns**, who became active participants in tracking these magnificent cats. As a result, a true network of informants emerged—the “Guardians of Iberá.”

The movements of these reintroduced jaguars confirmed us that the creation of large national parks alone cannot sustain in the long run successful rewilding projects. We must think bigger. **We need to protect entire watersheds and their associated landscapes, where rivers and riparian habitats function as natural corridors for wildlife to disperse and re-establish their historical ranges.** And all this while fostering human-wildlife coexistence, particularly along the corridors.

In some cases, assisted dispersal through conservation translocations is necessary to begin **reconnecting** populations that otherwise would remain isolated. This is the case for Iberá and El Impenetrable national parks. While we work in reestablishing the corridor between both protected areas, we began **moving females from Iberá to El Impenetrable national parks**, a needed action as no jaguar females had been detected in El Impenetrable over the last 30 years. Nowadays, two translocated females roam freely in El Impenetrable National Park where, together with the only three wild males recorded in the park, they will be responsible to re-establish the population of jaguars in the region. This initiative has received strong support from the National Parks Administration and the provincial governments of Chaco and Corrientes, who understand the vital importance of bringing back this species to the Chaco forests.



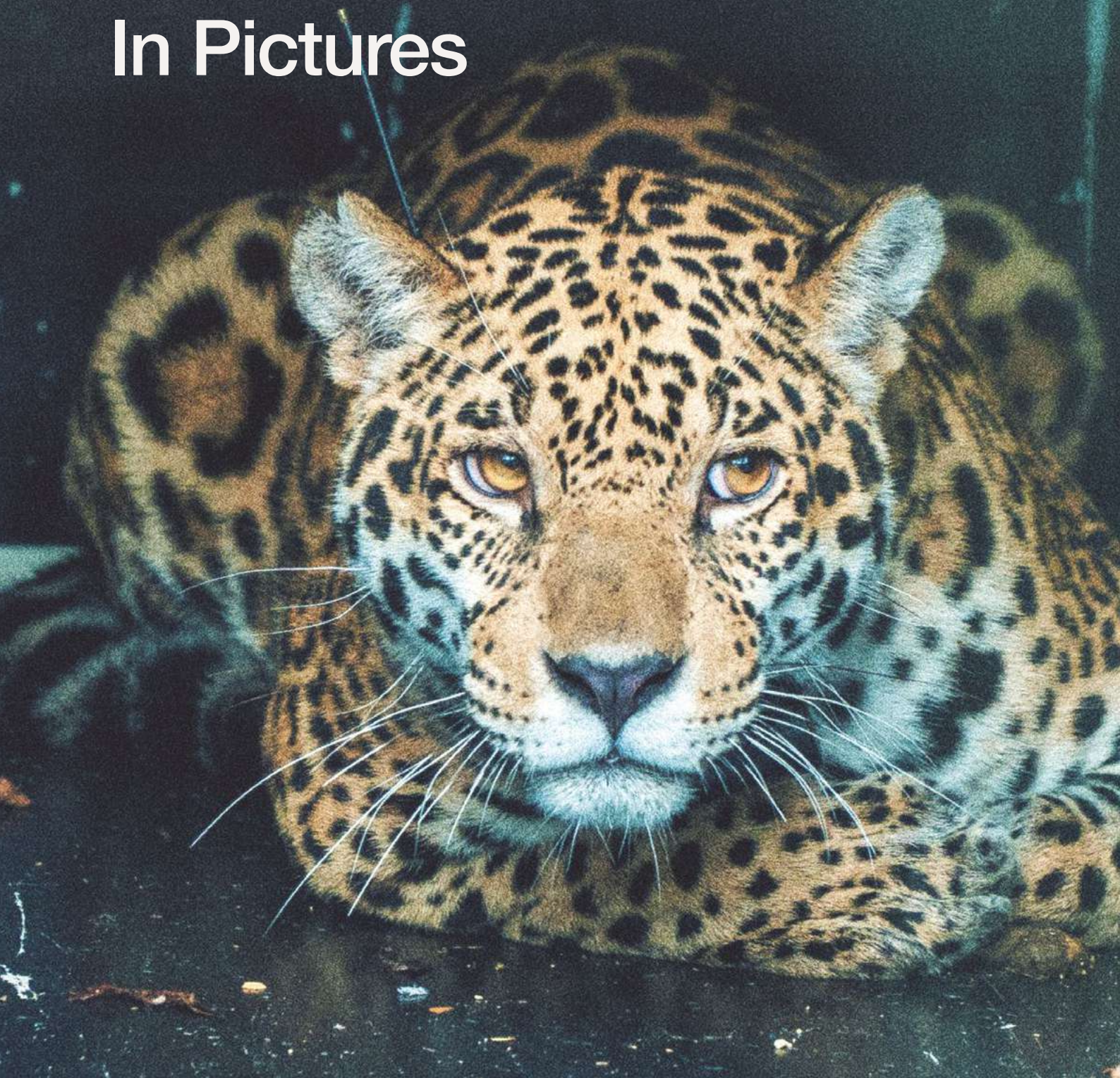
To fully realize this expanded vision of conservation, we are **strengthening our collaborative networks**. In 2024, we established an international alliances with NGOs including Nativa from Bolivia, Moisés Bertoni from Paraguay, and Onçafari from Brazil. Within Argentina, we have launched two new territorial projects: “Yungas” and “Alto Iguazú,” extending our work to the Yungas Biosphere Reserve and the Atlantic Forest near Iguazú National Park. Particularly in Yungas, we secured 4,852 hectares (11,990 acres) connecting Baritú National Park with Pintascayo Provincial Park in Salta Province, protecting a crucial area for jaguars in the Argentine Yungas.

Our commitment to enhancing **community well-being** remains central to our mission. Throughout 2024, we’ve expanded our Economy of Nature Model, developing **restorative economies that benefit local communities**. In El Impenetrable, we have advanced Algarroba legume harvesting and processing initiatives, creating new value chains for local Creole and Wichí families. Our tourism ventures have grown, with new accommodations in Patagonia Azul and continued operations across our projects, creating employment opportunities and strengthening youth connection to their homeland.

Two thousand and twenty-four has brought significant political and economic transformations in Argentina. Although the disregard of the twin environmental crises by the new national government presents challenges, the **National Parks Administration** has been supportive of our rewilding efforts, as they share our conservation and restoration vision for endangered species across the national parks system and river basins. Furthermore, Argentina’s federal structure enables us to continue our work through **provincial partnerships**, where governors have also become key allies when it comes to create protected areas and enforce environmental policy. These political shifts reinforce the importance of maintaining our long-term vision and financial independence in each territory where we work.

Overall, 2024 has been a year of remarkable progress. We have witnessed numerous “**impossibles**” become “**possibles**,” from our growing jaguar population to the strengthening of local conservation networks. These successes fuel our hope for a future where humans and wildlife thrive together in vibrant, complete ecosystems.

2024 In Pictures



El Impenetrable National Park saw the release of the first jaguar, marking the start of a new phase for the project. Provincial and national authorities joined Rewilding Argentina to witness the release of Keraná, a female brought in from Iberá. Her release marks a major milestone in restoring this apex predator to a region where it thrived until the late 19th century. —PHOTO: ANDREA VILLARREAL



Fourteen guanacos were translocated from Patagonia Park Argentina, in Santa Cruz Province, to El Impenetrable in Chaco Province. The translocation, spanning 3,200 kilometers (1,988 miles) and over 50 hours, marks the longest recorded for any species in the world. Since 2023, 44 guanacos have been translocated from Patagonia Park Argentina's thriving population to El Impenetrable, where the species is regionally extinct. —PHOTO: MIRANDA VOLPE



Through the acquisition of 4,852 hectares (11,990 acres), Rewilding Argentina has launched a new territorial project within the Yungas ecoregion. —**PHOTO: SOFÍA HEINONEN**

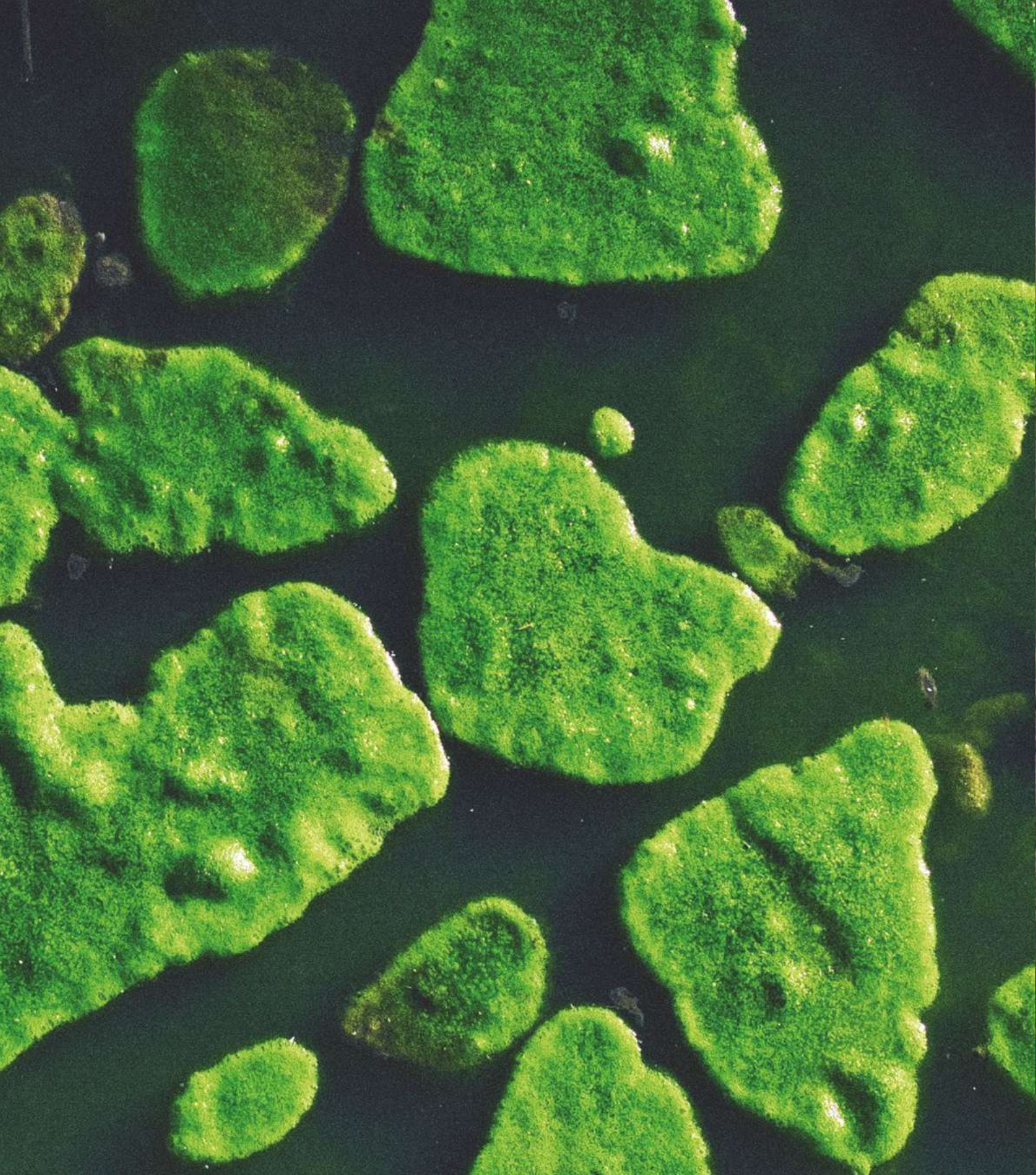


Puma cubs are being monitored in Patagonia Park Argentina to understand their first life stages, including their survival, age of independence, dispersal, and behavior. —PHOTO: FRANCO BUCCI





A new economy that values standing forests and supports local communities is emerging in El Impenetrable through initiatives centered on the algarrobo tree. These efforts seek to revive traditional practices like Algarrobo legume harvesting. —PHOTO: NATALIA TRZCINA



In Patagonia Park Argentina, 30 hectares (74 acres) of wetlands were restored, and approximately 800 meters (2,625 feet) of two springs—the primary water source for the wetlands—were rechanneled by removing invasive plant species. For decades, these areas suffered from intensive use, alterations in water flow, and the introduction of exotic and invasive species, resulting in significant degradation of these valuable ecosystems. Wetlands are scarce in the Patagonian steppe, yet they support unique biodiversity and sustain life throughout the region. —PHOTO: FRANCO BUCCI



A member of the Patagonia Park Explorers program climbs a rock wall in the newly opened Caracoles Canyon Gateway of Patagonia Park, Argentina, which features 60 climbing routes of varying difficulty. —PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI



The new Laguna Grande shelter, located at the Carambola Gateway in Iberá Park, was built by residents of Concepción del Yaguararé Corá using native materials like reed and piri. Constructed with techniques reflecting the Guaraní ancestral knowledge, it highlights the value of vernacular architecture, admired by both locals and visitors. The shelter is strategically located south of San Alonso Island, where the jaguar and giant otter reintroduction projects are underway, making it a key wildlife watching area. —PHOTO: ANDREA VILLAREAL



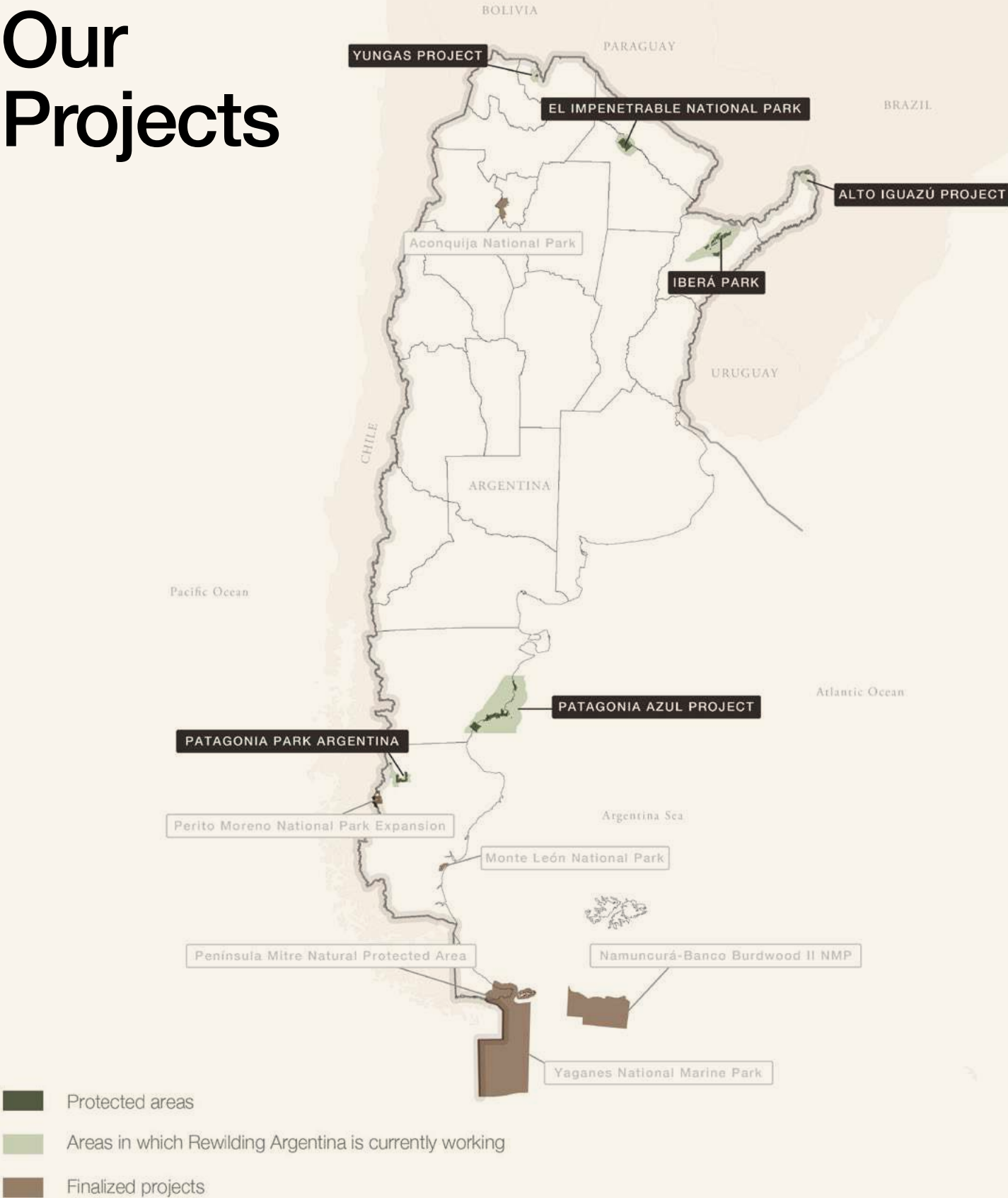
In the Patagonia Azul project, we collaborate with CONICET-CENPAT researchers to study how seabirds, including the imperial shag, use the marine environment.

—PHOTO: KRISSIA BORJA



Commerson's dolphins are often seen along the coasts of Patagonia Azul in groups of up to 20, chasing schools of fish or crustaceans, or hunting squid in deeper waters. Their aerial spins, acrobatic jumps, and races alongside boats make for a beautiful spectacle during wildlife-watching tours. —PHOTO: LAURENCE ELLIS

Our Projects



Argentina's Jaguar Corridor





A VISION TO RECONNECT SOUTH AMERICA UPSTREAM

The **Jaguar Rivers Mission** is a bold and urgent continental initiative dedicated to restoring, protecting and connecting ecosystems in the heart of South America. Founded by four organizations of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay, its goal is to **safeguard one of the largest river systems in the world** so that endangered species and local communities can thrive.

This corridor aims to become **one of the most ambitious conservation initiatives** of South America, protecting and **restoring habitat** for jaguars and other native species at an unprecedented scale of millions of hectares.

In Argentina, the Jaguar Rivers Mission includes **rewilding work in the Iberá wetlands, the Chaco, the Cloud and the Atlantic forests**. Thanks to extensive rewilding efforts, Iberá has become an **ark with abundant populations of species** that can be now translocated to other areas of the Jaguar Rivers Mission with depleted populations of certain keystone species.

The **interconnection of natural areas with effective protection** within the basin will secure stepping-stones for jaguar and other wildlife, enhancing dispersal and subsequently **enabling the restoration of other ecological processes** across the entire basin.



Iberá

PROJECT START

1998

Ecoregion being restored

IBERÁ WETLANDS

CURRENT PROTECTED AREA

1.3

—million hectares
(3,212,370 acres)

DONORS

- BAND Foundation
- Fondation Babelle
- Fondation Segré
- Holdfast Collective
- Klimber
- Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation
- Mimi & Peter Buckley
- Mossy Earth
- National Geographic Society
- Oak Foundation
- Rolex Perpetual Planet Initiative
- Slobodan Randjelovic & Jon Stryker
- The Bromley Charitable Trust
- Tompkins Conservation
- White Cedar Fund

REWILDING SPECIES PROJECTS

- Bare-faced curassow
- Collared peccary
- Giant anteater
- Giant river otter
- Jaguar
- Maned wolf
- Ocelot
- Pampas deer
- Puma
- Red-and-green macaw



— PHOTO: SEBASTIÁN NAVAJAS
*Located in the heart of Corrientes Province, Iberá
Park is the birthplace of rewilding in Argentina.*

INTRODUCTION

The Iberá protected area encompasses approximately **1.3 million hectares (3,212,370 acres)** in Corrientes Province. After more than 20 years of collaborative work, this vast complex includes **756,000 hectares** of Category II National and Provincial Parks, and **600,000 hectares** of Category VI National and Provincial Reserves under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classification. Over **641 vertebrate species** are protected across diverse **wetlands, grasslands, and native forests**.

The experience in Iberá shows what can happen when a landscape is protected and restored, and communities reconnect with nature. The Province of Corrientes demonstrated its commitment through the **Ecosystem Restoration Law, which establishes the rewilding of natural ecosystems and species as a matter of public interest and positions Iberá as a source of wildlife to restore populations in areas in need of restoration.**

With the support of the National Geographic Society, preliminary research has shown that reintroduced jaguars are influencing vegetation patterns through changes in prey behavior, suggesting the revival of long-lost ecological processes. This finding coincides with the continued growth of Iberá's wildlife populations, from large predators to birds, marking the park's evolution into an increasingly complete and functional ecosystem.

The ecological revival of Iberá has catalyzed **social and economic transformation across the region, with 10 communities benefiting directly and another 10 indirectly** from the park. Despite challenges from wildfires, drought, and economic uncertainties, the transition from an **extractive to a nature-based economy** continues, with Iberá maintaining its position as the **province's leading tourism destination**, supporting a growing network of local enterprises, artisans, and tourism services.

As we look to the future, the Iberá project stands as a testament to the power of **rewilding** to restore not just ecosystems, but also **cultural pride and economic vitality**. Iberá's integration of **wildlife and community coexistence** serves as a model and training ground for similar initiatives across the **Jaguar Corridor**.

Park

1	Ecosystem Restoration Law enacted
99	kilometers (61.5 miles) of firebreaks maintained
4,300	hectares (10,625 acres) of prescribed burns completed
1	shelter constructed
2	visitor posts established
1	restaurant-hotel complex with cabins completed
2	camping areas developed
1	astro-tourism observation point created
1	kayak tour dock built
4,450	meters (14,600 feet) of fencing constructed and maintained
2,386	invasive animals removed

The Ecosystem Restoration Law was enacted, **establishing ecosystem and species rewilding of public interest, and providing strong political support** for Iberá to become a **source of wildlife to restore degraded ecosystems** across the Jaguar Corridor.

Improvements were made on fire management and prevention. **Ninety-nine kilometers (61.5 miles)** of firebreaks were maintained across five gateways, a **fire management and prevention workshop** was offered, and a new **comprehensive fire management plan** was developed together with the provincial and national governments. **Prescribed burns were conducted across 4,300 hectares (10,625 acres)** in strategic locations. These controlled burns **prevented catastrophic fires** while promoting grass regrowth, directly benefiting reintroduced species such as the **Pampas deer** and increasing biodiversity through the creation of diverse habitat patches. Additionally **283 native trees** planted in 2022, after the severe wildfires that affected the region, were maintained.

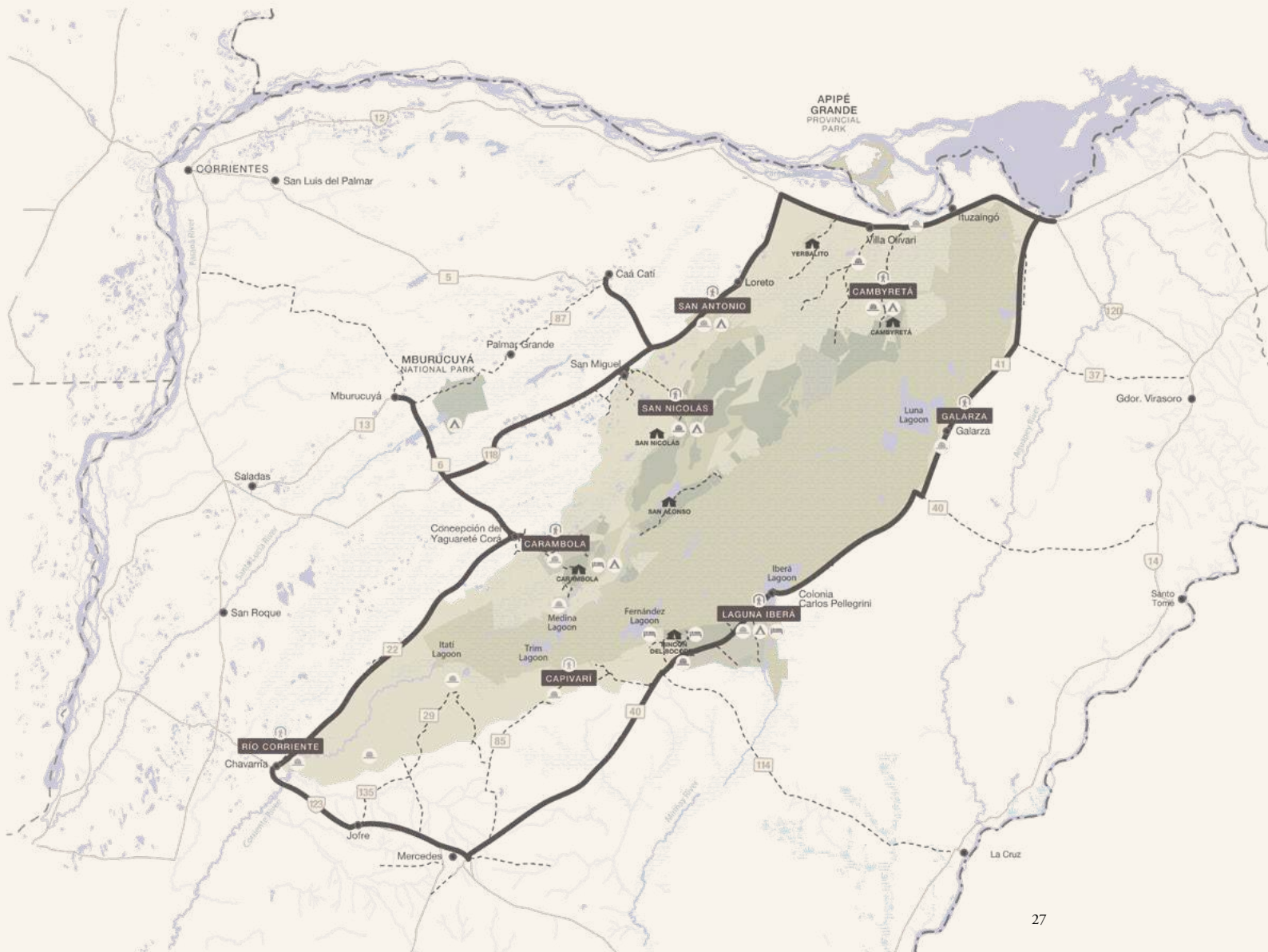
One shelter, two visitor posts, one restaurant-hotel complex with cabins, two camping areas, an astro-tourism observation point, and a kayak tour dock were constructed in 2024 through collaboration between the provincial government, private enterprises, and Rewilding Argentina. These improvements increased the **park's accommodation capacity and diversified tourism offerings** across multiple gateways, particularly supporting multi-day excursions and water-based activities.

The trail network was expanded to **86 kilometers (53.4 miles)**. New tourism circuits combining **horseback riding, kayaking trails, and cycling paths** were established across these routes. This expanded infrastructure has proven crucial for maintaining tourism activities during the dry season when water-based activities are limited.

Park boundaries were strengthened through the construction of **4,000 meters (13,123 feet) of new fencing and maintenance of 450 meters (1,476 feet) of existing barriers**. This enhanced infrastructure is essential for managing the interface between wildlife and domestic livestock.

Ecosystem restoration advanced through the **removal of 2,386 invasive animals**, including **1,191 feral pigs and 1,195 axis deer**. Feral pigs cause severe ecosystem damage through soil disruption, disease transmission to native species, and direct competition with collared peccaries for resources. Similarly, axis deer compete with native deer species and transmit disease.

- Iberá National Park
- Iberá Provincial Park
- Iberá Provincial Reserve
- Iberá National Reserve
- River
- Lagoon
- Wetland
- National Border
- Provincial Border
- Paved Road
- Dirt Road

 Scenic Route Gateway National Park Ranger Station Provincial Park Ranger Station Biological Station Lodge Camping Town

Wildlife

3 historic achievements completed:

- 1st wild jaguar translocation between national parks
- 1st wild-to-wild giant anteater translocation
- 1st 100% success rate in wild reproduction of red-and-green macaws

9 active reintroduction projects

33 jaguars in the wild

13 giant river otters within the reintroduction project

8 ocelots in the breeding program

27 monitored and 20 dispersed red-and-green macaws

17 free-ranging bare-faced curassows

36 collared peccary births recorded in the wild

16 giant anteater births documented

8 maned wolves GPS-collared and monitored

— PHOTO: SEBASTIÁN NAVAJAS

The red-and-green macaw project is the first-ever attempt to reintroduce an extinct bird species in Argentina and the first reintroduction project for red-and-green macaws worldwide.







RED & GREEN MACAW

Fifteen new red-and-green macaws entered the reintroduction project, with **five birds** released into the wild. One pair successfully reared **four chicks**, demonstrating the **first 100% success rate** in wild reproduction for the species in the park. The population currently includes **27 monitored** and **20 dispersed birds**, showing continued establishment in the ecosystem.



OCELOT

The ocelot reintroduction project incorporated **six new individuals**: **four females** from Brazil and Paraguay, and **two rescued males** from Chaco Province. This brought the total to **eight ocelots** in the project: **six in enclosures** and **one pair** in conservation facilities. Multiple breeding attempts were initiated, with several pairs showing positive interaction behaviors, laying the groundwork for future reproduction success.



GIANT RIVER OTTER

The giant otter reintroduction project expanded to **13 individuals** through the arrival of a breeding pair from Germany and the successful rearing of **seven pups** born across **three breeding events**. Three family groups completed pre-release conditioning, enabling final preparations for the **first-ever release** of a giant otter family group into the wild, a historic milestone for a species extinct in Argentina for **40 years**.



BARE-FACED CURASSOW

The bare-faced curassow population increased from **11 to 17** free-ranging individuals. **Twenty-three individuals** were released and **six chicks** were produced by **three established breeding pairs**. While several individuals were lost to predation, breeding efforts progressed in both wild and controlled conditions. This reproductive milestone demonstrates the species' successful adaptation to the release area and represents significant progress toward establishing a self-sustaining population.



COLLARED PECCARY

Six adult collared peccaries were released, and **36 births** were recorded in the wild. The species now maintains **five established population nuclei** that continue expanding into surrounding areas, demonstrating successful adaptation to the ecosystem.



PAMPAS DEER

Studies of pampas deer spatial ecology revealed population densities between **1.4 and 8 individuals per square kilometer**, representing abundance levels **2 to 4 times higher** than any other population in Argentina. A new founding nucleus was documented in San Nicolás, demonstrating successful natural dispersion from the San Alonso population.



GIANT ANTEATER

The giant anteater reintroduction project recorded **sixteen births** across the park, including the **first documented case of twin pups in the wild**. **Three individuals** were released, including the **first wild-to-wild translocation** of a female captured in San Alonso. The rescue program responded to **two cases**: an adult male suffering from severe malnutrition and an orphaned cub from Santiago del Estero Province, both successfully rehabilitated at the care center. The species now maintains **five self-sustaining populations**, demonstrating successful restoration across Iberá Park.



MANED WOLF

Eight adult maned wolves (five females and three males) are currently being monitored with GPS collars. These are providing **fine grain habitat and reproductive data** for the first time for the species in Argentina. This information is critical for future management actions including conservation translocations to restore populations in other regions.



JAGUAR

The reintroduced jaguar population increased from **21 to 33 individuals** through the birth of **12 cubs**, increasing Argentina's wild jaguar population by 12%. **Three young males** dispersed through riparian corridors to new areas within Iberá and into **Paraguay**. These movements reinforce the need for securing wildlife corridors and establishing **reproductive populations** beyond the borders of protected areas. **The first-ever translocation** of a wild jaguar between national parks for conservation purposes was conducted; a wild female from Iberá National Park was translocated to **El Impenetrable National Park**. This is a milestone for ecosystem restoration in Argentina and demonstrates the political will of national and provincial authorities to support the recovery of keystone species.

Three jaguars were fitted with **GPS collars**, enabling detailed movement and predation data collection. **Twenty 20x20-meter** herbivore exclosures were constructed, the behavior of **19 capybara groups** was surveyed, **18 foxes** were radio-collared, **60 camera traps** divided into two grids were deployed, **230 bird nests** monitored, and **400 vegetation** and **160 soil samples** collected. This comprehensive research, conducted with the support of the **National Geographic Society** and in collaboration with the **National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET)**, is revealing how jaguars trigger **cascading effects** that enhance biodiversity, support ecosystem functioning, and potentially promote carbon sequestration.

Restorative Economy

- 46,003 visitors to the park
- 69 local active ventures
- 125 active artisans in artisan network
- 100 active cooks in culinary network
- 56 local guides certified
- 49 new astro tourism businesses supported
- 1st nature production postgraduate class completed
- +30 presentations delivered on Iberá conservation
- 2 economic impact studies completed
- 20 ranching families supported

— PHOTO: ANDREA VILLARREAL

Traditional excursions, like horse-drawn and hand-poled canoe rides, offer a unique cultural and nature tourism experience at the Carambola Gateway.







— PHOTO: ANDREA VILLARREAL

The Iberá Cooks transform local ingredients into distinctive dishes that not only preserve culinary heritage but generate sustainable income.

RESTORATIVE ECONOMY

Visitor numbers reached 46,003 in 2024, a minor decrease from 2025 considering the nationwide reduction in tourism due to Argentina's economic challenges, presidential transition, and financial instability. Tourism activities continued to support the local economy, **benefiting approximately 100,000 residents** in communities surrounding the park.

Nine new local ventures were established in the Carambola Gateway, which serves as a center of entrepreneurial activity, bringing the total to **69 local businesses**. **These enterprises diversified** visitor experiences through new offerings, strengthening the local **nature-based economy**.

The artisan and culinary programs achieved significant economic impact, with **125 artisans and 100 chefs and producers** actively generating income from their work. The Iberá Cooks program received special recognition at the **Basque Culinary World Prize** for its coordinator, Gisela Medina, highlighting Iberá's culinary traditions on the global stage.

The **Starlight Iberá project** achieved multiple milestones: **56 local guides (64% Guaraní-speaking)** were certified, **40 existing tourism ventures** were strengthened and **49 new astro tourism businesses** were supported. These initiatives created a comprehensive tourism offering that combines **stargazing with Guaraní cultural heritage and traditional gastronomy**, strengthening both local enterprises and cultural preservation.

Plans for the **Hotel School Iberá** advanced through a private land donation and final design approval for student accommodations, teacher housing, and a museum, laying the groundwork for

future practical hospitality training and tourism internships. Additionally, the **"Nature Production in Iberá"** four-month postgraduate program, developed with the **Universidad Nacional del Nordeste (UNNE)**, celebrated its first graduating class, establishing a foundation for professional development in nature tourism management.

The **Iberá Committee** delivered over **30 presentations** sharing conservation and sustainable tourism experiences, and published a **bilingual book** documenting the creation of Iberá Park. Over **200 local stakeholders** visited San Alonso to study conservation and the nature tourism model, enabling direct knowledge transfer to surrounding communities. In partnership with the UNNE and the Provincial Bureau of Statistics, **two economic impact studies** were completed: a baseline study of nature tourism in Concepción del Yaguareté Corá and a comprehensive assessment of tourism impacts across the Iberá region. These studies will inform future strategies to **improve community well-being** and assess the long-term impact of the local development initiatives based on cultural and nature tourism.

The cattle management program supported **20 ranching families** in improving cattle yield and income while reducing herd sizes to minimize environmental impact. **Two vaccination campaigns** were coordinated with the Safety and Agri-food Quality National Service (SENASA), resulting in over **2,500 vaccinated cattle**. This program is crucial in reducing potential **human-wildlife conflicts** and demonstrating that **conservation, economic well-being, and traditional practices** can coexist.

Community Well-being

57 workshops conducted with 3,585 participants reached

102 Iberá Nature Club participants from 9 communities

57 families supported

1st environmental education congress completed



— PHOTO: ANDREA VILLARREAL

Environmental education workshops were conducted at local schools, addressing the species reintroduction projects, the importance of complete and functional ecosystems, and the opportunities provided by nature tourism.





— PHOTO: ANDREA VILLARREAL

Local entrepreneurs guide visitors through Iberá's waterways, creating sustainable livelihoods while showcasing the wetlands' natural wonders. These tourism ventures represent a key economic alternative that directly supports local communities.

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Casa Iberá, the interpretation center dedicated to Iberá's natural and cultural heritage, underwent renovations to enhance its educational resources. The center welcomed **8,951 visitors** throughout the year, including **3,500 students and teachers from 113 educational institutions**, strengthening its role as a crucial hub for community engagement. The "**Economy of Nature**" open course was launched, introducing a new development model that emphasizes sustainable opportunities through ecosystem restoration and conservation. The course demonstrates how transitioning from traditional industries to nature-based activities can benefit both communities and biodiversity. Educational infrastructure expanded in the San Antonio Gateway through a **new interpretation center** with dining facilities, hosting more than **10 schools** and enhancing the park's capacity for hands-on environmental education.

Fifty-seven workshops were delivered to **3,585 people across 19 towns**. These sessions covered species-specific presentations about jaguars, giant otters, and red-and-green macaws, along with updates on the species reintroduction projects and on nature tourism as a conservation tool. The "**Guardians of Iberá**" initiative distributed educational materials including decals, calendars, posters, and yerba mate cans featuring iconic species information. These combined efforts are fostering a new generation of **conservation leaders** while building a community network that actively participates in **species monitoring and protection**.

The **Iberá Nature Club** engaged **102 participants** from **nine communities**, with **34 new members** joining in 2024. **Forty-eight participants** became involved in tourism activities, while the program expanded to include high school students, particularly targeting emerging tourism areas. This early engagement of youth in nature-based activities aids in strengthening **skilled local guides and tourism entrepreneurs** while fostering long-term **environmental stewardship** in the next generation.

The **first Environmental Education Congress** was organized by the Iberá Committee and the Provincial Ministry of Education, producing comprehensive teaching manuals covering protected areas, environmental threats, the Economy of Nature, and rewilding. These materials, now available on the Ministry's website, provide essential resources for educators throughout the province.

Coexistence efforts expanded significantly, with outreach to **161 ranch owners** and specialized training for **190 personnel** including provincial and national park rangers, Rural and Ecological Police (PRIAR), veterinarians, and Natural Resources Directorate technicians. Two workshops were conducted, covering jaguar behavior, track identification, monitoring techniques, and the species' ecological, social, and economic benefits. Due to the dispersal of a jaguar to Paraguay, **three visits** were made to the country, **engaging with ranch owners**, the Paraguayan Coast Guard, and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADES) director. These workshops and visits are **building a network** to strengthen the region's capacity to manage **human-wildlife interactions** effectively, reducing potential conflicts and building support for conservation across communities and international borders.

Support was provided to **57 families** living inside the wetland through assistance with daily needs, transportation, and medical support. These families received regular updates through **handheld transceivers** about jaguar movements and presence. The established trust resulted in consistent communication from community members about wildlife sightings, enabling refined management strategies and conflict prevention.



LIVES, REWILDED: THE STORY OF JOSEFINA

Where were you born?

What was your childhood like?

I grew up in Loreto, a small town near Iberá and despite being from a large family with seven siblings where we faced some economic challenges, my childhood was very happy. We may not have had much, but we were surrounded by love and community.

How did you come to know Rewilding Argentina?

My first contact with the organization was during an investors' meeting in Corrientes city in 2017. I heard about all the plans for Iberá, especially for the San Antonio Gateway, near Loreto. At the time, I was looking to complement my income, and I saw a flyer for this investment forum. When I called the number, a very kind lady answered. We attended the meeting, and I was so moved—I actually cried with emotion! No one else from my town was there that day, but something clicked in my head: this was the path forward.

What did you imagine your life would be like, and what is it like now?

I imagined a beautiful life surrounded by nature, but what we have now has exceeded my expectations. Seeing people's growing awareness about wildlife protection and conservation is fabulous. I've always done crochet work, but as tourist numbers increased in our town, I was inspired to create something unique. I started making Iberá's animals in crochet, then expanded to berets featuring wildlife images, and even incorporated traditional ysyro basketry—a vine that grows in Corrientes forests.

Tell us about your artisanal work with the organization.

One day, the Iberá Artisans Network Coordinator visited—she's a total genius who's available to help 24/7! Through her, I became part of the artisan network. As I learned about each species in Iberá, I would create something new. When the yetapa [strange-tailed tyrant] returned to Iberá, I made it in crochet. When I heard about the bare-faced curassow reintroduction, I created that too. Then came a special request: could I make a beret with a jaguar's spotted pattern? The result was beautiful—now these berets have reached not only neighboring countries but also the United States and Italy! My second design was a capybara-themed beret, which became my first gift to the Governor of Corrientes Province.

What message would you share with people reading this for the first time who have not been to Iberá?

I tell people to dare to follow their dreams. From my experience, nature tourism is a wonderful resource for conservation. Visitors seek authentic, handmade pieces that tell our story. Iberá Park is no longer just a dream—we're feeling and enjoying its reality! I'm so grateful to everyone working in tourism to provide the best infrastructure and to those working on species reintroduction in this great park!

How do you imagine the future of the park?

I imagine a future with an abundance of tourists enjoying everything we have to offer. The more visitors who come to appreciate our natural heritage, the better! Every new development that helps us share Iberá's wonders with the world is welcome!

Objectives 2025

Enhance

nature tourism and protection in Carambola Gateway by training guides for jaguar viewing and implementing measures to prevent hunting from neighboring communities.

Launch

the Iberá Rewilding School to build capacity across the Jaguar Rivers Mission for NGOs, government technicians, and private sector stakeholders.

Complete

the acquisition of 3,689 hectares in the Carambola Gateway area and develop strategic infrastructure to effectively operate the area.

Monitor

the jaguar population and evaluate dispersal, to provide animals to restore other sites within the Jaguar Rivers Mission.

Release

the first two giant otter family groups.



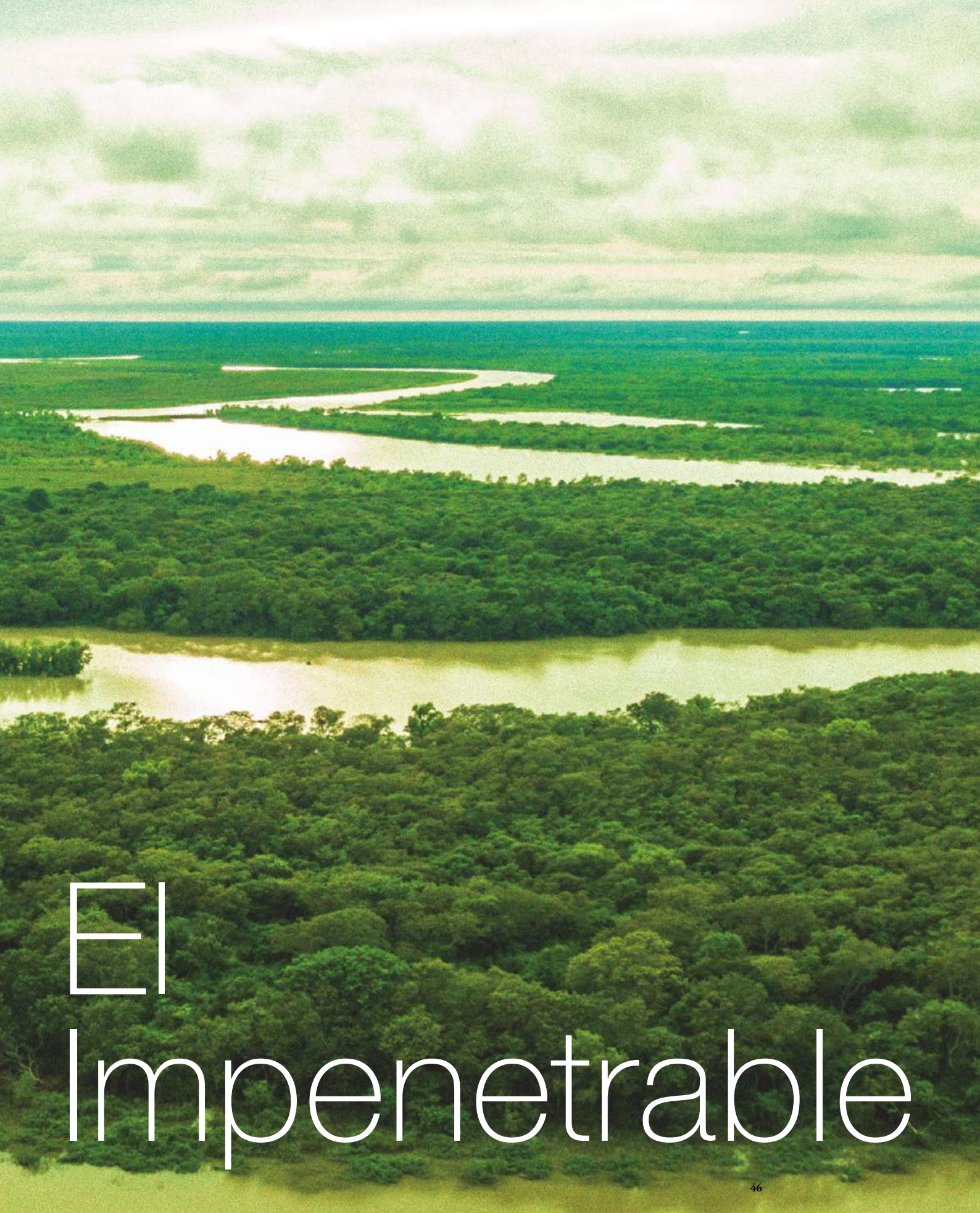


« The jaguar reintroduction project in Iberá Park, carried out jointly by the National Parks Administration and the Rewilding Argentina, is extremely important and significant for Argentina because it is the first of its kind worldwide, where there is an attempt to reintroduce a population in a place where it was already extinct. In a context where the species faces the danger of extinction, with fewer than 250 specimens throughout the country, this successful work is crucial to guarantee their survival and reproduction.

From the National Parks Administration, whose founding objective is the protection of the more than 18 million hectares under our guardianship, and all the flora and wildlife that comprise them, we are convinced that conservation is not only about protecting, but also about restoring what was destroyed or degraded by human hands, reintroducing species that have become extinct or supplementing those that are endangered.

The work we carry out jointly with Rewilding Argentina is a significant contribution to this mission, with different projects that have had a considerable impact, such as the reintroduction of the giant otter in Iberá, or the monitoring and study of penguins, South American fur seals, and control of exotic species in the Patagonia Azul. With each step we take, we renew this enormous commitment. »

—Cristian Larsen
President of the National Parks Administration



El Impenetrable

PROJECT START

2011

Ecoregion being restored

DRY CHACO

CURRENT PROTECTED AREA

128,000

Hectares (316,295 Acres)

DONORS

- DOB Ecology
- Fondation Segré
- Slobodan Randjelovic & Jon Stryker
- Turtle Conservancy

REWILDING SPECIES PROJECTS

- Jaguar
- Giant River Otter
- Guanaco
- Marsh Deer
- Red-footed Tortoise

— PHOTO: MATÍAS REBAK



— PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI

The Huella Impenetrable Trail connects local communities along a scenic trail through the Chaco forest following the Bermejito River, within the El Impenetrable National Park. Several crossings along the trail lead to the homes of local entrepreneurs who offer lodging, traditional gastronomy, and other cultural and natural tourism experiences.

INTRODUCTION

The Gran Chaco, home to South America's **second-largest forest**, remains one of the world's last great wildernesses. This biodiversity-rich region continues to face significant threats from **deforestation and poaching**. Since 2011, conservation efforts have focused on establishing and protecting El Impenetrable National Park, with Rewilding Argentina working alongside the National Parks Administration since 2017 to support the protection and restoration of the park, and the Chaco Province since 2012, to develop a local **restorative economy**.

Collaboration with the National Parks Administration and provincial authorities yielded **three key developments**: a new campground, a **15-kilometer (9.3-mile)** section of the **Huella Impenetrable Trail** connecting neighboring tourism services, and the authorization to commence the giant river otter and Pampas deer reintroduction projects.

Significant progress was made across **multiple species reintroduction projects**. Highlights in the jaguar project include the reintroduction of **females after more than three decades** of absence in the region and the **first wild jaguar translocation** between national parks. The giant river otter reintroduction project advanced with two individuals held in pre-release pens, while red-footed tortoises continued to be released and monitored, and guanacos were translocated from Patagonia Park Argentina. These combined efforts represent crucial steps in restoring the **complex ecological networks** that once characterized the Chaco forest.

Local economic transformation continued through the continuous improvement of the **nature tourism destination** and the implementation of the Entrepreneurs by Nature program. Thirty-six entrepreneurs provided tourism services while **31 created cultural products**, offering authentic wildlife viewing and cultural experiences. Nature tourism activities continued across **four gateways** in partnership with local communities, providing new employment opportunities through camping management, boat excursions, and cultural experiences. These initiatives, combined with the Entrepreneurs by Nature program's **67 consolidated local businesses**, advanced the transition from extractive practices to a conservation-based economy. These initiatives created employment **pathways** for local youth while fostering appreciation for both cultural and natural heritage.

The progress made in 2024 reaffirms El Impenetrable National Park's importance as a model for **conservation and community development** in one of the world's most threatened ecosystems. Protection efforts along the Bermejo River are positively impacting the neighboring Formosa Province and continue to strengthen the network of protected areas in the Gran Chaco, **enhancing connectivity** between different ecosystems and facilitating wildlife movement.

Park

15 kilometers (9.3 miles)
of new trail built

1 shelter constructed

52 boat patrols
conducted

66,6 km (41.4 miles)
monitored along
Bermejo River

2 books published

The first **15-kilometer section** of the Huella Impenetrable Trail was constructed and opened, establishing a new tourism route along the Bermejito River, on the park's southern boundary. The trail's strategic location strengthens **surveillance along the Bermejito River** while creating new **community-based tourism opportunities**. In collaboration with the National Parks Administration, a new **campground** was established in La Armonía Gateway at the start of the trail, while a shelter was constructed at the trail's endpoint, facilitating multi-day excursions. A **cultural amphitheater** was also built at La Armonía, creating a space for community events and strengthening connections between conservation and local culture.

Tourism infrastructure was strengthened at **local entrepreneurs' homes** to enhance visitor services. Los Tres Molles Camping received an outdoor common area equipped with grills and kitchen, dry bathroom, camping platforms, and signage, enabling the owner to offer meals, kayaking and hiking activities, and accommodation. **Six tourism providers**

received business signage, decorative artworks, and dining service equipment, while a local dining area was renovated, **expanding their service capacity**. These improvements allow community members to **directly benefit** from increasing tourism in the area.

The **San Jorge port** in La Fidelidad Gateway was improved through the installation of railings, platforms, stairs, and mooring posts. This port facilitates the monitoring of the Bermejo River while providing new access for boat tours, creating additional tourism opportunities for the **La Armonía Neighbors Association** who manage La Fidelidad Campground.

Fifty-two boat patrols were conducted along the northern border of the Bermejo River, documenting **207 encounters** with recreational hunters and fishers. The presence of patrol boats -and tourism boat excursions- deters many of these users from engaging in illegal activities, since they prefer to avoid detection. Information was provided to them about park regulations and species reintroduction projects. **Nine team members** received honorary park ranger appointments from the Chaco Province, enhancing patrol authority and strengthening the network of local informants essential for wildlife protection.

A comprehensive **threat assessment** of 43 beaches (66.6 km/ 41.38 miles) of the National Park along the Bermejo River was completed. It revealed a **decrease in threats** compared to previous years. The monitoring documented both domestic animal presence (dogs, horses, cattle, and donkeys) and unauthorized human activities (fishing evidence on **9% of beaches** and other presence on **16%**). These findings inform National Parks Administration's **protection strategies** while guiding river patrol schedules and the development of alternative tourism activities, such as boat excursions, that increase **authorized presence along the river**.

Two books were published in collaboration with the **Government of Chaco**, both featuring forewords by the Governor of the Chaco Province. The first one communicates the **conservation and local development vision** for the National Park and its buffer zone, highlighting the area's natural and cultural heritage and its nature tourism potential. The second one is a **photographic book** highlighting the area's landscapes, wildlife, and rewilding efforts.

- El Impenetrable National Park
- River
- Lagoon
- Grassland
- Provincial Border
- Paved Road
- Dirt Road
- Scenic Route
- Airfield
- Harbour
- Gateway
- Future Gateway
- National Park Ranger Station
- Biological Station
- Glamping
- Camping
- Future Camping
- City or Town
- Hamlet
- Shelter



Wildlife

- 2 female jaguars released
- 5 GPS-collared jaguars
- 1st wild jaguar translocation between national parks completed
- 1 female giant river otter incorporated to the project
- 14 guanacos translocated
- 8 red-footed tortoises released
- 44 new species recorded in the National Park

— PHOTO: SEBASTIÁN NAVAJAS

Keraná, the first jaguar to be released in El Impenetrable National Park, arrived in Iberá in 2022 from Paraguay, alongside her two brothers—Ñaró and Colí.





— PHOTO: MIRANDA VOLPE

The gates of the Jaguar Reintroduction Center were opened alongside national and provincial authorities to release a female jaguar. Nalá, the offspring of Tania (a captive-bred female) and Qaramtá (a wild male), was raised without human contact and fed with live prey to develop her hunting skills. Nalá and Keraná are the first female jaguars to roam the Argentine Chaco after decades of absence.



SPECIES BASELINE

Forty-four new species were documented in the park, including 43 arthropods and one plant, bringing the total documented biodiversity to 1,964 species since baseline studies began in 2017. These ongoing surveys continue to expand scientific understanding of the region's biodiversity.



JAGUAR

Five captive wild jaguars (**three females and two males**) were translocated from Iberá Park to El Impenetrable National Park, while one male was transferred to the Jaguar Reintroduction Center in Iberá, in the opposite direction. This included the **first-ever wild jaguar capture and translocation** for conservation purposes globally, and the first translocation of any wild animal between national parks in Argentina, establishing a crucial milestone for restoring wildlife populations in the country. These movements reinforce the **genetic variability** of both reintroduced populations, and are the first steps towards establishing a wildlife corridor between both parks.

The first **two females** were released in El Impenetrable National Park, joining the three wild males that roam the protected area attracted by the females in the pre-release pens. **These are the first females recorded in the area after 34 years of absence**, establishing the foundation for a breeding population. Local and national authorities joined community members at the releases, reinforcing institutional support for jaguar restoration. The five free-roaming jaguars are being monitored through camera traps and GPS collars to enhance co-existence with local people and study the ecological impact of the predator's return to the Chaco forest. Genetic samples have been collected from all animals to establish a genetic baseline for the population.



GUANACO

Another **fourteen guanacos** were translocated from Patagonia Park Argentina in order to recover the population of this keystone herbivore. Eleven of these animals adapted well to their new environment (three animals were lost to fence entanglements, poor body condition, and puma predation), and the first offspring was born in the pre-release enclosure. These initial results demonstrate that the species can successfully adapt to their new environment to reestablish their historic range.



GIANT RIVER OTTER

The giant otter reintroduction project was **approved** by the National Parks Administration. A **female from Los Angeles Zoo** was incorporated to the project, joining the female that was already part of the project in her pre-release pen. A new pre-release enclosure is being built for two males to join both females. The first individuals will be released once these future breeding pairs establish family groups.



RED-FOOTED TORTOISE

Eight red-footed tortoises were released, bringing the free-ranging population to **45 individuals**. Multiple mating events and egg-laying have been documented in the free population, though successful hatching has not yet been observed. A cohort of six tortoises entered pre-release facilities, while 40 adult tortoises from Refugio Urutaú (Paraguay) began their quarantine period. This third group's larger size and balanced sex ratio will significantly reinforce the reintroduced population, while future efforts will focus on locating and protecting nests to support successful reproduction.



GRASSLAND RESTORATION

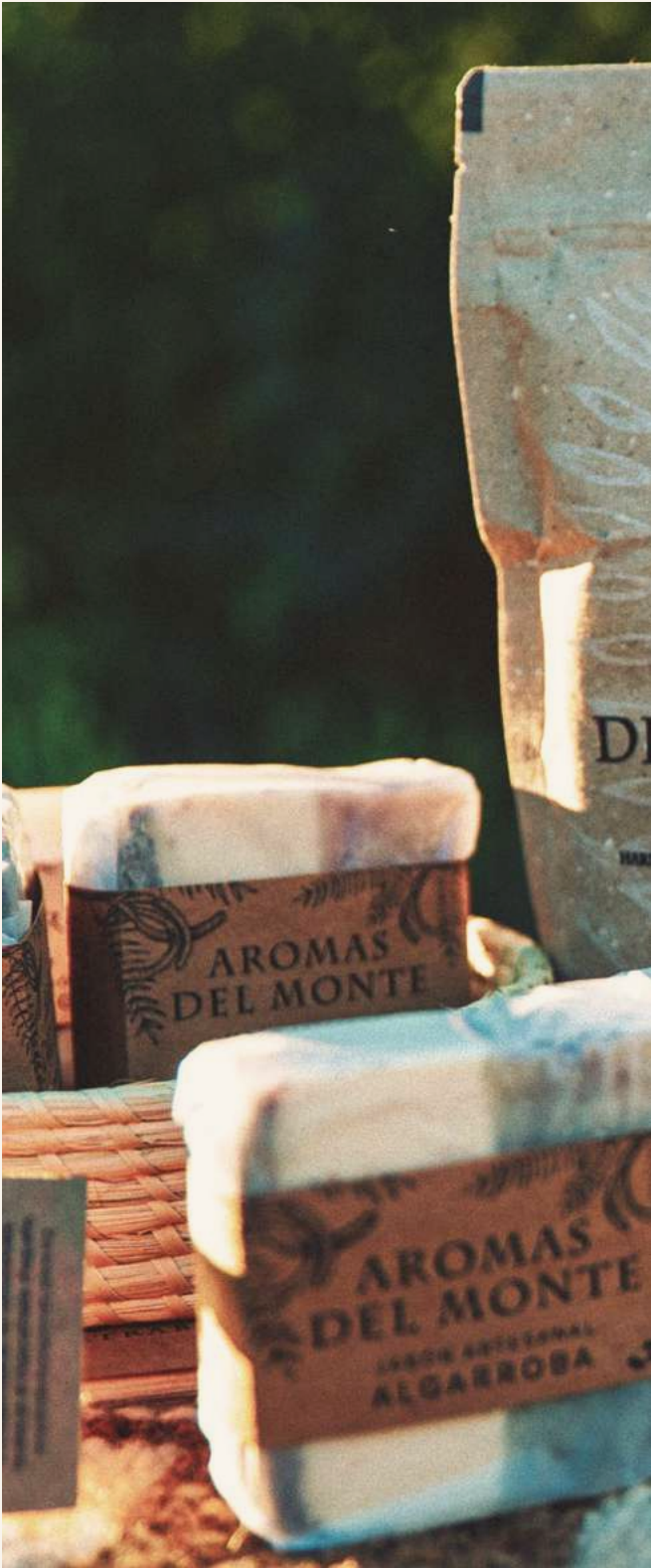
Grassland restoration continued, with 130 hectares (321 acres) recovered through mechanical clearing, bringing the total restored area to **270 hectares (667 acres)** since the project's inception. Many grasslands within the park have been encroached by native shrubs dispersed by cattle, causing the loss of critical habitat for native herbivores, including guanacos and pampas deer.

Restorative Economy

- 2,037 visitors to the park
- 1,659 visitors to La Fidelidad Campground
- 667 guests at El Bermejito and Los Palmares glamping sites
- 36 consolidated tourism providers and 31 artisans in the Entrepreneurs by Nature program
- 117 training sessions with 1,381 participants
- 12 cultural exchanges
- 6,697 kilograms of Algarrobo tree legume collected by 65 families

— PHOTO: NATALIA TRZCINA

Local Algarrobo products transform the forest's bounty into sustainable livelihoods for communities surrounding El Impenetrable National Park. These products represent a growing conservation-based economy where the standing forest provides income to local families.







— PHOTO: NATALIA TRZCINA

A local community member harvests the nutrient-rich algarrobo legume, the foundation of a new sustainable economy in El Impenetrable. This traditional practice transforms forest resources into value-added products while creating economic alternatives to logging, revitalizing ecological knowledge that strengthens the connection between people and their natural heritage.

RESTORATIVE ECONOMY

El Impenetrable National Park welcomed **2,037 visitors** despite Argentina's economic challenges and heavy rains during peak season that limited the access to the park. La Fidelidad Campground, located inside the national park and where the **La Armonía Neighbors Association** manages all operations and provides tourism and gastronomy services, received **1,659 visitors**. This community-run enterprise creates direct **economic opportunities** through locally-operated services. The renewed San Jorge port enabled access to the Bermejo River, through **121 guided boat excursions** for **281 visitors**. Rewilding Experience tourism agency, which combines nature and cultural tourism linked to conservation projects, operated the glamping facilities at El Bermejito and Los Palmares, hosting **667 guests**.

The Entrepreneurs by Nature program continued to strengthen local initiatives. **Thirty-six tourism providers** (24 tourism operators and 12 local cooks) together with **31 artisans** became fully established businesses, out of which **63% are women-led**. Local products and services generated **USD 33,614** in direct community revenue through multiple channels. The program's emphasis has shifted from expansion to **consolidation, providing year-round training and support** to help local community members develop sustainable businesses aligned with conservation goals. By fostering stable, community-led enterprises, the program creates **lasting economic opportunities** that support both local development and **environmental protection**.

One hundred and seventeen training sessions were delivered to **1,381 local participants**, building essential skills in gastronomy, site guiding, ceramics, weaving, and bio-construction. **Twelve knowledge exchange** opportunities were completed through five fair participations and seven exchange programs. These included collaborations with **Indigenous weaving collectives** - SachaMama weavers from Santiago del Estero and the Qom community of Chaco, both who maintain traditional artisanal practices - as well as participation in gastronomy forums and the Resistencia Biennial, and culinary training in Castelli. Seven tourism providers gained operational insights through visits

to Islas y Canales Verdes del Río Uruguay Provincial Natural Park, while another seven entrepreneurs completed working experience programs at Patagonia Park Argentina during peak tourism season. These combined training efforts **create pathways for communities to participate in conservation-based tourism**.

Ten local families established cultural tourism experiences in their homes, preserving traditional practices through direct visitor engagement. Among these cultural entrepreneurs, **four artisans** pioneered new offerings: traditional loom weaving demonstrations under Algarrobo trees, natural dye workshops using local plants, and guided nature walks paired with tea service and weaving demonstrations. These home-based experiences create **authentic cultural exchanges** while providing sustainable income alternatives for local families.

Cultural products gained recognition through **five prestigious exhibitions**, positioning local artisans in national art and cultural spaces. Participation in the "Treasures of Gran Chaco" exhibition, Palacio Libertad's "La Tierra Tiñe," International Sculpture Biennial, Bioferia, and ArteCo Fair showcased traditional techniques while building market presence for local products. These platforms elevate local craftsmanship to the national stage, **validating traditional knowledge** and expanding market opportunities.

The Algarrobo tree legume harvesting campaign was completed, with **65 families** actively participating in the collection efforts. The harvest yielded **6,697 kilograms**, generating **USD 3,719** in direct community income. A study was developed to evaluate the production and harvesting potential of the Algarrobo legume in the park's buffer zone. The study evaluated health conditions, canopy size, and diameter distribution of **2,171 trees**. Results indicated a production potential of **51,948.5 kilograms** annually. Establishing a local economy based on the Algarrobo legume, would significantly **reduce logging** of this species (a great threat within the buffer area of the park), and increase the well-being of local communities by providing an alternative to their current income, usually based on government support, subsistence cattle ranching and logging.

Community Well-being

- 121 children reached through 6 rewilding talks
- 60 students participated in mural painting at Nueva Población School
- 2 waste management projects developed by 5 students
- 4 new experiences offered by the Nature Club program
- 13 families supported through regular communication regarding jaguar coexistence
- 2 community events celebrating historic female jaguars releases

— PHOTO: MIRANDA VOLPE

Dancers perform traditional Chaqueño folklore in celebration of Nala's release, a festive event that brought together the local community with regional food and music. These cultural expressions honor the return of jaguars to El Impenetrable while strengthening community ties to conservation efforts, demonstrating how ecological restoration and cultural revival can move forward together.







The Nature Club's mission is to foster a connection between local youth and the native forest and wildlife of El Impenetrable, while offering a comprehensive introduction to nature and cultural tourism.

— PHOTO: MIRANDA VOLPE

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Six rewilding talks were delivered to rural schools, reaching 121 children and completing outreach to all 37 schools in the area. Presentations focused on jaguar coexistence and ongoing conservation projects, building crucial support amongst local communities for the return of wildlife. A mural was painted at Nueva Población School with 60 students, and five students developed two waste management projects focused on separation and bin design. These combined efforts created practical connections between students and conservation, fostering environmental awareness through hands-on participation.

The Nature Club program offered four new experiences: a photography course, a documentary screening, a bird watching session, and a recreational gathering at Los Algarrobos Campground. These activities create pathways for local youth to engage with the national park and tourism opportunities. Three young women from the club started providing tourism services, demonstrating how early exposure to nature-based activities can lead to employment in conservation. Specialized training in kayaking was provided at Los Palmares gateway, expanding available tourism services.

Regular communication was maintained with 13 families who are coexisting with jaguars. This ongoing dialogue is crucial to the success of the jaguar reintroduction project as it allows local people to communicate with the Rewilding Argentina team as soon as they have any concern

about the species, significantly reducing the probabilities of human-wildlife conflict. Indeed, a family who had suffered livestock losses due to jaguar predation was invited to visit the jaguar reintroduction project, leading to regular communication about jaguar movements and the implementation of smart predator-livestock management practices.

Community celebrations were organized surrounding the release of the two female jaguars, attended by the Governor of Chaco Province, the President of the National Parks Administration, and local residents. The La Armonía Amphitheater was inaugurated during one of these celebrations, with the attendance of the mayors of Nueva Pompeya and Miraflores. Celebrations are crucial to build local community and political support for the conservation projects, and reinforce community bonds and cultural pride. Additionally, the park's 10th anniversary celebration brought together staff, neighbors, NGOs, and visitors, strengthening community support through participation in local services and products.

The Algarroba Cultural Festival (Peña Algarrobera) was organized to celebrate the harvest season, drawing 250 community members together at La Armonía Amphitheater. Local entrepreneurs showcased traditional algarrobo pod based foods, accompanied by traditional music and dance. This annual festival enhances the bond between conservation initiatives, cultural tradition, and economic opportunities.



— PHOTO: AGUSTINA MIGUENS

LIVES, REWILDED: THE STORY OF NORMA LUQUE

Where were you born? What was your life like as a child?

I was born in La Escondida, a town of humble people, on July 4, 1973, into a family of seven sisters—I'm the sixth. My mother was a woman of the countryside, and my father worked at a tanning factory. My childhood is filled with memories of the countryside at my grandmother's place, La Pastoril, where butchering cattle was a celebration whenever we visited. She had fields abundant with squash, cassava, corn, beans, and sweet potatoes. Our greatest joy was selecting vegetables for our meals, gathering around the fire to roast corn on the cob, and baking sweet potatoes in the ashes to eat with fresh cow's milk.

My mother was one of those hardworking housewives and a passionate mother. Though she hadn't finished primary school, she was determined that all seven of her daughters would complete secondary school, higher education, and become independent. She instilled in us a love for work and study. In our humble childhood home, three images stand clear in my memory: my mother tending the garden plot to grow what would grace our table, an old cabinet filled with high school and teaching books (despite our limited means, we had books, and frequently visited the library), and the green patio where our great treasure—still existing today—was numerous grapefruit trees and a well that provided water for all our needs.

We didn't have much, but at the same time, we had everything. I don't remember ever feeling scarcity because I had a mother who cared for us and ensured we never lacked bread on the table, school supplies, or clothes that she made herself. A sewing machine, a pasta maker, a mud oven, and a table full of simple but delicious dishes with my mother in action are part of what my memory evokes from my childhood.

How did you come to know Rewilding Argentina?

In 2021, I completed 25 years as a teacher and could retire. I still felt lots of energy to work and I wanted to dedicate my time to something different that would make me completely happy. I discovered cooking as a new passion and I decided to start a meal service—healthy meals suitable for celiacs and anyone wanting to care for their health. Since my clients enjoyed what I prepared, I decided to improve my skills and study gastronomy. I began studying at the Gastronomic Institute of the Americas, pursuing a diploma in gastronomy and haute cuisine. For two years, I traveled on weekends to Corrientes city for my cooking classes while working on my enterprise, which I named "Comidas Doña Franci" in honor of my mother.

Years earlier, I had participated in the first Chaco Gastronomy Forum in El Impenetrable, where I met Alina Ruiz (a local chef who collaborated with Rewilding Argentina). I was amazed by her story and her Km 0 project, so I decided to contact her and offer myself as a volunteer to continue learning. She responded with a different proposal that surprised me—she had recommended that I work at Los Palmares glamping site, part of managed by Rewilding Experience.

How did you imagine your life would be, and what is it like now?

I never could have imagined the life I've built—studying, working, having my home. Obviously, circumstances led me toward a quiet life in Miraflores, working as a teacher, and being a mother. I've always lived in small towns and love quiet places. I never planned on being a mother, but life gave me that gift; I never imagined being a cook, and today I love cooking. I've always lived surrounded by nature, but it's in this stage of my life that I've reconnected with it and started to value it more. This new work has brought me closer to it and helped me look at where I live from a different perspective and with more love. Today I am happier than yesterday.

How do you imagine the future of El Impenetrable National Park?

El Impenetrable National Park is the great treasure of the Chaco region, but many of us still don't know it. Its creation has opened many doors for local neighbors, offering them the possibility to undertake tourism services for visitors. Everything is only beginning, and in the future, this will grow much more, especially when more local neighbors discover how fortunate we are to have a protected area like this park, and when the wonders of this forest are spread even more to all corners of Argentina and the world. It's an area of great relevance for conservation that allows us to investigate and protect the largest natural remnant of the Chaco forest.

What would you say to anyone in the world reading this?

I hope this work continues to strengthen and that awareness among local inhabitants and humanity in general creates paths that increasingly reduce deforestation, the danger to endangered animals, and foster real and respectful coexistence between humans and nature.

Objectives 2025

Establish

certification programs for specialized wildlife guides, boat tour guides and hosts/hostesses to enhance the visitor experience in El Impenetrable National Park.

Expand

the Huella Impenetrable Trail by 15 kilometers and inaugurate its end-point shelter, which will accommodate 16 people

Strengthen

and expand the Algarrobo project through the preparation of 2,100 trees for harvest, training of harvesting groups, signing of agreements with landowners, and development, marketing and commercialization of the product.

Translocate

a new wild female jaguar from Iberá National Park to El Impenetrable National Park and release three additional females.

Construct

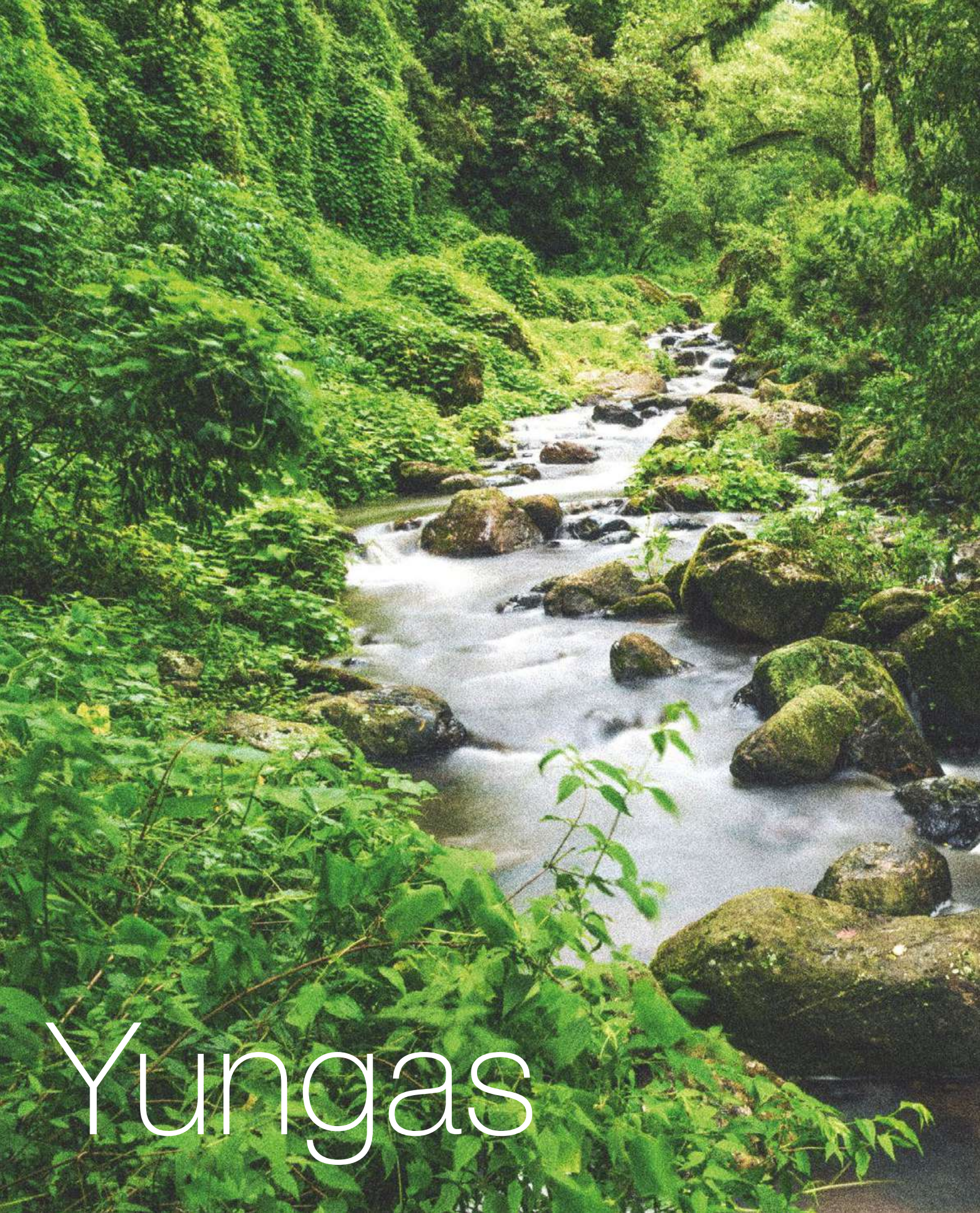
a second giant river otter enclosure and establish two breeding pairs.

Release

the first two giant river otter family groups.







Yungas



PROJECT START

2024

Ecoregion being restored

SOUTHERN ANDEAN YUNGAS

**CURRENT
PROTECTED AREA**

4,852

Hectares (11,990 Acres)

DONORS

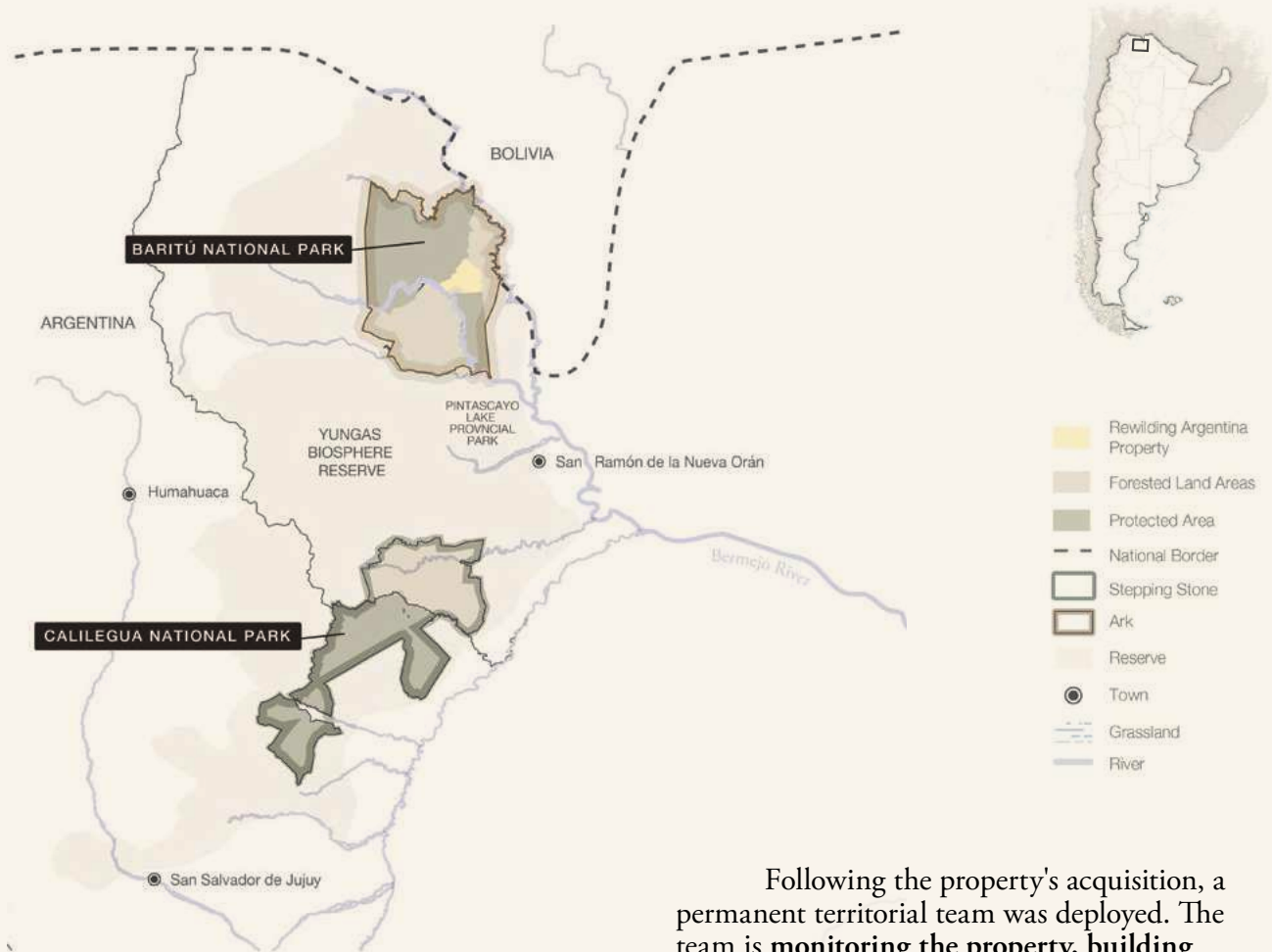
- Rainforest Trust
- Holdfast Collective
- The Gatinais Foundation

Park



— PHOTO: SOFÍA HEINONEN

The dense vegetation of the Yungas creates a lush green tapestry that harbors extraordinary biodiversity. Through this new territorial project, vital habitats for endangered and iconic species are being preserved.



The Yungas, stretching along the eastern slopes of the Andes Mountains, represents one of Argentina's most extraordinary yet threatened ecosystems. These cloud forests harbor an astounding **50% of the country's biodiversity**, creating a crucial transition zone between the high Andes and the drier Chaco forest. However, this irreplaceable landscape faces **mounting pressure from deforestation and ecosystem degradation due to the use of these forests for raising cattle.**

Rewilding Argentina has initiated a new territorial long-term project in this ecoregion to build a strategic stepping stone within the Jaguar Rivers Mission initiative. As a first step, **4,852 hectares (11,990 acres) of high integrity forest were acquired.** Existing timber exploitation contracts within the property were revoked, halting forest degradation and preserving critical wildlife corridors.

Following the property's acquisition, a permanent territorial team was deployed. The team is **monitoring the property, building essential relationships with neighbors and local authorities, and collecting baseline information on wildlife presence and threats to the ecosystem.**

A base camp is being established. **Solar-panels, internet and a hot water supply system have been installed,** two strategic helicopter landing zones were defined -one at the main camp and another near the Pescado River, **facilitating rapid response for both conservation activities and potential emergencies.** A central workshop and storage facility, communal kitchen, dining area, and four residential units with eco-friendly dry bathrooms will be established.

The territorial team established working relationships with **local residents** near the **Río Pescado** area, focusing on **collaboration and sustainable** land use practices. Regular coordination with Argentine and Bolivian border authorities has been established to facilitate **conservation activities** in this national border area.

Wildlife



CAMERA TRAPS

A network of **50 camera traps** has been installed to document the wildlife present on the property. So far the presence of **jaguar, puma, ocelot, margay, tapir, white lipped and collared peccary, red brocket, giant anteater, southern tamandua, tayra, neotropical river otter, azara's capuchin and king vulture** have been confirmed, reinforcing the area's importance as a **refuge for endangered wildlife**. Vegetation surveys were completed, revealing a **great diversity which include tree ferns and a myriad of epiphytes**. Key waterways, including the Pescado River and Arazayal River tributaries, have been explored, documenting **significant populations of valuable timber species that have survived exploitation**. A proposal to capture and collar jaguars was submitted to provincial authorities. The Yungas has one of Argentina's last jaguar populations. **The goal is to assess connectivity within the Jaguar Rivers Mission to establish wildlife corridors for jaguars and other species.**



— PHOTOS: REWILDING ARGENTINA

The Yungas hosts one of Argentina's most complete forest ecosystems, with apex predators like jaguars and pumas alongside herbivores and scavengers that sustain ecological balance. Camera traps have documented a rich biodiversity, confirming its role as a vital refuge for endangered wildlife and a key link in the Jaguar Rivers Mission.





Alto Iguazú

PROJECT START

2024

Ecoregion being restored

ATLANTIC FOREST

— PHOTO: FEDERICO THOMAS



— PHOTO: FEDERICO THOMAS

Rewilding Argentina's new strategic conservation effort aims to establish a biodiversity corridor connecting Iguazú National Park, in Argentina, with Do Iguazú National Park in Brazil, protecting critical habitat while securing vital watershed functions.

INTRODUCTION

The Atlantic Forest, spanning **Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina**, stands as one of the world's most biodiverse yet imperiled ecosystems. This remarkable forest harbors **20,000 plant species (40% endemic) and over 2,000 vertebrate species**, including **298 mammal species, 1,023 bird species, and nearly 800 species of amphibians and reptiles**, with endemism rates reaching up to 60%. Despite its ecological significance, the Atlantic Forest faces **severe fragmentation, having lost 90% of its original coverage, with Misiones Province alone losing 23% of its forest cover in the last two decades**. Even the region's largest protected areas, **Iguazú and Do Iguazú National Parks**, continue to experience significant wildlife decline, particularly among birds and mammals, while facing mounting pressure from **poaching and land conversion**. This unique ecosystem plays a crucial role in the region's **water cycle**, with its forests feeding the mighty Paraná River system that sustains life throughout the **La Plata River Basin**.

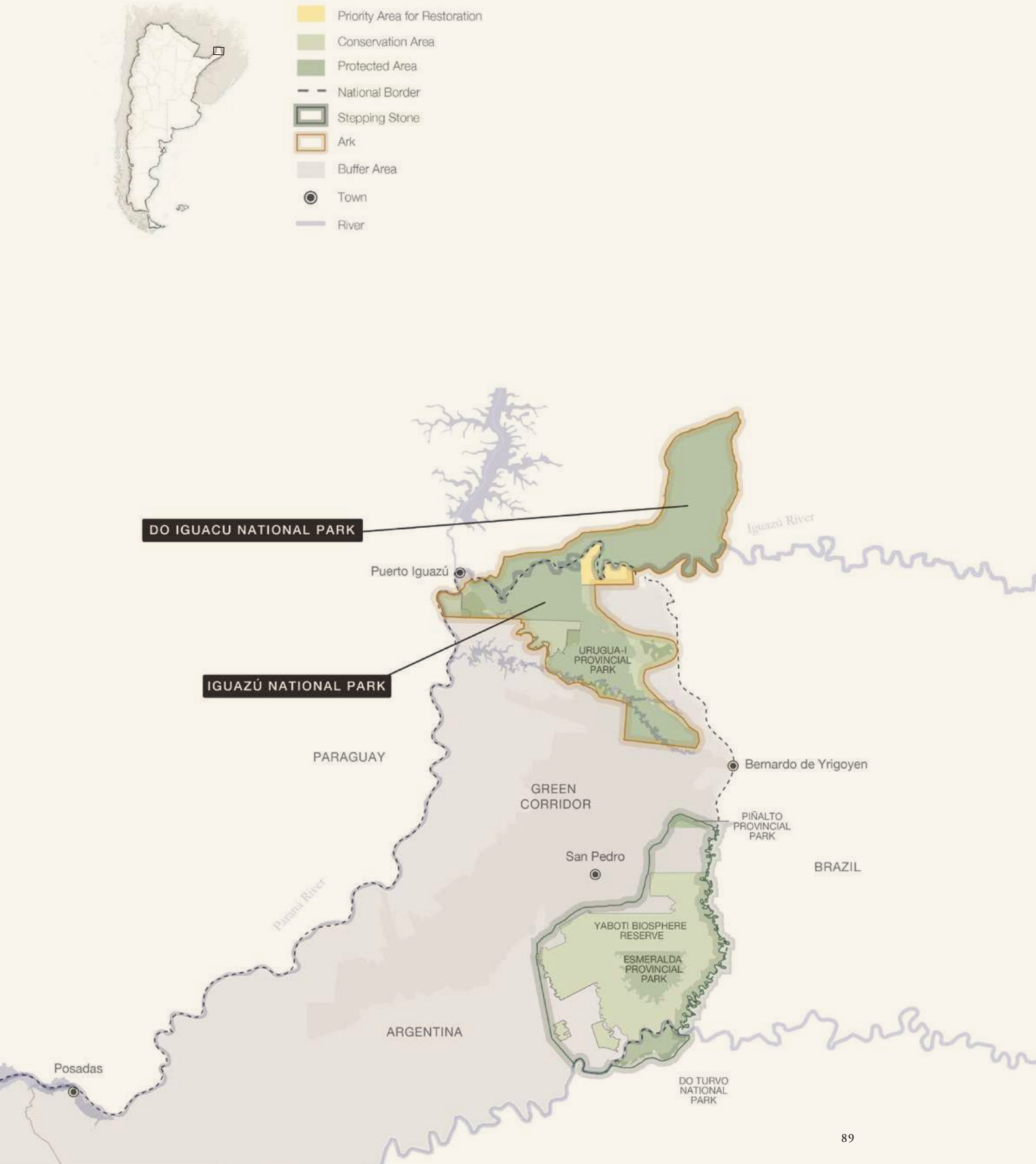
Park

Rewilding Argentina aims to start a new long-term project in the Atlantic Forest, in Misiones Province, which is an essential ecoregion within the **Jaguar Rivers Mission**.

Two site visits were completed to identify the main threats to the ecosystems and opportunities for conservation.

Foundational relationships were established with local stakeholders —mostly NGO's, and provincial and national government representatives— in order to build a collaborative conservation vision for the region. Land parcels in Misiones Province are much smaller than in the rest of Argentina (**average 100 hectares - 247 acres**), so collaboration is essential to achieve significant impact.

A strategic first acquisition of 170 hectares (420 acres) was identified within a priority interest area of 11,000 hectares (27,181 acres). The goal is to establish a **biodiversity corridor** of continuous Atlantic forest within the interest area in collaboration with local stakeholders. The location of the first property of interest strengthens the connectivity between two major national parks; **Iguazú in Argentina and Do Iguazú in Brazil** and one provincial park; **Urugua-i**. Together, these protected areas form a **continuous forest expanse of 320,000 hectares (790,737 acres)**. Furthermore, the property is located along the **Iguazú River**, a key area in which poachers illegally access the national parks to hunt.



« What was believed to be a utopia, a dream, at the time of the park's creation, today is becoming a reality, which has already housed hundreds of life-changing stories for neighbors who for years were left behind. Today, men and women from places near the park choose to stay and live on their land, train themselves, get educated and offer services and products to tourists who travel there. »

—Leandro Zdero

Governor of Chaco Province



Patagonia Azul

PROJECT START

2019

Ecoregion being restored

MAGELLANIC ATLANTIC LITTORAL**CURRENT PROTECTED AREA**

3,1

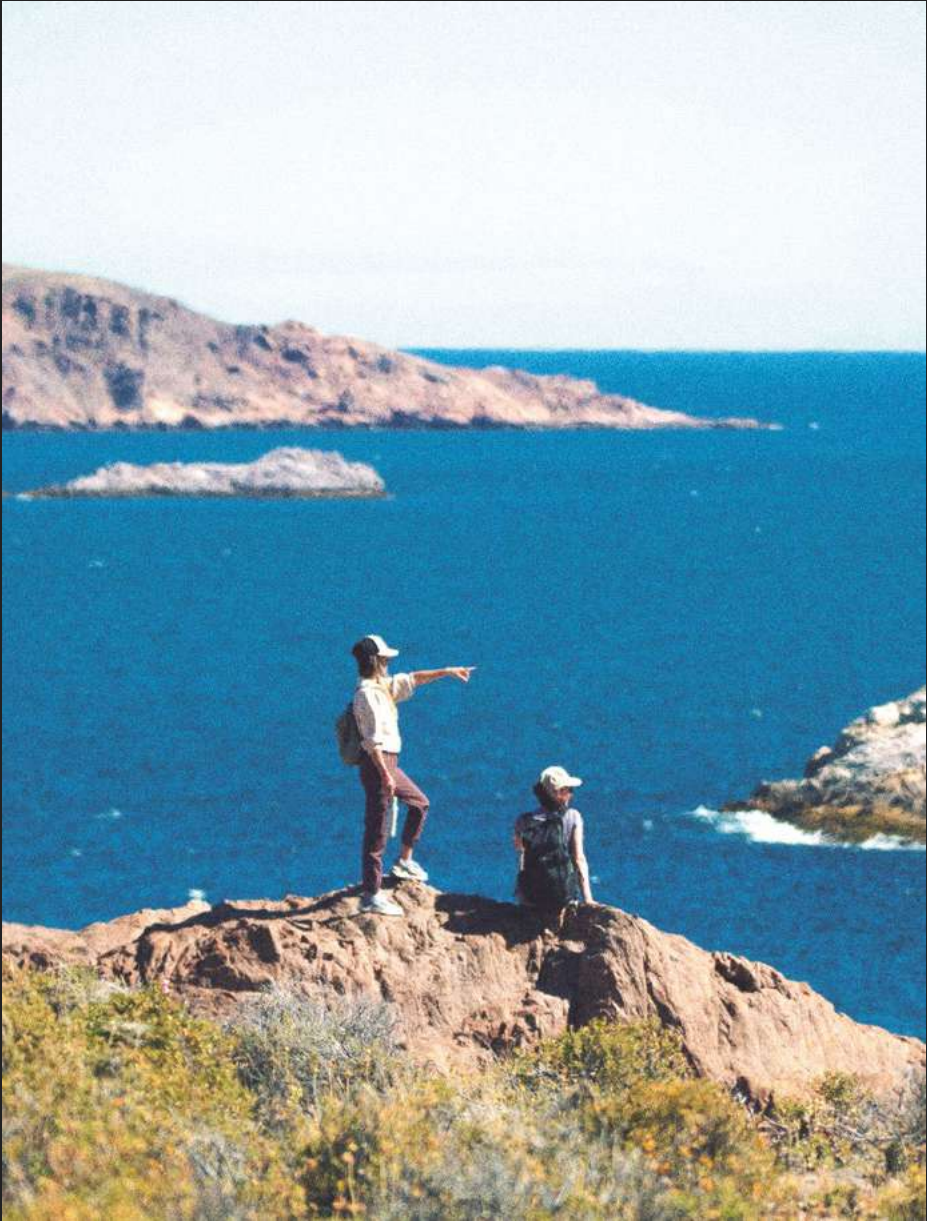
Million Hectares
(7,773,947 Acres)

DONORS

- Blue Marine Foundation
- Coexistence Story
- David & Sue Rockefeller
- Dona Bertarelli Philanthropy
- Elsa and George Feher (of blessed memory)
- Nancy Schwab
- Oak Foundation
- Paul Angell M. Family Foundation
- The Plum Foundation
- Wyss Campaign for Nature

REWILDING SPECIES PROJECTS

- Humpback Whale
- Sei Whale
- South American Fur Seal
- Magellanic Penguin
- Southern Giant Petrel
- Imperial Shag
- Broadnose Sevengill Shark
- School Shark
- *Gracilaria gracilis*



— PHOTO: LAUTARO MARCH

The Isla Leones Gateway is one of the two accesses to the Patagonia Azul area. It features coastal trails, biking circuits, and accomodations, distributed throughout the steppe and coast.

INTRODUCTION

The Patagonia Azul project is situated within the Patagonia Azul Biosphere Reserve, a vast area spanning **3,1 million hectares (7,665,221 acres)** in Chubut Province. Within this biosphere reserve lies the Patagonia Interjurisdictional Coastal Marine Park, encompassing 105,328 hectares (260,271 acres) and featuring over 180 kilometers (112 miles) of coastline. It includes 60 islands and bays, surrounded by extensive kelp forests and algae meadows, which serve as **crucial feeding and breeding grounds for numerous species of large fish, marine birds, and mammals**. However, despite their nominal status, these rich ecosystems remain vulnerable, lacking effective protection.

Over the past five years, Rewilding Argentina secured three strategic properties protecting **44,000 hectares (108,000 acres)** of coastal land through a comprehensive approach that combines land protection, marine conservation, and the development of a local restorative economy. Two gateways—Isla Leones and Bahía Bustamante—were established, featuring public-use infrastructure that connects visitors to these unique ecosystems where the Patagonian steppe meets the sea.

Relationships with **provincial and national governments**, and conservation organizations were strengthened to achieve the goal of protecting the Argentine Sea through **marine protected areas (MPAs)**. Research on **keystone and charismatic marine species** continued, identifying critical habitats for protection. Insular restoration progressed significantly, with a **second island now free of exotic species** and vegetation recovering rapidly, particularly benefiting seabird colonies.

The Patagonia Azul project has begun catalyzing a shift toward **diversifying the regional economy**, which has historically depended on industrial fishing and sheep ranching. Tourism visitation increased **nearly tenfold**, creating new livelihood options for local communities. New facilities and entrepreneurship programs generated additional income for Camarones residents while strengthening their connection to the sea. This economic development has built **growing local support for conservation** while demonstrating the potential for protected marine ecosystems to generate sustainable prosperity.

Park

- 1 technical document drafted on flagship species protection
- 6 cabins with 18 beds constructed— Marisma Camps
- 1 lodge opened to the public in the Isla Leones Gateway – Isla Leones Camps
- 1 existing public wild campground equipped with recreational vehicle facilities
- 8 kilometers (5 miles) of new trails built
- 40 kilometers (25 miles) of internal fences removed
- 18,000 hectares (44,479 acres) being restored
- 1 boat warehouse constructed to support marine research

Technical assistance was provided to **Misión Atlántico**, a national organization focused on marine protection, in the development of a bill to protect **200,000 km² of the Argentine Sea** through the expansion of the Yaganes MPA and creation of **six additional protected areas**. While this legislation did not advance due to shifting government priorities regarding the 30x30 agenda, it established a precedent for future conservation efforts.



A **strategic relationship** was established with the newly appointed Director of the **National Parks Administration**, who visited the Patagonia Azul gateways to experience the project firsthand. Separately, the Chubut provincial government commissioned a study from the **Inter-American Development Bank** on marine ecosystem services and values in the region. This initiative demonstrated growing governmental interest in marine protection and provided additional scientific support for creating new protected areas in Chubut.

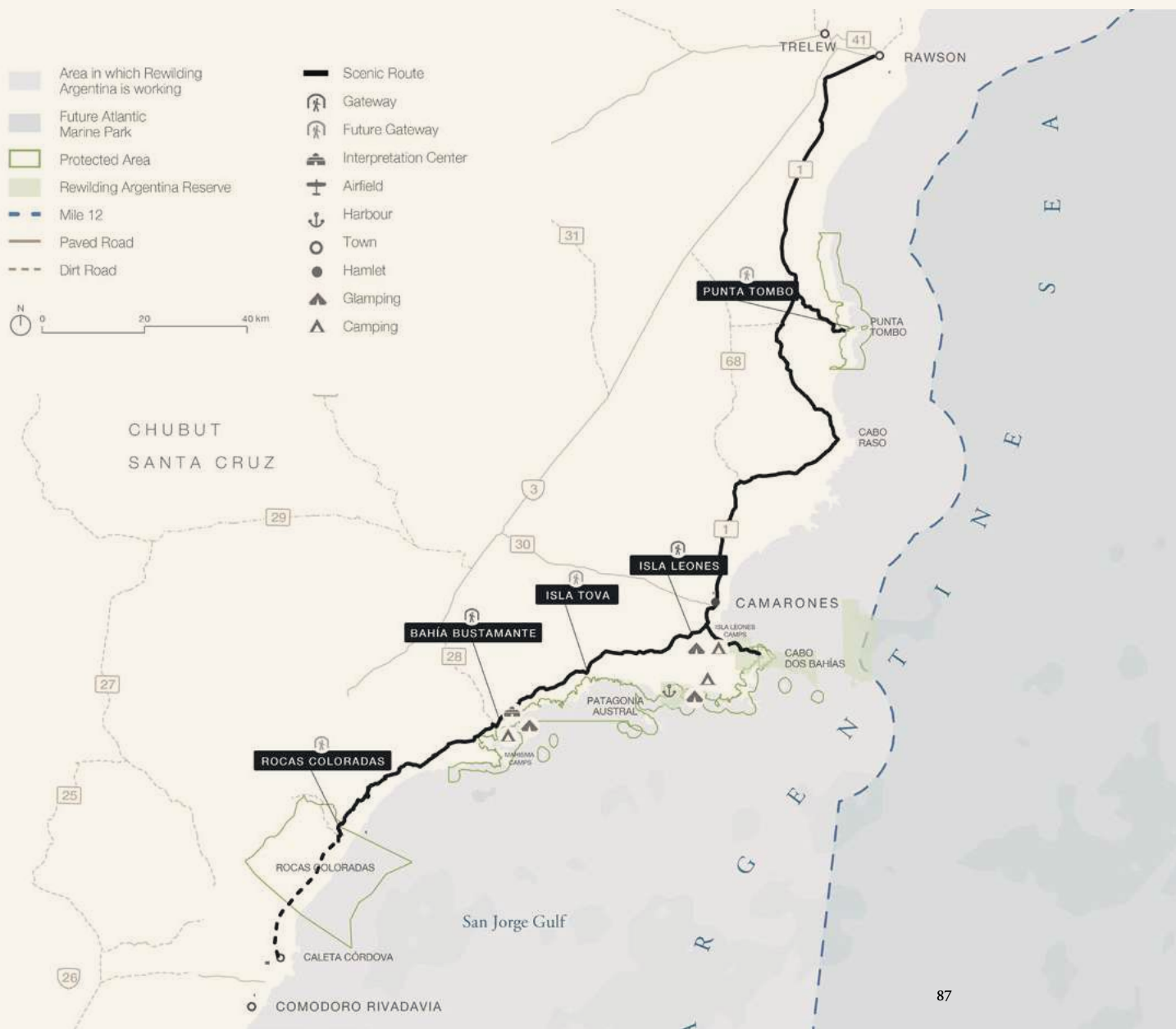
A **comprehensive technical document** was drafted to provide evidence-based arguments on the key ecological and economic value of **flagship species**, including the flightless steamer duck, Commerson's dolphin, South American fur seal, giant kelp, broadnose sevengill shark, humpback whale, sei whale, and southern giant petrel, and the urgency for their legal protection. Information was collected from monitoring activities throughout Patagonia Azul, and data was gathered from various researchers to establish the scientific foundation for proposed monument species protection laws.

An **eight-kilometer (five-mile) trail network** was built in the Isla Leones Gateway, connecting visitors to coastal landscapes and wildlife. The **Isla Leones Camps**—which features six oceanfront cabins with 12 bed—was opened to the public and is being managed by the **Rewilding Experience tourism agency**, ensuring high-quality visitor experiences while creating revenue that funds the conservation and restoration work in Patagonia Azul.

The **Marisma Camps** was constructed in the Bahía Bustamante Gateway, which will be inaugurated in early 2025. It includes a living and dining area, **six cabins with 18 beds** and private bathrooms, a staff house with storage area, and a lookout point with fire pit and parking. The **Arroyo Marea public wild campground** was equipped with recreational vehicle facilities to accommodate a broader range of visitors. **Three staff houses** were constructed at this gateway to support operations. The development of visitor infrastructure **supports the long-term sustainability** of Patagonia Azul's conservation efforts, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship between tourism and **environmental stewardship**.

To facilitate wildlife movement, **40 kilometers (25 miles) of internal fences** were removed from the San Miguel property (18,000 hectares or 44,479 acres). Additionally, a **boat warehouse** was constructed on the property to **support marine research** activities and provide better access to Tova Island for ongoing monitoring and invasive species management work.

Additionally, as part of ongoing **ecosystem restoration** efforts, all sheep were completely removed from the San Miguel property (18,000 hectares/44,479 acres), thus allowing native vegetation to recover and creating improved habitat for wildlife throughout this extensive coastal area.



Wildlife

- 28 new humpback whales registered
- 7 humpback whale biopsies collected
- 7 months of continuous whale sound recordings collected
- 11 sei whales identified
- 48 seabirds fitted with GPS devices
- 7 live-feed cameras installed in nesting sites
- 4 islands ecosystems being restored
- 78 Magellanic penguin nests monitored

— PHOTO: GONZALO GRANJA
Research on three species of seabirds, including the Magellanic penguin, is helping map critical marine areas that require protection.







— PHOTOS: KRISSIA BORJA

Photographic records enable identification of humpback and sei whales through the unique marks on their tail and dorsal fins, respectively. This technique is crucial to study their population and migration patterns, and to justify the creation of marine protected areas.

WHALES

Twenty-eight new humpback whales were registered within the project area and seven were re-sighted. To date, **99 different humpback whales** have been identified in Patagonia Azul's waters, with four individuals also spotted in other locations, one in Tierra del Fuego Province and three in Brazil, providing valuable information about their **migration routes**. Tissue samples were collected from seven humpback whales. A **hydrophone** was deployed in February and retrieved seven months later, collecting data that is now being analyzed by researchers at the **University of California, Santa Cruz** to identify whale vocalizations and other marine sounds. Since monitoring began, **11 sei whales** were also identified in these waters. This research helps identify feeding grounds for these marine mammals, **strengthening the case for expanded marine protection**.

SEABIRDS

Three species of seabirds were monitored in collaboration with CENPAT-CONICET¹ researchers to understand their spatial ecology. **Forty-eight birds** were fitted with satellite devices, including **Magellanic penguins, imperial shags, and southern giant petrels**. Seven cameras were placed in nesting areas providing valuable breeding behavior information and generating engagement from the general public. For **underwater monitoring**, 12 GPS Axy-Trek devices and miniaturized cameras were attached to six imperial shags and six Magellanic penguins. The data collected helps identify marine areas for protection by revealing feeding patterns, breeding cycles, and habitat usage.

Three **new bird species** were documented on Tova Island: the threatened Olog's gull, the migratory Hudsonian godwit, and the critically endangered ruddy-headed goose, expanding our understanding of the area's biodiversity and conservation value. These discoveries further highlight the importance of island restoration work for supporting diverse bird communities.



— PHOTO: KRISSIA BORJA

Research on three species of seabirds, including the Imperial shag, is helping map critical marine areas that require protection.

Two **threatened shark species** continued to be monitored: the broadnose sevengill and the school sharks. As apex predators, sharks play a crucial role in maintaining functional ecosystems. Their presence serves as an indicator of ecosystem health, while their vulnerability to fishing pressure makes them important conservation targets. A proposal for a comprehensive shark tracking program was submitted to provincial authorities to gather data on movement patterns, habitat use, and population dynamics to inform effective protection measures.

Exotic rabbits were completely **eradicated** from Tova Island (600 hectares/1,483 acres), while the last dwarf armadillos continue being relocated to the mainland. Valdés Island (60 hectares/148 acres) has remained free of exotic vertebrate species since 2021, and Gaviota Island (3 hectares/7.4 acres) has been maintained as armadillo-free since their removal in 2023. These islands provide **nesting grounds** for several seabird species, including Magellanic penguins, imperial shags, and brown skuas. To understand the ecological recovery and benefits to seabird populations, **78 Magellanic penguin nests** were selected and marked on Tova and Tovita islands to compare reproductive success between locations where rabbits have been eradicated (Tova) versus islands where rabbits remain present (Tovita). This research will provide direct evidence of how exotic species removal impacts breeding success.

¹ CENPAT-CONICET stands for Centro Nacional Patagónico (National Patagonian Center) of the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (National Council for Scientific and Technical Research).

Restorative Economy

- 5,272 visitors to Isla Leones and Bahía Bustamante gateways, representing a ten fold increase from 2023
- 23 locals receiving direct income from conservation and nature tourism activities
- 130 participants trained through 13 Entrepreneurs by Nature workshops
- 19 local residents trained in nature tourism
- 4 new local businesses were established

— PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI

The Patagonia Azul Interpretation Center, located at the Bahía Bustamante Gateway, comprises two themed rooms with murals, a projection room, and a cafeteria. It aims to educate visitors on topics concerning the Argentine Sea, its conservation value and existing marine protected areas, and the Patagonia Azul project.







— PHOTO: REWILDING ARGENTINA

The Entrepreneurs by Nature program was launched to train and encourage locals in establishing their own businesses, including traditional crafts and gastronomy. One of the ventures that has emerged from the program is Alas, a wool clothing brand run by four local weavers.

RESTORATIVE ECONOMY

The **Isla Leones Gateway** welcomed 2,844 visitors across its two campgrounds (1,835 at Cañadón del Sauce and 1,009 at Bahía Arredondo) and recorded 379 overnight stays at Isla Leones Camps. The **Bahía Bustamante Gateway** received 1,645 visitors at Arroyo Marea campground, while the new **Patagonia Azul Interpretation Center**, which plays an important role in raising awareness about marine conservation and promoting sustainable practices, attracted 783 visitors. The total of **5,272 visitors** in both gateways represented a ten fold **increase** from the previous year's 489 visitors, establishing Patagonia Azul as an emerging nature tourism destination.

The Patagonia Azul project became the **second-largest employer in Camarones** after the municipality, providing direct income to **23 local community members**. Additional indirect employment was created through temporary contracts, materials procurement, and local services.

One hundred and thirty local people attended 13 workshops focused on traditional crafts, sustainable product development, and business skills through the **Entrepreneurs by Nature program**. This initiative trained participants in creating sustainable products while developing business skills. As a result, **four new local businesses** were established, including producers of postcards and illustrations, weaving and yarn products, natural soaps, and seaweed-based culinary products.

A **tourism host workshop** was conducted for 19 community members from Camarones, offering skills and knowledge needed to work as **nature tourism guides and hosts**. This training **created**

new employment opportunities in the growing nature tourism sector while ensuring visitors receive quality experiences from locals who are familiar with the **region's natural and cultural heritage**.

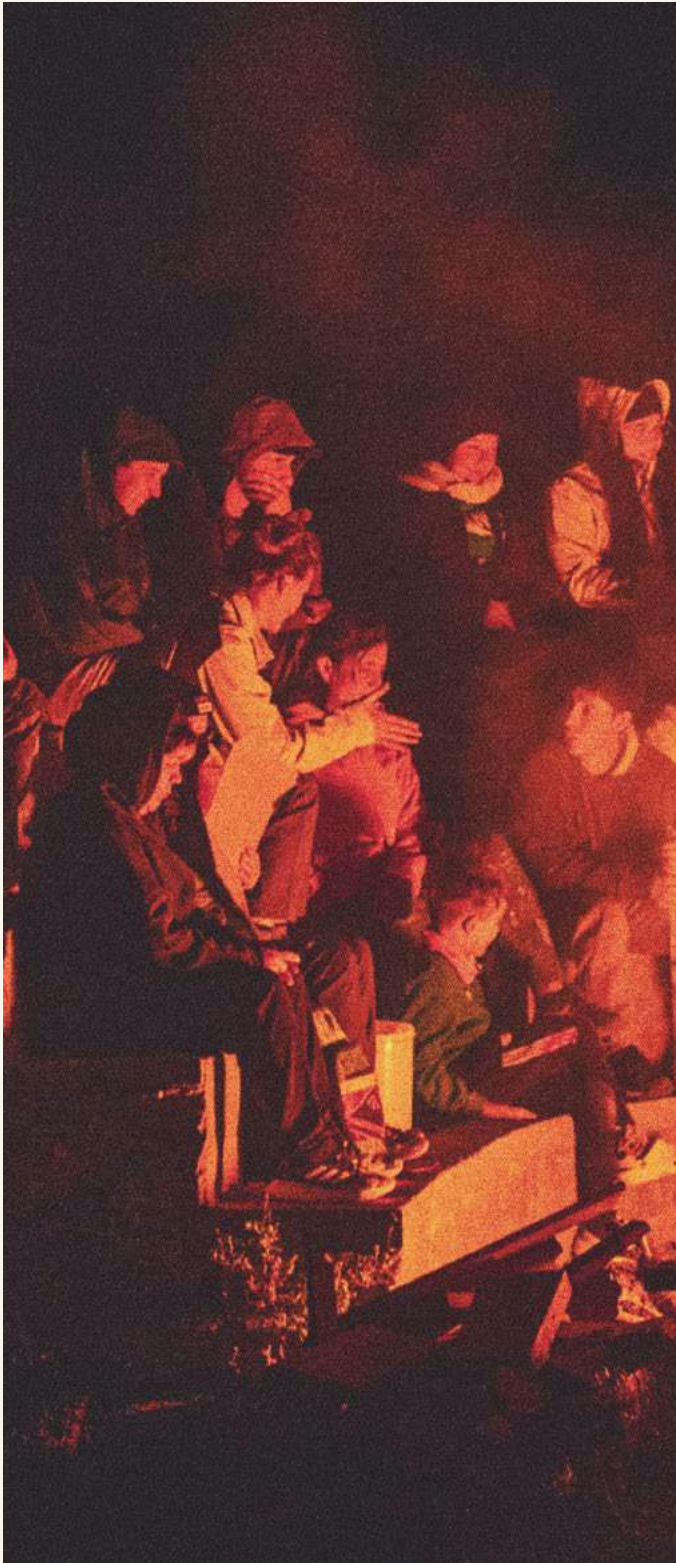
A **participatory tourism development workshop** was held in Camarones, engaging **61 local people**. Participants collaboratively identified local assets including cultural and natural attractions, discussed infrastructure needs, evaluated market opportunities for nature tourism experiences, and developed specific strategies for sustainable tourism growth that would maximize economic benefits while protecting the environment. This **community-driven approach** ensured tourism development reflected local priorities.

Patagonia Azul was **promoted as a nature tourism destination** at key events, including the **International Fair of Tourism** and the Brazilian Association of Tour Operators (BRAZTOA) fair, reaching 89 Brazilian operators. Additional promotion occurred at the Bioferia Sustainable Fair, which showcases eco-friendly initiatives and local producers, and at a major tourism fair in Puerto Madryn.

Collaboration began with the provincial government to develop a promotion strategy for the **Ruta Azul**, a scenic coastal route connecting Patagonia Azul's gateways, including digital marketing, familiarization tours, and sporting and gastronomy event planning. This partnership **creates a unified coastal tourism route** highlighting the **region's natural values** while positioning Patagonia Azul as an emerging destination that aligns tourism development with **marine conservation**.

Community Well-being

- +150** students reached through marine education activities
- 773** participants in Encounters for Nature activities
- 150** attendees at Camarones del Mar event
- 40** children and 27 women participated in the Ocean Club
- 4.9** tons of waste collected in beach cleanup



— PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI
Beyond simple recreation, Encounters for Nature gatherings create meaningful connections between people and wild places.





— PHOTO: SOFÍA FRANCHELLA

The Ocean Club aims to offer young people from Camarones transformative experiences with the sea through recreational and educational activities.

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Twenty-nine activities were organized within the Ocean Club program. Eight school presentations across Chubut Province **provided marine education** to more than **150 students**. The remaining 18 activities engaged **40 children** from Camarones in regular marine outdoor programs including snorkeling, yoga and meditation, marine education, and diving workshops, **strengthening community connection** to the marine environment. The **Women's Ocean Club**, an all-female group from Camarones dedicated to connecting with the sea, held three gatherings for **27 women**.

Ocean Club coach, **Gastón Gutiérrez**, attended the '**Latinoamérica Azul**' event in Costa Rica, a summit for young Latin American leaders on marine biodiversity and public policy. He shared his experience through school presentations, **inspiring local youth engagement** on marine conservation initiatives.

The **Encounters for Nature** initiative strengthened local connections to the marine environment and built support for conservation efforts. **Fifty-three activities** were organized at both gateways, including kayaking, yoga, art, and photography workshops, recording **773 participants**.

Rewilding Argentina and the municipality of Camarones organized '**Camarones del Mar**', marking the first collaborative event in two years and launching the summer season with **150 attendees**. This event created a platform for **six local entrepreneurs** to showcase sustainable products, thus effectively highlighting the economic opportunities that marine conservation can provide to the community.

A major **beach cleanup** at Leones Island was conducted in collaboration with the National Parks Administration and provincial authorities, collecting **4.9 tons of waste**, demonstrating the power of institutional partnerships in conservation efforts.

A **socioeconomic survey** was conducted in Camarones that documented residents' economic conditions, cultural aspects, participation in local initiatives, and relationships with the marine environment. The survey's results will act as a baseline that will help **evaluate the impact and effectiveness** of our local development, community outreach, and wellbeing initiatives.



LIVES, REWILDED: THE STORY OF GASTÓN

Where were you born? What was your life like as a child?

I was born in Trelew, but Camarones is the town that saw me grow up.

How did you come to know Rewilding Argentina?

I'm studying marine biology in Trelew and I'm a certified diver. A local teacher recommended me to the project coordinator Mariana Cassini because of my connection to the ocean, who proposed that I work with local children in the Ocean Club. I didn't know much about the organization at first, but gradually became more involved, and now I'm part of Rewilding Argentina's marine education program.

What did you imagine your life would be like, and what is it like now?

I always imagined my life connected to the sea, which is what I love most. I grew up swimming in Camarones' waters among cormorants and dolphins—the sea has always been part of who I am. Now I'm building paths to be more connected to the sea than ever before. As I've gotten older and started thinking about my future, I began studying marine biology and working with the Ocean Club, while planning a fishing tour venture. My trip to Costa Rica and meeting other young people who love the ocean like I do has helped clear my path, confirming my decision to dedicate my life to the sea that watched me grow.

How do you imagine the future of the Patagonia Azul Park?

I see the park well on its way, and I hope it can be established. I imagine that in a few years it will be a national park providing many opportunities for Camarones.

Knowing that anyone in the world could read this, what would you tell them?

I would share the phrase we use often in the Ocean Club: 'Now that I know, I protect!' The sea is key to human life, and we can all contribute our grain of sand.

How was the Costa Rica Experience?

The Costa Rica experience will stay in my mind forever. It was completely new to me, meeting people from all over Latin America and hearing about what they do for the ocean in their countries. Knowing that I'm doing the same in my country showed me I was on the right path. We discussed a lot about the relationship between fishermen and the scientific and conservation world. As both a fisherman and biology student, I want to be a bridge between these two worlds. Today, these worlds often appear as opposites in many places, but at the event, we talked about uniting them, using knowledge from both sides and working together to protect the sea. The focus was creating a declaration about ocean challenges and necessary actions—addressing pollution, overfishing, mining, and more. I participated in the ocean education discussion, as I work in an educational program for children. We emphasized that ocean education should be part of the school curriculum. Just as we study our country's history, which is very important, studying what's happening to our oceans today is equally crucial.

Objectives 2025

Advance

two key marine protection initiatives: establish legal protection for flagship marine species as natural monuments, and create a 2,700 square kilometer (1,042 square miles) Patagonia Azul Provincial Park.

Begin

development of San Miguel property as Isla Tova Gateway, including construction of a ranger operations center, campground, port facility, and biological station to enhance marine research capabilities.

Implement

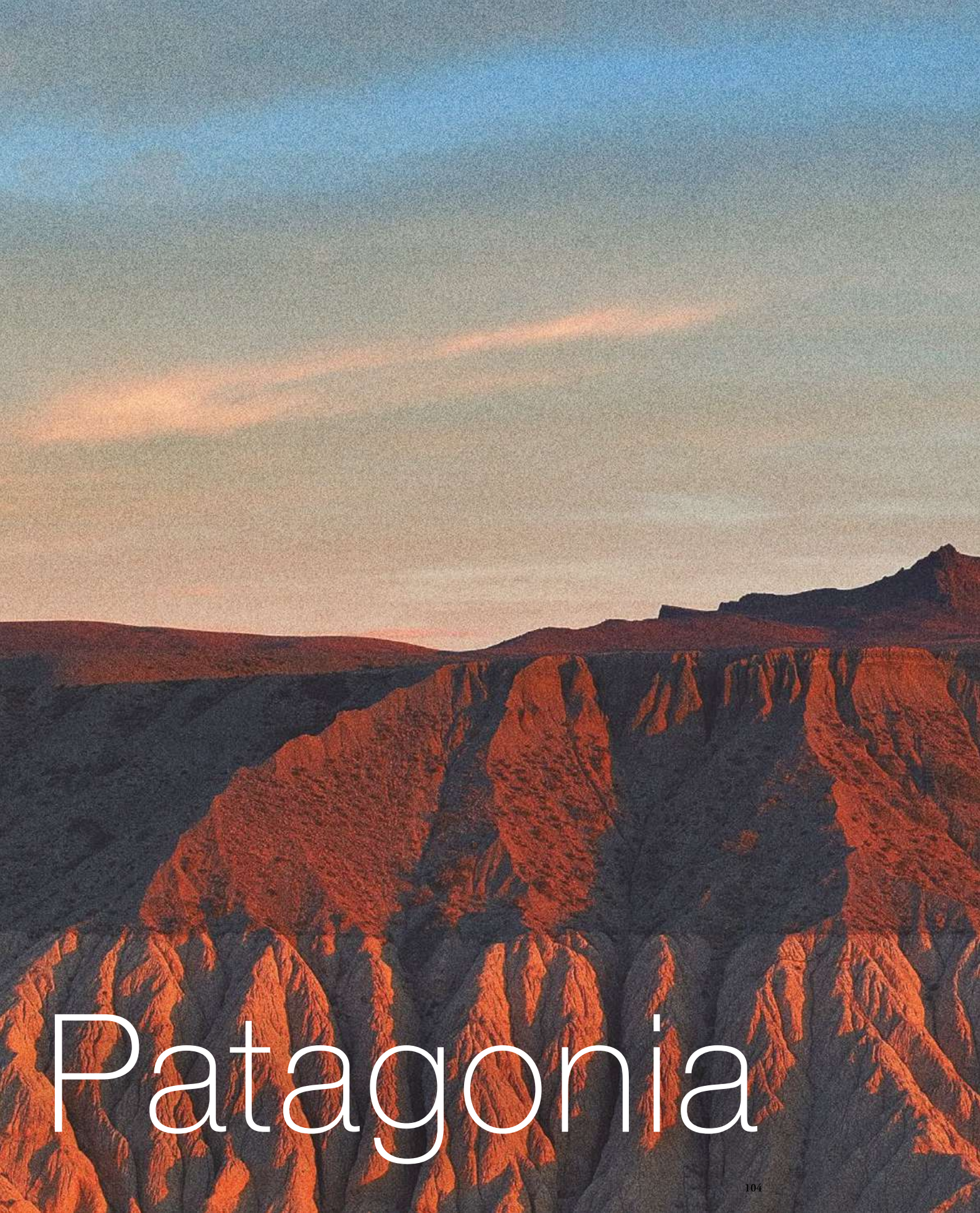
planned whale tagging and biopsy sampling activities to further document the importance of Patagonia Azul for cetaceans.

Scale

the Ocean Club educational outreach to engage 500 young people through marine conservation activities across Chubut Province.







Patagonia

PROJECT START

2012

Ecoregion being restored
PATAGONIAN STEPPE

CURRENT PROTECTED AREA

220,000

Hectares
(543,000 Acres)

DONORS

- Elsa and George Feher (of blessed memory)
- Freyja Foundation
- National Geographic Society
- Wyss Campaign for Nature

REWILDING SPECIES PROJECTS

- Austral Rail
- Coypu
- Darwin's Rhea
- Guanaco
- Huemul Deer
- Pampas Cat
- Puma
- Wolfssohn's Viscacha



— PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI

A key milestone in the Patagonia Park Argentina project was the public opening of the Caracoles Canyon Gateway, featuring 60 climbing routes, scenic lookouts, a campsite, and trekking trails. Since its opening, it has become a growing hub for regenerative climbing in Patagonia.

INTRODUCTION

The Patagonian steppe encompasses **28% of Argentina's territory**, yet **less than 1% is protected**. This vast ecosystem, characterized by sweeping grasslands, deep canyons, and vital wetlands, represents one of the most underappreciated and threatened landscapes in South America. Established in 2012, Patagonia Park Argentina area now safeguards approximately **220,000 hectares (543,000 acres)** of this unique landscape, standing as a crucial bastion for biodiversity conservation in a region facing mounting pressures from overgrazing and climate change.

The protected area complex has evolved through the development of **complementary gateway systems**. In collaboration with the Freyja Foundation, the Caracoles Canyon Gateway was opened to the public with facilities for climbing, camping, and hiking along **21 kilometers of new trails**, creating recreational opportunities while protecting key habitats. Meanwhile, the Pinturas Canyon Gateway has been enhanced with additional visitor amenities. The Elsa Rosenvasser Feher Interpretation Center and Planetarium has renewed its exhibition spaces, offering immersive experiences about the evolution of life, conservation challenges, and rewilding initiatives, attracting **over 5,300 visitors** and becoming an important hub for environmental education.

Ecological restoration continues to advance through **targeted initiatives** that are reviving long-degraded natural processes. Wetland work has restored **30 hectares (74.1 acres) of water systems** in this arid landscape through the rechanneling of springs and treatment of more than **7,000 stems of invasive willow** along the Pinturas River, benefitting the reintroduced populations of Austral rails and coypu. Research funded by the **National Geographic Society** is revealing how apex predators like pumas influence ecosystem structure and function, generating knowledge that extends beyond the boundaries of Patagonia Park. Through its holistic approach to conservation, Patagonia Park Argentina is progressively rebuilding the intricate web of life that once characterized the Patagonian steppe while creating a **new vision for human-nature coexistence** in this spectacular landscape.

The **social and economic transformation** catalyzed by the park illustrates how protected areas can revitalize surrounding communities. Through specialized training for guides, and hospitality workers, **over 87 local residents** have received professional development opportunities linked to nature tourism. Events like Eclipse Patagonia and the Canyon Hiking Meets, which attracted **more than 440 participants**, aided to position the region in national tourism markets while reinforcing community connections to conservation. The Patagonia Park Explorers program has reached **over 2,000 children** from multiple communities, fostering environmental awareness in the next generation of stewards.

As Patagonia Park Argentina continues to mature, it stands as a **powerful demonstration** of how integrated conservation can simultaneously restore ecological integrity, create sustainable livelihoods, and foster cultural connections to nature. The progress achieved in 2024 has laid the foundation for the park to serve as a **model and training ground** for similar initiatives across Patagonia, offering hope for this remarkable but vulnerable ecosystem.

Park

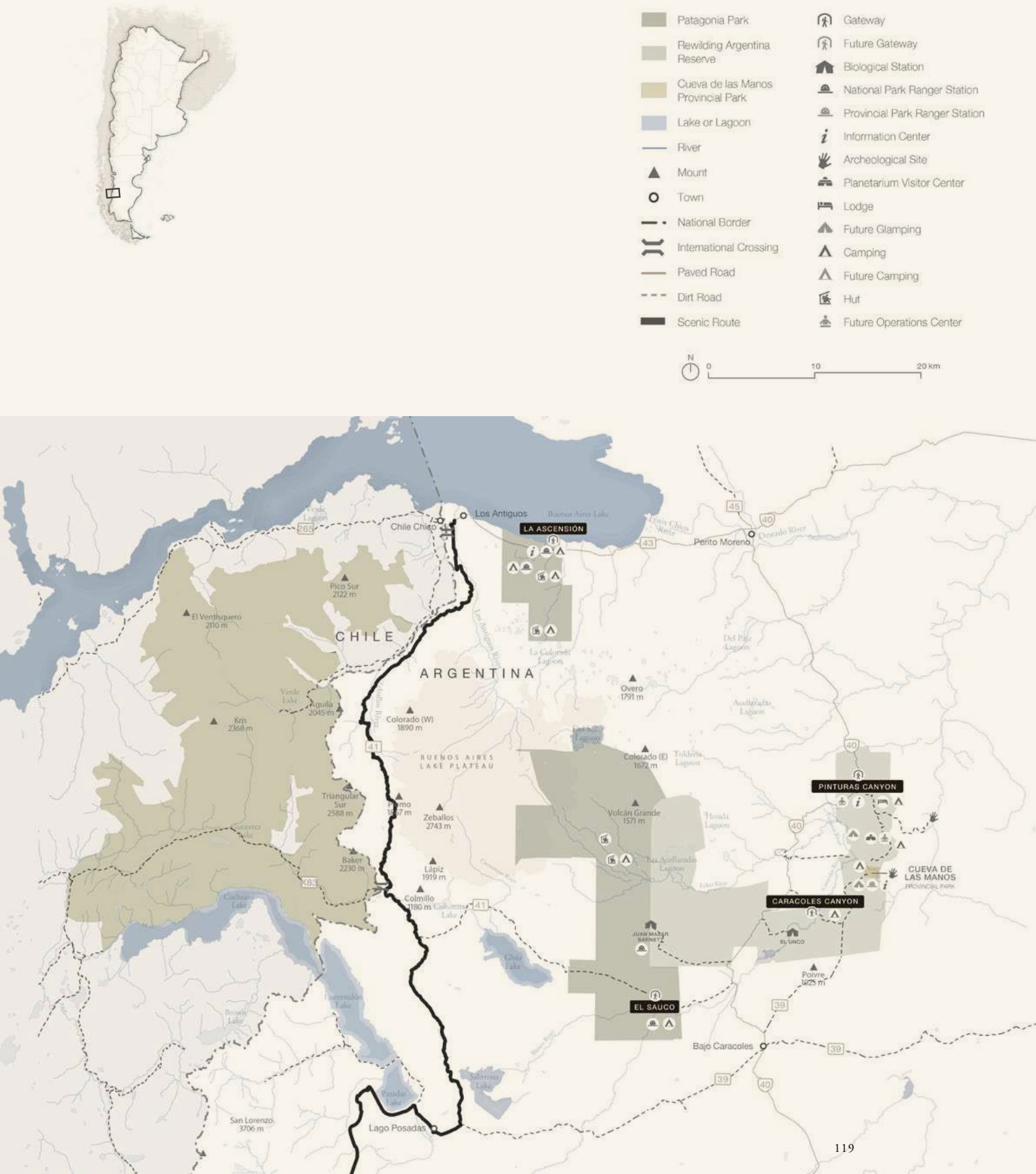
- 1** new gateway opened to the public—Caracoles Canyon
- 2** exhibition rooms renovated at the Elsa Rosenvasser Feher Interpretation Center and Planetarium
- 1** campground built at the Caracoles Canyon Gateway
- 21** kilometers (13 miles) of new hiking trails constructed
- +50** kilometers (31+ miles) of trails repaired after flood damage
- 6** wind shelters constructed at La Señalada Campground

The Elsa Rosenvasser Feher Interpretation Center and Planetarium underwent renovation of two exhibition spaces. The **rewilding room was redesigned** with a hand-painted mural, wildlife sculptures, and educational soil ecosystem displays, with lighting and sound systems simulating daily cycles in Argentina's restored ecosystems. Progress continued on the multipurpose room's photographic exhibition, which will showcase the **journey of water from plateaus to wetlands** and its importance to wildlife. This upgrade positions the center as both an educational hub and solution showcase, presenting visitors with concrete, local-scale approaches to addressing the environmental crises depicted in the other exhibition areas. By demonstrating practical **conservation solutions**, the center inspires deeper appreciation and active stewardship of Patagonia's natural heritage.

In partnership with the Freyja Foundation, new **public-use infrastructure** was built at the Caracoles Gateway and improved at the Pinturas Canyon Gateway. Indeed, after building a campground with capacity for 20 visitors, composting restrooms, a fire pit, and parking areas, the new **Caracoles Canyon Gateway was opened** to the public. Because the gateway offers rock climbing as a new recreational activity within the park, climbing routes were assessed, restored, and mapped, and park rangers received specialized climbing and first aid training to ensure visitor safety. A **21-kilometer (13-mile) trail system** was constructed, providing access to wildlife viewing areas and scenic landscapes. This development connected the climbing community with conservation efforts in Patagonia.

Maintenance teams **restored flood-affected areas**, rebuilding bridges, clearing sediment deposits, and **repairing more than 50 kilometers** (31 miles) of trails after heavy winter snowfalls followed by summer rainfall altered the Pinturas River course and damaged the infrastructure. These efforts ensured the continued accessibility and safety of the park's trails, allowing visitors to fully experience the natural beauty of the area while preserving the integrity of the environment and supporting **sustainable tourism practices**.

La Señalada Campground, in the Pinturas Canyon Gateway, was expanded to include **six new wind shelters** (bringing the total to 12), two showers, and two dry bathrooms. The communal fire pit area was expanded to accommodate 24 people. Areas impacted by construction and visitor use were **restored with native vegetation**. These enhancements strengthen the connection between travelers and Patagonia's natural beauty, **fostering a deeper appreciation** and respect for the region's unique environment.



Wildlife

- 16 adult and 6 cub pumas fitted with GPS and VHF collars
- 8 Wolfssohn's viscacha family groups established
- 12 Wolfssohn's viscachas captured and collared for monitoring
- 4 coypus translocated to the Pinturas Canyon wetland
- 16 Darwin's rheas fitted with GPS collars
- 3 Pampas cats fitted with GPS collars
- 800 meters (2,625 feet) of springs rechanneled for wetland restoration
- 7,118 willow stems treated along the Pinturas River

— PHOTO: FRANCO BUCCI

The rodents' reintroduction projects are successfully progressing as populations are growing rapidly. Wolffsohn's viscacha have dispersed from the rocky walls of the Caracoles Canyon to other areas, while the coypu population residing in the wetlands of this canyon is successfully reproducing.







— PHOTO: FRANCO BUCCI

A puma cub is fitted with an expandable VHF collar to monitor its early life stages. Through this monitoring, we aim to gather valuable data regarding survivability, age of independence, dispersal, and behavior.

PUMA

Sixteen adult pumas were fitted with GPS collars. The puma monitoring program conducted 237 habituation outings, yielding 136 observations, some at distances as close as 50 meters and lasting up to three hours. These efforts are aimed to develop Patagonia Park Argentina as a premier wildlife viewing destination. Fourteen new cubs from five females were documented, with six cubs fitted with expandable VHF collars. Ongoing monitoring through camera traps and radiotelemetry tracked cub development during their first 12 months. These initiatives enhance the understanding of puma behavior and ecology, promoting ecotourism as a viable economic alternative and contributing to the conservation of this key species in Patagonia.

DARWIN'S RHEA

GPS collars were placed on six new Darwin's rheas, bringing the total to 30 individuals collared since the program's inception in 2021. Analysis of data from 16 collared individuals revealed ranges between 5,000 and 8,000 hectares (12,355 and 19,768 acres), providing information about their spatial ecology. Data analysis for the remaining 14 individuals is pending due to ongoing information collection and collar recovery. Fifteen rheas were captured to begin quarantine for a planned translocation to Patagonia Park Chile in 2025. All permits for translocation were renewed following the 2023 avian influenza outbreak—the first ever recorded in South America—which had temporarily halted avian movements between countries.

HUEMUL DEER

A huemul deer breeding and reintroduction proposal was submitted to Santa Cruz Province authorities. This project aims to restore the endangered huemul to its historical range in the Patagonian steppe, where it has been extirpated. Monitoring continued for eight previously collared huemul deer in the Patagonian Andean Forest of southern Santa Cruz. To identify new individuals for future collaring, 19 camera traps were placed and six ground surveys conducted across two private properties: Estancia Río Toro and Estancia Veranada de Jones. Collaborative relationships with Huilo Huilo Foundation, in Chile, and Shoonem Foundation, in Chubut Province, were strengthened through several exchanges; the Huilo Huilo project coordinator visited Patagonia Park Argentina to assess the pens where huemul deer will be held, while a team veterinarian received specialized training in huemul deer capture and handling techniques at Huilo Huilo. These exchanges built on existing agreements to advance the breeding program through shared expertise.

GUANACO

Fourteen guanacos were captured in Patagonia Park Argentina, held in corrals for supplementation and management, and successfully translocated to El Impenetrable, in Chaco Province. The conditioning period in corrals ensured that the animals could adapt to supplementary feeding and handling, facilitating their transition to a new environment. Additionally, a study evaluated how modifications in the height of wire fences, implemented three years ago, affected guanaco entanglements. Results showed that guanaco mortality due entanglement was reduced to zero confirming the efficacy of this conservation action.



— PHOTO: FRANCO BUCCI

In Patagonia Park Argentina, we study and protect puma populations while raising awareness of their role as an ally for local development. Through wildlife watching tourism, we aim to foster a local restorative economy that benefits both nature and the neighboring communities to the park.

COYPU

Four new pools were created in the **Caracoles Canyon wetland** to improve coypu habitat, that is critical for **winter survival** of the reintroduced population. **Monitoring documented 13 adult individuals** in the wetland and 12 offspring. After a **three-year survey** using camera traps and track searches in the Pinturas River area yielded only two male sightings. Thus, four coypus (two males and two females) were released to **supplement this population**. Camera traps later documented juveniles in the area, suggesting successful reproduction.

WOLFFSOHN'S VISCACHA

The **Wolffsohn's viscacha reintroduction** to the Caracoles Canyon, initiated in 2020, has successfully established **eight family groups** across the area. Notably, two juvenile males born in 2022 exhibited **unprecedented long-distance** dispersal behavior, traveling over 10 kilometers from their birth sites. This marks the **first recorded instance** of such movement for the species and highlights the potential of this reintroduced population as a stepping stone to connect other populations in the region. In 2024, **12 individuals were captured and equipped** with collars to enhance monitoring of the population's survival and natality rates and dispersal patterns. Additionally, **five new births were recorded**, and plans are in place to collar all future offspring born in the canyon to further support the population's growth and ecological understanding.

PAMPAS CAT

Three pampas cats were captured and equipped with GPS collars as part of an ongoing effort to **study the spatial ecology and biology of this species**. Specifically, this project aims to gather insights into the habitat use, movement patterns, and behavior of pampas cats. This initiative contributes to **broader conservation efforts** by providing essential information for managing and protecting this species.

WATER SYSTEMS

Thirty hectares (74 acres) of **water systems were restored** throughout the park to revitalize degraded wetlands in this arid ecosystem. This restoration included **rechanneling approximately 800 meters (2,625 feet)** of two springs and removing invasive watercress, mint, and willows. The restored areas were monitored for vegetation recovery to **ensure suitable habitat conditions** before proceeding with **planned reintroductions of coypu and austral rail**. Additionally, invasive willows were controlled along 4.4 kilometers (2.7 miles) of the Pinturas riverbanks, treating more than 7,000 willow stems that were altering the river course and suppressing native vegetation. A comprehensive survey of the **entire park's hydrological system** was initiated to guide future wetland restoration efforts.

APEX PREDATORS

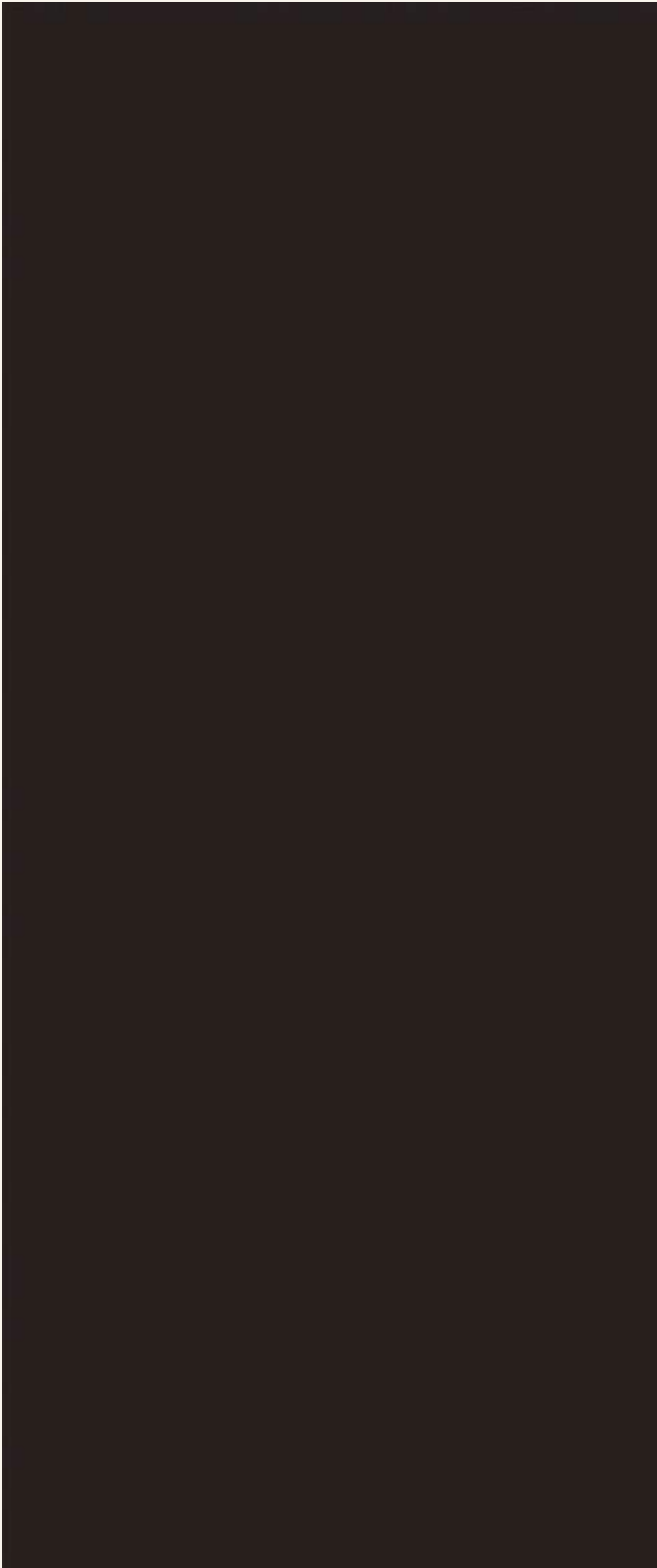
In association with the **National Geographic Society**, a program was launched to **understand the ecosystem-level effects** of restoring and conserving apex predators. The program established 12 20×20 meter herbivore exclosures, **evaluated guanaco behavior**, radio-collared 15 foxes and 13 skunks, monitored **220 bird nests**, and collected over 600 soil and vegetation samples while continuing to assess prey use by pumas. These efforts will yield information on whether and to what extent pumas trigger a chain of effects in **ecosystems that enhance biodiversity**, support ecosystem functioning and promote carbon sequestration.

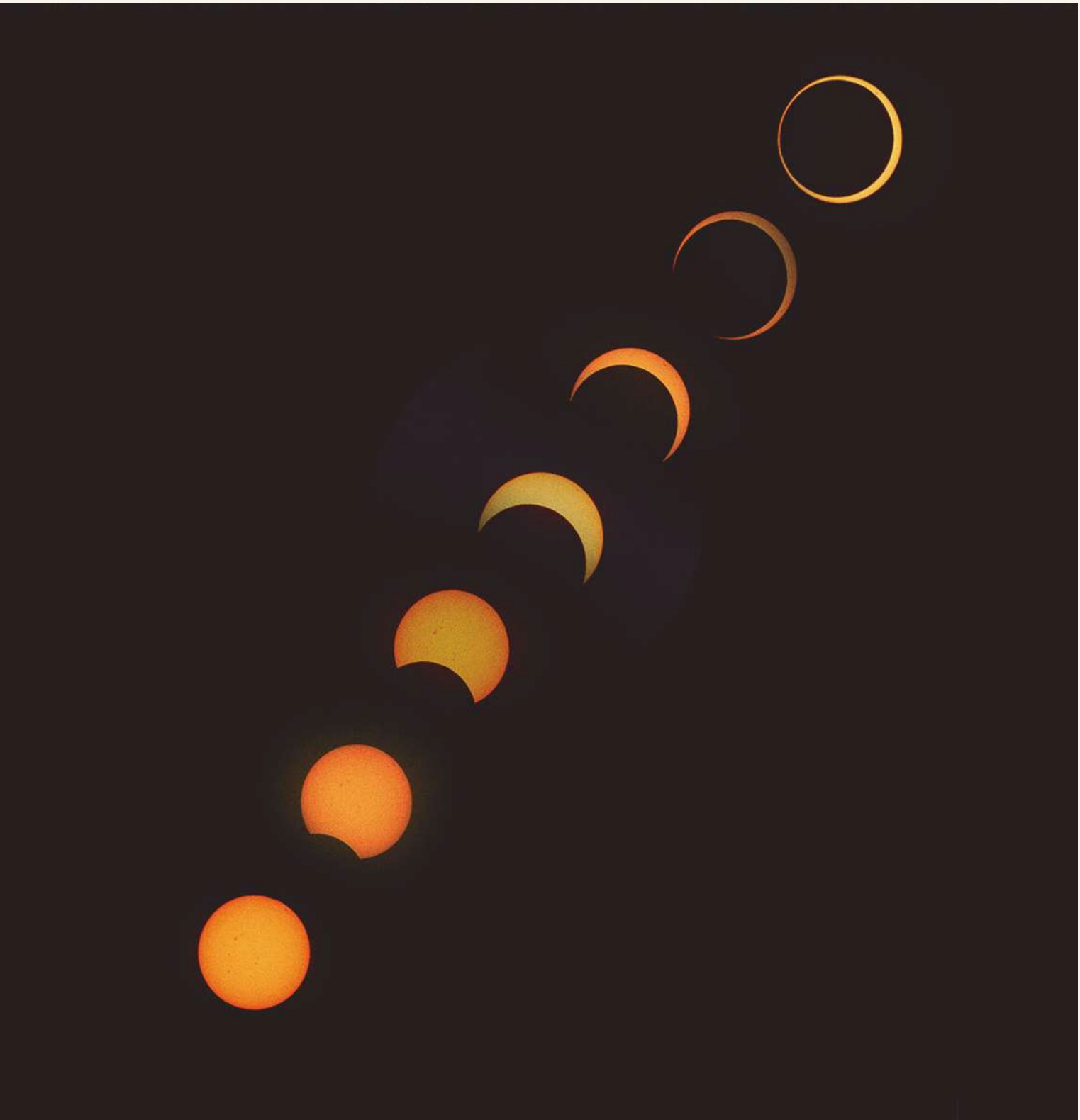
Restorative Economy

15,249	total park visitors
14	community outreach and local development initiatives implemented
87	workshop participants across 3 professional development programs
54	training sessions for travel agencies
311	visitors at Eclipse Patagonia event
10	photography camp participants
130	participants in 2 Canyon Hiking Meets
+260,000	users reached through digital marketing
+10,000	website visits generated
246	media publications across 47 outlets
35,000	magazine supplements distributed

— PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI

Patagonia Park Argentina became an open-air astronomy classroom during the 2024 annular solar eclipse, providing visitors with the opportunity to experience the celestial event while exploring its trails and observing native wildlife on guided tours.





RESTORATIVE ECONOMY

Patagonia Park Argentina welcomed **15,249 visitors** through the two gateways managed by Rewilding Argentina. **The Pinturas Canyon Gateway** served as the **primary entrance point receiving 14,346 visitors**, while the newly opened Caracoles Canyon Gateway received 903 visitors in its inaugural season. The upgraded Elsa Rosenvasser Feher Interpretation Center and Planetarium received **5,362 visitors**. These visitation rates reflect efforts to **establish Patagonia Park Argentina as a main destination for hiking, rock climbing, and wildlife watching**.

La Posta de los Toldos lodge hosted 1,470 guests, expanding its services with new full-day activities to increase average stay duration. As part of its initiatives, La Posta trained **a resident from Perito Moreno** as a guide for the El Unco biological station visits, developing wildlife tracking expertise that enhanced visitor experiences with **authentic insights into rewilding efforts**.

A strategic **collaboration agreement** was signed with the Municipality of Perito Moreno, establishing a framework for the development of **14 community outreach and local development initiatives**, focusing on regional tourism potential, visitor assistance, local gastronomy, and wildlife conservation awareness. This collaboration represents a key milestone in establishing the park as an integrated part of the regional identity and economy.

The local tourism capacity was strengthened through targeted **professional development programs** and industry outreach. A seven-session tourism host workshop **trained 50 participants** in visitor services and regional knowledge, while a two-day quality services program **engaged 20 participants**. The "Puma Observation as an Economic Opportunity"

workshop drew **17 participants** from tourism and ranching sectors across Patagonian provinces, combining ecological knowledge with field experience. The workshop's 40 additional inquiries demonstrated strong regional interest in wildlife tourism alternatives. Additionally, **54 training sessions** were provided to travel agencies, updating them on park attractions and lodging options. The park was also showcased at **major industry events** including the International Tourism Fair of Latin America (FIT) and the Expo Turismo of Comodoro Rivadavia, positioning it as a premier destination for wildlife observation and hiking.

Strategic **events** elevated the park's visibility and strengthened stakeholder relationships throughout the year. The **"Eclipse Patagonia: Witnesses to the annular eclipse between plateaus and canyons"** event **drew 311 visitors**, capitalizing on the park's position as a prime viewing location for the October 2 annular solar eclipse. A comprehensive promotional campaign was launched in partnership with the Buenos Aires Ministry of Culture, Buenos Aires Planetarium, National Parks Administration, and Municipality of Perito Moreno. Two national senators and the President of the National Parks Administration attended the event at the Pinturas Canyon Gateway, strengthening institutional support for the park's initiatives.

The first **"Cámara-camp"** photography workshop trained 10 participants in professional and wildlife photography, developing specialized skills critical for showcasing the park's natural heritage. The workshop culminated in a competition for a three-day wildlife viewing experience with a local guide, establishing photography as another avenue for the development of nature tourism.



— PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI

Jorge Maldonado has become the second local guide specialized in wildlife observation, conducting tours for guests of La Posta de Los Toldos to El Unco Biological Station.

Two Canyon Hiking Meets attracted 130 participants for guided walks the Canyon Pinturas Gateway trails covering nearly 24 kilometers (15 miles), with local guides and artists who shared the region's history, geography, and biodiversity, positioning the park as a unique South American destination for hiking and wildlife observation.

The Land of Canyons (Tierra de Cañadones) digital marketing campaign, **developed together with the Freyja Foundation**, showcased the Pinturas and Caracoles Canyon gateways through six immersive videos where local entrepreneurs shared their experiences along the trails. The campaign targeted three distinct audiences - Argentina, Spanish-speaking neighboring countries, and Brazil - with customized content and strategies for each market. Within a two-month period, the campaign **reached**

more than 260,000 users across Meta and Google platforms and **generated over 10,000 visits to the park's tourism website**. A **digital tourism guide** was launched with the campaign, providing interactive elements and offline accessibility for mobile devices.

Media coverage expanded significantly with **246 publications across 47 outlets**. Travel, tourism, and environmental content creators featured the park's diverse attractions, from trail networks to wildlife viewing opportunities, expanding its visibility in key tourism markets. Three **press trips** organized for journalists and influencers extended the park's reach, and a **special supplement developed with Lugares magazine** printed 35,000 copies for strategic distribution. This extensive media coverage increased awareness of the park's unique offerings and conservation initiatives across diverse audiences.

Community Well-being

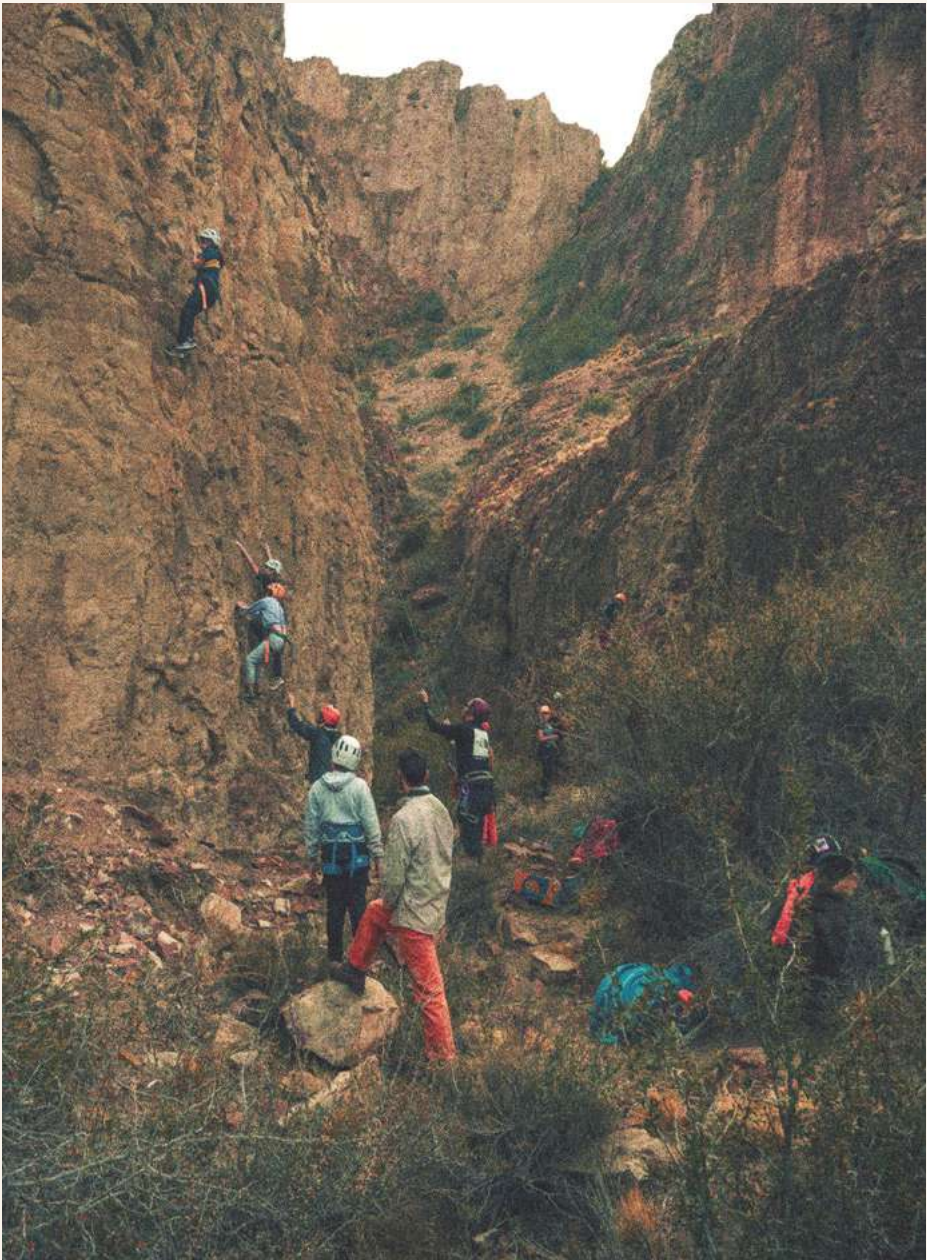
- 2,077 children participated in environmental education activities through the Patagonia Park Explorers program
- 150 family participants attended the Eco Kermesse conservation event
- 145 local residents joined "Return to the River" community excursions
- 75 participants engaged in "Cuando Digo Sur" art workshops

— PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI

The 'Cuando Digo Sur' program explores how writing, painting, and other artistic tools can help locals connect with the Patagonian steppe's plateaus, canyons, and native flora and wildlife.







— PHOTO: HORACIO BARBIERI

The Patagonia Park Explorers Program, created and funded by Freyja Foundation and implemented by Rewilding Argentina, aims to strengthen the connection between local children and nature, empowering them to become the future environmental stewards of the region.

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

The **Patagonia Park Explorers** program, funded by the Freyja Foundation and implemented by Rewilding Argentina, reached **2,077 children** through diverse educational activities. The program conducted 15 day trips to protected areas, including Patagonia Park Argentina, organized five environmental education workshops, participated in four educational fairs, delivered three school talks, and hosted three community events. Summer camps hosted 144 children in overnight experiences at the Pinturas and Caracoles Canyon gateways, bringing the total to 287 participants since the program began in 2021. These immersive experiences included wildlife observation, hiking, and rock climbing, fostering appreciation for native wildlife, ecosystem restoration, and the importance of protected areas.

The **Eco Kermesse event**, organized with the National Parks Administration and Perito Moreno Youth Department, engaged 150 family participants in conservation-focused recreational activities. Educational programming around the October solar eclipse reached over **400 students** connecting youth with astronomical and natural phenomena. The winter school break saw additional activities, including climbing sessions at the Elsa Rosenvasser Feher Interpretation Center and Planetarium, field experiences in the Caracoles Canyon, and special programs for children from the neighboring towns of Los Antiguos and Lago Posadas.

School outreach programs expanded to neighboring communities, engaging **over 50 students and 10 teachers** from Chubut and Santa Cruz provinces in **environmental education workshops** focused on natural resource management and conservation. These efforts contribute significantly to the **long-term conservation mission in Patagonia**.

Community initiatives developed in collaboration with the **Municipality of Perito Moreno** connected local residents with nature through structured programs. The "Return to the River" initiative provided **11 free excursions for 145 local residents**. The '**Cuando Digo Sur**' (When I Say South) program engaged 75 participants in writing and painting workshops **exploring connections with Patagonian nature**. Following the six-week program, participants formed an independent group to continue their artistic explorations, demonstrating sustained community engagement. The Honorable Deliberative Council of Perito Moreno unanimously declared these initiatives of tourism, cultural, and educational interest, recognizing their value in strengthening community connections to conservation.



LIVES, REWILDED: THE STORY OF JULIANA

Where were you born? What was your life like as a child?

I was born in Arroyito, Córdoba. I grew up with four siblings in a home almost without screens – I remember us riding bikes, climbing trees, running, and playing outside. When possible, we would travel, which gave me the fortune of discovering different regions of Argentina. That's also where my first camping experiences began, with my family. On weekends, our family plan was to go explore somewhere in the Córdoba mountains and hike around, visit my grandparents in the countryside, or if not, we would go to some green space to play football – always seeking that connection with nature.

How did you come to join Rewilding Argentina?

I came through a college professor (Cristian Schneider), who introduced me to the organization and its work. That's how I first learned about Iberá. Later, he told me about the First Volunteer Program opening at Patagonia Park Argentina, in La Ascensión. Truth be told, I was excited by the simple fact that it was in Patagonia, but I was also motivated by it being a new project where I could potentially contribute to its growth. Today, La Ascensión, that field where we worked at the project's beginning, has completed its cycle and is managed by the National Parks Administration.

What did you imagine your life would be like, and what is it like now?

I certainly didn't imagine living in the countryside, having the possibility to wake up and see incredible landscapes in my surroundings; having the chance to be in contact with nature every day, sharing space with native plants and animals, being able to go out to the "backyard" at night and spend long moments observing the Patagonian sky. I also wouldn't have imagined contributing my small grain of sand to the

creation of a protected area and generating spaces so that all people can have the same possibility that I had and have now, to coexist with the natural world.

How do you imagine the future of the park?

Patagonia Park Argentina and the entire region have great potential – perhaps this is one of the aspects that motivates me today to continue contributing and collaborating with the project. I don't imagine it as an isolated and closed space; I would like an open and integrated Park, where we can all be fundamental actors in caring for the place. I imagine visitors choosing to come to the Park not only to marvel at the beauty of its landscape and learn about its cultural imprint but also to observe wildlife.

Knowing that anyone in the world might read this, what would you say to them?

I believe that those of us who work in conservation spaces have hope for the future and act (or try to act) accordingly – hopefully, we can transmit and spread a bit of that action. We need to get involved in day to day activities, and what is achievable for each one of us; after all, nature is what sustains life on the planet.

Objectives 2025

Open

a new gateway with public-use infrastructure, including construction of a campground and three kilometers (1.86 miles) of trails.

Survey

and restore springs and wetlands in the Ecker and Pinturas River basins, and establish one huemul deer pair in Patagonia Park Argentina holding pen.

Translocate

16 guanacos to El Impenetrable.

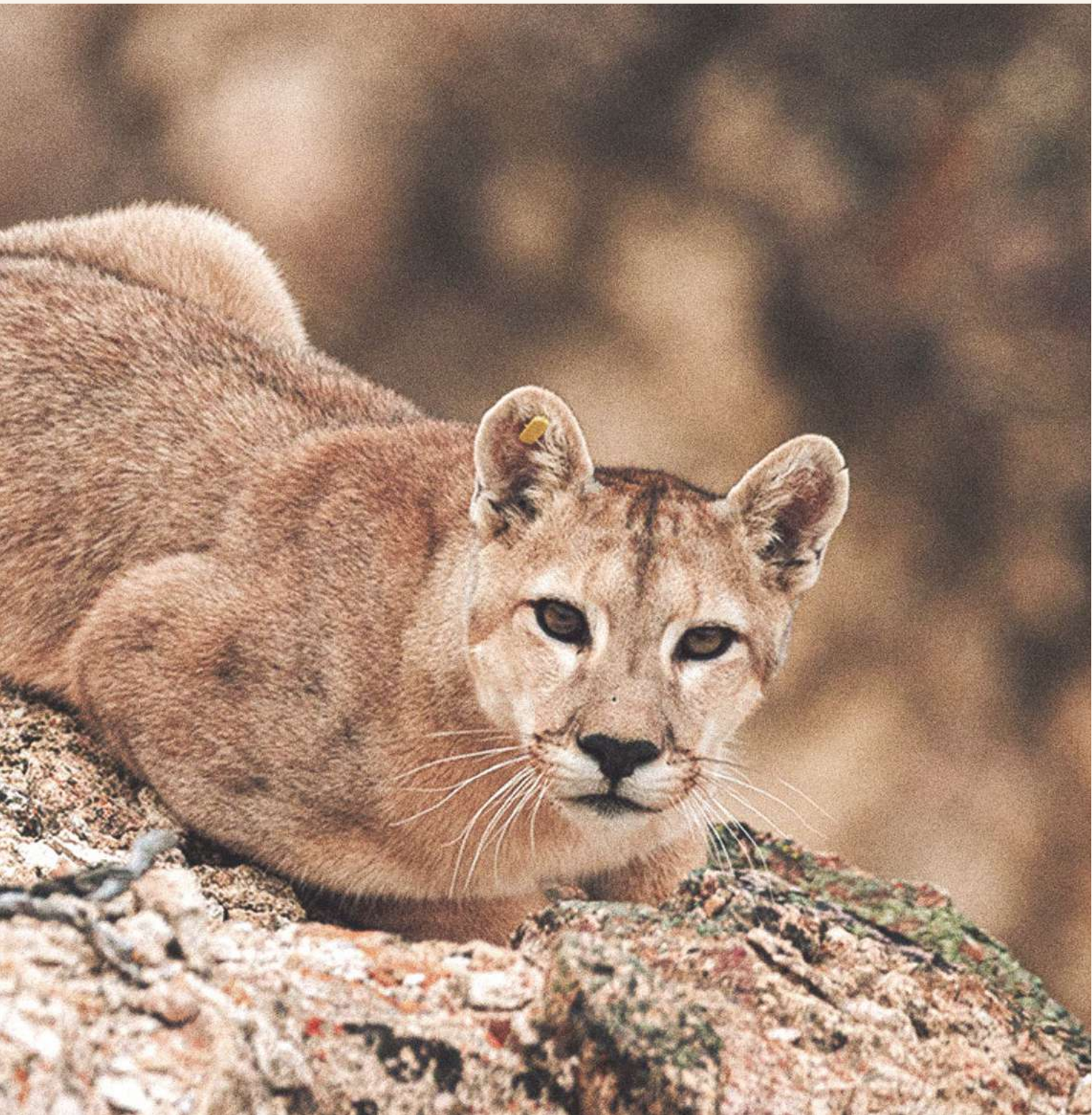
Expand

the study of pampas cats by adding more collared individuals to increase the dataset and enhance understanding of their ecological role in native habitats.

Establish

Patagonia Park Argentina as a unique puma viewing destination with three guides offering this activity.





*« We work for nature and to
restore nature, but nature is basically
the way we restore ourselves. In a way,
it's like rewilding our own spirit. »*

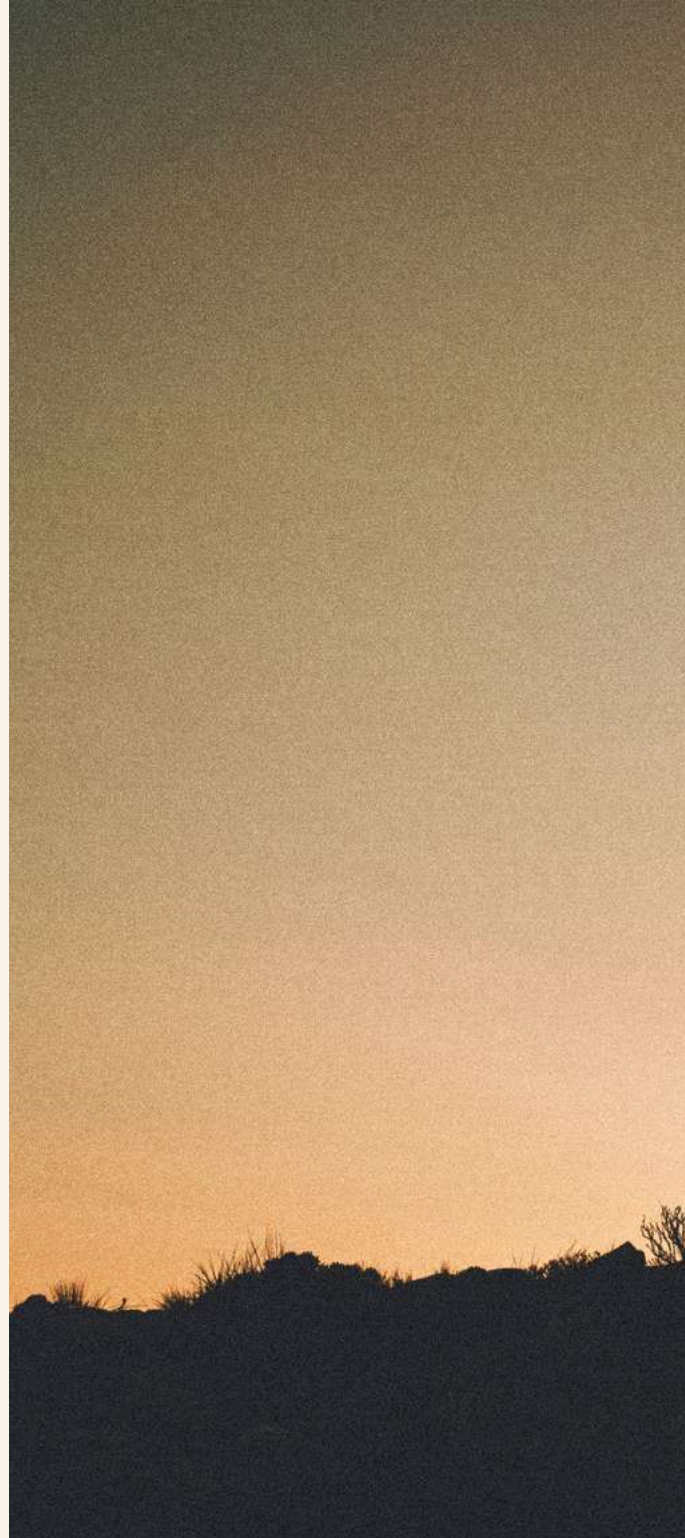
—Sofía Heinonen,
Executive Director of Rewilding Argentina

Who We Are

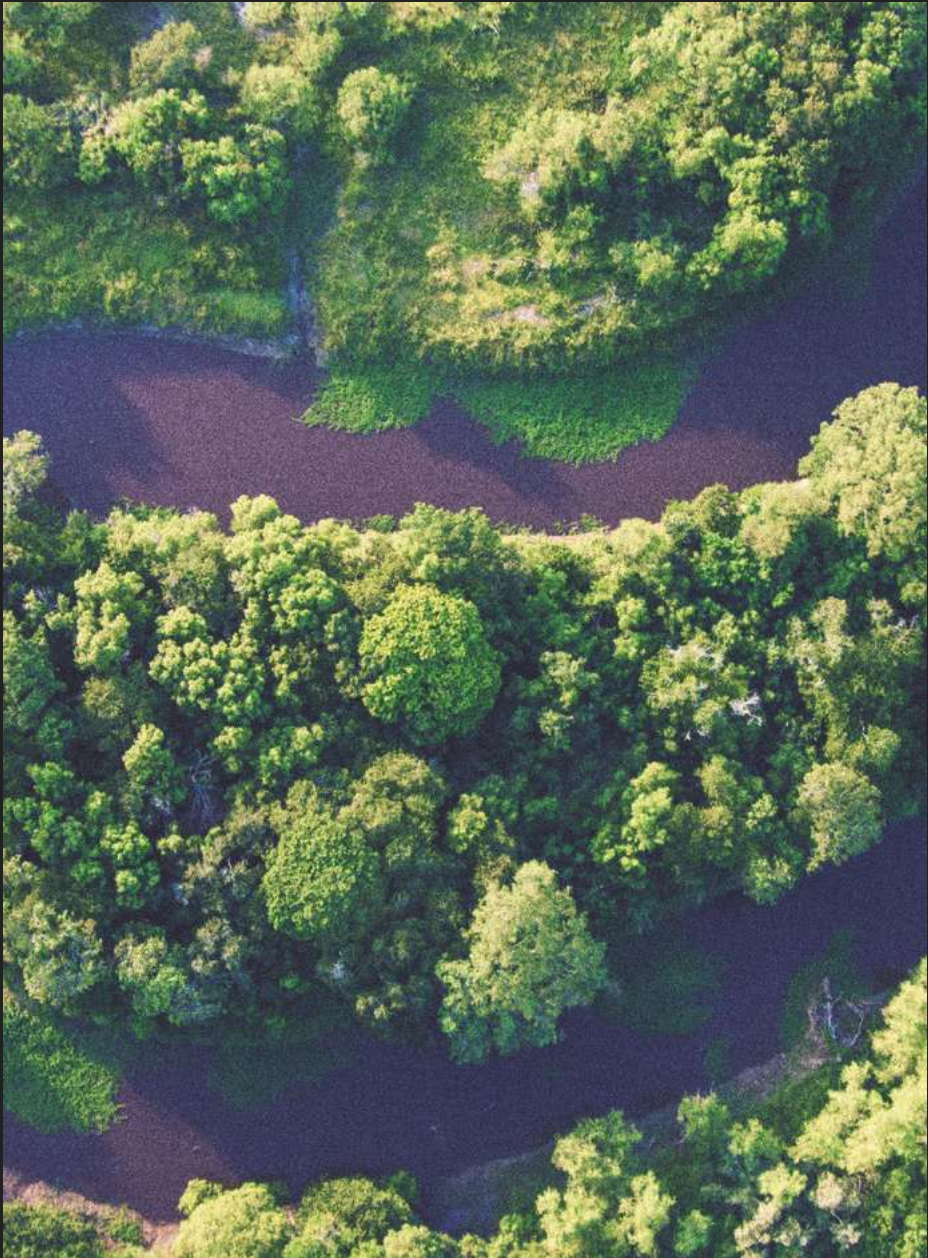
Rewilding Argentina, an independent nonprofit organization founded by Argentinian conservationists and activists in 2010, strives to reverse the biodiversity crisis, restore healthy ecosystems, and establish local restorative economies that enhance the well-being of local communities.

As an offshoot of Tompkins Conservation, Rewilding Argentina continues the vision set forth by Doug and Kris Tompkins in 1998. The organization is deeply committed to restoring natural beauty, recognizing the intrinsic value of all species, and promoting a conservation-based model of local development.

Notably, Rewilding Argentina has most of its staff living in the areas where the projects are implemented. As a result, the organization's multidisciplinary teams possess a deep understanding of the territories, enabling them to accurately identify threats and intervene quickly and effectively to ensure restoration and conservation.











Our Impact So Far

— PHOTO: SEBASTIÁN NAVAJAS

495,690 *hectares* (1.2 MILLION acres) of land have been purchased, with 320,535 hectares (792,066 acres) already donated to create and expand TEN national and provincial parks. Together with government contributions of 1,096,621 hectares (2.7 MILLION acres), a total of 1,591,704 hectares (3.9 MILLION acres) have been secured and protected. Currently, 200,125 hectares (494,476 acres) remain under Rewilding Argentina's direct management.

Five *ecoregions* are being positively-impacted by territorial conservation model: THE IBERÁ WETLANDS, THE DRY CHACO, THE PATAGONIAN STEPPE, THE ARGENTINE SEA, and THE CLOUD FOREST (YUNGAS).

Sixteen *species* are being or will soon be reintroduced to their former ranges, with research and active management implemented on FOURTEEN species to increase their population numbers.

Four *nature-based tourism destinations* have been developed: IBERÁ, EL IMPENETRABLE, PATAGONIA, and PATAGONIA AZUL, with FOURTEEN park gateways established with public-use infrastructure and engagement of local communities as providers of nature-tourism services.

At sea, **108,254** *square kilometres* (41,797 SQUARE MILES) of the Argentine Sea have been protected with the creation of FOUR MARINE PROTECTED AREAS including the NATIONAL MARINE PARK NAMUNCURÁ - BANCO BURDWOOD II, NATIONAL MARINE PARK YAGANES, and the PENÍNSULA MITRE MARINE AREA.

2024 by the Numbers

PARKS

Land acquired for restoration:

8,541 Hectares
—21,105 Acres—total

- **4,852 Hectares (11,990 Acres)** of Yungas forest through the acquisition of the Arrazayal property
- **3,689 Hectares (9,115 Acres)** through the acquisition of Portal Carambola and Paraje Ñupi properties in Iberá

Trails built:

15 kilometers (9,3 miles) at El Impenetrable National Park

21 kilometers (13 miles) at Patagonia Park Argentina

8 kilometers (5 miles) at Isla Leones in Patagonia Azul

Infrastructure:

4,450 meters (14,600 feet) of fencing constructed and maintained in Iberá Park

1 new shelter in El Impenetrable

6 new wind shelters at La Señalada Campground in Patagonia Park Argentina

1 new gateway with public-use infrastructure opened to the public in Patagonia Park Argentina

12 oceanfront cabins constructed in Patagonia Azul

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Wildlife monitoring with GPS/telemetry devices:

- **3 jaguars** fitted with GPS collars in Iberá Park
- **8 maned wolves** fitted with GPS collars in Iberá Park
- **5 jaguars** fitted with GPS collars in El Impenetrable National Park
- **16 adult pumas and 6 cubs** fitted with GPS and VHF collars in Patagonia Park Argentina
- **16 darwin's rhea** fitted with GPS collars in Patagonia Park Argentina
- **3 Pampas cats** fitted with GPS collars in Patagonia Park Argentina
- **48 seabirds** fitted with GPS devices in Patagonia Azul

Historic achievements:

- **1st wild jaguar traslocation** between national parks
- **1st wild-to-wild giant anteater translocation**

Wildlife translocations:

- **6 jaguar translocated** between Iberá Park and El Impenetrable National Park
- **14 guanacos translocated** to El Impenetrable National Park
- **8 red-footed tortoises** translocated to El Impenetrable National Park
- **4 coypus translocated** in Patagonia Park Argentina

Wildlife milestones:

- **33 wild jaguars** in Iberá Park (12 cubs born in 2024)
- **13 giant otters** in pre-release pens in Iberá Park (7 pups born)
- **8 ocelots** in the pre-release pens in Iberá Park
- **47 red-and-green macaws** in Iberá Park
- **17 bare-faced curassows** in Iberá Park
- **36 collared peccary births** recorded in the wild in Iberá Park
- **16 giant anteater births** recorded in the wild in Iberá Park
- **2 giant otters** in pre-release pens in El Impenetrable National Park
- **26 Wolfssohn's viscachas** in the reintroduced population in Patagonia Park Argentina
- **2 jaguars** released in El Impenetrable National Park

Active management of exotic species:

- **2,386 invasive animals** removed in Iberá Park (1,191 feral pigs and 1,195 axis deer)
- **7,118 willow stems** treated along the Pinturas River in Patagonia Park Argentina
- **3,000 sheep** removed from the San Miguel property (18,000 hectares/44,479 acres) in Patagonia Azul
- **600 hectares (1,483 acres)** free from rabbits in Patagonia Azul
- **63 hectares (155.4 acres)** maintained free from exotic vertebrate species in Patagonia Azul
- **4,300 hectares** (10,625 acres) of prescribed burns completed in Iberá Park

Habitat restoration and management:

- **99 kilometers** (61.5 miles) of firebreaks maintained in Iberá Park
- **130 hectares** (321 acres) of grassland restored in El Impenetrable National Park
- **800 meters** (2,625 feet) of springs rechanneled for wetland restoration in Patagonia Park Argentina
- **30 hectares** (74 acres) of water systems restored in Patagonia Park Argentina
- **4 new pools** for coypu created in Patagonia Park Argentina
- **40 kilometers** (25 miles) of internal fences removed in Patagonia Azul

RESTORATIVE ECONOMY

<i>Visitors:</i>		<i>Occupancy numbers:</i>	
46,003	in Iberá Park	1,659	guests at La Fidelidad Campground in El Impenetrable National Park
2,037	in El Impenetrable National Park	677	guests at El Bermejito and Los Palmares glamping sites in El Impenetrable National Park
15,249	in Patagonia Park	1,479	guests at La Posta de los Toldos in Patagonia Park Argentina
5,272	in Patagonia Azul	379	guests at Isla Leones Camps in Patagonia Azul

Training and capacity building

57	workshops with 3,585 participants across 19 towns in Iberá Park	2	tourism workshops for 80 participants in Patagonia Azul
1	postgraduate program "Nature Production in Iberá" with Universidad Nacional del Nordeste	87	workshop participants across 3 professional development programs in Patagonia Park Argentina
117	training sessions with 1,381 participants in El Impenetrable National Park	54	training sessions for travel agencies in Patagonia Park Argentina
13	workshops with 130 participants in Patagonia Azul		

Local economic development

69	local ventures in Iberá Park	33,614	USD in direct community revenue generated in El Impenetrable National Park
125	active artisans in Iberá's artisan network	23	locals receiving direct income from nature tourism activities in Patagonia Azul
100	active cooks in Iberá's culinary network	3	new nature tourism experiences launched in Patagonia Azul
67	consolidated local businesses in El Impenetrable National Park (36 tourism providers and 31 artisans)	311	attendees at eclipse event in Patagonia Park Argentina
6,697	kg of Algarrobo tree legume collected by 65 families in El Impenetrable National Park	150	attendees in two Canyon Hiking Meets in Patagonia Park Argentina

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Education and outreach:

102 **participants** from **9** communities in the Nature Club in Iberá Park

57 **educational workshops** reaching **3,585** participants in Iberá Park

8,951 **visitors** to Casa Iberá, Corrientes

2,077 **children** participated in the Patagonia Park Explorers program activities

114 **initiatives** children in summer camps in Patagonia Park Argentina

229 **participants** to 'Cuando Digo Sur' and "Return to the River" in Patagonia Park Argentina

+150 **students** reached through marine education in Patagonia Azul

773 **participants** in Encounters for Nature activities in Patagonia Azul

40 **children** and **27 women** participated in the Ocean Club in Patagonia Azul

181 **students** reached through **7 environmental education activities** in El Impenetrable

Community events:

1st **environmental Education Congress** organized in Iberá Park

250 **attendees** at Algarroba Cultural Festival in El Impenetrable National Park

130 **attendees** at Camarones del Mar event in Patagonia Azul

150 **families** attending Eco Kermesse in Patagonia Park Argentina + participantes de Cuando Digo Sur y Return to the River

Publications

1 **bilingual book** published documenting the creation of Iberá Park

2 **books** published on El Impenetrable National Park

35,000 **copies** of Patagonia Park Argentina supplement

Coexistence and community support:

161 **ranch owners** visited to foster coexistence with jaguars in Iberá Park

190 **public officers** trained to foster coexistence with jaguars in Iberá Park

20 **ranching families supported** through the Iberá's cattle management program

13 **families** maintaining regular communication about jaguar movements in El Impenetrable

57 **wetland families** supported in Iberá Park

+2,500 **cattle** vaccinated in coordination with SENASA

Our Financials

The attached statements (Balance sheet, Statement of Net Income and Statement of Cash Flow) corresponding to the fiscal years ended March 31, 2022, 2023 and 2024 are part of the audited financial statements of Rewilding Argentina which are also fully available on our website. They were prepared according to the generally accepted local accounting standards and converted into US dollars at the exchange rate of each year end.

These statements reflect the costs associated with managing approximately 200,000 hectares (aprox. 495.000 acres) overseen by Rewilding Argentina.

The income was generated by donations received, which reflects a year-over-year increase. The two graphics below show the donations received by Rewilding Argentina during 2024. They amounted to USD 12.3 million, of which 63% was allocated to the development of species reintroduction projects, community outreach initiatives, and public use infrastructure, while the remaining 37% was applied to land acquisitions.

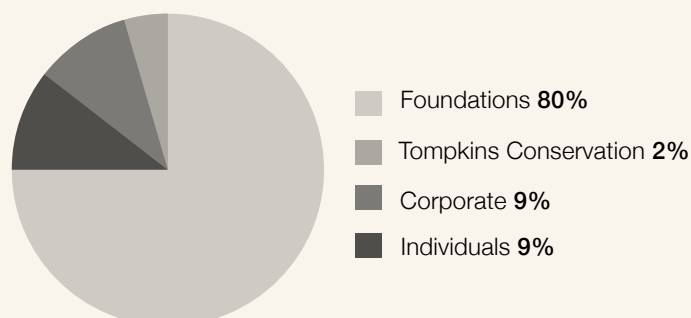
The source of donations, indicated in the "Funding Sources" graph, illustrates that 80% came from foundations, 9% from individuals, 9% from companies and 2% from Tompkins Conservation; all of which are mentioned in the Thank You section of this report.

The sustained increase in fixed assets over recent years reflects the growing level of investments not only in land acquisitions but also in the construction of public use infrastructure.

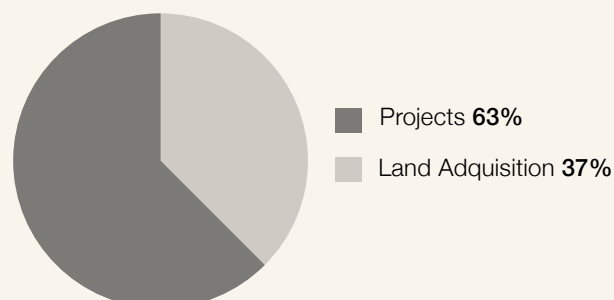
During 2023, 18,300 hectares (45,220 acres) were acquired for the conservation of the coastal marine area in Patagonia Azul in Chubut Province. In 2024, 4,800 hectares (11,861 acres) were acquired in the Yungas region of Salta Province, and 3,689 hectares (9,115 acres) in the Iberá Wetlands in Corrientes Province. Additionally, possession rights were obtained for 131 hectares (323.7 acres) in Iberá, Corrientes.

Regarding the development of public-use infrastructure, significant achievements include the inauguration of the Elsa Rosenwasser Feher Interpretation Center and Planetarium, the construction and maintenance of trails in Patagonia Park Argentina, the development of the Patagonia Azul Interpretation Center, and the construction of trails and maintenance of public-use infrastructure in El Impenetrable.

Funding Sources



Use of Funds



Balance Sheet

ASSETS

	03.31.24 USD	03.31.23 USD	03.31.22 USD
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Banks	5,742,505	5,049,577	3,791,285
Short Term Investments	3,364,441	300,631	961,751
Other Receivables	20,829	80,203	262,507
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	9,127,776	5,430,412	5,015,542
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Fixed Assets	29,912,074	31,400,400	26,321,669
Other Assets	2,514,848	2,363,312	2,061,289
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	32,426,922	33,763,712	28,382,958
TOTAL ASSETS	41,554,698	39,194,123	33,398,500

LIABILITIES & EQUITY	03.31.24 USD	03.31.23 USD	03.31.22 USD
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	535,176	462,734	448,620
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	151,790	151,773
TOTAL LIABILITIES	535,176	614,525	600,394
Founder's Contributions	4,478	4,732	4,360
Other Assets Revaluation Reserves	127,661	134,898	109,890
Retained Earnings	40,887,382	38,439,969	32,683,856
EQUITY	41,019,521	38,579,599	32,798,107
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	41,554,698	39,194,123	33,398,500

Statement Of Income

RESOURCES	03.31.24 USD	03.31.23 USD	03.31.22 USD
For General Purposes	26,546	29,891	92,394
For Specific Purposes	15,612,593	13,005,275	9,276,826
Miscellaneous	-	-	63,546
TOTAL RESOURCES	15,639,139	13,035,165	9,432,765
EXPENSES			
Administrative Expenses	(818,791)	(807,457)	(789,828)
Operating Expenses	(13,956,267)	(11,878,766)	(5,489,634)
Fixed Assets Depreciation	(1,145,254)	(812,638)	(589,256)
TOTAL EXPENSES	15,920,311	13,498,861	6,868,718
Other income & Expenses	(136,452)	(1,199,570)	(155,314)
Financial and Holding Results	4,927,143	4,635,121	(1,740,307)
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	4,509,519	2,971,856	4,149,040

Statement Of Cash Flow

CHANGES IN CASH	03.31.24 USD	03.31.23 USD	03.31.22 USD
Cash at Beginning of the Year	5,063,197	5,157,935	3,328,746
Cash at End of the Year	9,106,946	5,350,208	4,753,035
NET INCREASE IN CASH	4,043,749	192,273	1,424,289

REASONS FOR CHANGES IN CASH

OPERATING ACTIVITIES	03.31.24 USD	03.31.23 USD	03.31.22 USD
Collections of Resources for General Purposes	26,546	29,891	102,340
Collections of Resources for Specific Purposes	15,594,811	12,827,873	8,439,834
Contributions	(466,478)	(978,995)	(481,179)
Donations	(6,423,481)	(4,301,396)	(103,271)
Payments of Suppliers	(4,068,068)	(4,496,013)	(3,308,260)
Payments of Salaries and Social Contributions	(4,238,024)	(3,777,362)	(2,754,591)
Payments of Tax Liabilities	(45,179)	(122,415)	(65,725)
Loans Received	-	77,952	217,791
Financial Results Collect	7,504,518	6,919,740	3,827,500
Inflation Adjustments	(2,497,640)	(2,337,912)	(1,690,936)
Net Cash Flow Provided by Operating Activities	5,387,006	3,841,363	4,183,505

INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

Fixed Assets Purchases	(1,343,257)	(3,649,089)	(2,846,689)
Collection from Sales of Fixed Assets	-	-	87,473
Net Cash Flow (Used in) Investment Activities	(1,343,257)	(3,649,089)	(2,759,216)
NET INCREASE IN CASH	4,043,749	192,273	1,424,289

Thank You

At the heart of everything we do is collaboration. We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our collaborators, partners, and donors, who stand by us every step of the way. Your contributions are the cornerstone of our journey toward a more beautiful, vibrant, and wild world. To all of you, thank you.

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

Thank you to Re:wild for providing legal and administrative support to Rewilding Argentina as our fiscal sponsor.



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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.

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