

20|ANNUAL 22|REPORT

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Asociación
Cívica
Nosara
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The Magic of Nosara is no Accident...

Our story begins in 1975 when some of the first residents of what was then called Playas de Nosara decided to create an association to improve essential services, transportation, environmental protection, safety and community projects, laying the foundation for a unique coastal development in Costa Rica.

Today, in the final stretch toward our 50th anniversary, the Nosara Civic Association has almost 200 members, owns 250 hectares of protected regenerated forest, has kilometers of trails, participates in the National Network of Nature Reserves, has partnerships with public universities and national and international organizations and is a permanent member of the Advisory Committee for the Ostional Wildlife Refuge (CIMACO)



MISSION VISION

To honor and promote a sustainable future for the Nosara area.

A model community that values the welfare of all living beings.



We are very fortunate to live in such a unique, beautiful, and welcoming town. More people are noticing this and are visiting or moving to Nosara area every day, evidenced by an impressive increase in growth. We are experiencing the consequences.

The challenge of co-existing with the fragile wildlife and its habitat cannot be taken lightly. Relying on the authorities to react as fast as private investments or waiting for "someone" to do something about it, is unrealistic.

It is our individual responsibility to do the right thing, whether deciding about our new dream home, subdividing our lot, or getting that desirable ocean view.

At the NCA we work hard to preserve and regenerate what brought us here in the first place, and will keep producing reliable and valuable data, working with different organizations, local government, and other authorities, as well as protecting our parkland and the Ostional Wildlife Refuge.

Having your support is vital and we want to thank you for it.



LUIS PARDO
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

My name is Marco Villegas,
and I became the
Executive Director of the
NCA in July 2022.

This job was of great
interest to me because I
have a long, happy history
of coming to Nosara with
my family since I was five
years old. I was impressed
by the projects the NCA
was working on in order to
keep the magic of Nosara
alive.

On behalf of the NCA Team
- our staff, our green areas
caretakers, and our
technical advisors and
consultants - we see 2023
as a new opportunity to
reposition the NCA and its
great legacy in this
community.



MARCO
VILLEGAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NCA RESERVE

There are
250 protected hectares of
secondary forest.

We, the Nosara Civic Association -and our members- are either direct owners, have land in possession, or hold environmental easements on 34 protected properties in Nosara.

According to data from National University, 7.8 tons of carbon are captured annually per hectare of forest.

PROGRAMS 2022

IN 2022 OUR PROGRAMS
FOCUSED ON FIVE AREAS:



1. MOBILITY
2. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
3. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
4. CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT
5. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT



MOBILITY

SENDEROS DE NOSARA

Our trail network has been maintained throughout the year. Once again, we received the support of many community members, including students from Del Mar Academy who provided us with their service.



This year we have opened a new 200-meter trail section at the Wanderlust entrance that connects to the Bodhi Tree junction. This finally gives us a direct transit to the trail that goes out to Nomadic in Guiones.



Senderos de Nosara is a comprehensive project to provide a transportation solution from Santa Marta to Esperanza on a 6.5-kilometer route to be traveled by pedestrians and bicycles in a safe manner.

We are working on the Master Plan for this project. Phase 1, will connect from the Bodhi Tree entrance to Five Corners at the Pelada entrance without having to go over National Route 160.

For this project, we received a dedicated grant of \$6,500 in 2022. Now other neighbors and local businesses and local organizations have expressed their interest in funding a project that will undoubtedly change the mobility dynamics in our community.

We welcome everyone's support in achieving this goal.



MOBILITY

CALLE MODELO



Calle Modelo (Model Street) is a project launched in 2021 to promote neighborhood participation in the improvement of the roads in our community.

Phase 1 of the diagnosis and design included the involvement of more than 70 participants, including Guiones Main Street neighbors and visitors, in workshops and surveys.

Now through a public-private partnership with the Municipality of Nicoya, we can improve the 620 meters to the entrance of the Refuge. These improvements include asphaltting the street with funds from the Municipality of Nicoya.

Thanks to the funds raised by the project partners, the project will also include the following:

- Paved sections.
- Roundabouts to improve vehicular flow.
- 500 square meters of concrete sidewalks with guidance for visually impaired people
- A network of pipes and gutters for better water flow.
- Pedestrian crosswalks connecting to our trails network.

According to the schedule, construction will begin in the first half of 2023.



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

PROTECTION OF OUR FORESTS:

We are direct neighbors of more than 500 property owners in Nosara! We are still dealing with the National Registry (Registro) regarding potential overlaps on some of our properties.

These represent a permanent effort to protect and defend the 250 hectares, divided into 34 properties in the middle of a community with very high growth.

This year we received a notification from the Nicoya Municipal Council regarding their possible claim for 80 of our protected hectares in Guiones.

In response to this request, we met with Nicoya officials to reinforce our position defending the protected forest of the NCA. We remain attentive to the process and will continue to protect our parklands from development.

We have also put our efforts into finally registering under NCA's name, the property known as "Bioparque" with more than 150 hectares. For decades this large parcel was under NCA's possession but was registered initially under another company's name.

Our goal is to ensure the perpetual protection of the forest for the enjoyment of current and future generations. That is why, this year, we have invested more than \$30.000 in the defense and legal protection of the parklands, as well as in maintenance activities, including signage, fencing (we have about 8km of boundaries), cleaning, and monitoring. We also have two full-time employees to maintain the boundaries.

Today we are ready to approve the Management Plan for our properties, which will allow us to have a technical instrument to safeguard and promote protection.

The Management Plan will allow us to:

- Classify the different types of zones within the Reserve and its humid tropical forest.
- Define conservation priorities
- Elaborate on a socio-ecological diagnosis
- Better identify surface water.





BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

REGENERATION OF THE NOSARA DUMP AND PROTECTION OF THE AQUIFER



Every time a resident of Nosara takes out their garbage, a truck from the Municipality of Nicoya collects it and takes it to a landfill in Santa Cruz.

But this was not always the case. For more than 20 years, garbage remained in an open-air dump in Nosara. If it were not for the efforts of NCA members, the environmental impact of that dump would continue to grow. Finally, after ten years of working with the Municipality, in 2019, the Municipality of Nicoya began to pick up the trash.

However, we still have a big task ahead of us. Today, our priority is to prevent the remaining trash in the closed dump from contaminating our aquifers, through a soil-waterproofing environmental remediation or regenerative procedure.

The project is now ready to be executed; we already have all the necessary permits and plans. However, to do this, we need at least \$350,000. Therefore, this year we applied for funds from the Rural Development Institute (INDER) to support this work. We need to raise the entire amount before the final work can begin.

In 2023 our priority is to raise as much of these funds as possible to initiate the construction and protect Nosara's water.



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

SUPPORT FOR THE OSTIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



This year we maintained our presence as members of the Advisory Council to the Ostional Refuge - CIMACO, attending 100% of the sessions and its Legal and Management Plan Commission.

This year we received the ruling of the Constitutional Chamber that nullifies the Refuge Law N. 9348 and returns its status to a state Refuge. We have provided technical and legal advice for this process to uphold the law of the Refuge so that it can continue to be a Mixed Refuge, and the people living there and in good standing can maintain their living conditions.

As part of our work, we also offered technical support by providing a workshop to the Ostional Refuge Local Guides in conjunction with other officials. These people are in charge of the turtle's guided tours and require support and training.

This year, we also supported the Refuge by placing fences in specific areas of its boundaries.





BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

BEACH CLEANING



During 2022, the NCA has performed more than 40 beach cleanups, covering the Pelada and Guiones beach areas and accumulating more than 280 hours of cleanup. In addition, our team collected 240 large trash bags from both beaches through weekly cleanup.

Every Monday, rain or shine, our team crosses from the northern sector of Pelada to the southern sector of Guiones, collecting all the garbage in the area.

In addition, we support the cleanup events organized by other organizations and allies such as Blue Flag Committees, Nosara Recycles, Etc.





BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

AGREEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL RESCUE

Thanks to the agreement signed between NCA and International Animal Rescue, the new "Michael Uren Wildlife Rescue and Education Center" is being built on one of the NCA properties. This center will focus on the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of wild species in our community.



NOSARA ENVIRONMENTAL FESTIVAL

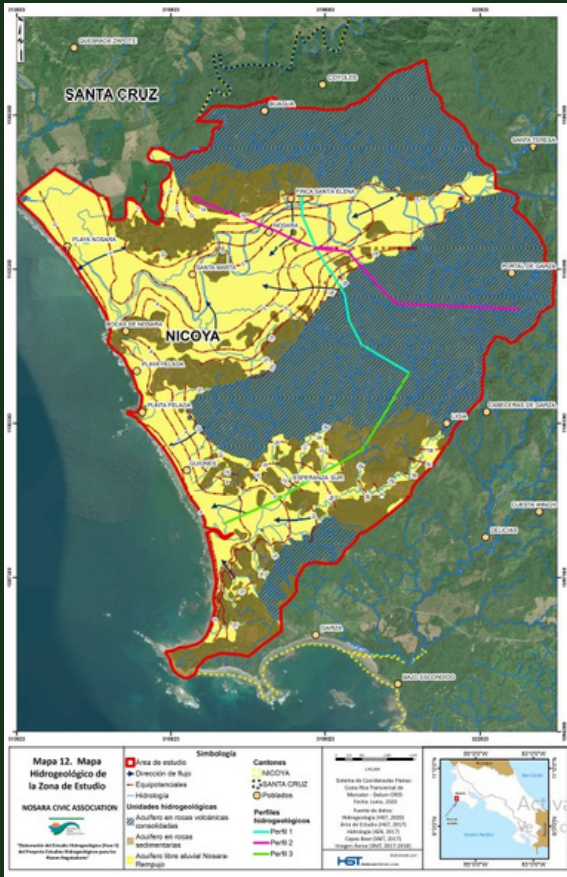
Together with other organizations in the community, we organized the World Day of the Environment, which included community workshops, beach cleanup, hiking the NCA trails, and a celebratory picnic on June 5th.





SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

APPROVAL AND PRESENTATION OF THE NOSARA HYDROGEOLOGICAL STUDY PHASE 2.



On November 3, 2022 we officially shared the second phase of the Hydrogeological Study for the Nosara area with our community. This information is essential to know the characteristics of the aquifers of our district. This study has already been approved by the National Groundwater, Irrigation, and Water Management Service (SENARA) and was possible thanks to the support of our members and the collaboration of our technical and professional teams.

With the majority of the ASADAS in the community, we made a presentation to share all the details of this study. We are delighted to see the high level of commitment from the ASADAS, development associations, and local leaders so that we can continue to act on the main water problems in our community.





SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

SUPPORT FOR NOSARA'S BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM FROM "WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION - WCA"

In support of a program led by WCA, we have been involved during 2022 with installing and monitoring camera traps on NCA trails. This program includes a network of infrared cameras that allow taking pictures of the species to understand the diversity of animals surrounding us and measure the ecosystem's health.

Recently, a camera placed a few meters away from the Civic Center (NCA/ASADA Office) captured a beautiful yet unidentified feline.





CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT

WATER AND SANITATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ASADAS

We are all concerned about water quality in our community. At NCA, we understand that solutions to this problem must be comprehensive and supported by everyone. That's why in 2022, we initiated an approach with the ASADAS of our community and the sanitation committees. The objective is to facilitate a network that will allow us to find solutions.

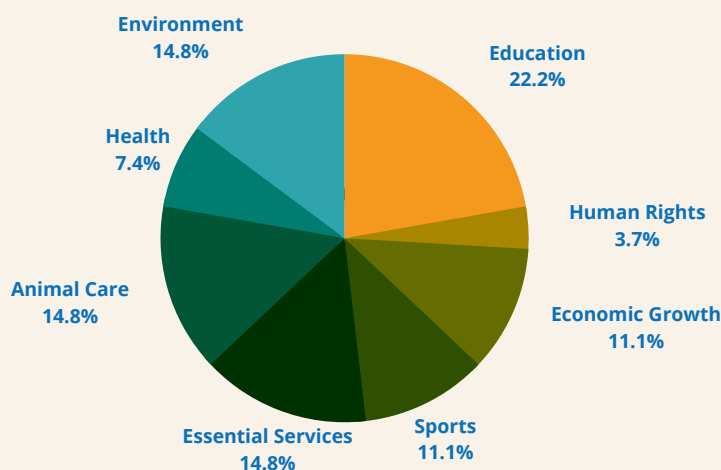


ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUPPORT IN NOSARA

This initiative has enabled us to map all NGOs and initiatives of our community to generate better alliances and identify opportunities for joint efforts.

We have identified 25 NGOs that have been initially classified into eight categories. As a result, education (6 organizations), environment (4), and essential services (4) are the most important categories.

DISTRIBUCIÓN DE LAS ONG EN NOSARA



Because of the characteristics of our community, the essential services category has particular relevance. Therefore, we have included: Bomberos de Nosara, Nosara Security Association, Nosara Recicla, and the NCA.



CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT

In 2023, we will continue working towards better articulating the whole ecosystem.

To strengthen the essential services organizations, in 2022, we promoted the reactivation of the board of directors of the Security Association (NSA) by supporting the organization of its assembly, which took place in our office and had an attendance of more than 40 people.



We look forward to seeing a consolidated Security Association working for all our community.

NCA RACE "THE MAGIC OF NOSARA"

In 2022, we had the second edition of our race. The race consisted of two routes (2.5km and 7.5km) and included more than 100 participants. This family event brought together people from 7 years to 76 years of age and had the support of local businesses, the Municipality of Nicoya, and the administration of the Ostional Refuge.

Special thanks to:

Sponsors: Blue Zone Brewery, The Nosara Coffee Factory, Caricaco Fest, Nosara Surf School, Selina Nosara, ConnectOcean, Nosara Sea Saw, Toro Bravo Tours, Nosara Playhouse, Lagarta Lodge, Experience Nosara, Harmony Projects, Salty by Nosara Kids Camp, Olo Alaia, Enchanted Forest, Nosara Day Camp, Nosara Bodywork, La Luna, Coyol, Lobo Boutique, Sunrise Coffee, Sekretspot Pelada, Hotel Olas Verdes, Harmony Projects, Olga's Bar and Rest.

Organizations: Nosara Recicla, Pelada Local Neighborhood Association, Bomberos de Nosara, Del Mar Academy and its students.





GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Ostional Wildlife Refuge Legal Status

On October 5, 2022, the Constitutional Court ruled in favor of an action of unconstitutionality against the National Wildlife Refuge Law 9348.

This ruling led to the law's annulment; it changed the status from a mixed use refuge back to a state refuge. We are still waiting for the final publication of the text to know in detail what its implications are for the community and the Refuge.

The NCA, is attending to this directly by working with SINAC (Refuge administration), community associations, and other stakeholders, reaffirming our commitment to:

- 1.-Watch over the protection of the Ostional Refuge, the people who live there and have inhabited it for decades, and the economic activities around it
- 2.-Maintaining the Refuge as a world example of community integration for sustainability and conservation
- 3.-Continue to be an active part of integrated preservation solutions, hand in hand with the community.





GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

REGULATORY (ZONING) PLAN

This year we renewed the cooperation agreement between the NCA and the Municipality of Nicoya to provide technical assistance for the Regulatory Plan Commission. The NCA, through a consultant assigned to this project, has participated in all of the sessions of the Regulatory Plan Commission as a technical advisor.

PHASES OF A CANTONAL REGULATORY PLAN



Preliminary Preparation



Diagnosis of the territory



Formulation of the proposal



Implementation of the new plan

The first phase for the Nicoya canton has been completed. In 2023 we expect further progress to be made with the diagnostics necessary to conclude Phase 2., This includes 6 reports related to legal, territorial, political, and other factors.

We invested approximately \$10,000 in technical support during 2022 for the regulatory plan commission.

MUNICIPALITY OF NICOYA BUILDING REGULATIONS

In February 2020, the Municipality of Nicoya approved a regulation for construction in the Ostional Refuge's buffer zone, intending to protect aquifers and conserve ecosystems. The regulation focuses on four points: building coverage, building height, wastewater management, and lighting control.

In April 2020, a company filed a lawsuit against the regulation in the Court of Administrative Litigation against the Municipality of Nicoya, stating that the regulations had irregularities.

Since then, the process has gone through stages of appeals. Now, the regulation is suspended and continues to await a final resolution.

OPERATIONS

CIVIC CENTER (NCA/ASADA OFFICE)

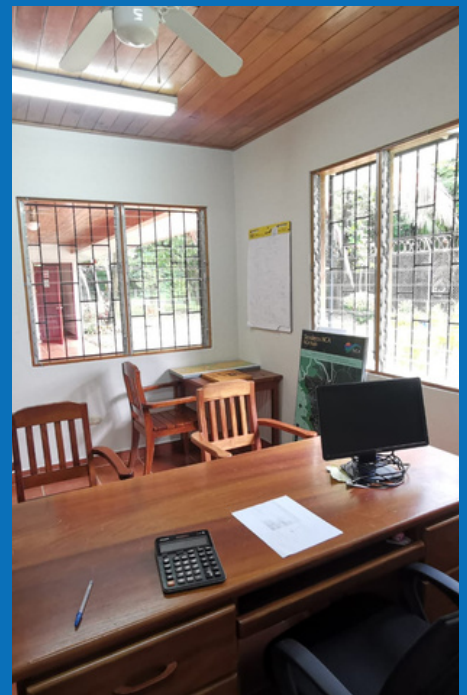
This year, the NCA Civic Center (our building where the Asada de Playas de Nosara operates) has also become the home of the Food Bank.

Through an agreement between our two organizations, the Food Bank has set up its container on our property, providing primary service to our community.

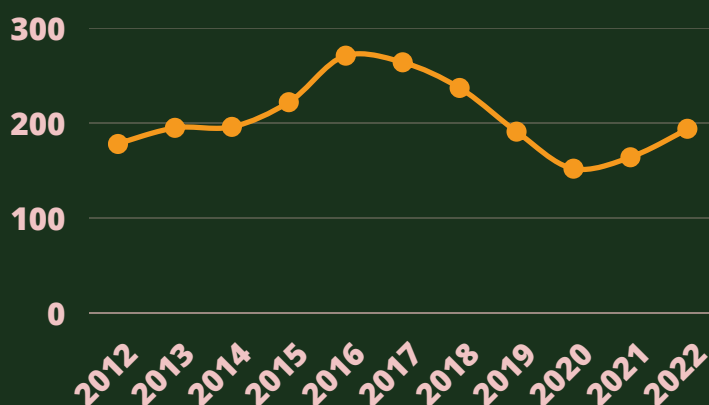


Thanks to a \$2,000 donation and NCA's funds, we furnished our Meeting Room, so that It is now at the service of the entire community.

We also renovated a work office that will be rented as a new source of income.



MEMBERSHIP



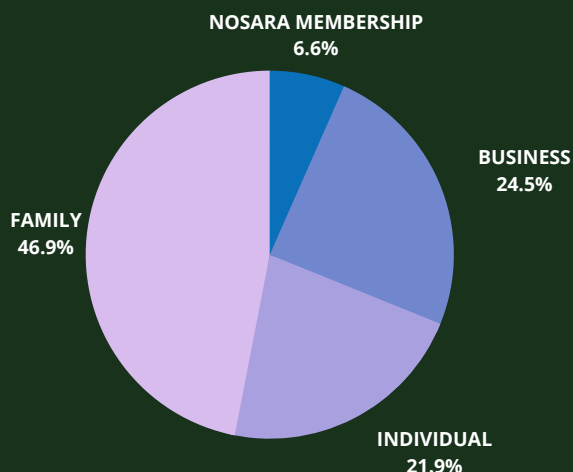
Increasing our membership is essential to strengthening our Association.

This year memberships increased 20% over the previous year (one of the most significant increases in the last six years).

Based on feedback from the community, we created a new membership category called Nosara Membership, in which individuals can make one contribution that supports the work of four essential services organizations in Nosara: NCA, Bomberos, Nosara Recicla and NSA. This new option has raised \$3,600. We hope this pilot program will help with fundraising for the essential services providers of the community.

One of the main concerns of our members was how complex it was to renew the membership payments after each year.

We have simplified the way to become members. Now, our entire membership is managed through the effortless Classy platform for automatic annual and monthly payments



We currently have 196 active members. Most are families, individuals, and 24.5% are local businesses.

COMMUNICATIONS



REBRANDING AND COMMUNICATIONS

This year, thanks to a donation of \$5,000 from our members, we successfully launched the rebranding of the NCA in August.

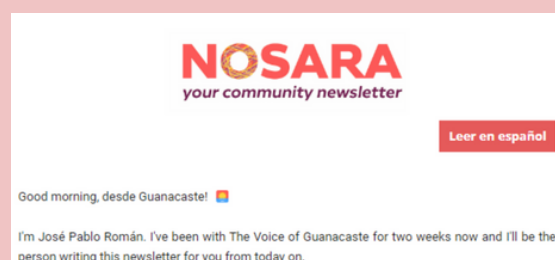
Our new logo and brand identity are inspired by the most iconic elements of our environment: nature and wildlife. They also include a palette of colors that reflects our diverse and positive community.

We have created and implemented a new communication strategy that allows us to measure more accurately the impact of our work in this area.



PRESS COVERAGE

In 2022 we got important press coverage regarding two of the community's most pressing issues (The legal situation of the Refuge and environmental complaints).



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

BOARD MEMBERS



Luis Pardo
President



Kuki Araya
Vicepresident



KeriDawn Solner
Secretary



Nice Alterman
Treasurer



Bart De Graaf
Vocal 1



Nicole Quesada
Vocal 2



Fritz Elmendorf
Vocal 3



Andrés González
Fiscal

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

STAFF



Marco Villegas
Executive Director



Adriana Alfaro
Administrative Services



Laura Porras
Communications Specialist



Heiner Acevedo
Technical Consultant



Boanerges Montiel
Parklands & Trails
Coordinator



Danny Alvarado
General Maintenance

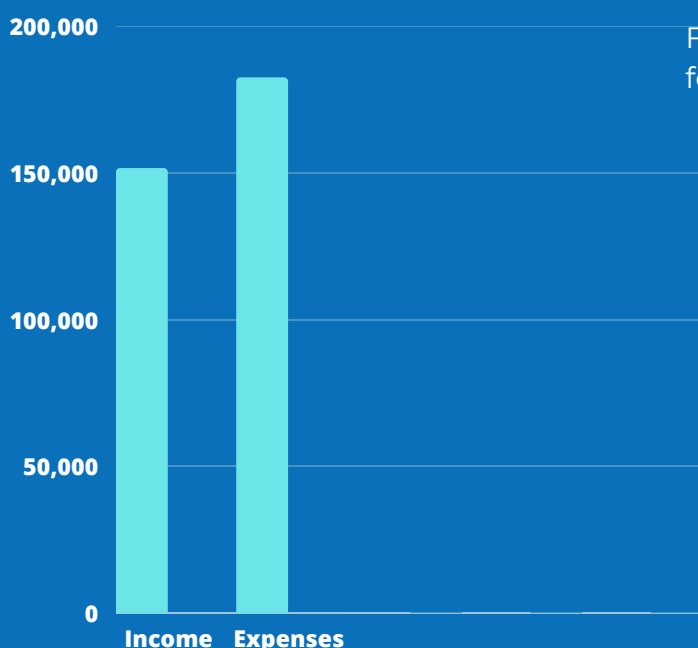
FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2022, we undertook a significant restructuring process and staff changes to improve the efficiency and financial stability of the organization.

We created the position of Executive Director, closed other positions, and outsourced the rest of the technical and support services.

Following this change, we implemented a cutback in non-essential expenses as we anticipated that the -previously budgeted- donation amount was too high to be achieved.

At the same time, we continued the Anchor Donors program and received our grant incomes. Our financial reserves covered a negative ending balance of -\$30,902.28 USD



For the 2023 budget, we are taking the following measures:

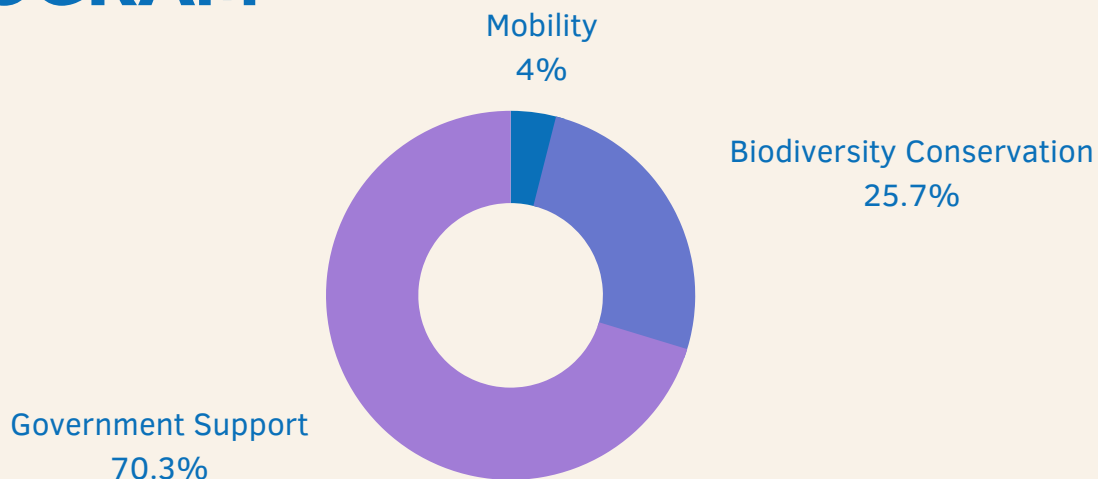
- Conservative budget: Be more realistic about our income sources.
- Operations and project budgets: Clearly divide the costs of the operation of the NCA vs. the budgets of each project via cost center accounting.
- Financial discipline: The expenditures of each project should only be approved after a confirmed source of income.

TOTAL INCOME:
\$151.408,96

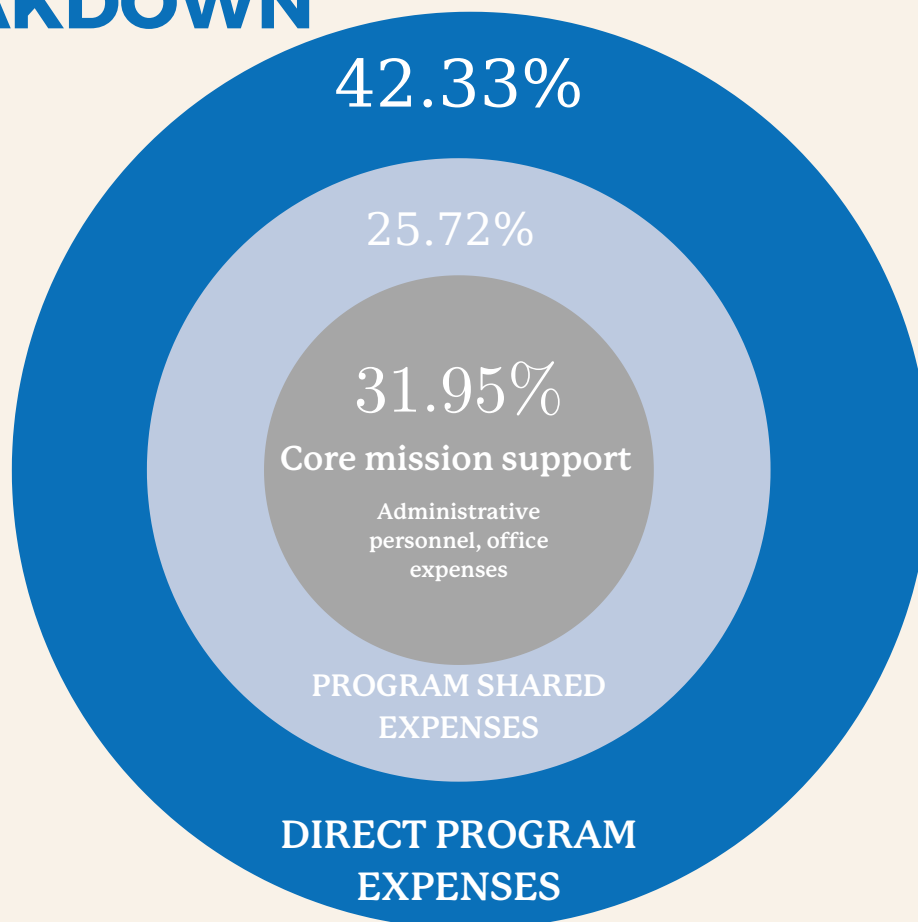
TOTAL EXPENSES:
\$182.329,17

RESERVE FUND EXPENSE:
-\$30.902,28

EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAM



EXPENSES BREAKDOWN



Passthrough Donations

\$284.058,66

In 2022 we received specific grants of \$284,056.66. These funds are directed to social or environmental projects in the community.

A photograph of a dense forest with many trees and green foliage. A dirt path leads into the distance. The text is overlaid on the image.

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

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Nosara, Guanacaste, Costa Rica