



**Annual Report**  
**Asociación Cívica de Nosara - 2017**

## LETTER FROM PRESIDENT

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Dear Members,

2017 was another busy year for the NCA. We continued to make progress on our three main priorities - **beach protection, parkland protection and community planning.**

The draft regulations for the Plan de Manejo for the Ostional National Wildlife Refuge have been completed and are awaiting final approval. We are happy to report that the new regulations will not allow any new development on north Guiones ( within the 200 meters of ZMT).

We completed the study on the amount of carbon stored in our parklands and will be looking to sell our carbon credits to help support the cost of maintaining our parklands. Work was started on marking the boundaries of our properties and will continue this year.

We have been working closely with the municipality of Nicoya and their staff on moving forward with the process of creating a local zoning plan for our area. We are overseeing the hydrogeologic study of our aquifer that will provide necessary data needed for a local zoning plan.

We were happy to receive more funding through grants and donations than originally anticipated. The one area we are lagging behind in is in memberships. Increasing our membership will be one of our top priorities this year.

We want to thank all of our members for your continued support. We could not do this work without you.

Warm regards,

Kuki Araya, President





### parkland protection

The NCA owns 240+ hectares of Parklands. Our mission is to permanently protect them from development and encourage public enjoyment of them as well as the use them for the benefit of the entire community.



### beach protection

The protection of Playa Guiones, Playa Pelada and Playa Nosara has always been a priority for the NCA. We played an instrumental role in expanding the Ostional Wildlife Refuge to include Guiones and Pelada as part of the protected beaches.

Thanks to that expansion, we still enjoy a pristine beach without development in the 200 meters from the high tide line.



### community planning

To achieve our mission of a sustainable future for Nosara we need to engage in community planning that is transparent and inclusive. We do this by promoting civic engagement and supporting local organizations that follow these principles.

Our goal is to permanently protect our parklands for the **sustainability of wildlife and the enjoyment of our residents**. Our green areas make Nosara unique and allow everyone to be part of the beautiful nature that surrounds us.

- **TRAILS:** Our [new website](#) includes a digital version of our trails map, and a downloadable version will be available soon. We continue to maintain and improve our trail system - adding and repairing bridges where needed. For 2018 we plan on doing maintenance 3 times during the year and a monthly voluntary clean up.
- **CARBON PROJECT:** In November we were able to complete our year long carbon study and measure the amount of carbon that our parklands are fixing (7.5 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per hectare). In 2018 we will be looking to sell these carbon credits and use the proceeds to help fund our parkland maintenance budget.

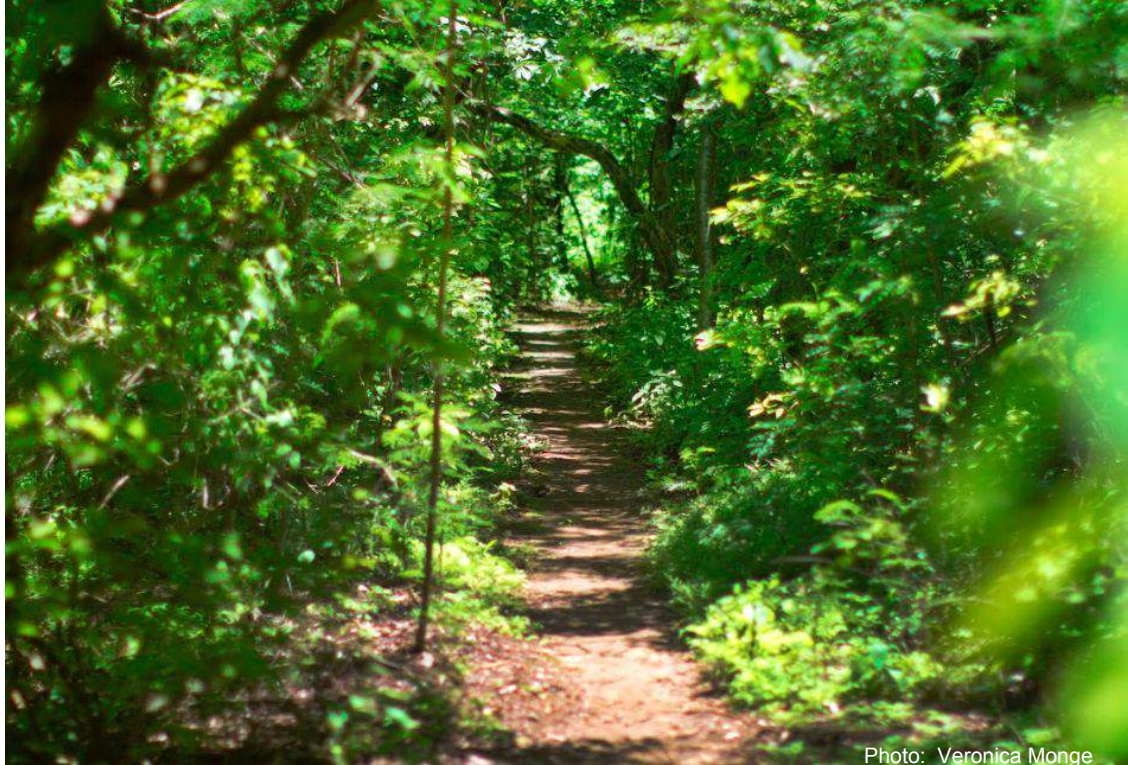


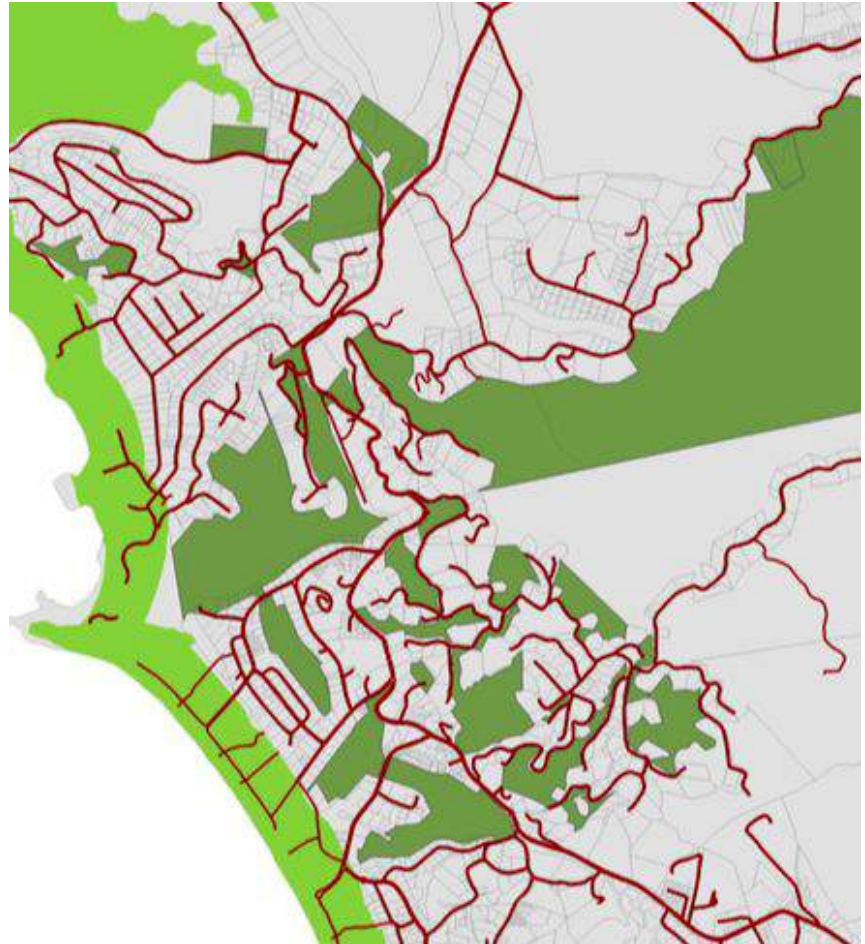
Photo: Veronica Monge





- **GREENZONES BOOK:** During 2017, we partnered with the Harmony Hotel for their artist in residency program. Chicago based artist, [Jenny Kendler](#), created a book about our Green Zones. The book features photos taken by users of the trails and focuses on the importance of *our relationship with the nature around us*. The book will have a limited run of 250 books and will be launched in February 2018. Please remember to reserve a copy for yourself. All proceeds from the sale of the book will go to our Parklands maintenance budget.
- **WILDLIFE CROSSINGS:** Our partnership with Refuge for Wildlife, Costas Verdes and Harmony Gardens has identified 16 bridges along side the area that will be paved on Route 160 and has already installed 4 bridges. Together with MINAE, we also identified 7 terrestrial crossings that will have signs as part of the pavement process.

- **PROPERTY BOUNDARIES:** We created a budget for marking the boundaries of our parklands with posts to be able to secure and maintain them. We prioritized the most vulnerable properties and are marking them as our budget permits. During 2017, we fenced 25% of the parkland boundaries, spending approximately \$11 409, including materials and labor. We have also worked out specific contracts with a crew to clean the boundaries twice a year.
- **PARKLAND DISPUTES:** We continued our negotiations with Custodia S.A. to work out the many details in being able to finalize our agreement. We hope to have this completed in early 2018.





- In order to meet our vision of **sustainable development** for our area it is imperative to have a local zoning plan to control development in a way that protects our fragile ecosystem while meeting the demands for growth. Kuki Araya, the NCA president, was appointed to the commission responsible for overseeing the **Plan Regulador (Regulatory Plan) for the canton of Nicoya**. A local zoning plan for our area is part of this. We are excited about the opportunity to have a seat at the table and advocate for the unique needs of our community.
- We will be looking at appropriate ways of engaging in the effort to create a **Municipal District for Nosara**. If this initiative passes it would allow Nosara to have more control over the revenue that is generated from our area. This should hopefully improve the level of services available to all the residents of the district. The election to decide this will take place in June 2018. Only Costa Rican citizens are allowed to vote.
- The NCA is overseeing the grant for a hydrogeologic study of our aquifer. This important research will happen in several phases and take approximately two years to complete; it will assess the health and capacity of our aquifer and help determine where development should occur. **This data is required in a local zoning plan**. Phase One was completed at the end of the year and is awaiting approval from SENARA- the national agency in charge of groundwater. Once this happens the next phase can begin.





Our goal is to continue protecting our beaches from new development and to **maintain critical habitat**.

- NCA continues to be a part of **CIMACO** (the advisory community group for the Ostional Refuge). NCA consultant, geographer Francisco Jimenez, assists on a monthly basis to the CIMACO meeting, where he was appointed to the technical commission responsible for creating the regulations under the new law in the refuge.
- **MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR OSTIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE:** The technical commission works on meeting all the requisites for the approval of the Management Plan, including carrying capacity, elaborations of 83 maps of environmental diagnosis, regulations on public use, regulations on zoning. The draft has been completed and is awaiting final approval. It respects the importance of keeping the level of protection of Guiones and Pelada due to turtle presence and to protect the coastal forest.





We are actively involved in several projects and continue to support our partners.



NCA financially supports the important work of the Recycling Association, the Food Bank and Costas Verdes. This is in alignment with our mission of creating a sustainable future for our community.



During the month of October, NCA partnered with the Municipal Emergency Committee, the Nosara Development Association, Government institution IMAS and several volunteer community members to fundraise and distribute donations to several people affected by Tropical Storm Nate.

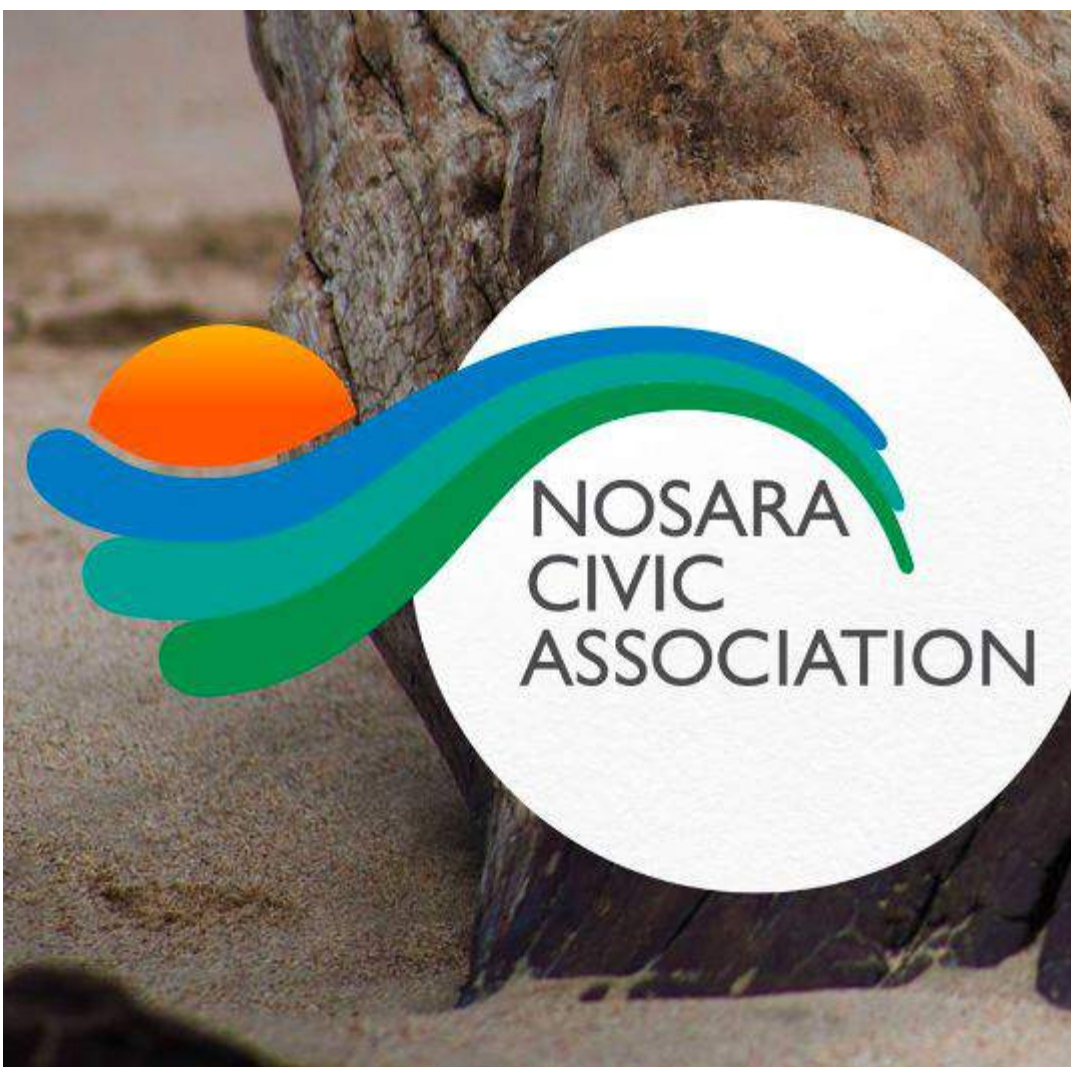
NCA supports the Nosara Biological Corridor project by managing funds and providing technical assistance for specific activities such as GIS.



We continue to work on ways to make our organization more sustainable.

This year we redesigned our website to make it more user friendly and attractive. We encourage you to visit it often to keep abreast of what is going on in our community. You will find an archive of our newsletters and blogs along with other useful information. We value your feedback to ensure the website meets your member needs.

We continued to strengthen our relationships with government agencies and local organizations, including the Municipality of Nicoya, MINAE, the Conservation Area of Tempisque and the Association of Private Reserves of Costa Rica. This, together with your support via membership dues and donations, has helped us move our agenda forward.



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CIVIC  
ASSOCIATION