

# Annual Report Asociación Cívica de Nosara - 2018

Dear Members,

As my second term as president of the Nosara Civic Association comes to an end, I look back and realize what an amazing opportunity this has been, both professionally and personally ,to serve this organization.

The Playas de Nosara community is a special place. It's the touristy area of the district of Nosara and it is also the area with the largest number of foreign residents and visitors in the district of Nosara - a place where Costa Ricans are a minority. This is a **hard reality** for a Costa Rican like myself living here. I also believe, that as president of this organization, this has been an **opportunity** to bridge and strengthen our relationship with the leadership of the other neighborhoods that together form Nosara: Esperanza, Garza, Delicias, Santa Marta, Santa Teresita, San Pedro, downtown Nosara and Arenales.

Nosara is growing; this is inevitable and it depends on us, **all of us**, on how we adjust and help guide that change so that it is inclusive, environmentally conscious and respectful of the local culture.

The Nosara Civic Association has grown tremendously - going from a homeowners association to the respected environmental organization we are today, preserving the unique character of this place we love.

As we get ready to go full steam during 2019 to work on a regulatory plan for our district, we thank you for your continuous support and hope to keep serving this amazing, special place.

Ethel "Kuki" Araya
President - Board of Directors



The Nosara Civic Association serves the community of the beaches of Nosara in its goal of preserving the unique character of this privilege place. Our three strategic goals are aimed at creating respectful interactions between humans and their natural environment



**Parkland Protection:** The NCA owns 240+ hectares of Parklands. Our mission is to permanently protect them from development and encourage public enjoyment of them.



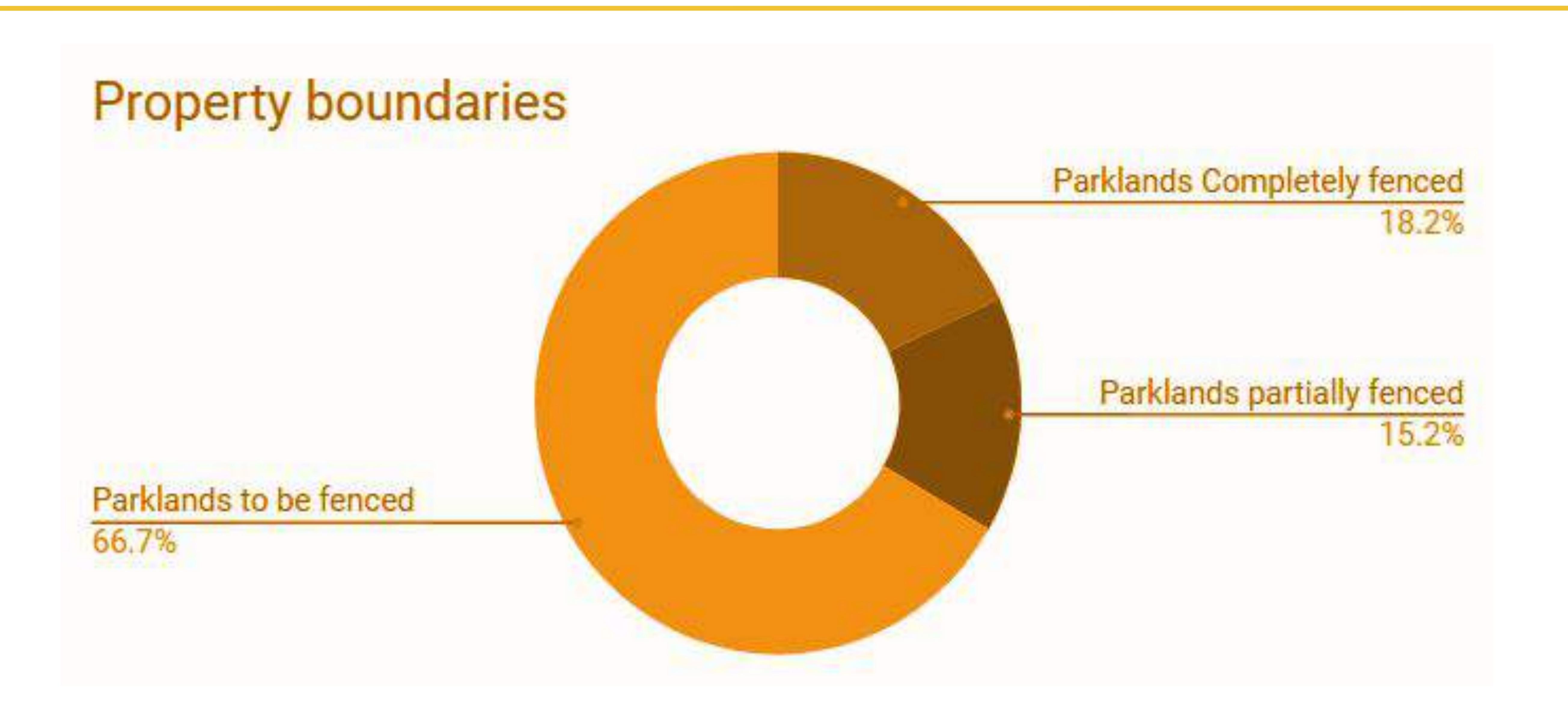
**Beach Protection**: The protection of Playa Guiones, Playa Pelada and Playa Nosara has always been a priority for the NCA.

We focus on providing technical support and coordination mechanisms for the Ostional Refuge, focused on the long term protection of its resources and promoting the best possible technical solutions to such a beautiful and delicate ecosystem.



**Community Planning**: To achieve our mission of a sustainable future for Nosara we engage in a community planning process that is transparent and inclusive. We do this by promoting civic engagement, supporting local organizations that follow these principles, and by providing technical and administrative support to the Regulatory commission at the Municipal level.





### PROPERTY BOUNDARIES:

- During 2018 we concluded the fencing of 6 parklands and partially fenced 5 more parklands. Currently we are engaging with neighbours of the parklands to split the cost of fencing: the NCA provides the posts and the neighbors the labor.
- 5 topographical surveys were done in order to remove annotations from the NCA parklands on properties located in Guiones and Pelada. These surveys are currently in process in the National Registry
- Completed our yearly clean up of our boundaries during January and February
- Our association now has a drone, thanks to a donation from fundación CRUSA. This will allow better monitoring of our parklands.

# PROPERTY TAXES

• The value of all NCA properties was updated at the Municipality of Nicoya during 2018 as requested by Costa Rican law. 16 properties included in Régimen Forestal were exempted from paying taxes this year.



### TRAILS:

- The new signage for the trails was completed and will be going up soon on 3 trails. Be sure to check out the new trail map on our website.
- We have launched an Adopt a Trail program.
   We have commitments from Wanderlust, Bodhi
   Tree, Harmony, Selina and Sunset Shack to participate in the program and are working to enlist more businesses.

### PARKLAND DISPUTES:

- After a long negotiation process, we successfully completed our negotiations with Custodia S.A. over 6 parklands.
- 5 of the parklands will remain under the NCA ownership and one property will be owned by Custodia, who will keep 65% of this property green and undeveloped.
- We successfully reclaimed the property next to the ASADA/NCA, previously occupied by Cigarron.

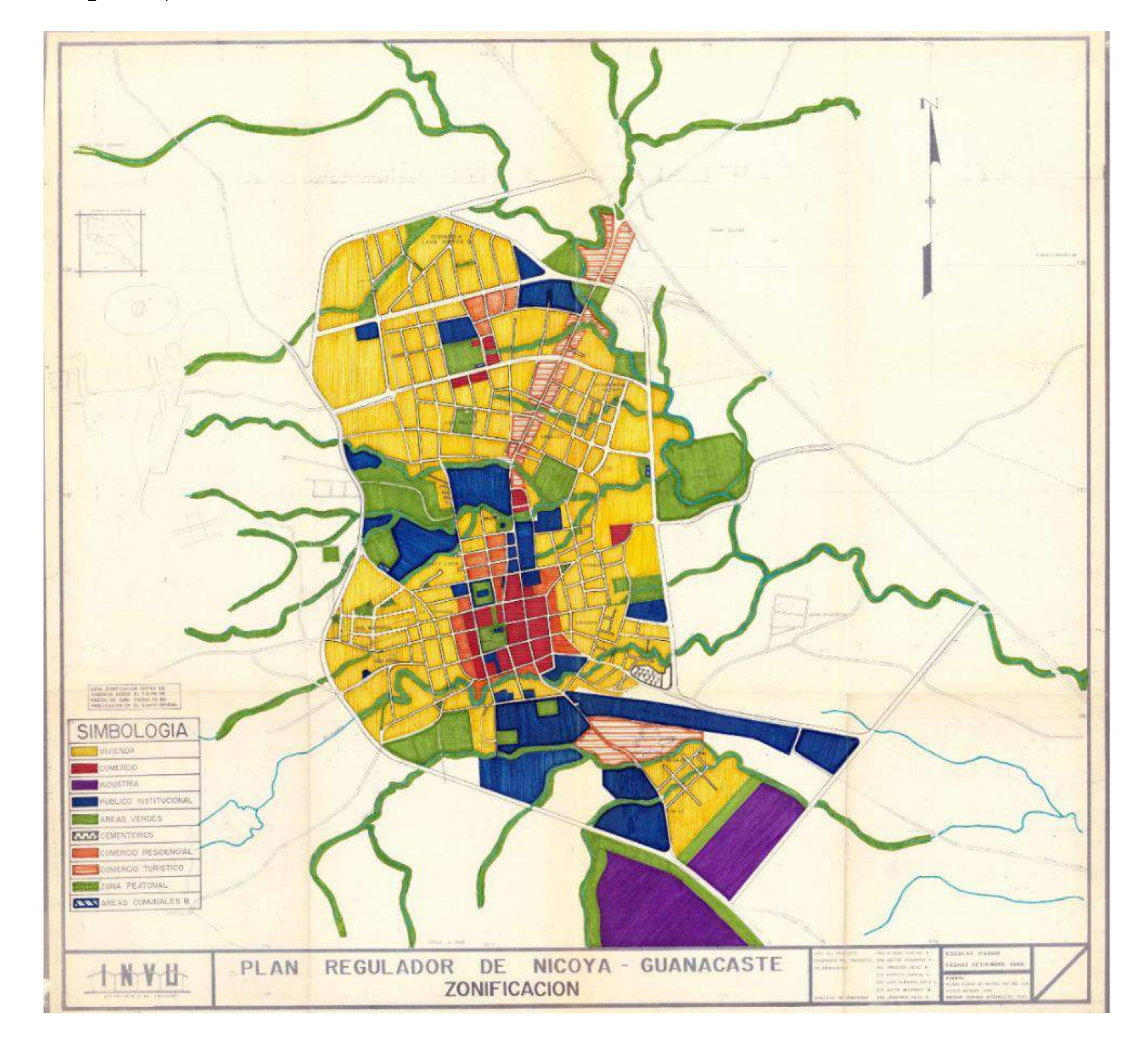


# REPORT 2018 - COMMUNITY PLANNING



### REGULATORY PLAN:

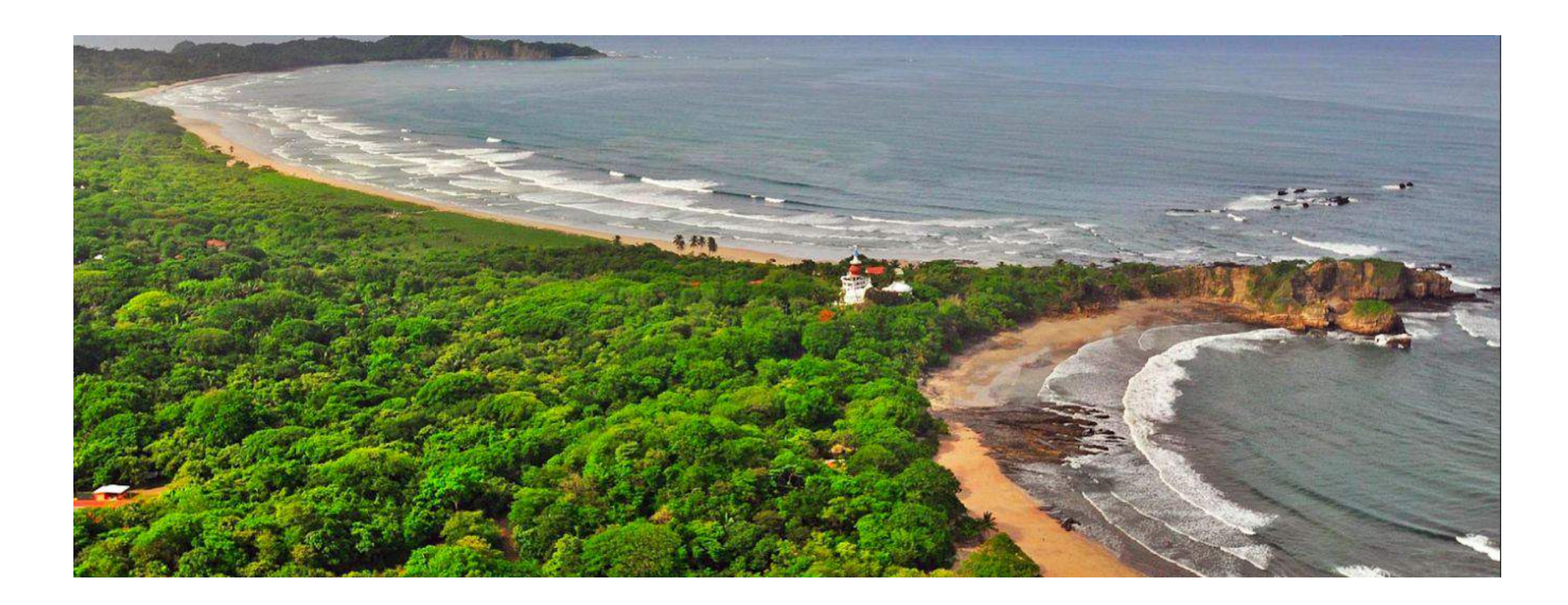
- •During 2018, the NCA signed a cooperation agreement with the Municipality of Nicoya for the coordination of the Regulatory Plan commission.
- Kuki Araya, the NCA president, continued her role as a member of the commission participating in meetings during 2018. To date the commission has completed phase 1 of the process, including hiring the planning team (National University of Costa Rica)
- We started a funding campaign to pay for the hydrogeological and environmental studies required to complete the Regulatory Plan. This was done with the intention of avoiding any delays due to municipal budget restrictions. We closed 2018 with commitments of \$176 000 to fund this process (90% of our goal)



# INTERACTING WITH OUR DISTRICT LEADERSHIPS:

- •During 2018, we partnered with organized groups in projects that go beyond our Playas de Nosara: the **pavement of route 160** project. This has been fully re-activated after the change in government. For a while the continuity of this project was in doubt.
- Our partnership with the Refuge for Wildlife has allowed us to work in coordination with the National Electric Company (ICE) in the installation of monkey bridges along route 160.

More recently, we have been interacting more with the Development Association of Nosara and the Nosara Security Association to improve effectiveness and communication between the police and our organized groups.



### PARTICIPATION IN CIMACO:

- NCA continues to be a part of **CIMACO** (the advisory community group for the Ostional Refuge). NCA project lead, 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.
- The technical commission works on meeting all the requisites for the approval of the Management Plan. The draft was presented to the communities of Ostional, Guiones and Pelada; specific cases were addressed. Once approved by SETENA, the Management Plan will allow people who live in compliance with the norms to remain inside of the Refuge while protecting its natural value for the Nosara community.

# TOURISM SECTOR ORGANIZATION:

During 2018, we promoted, in coordination with the Ostional Wildlife Refuge (OWR) Management, TortuGuiones and the Guanacaste Community Fund, a process to promote interaction between the Guiones and Pelada tourism sector (hotels, restaurants, property managements, surf schools, tour operators and horseback riding tour operations) and the administration of the OWR. We will continue our work that most likely will reactivate the Nosara Tourism Chamber

The Nosara Civic Association supports several organized groups in our district, with cash and in-kind donations.

Our partners serve important purposes that are aligned with the NCA purpose. We are actively involved in several projects and continue to support our partners.

# IN KIND DONATIONS



NCA supports the work of the **ASADA Playas de Nosara** by providing free rent for the offices and storage of our local ASADA.,





During 2018 NCA continued to support the Nosara Biological Corridor and the Liga Comunal del Agua by managing their funds.



NCA supports the work of the **Bomberos de Nosara** by providing free rent for the Bomberos Bodega

## CASH SUPPORT



For more than five years, the NCA has supported the important work of **Costas Verdes** with monthly donations. During 2018, we donated \$4800 that helped cover salaries for the organization



2018 was the second year that NCA financially supported the **Food Bank** donating \$2400 distributed throughout the year.



NCA financially supports the work of the **Recycling Association** by donating \$2700 distributed throughout the year.

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

- During 2018 we started working with Banco Nacional to implement credit card payments on our website that will facilitate membership renewal and donations
- We migrated to a new accounting system that will streamline bookkeeping
- We are currently working with real estate agencies to promote the NCA to their clients.





