

ECOAN

ASOCIACIÓN ECOSISTEMAS ANDINOS

2020 ANNUAL  
REPORT

# MESSAGE TO OUR CONSERVATION PARTNERS

Dear friends,

Throughout history, we have faced great challenges, but none like the pandemic that paralyzed the world in 2020. While the origin of COVID-19 is not entirely clear, we know that its spread was faster in societies facing environmental crises. Today more than ever, life tests our resilience to move forward in all our missions and plans for the good of the planet and families.

Despite the difficulties, risks, and limitation; The Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos - ECOAN continued with its mission to protect, conserve and restore Andean ecosystems working together with our local allies, donors, and strategic partners. We managed to exceed the annual reforestation goal, expand our conservation areas, monitor endangered species, and bring help to the Andean and Amazonian communities, which are the strong arm of our actions on the ground. We were not oblivious to the consequences of the pandemic; but the implementation of biosecurity measures and constant medical advice gave us the tools to respond in a timely, panic-free, and effective manner to the commitments of our projects. We appreciate the valuable input of all the people who made these achievements possible.

A sick planet shows us its symptoms, and the aggressive response of our society to reactivate the world economy puts the sustainable use of natural resources at risk. This panorama is the preamble of a social change to understand the importance of nature in the stability of the planet. The next few years will continue to be a challenge, but one thing is for sure: we can overcome the challenges, we have the opportunity to save our home, the Earth, conservation cannot stop.

A big hug to all, let's continue taking care of ourselves.



**Constantino  
Auca Chutas**  
President



**Gregorio  
Ferro Meza**  
Director of programs



**Adrian  
Torres Paucar**  
Director of Conservation  
and Development



## MISSION

Our mission is to conserve endangered flora and fauna species and threatened ecosystems, through the protection of biological diversity, the sustainable use of natural resources, habitat restoration, and environmental education. We develop a framework of participation and mutual commitment with the communities and their authorities at local, regional, and national levels.

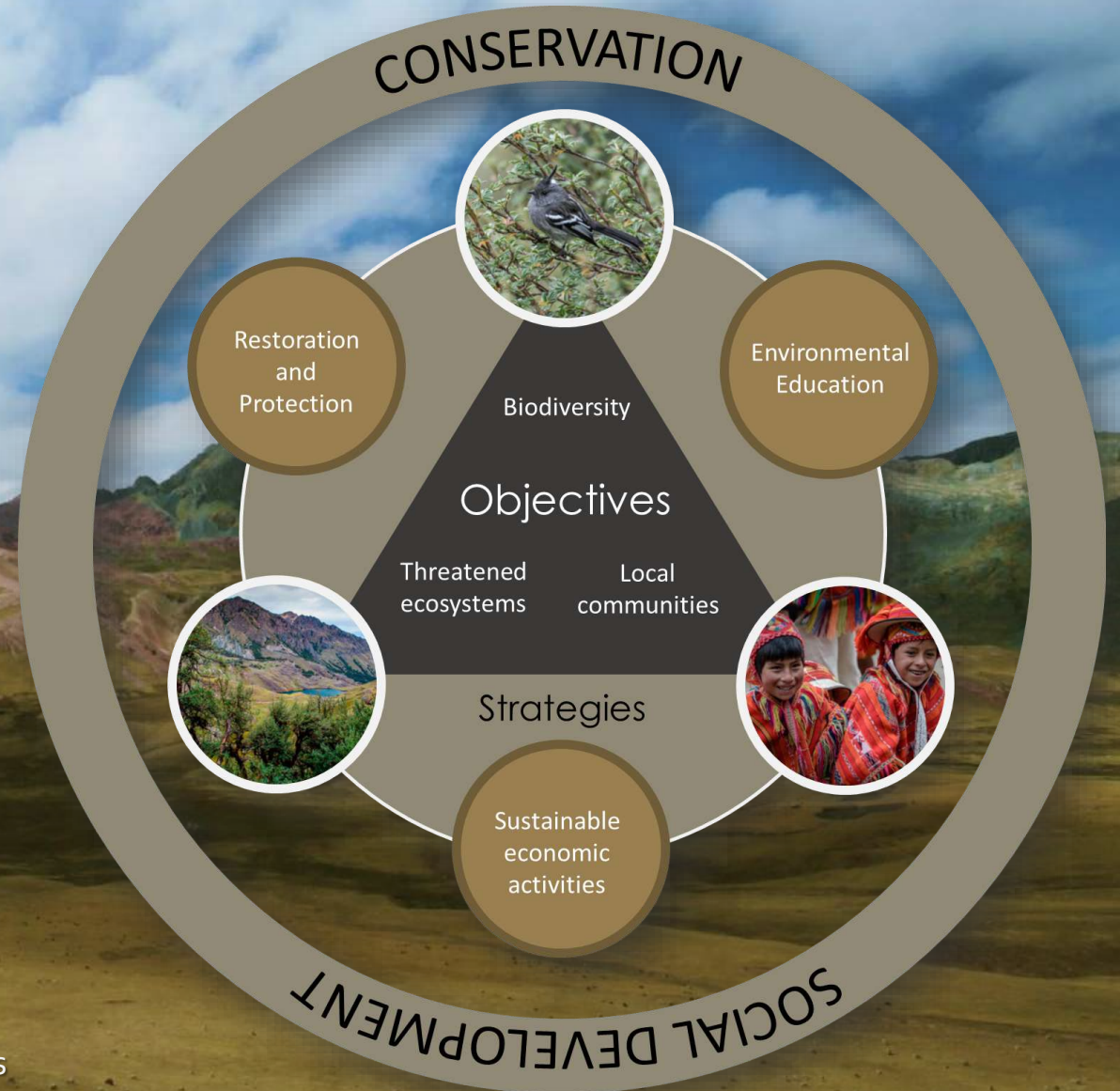
## VISION

ECOAN is a solid, stable organization, recognized locally, nationally, and internationally as a leading, serious, responsible, and reliable institution in the fulfillment of its mission. We contribute to the conservation of biological diversity, working in direct and close collaboration with the population, local communities, authorities, and key allies in the implementation of conservation strategies for the planet.



## WORK SCHEME

At ECOAN, we identify as objectives of our projects the protection of threatened species and ecosystems, and the empowerment of local communities linked to these environments. We develop strategies focused on the conservation of relict species, forests, and wetlands, as well as the restoration of degraded environments. Local communities and governments are our main allies to develop our activities and ensure the fulfillment of long-term goals. Thanks to this joint work, we have been leading conservation and social development projects in the Peruvian Andes for twenty years.



# OUR FLAGSHIP SPECIES

Throughout Peru, we have chosen key species that represent the biodiversity we conserve. In the northern Peruvian corridor, the most notable are: the Marvelous Spatuletail (*Loddigesia mirabilis*), the Long-whiskered Owlet (*Xenoglaux loweryi*), the Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*), Peruvian Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey (*Oreonax flavicauda*), the Royal Sunangel (*Heliangelus regalis*), the Spectacled Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), the Gray-bellied Comet (*Taphrolesbia griseiventris*), the Alicia's Hummingbird or Purple-backed Sunbeam (*Aglaeactis aliciae*) and the Peruvian Plantcutter (*Phytotoma raymondii*).

In central Peru, we continue with the conservation of birds critically endangered like the White-bellied Cinclodes (*Cinclodes palliatus*), the Junin Grebe (*Podiceps taczanowskii*), the Junin rail (*Laterallus tuerosi*) and several migratory high Andean birds. In the southern corridor, our flagship species are the Queuña trees (*Polylepis spp.*) and threatened birds of these forests: the Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant (*Anairetes alpinus*), the Royal Cinclodes (*Cinclodes aricomae*) and the White-browed Tit-Spinetail (*Leptasthenura xenothorax*).

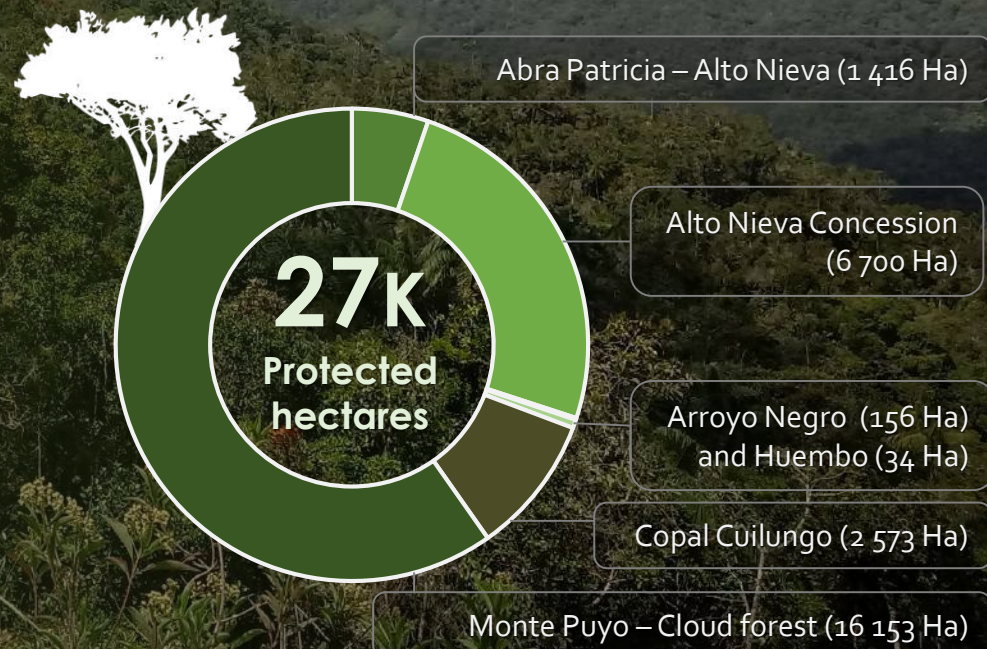
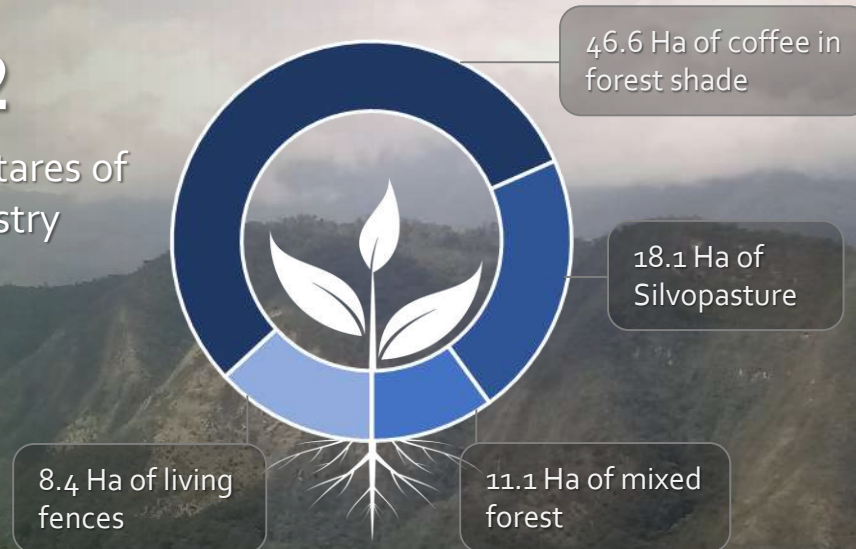


# AMAZONAS

Its dense cloud forests are dominated by epiphytic plants such as orchids and ferns, giving a home to a wide variety of birds and mammals. Since the creation of the PCA Abra Patricia - Alto Nieva y Huembo, in 2007, four new conservation areas were created in cooperation with the local communities of San Lucas de Pomacochas and Yamborasbamba. In 2020 we continue our efforts to create the Vilaya – Condorpuna – Shipago Regional Conservation Area (RCA) "VICONSHI", in cooperation with the Regional Government of Amazonas and the financial support of the Andes Amazon Fund (AAF) and the American Bird Conservancy (ABC). Despite the limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue surveillance, maintenance and monitoring in our Abra Patricia and Huembo reserves where the Long-whiskered Owlet (*Xenoglaux loweryi*) and the Marvelous Spatuletail (*Loddigesia mirabilis*) live. Likewise, we started equipping our reserves against forest fires. In our reforestation program and bird-friendly economic activities, we have planted more than 72,600 plants to cover 84 hectares of production forests, silvopasture, living fences, and shade-grown coffee crops.

**72.6 K**  
Seeded plants

**84.2**  
New hectares of agroforestry systems



# SAN MARTÍN

The biodiversity of this region reaches its peak in the Alto Mayo river basin. The Alto Mayo Protected Forest (BPAM) extends over more than 180,000 hectares, some of its iconic species are the Spectacled Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), the Andean Night Monkey (*Aotus miconax*), the Peruvian Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey (*Oreonax flavicauda*), and the Peruvian Shoe Orchid (*Phragmipedium kovachii*). These rich forests are also home to indigenous Awajún (Aguaruna) communities. Together with Conservation International (CI) and SERNANP, we developed plans for the conservation and management of natural resources, in 2020 we focus on the development of environmentally responsible economic activities, such as shade-grown coffee, native cocoa, vanilla, pitahaya from the forest, honey from native bees and domestic vegetable gardens. All these activities are accompanied by constant training and rescue of cultural values.



**1,383**

Beneficiaries and subscribers of conservation agreements



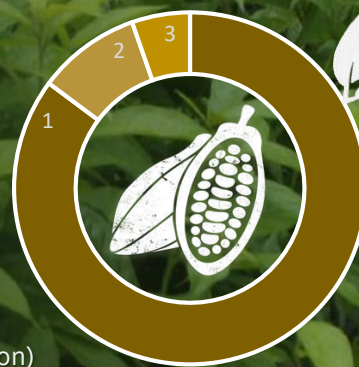
**1,119**  
Hectares of sustainable production

1. Coffee (905)
2. Cocoa (108)
3. Dragon fruit (36)
4. Ajas (23)
5. Cassava (17)
6. Vanilla (9)
7. Banana (8)
8. Medicinal (7)
9. Pijuayo (6)

**31.2**  
Tons of production

**+370 TON**  
of Bokashi

1. Dragon fruit (26.6 ton)
2. Cassava (2.9 ton)
3. Cocoa (1.5 ton), melipona honey (102 kg) and vanilla (75 kg)



**314** Vegetable garden

**26** Improved kitchens

**14** Dry toilets

# CUSCO

*Polylepis*, also called Queuña tree, play a fundamental role in the water cycle of the high Andes, storing moisture in mosses and lichens that connect to wetlands. The forests of Queuña are home to many restricted species and a valuable timber resource for indigenous communities. We created a network of reserves in the Vilcanota conservation mosaic, here we monitor biodiversity, carbon, and water balance. In 2020, the creation of the new Kuntur Wachana PCA was approved and we renewed the validity of 5 PCAs. We work together with 20 peasant communities in the production of seedlings, construction and improvement of communal nurseries, reduction of firewood use, and massive reforestations through the ancestral communal work "Minka" and "Ayni". Every year we celebrate the *Polylepis* reforestation festival, baptized as "Queuña Raymi", in the 2020-21 season we have planted more than 430 thousand queuña trees.



**431K**

Polylepis in 2020

**106.5 Hectares reforested**

**New PCA Kuntur Wachana**  
(1 289 Ha)



1. Choquechaca
2. Abra Málaga Thastayoc – R.C.
3. Hatun Queuña – Q.C.
4. Mantabay
5. Pampacorral
6. Sele Tecse – Lares Ayllu
7. Siete Cataratas – Q. P.
8. Qosqocahuarina



**5** Communal assemblies, 1 workshop on ecotourism and 1 community collaboration workshop



**3** Monitored threatened species: *Anairetes alpinus*, *Cinclodes aricomae* and *Leptasthenura xenothorax*



**355** Improved kitchens, 1 new nursery and 1 improved nursery

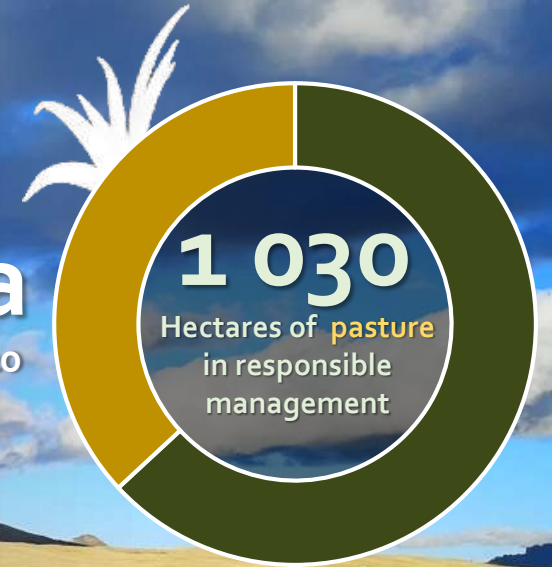


# JUNÍN, LIMA & PASCO

The lagoons and wetlands are an important source of water for many cities, including Lima, and are strongly threatened by the extraction of peat and "Champa" (blocks of vegetation and soil), and overgrazing. Since 2017, in cooperation with Wetlands International (WI) and the support of the Junín National Reserve - SERNANP, we started the program "Conserving the High Andean Wetlands: For people and Nature", which is also implemented in Los Pozuelos lake (Argentina). This year we continue the second phase of the program, adding 380 Ha of pastures under sustainable management, 56 Ha of wetlands in recovery and involving 300 families from Junín, Carampoma, and Marcapomacocha. In November we held the International Forum "Experiences of regional management in Andean Wetlands", together with the Directorate of Biological Diversity of the Ministry of Environment (MINAM), Regional Government of Junín, WI, and the participation of more than 300 people from 10 countries.



**380 Ha**  
new in 2020



**300**

Families  
participating in  
sustainable  
activities

**56 Ha**  
new in 2020



# CAJAMARCA & LA LIBERTAD

In Cajamarca, the seasonally dry relict forests of the Chonta River Valley are inhabited by the Gray-bellied Comet hummingbird (*Taphrolesbia griseiventris*); while, in La Libertad, the cloud forests of Cochorco (in the Chusgo valley) are home to the Alicia's hummingbird or Purple-backed sunbeam (*Aglaeactis aliciae*). Both species are endemic to northern Peru and their populations are seriously threatened by the loss of forests and key plants in their diets. Thanks to the support of the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and working together with local governments, private institutions, and peasant communities, this year we have reforested 49 thousand native plants in Cajamarca and La Libertad, important for the diet and habitat of both hummingbirds. This work is accompanied by constant education and awareness campaigns that include local participation in the production of plants for community benefit and green jobs.



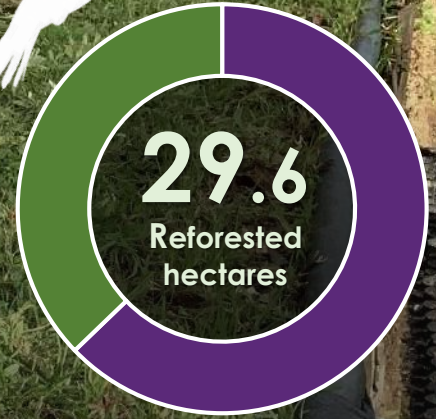
49.8 K

Reforested plants



17.2 K

Fruit and agroforestry plants for local benefit.



11 Ha Habitat of the Gray-bellied Comet

18,6 Ha Habitat of the Alicia's Hummingbird



**431K**  
Polylepis trees  
in Vilcanota – Peru by ECOAN



1. 103 700 in Bolivia
2. 155 525 in Argentina
3. 3 502 in Chile
4. 409 200 in Ecuador

The high Andean forests have valuable food resources, shelters and water that are scarce at high altitudes. These forests have a very close relationship to the snow-capped mountains and wetlands, being a key part of the water cycle of the mountains. ECOAN, together with Global Forest Generation (GFG), leads the International program "Acción Andina", currently this program has 8 partners from Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile, who create long-term alliances with local communities and populations for the conservation and recovery of *Polylepis* forests and high Andean ecosystems. During the 2020-21 season, we developed an international partner workshop in Cusco and reforested 1,102,927 trees in five countries.

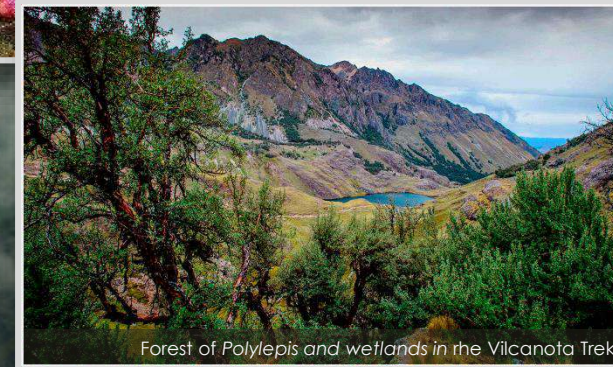
For more information on this program, visit: [www.accion-andina.org](http://www.accion-andina.org)

# ECOTOURISM

To conserve it is necessary to develop an affective bond with nature. Through various programs, we promote the observation of species and landscapes by providing spaces for recreation and research so that people can reconnect with nature and make projects sustainable. At ECOAN we train local communities so that they can provide guidance, accompaniment and other services in the tourism market. We also manage a network of private conservation areas that have trails, sighting points, and infrastructure to enjoy contact with nature.

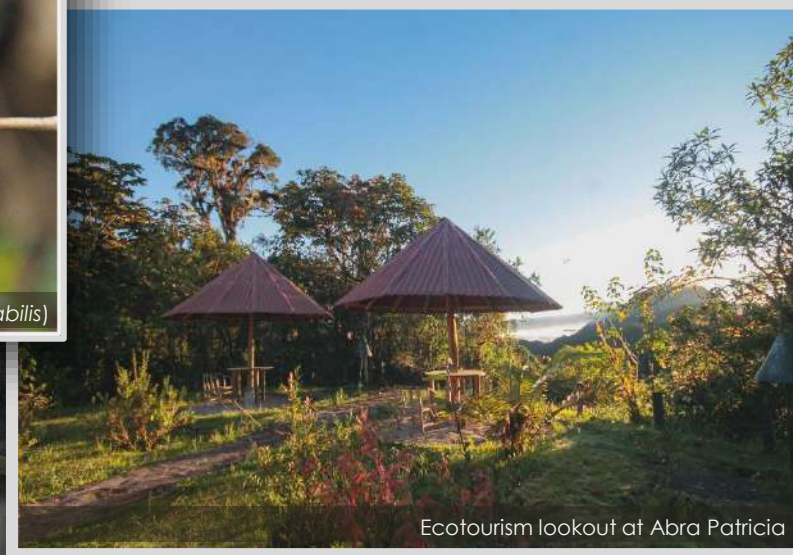
## Vilcanota Trek

Composed of the PCA network of the Vilcanota mountain range of the Sacred Valley of the Incas, Vilcanota Trek is an ambitious project that interconnects peasant communities and conservation areas through ancient paths for the enjoyment of nature at more than 4,000 meters above sea level. The PCAs are administered by indigenous communities, where you can find interpretation centers, lodgings, archaeological sites, snow-capped mountains, protected forests, textiles, dining rooms, and camping sites. The snowy Huacaywillki (La Verónica), the Muskapugio terraces and the Pucacocha and Yanacocha lagoons are important, and among the biodiversity the White-browed Tit-Spintail (*Leptasthenura xenothorax*), the Royal Cinclodes (*Cinclodes aricomae*), the Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant (*Anairetes alpinus*), and the imposing Queen of the Andes (*Puya raimondii*). Vilcanota Trek was recognized by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism - MINCETUR in 2017, and since then we have strengthened relationships with our local allies and private companies that are committed to sustainable conservation. During the last year, we have made improvements to the network of tourist trails and infrastructure of Abra Málaga Thastáyoc and continued with training workshops for the original communities of the valley.





Marvelous Spatuletail (*Loddigesia mirabilis*)



Ecotourism lookout at Abra Patricia



Long-whiskered Owlet (*Xenoglaux loweryi*)

## Owlet Lodge & Huembo

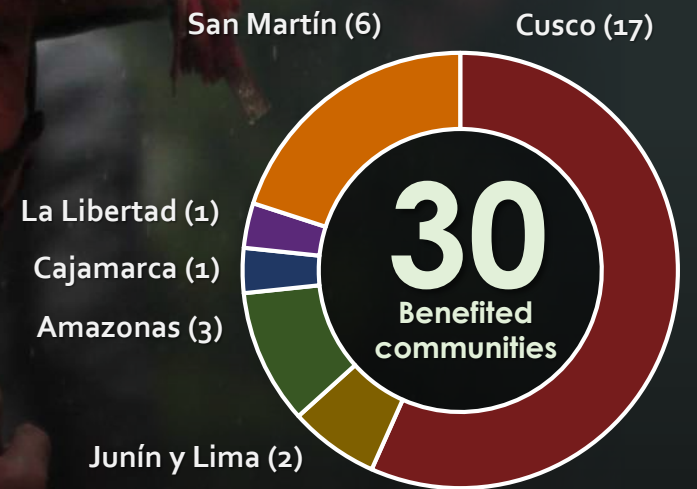
Located in the PCA Abra Patricia - Alto Nieva, in Amazonas, The Owlet Lodge - Lechucita Bigotona Biological Station, is a first-class space to explore the montane and sclerophyllous forests of northern Peru. It has bungalows for tourists and researchers, a canopy tower, and a system of more than 5 km of trails where the Long-whiskered owl (*Xenoglaux loweryi*) can be found. On the other hand, the Huembo conservation easement is the favorite place for observing the wonderful Marvelous Spatuletail (*Loddigesia mirabilis*). It has rooms, a viewpoint and trails that run through the premontane forests near the Utcubamba valley. Both stations closed their doors to the public in March 2020 to prevent COVID-19 infections and following Peruvian government regulations, but our surveillance and monitoring efforts did not stop thanks to the support of the American Bird Conservancy. Likewise, we update our security and care protocols to offer a safe destination in 2021.

## SUPPORT IN THE PANDEMIC

Thanks to the support of the American Bird Conservancy, Global Forest Generation, Conservation International, Profonampe, MINAM-FAO-GEF, and private donations, we bring help to our main allies in conservation: local communities.

Food baskets, masks, cleaning and disinfection kits, medicines, and thermometers for medical posts were distributed in informative and awareness campaigns about the pandemic. We also opened a telephone consultation channel to attend to suspicious cases and follow-up of identified cases of COVID-19.

 More than  
**3 000**  
Benefited families



## MONITORING OF SPECIES

During 2020, we conducted studies of various target species of our conservation projects. In Amazonas, we monitor populations of the marvelous spatuletail (*Loddigesia mirabilis*) and the perches of the Long-whiskered owlet (*Xenoglaux loweryi*). While in Cusco, we monitor the Polylepis forest birds: *Anairetes alpinus*, *Cinclodes aricomae*, and *Leptasthenura xenothorax*. In Lake Chinchaycocha, in coordination with the Junín National Reserve - SERNANP, and the support of Denver Zoological Foundation, we carried out a census of Chilean flamingos (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*), and the annual census of divers, with the main objective of continuing to monitor the Junín Grebe (*Podiceps tackzanowskii*). With the results of these studies, we elaborate informative posters for the local communities.

In October 2020:

Puna Grebe (*Podiceps taczanowskii*)

398



Andean Silvery Grebe (*Podiceps occipitalis*)

1,144



White-tufted grebe (*Rollandia rolland*)

118



In November 2020:

2,796

**Chilean flamingos**  
(*Phoenicopterus chilensis*)



# Financial Statement 2020 (USD)

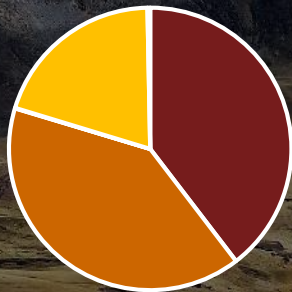
## SUPPORT & ANNUAL INCOME

○ Own income	\$ 28,558
● Income from cooperating sources	\$ 1,519,073
● Donations	\$ 6,850
○ Dissemination and publications	\$ 0
● Financial income and others	\$ 57,857
<b>Total support and annual income</b>	<b>\$ 1,612,339</b>



## ANNUAL EXPENSES

● Personal expenses	\$ 623,075
● Operating expenses	\$ 630,022
● Taxes	\$ 815
● Other management expenses	\$ 314,557
● Bank finance charges	\$ 4,891
<b>Total anual expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,573,361</b>



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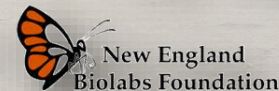
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THANKS TO THE SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION OF:





Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos — ECOAN is a non-profit NGO dedicated to the conservation of endangered species and threatened Andean ecosystems. We work with local communities to protect the habitat of these species, improve the use and exploitation of natural resources, and restore degraded areas. Our work began 20 years ago in Cusco, and the results within our conservation projects have taken us to other regions of Peru. We are currently the coordinators of a large project for the protection of high Andean forests in 5 countries of South America called Acción Andina.



Texts and general information: Adrian Torres, Alan Chamorro, Constantino Aucua, Walter Cosio, José Altamirano, Carlos Soto y Gregorio Ferro.  
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