



NATIVE FUTURE

Protecting Cultures • Conserving Threatened Lands

April 2019

Scholarship Dollars in Action

Meeting the Challenge:

Padre Ricardo Canto Perez

In the most impoverished sector of Panama, educating young people is a huge challenge. Their needs are many, but without the basics, food, shoes, clothing, children struggle to attend school. Those who make it through primary school, often hike hours to get to the nearest secondary school.

Padre Ricardo arrived a year ago to the central highlands, Comarca Ngäbe Buglé, a newcomer to the Buenos Aires mission church. He petitioned for and received a 4-wheel ATV, helping him navigate the mountainous terrain, reaching isolated families. Frequently Padre Ricardo takes donated items to the neediest, regardless of faith.

The mission church provides a dormitory and dining room where secondary students can stay during the week, going home on weekends.

Thanks to your donations, Native Future has supported this mission with an annual



grant of \$5000 for the past fifteen years. Padre Niscasio Miranda Cortez was its outstanding prior administrator. It pays for students' food, chicken feed and seeds for the garden to support them. It gives a stipend to a parent who helps oversee the program and cooks their

meals. Outstanding students who go on to study in a university receive a grant, paid directly to the school for their tuition.

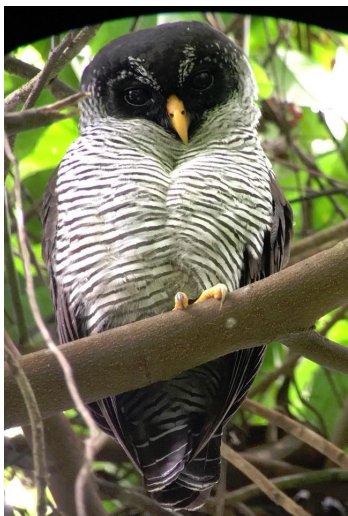
We celebrate Padre Ricardo's new endeavor and wish him well in the hard work before him.



Wounaan Bird Count

2018 Highlights

- Monthly bird identification training for Puerto Lara, the *Oropendolas Negras*.
- Trained nine Wounaan women, the *Tangaras Azules*, in identification of common birds around their house.
- Carried out two Wounaan bird counts: a pilot Christmas Bird Count 1/5/18 and International Migratory Bird Day 5/12/18.
- Compiled a Puerto Lara bird list of 220 different species, to date.
- Developed the first bird list in the Wounaan native language, Wounaan meu.
- Developed ethno-ornithological educational materials for Puerto Lara households and classrooms.
- Improved Puerto Lara eco-trail habitat and infrastructure.



Continued on Page 3

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope this newsletter finds you and yours happy and healthy this 2019. Thank you for your commitment to a secure and more sustainable future for our indigenous partners!

This spring edition is packed full of the ways your generous support, the work of tireless Native Future volunteers and our partnerships with organizations and agencies, like the US Forest Service International Programs, help Wounaan, Ngäbe and Buglé to conserve and protect their lands, and achieve their educational goals. Indigenous land rights, stewardship and education go hand in hand. For example, Wounaan were once a less sedentary people, moving up and down rivers; fishing, farming,

harvesting and moving on. In the process, the fecund tropical forest replenished the natural resources they consumed. However, over time Wounaan communities have stayed put to reap the promises of today's development, such as education and healthcare. At the same time, deforestation has advanced from the edge of their territories inward, degrading their forests and limiting their access to the natural resources they depend on. These changes to their way of life underscore the importance of helping our native partners to secure and restore the natural resources on which they depend, improve their access to education and to develop



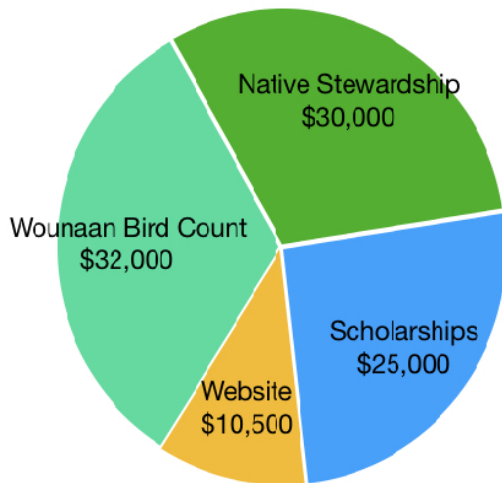
Marsha Kellogg
President, Native Future

alternative and culturally compatible livelihoods, such as from their art and bird watching.

Thank you, again, for your commitment to their future.

Volunteers: The Lifeblood of Native Future

Volunteer Time & Resources



Thank you to the **twenty-five** Native Future volunteers who, cumulatively, contributed hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars of their personal time and resources to advance Wounaan Land Rights & Stewardship, along with Ngäbé Buglé scholarship programs in 2018. The graph to the left estimates the \$\$ value of their contribution.

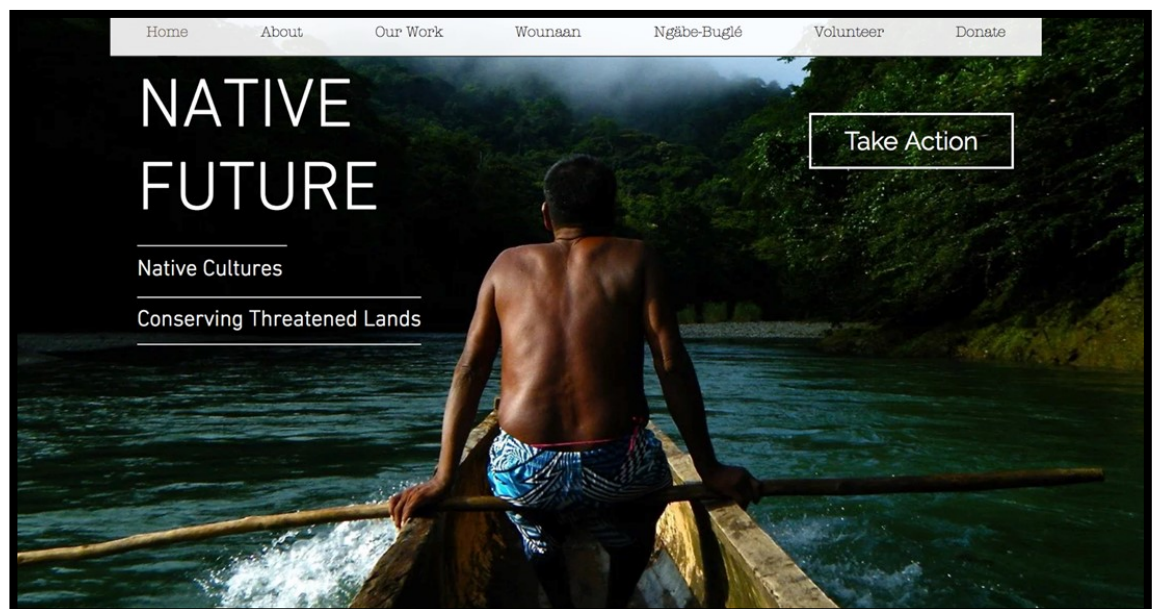
There are many ways to volunteer!

Check out the many options on our new website.
(See below)

Have you visited our beautiful new website?

www.nativefuture.org

A two year project, we owe it to our super volunteers, Sara Taylor (RPCV Panama 2010 – 2012), Jed Glosenger (RPCV Panama 2013–2015) and Emerson College graduate, Dan Terry! You can find out more about them on the About page.





The project is a partnership with US Forest Service International Programs supporting four Wounaan communities to assess their natural resource management needs and identify and carry out actions to protect and manage at least one non-timber forest product (NTFP) that they rely on for their livelihood. Communities receive technical assistance, training and materials to reforest and restore their forests.

2018 Highlights

- ◆ Conducted an analysis that assessed the natural resources on which Wounaan weavers depend and the changes and challenges along the Wounaan basket value chain.
- ◆ Carried out two reforestation and tree planting workshops for four Wounaan Communities.
- ◆ Planted 2,100 seedlings in the four communities to improve their forest.
- ◆ Held a three-day Green Value Tool workshop that guided Wounaan participants through an economic analysis of their income-generating activities that depend on their forest resources.

What to Expect in 2019

- ◆ Tree nursery training for four Wounaan communities.
- ◆ Implementation of recommendations resulting from the value chain analysis and Green Value Tool workshop.
- ◆ Community agreements on natural resource management.



Continued from Page 1 **Wounaan Bird Count**



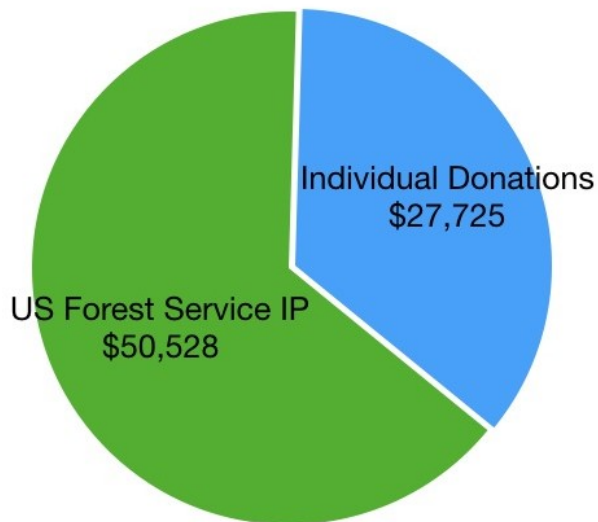
What to Expect in 2019

- The first official Wounaan Christmas Bird Count took place Jan 5, 2019 in Puerto Lara! Twenty-four participants identified 137 species and counted 847 individual birds.
- *Tangaras Azules*, the women's bird group, will receive additional training in bird identification and improve bird habitat around their homes.
- Advance bird guide training for *Oropendolas Negras* participant, Jairo Cheucarama.
- Wounaan plan to participate in Global Big Day, May 4th.
- A week-long ecotourism workshop in Puerto Lara with indigenous communities from Peru and Brazil. Wounaan Bird Count training in Wounaan communities, Rio Hondo and Platanares.
- More conservation measures in Puerto Lara, including community agreements on natural resource management and biodiversity conservation.

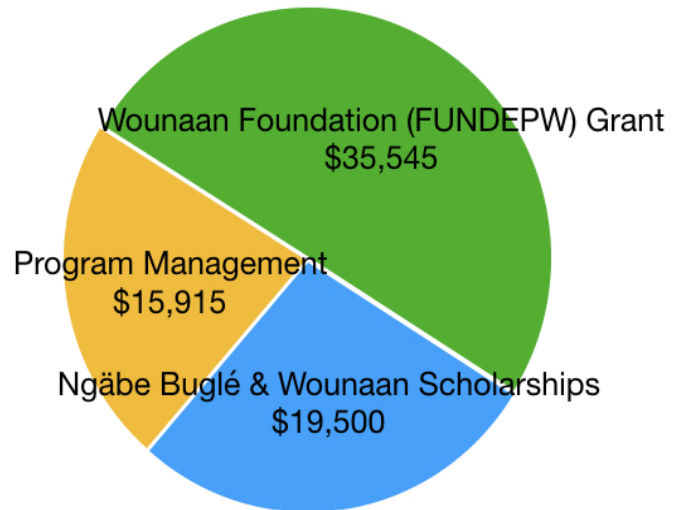
Native Future Annual Financial Report, 2018

Native Future donors, volunteers and the federal grant from the US Forest Service International Programs helped the indigenous organizations we partner with to carry out the activities in this report – the Wounaan Bird Count, *Jēb Jua Choog K'ap'λ Wēnλrraag*, the Scholarship Program – to advance their land rights, stewardship, and educational goals.

Income 2018



Expenses 2018



l-r: Bill Gregory, NF Treasurer Beth Ansheles, Ellie Mercer, Nancy Ansheles, Carolyn Heasley, Bill Crochetiere, Kispo Mendez, Sara Archbald, Omar Mendez Scott Thompson. Their many family members also pitched in to help make this program shine. Not pictured, are Priscilla Dreyman, Diane Wilbur, and Jed Glosenger.

Speaking of Volunteers... check out this group of Mainers with Ngäbe Buglé guests, Kispo Mendez and his son Omar. Raising funds for indigenous scholarships in Panama has brought most of them together for the past 15 years, hosting the **Basilio Perez Scholarship Summer Fundraiser**: putting up tents, finding silent auction items, and much more. Missing are Diane Wilbur and Priscilla Dreyman. No one has dropped out! **It's all about doing good while having FUN!**

A Banner Year for the Scholarship Program : 2018 Summary

It's not just about the numbers (see below). Data matters, but it doesn't tell the stories of our students' lives. In these pictures, as well as the Page One article about Padre Ricardo, there are compelling, poignant stories.

Not all of them scream success. Pregnancies end or delay higher education for many young gals. Home emergencies pull students away back to their families to till the fields, care for siblings. No prior computer training is a

stumbling block. Homesickness is a big issue. The good news is that all five of our partner indigenous groups used your donor dollars wisely to ensure 86+ students attended school last year.

Community group members are given autonomy in the management of their funds, accountable to Native Future via an annual report. I visit annually, meeting with leaders, families, and students. I encourage direct aid to higher education students. Buying uniforms and

shoes for younger children in this impoverished region can be a first priority. Beyond school supplies, families can use grant funds for transportation to secondary schools and universities, as well as tuition, room and board. For higher level students in the city, the grant is a small assist; all of them must find service jobs to supplement their costs.

Sara Archbald
Education Coordinator, Native Future

Community Group	Grant	Number of Participants	Students Receiving Aid
Women's Artisan Group	\$3,500	20 Women	25 Elementary, HS, & University
Buenos Aires Mission Boarding School	\$5,000	23 Students	20 Jr & Sr HS, 3 Univ
APAUDeS Asociacion de Promotores Agricolas Unidos para el Desarrollo Sostenible.	\$1,500	8 Members/Families	5 University; 1 High School
El Jacinto Cooperativa Granja	\$5,500	12 Members/Families	36 Elementary, Jr & Sr HS, Univ.
Wounaan Higher Education	\$4000	4 communities	Advanced tree nursery, bird guide training



Two secondary students, recipients of the Irene Vasquez Women's Artisan Cooperative



TWENTY YEARS! This stalwart group has been working together for the past 20 years on the prosperous **El Jacinto cooperative farm**, aided by your scholarship support for their families and a Panamanian agricultural technical support group. A few members have come and gone, but they're essentially the same group today as they were in 1999.



APAUDeS, an agriculture group similar to a grange in the US, started with assistance from Peace Corps in 2000 and is still going strong. Pedro Ruiz, left, and Rey Vasquez, 2nd from right, have made it happen from the beginning. Active members' kids receive scholarship help from Native Future. They welcome Sara A, in the middle, once a year.

NATIVE FUTURE

Protecting Cultures • Conserving Threatened Lands

I Want to Make a Difference!



Don't you?

Indigenous cultures are at risk. Protecting native lands, educating Wounaan and Ngäbe Buglé are critical to their survival.

Count me in!

Land Rights Education Wounaan Bird
Count Where Needed
 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500
 Other

Name:

Address:

City: **State:** **Zip:**

Email:

Please make checks payable to **Native Future**

34 Taylor St, Portland, ME, 04102

*** Donate online * Consider a recurring payment ***

www.nativefuture.org



Native Future
34 Taylor Street
Portland, ME
04102

Return Service Requested