



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

Together we made remarkable progress towards our mission in 2025. The generosity and dedication of this community has given Macaws hope for a thriving future, and that future becomes more tangible with each year that we work together.

One of the most exciting developments this year came through our partnership with Explore.org. For the first time, people around the world were able to follow the daily life of a Great Green Macaw family nesting in the Sarapiquí Rainforest Reserve. A live-stream camera overlooking a nest cavity allowed thousands of viewers to witness the breeding season unfold alongside our field team, from the first signs of activity to the first flight of their chicks.

After decades of being used as farmland, the Sarapiquí Rainforest Reserve is healing. In 2025, 403 acres of habitat were restored, both through planting trees cultivated in the Women Rangers' native plant nursery and by protecting areas that had the capacity to regenerate naturally. We were especially excited to welcome four new women from Pangola into the program, where they are already playing a vital role in restoring Great Green Macaw habitat in their community.

Our People Program flourished as well. Through field experiences, community activities, and hands-on work in the Women Rangers' Casa del Titor nursery, local teenagers deepened their connection to the natural world. These Junior Rangers mean a great deal to our work, as conservation depends not only on the forests we restore today, but on the people who will protect them tomorrow.

All of the work we accomplished in 2025 truly comes down to community. It's thanks to our wonderful supporters, board members, partners, and the people who live in the communities we work in that we are able to make such a meaningful impact for Macaws and their homes. It's been wonderful to be on this journey together.

With gratitude,

Sam Williams

Dr. Sam Williams
Executive Director
Macaw Recovery Network



A vibrant blue and green parrot is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, against a backdrop of dense tropical foliage. The parrot's feathers are a mix of bright blue, green, and red. The background is a lush, sun-dappled forest with various types of trees and plants, creating a sense of a natural, healthy environment.

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About Us

Our Mission

Macaw Recovery Network protects and recovers endangered parrot populations in the Americas

Our Vision

We envision a future in which parrots and their ecosystems thrive and coexist with local communities



Birds Habitat People



Impact Summary

Program	Activity	Number
 <i>Birds</i>	Chicks Hatched at Breeding Center	5
	Scarlet Macaws Training for Release	21
	Great Green Macaws Training for Release	48
	Total # of Birds in our Care	116
	Scarlet Macaw Chicks Hatched in the Wild	7
	Active Wild Scarlet Macaw Nests	5
	Active Wild Great Green Macaw Nests	106
	Audiomoths Monitored	108
	Kilometers Driven in the Field	5,000
 <i>Habitat</i>	Acres of Habitat Restored	403
	Plants Planted	3,300
	Plants Produced in Casa del Titor Nursery	6,000
	# of Species in Casa del Titor Nursery	98
	# of Species Seen on Sarapiquí Rainforest Reserve Trail Cameras	10
 <i>People</i>	Woman Rangers Trained	6
	# of Women Empowered through MRN Activities	150
	Junior Rangers	8
	# of Student Volunteer Hours Completed with Us	360
	# of Volunteers	63
	Tour Visitors	3,151
	# of Tours Given	944



In the Breeding Center

We launched a new three-month Pre-Release Training Internship to prepare the Scarlet and Great Green Macaw juveniles for life in the wild. The internship focused on flight training to build stamina and strong flight muscles, wild fruit foraging to help birds identify food sources in the wild, novel object testing to identify bold and shy individuals, and behavioral ethograms to assess release readiness in both flocks.



Photo Credit: David Pattyn



In the Wild

A strong thunderstorm scared two Scarlet Macaw chicks into fledging the nest before they were ready. Both chicks ended up on the ground, separated from each other and their parents. Punta Islita community members quickly alerted our team, and both chicks were safely recovered and brought to the breeding center's clinic for wellness checks. Fortunately, neither had been injured in the fall, and both were returned to the wild the very same day. Just a day later, they attempted flight a second time, this time successfully landing in a neighboring tree. They have since been observed visiting the breeding center's supplementary feeders with their parents. Their rescue is a powerful reminder of the deep connection between the Punta Islita community and the reintroduced Scarlet Macaws. Year after year, community members help watch over these birds by reporting active nests, sharing sightings, and ensuring that when help is needed, it arrives in time.

In Sarapiquí we completed the third year of our audiomoth project, where we map the distribution and seasonal movements of wild Great Green Macaws through sound. 108 passive audio recorders (audiomoths) were monitored in 2025, distributed evenly across the Great Green Macaws' range in Costa Rica. Audiomoths are a far more efficient method to track range-wide movements than radiotracking, which requires the observer to be within a certain distance of the radio-collared Macaw to detect a signal. The data collected through this project will not only provide valuable information about the life-cycle of the Great Green Macaw, but also enable us to do targeted habitat protection and restoration. When we know where they go, we know where to focus our efforts.

From Sarapiquí to the World

In 2024, we began a partnership with Explore.org, to enable people around the world to connect with the reintroduced Scarlet Macaws through live web cameras. In 2025, the Explore.org team joined us at the Sarapiquí Rainforest Reserve to install another camera, this time pointed at a known Great Green Macaw nest. There are over 2,000 Great Green Macaw sightings on the Reserve live camera and a community of people dedicated to witnessing the pairs' chicks fledge from the nest. With less than 1,000 adult individuals left in the wild worldwide, the footage collected by these cameras is invaluable.



"Having lived in Costa Rica previously, getting to return was something special — and even more so because Punta Islita (Guanacaste) and Sarapiquí (Heredia) were two regions I had never experienced before. Both places are beautifully remote, and the journey between them was a vivid reminder of just how ecologically diverse Costa Rica really is — from the coastal dry forests along the Pacific to the lush, humid lowland rainforest of the Caribbean slope. Getting to support the Macaw Recovery Network's conservation work in these environments made the whole trip feel truly worthwhile.

The camera installations took careful planning and a real team effort. In Punta Islita, Ruperto was invaluable in safely getting the cameras mounted high up in the canopy, and in Sarapiquí, Giovanni and Mario did a fantastic job positioning the cameras to capture the best possible views of nesting and activity areas. While all of that was happening, I was focused on setting up the camera, network and remote access so the Explore.org team back home could reliably receive and broadcast the live footage. There's something genuinely satisfying about watching local knowledge and remote technical support come together like that — all in service of bringing MRN's work to a global audience.

What makes both locations so special goes beyond the logistics, though. Punta Islita draws tourists from around the world and offers daily educational tours that have become a real economic lift for the local community — and where else can you stand just a few feet away and watch Scarlet Macaws feeding? Sarapiquí is in a category of its own. As far as we know, the camera there may be one of the few in existence pointed directly at a Great Green Macaw nest cavity, which means we could actually witness a hatching. That possibility alone makes everything that went into this project completely worth it."

-Drake Ballard, Webcam Field Technician for Explore.org





Healthy rainforests are the foundation of survival for parrots, providing the food, shelter, and nesting trees they need to thrive. Yet decades of agriculture and selective logging have fragmented much of Costa Rica's forests, threatening not only Great Green Macaws but entire ecosystems.

At our Sarapiquí Rainforest Reserve, we witness both the impacts of habitat loss and the remarkable resilience of nature. This protected rainforest is a refuge for Great Green Macaws and countless other species, including endangered Baird's tapirs, Geoffrey's spider monkeys, ocelots, pumas, tree frogs, and many more. Nearly 20% of the reserve was once cleared for cattle ranching, leaving large gaps in the forest. Today, under protection, the land is beginning to heal. In 2025, we documented 347 acres undergoing natural regeneration, a testament to the rainforest's ability to recover when given the chance.

While the forest can regenerate on its own over time, Great Green Macaws cannot afford to wait. To accelerate the return of critical habitat, our team actively restored 55 acres using holistic restoration techniques. By strategically planting native species that attract birds and mammals, we encourage natural seed dispersal and help jumpstart the forest's own regenerative processes. Rather than replacing nature, we work alongside it to rebuild a thriving rainforest more quickly for Macaws and all the wildlife that depends on it.

Restoring connectivity across the reserve is another essential part of this work. Habitat fragmentation remains one of the greatest threats to wildlife worldwide, and Costa Rica is no exception. Our team has been removing old fencing and planting native trees that reconnect isolated sections of forest. As birds and mammals move through these restored corridors, they carry seeds that further accelerate natural regeneration, creating a healthier and more resilient ecosystem.



As with all of our work, community involvement is essential. This year, 15 local stakeholders participated in a three-day workshop to help develop the Sarapiquí Rainforest Reserve Management Plan. Together, they shared ideas, priorities, and aspirations for the Reserve, ensuring that its future reflects both conservation goals and the needs of the surrounding community.

Innovation continues to strengthen our ability to protect critical rainforest habitat. In partnership with Conservation Technology Accelerator, we launched advanced drone mapping at the Sarapiquí Rainforest Reserve to capture ultra-high-resolution aerial imagery of the forest canopy. This technology will help us identify and map key tree species that are essential to the survival of the Great Green Macaw, including the endangered Mountain Almond Tree, a vital source of food and nesting habitat. By establishing this baseline of the forest today, we will be able to monitor changes over time, detect the loss of individual trees, and identify potential cases of selective illegal logging. This proactive approach strengthens our ability to safeguard old-growth rainforest and protect the irreplaceable trees that Macaws depend on for generations to come.





Empowering Women

Over the past five years, our work with Women Rangers in Boca Tapada has demonstrated the transformative power of community-led conservation. Building on this foundation, we expanded the program to Pangola—the community closest to the Sarapiquí Rainforest Reserve—marking an important step in strengthening local stewardship across the landscape. This group of women now serves as a vital bridge between their community and the Reserve, embodying the next phase of our long-term vision for inclusive conservation.

Through training and sustained mentorship, four women in Pangola have grown into confident leaders and advocates for ecological restoration. Beyond building technical skills, they have stepped into active decision-making roles within their community, becoming trusted voices for conservation. Their leadership is helping to cultivate a shared sense of environmental responsibility and strengthening the connection between people and the forest landscapes that sustain them.



Beyond Costa Rica's Borders

Deputy Director Pamela and Executive Director Sam participated in a gathering hosted by the American Bird Conservancy in Colombia, designed to bring together conservationists engaged in habitat restoration and protection across Central and South America. The event provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and mutual support among peers working in the field. During the gathering, Pamela delivered a presentation on the Women Rangers program, highlighting how the initiative is breaking barriers, empowering women in rural communities, and driving meaningful progress in the restoration of the Sarapiquí Rainforest Reserve.

Inspiring Youth

In its second year, the Junior Rangers Project expanded both its reach and its depth of impact. For many young participants from Pangola, this was their first visit to the Sarapiquí Rainforest Reserve—an experience that fostered a direct and lasting connection to the biodiversity of their region. Through hands-on involvement in reforestation efforts, these Junior Rangers not only contributed to habitat recovery but also developed a stronger sense of ownership and pride in protecting their natural heritage.

In Boca Tapada, 12 students from the local high school completed their community service hours through the Casa del Titor Community Nursery. In Costa Rica, 30 community service hours are required to graduate. Their work provided critical support for nursery operations and native tree production, directly contributing to ecosystem restoration. At the same time, students gained a deeper appreciation for their role in safeguarding habitat for the Great Green Macaw and other native species, reinforcing the importance of community-driven conservation efforts.





Team

Laura Alfaro Sibaja, Reserve Manager
Álvaro Castillo, Finance Manager
Fabio Castrillo, Program Assistant, Breeding Center
Amy Clark, Bird Manager
Carmen Davila, Database Management
José Antonio Díaz Luque, Conservation Strategy & Support Manager
Aubrey Fitzpatrick, MPA Director of Development
Pamela Herrera Barquero, MSc., Deputy Director
Mario Jiménez Segura, Bird Program Director
Ricardo Jiménez, Veterinarian
Eduardo Lopez Rojas, Tour Guide
Yade Montiel Masís, Communications Assistant
Stephanie Mora, Director of Operations

Nisha Moreno-Hill, Assistant Bird Manager
Maria Elena Munguía Jiménez, Woman Ranger
Sugey Palma, Human Resources Manager
Mariela Porras, Junior Manager of the People Program
Ruperto Quirós, Site Manager
Giovanni Rodriguez, Bird Field Officer
Sandy Salas, Regente Ambiental
Antonia Sánchez, Bird Care Cook
Javier Sánchez, Program Assistant
Johanna Serrano, Administrative Assistant
Yendri Siles, Woman Ranger
Carey Wentz, Communications Manager
Sam Williams, PhD, Executive Director

Team Highlight

MARIELA PORRAS JUNIOR MANAGER OF THE PEOPLE PROGRAM

A specialist in Tropical Biology and Natural Resource Management, Mariela joined MRN in 2024 to protect the Great Green Macaw—a species she has admired since her childhood in Northern Costa Rica. After years as an environmental educator and researcher, she transitioned into field leadership, launching the Junior Rangers program and growing the Women Rangers program. These initiatives reflect her dedication as a woman in science to empowering local communities and bridging the gap between scientific research and rural realities.

Now serving as Junior Manager of the People Program, Mariela oversees the expansion of community-led conservation efforts. She believes that protecting ecosystems is inseparable from supporting the people who live within them. Outside of her professional life, she is a pianist at heart who finds balance through hiking and cherishing time with her family and pets. For Mariela, conservation is more than a career; it is a commitment to the territories she has always called home.



Special thanks to

Keats Lewis for using her gift of design to support conservation and the creation of this annual report. To Jeffrey Worsham for sharing his technical expertise with us and ensuring our website runs smoothly. To interns Fabiola Arce Jiménez, Fenya Grew, Claire Hutchings, Sasha Lees, Gabbie Byers, and Haarmisha Parmar for their hard work supporting our programs, we wish you success in your conservation endeavors. To Sarah de Groot for being just a phone call away. To Dianne Forthman and Corey Raffel for their time serving on our board of directors. To the **Wildlife Conservation Network** for championing our work and supporting conservationists around the globe.

Board of Directors

Macaw Recovery Network has been established in both Costa Rica and the USA. Having two entities means it is served by two Boards of Directors that are dedicated to collaboratively spearheading long-term conservation efforts to achieve its mission.

Macaw Recovery Network Costa Rica

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Habitat Stewardship Manager, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Tom Lewis, PhD - Vice Chair
Conservation & Research Manager
Longleat Safari Park

Sonya Kahlenberg, PhD - Treasurer
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Ex. Dir. Conservation Law Center

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"I first learned about MRN through my niece, Laura Cruz, who was serving on the Board at the time. I wasn't familiar with the organization's work, but after learning about its three-pillar approach of supporting birds, habitats, and people, I immediately felt a connection to the mission. I've always had a special interest in Costa Rica's parrots. Over the past forty years, I've had the privilege of watching the remarkable recovery of the Scarlet Macaw population, and I would love to see that same kind of hope and progress for other threatened parrot species. Over the last three years, I've also seen MRN grow into an even stronger organization. The acquisition of the Sarapiquí Rainforest Reserve marked an exciting new chapter, and the team has embraced the important responsibility of caring for and restoring this incredible landscape. My hope is that MRN will continue working alongside partners and local communities to protect and recover parrot populations, not only in Costa Rica, but eventually throughout the Americas."

-Ligia Fernández Molina

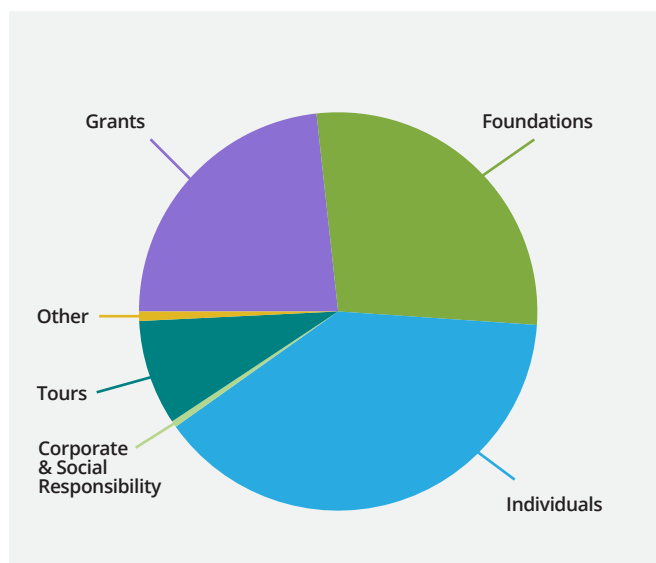
Financial Report

Statement of the combined Incomes and Expenses for MRN-CR and MRN-USA in the calendar year 2025.

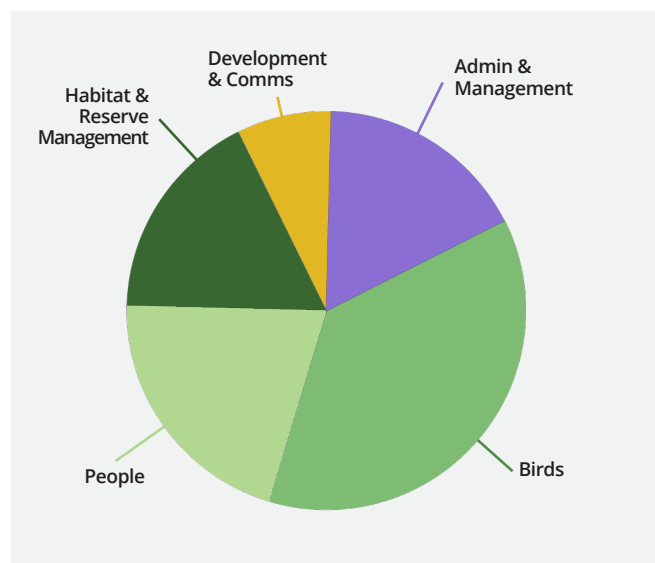
Incomes	
Grants	\$231,997
Foundations	\$277,407
Individual Donations	\$389,849
Tour Fee & Merchandise	\$85,183
Corporate Social Responsibility	\$5,175
Other	\$7,634
Total	\$997,245

Expenses	
Birds	\$338,166
Habitat & Reserve Management	\$162,538
People	\$190,622
Administration & Management	\$159,505
Development & Communications	\$60,509
Total	\$942,523

Incomes



Expenses



Partners

We are forever grateful for the support from generous partners and individuals who have made all this work possible in 2025. Thank you for making a lasting impact for parrots.



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Thank you

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We would also like to thank our loyal
Beak Buddies, Legacy Guardians, and
everybody who gave up to \$250 in 2025.

Future Echoes

Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited to launch the MRN Conservation Internship, a six-month immersive program that will prepare the next generation of conservation leaders. Interns will gain hands-on experience across all three of MRN's core programs: Birds, Habitat, and People, rotating between our Punta Islita Breeding Center and the Sarapiquí Rainforest Reserve. From caring for Macaws and monitoring wild populations to restoring rainforest habitat and engaging local communities, interns will develop the interdisciplinary skills needed to tackle today's conservation challenges while making a meaningful contribution to parrot conservation in Costa Rica. **This is just one of the many new initiatives we have in store for our impact in 2026.**





Planned Giving

If you are interested in leaving a legacy to help expand the Sarapiquí Rainforest Reserve, or otherwise, please email aubrey@macawrecoverynetwork.org

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www.macawrecoverynetwork.org/donate



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Macaw Recovery Network USA
PO Box 448 Seabrook, TX 77586, US

EIN#:
88-0612533

Contact

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