



**NATURE  
& CULTURE**  
INTERNATIONAL

# 2008

ANNUAL REPORT

*The Great Work of our generation is to carry out the transition from a period of human devastation of the Earth to a period when humans would be present to the planet in a mutually beneficial manner ... to ensure each species of their proper habitat and to conserve the basic functioning of the biosystems of the planet.*

— Thomas Berry, *The Great Work*



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# Mission

Nature and Culture International's mission is the conservation of biological and cultural diversity. Our philosophy is to carry out this program by developing and strengthening local institutions and assisting communities to preserve their way of life and traditions.

Nature & Culture International is an international nonprofit organization that focuses on the conservation of threatened ecosystems in the dry forests, cloud forests, and rainforests of the American tropics. We believe in building local capacity, and so:

- develop local conservation organizations, hiring dedicated local professionals who determine the program priorities for their regions;
- work to establish long-term conservation efforts that integrate local communities, and are sustainable in biological, social and political terms; and
- achieve efficiency with local salary levels and a minimum of US employees.

## What is at Stake?

This Annual Report reflects an emergency situation in the conservation of the Earth's most biodiverse ecosystems. Amazon rainforests, rich Andean cloud forests and other tropical forests are critically threatened as never before. Nature & Culture International is working hard to address these challenges to our natural world and its life-support systems.

We achieved major successes in 2008, highlighted by the declaration of the 2.4 million acre Alto Nanay-Pintuyacu-Chambira Regional Conservation area in the Peruvian Amazon. In Ecuador, we doubled the number of protected acres within our very active watershed protection program, helping to safeguard drinking water supplies for countless Ecuadorians while simultaneously protecting thousands of acres of unique ecosystems, and added significantly to our community reserves program.

## The Time is Now

Creation, an astounding phenomenon by any measure, presents humanity with a richness and variety of fellow life forms that is almost unbelievable in scope. Such variety reflects the work of untold millions of years of patient, persistent natural selection. Achingly slow, evolution's product is the gift of an irreplaceable natural patrimony. This gift, often termed "biodiversity," possesses worth in its own right as well as opportunities for the enjoyment, enrichment, and betterment of humankind.

Our generation will decide, consciously or by default, how much of nature survives, and which creatures will vanish with their unique genes, their beauty, and their carefully crafted role in the web of life. The relentless conversion of natural habitats continues at an alarming pace, destroying the potential contribution of biodiversity, as well as the life-support systems provided by nature. We ask you to join us in helping to save the miraculous diversity of life and cultures on our planet, which are now at grave risk. The destiny of creation, and of our own well-being, lies in the hands of our generation.

*Ivan Gayler, Chairman of the Board*

*Byron Swift, President*

# 2009 Highlights

## Creation of a 2.4 million acre Regional Conservation Area in the Peruvian Amazon

With strong support from local communities, we helped create the Nanay-Pintuyacu-Chambira Regional Conservation Area, providing habitat for dozens of primate species while simultaneously protecting the potable water source for the city of Iquitos. The area was created through a joint program we manage with the Regional Government of Loreto, IIAP, and local institutions, and is supported by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and Blue Moon Fund. This brings the total protected land area to 3.4 million acres of Amazon lowland rainforest with some of the highest biological diversity in the world.

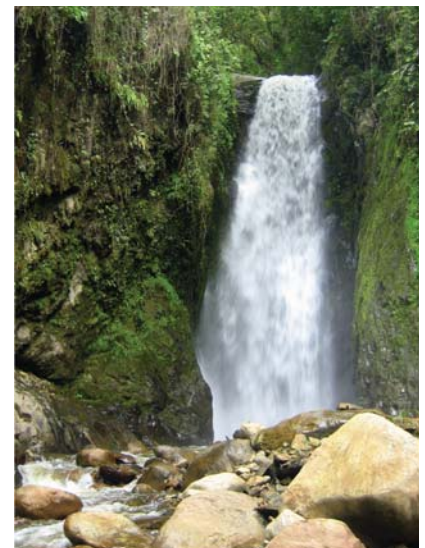


## Biosphere Reserve Protection in Ecuador

In southern Ecuador, we initiated activities to conserve the Podocarpus-El Condor Biosphere Reserve, declared in 2007 to protect 3 million acres. This area of spectacular montane and cloud forest has one of the highest concentrations of endangered and endemic species, especially orchids and birds, in the world. We have been working closely with regional governments and local communities here to expand and strengthen protection in the region. One example is the 74,000 acre Romerillos area owned by the municipality of Loja that we have offered to manage and protect for its ecological and environmental values.

## Watershed Conservation in Southern Ecuador

Nature & Culture International works with municipalities in an innovative program to conserve watershed forests that safeguard water supplies for thousands of people. In 2008, we worked locally to double the land area protected through municipal and community reserves to almost 30,000 acres. To further strengthen these efforts, NCI is working to create a Regional Water Fund that will generate income for watershed conservation, help to purchase further lands and create added municipal and private reserves in 2009.



## Designation of Community Reserves in Southern Ecuador

Nature & Culture International strives to combine our conservation work with improved livelihoods for local peoples. Our work with indigenous and farming communities has led to the creation of a number of natural reserves that protect Amazon, Andean and dry forests in the region. Four Shuar communities have designated almost 40,000 acres as Protected Forest Areas in the Yacuambi mountains. We have also assisted the Honor and Labor Commune in southwestern Ecuador to declare three community reserves totaling over 20,000 acres, and we have worked to protect 50,000 acres of endangered Tumbesian tropical dry forest as community reserves along the Catamayo River.



## Protection of Endangered Species and Habitats in Northwest Peru

The highly threatened dry forests of northwestern Peru and southern Ecuador form a unique ecotype with great biodiversity. Here we are working to protect sites for endangered birds and associated species, including a conservation concession of 25,000 acres at Talara, a community reserve at Limon, and improved management of 25,000 acres at the Angolo Reserve, where we head the Reserve's advisory committee.

Nature & Culture International has been working with the Regional Government of Piura to establish the Regional System of Conservation Areas of Piura using scientific information developed through our DarwinNet biodiversity information program. The region includes paramos, cloud forests and endangered dry forest ecosystems. In 2008, we initiated the process to create a number of significant regional conservation areas, including the species-rich seasonal tropical dry forests in Lancones and the coastal mangrove forests of Sechura.

## Tropical Dry Forest Protection in Mexico

Nature & Culture International continued its efforts to protect the northernmost tropical dry forest in the Americas, purchasing 800 additional acres to expand its nature reserve at Alamos. This purchase protects some of the most biologically diverse and ecologically sensitive habitats in the region, and brings us closer to our goal of conserving 20,000 acres of this spectacular New World forest.



## Educating Tomorrow's Environmental Leaders



Our environmental education program continues to reach out to thousands of youth in Ecuador and Peru through environmental festivals, national and binational science and technology fairs, hands on education in local schools, environmental publications, and the organization of EcoClubs. In 2008, under Nature & Culture Internationals guidance, the Loyola High School in southeastern Ecuador won first prize in the national science fair for their project promoting the creation of an educational ecological reserve owned by the school.

## Operation of the San Francisco Scientific Station

At our San Francisco Scientific Station, German and Ecuadorian universities conduct one of the largest tropical forest ecosystem studies worldwide. The German Research Foundation released a book in 2008 highlighting the results of their first ten years of research at the Station. Written to appeal to a wide audience, the publication reveals many secrets of this complex tropical mountain forest ecosystem.



## Conservation of Tropical Dry Forests



Nature & Culture International is working to conserve the highly endangered Tumbesian dry forests in southern Ecuador and northwestern Peru, home to sixty endangered bird species and many endemic plant and animal species. In 2008 we initiated the **Cazaderos Forest Reserve** with a 2,000 acre purchase, helped communities establish thousands of acres of community reserves, and carried out habitat conservation programs with municipalities and the national government. We also own and manage the 25,000 acre **La Ceiba Reserve** and the 4,000 acre **Laipuna Reserve**. Goals for 2009 include placing another 26,000 acres under protection and developing the capacities of neighboring communities to manage and conserve these areas while improving their livelihoods.

In the Peruvian State of Piura, Nature & Culture International is working to conserve a number of critical sites for biodiversity, which include the coastal deserts of **Talara**, the dry forests of the **Limon watershed** and the **Cota de Caza El Angolo**, a protected area within the Northwest Biosphere Reserve. We are also working with the regional governments of Piura, Lambayeque and Tumbes to develop protected area systems at the regional level.

At **Alamos, Mexico**, we are creating a 20,000 acre reserve within the Sierra de Alamos national protected area (pictured above). This area protects the northernmost extension of high-quality tropical deciduous forest in the Americas, and the headwaters of the Rio Cuchuajqui. To date, Nature & Culture International has purchased 12,400 acres, and has improved several cabins in order to promote visitation and scientific use of this exceptional resource. Goals for 2009 are to purchase another 4,000 acres and to create a strong local management presence.

## Conservation of Andean Cloud Forests



Andean cloud forests are the world's highest biodiversity priority, with the greatest number of endemic species. Due to their geography and climate, southern Ecuador and northern Peru are among the most diverse areas within this priority ecosystem, with numerous animal and plant species that live only here.

In 2008, Nature & Culture International initiated management of the 3 million acre **Podocarpus-El Condor Biosphere Reserve**, working with governments, communities, and the private sector to conserve the pristine tropical forests and local cultures of this region.

Within this area, we are working to create many government, community and private reserves. Our work with two communities in the Colambo-Yacuri Protected Forest of 188,000 acres has led them to establish the **Angashcola Community Reserve**, protecting 3,500 acres of their cloud forests. We have also successfully worked with three indigenous Shuar communities to establish ancestral homelands and protect 40,000 acres of cloud forests as the **Yacuambi Shuar Community Reserve**. With government, we are working to designate 80,000 acres of land as inalienable forest patrimony on unoccupied state lands.

In Peru, Nature & Culture International is implementing conservation measures for the endangered cloud forest areas at **Ayabaca** and **Pacaipampa** in Piura, within a regional initiative for protection of Andean paramos that will stretch from Venezuela to Peru.

Apart from our own direct efforts, Nature & Culture International managed a major project to support the Peruvian Association for the Conservation of Nature (APECO) to strengthen management of the **Rio Abiseo**, **Alto Mayo** and **Cordillera de Colan** protected areas in northern Peru. Together these areas protect one million acres of pristine cloud forests with many endemic species.

We also work to protect paramos or high-altitude grasslands, which are another threatened ecosystem throughout the Americas. Nature & Culture International has assisted in the designation of the **Colambo-Yacuri Protected Forest**, which places the paramos of southernmost Ecuador in protected status, and we are working to achieve a similar result with the chain of paramos that extends south into Peru.



## Conservation of Amazon Rainforests



Amazon lowland rainforests are the most extensive tropical forests in the Americas, and contain very high biological diversity.

Nature & Culture International manages the *Program for Conservation, Management and Use of Biodiversity of Loreto, Peru* in partnership with the Regional Government of Loreto, the Institute for Investigation of the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP), and local organizations. This program creates regional conservation areas together with sustainable development initiatives for local communities within the Amazon forests of this vast 90 million acre region.

In 2008 with the strong support of local communities, the government established the **Alto Nanay-Pintuyacu-Chambira Regional Conservation Area** of two million acres, which protects extraordinary biodiversity. We have also launched successful sustainable development initiatives to help local communities, such as improved local handicrafts using the chambira fiber. These results can be seen at [www.procrel.gob.pe](http://www.procrel.gob.pe).



Nature & Culture International also works to protect 300,000 acres of Amazon forests at the **Allpahuayo-Mishana Reserve**, which is the largest and most diverse area of white sand forest in Peru. These rare forests are among the oldest tropical forests in the New World and support a wealth of endemic flora and fauna, including the emblematic Iquitos Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila clementsii*, that lives only within the Reserve.

## Land Conservation



A central priority of Nature & Culture International's mission is land conservation. We work to protect land through direct land purchase, creation of reserves through community efforts, and declarations of reserve lands by municipal, regional and national governments. In 2008 we purchased 3,500 acres and are working with communities to protect 120,000 acres as community reserves. We also worked with the governments of Ecuador and Peru to declare over 2 million acres as state protected areas.

### Land Purchase

The purchase of land is an important tool when rare ecosystems are privately owned. In 2008 we purchased over 3,500 acres of priority lands, including 2,000 acres of tropical dry forest to initiate the Cazaderos reserve in the endangered Tumbesian ecosystem of southern Ecuador, and 1,000 acres to protect cloud forests in the watersheds of Loja, Zamora and Celica municipalities in southern Ecuador. We pay an average of \$50-140 per acre.

### Community Reserves

Several of our projects work with indigenous and farming communities to declare community reserves. This includes our continued work with four Shuar communities to designate 37,000 acres as homeland and community reserves in the Yacuambi mountains, along with work to protect 50,000 acres as community reserves in endangered Tumbesian tropical dry forest along the Catamayo River valley in southern Ecuador.

### National and Regional Protected Areas

One of the most effective methods of land conservation is to work with local, regional and national governments to declare lands as protected areas. In 2008, we worked with the Regional Government of Loreto to declare a major Regional Conservation Area that protects 2.4 million acres of extraordinary biodiversity. We are also working with the Regional Government of Piura to establish the Regional System of Conservation Areas of Piura, to protect paramos, cloud forests and endangered dry forest ecosystems.



Nature & Culture International also works with local governments to protect land, with a particularly successful program to protect watersheds. In 2008 we assisted municipalities declare 75,000 acres of forest reserves. The municipality of Loja has offered NCI the management rights over its 17,000 acre Romerillos Reserve, which will protect exceptionally biodiverse cloud forests bordering the Podocarpus Park in Ecuador. We are also working with a number of smaller municipalities to protect cloud forest lands around this park.

## Sustainable Community Development

A core element of our ethic is to link the well being of local communities with our environmental conservation activities. The importance and benefits of community involvement show the power of working with communities in their economic activities to reduce and manage resource extraction for conservation benefit, while adding value to improve economic welfare.



### Changing Attitudes and Behavior

One of our chief aims is to raise awareness of the value of sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, and discourage common practices such as unsustainable or illegal logging. In the village of Tahuayo, Peru community members have twice denounced illegal loggers since the creation of a reserve there in early 2007, perceiving this logging to be against the community's interests in a sustainable harvest.



### Amazon Community Initiatives

At the Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo reserve in Peru, we work with local artisans such as the Working Women Artisans of San Juan who create beautiful value-added products such as multi-colored baskets from the local chambira palm. The San Diego Zoo and Natural History Museum are now selling these baskets at their gift shops, and average incomes in communities around the reserve have doubled. NCI is working with the government of Loreto to expand this program to other reserves and communities.

### Palo Santo Project Adds Value while Conserving Dry Forests in Southern Ecuador

The conservation of 7,500 acres of endangered tropical dry forests is supported through the sustainable use of the Palo Santo tree, where land-owning communities benefit from the sale of essential oils to the Brazilian cosmetics group Natura. With the recently secured Certification of Ecological



Operation we are guaranteeing that the environment will not be contaminated, the functionality of the dry forest will not be affected, and the people who live in these natural ecosystems will benefit economically from the project.

## Scientific Investigation



On the northern edge of Podocarpus National Park in Ecuador is Nature & Culture International's 2000-acre **San Francisco Scientific Station**. Here, 17 German and Ecuadorian universities conduct one of the largest ecosystem studies worldwide, investing \$2.5 million dollars a year in interdisciplinary study of tropical mountain forests. In 2008, the German Research Foundation released a book summarizing the first ten years of investigations at the Station, making its valuable information available to a wider audience. Research now gives greater emphasis to maintaining the region's ecosystems with practical re-

sults to aid in conservation efforts. Results to date include 109 Doctoral and MS theses (33 of which are Ecuadorian), training of 500-700 research interns from local universities, and 140 papers published in peer-reviewed journals. See <http://www.bergregenwald.de> and <http://www.tropicalmountainforest.org>.

In Piura, we assist the government park service with information on the biodiversity priorities in its national reserves such as the Cota de Caza Angolo. We also work with the Regional Government of Piura, providing information on the biodiversity of its dry forests and paramos to improve its planned regional system of conservation areas.

## Environmental Management

Nature & Culture International manages a number of policy initiatives, including the Darwin Initiative for the dry forests of Peru and Ecuador ([www.darwinnet.org](http://www.darwinnet.org)). This binational initiative collects and disseminates biological information to governmental, non-profit and private sectors, to help integrate their development activities with the conservation of forests. This effort helps meet both countries' obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as their respective national biodiversity strategies.

We also actively participate in matters of environmental policy at the state level in both Ecuador and Peru. Examples include our program for protection of watershed forests to safeguard water supplies in Loja and Zamora, and our assistance to the governments of Loreto and Piura to design and implement a regional system of protected areas that already covers several million acres.



In Peru, we are working closely with Birdlife International to elaborate the national strategy for conservation of birds, and in 2008 housed their national coordinator.

## Valuing Ecosystem Services

A pressing conservation task is that of valuing the ecosystem services that provide us with so many of life's essentials – including our air, water and a stable climate. We are working to develop two projects to value the water resource provided by natural forested watersheds.



### **Watershed Services Providing Potable Water**

Nature & Culture International has succeeded in working with municipal governments in southern Ecuador, including the provincial capitals of Loja and Zamora, to purchase, reforest and protect cloud forest lands in the watersheds

that provide them with drinking water. The conservation of these forests has especially high value as we are simultaneously:

- saving the very high biodiversity of tropical cloud forests;
- providing clean water and related health benefits to municipalities; and
- creating climate and carbon benefits by reforesting degraded lands.

In 2008 we purchased nearly 1,000 acres to protect watersheds in several municipalities that implemented a fee financing system to maintain and manage these forested watersheds. We are working towards building a regional water fund (FORAGUA) to extend this program throughout the region. This program has a broad educational impact, which reinforces public perceptions of the importance of conserving forests and demonstrates the importance of ecosystem services in a direct way, helping to build a conservation ethic.

### **Watershed Services Providing Hydroelectric Energy**

The forested watersheds of the Andes provide an abundant water resource, yet most of these forested areas, even if within protected areas, are threatened by the lack of a sustainable funding source to pay for their management and protection. We seek to help Ecuadorian groups harness the economic potential of this water resource, by assessing the benefits of developing run-of-river hydropower projects in the Andes of southern Ecuador. The run-of-river design uses river flow without any dams to provide clean power. The net revenues from these projects would be used exclusively for non-profit purposes, to create a sustainable funding source for conservation and sustainable development initiatives in the region.

These projects will demonstrate in practical terms how to “close the circle” between the provision of ecosystem services (water) by natural environments, their market value, and the conservation of those same natural resources. Economic benefits will be shared with local communities, so that they also perceive a value to conservation of the watershed and its forests. As similar hydro sites are availed for development through the Andes, this system if replicated could substantially address the persistent problem of lack of sustainable financing to conserve Andean ecosystems, the world's most important hotspot for biodiversity conservation.

## Environmental Education

Nature & Culture International seeks to develop an environmental ethic within society through programs for children, youth, and adults. We stress the adequate management of natural resources, active participation by local community members and the importance of living in a healthy environment free of contamination

In southern Ecuador, our public outreach effort includes the publication of a weekly full page in the leading regional newspaper and workshops that reach rural populations in



many areas. Our environmental education programs teach children from the first through twelfth grades, and we organize annual Science and Technology fairs and Encounters for Creativity, which have reached 200,000 students in both southern Ecuador and northern Peru.

NCI is also active locally, with training programs and a campaign for the recycling of batteries with the EcoClubs of Loja, and programs on fire prevention and adequate use of water with the Podocarpus National Park and Zoological Gardens of Loja.

In 2008, Nature & Culture International helped CANATURA, a group of volunteer students and recent college graduates, provide field-based nature education programs to youths in northern Peru, where environmental education programs are virtually absent. CANATURA works to:

- involve and educate high school and college students in nature conservation;
- elaborate and carry out environmental education programs, mainly outdoors; and
- participate in, and lead, environmental campaigns and festivals.

Chapters have now been established in Iquitos, Moyobamba and Chiclayo, which have held Festivals for Amazonian Biodiversity in five cities, and have reached over twelve thousand people and youths. Our joint vision is to empower local populations with knowledge about their environment, and foster their greater care and involvement in nature.

In Piura Nature & Culture International implements the Children and Land Program, which seeks to involve children in the management of their natural environment, developing in the process a sense of value and commitment to the natural world.



# Finances & Administration

Overall, our 2008 revenues were \$3,399,073 and costs were \$3,208,140 (expenses plus land and building purchases). We are proud that over 90% of all costs were spent within our project countries, building capacity where it is needed most.

## NATURE AND CULTURE INTERNATIONAL Statement of Financial Position 31-Dec-08 (audited)

### ASSETS

#### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 742,391
Pledged	155,619
Prepaid expenses & Deposits	<u>157,023</u>

Total current assets 1,055,033

#### PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT, at cost

Land	\$ 1,987,815
Building & improvements	226,242
Furniture and equipment	50,835
Vehicles	178,860
Less accum. depreciation	<u>(128,737)</u>

Total property & equipment 2,315,015

Total assets \$ 3,370,048

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$ 81,606
Deferred revenue – grants	<u>340,425</u>

Total current liabilities 422,031

#### NET ASSETS

CY change in net assets	265,433
Unrestricted	1,598,203
Temporarily restricted	234,381
Permanently restricted	<u>850,000</u>

Total net assets 2,948,017

Total liabilities & net assets \$ 3,370,048

## NATURE AND CULTURE INTERNATIONAL Statement of Activities For the year ended December 31, 2008 (audited)

### REVENUES

#### Grants & Contributions

Foundations	\$ 1,028,986
Governments	297,734
Individuals	618,728
Organizations	1,238,868
Fees	157,401
Other	40,013
Interest	<u>17,343</u>

Total revenues \$ 3,399,073

### EXPENSES

Project grants	\$ 1,291,486
Salaries & related benefits	1,146,633
Travel	185,675
Supplies	194,374
Consultants	45,210
Auto	78,278
Publications	75,700
Outside services	50,445
Depreciation	44,986
Other direct costs	<u>20,853</u>

Total expenses \$ 3,133,640

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

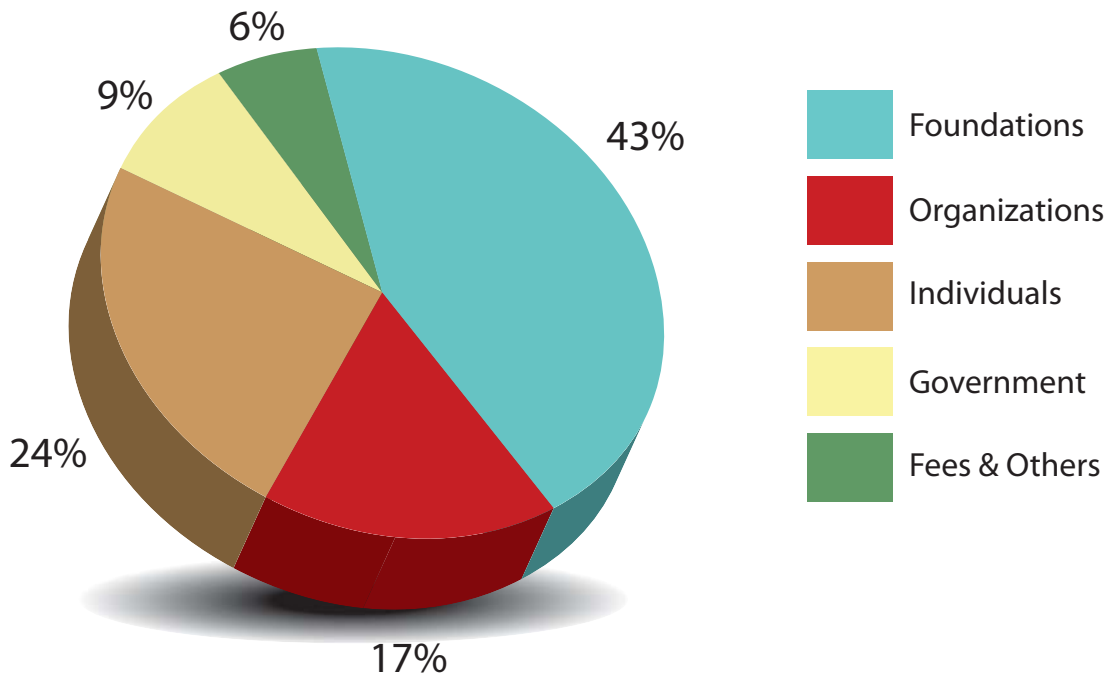
Land and buildings	74,500
Other	<u>190,933</u>

Total change in net assets 265,433

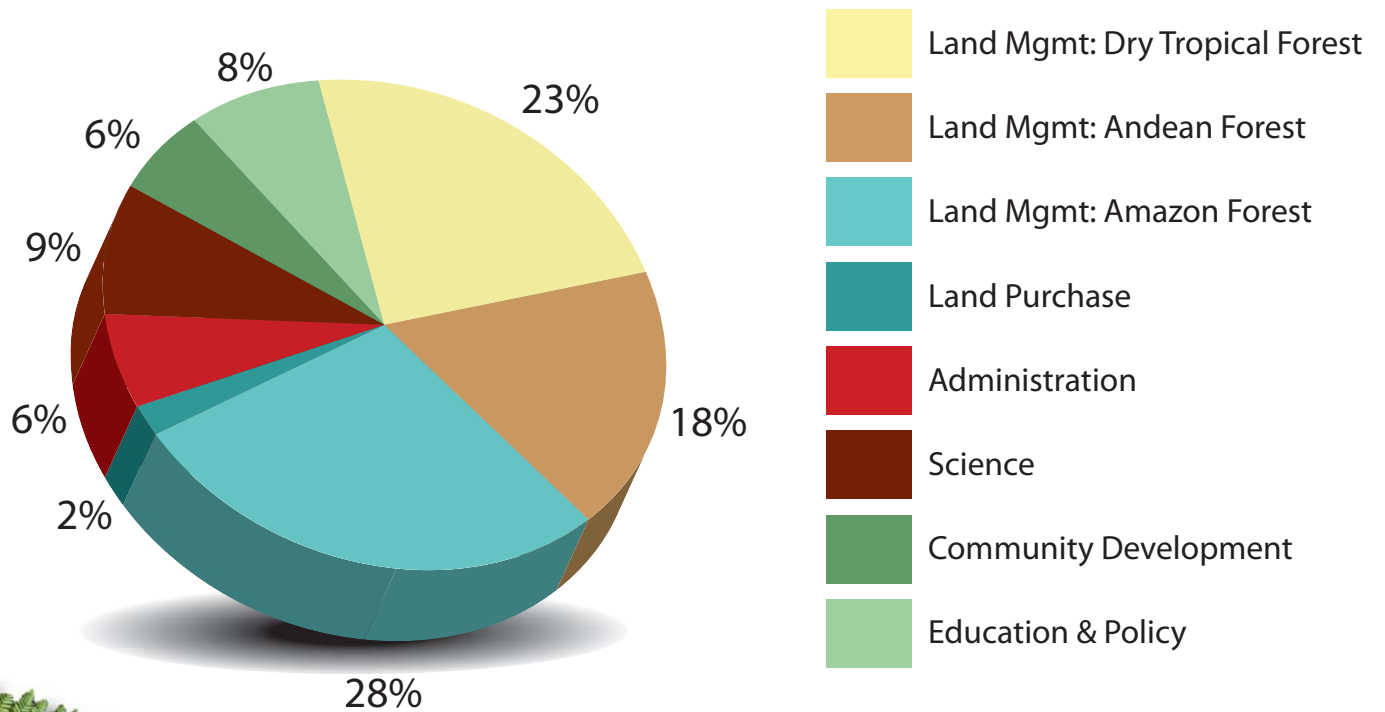
**NET ASSETS AT Jan. 1, 2008** 2,682,584

**NET ASSETS AT Dec. 31, 2008** \$ 2,948,017

# 2008 Income Sources



# 2008 Cost Categories



# Board & Officers

**Ivan Gayler**, Chair, President, Del Mar Partnership; Board member and past President, San Diego Museum of Man

**David Welborn**, Vice-Chair, Director, Hunter Industries; San Diego Foundation. Environmental Working Group

**Carol Hertzberg**, Artist, Conservationist

**Richard Hertzberg**, President, ENPEX Corporation; Board Member, UCSD Foundation

**David Neil**, PhD, Missouri Botanical Garden; Founder, National Herbarium of Ecuador

**Dr. Norman Roberts**, Author; Trustee Emeritus, San Diego Natural History Museum

**Doug Sheres**, Partner, Rice Hall James & Associates; Former Mayor, Solana Beach

**Ann Hunter Welborn**, Director, Hunter Industries; Board Member, National Environment Trust

**David J. Winkler**, CEO, Del Mar Partnership; Chair, Whittier Institute of Diabetes

**Byron Swift**, President

**Renzo Paladines**, Vice-President and Director, NCI-Ecuador

**Rainer Bussmann**, Vice-President and Scientific Director

**Sara Dozier**, Chief Financial Officer

# Conservation Partners & Donors

We wish to thank the following donors, whose generous support has been essential to carrying out our conservation activities:

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Birdlife International

British Bird Watching Fair

Belgian Forestry Fund

Blue Moon Fund

Blue Mountain Arts

Community Foundation

EcoFund of Ecuador

European Union

Global Environmental Fund /Mountain Institute

Hunter Industries

Jewish Community Foundation

Institute for the Investigation of the  
Peruvian Amazon

Municipality of Loja, Ecuador

Netherlands National Committee - The World  
Conservation Union

Overbrook Foundation

UK Lottery Foundation (via Birdlife)

United Nations Environmental Program

United Nations Science and Culture Organization

World Land Trust-US

DLA Piper (donated legal services)

Del Mar Partnership (donated space and  
accounting services)

Groovy bits (donated internet services)

Many generous individual donors

# Senior Staff Members

**Byron Swift**, President, has worked with local partners throughout Latin America for over two decades to improve land and resource conservation and environmental policy. An environmental lawyer, Byron is an expert in private lands conservation and has published widely on biodiversity, industrial pollution and climate change. He has directed the energy program at the Environmental Law Institute (1994-2004) and the US office of IUCN - World Conservation Union (1998-2004), and has served as a private foundation officer.

**Renzo Paladines**, Director of Nature & Culture-Ecuador, has led our program in Ecuador since 1996. Renzo has broad experience in conservation, served as Coordinator of the United Nations Geo-Loja report, and was President of the Regional Council of the Catamayo-Chira river basin in 2003. Renzo received the Podocarpus Award of Loja's Provincial Council for his efforts in conservation and environmental management and has a masters degree in Zootechnics from the People's Friendship University, Moscow.

**Luis Alban**, Director of Nature & Culture-Peru, initiated our Peru office in 2003. He is a Biologist (University Ricardo Palma of Lima), with twelve years experience in projects dealing with conservation and development, especially in relation to forest genetic resources. Luis served as scientific director for reforestation at the University of Piura (1994-2004), President of the Regional Environmental Commission of Piura (2002-2004), and Coordinator of the Piura working group on paramos (2001-2004).

**Mike McColm**, International Director, is an expert in conservation, reforestation, sustainable development and environmental education. He worked for over 20 years in Ecuador as Development and then Executive Director of the Jatun Sacha Foundation, leading it to become one of Ecuador's preeminent conservation organizations. He has a doctorate in Administration from the University of California and a Masters in Environmental Studies. Mike enjoys leading natural history study groups, teaching, and is a musician.

**Wagner Guzman**, Director of Nature & Culture-Amazonas, is an agricultural engineer with a Masters degree from the Catholic University of Chile and Bachelors from La Molina National Agrarian University of Peru. Wagner did post graduate studies at the Alcalá University of Spain. He is a specialist in environmental economics and planning, and also works for the Institute for Investigation of the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP) and as a university professor.

**Cesar Aguirre** is a veterinary doctor and is completing studies for his law degree. He worked for several years on conservation projects for the Podocarpus Foundation before joining Nature & Culture International. Cesar created the Protective Forest "Servio Aguirre" over forest lands he owns, and founded a regional organization BOPRISUR for conservation landowners.

**Eduardo Cueva**, Forester, has studied and published on the native fruits of southern Ecuador, the growth of the forest species and seeds, and reforestation. He carried out postgraduate work at the National Herbarium of Ecuador in Quito, and completed his Doctorate studies at the University of Bayreuth, Germany.

**Galo Carrillo**, Education Coordinator, has trained a generation of environmental activists in southern Ecuador, where he has taught high school since 1970. Galo works with Nature & Culture to implement the national and binational Science Fairs, the Encounters of Children's Creativity program and the network of Loja EcoClubs. He has a degree in Education.

**Priscila Dávila**, Head of Finance, has worked at Nature & Culture International since 2000. Previously, she was head of control for the Banco de Loja (1999-2000) and credit officer at Banco del Austro. Priscila has a Doctorate in accounting.

**Alex Moore**, Biologist, is Administrator of DarwinNet and coordinator of Nature & Culture International's program at the El Angolo Reserve in Peru. Alex has conducted biodiversity surveys in northwest Peru since 2002, and has worked on information management systems with the Institute for Investigation of the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP).

**Bruno Paladines**, Ecologist, directs Nature & Culture International's programs for community development in southern Ecuador, working on both social and environmental aspects. He also directs Nature & Culture International's largest project at La Ceiba-Pilares in the dry forests of Zapotillo. Bruno has a degree in Ecology from the University of Brussels, Belgium.

**Pedro Paladines** is Administrator of the San Francisco Scientific Station. He has a degree in Environmental Management from the Technical University of Loja, and postgraduate studies at the Peoples Friendship University, Moscow.

**Trotsky Rivera**, Environmental Engineer, coordinates Nature & Culture International's Zamora office. Trotsky is a specialist in habitat restoration, and conducted his thesis at Nature & Culture International's San Francisco Scientific Station. He is also a professor at the Technical University of Loja.

**Fabián Rodas**, Biologist, is a regional coordinator of DarwinNet and the Laipuna Reserve. He has published on bird conservation and on the use of GIS for protected areas. He has also served as a university professor (2000-2002). Fabián has a post-graduate degree in Population Ecology from the University of Costa Rica.

**Felipe Serrano** is Coordinator of the Biosur project, the Biosphere Reserve program, and the community programs at Colambo-Yacuri. He has a Masters in Management of Tropical Biodiversity from San Pablo University, Spain, and was a university teacher (1999 - 2002). Felipe is the founder of the Azuay Herbarium and president of Funbotánica.

**Noam Shany**, Ornithologist and Conservationist, is co-author of Birds of Peru and Nature & Culture International's liaison to the Program for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Regional Biodiversity of Loreto (PROCREL).

**Washington Tibbi** works to build conservation programs in the province of Zamora, where he is also Vice-President of a major Shuar Federation.

**Bolívar Tello**, Forester, is Coordinator of the La Ceiba Natural Reserve, and heads Nature & Culture International's Zapotillo office. A specialist in conservation and community development, Bolivar is also a charter member of the Arcolris Foundation. He has a Forestry Engineering degree from the National University of Loja.

**Paul Viñas**, Biologist, coordinates the Andean Program for Nature & Culture International's NW Peru office. He has conducted biodiversity surveys in Piura's mountain ecosystems and has extensive experience in community work.



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