

Annual Report 2007



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

Our 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.

NCI is an international nonprofit organization that focuses on threatened ecosystems in the dry forests, cloud forests, and rain forests of southern Ecuador and northern Peru. We believe in building local capacity, and so:

- build 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, a minimum of US employees, and hence very low administrative overhead.

What Is at Stake?

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

We achieved major successes in 2007, In Ecuador, a 2 million acre biosphere reserve was recognized by UNESCO, two municipalities have implemented a water tax for conservation of their cloud forests, and 200,000 acres of virgin forests were declared as protected state forests. In Peru, our activities have resulted in the creation of an astonishing 4 million acres of Regional Protected areas – with more to come.

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 Time is Now

The relentless conversion of natural habitats continues at an alarming pace, destroying the potential contribution of biodiversity, as well as the life-supports systems provided by nature. We ask you to join us in attempting to save the miraculous diversity of planetary life forms and cultures, 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

Highlights of 2007



Two million-acre conservation areas created in Loreto, Peru

We helped achieve the designation of the **Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo** and the **Ampiyacu-Apayacu Regional Conservation** areas of *1 million acres* each, with strong support of local communities. These areas conserve highly diverse Amazon lowland rainforest, that includes habitat for dozens of primate species and over 600 bird species. The areas were created as Regional conservation areas through a joint program we manage with the Regional Government, IIAP, and local intuitions, and supported by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and Blue Moon Fund.

Three million acre Biosphere Reserve created in Ecuador

NCI succeeded in gaining UNESCO recognition of the **Podocarpus-Condor Biosphere Reserve** to protect and promote sustainable development of *3 million acres* of Andean forests in south Ecuador. This area of montane and cloud forest has a very high concentration of endangered and endemic species, especially orchids and birds.



Implemented a **watershed conservation program** with the Loja and Celica municipalities, which involved the creation of 6,000 ha of watershed reserves, together with a fee on water users for conservation programs. NCI *purchased over 1,000 acres* of cloud forests to protect the watersheds of these and other communities, and plans to continue purchasing land in 2008 with counterpart funds by the municipalities themselves.

Develop major projects to provide **sustainable financing** for conservation initiatives by capturing the commercial value of ecosystem services that provide potable water and hydropower.

Initiated a legal program to protect up to *90,000 ha* as **forest patrimony** on forested state lands, and working with regional government to create reserves on these areas.

Designated reserves with indigenous communities and with municipalities. This included our continued work with four **Shuar communities** to designate *15,000 ha* as homeland and community reserves in Yacuambi mountains, with Loja municipality to protect the *30,000 ha*. Romerillos reserve, and the Valladolid municipality to protect *4,000 ha*. as a reserve.

Purchased the **Tocto property** of *488 hectares* in the Numbala valley, a boundary of Podocarpus Park and a site of extraordinary biodiversity with many endemic species.

Opened an NCI office in **Amazonas, Peru**, in conjunction with IIAP, to develop conservation programs with the Regional Government and local NGOs. This Region includes the extraordinarily diverse Marañon river valley, with a great number of unique species and habitats, but with very few protected areas.

Work with the Regional Government of Piura to establish the **Regional System of Conservation Areas of Piura**, to include paramos, cloud forests and endangered dry forest ecosystems, using scientific information developed through our Darwinnet biodiversity information program.



Initiated protection of sites for endangered bird species in the **dry forests of NW Peru**, including a conservation concession of *10,000 ha* at Talara; a community reserve at Limon, and improved management of *10,000 ha* at the Angolo reserve, where NCI heads the local advisory committee for the reserve.

Protection of *20,000 ha* as community reserves to protect **endangered Tumbesian tropical dry forest** along the Catamayo River valley in southern Ecuador.

Added *over 5,000 acres* to NCI's private reserve Cuencas de Alamos, that protects endangered tropical dry forest at the **Sierra de Alamos reserve** in Sonora, Mexico (left).

Supported CANATURA to conduct outdoor youth education programs and **Biodiversity Festivals** in five cities in northern Peru, reaching 12,000 children and youths, and with **Ecoclubs** of southern Ecuador to reach additional thousands of children and students.

Operate the **San Francisco Scientific Station** where German and Ecuadorian universities conduct one of the largest tropical forest ecosystem studies worldwide; also purchased cloud forest land to expand the station by 150 acres.

Conserve *7,500 acres* of endangered tropical dry forests through sustainable use of the Palo Santo plant, where land-owning communities benefit from the sale of essential oils to the Brazilian cosmetics group Natura.



Goals: Conservation of Tropical Dry Forests



The dry tropical forests of the Americas are one of the world's highest priorities for biodiversity conservation, due to their species endemism and significant loss of habitat.

NCI is also working to expand conservation throughout the 100,000 acres of highly endangered Tumbesian dry forests in the Catamayo River basin in south Ecuador. Here we own and manage the *La Ceiba Reserve* (25,000 acres, pictured above) and the *Laipuna Reserve* (4,000 acres), where we implement programs to conserve the forest and to develop the capacities of neighboring communities to manage and conserve these areas while improving their livelihoods. Goals for 2008 include placing another 26,000 acres under protection through management agreements with the federal government and with local communities.

In the Peruvian State of Piura, NCI 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. NCI is also working with the Regional governments of Piura, Lambayeque and Tumbes to develop protected area systems at the Regional level.

At *Alamos, Mexico*, NCI is creating a 20,000 acre reserve within the Sierra de Alamos national protected area. This area protects the northernmost extension of high-quality tropical deciduous forest in the Americas, and the headwaters of the Rio Cuchujaqui. To date, NCI has purchased 12,400 acres, and improved several cabins in order to promote visitation and scientific use of this exceptional resource. Goals for 2008 are to purchase another 4,000 acres and to create a strong local management presence.

Goal: 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 2007, NCI succeeded in gaining the declaration by UNESCO of 1 million hectares of Andean cloud forests as a *biosphere reserve*, in which we will extend our work with governments, communities, and the private sector to conserve the pristine forests of the Loja and Zamora regions, together with local cultures.

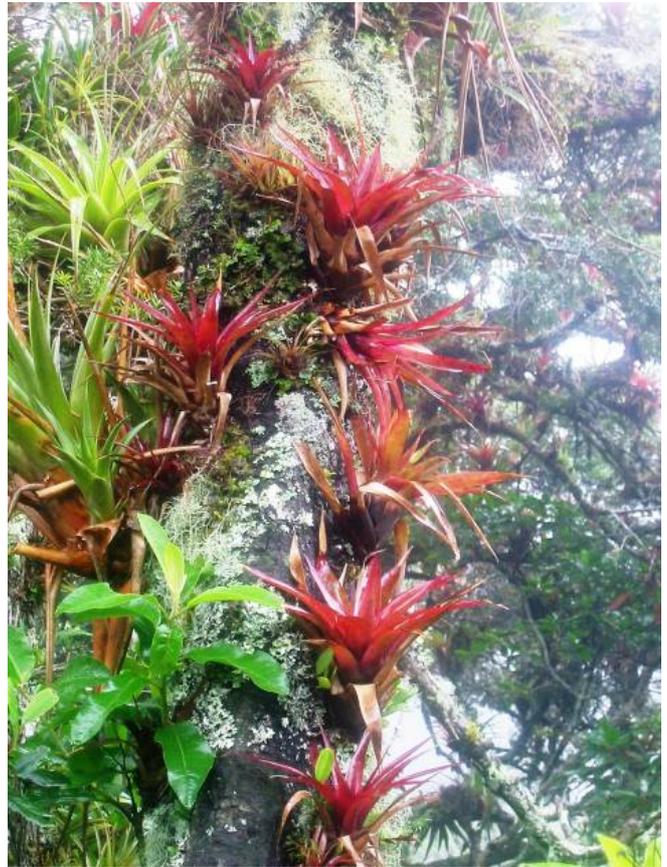
Within this area, NCI is working to create several government, community and private reserves. Our work with two communities in the Colambo-Yacuri Protected Forest of 76,000 hectares has led them to establish the *Angashcola*

Community Reserve, protecting 3,500 acres of their cloud forests. We are also working with three indigenous Shuar communities to establish ancestral homelands and protect 40,000 acres of cloud forests as the *Yacuambi Shuar Community Reserve*. Thirdly, we are working with government to designate 80,000 acres of land as inalienable forest patrimony on unoccupied state lands. Finally, NCI buys critical areas for biodiversity for private reserves to protect their many rare and endangered species, including the purchase of 1,000 acres in the Numbala valley and 1,500 acres of elfin forest at El Tiro.

In Peru, NCI 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, NCI manages 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, that together protect one million acres of pristine cloud forests with many endemic species.

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



Goal: Conservation of Amazon Rain Forests



Amazon lowland rain forests are the most extensive tropical forests in the Americas, and contain very high biological diversity, although with less endemism than the Andes.

NCI manages the *Program for Conservation, Management and Use of Biodiversity of Loreto, Peru* in partnership with the Regional Government of Loreto and the Peruvian Institute of Amazonian Investigation (IIAP), and with local organizations. This program works to create Regional conservation areas together with sustainable development initiatives for local communities within the Amazon forests of this vast 90 million acre Region.

In 2007 the government established the **Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo** and the **Ampiyacu-Apayacu Regional Conservation Areas** of one million acres each, with the strong support of local communities. These areas protect extraordinary biodiversity, and we have also launched successful sustainable development initiatives to also help local communities, such as improved local handicrafts using the *chambira* fiber. These results can be seen at www.procrel.gob.pe.



NCI also works to protect the **Allpahuayo-Mishana Reserve** of 300,000 acres of Amazon forests, within which is the largest and most diverse area of white sand forest in Peru that among the oldest tropical forests in the New World. These rare forests support a wealth of endemic flora and fauna, including a number of endangered birds, including the emblematic Iquitos Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila clementsii*, that lives only within the Reserve. NCI supports management of this reserve and conservation of its endangered species through the James Clements Conservation Fund.

Methods: Land Conservation

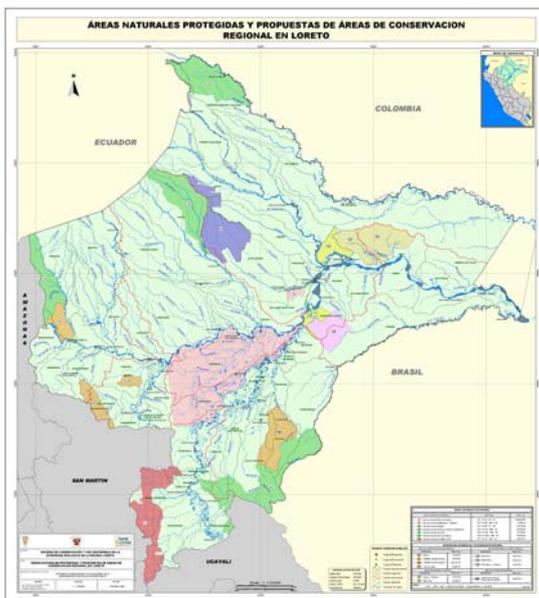
A central priority of NCI's mission is land conservation. NCI works to protect land through direct land purchase, creation of reserves through community efforts, and declarations of reserve lands by municipal, regional and national governments. In 2007 we purchased 13,500 acres, are working with communities to protect 120,000 acres as community reserves, and worked with governments of Ecuador and Peru to declare over 5 million acres as state protected areas.

Land Purchase is an important tool when rare ecosystems are privately owned. In 2007 we purchased over 13,500 acres of priority lands, including: 6,650 acres for our Alamos reserve protecting the northernmost extension of high-quality tropical deciduous forest in the Americas; 4,000 acres of tropical dry forest in the endangered Tumbesian ecosystem of south Ecuador; 1,500 in cloud forests adjacent to Podocarpus park, and 1,125 acres to protected 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 15,000 ha as homeland and community reserves in Yacuambi mountains, and work to protection 20,000 ha 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. We have been especially successful in this regard in 2007, working to declare a Biosphere Reserve in Ecuador and with the Regional government of Loreto to declare Regional Conservation Areas (illustrated). We also work with the Regional Government of Piura to establish the Regional System of Conservation Areas of Piura, to include paramos, cloud forests and endangered dry forest ecosystems.

NCI also works with local governments to protect land. In 2007, the municipality of Loja has offered NCI the management rights over its 30,000 ha

Romerillos reserve, which will protect exceptionally biodiverse cloud forests bordering the Podocarpus park. We are also working with a number of smaller municipalities to protect cloud forests lands around this park.

Sustainable Community Development

A core element of NCI's ethic is to link the well being of local communities with our activities to conserve the environment. The importance and benefits of community involvement can be demonstrated by a few short stories from our projects working with communities in our La Ceiba dry forest reserve in Ecuador, and the Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo regional conservation area in Loreto, Peru.



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 away from 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 the reserve in early 2007, perceiving this logging to be against the community's interests in a sustainable harvest. In both cases the reserve authorities with the government were able to confiscate the illegal timber.

The Impact of Demonstration: A demonstration of the benefits of a drip irrigation system for the drylands was performed at the school of Higueron as part of NCI's Schoolyard Ecology Program. Two orchards were established, a control using the traditional irrigation system and an experimental using the new drip irrigation system. Families observed firsthand that the new system saved both water and time.



Sustainable development initiatives. Two examples 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. At the newly created Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo reserve in Peru, work with local artisans such as the Working Women Artisans of San Juan, have created beautiful value-added products such as multi-colored baskets from the local *chambira* palm; and average incomes in communities around the reserve have doubled.

At La Ceiba, Ecuador, we are working with a Brazilian cosmetics firm Natura that pays the community high prices for the sustainable production of the essential oil of the Palo Santo plant. This low-impact activity helps to promote the conservation of 7,500 acres of endangered tropical dry forests by reducing alternative activities such as goat herding.

Scientific Investigation

On the northern edge of Podocarpus National Park in Ecuador is NCI's 800-hectare *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. The research studies initiated in 2007 will give greater emphasis to maintaining these ecosystems with practical results for conservation. Results



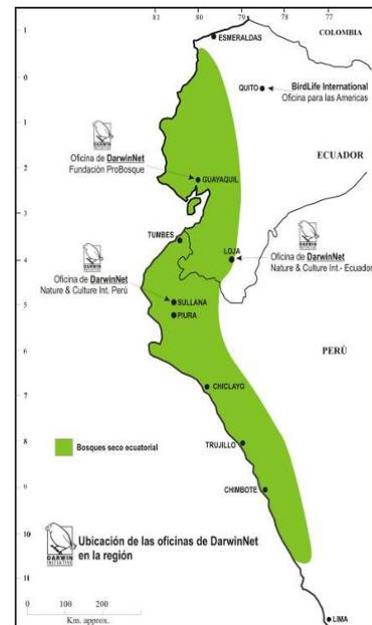
to date include 109 Doctoral and MS thesis (33 of which are Ecuadorian), training of 500-700 research interns from local universities, and 140 papers published in peer-reviewed journals [see <http://www.bergregenwald.de>].

In Piura, NCI assists the government park service INRENA with information on the biodiversity priorities in its national reserves such as the Cota de Caza Angolo, and works with the Regional Government of Piura with information on the biodiversity of its dry forests and paramos to inform its planned regional system of conservation areas.

Environmental Management

NCI manages a number of policy initiatives, including the Darwin Initiative for the dry forests of Peru and Ecuador (www.darwinnet.org). This binational initiative collects and disseminates biological information to governmental, non-profit and private sector actors, 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.

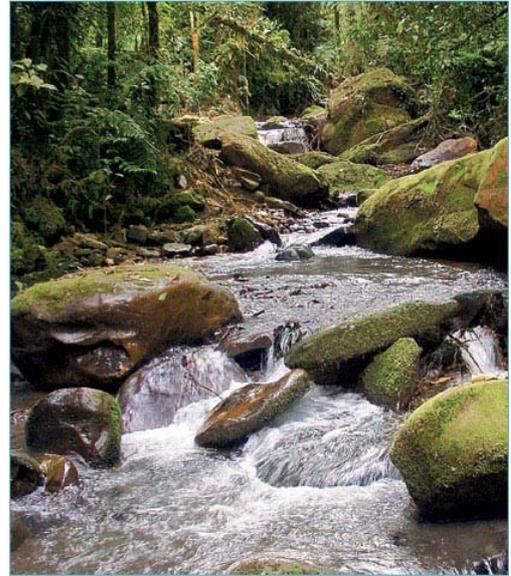
NCI also actively participates in matters of environmental policy at the state level in both Ecuador and Peru. Examples include our program for protection of watershed forests to safeguard water supplies in Loja and Zamora, and our assistance to the governments of Loreto and Piura to design and implement a regional protected area system that could potentially cover several million hectares.



In Peru, NCI is working closely with Birdlife International to elaborate the national strategy for conservation of birds, and in 2008 will house 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. NCI is working to develop two projects to value the water resource provided by natural forested watersheds.



[Watershed Services Providing Potable Water](#)

NIC 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 forest;
- providing clean water and related health benefits to municipalities; and
- creating climate and carbon benefits by reforesting degraded lands.

In 2007 we purchased 1,125 acres to protect watersheds in several municipalities that implemented a fee financing system to maintain and manage these forested watersheds. We are working to building a regional water fund FORAGUA to extend this program throughout the region. This program has broad educational impact, in reinforcing public perceptions of the importance of conserving forests and demonstrating 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. NCI seeks 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 ecosystems 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 worlds most important hotspot for biodiversity conservation.

Environmental Education

NCI seeks to develop an environmental ethic within society through programs for children, youth, and adults.

In southern Ecuador, our public outreach effort includes 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 to twelfth grades, and we organize annual Science and Technology fairs and Encounters for Creativity (pictured above), 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 2007, NCI helped to launch CANATURA, a group of volunteer students and recent college graduates who provide field-based nature education programs to youths in northern Peru, where environmental education programs are almost completely 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 (photo). Our joint vision is to empower local populations with knowledge about their environment, and foster their greater care and involvement in nature.

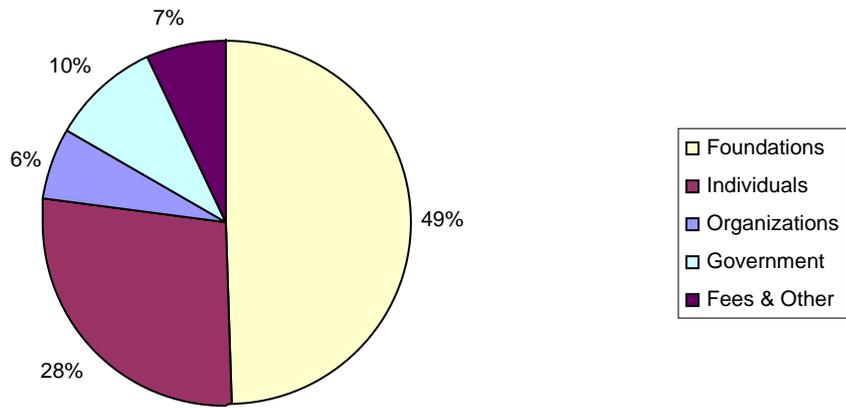
In Piura NCI implements the Children and Land Program, that seeks to involve children in the management of their natural environment, developing in the process a sense of value and commitment to the natural world.

Finances and Administration

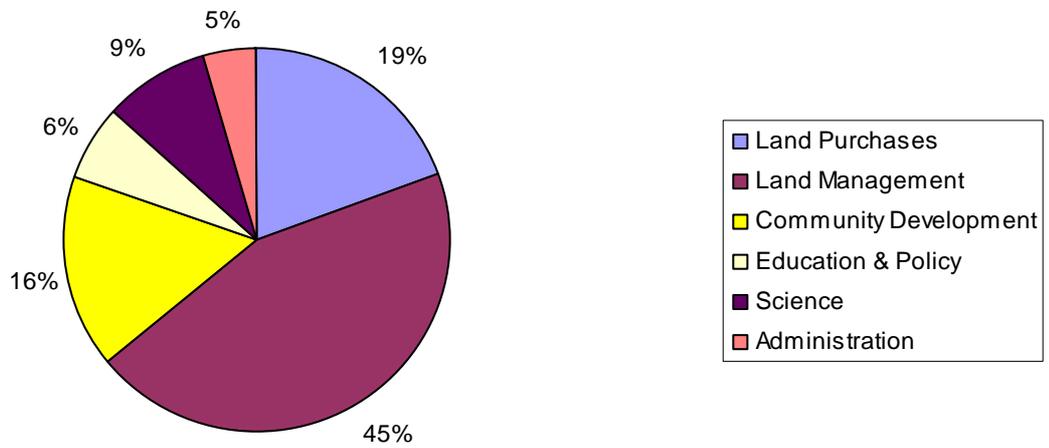
Overall, our 2007 revenues were \$3,100,343 and costs were \$3,180,835 (expenses plus land and asset purchases). We are proud that over 90% of all costs were spent within our project countries, building capacity where it is needed most

NATURE AND CULTURE INTERNATIONAL Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2007 (unaudited)		NATURE AND CULTURE INTERNATIONAL Statement of Activities For the year ended December 31, 2007 (unaudited)	
ASSETS		REVENUES	
CURRENT ASSETS		Grants & Contributions	\$ 2,880,954
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,017,612	Fees	147,815
Pledged	200,000	Other	24,237
Deposits	32,671	Interest	<u>47,337</u>
Prepaid expenses	<u>4,024</u>	Total revenues	<u>\$ 3,100,343</u>
Total current assets	1,254,307	EXPENSES	
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT, at cost		Project grants	1,121,714
Land	\$1,913,316	Salaries & related benefits	800,752
Building & improvements	226,242	Travel	169,528
Furniture and equipment	49,133	Supplies	132,069
Vehicles	183,936	Consultants	45,559
Less accum. depreciation	<u>(116,035)</u>	Auto	59,870
Total property & equipment	<u>2,256,592</u>	Publications	27,757
Total assets	<u>\$3,510,899</u>	Outside services	16,284
		Depreciation	44,257
		Other direct costs	<u>138,157</u>
		Total expenses	<u>2,555,947</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		Land and buildings	618,628
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	\$ 31,499	Other	<u>(74,232)</u>
Deferred revenue – grants	<u>886,670</u>	Total change in net assets	<u>544,396</u>
Total current liabilities	918,169	NET ASSETS AT Jan. 1, 2007	<u>2,048,334</u>
NET ASSETS		NET ASSETS AT Dec. 31, 2007	<u>\$ 2,592,730</u>
CY change in net assets	544,396		
Unrestricted	938,721		
Temporarily restricted	259,613		
Permanently restricted	<u>850,000</u>		
Total net assets	<u>2,592,730</u>		
Total liabilities & net assets	<u>\$3,510,899</u>		

2007 Income Sources



2007 Cost Categories



Board and 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 Fdtn. Environmental Working Group

Carol Hertzberg, Artist, Conservationist

Richard Hertzberg, President, ENPEX Corporation; Board Member, UCSD Fdtn.

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, Nat'l Envir. 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

Donors and Major Projects

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, *Conserving the Montane Forests of N. Peru* (\$1.7 million*); & *Regional Conservation System for Loreto, Peru* (\$2 million*)

UK Lottery Foundation *Integrated Development of La Ceiba-Pilares area* (\$700,000*, via Birdlife)

Birdlife International, *DarwinNet* (\$350,000*); British Bird Watching Fair (\$82,000*)

European Union, *Conservation and propagation of local fruits* (\$300,000*)

Belgium Forestry Fund, *Tropical dry forest conservation* (\$100,000)

Blue Moon Fund, *Conserving Ecosystems in Loreto, Peru* (\$155,000)

EcoFund, *Social and biological monitoring in La Ceiba Reserve* (\$140,000*)

Environmental Resources Trust, *Ecosystem Services in southern Ecuador* (\$90,000)

Global Environmental Fund /Mountain Instit., *Andean Paramos Project* (\$325,000*)

Heifer Project International, *Improving productive capacity around La Ceiba* (\$60,000)

Jewish Community Foundation, *Sustainable finance and general programs* (\$250,000)

Overbrook Foundation, *Environmental Services and Ecotourism in Ecuador* (\$80,000*)

The Community Foundation, *Watershed Conservation in S. Ecuador* (\$150,000)

United Nations Environmental Program, *Environmental Outlook of Loja* (\$28,000*)

DLA Piper (donated legal services)

Del Mar Partnership (donated space and accounting services)

Groovy bits (donated internet services)

Many generous individual donors.

* Multiyear grant

Nature and Culture International
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www.natureandculture.org

NCI Senior Staff

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

Renzo Paladines, Director of NCI-Ecuador has led NCI's 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 Regional Council of the Catamayo-Chira river basin in 2003. He has recently received the Podocarpus Award of Loja's Provincial Council for his efforts in conservation and environmental management. He has a masters degree in Zootechnics from the People's Friendship University, Moscow.

Luis Alban, Director of NCI-Peru initiated NCI's Peru office in 2003. He is a Biologist (Univ. Ricardo Palma of Lima), with twelve years experience in projects of conservation and development, especially relating to forest genetic resources. Luis served as scientific director for reforestation at the Univ. of Piura (1994-2004), President of the Regional Environmental Commission of Piura (2002-2004), 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 Univ. California and a Masters in Environmental Studies. Mike enjoys leading natural history study groups, teaching, and is a musician.

Wagner Guzman, Director of NCI – Amazonas is an agricultural engineer with a Masters degree from the Catholic University of Chile and Bachelors from the La Molina National Agrarian University of Peru; postgraduate studies at the Alcalá Univ., Spain. Specialist in environmental economics and planning; also works for the Institute for Investigation of the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP) and as a university professor.

Dante Aleman, Agronomist, coordinates NCI site conservation programs in NW Peru, and promotes the process for establish a Regional System of Conservation Areas for the Region of Piura. He has been chief of three National Protected Areas (Laquipampa, Bosque de Pomac and Calipuy) and worked in the NW Biosphere Reserve.

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

Freddy Aponte, Social Communicator is a lawyer and one of the most influential journalists in southern Ecuador, where he has worked for over 20 years. He writes analyses of political and civic subjects, fighting corruption and in defense of nature. He has worked for NCI in this position since 2004.

Eduardo Cueva, Forester, has studied and published on the native fruits of the south Ecuador, the growth of the forest species and seeds, and reforestation. Postgraduate work at the National Herbarium of Ecuador in Quito; Doctorate studies completed 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. He works for NCI to implement the national and binational Science Fairs, Encounters of Children's Creativity and Loja EcoClubs. Degree in Education.

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

Alex Moore, Administrator of DarwinNet and coordinates NCI's program in the El Angolo Reserve, Peru. Alex is a biologist, and has conducted biodiversity surveys in northwest Peru since 2002 and has worked on information management systems with the Peruvian Amazon Research Institute (IIAP).

Oswaldo Mora, Engineer, coordinates NCI programs on environmental services and with indigenous communities. Oswaldo previously served as Chief of Planning for the Municipality of Zamora, Director of Fundación Podocarpus, and technical director of a major Inter-American Development Bank project.

Bruno Paladines, Ecologist, directs NCI's programs for community development in southern Ecuador, working on both social and environmental aspects, and directs NCI's largest project at La Ceiba-Pilares in the dry forests of Zapotillo. Degree in Ecology, University of Brussels, Belgium.

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Trotsky Rivera, Coordinator of NCI Zamora office. Environmental Engineer, with thesis conducted at NCI's San Francisco station; Professor, Loja Technical University and specialist in habitat restoration.

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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 the Zapotillo office for the La Ceiba-Pilares binational project. A specialist in conservation and community development, Bolivar is also a Charter member of ArcoIris foundation. Forestry engineer, National University of Loja.

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