SAVING RAIN FORESTS
PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY
EMPowering COMMUNITIES
Dear Friends,

We need nature not only for our survival, but for our joy. Tropical forests safeguard an incredible variety of life that makes our planet both more beautiful and more resilient. They are also critical to the cycles that produce and renew our air, water and climate. Despite this, they are vanishing at an alarming rate.

While the problems facing our planet are broad in scope, we are constantly reminded that homegrown solutions are the most powerful and enduring. We see this in the indigenous people who have been protecting their forests for centuries, in the community associations striving to develop sustainable industries without destroying their environment, and in the local governments who want abundant and clean water for their people.

Despite the growing threats of deforestation, overfishing and climate change, we are heartened by the results we’ve been able to achieve alongside local people. In 2014 alone, we worked with nearly 100 communities to protect more than 300,000 acres, and helped achieve the declaration of Ecuador’s 6th UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Our effectiveness lies in catalyzing these efforts and scaling them so that they take root at the regional and national level. Because we work in some of the most biologically rich places on the planet, we are having a profound impact.

In the following pages you’ll hear from some of the people who live in these remarkable places. They are volunteer park guards, leaders of community associations, and representatives of indigenous groups. Despite coming from diverse regions and cultures, they share two things in common – the knowledge that their environment sustains them, and the desire to protect it. We know that as a supporter of NCI, you share these values too.

By donating to NCI, you are not only bolstering our existing programs, you are supporting our bold vision to protect 20 million acres by 2020. To achieve this, we are expanding from three to six countries to cover the entire Andean-Amazon region of Latin America – one of the most beautiful and ecologically diverse regions left on the planet. The time to act is now.

Sincerely,

Ivan Gayler  Byron Swift
Chairman of the Board  President

Curious about our cover photo? Read about our work with indigenous communities to sustainably harvest an Amazonian superfruit on page 17.
INTRODUCTION

At Nature and Culture International, we take a different approach to conserving rainforests and the many critical ecosystems that sustain us – from the air we breathe to the water we drink and the food we eat.

Conserve the Richest Natural Ecosystems
Biodiversity increases exponentially as you move toward the equator. That is why we work in the tropics of Latin America, where financial support goes a long way in conserving rainforests and other tropical ecosystems, which can house ten times the biodiversity of temperate forests.

Building Conservation Capacity at the State Level
We focus our work at the regional and local level, combining strong legal conservation tools with community participation so that all stakeholders have their voices heard. Our local offices collaborate with governments and communities to create and strengthen systems of protected areas, and work with them through every step of the process from the initial biological studies to the proposals needed to declare a protected area.

Bottom-Up Conservation with Local and Indigenous Communities
We work extensively with local and indigenous communities to build conservation success from the bottom up, providing comprehensive technical and legal support to communities in their quest to protect precious ecosystems, maintain their cultural heritage and secure viable livelihoods.

Catalyzing Conservation through Sustainable Development
We work with the people living closest to nature to preserve their ecosystems and help them secure a sustainable livelihood – in some cases doubling their income. Our sustainable development programs exist alongside the conservation plans we create for protected areas in order to secure a better life for local people while preserving globally important ecosystems.

WHAT SETS US APART

Our accomplishments include:

- **Rainforest and Land Conservation** | Directly supported the creation of 50 protected areas spanning 6.5 million acres of endangered ecosystems including Amazon rainforest, Andean cloud forest and tropical dry forest in Ecuador, Peru and Mexico.
- **Community Empowerment** | Worked with 300 communities, including more than 60 indigenous communities, to conserve important ecosystems and implement sustainable development programs such as Socio Bosque in Ecuador and chambira palm products in Peru, in some cases doubling community incomes.
- **Watershed Conservation** | Improved the quality and quantity of the water supply for more than one million people by establishing and strengthening three Regional Water Funds – FORAGUA, FONAPA and Quiroz – in Ecuador and Peru.
- **UNESCO Biosphere Reserves** | Guided the creation of three out of the six UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Ecuador, bringing global attention to 6.5 million acres of high priority ecosystems.

CONSERVATION MILESTONES

Over the past decade we have helped conserve more than 13 million acres of Latin America’s ecosystems, ensuring the survival of countless species.
Andean Cloud Forest
NCI works extensively to protect Andean cloud forests, which have the highest number of endemic plants and animals on Earth – including hundreds of species of hummingbirds and thousands of species of orchids found nowhere else. Due to their elevation and tropical location, the Andes of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru boast the most biodiverse cloud forests on Earth. Many biologists consider these fragile ecosystems the world’s greatest conservation priority due to the sheer number of species and high degree of threat.

Páramo Grasslands
Páramo grasslands are high-altitude ecosystems situated above the timberline but below the permanent snowline, roughly between 9,000 and 15,000 feet. Their vegetation is composed mainly of grasses, shrubs and giant rosette plants. These ecosystems play an important role in the water supply, but are threatened in many areas due to deforestation and overgrazing. Recently, we have seen a surge in interest by municipal governments to protect these ecosystems in order to secure clean water for their people.

Amazon Rainforest
Over half of NCI’s work protects Amazon rainforests, which are the most extensive tropical forests in the world and contain more species than any other ecosystem. They are especially rich in birds, amphibians and insects – just a few acres may contain more tree species than in all of North America. The Amazon also provides essential ecosystem services, storing massive amounts of carbon that mitigate the effects of climate change, and stabilizing the world’s rainfall patterns.

Tropical Deciduous Forest
We conserve a number of important tropical deciduous or dry forests, which can be as endangered as rainforests. Their canopy is dense with green leaves during the wet summer months, but during the dry winter, the trees drop their leaves and the canopy opens up, resulting in uniquely adapted species. We create protected areas and work with local communities on sustainable development programs to conserve these fragile ecosystems, with their many rare and endemic species.

Coastal and Marine Areas
Mangroves, estuaries, lagoons and oceans are significant for their marine biodiversity and importance for migratory birds. They support complex webs of life that both support marine fisheries and provide the freshwater to form wetlands. Ultimately, they feed into the ocean where reefs and seamounts provide habitat for fish, coral and marine plants. The Ecuadorian and Peruvian marine areas where we work are some of the richest on Earth.
We operate conservation programs through 13 regional offices in Ecuador, Peru and Mexico, staffed by local conservationists who are passionate about protecting the ecosystems they call home and empowering the communities they come from.

5 Countries
13 Offices
150 Local Staff

We live on a beautiful planet in peril, and we can do something to conserve its extraordinary beauty and capacity to sustain future generations.

Over the next few years, we seek to nearly triple the territory we work in, extending from Colombia through Ecuador and Peru to Bolivia and Brazil. We aim to establish a presence in 45 new states or provinces while building the capacity of our existing programs.

We are relying on you to join us as we fight to save the greatest treasure trove of life on Earth. By giving to Nature and Culture International, you can help prevent irreparable damage to our environment, the extinction of numerous species, and the disappearance of ancient cultures.
PROTECTING BOLIVIA’S ANDEAN FOOTHILLS
Securing clean water by conserving key ecosystems

In southern Bolivia, the Gran Chaco encompasses one of the last great virgin dry forests on earth. Just to the north, Amboró National Park is one of the world’s most biodiverse wet forests, with more than 800 resident bird species – almost 10% of the bird species on the planet. Despite the importance of these forests, over half of the original lowland Chaco forests have been cleared over the last 30 years, due largely to the expansion of industrial agriculture and cattle grazing.

In 2014, NCI established a partnership with the NGO Natura Bolivia, a conservation organization that shares our ethic of working with local communities and municipal governments to create protected areas and promote sustainable development. Through this partnership, over the next five years we aim to protect more than one million acres of key watershed ecosystems where the Andes Mountains meet the lowland Chaco.

In 2014, NCI funded Natura Bolivia’s work with the municipal government of Huacareta to create the Serranía de los Milagros Municipal Water Sanctuary, a 250,000 acre protected area and water source for 13 communities including the municipal capital of Huacareta.

In 2015, Natura Bolivia will help the municipality develop a management plan for the area, while initiating the creation of protected areas in the neighboring municipality of Machareti through NCI’s funding. Natura Bolivia’s vision is to create a 350-mile long water conservation corridor from Amboró National Park to the Argentinean border with NCI’s ongoing support.

SAFEGUARDING THE BIODIVERSITY OF COLOMBIA

In 2014, NCI initiated a program to work with the regional environmental authorities of Colombia to conserve key ecosystems by establishing systems of protected areas. We began in Nariño, with an agreement to establish four protected areas spanning more than 70,000 acres.

Colombia is home to more vertebrate species than any other country on Earth, and ranks first in the world in the number of bird, amphibian and butterfly species. Roughly 10% of the planet’s species are found amid its many ecosystems, which range from the Andes Mountains and llanos grasslands to the Amazon rainforest and coral reefs. The proposed protected areas in Nariño will conserve rich páramo grasslands and cloud forests, which play an important role in maintaining the water supply for the region. NCI’s funding will also expand Colombia’s Volcán Azufral National Park, home to a stunning sulfur lake.

Our strategy in Colombia is to work with the regional environmental authorities, which have been mandated by the national government to create regional systems of protected areas. In 2015 we will expand this program to additional regions, including the highly biodiverse rainforests and cloud forests of Antioquia where we will fund the creation of new protected areas in the tropical mountain forests of Cañones and Tigre La Osa.
ECUADOR MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SAVING BIODIVERSITY AND EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS PEOPLE THROUGH SOCIO BOSQUE

225,726 acres of rainforest protected to date with 17 communities, 3 indigenous groups and 33 private landowners

Home to some of the most pristine rainforests left on the planet, Ecuador is on the frontlines of conservation. In 2008, the government created Socio Bosque, an incentive-based program that combines conservation with poverty alleviation. In return for protecting their forests, communities and private landowners obtain annual funds from the national government supporting investments that range from solar energy systems to new potable water infrastructure.

NCI has partnered with the Ecuadorian government to establish 500,000 acres of protected areas under this program over the next few years. In 2014 alone we worked with communities to enter 113,180 acres of rainforest into the Socio Bosque program.

To date, NCI has worked with 17 communities, including from the Achuar, Shuar and Kichwa indigenous groups, to protect 225,726 acres of biodiversity-rich rainforest and generate over $1 million in community investment funds.

In addition to providing legal and biological expertise, our local staff is helping communities develop conservation plans to ensure that their protection of the forest is effective and ongoing, while assisting them in implementing programs in health, education and infrastructure.

In October 2014, we helped indigenous Achuar communities join Socio Bosque for the first time in their history. In the words of Clemente Santi, an Achuar representative from the community of Capahuari, “We as forest rangers, we as community representatives, we care for our forests. Before enrolling in Socio Bosque we were in the habit of knocking down the trees, but now we want to save our forests. Now we are giving our children something that they will take care of, that will be planted for their future.”
MAKING HISTORY WITH ECUADOR’S 6TH BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Spanning 1.25 million acres

Just a few years ago, Violeta Condoy had little choice but to cut down the trees in Zapotillo County’s highly endangered dry forest so her livestock could graze. She watched as the forest became depleted, and knew that there had to be a better way. In 2011, NCI’s local team began working with her community to develop alternatives to deforestation.

Teaming up with biologists from the University of Loja, NCI’s team showed her community that instead of cutting down the palo santo tree, which thrives in the dry forest, they could extract its oils and leave the tree intact. This oil, used in perfume, incense and more, is now being sold to companies such as Natura, a cosmetics company that is at the forefront of sustainably-sourced products.

The following year, our office in Loja embarked on a new mission with the municipalities of southern Ecuador – to obtain the declaration of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. This global designation brings attention to epicenters of culture and biodiversity, promoting their protection and sustainable development.

In June 2014, the 1.25 million acre Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve was declared, encompassing the unique and highly threatened Tumbesian dry forest. Within it are 17 legally protected areas that span 207,000 acres, many established by NCI, with more to come.

The Bosque Seco Biosphere Reserve has confirmed what Violeta already knew: that the dry forest is a special place, with a beauty and richness worth saving. When asked if she thought of leaving Zapotillo during a recent drought, she said it would make her sad to leave, “Now we have something that helps us to live here – the Palo Santo project. We never lost faith.”

AN AMBITIOUS PLAN TO PROTECT ECUADOR’S 400-MILE ANDEAN CORRIDOR

Preserving the global epicenter of biodiversity

One of the focuses of NCI’s work is to conserve the habitats of the Andes Mountains, which stretch from snow-capped peaks to the Amazon rainforest, teeming with a miraculous array of species that make it the world’s number one biodiversity hotspot. The Andes’ vital ecosystems are threatened by unsustainable practices and today just 5% to 25% of the original forest cover remains in most areas.

Our goal is to protect Ecuador’s 400-mile Andean corridor, comprised of rich cloud forests and páramos that house great biodiversity and are essential to providing a clean water supply. This corridor creates resilience to climate change and provides habitat connectivity for species that rely on multiple ecosystems, such as the spectacled bear. Our most successful strategy has been uniting people over a common resource: water.

Replicating the success of FORAGUA – the country’s first Regional Water Fund established in 2009 by NCI – we brought our expertise to the Andean corridor where a similar program called FONAPA was underway. In 2014, our office in Cuenca catalyzed the creation of three municipal reserves protecting 93,743 acres of watersheds in Paute, Gualaceo and Azogues. After many months of work with the municipality of Gualaquiza, we are awaiting the declaration of their 200,000 acre reserve in early 2015.

Our local team is continuing their work to create another three municipal reserves spanning nearly 200,000 acres of Andean ecosystems. With the will of Ecuador’s municipalities and the expertise of our staff, we are confident we will have a significant impact on preserving the irreplaceable Andean corridor.

Thousands of guayacan trees bloom simultaneously each year.

The spectacled bear is the only species of bear in South America.
CREATING A SAFE HAVEN FOR MONTE MOJINO’S KEYSTONE SPECIES

Predators such as the iconic jaguar are keystone species because of their place at the top of the food chain. Their presence means the ecosystem is healthy enough to sustain them as well as their prey. With five big cat species prowling the tropical deciduous forests of NCI’s Monte Mojino Reserve in Alamos, Mexico, we are confident that our conservation work has been effective.

In 2014, our local team installed camera traps throughout NCI’s 14,579 acre reserve that are now capturing footage of these five cat species – the jaguar, ocelot, puma, margay and mountain lion. To ensure their protection against illegal poaching and habitat loss from unregulated cattle grazing, our guardabosques, or park guardians, are closely monitoring the reserve and conducting regular mammal surveys.

They are also continuing to work with the community, including cattle ranchers, to raise awareness about the importance of these species and prevent poaching. Meanwhile, our EcoClub students are learning about the ecosystem they call home. By learning about the flora and fauna they are surrounded by, it has become part of their world, and worth protecting. In the words of Beatriz Adriana Castro Arias, the mother of one EcoClub student, “It is doing a very good job for our children. It is very important for them to learn about birds and plants, and how to take care of our planet. I am thankful that my daughter is a part of EcoClub Monte Mojino.”

Our goal is to expand our 14,579 acre reserve to 25,000 acres through land purchase, with an emphasis on habitat connectivity. Additionally, our local team is building alliances with regional conservation efforts to collaborate on the protection of federal and state reserves in Sonora and adjoining regions.
PRESERVING THE INDIGENOUS AWAJUN’S SACRED RAINFOREST

114,406 acres of Amazon rainforest protected

Eduardo Weepiu Daeket, an indigenous Awajun leader, has a foot in two worlds. He was born in the Awajun community of Urakusa in the lush Amazon rainforests of northwestern Peru, where the forest and everything within it make up the Awajun’s vivid culture. As a young man, Eduardo left the rainforest and felt a deep cultural shift. Beyond facing discrimination, he saw that people did not feel connected to the forest as he did. However, he knew that the forest was providing for their way of life.

In 2013, our office in Amazonas hired Eduardo and two other Awajun leaders to aid in their work to safeguard the incredible biodiversity of the rainforest and preserve the Awajun’s traditional way of life. As trusted leaders, Eduardo, Miguel Ampush and Nelson Wisun-Unup played an integral role by making many visits to 11 Awajun communities alongside our staff to explain the process and benefits of creating a protected area in their native language – something no NGO had done before.

Their work with these communities led to the declaration of the 114,406 acre Pamau Nain Conservation Concession by the regional government of Amazonas in May 2014, which now protects this species-rich Amazon rainforest. Our team has since guided the creation of the Pamau Nain Community Association, through which the communities manage their conservation and sustainable development activities including cacao certification, reforestation, handcraft production and more.

Now, our team is proposing two new protected areas with the regional government of Amazonas and additional Awajun communities – the Tijae Nain and the Dais Nain Conservation Concessions, located in the Amazon rainforest and along the Marañon River, respectively. NCI is also supporting the development and governance of the Awajun Federation, and collaborating with member communities on sustainable cacao, bamboo and fine hardwood production.
PROTECTING CRITICAL MARINE AND COASTAL HABITATS
OFF PIURA, PERU

NCI is working to conserve the ocean waters off the coast of northern Peru that are home to 70% of Peru’s marine biodiversity, making it a stronghold for numerous threatened and endangered species. Characterized by the meeting of two currents, this ecoregion has produced high numbers of endemic species found nowhere else on the planet. Despite supporting significant fisheries, it faces great threats from industrial pollution and unsustainable fishing practices, posing an urgent need for its protection.

In concert with local communities and governments, we are seeking to establish the first marine protected area in northern Peru. This reserve would protect four critical marine areas totaling more than 200,000 acres. Not only would this be a milestone for Peru, it would protect one of the richest marine biomes in the world.

In 2014 we collaborated with the fishermen of Isla Foca, a rocky island off the coast of Piura that boasts extremely diverse fauna despite its small size. BirdLife International has classified it as an Important Bird Area (IBA), and it safeguards the endangered Humboldt penguin, Peruvian tern and Peruvian pelican.

The economy of Isla Foca relies heavily on the region’s natural resources. In the community of La Islilla alone, 80% of families derive their income from fishing. Yet in recent years they have suffered from decreasing fish populations, brought about by unregulated fishing on a commercial scale. They know that protecting key areas of the marine environment will yield an increase in both fish size and population. Through their support, we are making headway with zoning for the reserve, and will continue our work with local communities, NGOs and government authorities in 2015.

NCI works extensively with indigenous people to build conservation success from the ground up. In the past decade we’ve worked with more than 60 indigenous communities from nine different indigenous groups to safeguard the incredible forests in which they live. Among them are the Shawi, Awajun and Maijuna of Peru, with whom we’ve protected more than one million acres of Amazon rainforest, and the Shuar, Achuar and Kichwa of Ecuador, with whom we’ve protected nearly 500,000 acres of Amazon rainforest and Andean cloud forest.

NCI provides extensive technical and legal support to these indigenous communities in their quest to protect the ecosystems in which they live, maintain their cultural heritage, and secure viable livelihoods through the sustainable use of natural resources. Our work includes advanced GIS mapping, developing the proposals needed to enter ecosystem service payment programs, and implementing sustainable development programs.

Securing the commitment and support of those who depend on the land for their economic and cultural survival is essential to achieving lasting conservation results. Many of Latin America’s indigenous cultures have been the guardians of the forest for centuries – we learn from them while helping them improve their protection of the forest and use of natural resources for their benefit and that of the entire world.
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- Revenues increased by 24% over the previous year, and operations by 20%
- Our overhead costs were 8% (less than half that of most groups)
- 89% of our funds went directly to our programs in Latin America
- Our net assets grew by $677,910

We are grateful to our donors and partners, whose contributions have achieved the impact and results described in this annual report. We strive to be as efficient as possible, and believe that each dollar contributed to NCI conserves more of the natural world than it would with any other organization.

Sara Dooler, Treasurer

2014 Income Sources

2014 Expenses

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 (Unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Contributions</td>
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<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Governments</td>
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<td>Individuals</td>
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<td>Organizations</td>
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<td>Fees</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<td>Total revenues</td>
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<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<td>Auto</td>
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<td>Consultants</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>Office expenses</td>
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<td>Other direct costs</td>
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<td>Outside services</td>
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<td>Project grants</td>
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<td>Publications</td>
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<td>Repairs &amp; maintenance</td>
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<td>Salaries &amp; related benefits</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
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<td>Telephone &amp; communications</td>
<td>46,335</td>
<td>36,200</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
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CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land &amp; buildings</td>
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<td>16,326</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>677,910</td>
<td>419,739</td>
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<td>Total change in net assets</td>
<td>677,910</td>
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NET ASSETS AT JAN. 1

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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>4,153,900</td>
<td>3,717,835</td>
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NET ASSETS AT DEC. 31

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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$ 4,831,810</td>
<td>$ 4,153,900</td>
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### Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2014 (Unaudited)

#### Assets

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<tr>
<th>CURRENT ASSETS</th>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Pledged</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses &amp; deposits</td>
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<td>Total current assets</td>
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<th>PROPERTY &amp; EQUIPMENT (at cost)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation land</td>
<td>2,528,636</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building &amp; improvements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture &amp; equipment</td>
<td>74,819</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vehicles</td>
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<td>Less accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>(360,717)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total property &amp; equipment</td>
<td>$2,926,150</td>
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#### Total Assets

- Total assets: $6,240,208

#### Liabilities and Net Assets

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<th>CURRENT LIABILITIES</th>
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<td>Accounts payable</td>
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<td>Accrued payroll &amp; vacation</td>
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<td>Deferred revenue – grants</td>
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<td>Total current liabilities</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation land</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
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<td>Other net assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| **Total Liabilities & Net Assets** | $6,240,208 |          |

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*The program of Nature and Culture is powerful because it is grounded in two fundamentals: conservation is achieved acre by acre, and it is most effective and sustainable when it enhances not just the economic, but also the spiritual needs of those who inhabit the land.*

- E.O. Wilson, renowned biologist, author and Harvard professor

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### Conservation Partners & Funders

We wish to thank the following partners and funders whose generous support has been essential to carrying out our conservation initiatives:

#### Major Partners and Funders

- Birdlife International
- Blue Moon Fund
- Del Mar Partnership, Inc.
- Disney Conservation Fund
- Earth’s Birthday Project
- Fore River Fund
- Fundación Neotropica
- German Research Foundation (DFG)
- Hattie Ettinger Conservation Fund
- The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- The Moxie Foundation
- Hollomon Price Foundation
- Horne Family Foundation
- Hunter Industries
- Jewish Community Foundation
- Mountain Institute/Global Environmental Fund
- Natura Bolivia
- The Overbrook Foundation
- Rainforest Trust
- RARE
- Robert Wilson Charitable Trust
- Rotary Club of the United States
- San Diego Foundation
- San Diego Zoo Global
- Save the Rainforest, Inc.
- The Stewart Foundation
- Technical University of Loja
- The New Venture Fund

#### Governments

- CORPONARÍNÓ, Colombia
- Institute for Investigation of Peruvian Amazon (IIAP)
- Ministry of the Environment, Ecuador
- Ministry of the Environment, Peru
- Many Municipal Governments in the Andean-Amazon region of Ecuador
- National Commission for Protected Areas, Mexico
- National Service of Natural Protected Areas, Peru
- PROCREL, Peru
- PROFONANPE, Peru
- Provincial Government of Pastaza, Ecuador
- Provincial Government of Zamora, Ecuador
- Regional Government of Amazonas, Peru
- Regional Government of Cajamarca, Peru
- Regional Government of Loreto, Peru
- Regional Government of Piura, Peru
- Regional Government of Ucayali, Peru

We also extend our gratitude and appreciation to the many generous individuals who support our work and are helping us save the most valuable ecosystems on Earth.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ivan Gayler, founder and chair of NCI, is a conservationist and the co-founder of Del Mar Partnership, Inc. Since 1997, Ivan has led our efforts to protect millions of acres of tropical ecosystems. He previously served as president of the San Diego Museum of Man and as a member of the Director’s Cabinet of Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

David Welborn, vice-chair, is the former president of San Diego Coastkeeper and member of the San Diego Foundation Environment Working Group. He is an avid outdoor enthusiast and kayaker.

Charles Smith, vice-chair, is an entrepreneur who has started five companies and one foundation. Charles is a co-founder and board member of the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation and previously served on the Director’s Cabinet at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Sheldon Engelhorn is an entrepreneur who co-founded a life sciences tool company (now part of Thermo Fisher Scientific). He is a regent of the University of California and a trustee of the UC San Diego Foundation. An avid surfer, Sheldon is active with the Director’s Cabinet at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and received the Chancellor’s Medal in 2011.

John Gartman is an entrepreneur and technology lawyer. He is the past president of the Invention Foundation and past chair of the Foundation Board of San Diego Zoo Global. In 2009, California Lawyer Magazine awarded him the prestigious California Lawyer of the Year Award.

Doug Sheres is an investment professional and the managing director of Paramo Capital LLC. He is the former mayor of Solana Beach and active in a variety of community organizations. As a committed environmentalist, he has contributed his vision and expertise to the strategic direction and success of NCI for many years.

Ann Hunter Welborn is a chair of the board at Hunter Industries, a leading manufacturer of irrigation and landscape lighting equipment, and serves on the board of Rachel’s Network and the Sonoran Institute. She holds a PhD in depth psychology with an emphasis on mythological studies, and views all existence through that lens. She and her husband David have three daughters and five grandchildren.

David Winkler is an attorney, CEO of Del Mar Partnership, Inc., founder and chair of the Diabetes Research Connection and board member of the Melvin Garb Foundation. He has served on the board of the UCSD Foundation, UCSD Pediatric Diabetes Research Center, Scripps Whittier Institute for Diabetes, Coastal Community Foundation, and the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy.

David Neill has lived in Ecuador since 1985, where he has been carrying out floristic projects, providing training to Ecuadorian botanists, and assisting in the development of the National Herbarium of Ecuador (QCNE). In the past he served as director of the Jatun Sacha Foundation, a non-profit Ecuadorian organization engaged in conservation, education and research.

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