

# WORK REPORT 2022

FOR THE SPONSORS'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
N°29



**faico**  
FRIENDS OF  
COCOS ISLAND



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# ACRONYMS

ACMC	Cocos Marine Conservation Area
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
PWA	Protected Wildlife Areas
BMMA	Bicentennial Marine Management Area
BAF	Blue Action Fund
CARSI	Central America Regional Security Initiative
CIMAR	Research Center for Marine Sciences and Limnology
CMAR	Marine Corridor of the Eastern Tropical Pacific
CDF	Charles Darwin Foundation
FCJ	Jocotoco Conservation Foundation,
FUNDAUNA	Foundation for Academic Development of Universidad Nacional
INCOPESCA	Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture
MINAE	Ministry of Energy and Environment
CINP	Cocos Island National Park
ETP	Eastern Tropical Pacific
SINAC	National System of Conservation Areas
UBO	University of West Brittany
UNA	Universidad Nacional
VAM	Vice-Ministry of Water and Seas
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone of the Pacific of Costa Rica



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# CHARMAIN'S REPORT



On behalf of the Administrative Board, I am pleased to inform you about the most relevant aspects of Faico's work during 2022.

Having achieved in December 2021, the expansion of Cocos Island National Park (CINP), from 2,034 km<sup>2</sup> to 54,844 km<sup>2</sup> and the creation of the new 106,285 km<sup>2</sup> Bicentennial Marine Management Area (BMMA), we can say that during 2022, we focused primarily on continuing the efforts to consolidate these two very important marine areas.

The expansion of CINP and the creation of the BMMA were the first phases of this process. During 2022, we worked on the following stages to start the development of the General Management Plans of CINP and the BMMA, focusing on the great challenge of promoting long-term financial sustainability for the entire Cocos Marine Conservation Area (ACMC).

For this reason, management and collection of funds continues to be crucial so that Faico can promote and contribute to marine conservation. During this past triennium, Faico has managed to raise and manage considerable financial contributions to execute our programs and projects. These funds were essential to continue with the consolidation of the ecosystems of Cocos Island. Through 2023 and beyond, fundraising will continue to be one of our biggest challenges.

Also, our organization managed and promoted actions and projects to benefit Cocos Island National Park, the Bicentennial Marine Management Area, and the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor, as part of the great achievements of the ACMC and of government authorities and other strategic partnerships, all with common objectives aimed at the protection, conservation, and sustainable management of marine and terrestrial resources.

In the year that has just ended, it was also necessary to revisit and incorporate lessons learned from previous stages, which are at the same time innovative, cautious, and visionary, in the face of the constant challenges and usual risks of these important actions. Therefore, it is essential to promote partnerships and maximize joint efforts with different stakeholders, to consolidate an effective management model for ecosystems.

ACMC capacity building is one of the main purposes of FAICO, working day by day, shoulder to shoulder, as a team, which motivates us to continue strengthening our efforts. In addition to our strategic focus and working towards the implementation of management tools, we also renewed and made a valuable contribution to the Quality of Life of Park Rangers program, providing them with equipment, and we also continue to cooperate with basic needs of marine areas, we support initiatives of environmental education, and through different activities, we continue to spread out information on the importance of ACMC at a local, regional, and international level.

Year after year, Faico's management has grown, inspired by marine conservation. The future is full of hope, but the challenge is big. Faico undertakes, with energy, the challenges to come, to continue our work in favor of Cocos Island and its ecosystems.

Carlos Manuel Uribe Sáenz  
**Chairman of the Administrative Board**



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## SECRETARIAT'S REPORT

On behalf of the Administrative Board, I am pleased to provide you with the Secretariat Management for Session Number twenty-nine) of the General Sponsors Assembly of the Friends of Cocos Island Foundation (FAICO).

In 2022, five formal meetings of the Administrative Board were held. In every session, there was a quorum, (at least three members of the Administrative Board must be present), and for each session, minutes were recorded, duly registered, and signed.

Marco Quesada Alpízar  
**Secretary of the Administrative Board**





## MANAGEMENT REPORT

Marine protected areas (MPAs) conserve key ecosystems for the life cycle of many marine species, birds, and other terrestrial species, some of them endangered or critically threatened. MPAs support multiple ecosystem services, from helping to maintain species of commercial interest, to promoting connectivity between populations at the regional level. Strengthening the management and sustainability of MPAs is essential to conserve their scenic beauties, ecosystems, and biological and cultural diversity, as well as generating benefits for food security, tourism, research, and climate regulation.

As of December 2021, with the expansion of the MPAs of the Cocos Marine Conservation Area (ACMC), Costa Rica achieved the goal of conserving 30% of its marine territory (Figure 1). Executive Decree No. 43368-MINAE expanded Cocos Island National Park (CINP) from 2,034 km<sup>2</sup> to 54,844 km<sup>2</sup> of absolute protection and created the Bicentennial Marine Management Area (BMMA) made up of 106,283 km<sup>2</sup> for sustainable use. The establishment of these MPAs represents a milestone for marine conservation efforts at the national, regional, and global levels. The conservation objectives of CINP and the BMMA are detailed below.

## OBJECTIVES OF COCOS ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

1. Preserve a significant part of the Cocos Submarine Mountain Range and its seamounts, which are recognized as sites of high biological diversity.
2. Conserve a representative sample of the essential habitat of elasmobranch species, which correspond to sites of concentration, mating, and migratory transit and cleaning stations.
3. Protect endemic, endangered, and vulnerable species, such as the Cocos Island batfish (*Ogilbia cocoensis*), the hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), the white-tip shark (*Triaenodon obesus*), the giant manta (*Manta birostris*), the Pacific green turtle (*Chelonia mydas agassizi*) as well as the ecosystems to which they are associated.
4. Establish a natural space where the mobility, connectivity and dispersion of species is promoted; as well as the adaptation for marine biodiversity to possible climatological and oceanographic modifications related to climate change.
5. Protect deep-sea ecosystems such as mesophytic coral formations, azooxanthellate coral communities, abyssal plains, ridges (and their benthic communities, endemic species, and possible species new to science.
6. Preserve nesting, feeding, and transit areas for seabirds.
7. Maintain the ecosystem services associated with the ecological processes that take place within Cocos Island National Park.
8. Promote the structural and functional connectivity of highly migratory species at the level of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor.





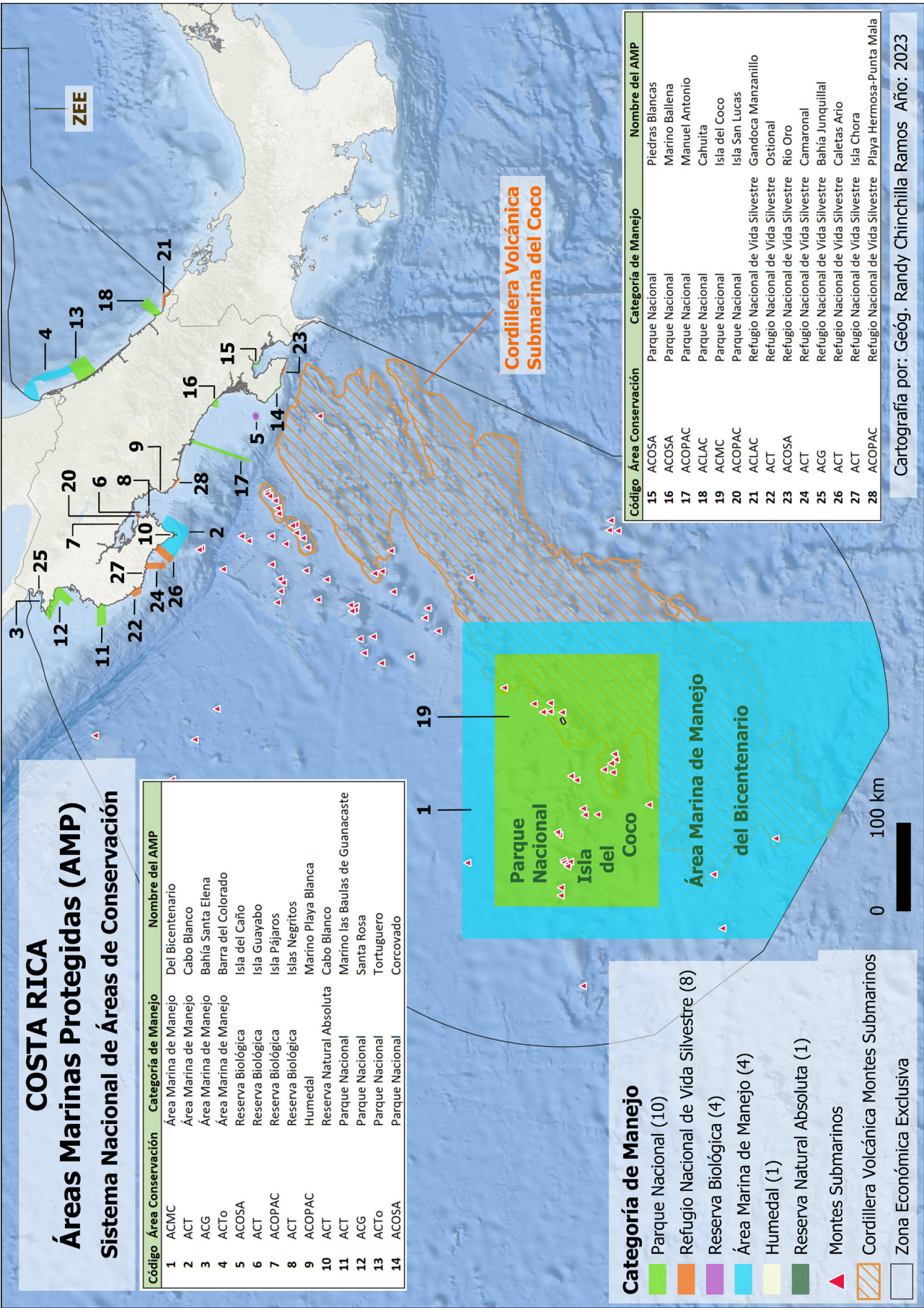


Figure 1. Costa Rican Marine Protected Areas, 2022.



## OBJECTIVES OF THE BICENTENNIAL MARINE MANAGEMENT AREA



1. Promote the conservation and sustainable use of one of the most productive marine areas in the Eastern Tropical Pacific.
2. Integrally manage a significant part of the marine ecosystem of the Cocos Submarine Mountain Range.
3. Conserve aggregation sites (resting, reproduction, cleaning, and feeding) of vulnerable, threatened, or endangered species, such as chelonians, cetaceans, elasmobranchs, and pelagic species, some of them of commercial importance.
4. Conserve deep-sea ecosystems such as mesophytic coral formations, azooxanthellate coral communities, abyssal plains, ridges, and their benthic communities, endemic species, and possible species new to science.
5. Preserve feeding and transit areas for seabirds.
6. Promote the structural and functional connectivity of highly migratory species in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Corridor.

### STRATEGIC PILLARS

Being consistent with the achievement of Costa Rica and with the objective of promoting key actions for the effective implementation of CINP and the BMMA (a total area of 159,294 km<sup>2</sup>), in 2022, FAICO consolidated and diversified its support for these MPAs. Actions promoted and initiated through the strategic lines of action are detailed below:



1. Promote the representativeness and effectiveness of the management of Cocos Island, Seamounts, and the Eastern Tropical Pacific.



2. Consolidate partnerships in favor of Cocos Island, the Seamounts, and the Eastern Tropical Pacific.



3. Consolidate governance and strengthen management capacities.



4. Enhance fundraising capacities.



# **1. PROMOTE THE REPRESENTATIVENESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MANAGEMENT OF COCOS ISLAND, SEAMOUNTS, AND THE EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC**

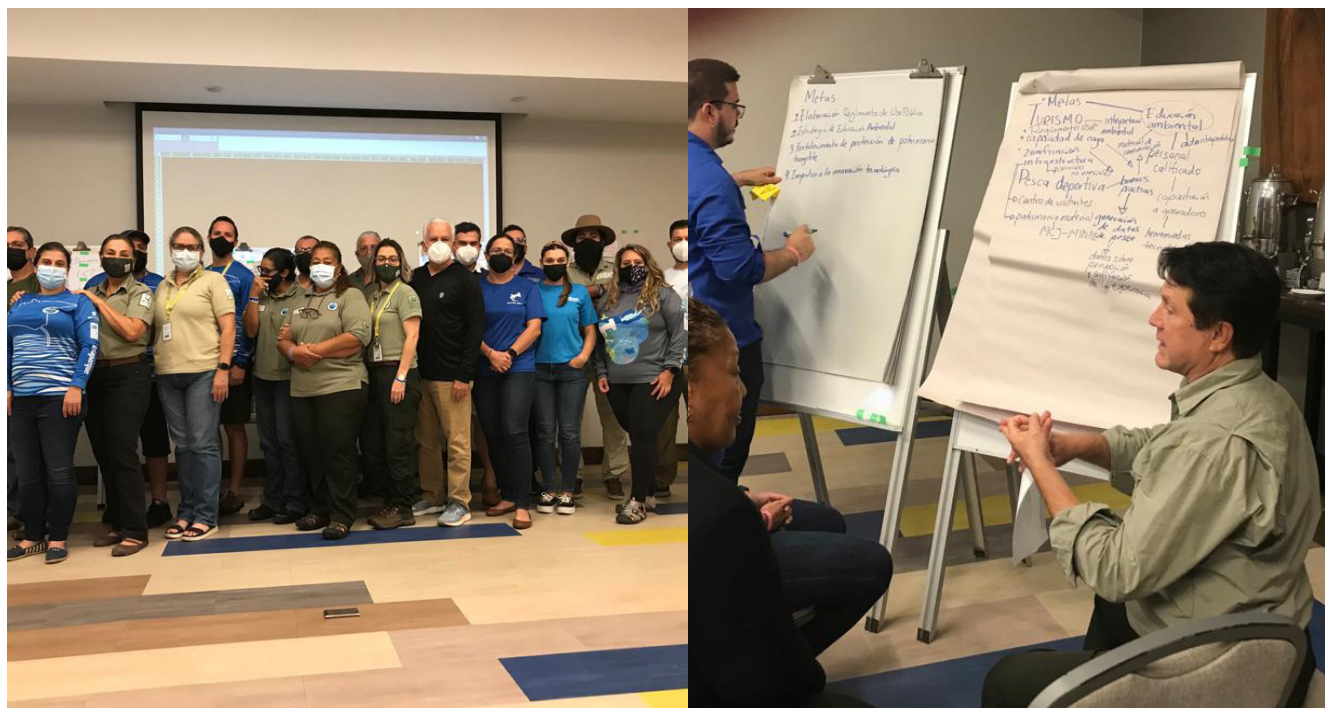
FAICO and ACMC held two strategic work sessions with Mr. Rafael Gutiérrez, Vice Minister of Environment and Energy and Executive Director of SINAC, as well as with officials of the Executive Secretariat of SINAC, the director and officials of ACMC (both from the regional office and its protected areas), and FAICO's Chair and team. As a result of this joint work, priority areas were identified for the effective implementation of the ACMC MPAs (Figure 1), as well as programmatic profiles of work proposals. These priority areas have been included and complemented in different projects to promote that the ACMC has base resources of a technical, financial, and human nature, among others. These projects are detailed below:

## TOPIC

1. Formulation and/or updating of general management plans
2. Human resources
3. Improvement-technological innovation
4. Infraestructure
5. Standards-legal change in legislation



**Figure 2. Priority Areas, FAICO-ACMC workshop March 2022**







**Name of the project:** Strengthening marine conservation and sustainable coastal development between the Central Pacific coast and the Cocos Marine Conservation Area (ACMC) in Costa Rica.

**Partner:** Blue Action Fund (BAF).

**Partners:** Marviva, Center for Research in Marine Sciences and Limnology (CIMAR), University of Western Brittany (UWB).

**Approach:** Base funds for the implementation of MPAs of the ACMC.

**Reference amount:** \$731,000.

**Estimated term:** 2021-2026..

### INVESTMENT AREAS

1. Updating and development of management tools in accordance with SINAC regulations:
  - ACMC General Management Plan for MPAs: CINP and BMMA, and regulations for public use.
  - Resource management plan, focused on the BMMA Fisheries Management Plan.
  - Prevention, Protection, and Control Plan.
  - Prepare the ACMC adaptation and mitigation plan for climate change.
2. Capacity building for the implementation of management tools for MPAs, with base investments for:
  - Equipment for the implementation of prevention, protection, and control actions.
  - Use of communication tools for internal capacity building, outreach materials, and information processes related to the ACMC.
  - Actions aimed at users of MPAs, tourism, and fishing.
  - Support the evaluation of management effectiveness, according to SINAC tools.
  - Ongoing training of officials of the regional office and administrators of MPAs.
3. Research to support decision making:
  - Collection of biological data of migratory marine species to support decision making.
4. Strengthening of the ACMC work team for the management of MPAs, by hiring support positions in the following areas:
  - Geographic Information Systems Specialist.
  - Information Technology Specialist.
5. Identification and implementation of financial mechanisms:
  - Identify and/or complement mechanisms that promote the financial sustainability of the ACMC.





**Name of the project:** Support Costa Rica in the protection and effective management of 30% of its Exclusive Economic Zone.

**Partner:** Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI).

**Approach:** Support in the preparation of the Fisheries Management Plan, implementation of control and surveillance actions, and collection of fishing data.

**Reference amount:** \$250,000.

**Estimated term:** 2021-2023.



#### INVESTMENT AREAS

1. Support the digitization of databases of the national longline fleet, as one of the users of the BMMA.
2. Support in the preparation and implementation of the Fisheries Management Plan.
3. Implementation of actions related to the collection and processing of fishing data from the national longline fleet, using technological tools.
4. Capacity building and joint work at the inter-institutional level between the ACMC, the Costa Rican Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture (INCOPECA), and the National Coast Guard Service (SNG), for the implementation of actions of the Prevention, Protection, and Control Plan.





**Name of the project:** Promotion of the effective implementation of Marine Protected Areas around Cocos Island for the benefit of the Costa Rican Pacific Ocean and the Eastern Tropical Pacific.

**Partner:** Re:wild y Bezos Earth Fund.

**Approach:** Support in the preparation and implementation of management tools, strategic planning, and attention to critical nodes of the ACMC.

**Reference amount:** \$640,000.

**Estimated term:** 2022-2023.

#### INVESTMENT AREAS

1. Updating and development of management tools in accordance with SINAC regulations.
  - ACMC General Management Plan for MPAs: CINP and BMMA, and regulations for public use.
  - Resource Management Plan, focused on the BMMA Fisheries Management Plan.
2. Updating and development of strategic planning tools.
  - Strategic plan.
  - Financial plan.
  - Project portfolio with local and regional approach, oriented towards the implementation of ACMC management tools.
3. Implementation of a project communication mechanism "Preparation of the bases for the implementation of adaptive management and restoration actions of CINP", to empower key stakeholders in this issue.
4. Equipment for ACMC staff for the implementation of actions of the Prevention, Protection, and Control Plan.
5. Implementation of actions to improve conditions for park rangers, volunteers, and researchers in accordance with the Infrastructure Plan and equipment maintenance needs.
6. Identification of scenarios that address the critical nodes of electricity, internet, connectivity, and accessibility to Wafer and Chatham bays, and a seed investment fund for the execution of any of the identified scenarios.







## **Name of the project: Promotion of the effective implementation of Marine Protected Areas around Cocos Island.**

**Partner:** Wyss Foundation.

**Approach:** Support in the development of management tools and strategic planning of the ACMC, as well as actions for their implementation.

**Reference amount:** \$250,000

**Estimated term:** 2022-2023.



### **INVESTMENT AREAS**

1. Updating and development of management tools in accordance with SINAC regulations.
  - ACMC General Management Plan for MPAs: CINP and BMMA, and regulations for public use.
  - Resource Management Plan, focused on the BMMA Fisheries Management Plan.
  - Studies or complementary needs.
2. Updating and development of ACMC strategic planning tools.
  - Strategic plan.
  - Financial plan.
  - Communication plan and base funds for its implementation.
  - ACMC Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan.
3. Strengthening of the ACMC work team:
  - Recruitment of a specialist to support the communication efforts of the ACMC and FAICO, within the framework of current projects.





**Name of the project:** Strengthen the management of marine ecosystems by reducing the impact of solid waste on the environment and improving on site strategic conditions of APMC officials.

**Partner:** SC Johnson de Centroamérica S.A.

**Approach:** Support management of the Quality of Life of Park Rangers program, operations in MPAs, and awareness and activities to mitigate marine pollution.

**Reference amount:** \$150,000.

**Estimated term:** 2022-2023.

#### INVESTMENT AREAS

1. Strengthening of the Quality of Life of Park Rangers program through equipment and attention to operational and permanent needs of the protected wildlife area.
2. Promote actions aimed at cleaning campaigns and actions to raise awareness on marine pollution, with SC Johnson de Centroamérica S.A. officials, the APMC, and FAICO, in ecosystems related to the marine environment.

**scJohnson**



Within the framework of these projects, the main results for 2022 are:

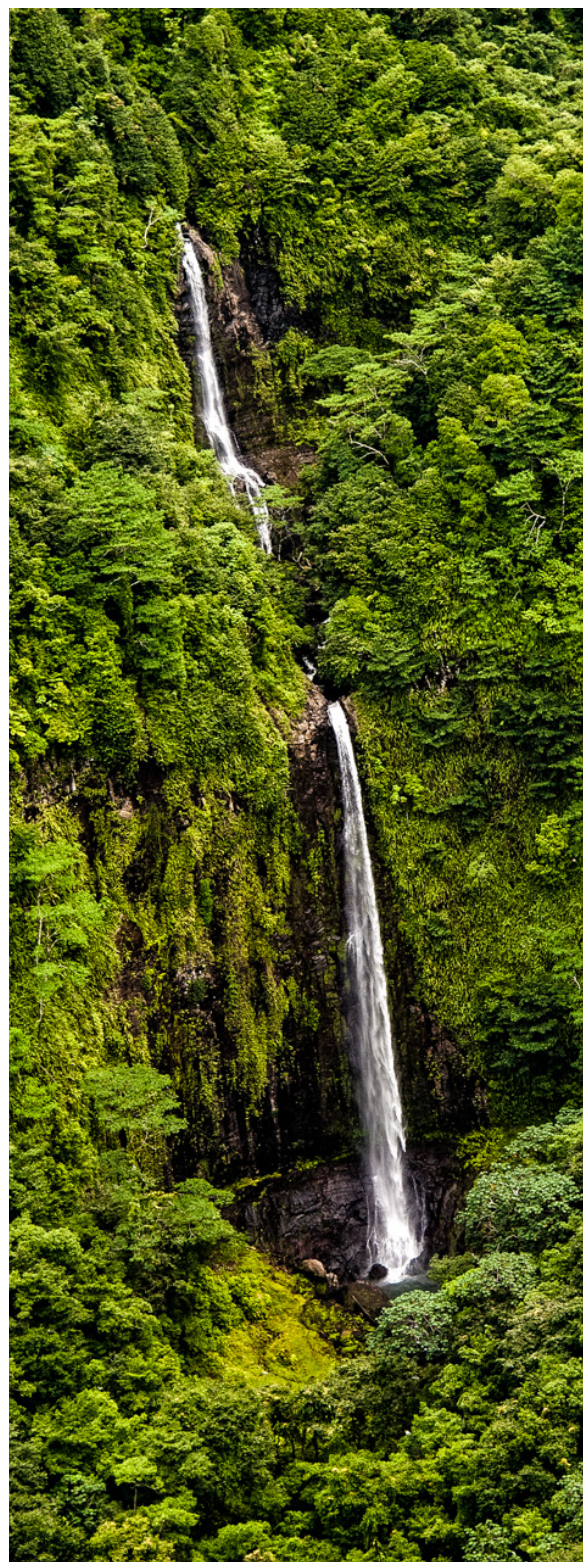
### 1. Recruitment of a multidisciplinary consulting team for the elaboration of the General Management Plan of the ACMC MPAs (CINP and BMMA), as well as the Fisheries Management Plan of the BMMA.

The updating and elaboration of the General Management Plans of the ACMC MPAs, adjusted to their new dimensions and to the officialization of decree 43368-MINAE, was one of the actions identified as a priority by the ACMC. Within the framework of the projects achieved by FAICO and after a rigorous selection process, a multidisciplinary team was hired to prepare a) the General Management Plan of the ACMC that involves its two MPAs, b) the regulations for public use of each MPA, and c) the Fisheries Management Plan of the BMMA. This contract is due to the joint effort between FAICO and the ACMC and was achieved through a robust call process, consistent with SINAC's planning tools. The initial investment of this process is estimated at \$120,000 and its execution is for one year (figure 3).



**Figura 3. Main activities associated with the elaboration of the GMP of MPAs of the ACMC.**

In addition to this work, FAICO continues to support the ACMC and government authorities in the administrative management of the expansion process of the recently created oceanic MPAs, in close coordination and as requested by the ACMC's legal counsel. This is an important action, since decree 43368-MINAE currently has legal processes (an action of unconstitutionality and an administrative dispute), presented by members of the national longline fishing sector. These types of legal actions are common within the processes for strengthening and/or consolidation of protected areas and part of the participatory and democratic construction of public policies in the marine environment.







In addition, with the purpose of identifying and analyzing other management practices used at the national and regional level, the ACMC promoted an exchange of experiences with the Guanacaste Conservation Area (ACG). This activity made it possible to explore potential activities and initiatives that are implemented in the ACG and that may be of value to the ACMC. At the regional level, FAICO and the JOCOTO Conservation Foundation encouraged the consulting team in charge of the Management Plan for the Reserva Marina Hermandad de Galápagos to share its main results and progress with the ACMC. Collaborators from ACMC and FAICO participated in both activities.

## 2. Relaunch of the Quality of Life of Park Rangers program and permanent cooperation with the ACMC

In November 2022, FAICO relaunched its Quality of Life of Park Rangers program, in an act where a series of equipment valued at \$66,000 was delivered. During the activity, the forum “Well-being of park rangers, well-being of nature”, which included the participation of Mr. Guillermo Blanco and Miss Katherine Quirós, ACMC park rangers. This activity was attended by Mr. Franz Tattenbach, Minister of Environment and Energy, Mr. Rafael Gutiérrez, Vice Minister of Environment and Executive Director of SINAC, ACMC officials and park rangers, and special guests.



Likewise, during 2022, and as a contribution to this program, about 44 cooperation requests were managed related to: maintenance of life rafts for boats, cards for satellite phones, waterproof bags, official publications, snorkeling equipment, diving courses and licenses, catering services, vaccines for park ranger trips for CMAR activities, industrial carpets, environmental education supplies, materials, spare parts and infrastructure maintenance, equipment for CINP, among others, with an investment estimated at \$21,000.

## 3. Strengthening of the ACMC work team.

The process of contracting two full-time employees for the ACMC was completed, whose functions will be related to supporting the implementation of CINP and BMMA management tools. These support positions correspond to a specialist in Geographic Information Systems (who began working in November 2022) and a specialist in Information Technology (who will begin working at the beginning of 2023). These professionals were hired thanks to the cooperation of the BAF and FAICO counterparts, whose initial investment for 12 months amounts to \$52,000.





#### 4. Celebration of the 44th anniversary of Cocos Island National Park

In June 2022, we jointly celebrated the 44th anniversary of Cocos Island National Park. This activity made it possible to continue raising awareness among the different ACMC partners about the importance of their MPAs for the country and the region. During the celebration, Dr. Jorge Cortés was recognized for his career in research and his invaluable contributions to the knowledge of ecosystems and marine biodiversity of Cocos Island. In addition, within the framework of this celebration, ACMC and FAICO officials participated in mass media, generating 33 stories on television, digital means, written media, and radio, with an advertising value of \$230,000.

#### 5. Partnership for Marine Education and Conservation

As part of the development of a concept and visual identity for the ACMC Environmental Education Plan (prepared in 2021), 1,500 printed copies and certificates of the children's book Guardians of the Sea were donated. In June 2022, the ACMC, with the support of FAICO and other partners, launched the ACMC Guardians of the Sea Program, and took it to the children of Isla Venado. As part of the Environmental Education Program, the ACMC carried out several tours in educational centers and communities to disclose this educational material.



#### 6. Microplastics in marine and freshwater environments in Cocos Island National Park

In partnership with the School of Biological Sciences of the National University (UNA) and the ACMC, the second stage of the research process: Analysis of the presence of microplastics and other residues in marine and freshwater environments of the CINP continued. In the first stage of this study, the presence of microplastics in surrounding freshwater and marine organisms, in the sediments, and in the drinking water of Cocos Island was determined. Therefore, in this second stage, analyses are being carried out to identify the release points of this pollutant, as well as its presence in other marine areas far from Wafer Bay. As part of this effort, it is expected to determine measures to mitigate the leakage of these pollutants into the environment (if they are of local origin). This research project was developed thanks to the commitment of UNA, the ACMC, and the financial support of SC Johnson de Centroamérica S.A.







## 2. CONSOLIDATE PARTNERSHIPS IN FAVOR OF COCOS ISLAND, THE SEAMOUNTS, AND THE EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC



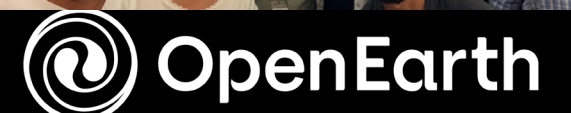
Managing the conservation and protection of 30% of marine and terrestrial ecosystems by 2030 represents a challenge of regional importance. Costa Rica must focus, as a priority, on the management of its protected marine territory since efforts at the regional level will be successful as each local effort generates positive results. FAICO, as a strategic partner of Cocos Island, has increased and diversified its local support; but also, it has been able to manage collaboration spaces in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR) through participation in different forums and by signing cooperation agreements.

At the national level, in February 2022, FAICO and INCOPESCA signed a collaboration agreement, with the purpose of promoting joint actions aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources and strengthening inter-institutional work for the effective management of the MPAs of the ACMC and surrounding ecosystems in the EEZ of Costa Rica. One of the first results of this is related to the digitization and processing of data related to the national longline fleet. In addition, inputs have been generated to promote a pilot electronic monitoring plan in national longline vessels, under the cooperation and technical supervision of the IATTC.

At the regional level, FAICO subscribed two agreements: the first with the Jocotoco Conservation Foundation, and the second one is the renewal of the agreement with the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF). These organizations are part of the group of Galapagos partners that are implementing a BAF project, where regional coordination has been identified as a need. Both organizations implement direct conservation actions in the ACMC, which has made it possible to identify synergies in issues related to restoration of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, reduction of threats, biological monitoring, exchange of experiences between park rangers, and development of management tools for CMAR MPAs.

In December 2022, as part of the FAICO-FCD agreement, we participated in the panel Regional Conservation Efforts in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, organized by the Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) and the Betty Moore Foundation. Participation in this panel allowed us to position the importance of the MPAs of the ACMC and cooperation partnerships in CMAR, regionally.





Also in August 2022, Open Earth, in collaboration with FAICO, organized a multi-stakeholder workshop to explore emerging digital innovations and scale up funding for MPAs. The people who participated in this workshop are representatives of public institutions that are experts in science, biodiversity, and methodologies for monitoring, reporting, and verifying the health of ecosystems, both terrestrial and oceanic. In addition, Open Earth and FAICO met with government authorities, embassies of partner countries and representatives of NGOs to present the project proposal and get feedback.

The Open Earth Foundation is a research and innovation organization based in California, USA, which is exploring innovative financing mechanisms for Marine Protected Areas, proposing the ACMC as one of the sites of interest due to its importance locally, regionally, and globally. As a result of these exchanges and additional research, Open Earth prepared the document entitled: "Nature-Based Currencies: Integrating Natural Capital into Advanced Monetary Systems." This document will be the basis for discussions in the following weeks to strengthen the proposal.







### 3. FAICO'S CAPACITY BUILDING





The leadership of the Administrative Board is the fundamental basis for the work and opportunities of FAICO. The commitment, approach, and visionary thinking of the Administrative Board allow FAICO to position itself as the strategic partner for authorities, stakeholders, and users related to the management of MPAs on Cocos Island.



FAICO's work has grown over the years, so in 2022, the operational structure was strengthened to a total of 6 professionals. As of May 2022, Mr. Gabriel Rodríguez, Biotechnology Engineer and former adviser to the Vice Ministry of Water and Seas, took on the position of Project Manager. In addition, Ms. Jenifer Madrigal and Ms. Marcela Granados were hired for the Financial/Administrative Department, both with broad experience in Banking and Finance, in attention to the permanent operation and FAICO projects. Likewise, during this period, the operational team has had external support in technical, communication, administrative, legal, and other issues, as a complement to the organizational capacities and reaffirming the constant support of FAICO to the APMC, SINAC, and MINAE.

The FAICO team and Administrative Board participated in work sessions and strategic meetings with the new government authorities, including the Minister of Environment and Energy, the Vice Minister of Environment, and the new Minister of Fisheries. In addition, the Administration approached with the Legislative Branch and new partners at the local and regional levels. These actions allow donors and regional bodies to see FAICO as a solid and growing organization.

In February 2022, the Administrative Board and the FAICO team again granted the award Cocos Island, World Heritage Site. This program, with its 20-year history, recognizes the contributions of individuals and organizations in the following categories: a.) Conservation and sustainable development, b.) Philanthropy, c.) International cooperation, d.) Science and research, education, and communications, and e.) Arts and Humanities. In 2022, the winners were:

WINNER	CATEGORY
Blue Action Fund	International cooperation
Blue Nature Alliance	International cooperation
Christiana Figueres Olsen	Conservation and Sustainable Development
Cuestamoras	Philanthropy
Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Conservation and Sustainable Development
Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation	International cooperation
Jorge Michel Montoya Maquin	Scientific research
Oceans 5	International cooperation
Waite Foundation	International cooperation
Wyss Foundation	International cooperation

Figure 3. List of winners 2022

The winners received an official diploma of recognition signed by Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada, former President of the Republic, Mrs. Andrea Meza, former Minister of Environment and Energy, Mr. Carlos Manuel Uribe, Chairman of FAICO, and Mrs. Alejandra Villalobos, Executive Director of FAICO, as well as the UNESCO commemorative medal.

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The importance of raising awareness on marine conservation issues required great effort and key work with different stakeholders. The marine environmental policy is using a new approach with the new government authorities, due to the absence of a Vice Ministry of Water and Seas, the concentration of work in the Vice Ministry of Environment, and the creation of a Ministry of Fisheries. Our organization has been resilient and collaborative under these circumstances.

The execution of priority actions for the implementation of the ACMC MPAs, and the formulation of its new management tools (General Management Plans and Specific Plans) could face some challenges. Some of these challenges are inter-institutional coordination between the responsible entities and the participation of users in the formulation and consolidation of management and conservation strategies. Therefore, it is essential to add partners to these initiatives, promote a proactive articulation of the government and institutions, and strengthen the processes from an administrative, legal, and compliance approach.

The process of expanding the MPAs of the ACMC allowed us, as partners in this process, to systematize a series of lessons learned. This acquired knowledge must be applied to adequately manage the complex environment in which the implementation of these MPAs takes place and the development of management tools. Also, it is necessary to visualize the contribution of the different partners in the implementation of these MPAs, so that together, we can complement the different efforts in terms of marine conservation and sustainability.







## 4. ENHANCE FUNDRAISING CAPABILITIES



FAICO's collection management in recent years has allowed it to maintain constant support for the APMC, execute innovative projects, and strategically support the expansion process of the APMC's MPAs with a comprehensive vision, managing to attract seed capital; short-, medium-, and long-term projects; and promote actions towards the financial sustainability of marine areas.

Focused in 2022 on executing priority actions to strengthen FAICO and the effective implementation of the APMC MPAs, key contributions were managed from strategic sectors of private companies and international donors.

Cuestamoras, the Uribe Sáenz Family, and SC Johnson de Centroamérica S.A. maintained their annual contribution for a total of \$265,000 during 2022. These funds allow us to continue the annual operations and challenges of our organization, contribute matching funds to the different projects, and maintain a direct and indirect investment in the APMC.

Wyss Foundation renewed its contribution for \$250,000, destined to strengthen FAICO and the development and implementation of APMC management tools. Likewise, the Wyss Foundation reported its interest in continuing to support the work of the organization for three more years.

Re:wild and Bezos Earth Fund are new partners for FAICO and with their contribution of \$640,000, FAICO will be strengthened and will help develop and implement CINP and BMMA management tools, in addition to exploring and executing scenarios to find solutions to critical issues, contemplated in the APMC strengthening matrix.

Funds managed in 2022 are estimated to be \$1,155,000, which are executed according to the conditions and terms of each donor (two to three years), the progress of the projects, and attention to challenges identified by FAICO, APMC, and its partners.



Likewise, it is important to mention that from 2017 to date, FAICO has managed funds directly or jointly for approximately **\$5 million**, including, for example, financing from Blue Action Fund achieved in 2021, which is estimated at **\$3 million** and is the result of a partnership between our organization, CIMAR, UWB, and Marviva, the latter as project manager. In addition, partnerships with Waitt Foundation, Wyss Foundation, Oceans 5, Blue Nature Alliance, CARSI, Prince Albert II Monaco Foundation, and recently Re:wild, whose execution periods range from one to five years, should be considered.





# 4

## FINANCIAL REPORT

## 1. REVENUE

For 2022, the main sources of income were voluntary donations from private corporations, individuals, and non-governmental organizations. Income accrued in fiscal year 2022 is estimated at \$525,000, 50% less than on the previous year. The main decrease is because in 2021 the project was carried out with the Hillier Ignite Foundation, an organization related to the construction of mooring docks and facilities supplies, and an expedition to Cocos Island National Park in February 2021.



The main funds received from private entities come from Cuestamoras S.A., the Uribe Sáenz Family, and SC Johnson de Centroamérica S.A., among others, estimated at \$206,000.

Likewise, US\$315,000 is part of the income executed for projects, corresponding to activities developed in coordination with the APMC and the corresponding implementers of the funds obtained since 2020, through international donors such as Waitt Foundation, Wyss Foundation, Blue Nature Alliance, CARSI, BAF, Prince Albert II Monaco Foundation, and recently Re:wild Bezos Earth, with terms ranging from one to five years.

These funds are recorded as accrued income or deferred income depending on the execution period and the progress of the different activities of each proposal.

**Amigos Isla del Coco**  
**Ingresos 2022 - 2021**  
(Montos expresados en miles de dólares estadounidenses)





## 2. EXPENSES

For the 2022 period, expenses amounted to \$506,000, a 52% decrease in relation to fiscal year 2021. The main decrease is because in 2021, the project was carried out with the Hillier Ignite Foundation, and there was an expedition to Cocos Island National Park in February 2021.

Operating expenses amounted to \$212,000, with investment focused on strengthening operational management, basic services such as office rental, internet, office supplies, training, and prioritized external support for professional services to strengthen our organization and the permanent support that the foundation provides to the Cocos Marine Conservation Area, in addition to direct investment and projects.

Direct investment and investment in projects in the Cocos Marine Conservation Area amounts to \$293,000. This investment represents the activities executed and coordinated with the ACMC and the corresponding implementers, such as the relaunch of the Quality of Life of Park Rangers program, permanent cooperation requests for boat maintenance, accessories for satellite phones, waterproof bags, publications, snorkeling equipment, and diving activities, food services, vaccines for park rangers in CMAR activities, industrial carpets, environmental education materials, spare parts, and infrastructure maintenance, among others, in addition to investment related to the contracting of management plans, equipment, collaborators to support the ACMC, celebration of strategic dates, participation in local and regional forums, promotion of partnerships and others.

**Amigos Isla del Coco**  
**Gastos Estimados 2022 - 2021**  
(Montos expresados en miles de dólares estadounidenses)





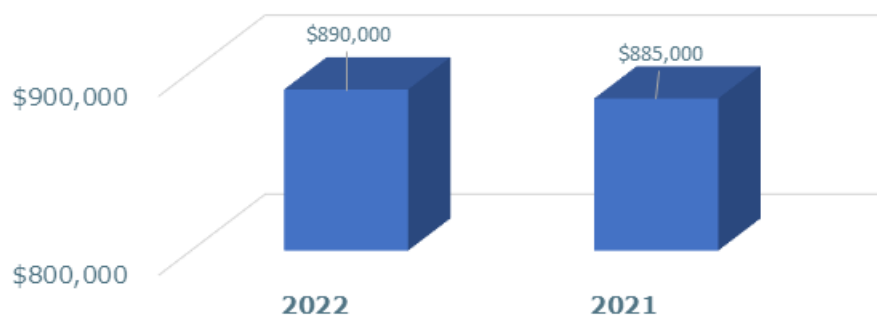
### 3. TRUST

This support fund amounted to approximately US\$890,000 as of December 31, 2022, including market value as of that date. The investments of this fund are in dollars, in deposits at medium and long terms. Interest rates range between 5% and 7%.



The Trust has maintained its normal operations, which allows guaranteeing the continuity of business, focused on the purposes for which it was established.

**Amigos Isla del Coco  
Fondos en el Fideicomiso  
Al 31 de diciembre de 2022 y 2021**  
*(Montos expresados en miles de dólares estadounidenses)*



GUATEMALA

EL SALVADOR

NICARAGUA

# Áreas Marinas Protegidas de COSTA RICA

Corredor Marino del Pacífico Este Tropical



TORTUGA BAULA  
(*Dermochelys coriacea*)



COMUNIDAD PESQUERA



PEZ VELA DEL INDO-PACÍFICO  
(*Istiophorus platypterus*)

OCÉANO PACÍFICO

## 26 Parque Nacional Isla del Coco



TIBURÓN MARTILLO  
(*Sphyrna lewini*)



BUCEO DE INVESTIGACIÓN



SUBMARINO DE INVESTIGACIÓN

27

Área Marina de Manejo del Bicentenario



### Fuentes:

- Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación (2022)
- Instituto Geográfico Nacional (2022)
- Corredor Marino del Pacífico Este Tropical (CMAR) [www.cmarpacifico.org](http://www.cmarpacifico.org)



[www.cocosisland.org](http://www.cocosisland.org)



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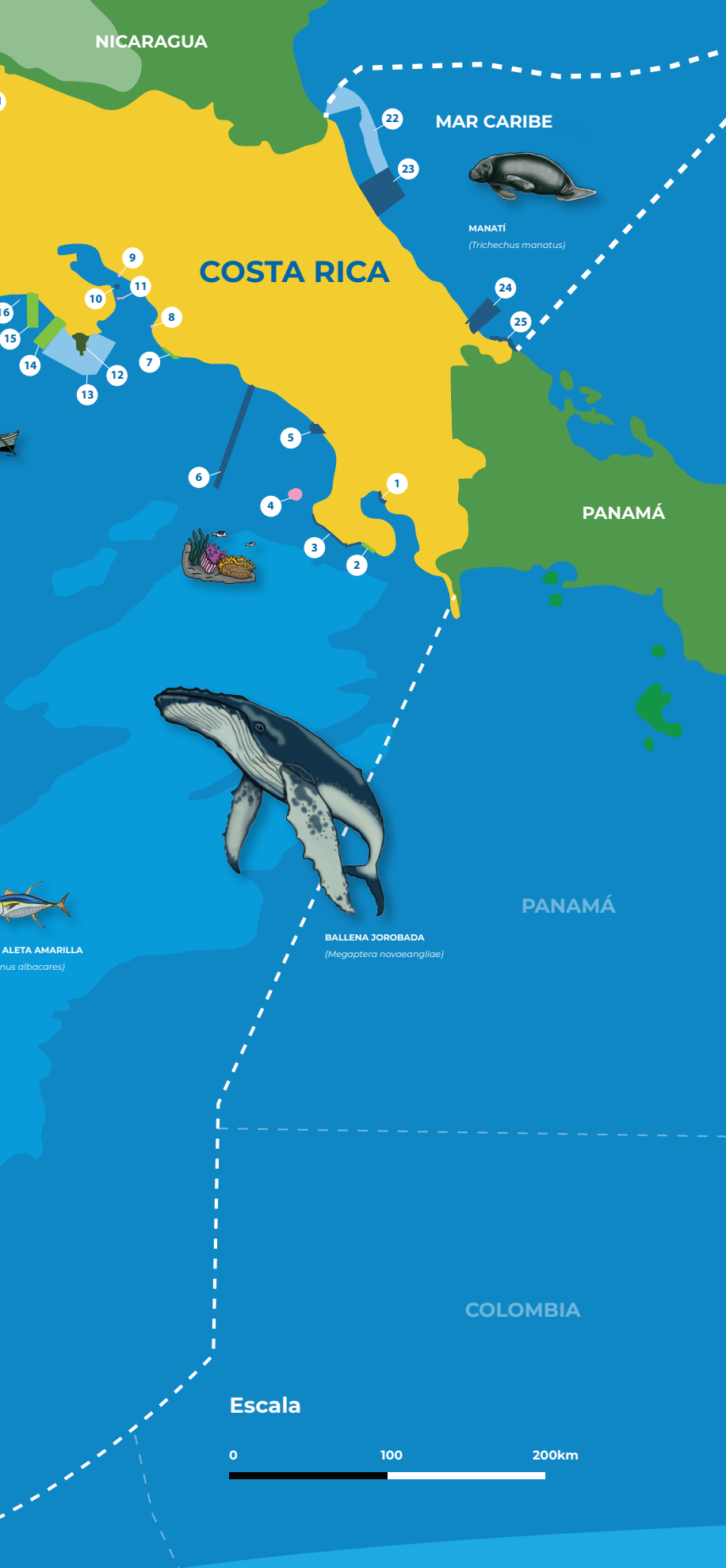
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## Áreas Marinas Protegidas

- 1 Parque Nacional Piedras Blancas
- 2 Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre Río Oro
- 3 Parque Nacional Corcovado
- 4 Reserva Biológica Isla del Caño
- 5 Parque Nacional Marino Ballena
- 6 Parque Nacional Manuel Antonio
- 7 Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre Playa Hermosa-Punta Mala
- 8 Humedal Marino Playa Blanca
- 9 Reserva Biológica Isla Pájaros
- 10 Parque Nacional Isla San Lucas
- 11 Reserva Biológica Islas Negritos
- 12 Reserva Natural Absoluta Cabo Blanco
- 13 Área Marina de Manejo Cabo Blanco
- 14 Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre Caletas Ario
- 15 Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre Camaronal
- 16 Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre Isla Chora
- 17 Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre Ostional
- 18 Parque Nacional Marino las Baulas
- 19 Parque Nacional Santa Rosa
- 20 Área Marina de Manejo Bahía Santa Elena
- 21 Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre Bahía Junquillal
- 22 Área Marina de Manejo Barra del Colorado
- 23 Parque Nacional Tortuguero
- 24 Parque Nacional Cahuita
- 25 Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre Jairo Mora Sandoval Gandoca-Manzanillo
- 26 Parque Nacional Isla del Coco
- 27 Área Marina de Manejo del Bicentenario

## Simbología

- Zonas Económicas Exclusivas
- Cordillera Volcánica Submarina del Coco
- Área Marina de Manejo
- Humedal
- Parque Nacional
- Refugio Nacional de Vida Silvestre
- Reserva Biológica
- Reserva Natural Absoluta



¡Costa Rica conserva el **30%** de su territorio marino!





faico

AMIGOS ISLA  
DEL COCO

## CONTACT US

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San José, Costa Rica



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