

Saving our seas

Together, we are committed to protecting our planet and ensuring a livable future for all!

**ANNUAL REPORT
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Dear partners,

It is our pleasure to address you at this time to express our deep appreciation for your continued efforts in environmental conservation.

Thanks to their dedication and commitment, we have achieved a number of important goals in protecting the environment. Thanks to your support, we have been able to implement a series of effective measures to reduce our carbon footprint, protect our ecosystems and promote sustainable development.

Reforestation projects, the creation of protected areas and environmental education for local communities are just a few examples of the achievements we have achieved together.

We are proud to work with a group of people so committed and dedicated to the cause of environmental conservation. Together, we are confident that we can continue to make a significant difference in the world.

THE ECOCEANOS CORPORATION continued with its indigenous culture by working together with our local allies, donors and strategic partners, during 2022. We managed to exceed the annual reforestation goal, expand our marine conservation areas, monitor species in danger and bring help to the most disadvantaged communities, which are the strong arm of our actions on the ground.

We appreciate the valuable contribution of all the people who were part of these achievements.

A sick planet shows us its symptoms and the aggressive response of our society to reactivate the world economy puts the sustainable use of natural resources at risk. This panorama is the preamble of a social change to understand the importance of nature in the stability of the planet. The next few years remain challenging, but one thing is certain:

we can overcome the challenges, we have the opportunity to save our home, the Earth, conservation cannot stop.

A big hug to all, let's keep taking care of ourselves.

GEORGINA CARRIAZO MONTES.

GREEN ENERGY PROGRAM: PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE CHANGE FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES OF THE GULF OF MORROSQUILLO, COLOMBIA.

The current low rate of electrification represents a daily obstacle for the inhabitants of the Zenú indigenous communities who seek to improve their living conditions and those of future generations. The lack of investment in rural areas due to the almost non-existence of energy infrastructure perpetuates poverty. Access to energy is an important development factor. Through this project, the ECOCEANOS CORPORATION managed to introduce an innovative energy solution in the communities allowing energy to be accessible, decentralized, clean and sustainable. Previously, only a part of the population of the communities present in the Gulf of Morrosquillo had electricity, thanks to this management, more than 70% of the population now has electricity, thus allowing social, educational and professional opportunities. The implementation of the project was based on the construction of 10 electromechanical charge extraction stations located in the Sacana stream, which is near the Colombian Atlantic coast and is part of the geographical area where more than 700 indigenous families live. This model of electrical power supply has a set of hydraulic turbines, connection boxes, cables, 10 charging stations and 50 lamps per turbine, available for rent at low cost. The results obtained after the implementation of the project was the reduction of kerosene consumption between 100,000 and 140,000 liters and CO2 emissions by 100 tons during the first 10 years. This helped reduce the number of respiratory diseases by positively influencing environmental conditions (through reducing deforestation for wood needs).



The supply of electricity is also an important development factor for local businesses that, thanks to this project, could work later and thus increase their productivity and income. 100 local entrepreneurs will receive training to learn how to use the new technology for the development of their business. The indirect beneficiaries include the Zenú indigenous community as a whole (3,000 to 5,000 people) through the improvement and development of environmental conditions.

Date	January 2022 – December 2022
Beneficiary	8.000 Zenú indigenous community
Amount	USD 20,000
Partner	University of the Caribbean (CECAR)
State	Completed

IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF ARTISANAL FISHING IN THE GULF OF MORROSQUILLO THROUGH THE STRENGTHENING OF COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AREAS.

On the Colombian Atlantic coast, coastal communities face a growing and worrying decline in biodiversity, due to inadequate fishing methods and agricultural activities. Three factors are responsible for social, economic, and environmental fragility in the face of these alarming scenarios: low-capacity adaptation, weak governance, urbanization and inadequate public services. The development of new economies, using marine resources indirectly and responsibly, will allow resilience in the face of future impoverishment currently forecast in climate scenarios.

ECOCEANOS CORPORATION focused on making up for the lack of knowledge of the Zenú indigenous community present in the area regarding climate risks. The main objective of this project was to protect marine biodiversity along the Atlantic coast and improve the income of community fisheries local. More than 25,000 members of the community have benefited from the activities carried out by the Ecoceanos corporation, the government and the CECAR Caribbean university: they organized 31 conference-debates on gender equality, 16 radio programs, a documentary on the shared temporary closure through social media. In general, community awareness and education were the greatest impacts on the general population and the specific Community Fishing Councils.



ECOCEANOS CORPORACIÓN managed the investment in the creation of an awareness program in schools. Thanks to a collaborative platform, local fishing communities have been supported in the creation and management of Zenú Community Conservation Areas (ACCZ). The communities have also been trained in monitoring biodiversity, in a spirit of revaluation of ancestral knowledge. The effectiveness of law enforcement measures has been improved thanks to the establishment of regular community patrols and patrols supported by a special detachment of the Sucre Departmental Police. 700 inhabitants (of which 60% were women) of the intervention area participated in periodic meetings, as well as workshops on conservation, English and reflection on gender equality, achieving a 25% increase in their income.

Date	January 2022 – December 2022
Beneficiary	25,000 members of the Afro-descendant community
Amount	USD 10,000
Partners	University of the Caribbean (CECAR), Bosque Colombiano ORG
State	Completed

MANGROVES REBORN: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR RED AND BLACK MANGROVES LOCATED IN THE GULF OF MORROSQUILLO, ATLANTIC COAST.

Mangrove deforestation on the Colombian Atlantic coast has occurred in recent years mainly due to the expansion of agriculture, urbanization, resource extraction, and other human activities. Mangroves are being replaced by plantations of oil palm, rice and other crops to meet the growing demand for food. Another reason is the growth in tourism infrastructure, such as hotels and marinas. In addition, the lack of adequate policies and regulations to protect mangroves and awareness of their ecological and economic importance have also contributed to mangrove deforestation in Colombia. The transversal objective of this project was to strengthen COPORACION ECOCEANOS and its network of organizations defending the mangrove ecosystem in Colombia.

Through the “Mangroves Reborn” project, the corporation achieved a significant reach in regards to the restoration component of the mangrove ecosystem: The Zenú indigenous communities reinforced the monitoring of the mangrove ecosystem in the 2 estuaries.

A document updating the wildlife reserve management plan was presented to the Ministry of the Environment. Regarding the possibility offered by the new Colombian legal framework to establish community protected areas, ECOCEANOS has held workshops with the Zenú indigenous communities to analyze the advantages of this type of management in relation to use and protection zones.



At the same time, ECOCEANOS has maintained strong advocacy work at the international level in conjunction with organizations such as Red Manglar Internacional and Red Mundial de Bosques. The ECOCEANOS website has been updated, which allows a better promotion of the implemented actions. Various events have also been organized to sensitize the public about the consumption of healthy and fair products and the importance of mangroves: a cultural event on July 26 for Mangrove Day in the presence of the Secretary of State for Biodiversity, conferences environmental education in schools, or participation in fairs with agroecological producers.

Date	February 2022 – November 2022
Beneficiary	10.000 Zenú indigenous community
Amount	USD 18,000
Partner	University of the Caribbean (CECAR)
State	Completed

PROTECTION OF CAREY AND GREEN TURTLES AND CREATION OF A MARINE PROTECTED AREA IN THE GULF OF MORROSQUILLO, COLOMBIA.

Illegal fishing, both industrial and artisanal, often carried out a few tens of meters from the coast and with inadequate methods (mesh netting, prohibited products, etc.), the uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources, deforestation for agriculture, charcoal production, poaching, construction of hotel infrastructure along the beach, and low level of law enforcement are even greater threats to turtles. Every year, the environmental government teams manage to protect between 30 and 50 green turtle nests and 2 to 10 hawksbill nests on the beaches. But, in the marine part, there are feeding and growth areas (rocks, corals, etc.) that are essential for the species.

ECOCEANOS CORPORATION carried out a study of the fishing practiced, as well as an underwater study of the area. Thanks to this project, the Ministry of the Environment and the Colombian Agreement have recognized the interest in establishing the first Marine Protected Area on the Colombian Atlantic coast. A new project, led by the University of the Caribbean and financed by international sponsors, allowed the delimitation of an MPA, developing its management and offering income-generating activities to fishermen. At the same time, monitoring of turtles continued through of the installation of satellite transmitters to study the movements in the sea, likewise exchanges were made with the fishermen about accidental catches, areas frequented by turtles, etc.



8 eco guards have been trained in the fight against poaching in a future Voluntary Natural Reserve (area of land that becomes a reserve at the request of the owners with the agreement of the Government) that adjoins the Marine Protected Area. Partnerships with local hotels continue and close to 400 tourists were able to watch the sunset. Finally, CEM estimates that between 600 and 700 clutches are protected and approximately 30,000 individuals are born thanks to the project.

ECOCEANOS COPORATION and the government's environmental administration proposed the establishment of a customary law for the protection of sea turtles and strengthening the technical capacities of the Maritime Police. These actions have made it possible to stop the poaching of sea turtles and the sale of eggs in the surrounding towns.

Date	January 2022 – October 2022
Beneficiary	Zenú indigennous community
Amount	USD 20,000
Partner	University of the Caribbean (CECAR)
State	Completed

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE CONSERVATION OF FISH IN WETLANDS OF THE COLOMBIAN ATLANTIC COAST.

The objective of this project was to increase the resilience of fishing resources and associated local livelihoods in protected wetlands on the Colombian Atlantic coast through sustainable management and the fishing community in 5 priority conservation areas (2 new and 3 existing) and the waters between these areas. ECOCEANOS CORPORATION focused efforts on creating and enhancing a network of local fishing communities to protect and manage their own fishing resources and ensure equitable distribution of benefits among all local stakeholders, including women and poor families.

To achieve this, CORPORACION ECOCEANOS designed and implemented management plans for 5 conservation areas (new plans for new areas and updated plans for existing areas) with assistance and technical support from Worldfish, CEPA (L'Association de Culture and Environment Preservation Association) and relevant government organizations.

Numerous meetings were organized between groups that managed to jointly protect waters outside their individual management areas and finally skills of the groups were developed to mobilize financial support and benefits in kind directly from them, but also from non-foundation sources, such as



Thanks to this management, it was possible to strengthen the number of fishing conservation areas due to the involvement of the Zenú indigenous communities, carrying out regular and integrated patrols of the river conservation areas. An effective community network was established and its representatives share their knowledge and experiences with local community fisheries in other areas of the country, and Finally, the policy of long-term participation of indigenous communities has been ensured through the participation of their members in the planning process of the annual activities of the environmental conservation plan.

Date	February 2022 – December 2022
Beneficiary	Zenú indigenous community
Amount	USD 18,000
Partners	University of the Caribbean (CECAR) and FEVERDE FOUNDATION
State	Completed



**¡The time to act against climate change is
NOW!**

