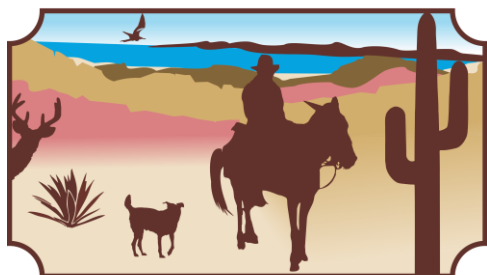


ACTIVITY REPORT “CONSERVA LORETO PROGRAM”

NOVEMBER 2023 – APRIL 2024

CONSERVA



LORETO

A program of

 THE OCEAN FOUNDATION





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Conserva Loreto begins

We have developed a logo and brand!

We have dedicated time to define the essence of our program and capture it in a distinctive logo and brand that reflects our values and goals. We have also worked to craft a purpose statement:

Conserva Loreto is a program committed to the protection and strengthening of Loreto's conservation areas, for the benefit of people and biodiversity. Our mission is to conserve natural resources for future generations through:

- 1. Research***
- 2. Education***
- 3. Equity and Social justice***

We support an environment in which local communities not only survive, but thrive, with access to rich and diverse biological resources. This includes not only the conservation of national parks and federal protected areas, but also areas of international interest such as Ramsar sites, as well as coastal territories and supporting sustainable land use practices that improve the living conditions of local communities and allow the continuation of their traditional activities. We strengthen natural areas and conservation in the municipality of Loreto for the benefit of people and biodiversity.



We have an office!



We now have an active office space on the main road into Loreto, right in front of the largest high school, and our local presence continues to increase.



We have employees and associates!



Starting with the hire of Program Manager Jennifer Ruelas, our team has continued to grow and now includes several students, associates and volunteers.

We are happy to have formalized long term collaborations with staff from Pronatura Noroeste and iNaturalist in Loreto.



6-month highlights by the numbers:

We have welcomed **22** visiting scientists (US/MX) into our program for collaboration.

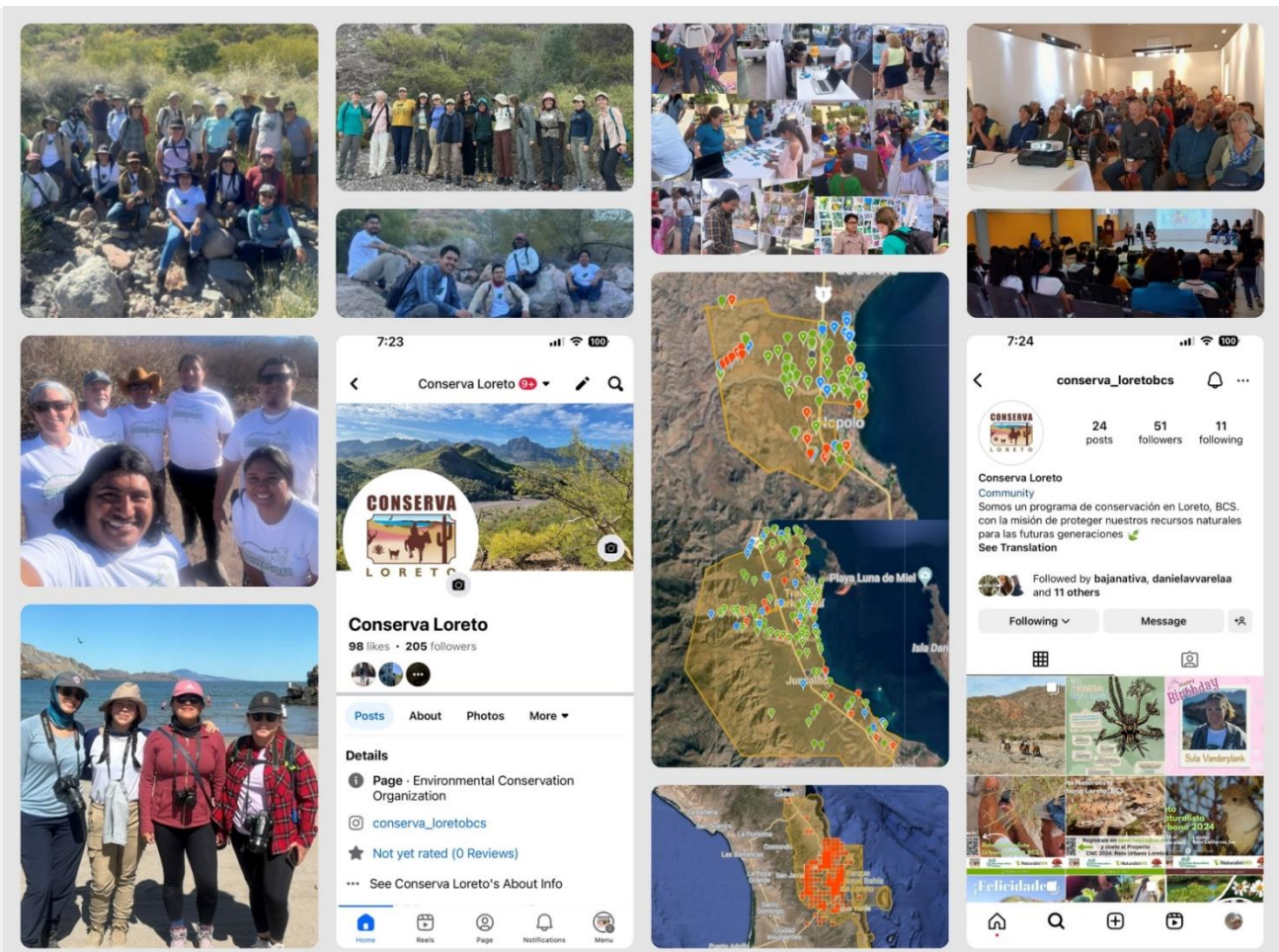
We estimate **610** people participated in our events and collaborations

We have **203** followers and **97** active users like our Facebook page.

We have **51** followers on our Instagram page.

521 species were registered in our park-specific Bioblitz events.

8,337 species were registered in the municipality during City Nature Challenge



Our achievements by program:

Science



- We welcomed visiting botanists from the University of Washington with other local collaborators to help document the flora of Nopolo National Park in November.

- We hosted the women in science – botany expedition in Loreto – Field trips were made to the Bahía de Loreto National Park, Nopolo National Park and Loreto II National Park. During fieldwork we explored our natural areas, discovered unique and rare plants and processed the data in the iNaturalist platform.



- We also assisted Lorene Archdekin eradicating invasive buffel-grass in Nopoló in collaboration with Keep Loreto magical.

El APFF Islas del Golfo de California - Sonora te invita al Foro:
La expansión del estrés vegetal en el desierto: ¿consecuencia de la sequía?

Invitados:
Dr. Benjamin T. Wilder
Dra. Sula Elizabeth Vanderplank
Dra. Blanca Estela Romero López

Martes 12 diciembre de 2023
11 am Sonora (GMT-7)
12 pm CDMX (GMT-6)

- We participated in a discussion panel organized by CONANP Sonora and CONAFOR about the impacts of drought in the Sonoran Desert (mainly the damage and death of cacti) and presented the research work in the areas of San Basilio, Primer Agua, Puerto Escondido, Isla Carmen and a small common garden study.

BioBlitz Loreto 2024:

We documented species for 24 hours straight in both parks!

The main objective of this community science event was to encourage the active participation of the general public and the scientific community in the collection of data on local biodiversity.



- We created two projects on the iNaturalist platform of the Loreto II and Nopolo National Parks.

- More than **43** people participated, including students, families, and nature enthusiasts.

- We recorded a total of **521** species of flora and fauna, adding at least 100 new species to each park. The numbers continue to grow!

The BioBlitz Loreto 2024 not only increased knowledge about the region's biodiversity, but also consolidated an inclusive and participatory approach to the conservation of natural heritage.



Additional activities

We assisted with research permits for visiting scientist as part of collaborations to understand the natural history of the peninsula (in particular for Geologists working in the Bahía de Loreto National Park).

We toured Loreto II National Park with regional scientists to map trails and document biodiversity and we recorded 55 birds at the mouth of the estuary in Nopolo Park, and found endemic species such as Belding's yellowthroat, an important conservation target.

"Loreto Port of Science" is an initiative of the municipality to promote science in the region's schools. We organized the participation of Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra, and presented him before his talk highlighting the



importance of mangroves in the Gulf of California. The results of the geostudies carried out in the region were discussed, as well as the potential of clean energies, especially the use of deep water currents in Loreto by Dr. Armando

Trasviña, who we met with afterwards to discuss renewable energy initiatives for Loreto. There were also talks about the critical situation of the vaquita porpoise and the fishing regulations necessary for its protection.



We visited Nopolo National Park and Primer Agua with Dr. Kate Boersma from the

University of San Diego to develop an initial list of freshwater aquatic invertebrate species and we planned long-term monitoring, particularly in this post-burn environment and given the presence of the rare shrimp in this watershed.

City Nature Challenge, quite an adventure!

During the challenge we participated as collaborators with other regional organizations working to get the public into nature. We led multiple field trips to document species with the participation of Enrique Flores, state tutor of CONABIO, the staff and associates of Conserva Loreto and friends of the community who have actively participated in our events.

- We achieved **8,357** observations in the municipality.
- We have **1st** place in the state with the highest number of registrations.
- We placed **5th** nationally (up from 10th last year).
- We held a community workshop in Paso de Santa Cruz, with the participation of approximately **22** people from the rural community
- We hosted a night hike to document scorpions and creepy-crawlies up at Primer Agua Oasis including camera traps and owl hunts with **10** participants.



RETO NATURALISTA URBANO

"Documentando la biodiversidad loreтана"

26 AL 29 DE ABRIL DE 2024.



Education

We met with the mayor and several of her staff and have a solid and collaborative commitment with the municipal government to promote the conservation of wildlands and the value of our national through the implementation of a comprehensive rural school program. Early programs will focus on greater environmental awareness and appreciation for local biodiversity from an early age. The program includes children of all ages. A second program will be larger events for urban students such as those detailed below.

Women in science “value of protected areas” presentation to local urban schools at the CREN Marcel Rubio Auditorium. The event included the participation of the 12 women who made up the female botanical expedition in collaboration with the San Diego Zoo's Baja Rare program.

- **7 women shared their experiences and knowledge through enriching presentations about their experiences in different protected areas of the peninsula.**
- **Estimated audience of 100 people, mostly women and girls.**
- **3 local secondary schools participated.**



Nature Fair Celebrating Spring!

This event was carried out as part of the activities of Blue Whale Week 2024 in collaboration with the Education Directorate of the X.H. Loreto City Council.

- **Participation of 17 interactive stands.**
- **Approximate audience of 200 children.**
- **Collaboration with government institutions and civil society, including the Municipal Library, CONANP, CICESE La Paz, Crealifornia, Keep Loreto Magical, University of Colima, Eco-Alianza de Loreto, Pronatura Noroeste AC, Naturalista-CONABIO, Women's Institute, PRODEP, to mention a few!**

Each stand encompassed aspects of our natural wealth, offering a variety of activities, from art to education, exploration of local flora and fauna and displays of traditional crafts. This event focused on the children and youth of Loreto, providing them with the opportunity to immerse



themselves in the world of science and conservation. We presented interactive maps of the new parks where children and adults were invited to pin the parks on the map.

Interns and students



We had two interns from the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning (RMSEL) who joined us in the office and the field, and we are actively working with the University of San Diego, Santa Barbara College and the University of California, Santa Barbara to support more visiting students in future.

People of the Peninsula – Ranch life, Ranch Abandonment and Drought

A public education event targeting adults, held at the Mission Museum to publicize our program host Dr. Shane McFarlan, from the University of Utah, presenting his research from the last ten years on drought and ranch life in Sierra La Giganta. There were 51 participants in attendance. We collaborated with Crealifornia, the municipal government and the Mission Museum.



Equity and social justice

Ranch Abandonment and Alternatives



Ranch abandonment has emerged as a critical issue for conservation in our area, and also with the potential to collaborate and improve rural conservation and strengthen rural communities. As part of these efforts were explored ecotourism as a key strategy to diversify the local economy and help to promote environmental conservation.

We also brought several groups out to rural ranches, in particular working with Rancho Saucito above Nopolo National Park. We worked with contractors to explore the potential for additional infrastructure such as a palapa for future events. We also held a series of small workshops with Rancho el Saucito as part of exploring economic alternatives for ranching communities in conservation areas, including cheese making, tortilla-making, and ranch dinners following field trips.

Leather-working Workshop

Strengthening the culture of the ranches and rescuing traditions, we held a saddlery and leather-working workshop in Rancho Viejo, Paso de Santa Cruz in January. There were 32 participants with equal opportunities for women and men to develop and sell artisanal products



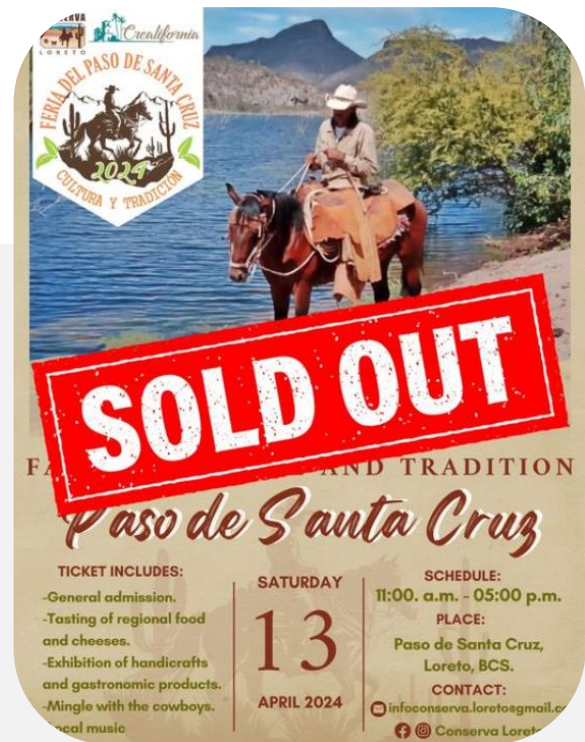
These varied efforts to reach the rural community and offer workshops and opportunities culminated in our largest event yet:

Paso de Santa Cruz

Successful Culture and Tradition Fair

The Paseo de Santa Cruz Tradition and Culture Fair was held with great success, an event that stood out for its rich cultural offering and community participation.

- Sale of **67 tickets**, with an excess of **17 tickets** more than anticipated.
- High interest and interaction between the rural and ex-pat communities
- Assistance of approximately **100 people** total, including staff, volunteers, collaborators and assistants.
- Participation of **10 ranches** in the area.



El Sudcaliforniano
April 17 at 1:51 PM

#Loreto | Feria de Cultura y Tradición del Paso de Santa Cruz genera un espacio para la comercialización de productos 🍷



ELSUDCALIFORNIANO.COM.MX

Turismo rural, otra opción en Loreto

Feria de Cultura y Tradición del Paso de Santa Cruz genera un espacio para la comercializa

- Publication of an article in the newspaper "El Sudcaliforniano".

Within the event, cultural and nature appreciation activities were developed such as:

Museum of Regional Culture: A temporary museum was set up that exhibited artifacts and elements representative of local culture.



Tasting of traditional gastronomy: Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of traditional dishes, including baked goat, handmade tortillas, cheeses, dulce de leche and bread, which was highly appreciated and enjoyed by all visitors. .



Interpretive Trail: The event concluded with a tour of an interpretive trail built and guided by locals, where aspects of the flora, fauna and local history were highlighted, providing an educational and enriching experience for participants.



The Paseo de Santa Cruz Tradition and Culture Fair

was an exceptional event that managed to captivate and satisfy all visitors while seamlessly achieving several of our goals...empowering rural people, connecting urban people and nature, increasing trust



between traditionally isolated communities, and improving awareness and access to traditional lifestyles. The variety of cultural activities, community participation and the quality of the products and events offered contributed to making this fair a memorable and successful experience.





We couldn't do it without you! Thank you so much for your support.

**¡MUCHAS
GRACIAS!**

Let's do this together!



Donate here!



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A program of:

 **THE OCEAN FOUNDATION**