



Life Net Nature



2019

Annual Report

<https://lifenetnature.org>

CONTENTS

Message From LNN Co-Directors	2
Mission	3
LNN Conservation Programs	3-5
LNN Kenya Scholarships	6
Volunteers	7
Financial Summary	8-9
Donors and Supporters	10
Looking Forward	11
We Need Your Help	12



Message from our Co-Directors



Dear Friends,

Our work in 2019 fulfilled our promise – to protect wildlife and nature. In the Andes of Chile and Ecuador and on the western edge of the Rift Valley in Kenya, we combined conservation science and support for local people working to protect wildlife and their habitats. We also continued to tackle important policy issues in the US, such as the need to end trophy hunting of Yellowstone wolves.

Empowering people for conservation has been our commitment since our non-profit organization began in 1991. In Ecuador, Life Net research and advocacy inspired the coastal community of Loma Alta to protect over 7,500 acres of bio-diverse cloud forest, now internationally recognized as an Important Bird Area. In Kenya, we've worked with Maasai conservationists to monitor giraffe and other wildlife, and advance a community conservancy near the Masai Mara Reserve. In Chile, Life Net has long engaged students and volunteers in the study and conservation of the endangered Andean huemul deer. In the US, we launched landscape conservation initiatives in Arizona and Colorado, promoted jaguar and Mexican wolf recovery in the Southwest, and worked to benefit Hawaii's coral reefs and its imperiled liwi bird.

We deeply appreciate our local conservation partners, supporters, and volunteer citizen scientists for continuing to inspire and shape Life Net's evolution as a non-profit wildlife conservation organization.

Please enjoy Life Net's 2019 Annual Report

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone of you who kindly donated to Life Net in 2019, and to all our wonderful field volunteers!

Tony Povilitis & C. Dusti Becker

Dr. Tony Povilitis & Dr. C. Dusti Becker, Co-Directors

(2)



Mission

Life Net's mission is to empower people to conserve wildlife and nature through grassroots advocacy and field-based environmental education and training. We host volunteer citizen scientists at field locations critical for species recovery and habitat preservation. We enhance and support local conservation efforts, assisting with strategic planning, advocacy tools, applied wildlife research, and organizational development.

Current Wildlife Conservation Programs



Protecting Giraffe Nurseries in Kenya

In 2012, Life Net Nature (LNN) partnered with Maasai community members to locally protect dwindling wildlife. The resulting Maasai Moran Conservation and Walking Safaris (MMCWS) organization and LNN launched wildlife monitoring, community conservation outreach, and ecotourism projects. In supporting these efforts, LNN's volunteer program began offering exceptional field opportunities for people in the U.S. and

elsewhere, while at the same time funding guide training, employment, and organizational support for MMCWS members.

In 2014, LNN and MMCWS began special field surveys for giraffe to determine the status of family groups. Photographic analysis revealed that more than 160 individual giraffe use the savannah grasslands owned by local Maasai families. Threatened by habitat loss from agricultural and land development, Masai giraffe were listed as endangered in July 2019, making this local conservation effort of utmost importance.

Current photo analyses by Petra Campbell, a scientist cataloging giraffe regionally in Kenya, confirmed that giraffe groups on the Siria Plateau have an unusually high proportion of mothers with infants compared to elsewhere. Traditional grazing by Maasai on the plateau appears to support habitat needed by young giraffe. For example, short-statured acacia groves may result from moderate browsing by Maasai sheep and goats, providing both cover and food for nursing mothers and young. Likewise, the density of natural predators may be lower in the area due to the presence of Maasai. In 2020, funds permitting, LNN & MMCWS plan year-round studies of giraffe to better investigate these matters. Our joint project is offering Maasai landowners the opportunity to form a special giraffe conservancy to protect critical habitat for giraffe mothers and young. **Donations and volunteers are needed to continue these conservation efforts!** Our next volunteer team in Kenya runs August 16-29, 2020. Please join us!

(3)





Protecting Montane Forest Birds in Ecuador

LNN sustains Reserva Las Tangaras, a protected area and research site on the western slope of the Andes in Ecuador. We support the reserve by hosting cost-share volunteers who assist with monitoring and banding birds. We



had two talented bird banding teams in 2019. In only 13 days, the August team detected 179 bird species, mist-netted 400 individual birds of 73 species, and added White-throated Hawk to the reserve area list.



The December team had a thrilling Christmas Bird Count detecting 150 species on and near the reserve in a single 24-hour period! Volunteers are credited at the end of this report.

Our June 2020 banding expedition is full, but there are **spaces still available on the December 2020 team.** (Photos, 2019 LNN teams, Flame-faced Tanager)

Recovering the Endangered Huemul Deer in Chile



In 2019, LNN volunteers and local colleagues carried out field surveys for the Andean huemul, Chile's national animal icon. LNN provided on-site training in survey methods and trail cameras. Our team documented huemul presence at a location from which they had previously vanished! (note photo of the beautiful female "caught" on one of our field cameras).

Life Net's co-director, Dr. Tony Povilitis, who pioneered huemul studies in the 1970s, led the field teams. Tony later spoke with regional government officials to encourage enhanced efforts to recover the species, provided recommendations to environmental agencies, and reviewed a newly revised species recovery plan.

(4)



In 2019, LNN also began work to create *Fundación Huemul Andino*, a nonprofit foundation to build private sector support for habitat conservation and recovery of the huemul. Moreover, LNN continued its series of research papers on the life and behavior of the huemul, an important national symbol of Chile.

Promoting Compassionate Management of Yellowstone Wolves

In 2019, Life Net continued Campaign for Yellowstone Wolves to promote protection for park wolves that are now being hunted and trapped if they cross onto nearby national forests. Over the years, dozens of park wolves have been needlessly killed, with impacts on wolf social organization and wildlife tourism. We continued our public outreach campaign online and in Yellowstone National Park for the 7th straight year, and



our "Shop Smart" and #TouristPledge messaging, urging tourists to patronize local Yellowstone businesses that favor protection for park wolves. (Economic incentives to protect park wolves are essential as legislative and other initiatives to protect park wolves have fallen short.)

In 2019, LNN proposed a *Wolf Watchers Management Area* along the boundary of Yellowstone Park to safeguard park wolves, enhance wolf watching, and lessen the conflict between wildlife tourism and wolf hunting. Please let us know if you'd like to help LNN with this project. A special thanks to Heather Myers of Idaho and Dagmar Riddle of Montana for their help tabling in Yellowstone National Park!

(5)





LNN Kenya Scholarships

Life Net scholarships empower young Maasai men and women as professionals in wildlife tourism. Working as a safari guide gives Maasai youth a voice and a way to advocate for wildlife conservation in their communities and with people from around the world.

Nancy Lepore (photo left), a LNN scholarship recipient, completed her Bronze Certificate in wildlife tourism from Koiyaki Guiding School in Kenya in December 2019. Previous LNN scholarship recipients, Ann Saruni and Tumpesia Ann, also Koiyaki grads, have won national recognition as Kenyan safari guides. David Kapio, another LNN supported grad of Koiyaki, now works with MMCWS as a giraffe monitor.

Moses Letto (below) received a LNN scholarship in 2019 and will complete a Diploma in wildlife conservation and tourism in 2020. He is a scholar at the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya's Center for Tourism Training and Research. He is the first scholarship recipient

to attend this program and has been doing very well. You can find Moses on Facebook where he posts wildlife news and actions we can take to help nature.



In 2019, LNN scholarships were won by Emily Sosoika to study culinary arts at the Maasai Education Center near Lolgorien, and Julius Morongo to study tourism at Utali College in Nairobi (photos below).



.....Emily and Julius won LNN scholarships and start their studies in 2020



Progress from LNN/MMCWS Trainee to Scholarship to Employment in Conservation



Volunteers

Over 40 people of all ages and backgrounds learned more about wildlife conservation and field research by volunteering and working with LNN in 2019.

Kevin Shaw, in front of team (right), led the summer LNN cloud forest birds team in Ecuador, assisted by reserve stewards, Alex Penn and Georgia Platt, LNN volunteers Anita Hayworth, Allison Conner, and Elias Hadjes, and Ecuadorian staff Alicia Torres, Jessica Medina, Pascual Torres, and Mauricio Torres.



In Kenya, Dr. Dusti Becker led the summer wildlife conservation expedition assisted by



volunteers Heather Simmons, Tye Rigdon, Carrie Johnson, Don Wainwright, and Amanda Ward, and co-hosted by Maasai Moran Conservation and Walking Safaris members R @ • [} Á [] ^ | Æ Sereny Nagut, Julius Morongo, Reuben Nagut, Letoto Nyaru, David Kapio, Emily Sosoika, and Winnie Lankas (left).

Four Ecuadorian and 14 Kenyans , ^ | ^ employment during the LNN projects.

In December, LNN's Dr. Dusti Becker, Ecuadorian staff, and reserve managers Guillermo Gómez and Ayla González, were assisted by 7 volunteers, Atley Elliot, Dorian Rose, Elizabeth Martin, Bianca Keys, Dennis Hart, Kerrith McKay, Tyler Gatti, and Co-leader Kevin Shaw (right).

Seven recent college graduates also gained valuable work experience in conservation as stewards of the LNN-supported Reserva Las Tangaras protected area in Ecuador.



(7)





In Chile, LNN teams travelled in remote, rugged, and exceptionally beautiful terrain to carry out surveys for the huemul deer.

Participants included Denise Carrasco A. (with hand on trail camera in photo), Pablo Espinosa C., Nicolas Gonzalez V., Nicolas Herrera W., Martin Kennedy, Peter Kennedy, Andres Felipe Pena M., Manuel Valdés P., Tomas Kennedy, and Tony Povilitis.

2019 LNN Financials

INCOME

Total income in 2019 was \$42,865 (Figure 1, Table 1). Cost-share donations from volunteers on LNN field projects made up 66%. When compared with expenses (Figure 2), volunteer programs, targeted, and general fundraisers fell short of covering 2019 expenses by \$2,127.

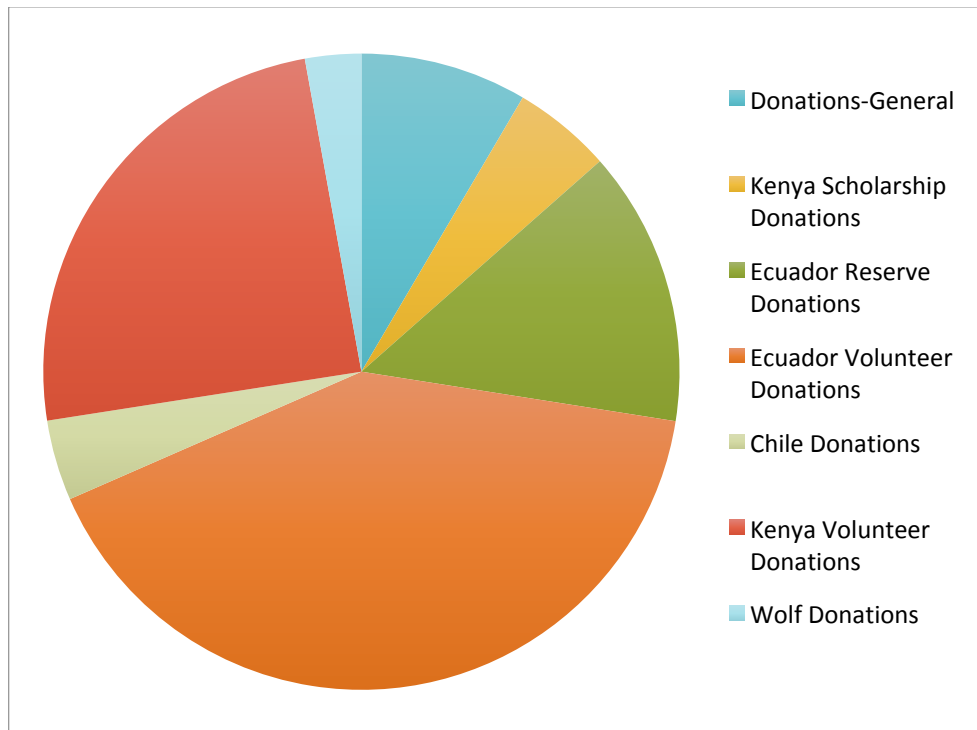


Figure 1. In 2019 total income was \$42,865 from sources as shown above.



Table 1. Numerical details of LNN income in 2019 (second column is %)

Income 2019	\$ U.S.	%
Donations-General	3,630	8.5
Kenya Scholarship Donations	2,153	5.0
Ecuador Reserve Donations	6,000	14.0
Ecuador Volunteer Donations	17,555	41.0
Chile Donations	1,755	4.1
Kenya Volunteer Donations	10,550	24.6
Wolf Donations	1,222	2.9

For the Kenya program, expenses exceeded income by \$7,810. To offset such shortfalls in the future we are applying for grants in 2020 to support the Kenya program. Projects in Chile and Yellowstone also exceeded funds raised for them (Figure 2, Table 2). For 2020, we will be relying more on local colleagues to advance the projects to reduce travel, food and lodging expenses.

Ecuador was self-sustaining in 2019 and has been so over the years, partially due to one committed donor who annually supports Las Tangaras Reserve. Also, expenses like transport and lodging are lower in Ecuador than at other project sites.

Administrative overhead was 7.6% in 2019 allocated to computer and photographic equipment, Internet and phone, some travel, and property tax on Life Net conservation land in Arizona.

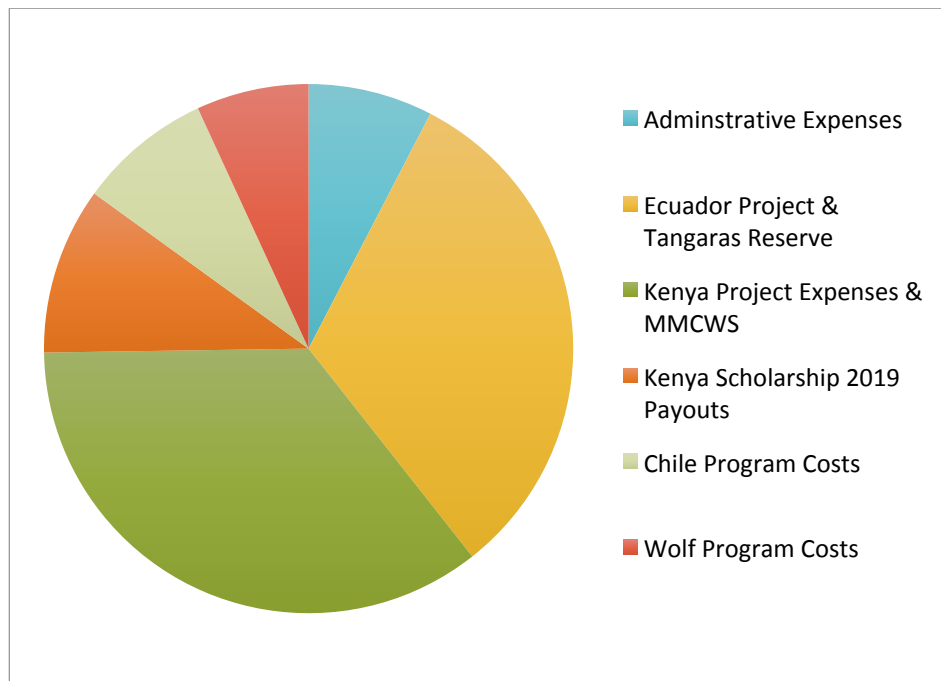


Figure 2. In 2019 total expenses were \$44,992 with Kenya and Ecuador field program expenses accounting for 67%.



Table 2. LNN expenses in 2019

Expenses 2019	\$ U.S.	%
Administrative Expenses	3,426	7.6
Ecuador Project & Las Tangaras Reserve	14,292	31.8
Kenya Project Expenses & MMCWS	15,919	35.4
Kenya Scholarships: 2019 Payouts	4,594	10.2
Chile Program Costs	3,670	8.2
Wolf Program Costs	3,091	6.9

Thank You to 2019 Donors & Volunteers!

In 2019, we hosted 19 cost-share volunteers on field projects, and were supported by the many kind donors listed below. **Sustainers, those who have supported us in 2019 as well as for more than a decade are shown in bold.** Top donors in 2019 and repeat volunteers are also highlighted with asterisks.

Ecuador	Kenya	Chile & USA	All Programs	All Programs
Mark Hollingsworth**	Heather Simmons**	Susana & Rudy Guerrero**	Srividya Sundar	David Yetman**
Elizabeth Martin	Tyee Rigdon	Heather Myers*	Anna Pidgeon	Steve Yilit
Anita Hayworth*	Carrie Johnson*	Dagmar Riddle	Mary Warbasse	Susan & Lee Wethington**
Alison Connor	Larry Vereen**	Ana Knapp	Lindsay Mather	Alison Van Keuren**
Elias Hadjes	Monica Olney	Diane Haughney	Susan Van Kuiken	Rachel Dash**
Kevin Shaw*	Amanda Ward*	Ed Golumbe	Susan Schmidt**	Alexandra Corwin**
Kerrith Mckay*	Ferdi Businger	Bryan Snyder	Tom Davis**	Patrice Mushlin
Dorian Rose	Amber O'hara	Phyllis Nathan	Kathy Lacey	Mark Kern
Atley Elliot	Julie Conley	Kenneth Proudfoot	Richard Warner	Susan Arbutnot**
Bianca Keys	Susana & Rudy Guerrero**	Mickey Abramson	Heather Simmons**	Gregg Gorton
Dennis Hart	Shannon Moore*	David Joslyn	Nima Veiseh	Steve Marlatt
Sarah Labrie	Jeff Bassette**	Indigo Taylor-Noguera	Colleen Sorensen**	Melina Lew
Tyler Gatti	Don Wainwright**	Minna Pyhala		
	Melaina Wallace	Adam Lackner		
		Melissa Bahleda		
		Jill Crowley		

**** Lion Kings & Queens – Top donors in 2019**

*** Golden Tanager Club – Volunteered again in 2019**





Huemul in the Andes of Chile & Wolves in Yellowstone National Park

Looking Forward

Eight citizen-science volunteers have enlisted for bird banding and monitoring at Reserva Las Tangaras in Ecuador for June 2020. We have four volunteers signed on for the LNN wildlife conservation expedition to Kenya scheduled for the second half of August 2020. We hope to recruit several more adventurous wildlife enthusiasts for the Kenya project! And the call is out for more volunteers for the LNN cloud forest bird-monitoring program in December 2020.

We are excited about our talented volunteer grant writer, Heather Simmons, who recently submitted a proposal to Disney Foundation for giraffe conservation efforts in Kenya. We continue to seek support for our Maasai conservation partners in Kenya for community outreach and advocacy for a community conservancy; and for continued giraffe monitoring and studies on mother-infant giraffe and their habitat use on the Siria Plateau. We hope to expand our scholarship program so that Maasai youth can attend entry-level college and technical training in wildlife conservation and tourism. We may also start supporting tuition for primary and secondary school for families participating in the giraffe conservancy.

Our Chile project's focus will be on building *Fundacion Huemul Andino*, promoting its habitat conservation goals, and providing technical assistance for expanded field surveys by our Chilean colleagues. We'll continue advocating for policy to prevent the unethical shooting and trapping of Yellowstone's wolves near the boundary of the park on public lands.

Life Net Nature Leadership

We are an energetic group of well-educated volunteers giving our time to Life Net Nature's mission and programs.

Co- Directors: Dr. Dusti Becker and Dr. Tony Povilitis

Board: Dr. Larry Vereen, Mike Walker, Dusti Becker and Tony Povilitis

Grants Manager: Heather Simmons

Science Advisory: Dr. Petra Campbell, Kevin Shaw, Kerrith McKay, Melaina Wallace

Grant Referees: Drs. Julian Fennesy, Daniel Rubenstein, Susan Wethington, Karl Larsen



Editorial Assistance: Dr. Susan Schmidt

Web and Internet Management: Melina Lew



Dr. Larry Vereen, Board Member

We Need Your Help

We are passionate about protecting giraffe in Kenya, endangered huemul in Chile, Yellowstone wolves, and birds in Ecuador, but all these on-the-ground efforts require money. Our entire U.S. staff is volunteer, so in 2019 more than 92% of your donations went directly to wildlife conservation at project sites.

Every Penny Matters!

You can donate online at the Life Net website: <https://lifenetnature.org/donate/>

At the Life Net Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LifeNetNature/>

By mail: Life Net Nature, 6423 S. Bascom Trl, Willcox, AZ 85643

Volunteer and Help Make a Difference

Besides making a direct donation to Life Net Nature, there are other ways you can support its conservation goals and mission. Joining a cost-share volunteer expedition in Kenya or Ecuador are options. Likewise, potentially for less expense and at your own convenience, you can design your own volunteer experiences at project sites with guidance from Life Net Nature.

- Volunteer in Kenya or Ecuador in 2020 – Get more info
- Volunteer at one of our conservation sites
- Volunteer in a different way: _____

Please visit our website (<https://lifenetnature.org>) to learn more, call us at 520.507.6685, email Dr. Dusti Becker at dustibecker@lifenetnature.org, or send this form by mail to Life Net Nature 6423 S. Bascom Trl, Willcox, AZ USA. 85643

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

