



Annual Report  
Asociación Cívica de Nosara  
2019 -2020

## Letter from president

---

We, together, are standing at the beginning of the most important decade in human history. During the next 10 years, humanity as a whole will have to work on reducing our carbon footprint by 50%. This, dear members, includes us as well.

The good news is that this is on our radar, and we are working strongly to meet our collective goals. The bad news is that we are a coastal community located in one of the cantons that has been determined to be at greatest risk in Costa Rica. The opening statement might sound a little shocking, and maybe it should. The challenge ahead of us is significant. However, so is our commitment and will to do what it takes to create a better future.

Our organization has been a pioneer in environmental protection for over 40 years. From transforming 240 hectares of cattle land destined to become a golf course into a secondary forest that captures 7.8 tons of carbon per hectare per year. From engaging with the national government back in 1985 to protect the maritime zone and turn it into the pristine refuge that is home to hundreds of species; an area that we all get to use and enjoy its benefits. And most recently, working with our local government (Municipality of Nicoya) and national government (National System of Protected Areas-SINAC) to establish regulations designed to protect the wildlife that surrounds us, a challenge and privilege that comes with the responsibility of living in the buffer zone of a protected area.

Today, I invite you to keep supporting a legacy built by the forward thinking visionaries who shaped our community. A community which is today thriving on a foundation forged by the Nosara Civic Association pioneers.

We can and should all have a part to play in this collaborative process of co-creating our future. In fact we need to have everyone be part of this process. There are a lot of exciting challenges in the pipeline, including, a carbon emissions inventory for our community, a feasible closure of the local dump, improving and expanding our trails system, increasing research on our parklands, and much more. If any of these projects sounds interesting to you, then please reach out! If you have a new idea, again, reach out and speak up. The board of directors would like to thank you for your trust and ongoing support. We look forward to serving you one more year.

Ethel "Kuki" Araya , President - Board of Directors

---

During 2019 the NCA hired two full time employees to monitor and improve conditions in 240 hectares of NCA parklands, - located in Guiones, Las Huacas and Pelada. Actions include:

- Weekly boundary monitoring
- Signage in all NCA parklands (Yellow signs)



Rafael Díaz.



Boanerges Montiel.



2018



2019

**2018**

- 6 parklands completely fenced
- 5 parklands partially fenced
- 22 parklands pending

**2019**

- 6 parklands completely fenced
- 22 parklands partially fenced
- 4 parklands pending



- Regimen Forestal: the majority of NCA properties are included in regimen forestal and are thus exempted from paying taxes.
- Environmental Engineering students from the University of Florida came to support the NCA efforts to close the dumpsite; after an extensive analysis they presented two possible options for the dump:
  - ◆ Compact and seal the garbage in site
  - ◆ Haul the waste to Santa Cruz and backfill the area with new soil.
- The first group of volunteers from the US came to Nosara to work on one of the NCA parklands fencing projects in June 2019. We secured a new group of volunteers for June 2020 who will improve the conditions of the NCA building.
- The NCA installed the first signs for the trails that were announced back in January 2019. However, due to quality concerns, the signs were sent back to the manufacturer. The new ones should be arriving shortly.
- All NCA trails were correctly maintained and cleaned by NCA staff during 2019. Selina Hotel and Harmony Hotel are contributing to maintain specific trails throughout the year.

## Beaches

### CIMACO

The NCA continues to be a part of CIMACO (the advisory community group for the Ostional Refuge). The NCA attended 100% of the 11 meetings held during 2019, and continue to be members of the technical commission responsible for creating the regulations for the refuge.

The technical commission works on meeting all the requisites for the approval of the Management Plan. **On July 17th the Management Plan and the environmental studies were submitted to SETENA.** The NCA is working alongside SINAC to make adjustments to the submitted document before it can get its final approval. **All new documentation must be presented before March to be approved before June 2020.**



## Multi-actor Platform

The NCA played a key role in developing the Multi-actor Platform, which includes local stakeholders and business owners working to create financial and communitary mechanisms to support SINAC. This local platform assigned themselves the following tasks. :

1. Planned development for the buffer zone of the Refuge
2. Waste management
3. Restoration of the green zones next to the beach
4. Public-private financial mechanism to support SINAC
5. Sustainable tourism management

One of the most notable outcomes of this platform was the creation of a new tourism chamber for Nosara.



## Maintenance of Recycling Stations at the Beach Entrances

The NCA staff works hard to maintain the main beach entrances of Guiones (Main entrance and Bakers beach) and Pelada (Olgas entrance). Every Monday, Rafa and Boanerges pick up garbage, separate recyclables and clean the area.

Before



After





## Nosara River Biological Corridor

The NCA continues to participate in the Nosara River Biological Corridor, attending 100% of bi-monthly meetings during 2019. The most significant actions developed by the Corridor were:

- 6000 trees donated and planted by 31 beneficiaries along our corridor
- Support to the LCA (Communal Water League) that provides services to 40 ASADAS in our corridor
- 15 Educational activities exchange experiences conducted throughout 2019

## Building regulations

The NCA proposed building regulations for the Regulatory Plan Commission from the Municipality of Nicoya in May 2019. The Municipality accepted the regulations and started a process for its approval that included:

- 6 open information meetings held in Nosara
- The Muni opened weekly consultation on Mondays in Nosara.
- The draft was published 3 times in la Gaceta for consultation
- The municipal council agreed to publish the last and definitive version that will make the regulations mandatory on January 20th, 2020.



Maximum coverage



Building heights



Water treatment



Lighting





## Regulatory Plan

- During 2019, NCA president Kuki Araya continued to serve as a civil member of the Regulatory Plan Commission. The NCA's project coordinator Francisco Jiménez continues to work as technical secretary, thanks to a cooperation agreement signed in 2018 between NCA and the Municipality of Nicoya
- During 2019 NCA facilitated 100% of the regulatory plan commission meetings
- Phase 1 of the hydrogeological study for Nosara was approved.
- The municipality purchased sociodemographic data and the Planning Team started to create a database based on the information available for the canton.

- The first two meetings with institutions were held at the library of Nicoya during November, and coordinated by the Municipality of Nicoya.
- During 2020 it is expected work will begin at the community level, which will make the work more visible for local residents and open more opportunity for participation.
- 2020 will be an election year for Municipalities in Costa Rica. We are happy to report that all candidates have expressed support for the current Plan Regulator process.

**NOSARA**



**FOOD BANK**

2019 the NCA financially supported the Food Bank for the third year running, donating \$2000.



In 2019 the NCA continued to financially support the work of the Recycling Association by donating \$2,000. The NCA also supports the work of Nosara Recicla by providing free rent for their recycling center.



The NCA supports the work of the Bomberos de Nosara by providing free rent for the Bomberos Bodega and by donating \$1,000.



NCA supports the work of the ASADA Playas de Nosara by providing free rent for their offices and storage.

## Staff

- During 2019 the NCA obtained funds to hire Kattia Gutierrez, to work as administrative assistant and support the membership management of the organization. Kattia is originally from Nosara and holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the National University of Costa Rica.
- Francisco Jiménez continues working as project coordinator for the NCA. Francisco holds a bachelor's degree in Geography and a masters degree in Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing

## Membership

- Three new procedures were developed to improve the efficiency of the work performed at the organization.
  1. Income and expenses procedures
  2. Electronic Billing Procedure
  3. Membership Renewal process
- NCA membership increased 10%, reaching a total of 192 members by december 2019.
- We completed an external audit



During 2020, we will continue work we began in 2019 as part of our 5 year plan (2019-2023). Our 3 strategic goals remain the same:



**Beaches** : Support the management of the administration of the RNVSO to ensure the preservation of natural resources and raise awareness among the local population and visitors.



**Parklands** : Guarantee the permanent protection of the parks owned by the NCA, through the implementation of conservation strategies and the promotion of public use.



**Community Planning:** Support the Municipality of Nicoya in the construction and implementation of instruments for the sustainable management of the territory

During 2019, we developed a strategic plan that includes our 3 goals plus two administrative / internal work areas we aim to focus on. In total, we have 44 activities.



To achieve our goals, we are proposing the creation of 8 volunteer working commissions. We recognized the human capital that exist in our community and will invite both NCA members and non members to sign up for any of the following commissions:

Commission	Task
Administrative	Responsible for the permanent operation of the association, including monitoring the budget and its execution, execution of the strategic plan, monitoring the application of procedures and documentation in general.
Fundraising	Create and execute fundraising and recruitment strategies for new members
Communication	Create and execute communication procedures, responsible for disseminating the achievements of the association. Responsible for the marketing of the association and approval of the contents in social media
Community Engagement	Create and follow up on temporary commissions (Parkland, Dump, Climate Change and Trails) ensuring their effective operation
Parkland	Works in the resolution of disputes overlapping property
Dump Technical Closure	Focused on execution of landfill closure and property restoration
Climate Change	Create and execute climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies
Trails	Define and execute budget, need for infrastructure, location, construction parameters of the NCA trails



January 2020