“It is urgent to stop the environmental deterioration that we are causing, and we would have the power to do it only if we were aware that every decision we make compromises our future on this planet”

Paola Ruffo Ruffo
President of the Board of Directors
PRESENTATION

The programs and projects described herein are the result of fulfilling our obligation with all Sudcalifornianos, our partners and allies to conserve Baja California Sur’s natural capital.

Niparajá continues to achieve this thanks to the trust and generous support provided by our national and international donors. The confidence they continue to demonstrate allows us to accomplish the results and positive outcomes detailed in the following pages.

I am very proud of the most valuable resource that Niparajá has – its people. All of the Staff, Coordinators, Administrators, Directors and Members of the Board work with diligence and professionalism to achieve our mission. This happens every day; in the sea and below its surface, on land, in villages, cities and remote communities and in the interaction of the public, social, cultural and environmental life of our State.

Niparajá is here to serve the environment and all of us that live in it. There is clear evidence that nature does not need us; there is also clear evidence that without it we will not be able to survive. Caring for it is not optional; it is required of all of us.

Enrique Hambleton von Borstel
Board of Directors founding member
ABOUT US

The Natural History Society Niparajá AC was founded in 1990 as a civil society organization, by a group of volunteers committed with the protection of the environment and an orderly development of society.

We chose the name of a regional pre-Hispanic deity for our organization: Niparajá the God of the Pericú, lord of heaven, of the sea and the earth, creator of the peninsula, its plants, animals and human beings.

Over the years we have established a network of contacts and alliances with different sectors of the population, maintaining a permanent collaboration dialogue.

We understand the need and are committed to join efforts to provoke the change of Status quo and between all redefine what does quality of life mean, a prosperous community and a healthy environment. For this we propose alternative models of development seeking transparency and dialogue with the government. We believe it necessary and urgent to discuss and introduce successful economic models based on conservation.

At reaching three decades of work for this region, we can say that we have learned that: collaboration between sectors is indispensable for the achievement of our objectives; the generation of reliable, solid and truthful information provides the medullary support to transcend in time; but above all, the understanding of the delicate balance man-nature, science-culture, tradition-conservation and economic welfare-sustainable development that permeates our decision making is essential to achieve our mission.

We conceive the conservation of the environment as the best tool to transform and improve the quality of life for people in Baja California Sur. We trust that through coordinated work from all sectors in society we can convert our natural capital in a source of collective prosperity.

Our roots lie deep within Baja California Sur, our work and commitment to the land and the sea that surrounds it are evidence of the strength of our organization.
**OUR WORK**

Our mission is to conserve the natural heritage of Baja California Sur and promote sustainable development in the region.

To attain this mission, we promote the creation and implementation of conservation instruments, we encourage a society that uses its resources sustainably and we generate models that demonstrate the value of conservation.

These objectives come to life through our four programs:
LAND CONSERVATION

This Program is the oldest and within it is the purchase of land for conservation, the first of our initiatives. We work to protect terrestrial and coastal priority habitats and promote sustainable development of the communities. We promote that there are solid conservation instruments and adequate governance of the natural resources. To achieve this, we collaborate with rural communities, researchers, local producers, the three levels of government and other civil society organizations.

The geographical range of work of this program extends along all Sierras La Giganta and Guadalupe and the Coastal Corridor Loreto-La Paz.

We chose these areas for their great environmental, social and cultural value. In the Sierras La Giganta and Guadalupe is captured the water used in one of every two BCS locations.

The Sierras and the Coastal Corridor Loreto-La Paz protect landscapes and unique sites: oasis, glens, cliffs, streams, ranches, lagoons, beaches and small communities that seem unrelated to what happens in other geographies. By carefully observing, threats to the feasibility of this environment and its communities stand out. However, the natural resources are still in a good state of conservation and it is the opportune moment to prevent further deterioration.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS</th>
<th>We developed conservation and sustainable use actions for more than 1 MILLION HECTARES, which in a near future will allow the CREATION OF THE SIERRAS LA GIGANTA AND GUADALUPE BIOSPHERE RESERVE with elements of financing, territorial planning, strengthening productive processes, governance and social participation.</th>
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<tr>
<td>A WOOD TRANSFORMATION CENTER IN THE COMMUNITY OF LA SOLEDAD WAS FOUNDED</td>
<td>The solidity of the Regional Model for Sustainable Rural Development was reaffirmed after the inauguration of the MADE IN RANCH VISITOR CENTER, benefiting more than 200 producers with an INCREASE UP TO 300% IN PROFIT FROM THE PRODUCT SALE.</td>
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<td>The social and geographical scope of the REGIONAL MODEL FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SIERRA LA GIGANTA INCREASED due to the strengthening of local production chains with an effective social organization. Benefiting more than 500 inhabitants distributed in more than 250 thousand hectares.</td>
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<td>2,151.97 ha WERE CERTIFIED and integrated to the Natural Reserve El Portezuelo as AREAS DESTINATED VOLUNTARILY TO CONVERSION</td>
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<td></td>
<td>We kept 7,300 HECTARES FOR CONSERVATION IN THE NATURAL RESERVE EL PORTEZUELO, protecting oases, bighorn sheep, cougars and mule deer with various management actions such as surveillance of flora and fauna.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thanks to these actions, WE STRENGTHEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES THAT SIERRAS LA GIGANTA AND GUADALUPE HOST, promoting their conservation through sustainable rural development initiatives.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
One of the greatest current challenges for humanity is to effectively implement policies for the conservation of natural resources. Natural Protected Areas are today one of the most viable natural and cultural capital conservation instruments in the world. Well managed and with effective and participatory governance mechanisms, they can generate significant benefits that promote sustainable development for the communities that inhabit or depend on them.

In the Marine Conservation Program we work hand in hand with users and residents, academics, civil society organizations and authorities from the three levels of government to develop and implement joint strategies to promote and boost the conservation of the natural wealth that exists in the Gulf of California, particularly marine protected areas and their environment. To achieve this, we promote the creation of territorial planning instruments that complement the management of protected areas, strengthen the operational capacities of protected areas and promote the training and creation of spaces for social participation.

Baja California Sur is characterized by presenting a high number of ecosystems and wide biological and landscape richness, which has contributed to a third of its surface being under some category of protection. These landscapes and their biodiversity provide diverse ecosystem services, being recreation and tourism the most important for the State.

Our work is focused on three protected areas and their areas of influence: Marine Park of the Espiritu Santo Archipelago, Balandra Flora and Fauna Protected Area and Cabo Pulmo National Park.
We started the application of **POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIOCULTURAL AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY STRATEGIES** of the work plan established as a result of the Participatory Social Assessment in Cabo Pulmo.

As part of the process of strengthening and improving spaces for social participation in conservation; we generated the **PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ADVISORY BOARDS** and promoted the first joint meeting of the four Advisory Boards of the Flora and Fauna Protection Area for the Gulf of California Islands and formed the **GULF ISLANDS REGIONAL SUB-COUNCIL**.

The sum of all these actions have allowed us to **STRENGTHEN MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTE CONSERVATION OF 68,231 ha** where natural protected areas are included as well as the communities that inhabit their zones of influence.

With participation of fishermen, academics, students and government associates; we generated the information needed for the **EVALUATION OF THE MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCY OF THE ARCHIPELAGO OF ESPÍRITU SANTO MARINE ZONE NATIONAL PARK, B.C.S.** 10 years after its establishment.

We promoted the **FISCAL, COMMERCIAL AND LABOR REGULARIZATION** of businesses in Cabo Pulmo as part of the business strengthening project.

Our Accomplishments

We continue promoting that the community of La Paz know and use their natural resources in a sustainable way with events like the Rally Yo amo Balandra and the celebration of its anniversary as a protected area; joining to this effort the Baja California Sur Under-Secretariat for Sustainability, allowing us to reach **4,342 BENEFICIARIES.**
Fishing is a complex activity in Mexico and the world. Baja California Sur is the state with the largest coastlines in the country where the social, economic and cultural relevance of this activity is reflected in a deep and ancient fishing tradition that thousands of its residents depend on.

The Coastal Corridor Loreto-La Paz offers unique opportunities to implement sustainable fishing schemes focused on the welfare of the communities. The Corridor represents what the Gulf of California was more than 50 years ago: few inhabitants in small isolated communities that take advantage of resources by hand. Fisheries are still at good levels of conservation. More than 80 commercial scale species support the economy of more than 600 people distributed in eleven small communities, the largest of them of 260 inhabitants. Day by day there is a greater presence of fishermen with different techniques and without knowledge of the area, that generates over-exploitation of resources. There are few regulations to prevent this and surveillance mechanisms are still insufficient to enforce existing regulations.

Through this program we seek to create the conditions so that the Corridor communities are prosperous and resilient, with the tools to use marine resources in a responsible way. Achievements in the Corridor have inspired and have been replicated in other regions of Mexico. We also promote the creation and implementation of public policy instruments that generate the conditions for sustainable fishing at a national level maintaining this level of presence on issues such as strengthening of fishing cooperatives throughout the country.

Our work can only be achieved thanks to partnerships. Thus, we work with an increasingly wide network which includes other civil society organizations, government institutions and researchers. At the center of these alliances are the communities of the Corridor: fishermen and cooperatives, whom with their daily work show that it is possible to transition towards sustainable fishing.
7 years after the creation of the network of fishing refuge areas in the San Cosme to Punta Coyote Corridor

WE ADVISED AND TRAINED FISHERMEN FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY SO THAT THEY CAN REPLICATE THE CREATION OF FISHING REFUGE AREAS

Thanks to the active participation of the Corridor communities in the management of their refuge areas and the systematized information they themselves generate, they have become an example at a national level.

THE FIRST PROJECT OF FISHING IMPROVEMENT (FIP) FOR MULTI-SPECIFIC SCALE FISHING WAS PUBLISHED

In the San Cosme to Punta Coyote Corridor, the only one of its kind in the world so far, it will achieve the recognition of this fishery for its level of environmental sustainability, social responsibility and quality of its products.

In collaboration with EDF México

WE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL FISHING STATEMENT

that will allow scale concessions for the first time in our country.

WE CREATED A NATIONAL STRENGTHENING PROGRAM FOR FISHERIES ORGANIZATIONS

together with Duke University and CONMEOOP.

WE HOSTED THE 5TH EDITION OF THE MEETING “FROM FISHERMAN TO FISHERMAN” themed ready for change! and the participation of more than 100 fishermen from Mexico and Latin America. Who for 3 days shared and reflected on the current challenges that coastal fishermen are facing.

With these actions

WE PROMOTE PARTICIPATION OF THE CORRIDOR COMMUNITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING MANAGEMENT TOOLS that allow them to use their marine resources in a responsible way to prevent overfishing.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

With the aim of forming a network of fishermen that promotes learning through shared experiences,

Our Accomplishments
WATER AND CITY

We promote and create synergies between different actors to formulate solid strategies to preserve the natural resources that sustain life in the city of La Paz.

We focus our efforts on water issues and in public spaces governance. We seek adequate management and conservation actions to ensure this vital service provided by the basin.

Baja California Sur is the state where it rains least in Mexico. To the great challenge of having quality water for all, we must add other factors such as population growth, overexploitation of the La Paz aquifer, its contamination by saline intrusion and the progressive impact on recharge zones. Addressing these challenges is fundamental for our well-being.

Our quality of life is also defined by the existence of public spaces for recreation, coexistence and contact with nature. Balandra is one of the best examples. In the Water and City Program we work to achieve an efficient management of water and public spaces by promoting an active and informed participation of society.
We obtained appointment as part of the Advisory Board & Cabinet Member of Oomsapas La Paz together with Cómo vamos La Paz, we held the 2nd Transparency Fair, seeking to ensure that water distribution is carried out under a system of accountability and indicators that contribute to improving water management in La Paz.

Through these actions we achieve to occupy a space in the public management of the vital resource at a municipal level.

We promoted the Environmental Authorization Refusal to Minera San Antonio that seeks to extract 11 thousand tons of gold through open pit mining.

Developing a vision aimed at a comprehensive management of what our basin provides and needs to guarantee quality of life in the city of La Paz.

We represented Mexico in the 2nd Edition of the International Urban Forest Seminar where we share our knowledge about green infrastructure in arid zones and learnt from 22 countries around the world.

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Developing a vision aimed at a comprehensive management of what our basin provides and needs to guarantee quality of life in the city of La Paz.

We started the Integral Management Action Plan for the Basin of La Paz (PAMIC) following the FONNOR and INECC methodology. The PAMIC is a planning instrument that incorporates territorial dynamics through the basin approach that allows to integrate the efforts being made and direct resources towards a common objective, with the participation and consideration of each and every key actors.

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A proverb says that to arrive quickly walk alone, but to go far walk accompanied. In Niparajá we strive to go far. We have the deep conviction that any change in our society requires collaboration and network construction by alliances.

During 2019, as we have done since 1990, we have worked intensely accompanied and accompanying a large number of people, organizations and communities. We thank all of them their confidence, which we hope to see renewed in the coming years.

We still have a lot to do and we can only continue with the generous support from our partners, donors, friends, supporters and critics. Next we name those who had a fundamental role for the realization of our work during 2019:

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- National Forestry Commission
- Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature
- Soriana Foundation
- National Institute for Social Development – SEDESOL
- International Community Foundation
- Legacy Works Group
- Marisla Foundation
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- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
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- The National Science Foundation
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- The Sandler Family International Fund
- The Walton Family Foundation
- The Waterloo Foundation
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