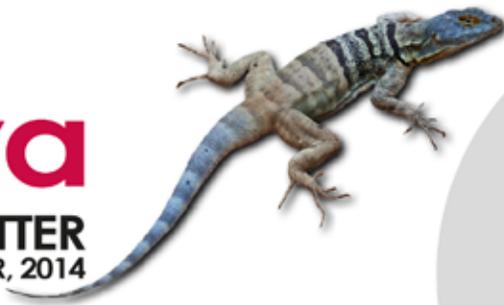


# la pitahaya

NIPARAJÁ'S NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER, 2014



UNLIKE THE SWEET FRUIT OF THE SAME NAME  
THIS NEWSLETTER COMES TWICE A YEAR  
(APRIL AND OCTOBER)  
HAVING INFORMATION OF THE THREE SEEDS  
THAT SPREAD OUR WORK FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF SUDCALIFORNIA'S NATURE.

## Presentation

Dear friends of Niparajá. In this newsletter we would like to inform you of the most important progress of our work, as well as to inform you of different events that we hope may interest you.

## Upcoming events...

### **Photo exhibition "Conoce nuestras sierras" (know our sierras)**

Through Miguel Ángel de la Cueva camera, we have captured the essence of the Sierras la Giganta and Guadalupe. Now it is not necessary to travel on the back of a mule to know the secrets that this magical environment keeps. We present you the third edition of this itinerant photo exhibition to share with you the astounding natural beauty that Sierras La Giganta and Guadalupe hide at the north of our state.

Dates in La Paz: December 5th -15th in The Shoppes plaza.

### **Informative event with residents from Loreto Bay**

We want more people to know our work and every month we gather with different groups. In November, we will have a presentation of our programmes with the residents of Loreto Bay. No admission, but limited numbers. In this invitation you can find more information.

Have you heard about Niparaja's work in natural conservation in BCS?

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**November 19th**

17-19 hrs  
Wine Cellar at Nopoló  
Finger food and cash bar



Come and know about our latest project: the conservation of the Sierras La Giganta and Guadalupe, guaranteeing a safe keep of the main water resource on the state.

Meet the authors of the book **OASIS OF STONE** which shows the beauty and particularity of the Sierras, available for sale and book signing



**Niparaja** is a mexican NGO that has been working since 1990 on a sustainable and collective preservation of marine, land and water environments in South Baja.

Today we are working specifically **on the conservation of the Sierras La Giganta and Guadalupe**, promoting the recognition of this area as a Biosphere Reserve that would benefit the communities that live up there and everyone else on BCS by guaranteeing a safe keep of the main water resource on the state.

# Marine Conservation Program

2nd Anniversary of Balandra as protection area for Flora and Fauna



**Balandra**  
Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna

**November 30th 2014**

## **2nd Anniversary of Balandra as protection area for Flora and Fauna**

This year we celebrated that **Balandra is ours!** with activities during all November. Balandra is ours and we are glad to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of this protected area which makes all **people from La Paz very proud.**

In cooperation with the National Commission of Protected Areas and Colectivo Balandra we participated with different events: itinerant photo exhibition in various spots of the city, workshops, and conferences, and to end with a flourish, an education fair on November 30th in the parking lot of **Balandra beach.**

Here the picture of the “Human Hongo” created to represent the contour of this natural rock formation that has become the iconic symbol of the beach. Around 250 people attended the celebration.

Thanks to the support of thousands of people we can say that Balandra is ours, keep participating on these events **to support Balandra’s conservation.**



# Land Conservation Program

Decree notice of the Biosphere reserve Sierra La Giganta and Guadalupe



## What is a Natural Protected Area in the category of Biosphere Reserve?

The Ecologic balance and environment protection law (LGEEPA in Spanish) establishes in the article 3º that:

*“The protected natural areas are zones of the national territory where the original environments have not been significantly altered by the human activities or that require to be preserve or restore”.*

For practical purposes, the most representative places of BCS, and that attract more tourists are protected areas: Laguna Ojo de Liebre, San Ignacio, Loreto Bay, California's gulf islands, Balandra, Cabo Pulmo.

Besides from being our principal tourist point, these areas held fishing activities worldwide known by its productivity, organic farming, livestock and different economic activities.

**Protected areas combine development and conservation and they try to give priority to the use of natural resources by the locals.**

Despite the diversity of protected areas, there is a **critical region** in our estate that has no protection of any kind, **where habitants are facing challenges that cannot be postponed since they live in unacceptable poverty and exclusion inside a prosperous estate like ours.**

We are talking about **Sierras La Giganta and Guadalupe.**



## Project Background

Since 2009, in cooperation with others we identified the complexity of social and environmental challenges that are facing Sierras La Giganta and Guadalupe.

With the participation of a multitask group formed by:

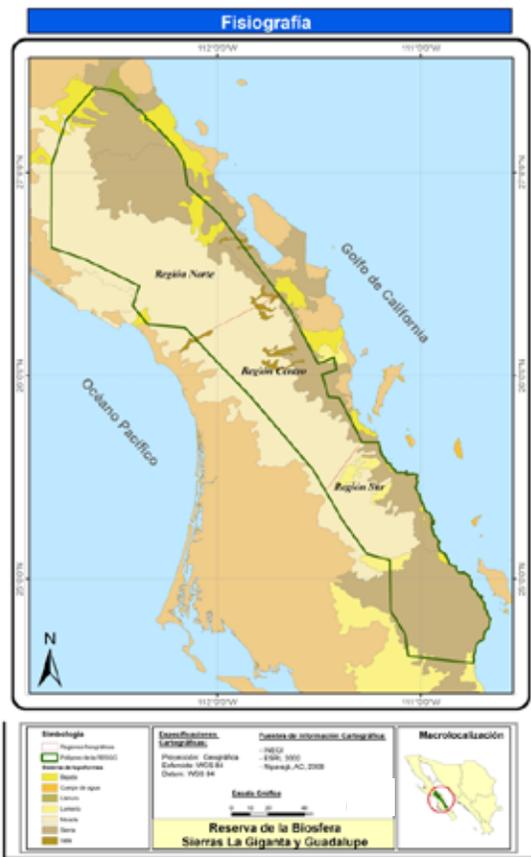


We initiate a process to identify the solutions to the different social, economic and environmental challenges that the Sierras have. In March 2011 it was delivered to the CONANP (National commission of natural protected areas) a previous supportive study with a proposal to create a Biosphere Reserve.

([http://www.conanp.gob.mx/acciones/pdf/EPJ\\_RB\\_Sierras\\_La\\_Giganta\\_y\\_Guadalupe\\_23jun2014.pdf](http://www.conanp.gob.mx/acciones/pdf/EPJ_RB_Sierras_La_Giganta_y_Guadalupe_23jun2014.pdf))

## What's Next?.....

The protected area doesn't exist yet, now is just starting the **opinion consultation process**, which is under CONANP control, and will create a work team to visit again to all the people involved. Through this process all people interested will be able to participate and know better the Biosphere Reserve proposal, which have the following characteristics and basis:



The Biosphere Reserve proposal has 1.6 million of hectares which only the 1.5% is nucleus zone.

These zones were identified with local users and won't affect the economic activities.

The rest is buffer zone, where productive activities could be made hosted by the local communities when the corresponding declaration is issued or with its participation (LGEEPA, article 48°).

Creating a Biosphere Reserve is not a threat.

Threats are already there.

These are ones of the most evident:

**Every five years the population is reduced between an 8 and 10%.**

If this keeps happening, for the year 2035 there will be barely some seniors in the sierras, incapable of making the sierras productive.

Traditional activities like livestock and sale of handcrafts are less profitable for the communities and the productive activities that are profitable like tourism and regulated hunting, give no significant benefits for the local communities, everything is kept by third parties.



Added to this, the communities lack of basic services such as health and education. And finally, there are problems with the land possession permits, which generate social problems and make the access to resources impossible.

All this creates a **lack of local opportunities in order to generate economic development models** and instead of that, there are an **over exploitation of natural resources and a cultural identity loss.**



# Water Conservation Program

## Los Cardones Mine



**Last June 31st was issued in the SEMARNAT gazette the authorization related to the environmental impact for the project “Los Cardones”.**

In summary, the authorization related to the environmental impact issued by the SEMARNAT talks only about the environmental aspects of the project and the activities described in the Environmental Impact Statement (MIA), but does not exempt it from the following authorizations (Page 162):

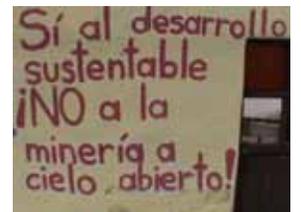
- 1** Authorization for use of soil change in forest land.
- 2** Authorization granted by CONANP (National Commission of Natural Protected Areas) for the exploration, exploitation or use of the natural resources in natural protected areas.
- 3** CONAGUA (National Commission of Water) authorization for the hydraulic infrastructure work, the concession for the occupancy of federal land and the concession for the use of superficial water.
- 4** Authorization of the General Department of Wildlife for the use of flora and fauna.

To download the complete resolution go to this page:  
(<https://docs.google.com/-le/d/0B7XIK3AyBVMbNVcxjF5bFpCeXc/preview>)

Besides from other permits, authorizations and concessions that are required by the three levels of government, **this is why the start of the project and activities is up to county and state authorities.**

The company also has to deliver in a 6 month period the following documents:

- Supervision and Vigilance Programme (Conditioning 4, page 166)
- Oil Conservation Programme (Conditioning 4, pages 166 and 167)
- Reforestation Programme (Conditioning 4, page 167)
- Waste Management Programme (Conditioning 4, page 167)
- Restoration Programme (Conditioning 4, pages 167 and 168)
- Rescue, collection and relocation of wild Flora and Fauna Programme (Conditioning 5, page 169)
- Supervision and Monitoring of mine tailings pipelines inside the Natural Protected Area Programme (Conditioning 9, pages 171 and 172)
- Attention to environmental contingencies and emergencies due to mine tailing leaks Programme (Conditioning 9, pages 171 and 172)
- Protocol to adopt in order to follow the regulations established by the International Cyanide Management Code (Conditioning 15, page 175)



**In summary, there are several opportunities to influence in different levels.**

It is to expect that CONANP denies the authorization since they issue a negative technical evaluation. And for the change of use of soil there are many obstacles since they haven't been able to prove the possession of the land. We are in contact with CONANP to work together.

The resolution has many inconsistencies that we are analyzing together with a group of experts and colleagues dedicated to this matter.



We have learned that the level of attention of the authorities to the legal resources (appeals, motions review, invalidity judgments) depends on the existence of a **public opinion informed and aware**, which is why we will be working A LOT mobilizing the public opinion regarding this matter.

Also, together with our partners, we will try to influence the **State and County Government so they don't authorize the project. Both parties have expressed themselves against it.**



**Niparajá is a civil association from Baja California Sur committed with the natural conservation and sustainable development of the region.**