

# la pitahaya

NIPARAJÁ'S NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER, 2016



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

## Presentation

Another year almost over with many events for us and our organization. This 2016 we fulfill 26 years of work and are celebrating with the publication of two significant books.

The book "Memories of Balandra" is the result of a citizens' movement that lasted 10 years and culminated in a decree with the category of Flora and Fauna Protected Area. It describes the importance of the area, and documents the experiences of the different actors who were part of this movement and an analysis of the lessons learned is made.



## MEMORIAS DE BALANDRA

Este libro ha sido elaborado por  
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Gobierno del Estado de Baja California Sur  
Instituto Sudcaliforniano de Cultura  
Secretaría de Cultura  
Instituto del Patrimonio Natural y Cultural, S.C.

With no doubt ¡Balandra is and will continue to be of the Sudcalifornians!

We will keep you informed about the date to present the book and where you can get it, thanks to the collaboration with the Culture Institute of Baja California Sur.

This year we also achieved certification as a Voluntarily Destined Area for Conservation granted by the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), of the last property acquired for our Natural Reserve El Portezuelo, which fills us with pride.



Do not forget to follow us on our social networks where we daily share information about our work, results, progress, successes, joint achievements with allies and other information on our four conservation programs.



## Upcoming events

Adopt a Palo Blanco tree (*Lysiloma candidum*)

In a state like Baja California Sur where rainfall is so scarce, it is important to implement measures that will help us reduce our water consumption, for example, have native vegetation in our city decreases water consumption on irrigation and simultaneously generates environmental and social benefits.

So we are giving away 500 Palos Blancos trees (*Lysiloma candidum*) in the kiosk of the Malecon. These trees are characterized by reaching measure of 10m high, are resistant to sun, provide shade, require little water and are resistant to hurricanes.

The only requirement to adopt is committing to its care. Give it the opportunity to grow in your backyard.

Come for yours!

Date: Friday November 4th

Time: 6 to 8pm

Place: Where the dove sculpture is besides the Kiosk at the Malecon.

La vegetación es un elemento fundamental en nuestro entorno, mejora nuestra calidad de vida al brindarnos múltiples beneficios ambientales y sociales.

**¡La mejor opción para tu jardín son las plantas nativas!**

El próximo **4 de Noviembre** Niparajá estará regalando 500 Palos Blancos (*Lysiloma candidum*).

Te esperamos en la Paloma del Malecón a partir de las **18:00 hrs**

**¡Ven por el tuyo!**

Los **Palos Blancos** son árboles que se caracterizan por llegar a medir 10m de alto, son resistentes al sol, proporcionan sombra, requieren de poca agua, son resistentes al paso de los huracanes y se propagan fácilmente.



4th anniversary of Balandra as a Flora and Fauna Protected Area

We invite you to be part of this celebration where more than 15 civil society organizations, groups and government institutions will hold the celebration "Balandra more than sun and beach", where participants will have the opportunity to learn in a fun way the importance of this beach for our city.

There will be sports activities, guided kayak, trail and panga rides, children's activities, itinerant mollusks and reptiles museums, cultural activities, among others.

Don't miss it!

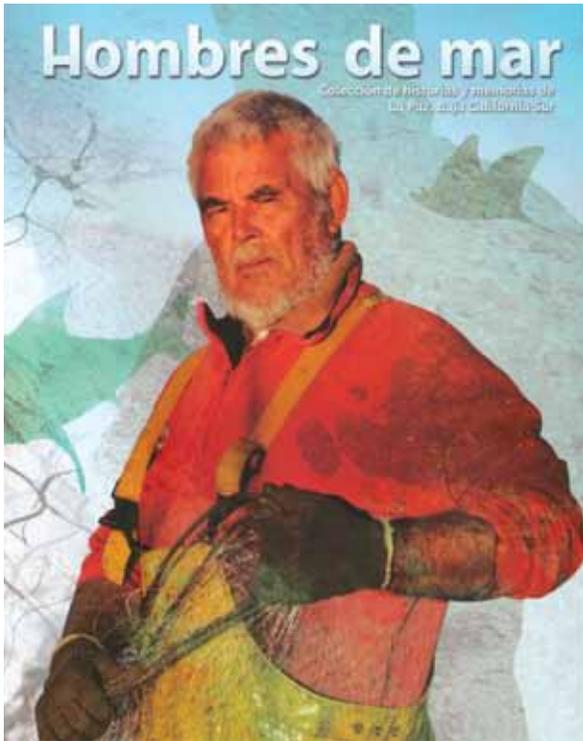
Date: Sunday November 27th

Time: 10am to 5pm

Place: Balandra beach

Familiar event completely free of cost

**DOMINGO**  
**27 NOV 2016**  
**10 AM - 5 PM**

The poster is for the anniversary of the Balandra Flora and Fauna Protection Area. It features a large, stylized number '1' in the background, with a silhouette of a mushroom-shaped rock formation inside it. Below the '1' is a blue horizontal band representing water, and a brown band representing land. The text "ANIVERSARIO" is in large grey letters, followed by "ÁREA DE PROTECCIÓN DE FLORA Y FAUNA" in smaller orange letters, and "BALANDRA" in large orange letters. To the right of the text is a cartoon illustration of a man in yellow shorts and sunglasses, standing on a brick wall. Below the main text are four categories of activities: "PASEOS GUIADOS", "ACTIVIDADES DEPORTIVAS", "ACTIVIDADES CULTURALES", and "ACTIVIDADES INFANTILES". At the bottom, there is a small text line: "Evento gratuito y familiar. Transporte gratuito en la zona de los pozos de mariscos. Una tarde de fiesta, baile, concursos, juegos, talleres y mucho más." and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and a website link: [www.balandrafauna.org](http://www.balandrafauna.org).

### "Men of sea" book presentation

Men of sea is born from a decade of interviews with men and women of La Paz, Baja California Sur, traditional fishermen's neighborhoods: The Esterito and El Manglito and some surrounding communities. Overall, respondents were fishermen over 65 years, but there are also included buyers and neighbors.

This is a collection of memories, only that, with the intention to take us by the hand to the fishing traditions of the past in a simple way and through the eyes of those who lived this activity in other times without modernities.

Again thanks to the collaboration with the Culture Institute of Baja California Sur is that we tried to capture the essence of our city's fishermen.

Join us!

Date: Tuesday November 29th

Time: 6 to 8pm

Place: Arts Centre of Popular Traditions and Cultures of the State. (Madero and 5 de Mayo downtown)



# LAND CONSERVATION



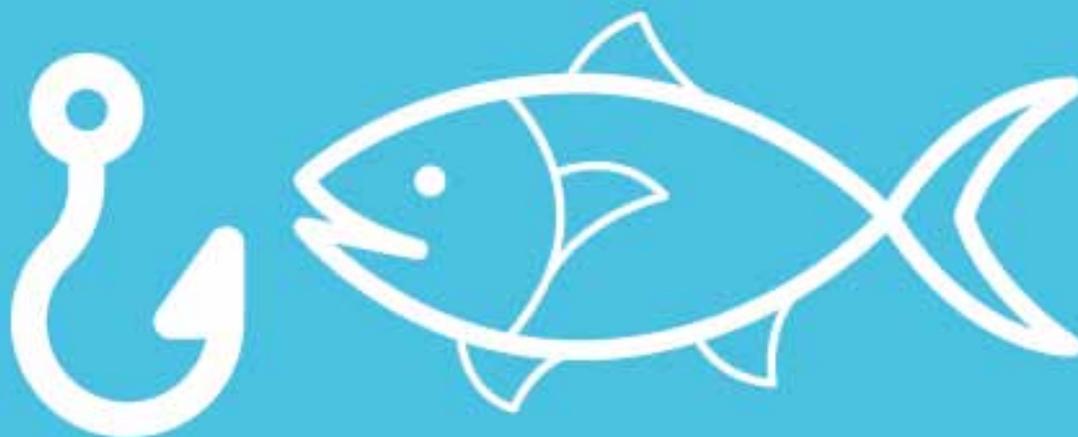
As part of the management activities we do at the Natural Reserve El Portezuelo this year four new sensor cameras were installed, allowing us to expand the monitoring system of relevant species of wildlife that inhabit this region and ecosystem, some of which are endemic species such as: bighorn sheep, mule deer and puma.

The cameras are located at strategic points where we discovered animal activity, for example, two of them are directed in front of a water source at the bottom of a hill, where we manage to capture individuals and groups of all the known species that inhabit the area from different angles than before.

If you are interested in participating in this project, stay tuned to our social networks because soon we will promote dynamics of collaboration where you can "Sponsor a ranger" or "Sponsor a sensor camera."

We leave you some of the best photographs selected from the newly installed cameras this year in the natural reserve.





# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES



On November 16, 2012 the Federal Office of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food Supply (SAGARPA)

officially announced the implementation of eleven No Take Zones (NTZ) in the corridor that forms on the coast of the Sea of Cortez between the cities of La Paz and Loreto. We know this corridor as Corridor San Cosme to Punta Coyote.

After two years of work with the thirteen fishing communities living throughout the Corridor it was jointly determined the need to maintain fish production and the initialize the recovery of some species, by prohibiting fisheries at critical sites so the breeding and reproduction places could be protected, restore sites that were once important and mitigate the deterioration of marine resources in the area.

Since then, our work continues hand by hand with the fishermen of these communities, as the success and efficiency of the network depends on a constant surveillance to ensure respect of the agreements established with authorities and between fishing communities.

That is why this past February 2016, as a test, five cameras that are part of a surveillance system were installed in some of the NTZ of the network. The pilot program consists of a set period of time in which the cameras will be working to capture images and / or video periodically in order to analyze whether the methodology works or not, what to improve and which is the best way to use the information generated.



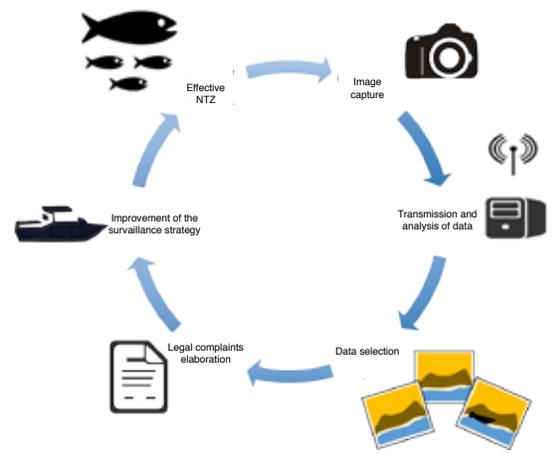
The pilot program is the result of a collaboration between the National Commission for Fishing (CONAPESCA), the Federation of Fishing Cooperatives Central Area (FEDECOOP Zona Centro) and us. The service provider is an expert in monitoring of fishery products and coastal programs of vigilance.

How does it work? The cameras capture information, subsequently trained technicians download and send the info to the service provider, who categorizes it and selects what shows illegal activities in the NTZ to deliver to the Collaborative Group and take the necessary action.

The objectives of the program are:

1. Decrease illegal fishing
2. Get evidence for legal complaint processes
3. Generate credibility in the NTZ as a management tool and also to generate confidence between users and residents in the area
4. Support in the analysis of effectiveness of the NTZ

In the next newsletter we will inform you of the results of this project.



## Fundraising campaign to strengthen surveillance actions in Marine Protected Areas: Heroes Wanted



# MARINE CONSERVATION



The Gulf of California is a priority region because of the diversity and abundance of species and ecosystems. One of the main threats is the failure of both environmental legal framework and fishing, causing the decline of fisheries resources, habitat degradation and loss of biodiversity.

The establishment of Protected Natural Areas (PNA) aims to reduce and reverse these impacts, however, limited resources applied to enforcement and insufficient inter-agency coordination, reduce their impact.

In recent years, the philanthropic investment to address these issues has begun to increase, primarily in order to generate working models in the art that, in the medium term, could be financially sustainable.

This campaign aims to increase the funding available for surveillance systems in marine protected areas of the Gulf of California, through the participation of the public and the private sector.

To achieve this, by the end of 2015 the initiative Parallel 28, composed of four civil society organizations was created: Eco-Alianza de Loreto, Pronatura Noroeste A.C., Citizens Observer Network and Natural History Society Niparáj, A.C. who, together with advertising agency Ontwice Mexico launched the campaign "Wanted heroes."

With this campaign Parallel 28 calls to two main audiences:  
visitors to the PNA and entrepreneurs directly or indirectly related to their use.



Collaterally the message will reach the general public, and is also expected contribution from this audience to strengthen inspection programs and monitoring of protected areas.

In the first stage of this campaign, the impact of these actions will benefit 7 PNA of the Gulf of California:

- (1) Marieta Islands National Park, Nayarit;
- (2) Loreto Bay National Park, B.C.S.,
- (3) Cabo Pulmo National Park, B.C.S.,
- (4) Marine Zone of the Espíritu Santo Archipelago National Park, B.C.S.,
- (5) Balandra Flora and Fauna Protection Area, B.C.S.,
- (6) Bay of Angels, Whale channel and Salsipuedes Biosphere Reserve, B.C. and
- (7) Archipelago of San Lorenzo National Park, B.C.

It is important to clarify that Parallel 28 has the approach and main function of the fundraising strategy, while the civil society organizations are the implementing and / or the liason with the authorities for the execution of the resources.

Join Parallel 28 and contribute!



**BE A HERO. MAKE A DONATION**

## Monitoring water quality in wells in the city of La Paz



# WATER AND CITY



To follow up the issue of water quality in wells in the basin of La Paz, for the third consecutive year, we conducted in the months of August and September with collaboration of the Citizen Observatory of Water and Sanitation of La Paz (OCAS) and support from the Municipality Water System Operator (OOMSAPAS) the first phase of monitoring corresponding to the dry season wells. Samples of 55 wells located within the city of La Paz were taken and for the first time three wells located in the upper part of the basin were sampled as well.

Within the parameters measured in situ were pH, temperature, conductivity and total dissolved solids; They are currently being analyzed anions and cations.

The monitoring aims to know the quality of water distributed in the city of La Paz, the progress in saline intrusion and the presence of heavy metals in the basin.

Wait for more news in the months to come!



**Niparajá is a Civil Association from Baja California Sur dedicated to conserve the natural heritage and promote the sustainable development of the region.**

**DONATE**

