ECOLOGY PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

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OUR MSSION. We inspire youth with nature and empower them with science,

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- fostering tomorrow's leaders.
- OUR VISION: We envision a diverse movement building communities that cherish and restore the ecosystems that sustain them.





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EPI'S REMARKABLE 2022 JOURNEY

Dear Supporters of Ecology Project International,

As we reflect on 2022, we are delighted to celebrate a return to more normal EPI field programming, marked by community growth in environmental literacy, impactful conservation intitiatives, and transformative student experiences. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support, which has been instrumental in achieving these milestones:

- In Yellowstone, the launch of the Montana Science Teaching Institute (MSTI) and curriculum evolution for Indigenous communities signifies our commitment to inclusive environmental education. The success of the Buffalo Nations Landmark Workshop further solidifies our dedication to fostering a deeper connection to Yellowstone's rich history.
- The collaborative efforts of Pacuare Reserve and the Costa Rican Red Cross have helped to uphold recognition from the prestigious Ecological Blue Flag Program.
- In Belize, the post-pandemic return to programming and collaborations with T.R.E.E.S. underscores our dedication to collaborating with scientific research partners.
- Mexico's achievements, including a 41% increase in environmental literacy, showcase the tangible outcomes of your support.
- EPI Galapagos students continue to protect giant tortoises as well as involve widespread community efforts to protect green turtle nests at Tortuga Bay.

The 2022 season showcased a blend of educational, conservation, and community-driven activities, highlighting EPI's commitment to environmental awareness and sustainable practices. As we navigate the path forward, we remain closely connected to our mission: inspiring youth with nature and empowering them with science, fostering tomorrow's leaders. Your support has been the cornerstone of our success, and we look to the future with hopefulness and excitement.

With deepest gratitude,

ECOLOGY PROJECT INTERNATIONAL







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EPILEADERSHIP





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ALEXEI DESMARIAIS Yellowstone Program Manager



HALEY HANSON Director of Communications & Culture



MARLU ROBLEDO Mexico Program Manager

Ecology Project International derives its strength from programs that honor and celebrate local cultures. Since 2011, EPI has prioritized in-country leadership at every field site, entrusting decisionmaking to those with the most relevant expertise. This dedication to recognizing diverse cultural values, extending from alumni to leaders, has empowered the organization to bridge knowledge gaps and foster adaptability for the past 22 years.

EPIIN THE NOTABLE MOMENTS IN 2022

YELLOWSTONE WILDLIFE & WINTER ECOLOGY

EPI Yellowstone prioritized inclusive environmental education in Montana communities by launching the Montana Science Teaching Institute (MSTI), an online workshop series for rural science teachers. This initiative connected educators and provided crucial climate change education.

In addition, EPI Yellowstone continued to evolve its curriculum to be more culturally specific for Indigenous communities, creating a unique, emotionally safe experience in Yellowstone. Training focused on working with Indigenous populations, integrating Native educators, and ensuring cultural components were deeply embedded. Collaborating with Fort Peck Community College, Montana State University, and Tribal Buffalo Management programs, EPI hosted the Buffalo Nations Landmark Workshop. This K-12 training explored the historic relationship between Native American tribes and Yellowstone, emphasizing the American bison.

HAWAII **ISLAND ECOLOGY**

The Hawaii Island Ecology Program provided an immersive experience for 58 students amid the breathtaking natural landscapes of Maui. Equipping them with a diverse set of tools and contexts, the program aimed to address and comprehend the pressing conservation issues threatening the islands. Students delved deeper into Maui's ecology through active participation in various research projects, such as conducting reef fish surveys, utilizing GIS technology to combat invasive plant species in a native rainforest preserve, and meticulously collecting and cataloging marine debris along Maui's north shore.

GALAPAGOS ISLAND ECOLOGY

In collaboration with the Galápagos National Park Directorate, EPI Galapagos established a pilot program for the protection of giant tortoises near Santa Cruz's populated areas. This group consisted of 19 youth aged 14 to 18 from Santa Cruz, trained on giant tortoise ecology, threats they face near populated areas, and a monitoring protocol for data collection in conflict zones. The program aimed to address emerging conflicts between giant tortoises and humans, such as litter ingestion, road mortality, and the impact of introduced species like pets. By the end of 2022, 88 local youths participated in a 3-day course on giant tortoises.

Community youth and members of the Mola Mola Eco Club participated in the Community Monitoring and Citizen Science Program for the Protection of Sea Turtles. A total of 114 participants and community members assisted in protecting green turtle nests during 20 monitoring sessions. Participants protected 27 green turtle nests at the Tortuga Bay nesting site, excavating a total of 12 nests.















COSTA RICA SEA TURTLE ECOLOGY

In 2022, The Reserve's species were monitored by a collaborative effort involving 149 local students and teachers, 256 eco-travelers, and 193 volunteers, research assistants, and staff members.

This year marked a significant milestone for Pacuare Reserve as it gained national recognition after entering into a strategic partnership with the Costa Rican Red Cross to enhance community resilience to climate change, safeguard natural resources, and advance Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, the Costa Rican Ecological Blue Flag Program awarded The Reserve three white stars in acknowledgment of its exceptional efforts in beach conservation and education.

COLORADO ROCKY MOUNTAIN ECOLOGY

New in 2022! In August, EPI hosted a groundbreaking pilot teacher professional development (PD) course. This inaugural program served as an introduction to the field site and partners, offering a successful blend of engaging activities and exposure to ongoing climate change research in the stunning Rocky Mountains.

The participants were notably engaged and excited with the outcomes. In the words of Bob Ford, an EPI fellow, PD participant, chaperone, and all-around enthusiast, "Best PD program ever!" This initiative marked a significant step in our commitment to enhancing professional development experiences and fostering a deeper connection to environmental issues.

BELIZE TROPICAL ECOLOGY

In 2022, EPI marked a post-pandemic return to programming in Belize, forging a dynamic collaboration with the Toucan Ridge Ecology and Education Society (T.R.E.E.S.) research station. Our partnership with T.R.E.E.S. enabled the dissemination of all research findings to critical institutions such as the Belize Forestry Department and the Environmental Research Institute, administered by the University of Belize. The outreach initiatives of T.R.E.E.S. spans neighboring communities, with school presentations, educational events at our research station, and informative booths at national festivals. EPI initiated a pilot program with five professional development participants, setting the stage for a promising and impactful partnership in the years to come.

BAJA DESERT & COASTAL ECOLOGY

EPI Mexico had a successful year with impactful initiatives and community engagement, completing visiting courses, including 2 Fellowships, 1 Educator Workshop, and 7 student courses involving 80 participants.

A notable highlight was EPI Mexico's active participation in the Whale Shark Festival, reaching 560 participants. Additionally, the virtual rally "I Love Balandra" brought together 41 students, fostering environmental awareness in a digital setting.

Californios Verdes organized a successful fundraising bazaar, attracting 189 participants, supporting ongoing conservation and educational initiatives. Focusing on environmental stewardship, EPI Mexico teamed up with Ocean Conservancy for a Balandra beach cleanup, involving 7 Californios Verdes in preserving coastal ecosystems. In a commitment to inclusivity, EPI Mexico enhanced awareness through a sensitivity workshop attended by staff and Californios Verdes, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment.

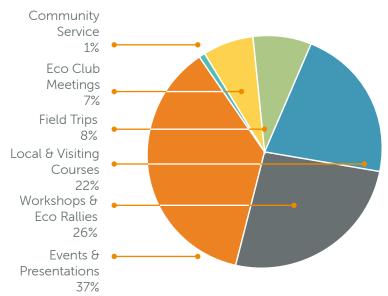
PARTICIPATION

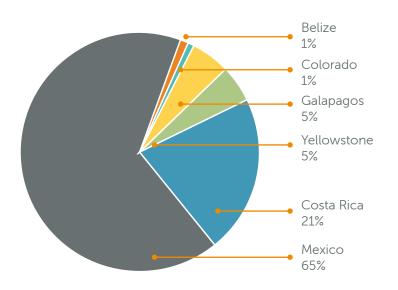
In 2022, EPI expanded partnerships with educators, community members, and Alumni while proactively enhancing our ability to address challenges and revitalize our programs. Our commitment to fostering environmental education was unwavering as we conducted various activities, including field courses, workshops, eco club events, community service projects, and field trips. This involved a total of 6,215 individuals, with more than 5,383 of which were local participants. EPI programs yielded impressive outcomes, evident in an 8% boost in environmental literacy among students.

Notably, EPI's Literacy Wheel officially incorporated a 5th element for impact: Social Emotional Learning. Throughout 2022, EPI students witnessed a 9% increase in Self Awareness, a 9% increase in Self Management, a 4% improvement in Relationship Skills, and an 8% rise in Perseverance.

EPI has reached a total of 106,289 participants through field and community-based programs to date!

LOCAL & VISITING STUDENTS PARTICIPANTS BY PROGRAM





ALUMNI & OUTREACH ACTIVITIES (EXCLUDES CORE PROGRAMS)



advocates in 2022, EPI engaged participants in field-based programs & increased their knowledge of environmental action strategies by

Thanks to our

- 56

Workshops & Eco Rallies - 18

- 28

Eco Club Meetings - 24

40

30

GLOSSARY OF TERMS: Alumni Activities: Opportunities to increase environmental leadership roles for alumni within their community/school/workplace-most participants in these activities will have participated in an EPI core field program Community Service: Volunteer service work taking place in the community at large, led by EPI staff and/or alumni Core Programs: EPI's flagship multi-day courses, partnering students and scientists in the field at every program site Eco Club Meetings: A gathering of EPI alumni and other local youth to collaborate or plan future alumni/community activities Eco Tour: Field courses or short trips for adults and families Field Trip: Short (1-3 days) alumni excursions into the field to participate in research and observation Festivals & Symposiums: Gatherings coordinated by EPI staff and volunteers that attract large numbers of participants, families, teachers, school administrators, partners, and community members Outreach: Activities intended to reach a broader local audience who haven't yet or can't participate in our core programs Presentations & Events: Educational opportunities for the public or a specific group of EPI constituents led by EPI alumni, staff, and scientific partners Workshops: Short-term, curriculum-based activities that take place in the field or other locations outside of a school 8

50

ALUMNINACTION

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERING AT PACUARE RESERVE



MARCELA, 19 - EPI MEXICO ALUMNA



RAFAELA, 21 - EPI GALAPAGOS ALUMNA

Inspiration transforms into tangible action in diverse ways for EPI Alumni. From organizing eco-clubs at schools to advocating for solar panels on municipal rooftops, our alumni are making significant strides in sustainability.

This past summer, five inspired individuals spanning from Mexico to the Galapagos Islands turned their inspiration into action by dedicating up to three weeks of their time to EPI's leatherback sea turtle monitoring program at Pacuare Reserve in Costa Rica.

For these alumni, volunteering at The Reserve was more than an opportunity—it was the journey of a lifetime. For Marcela, an EPI Mexico Local Alumna, the unique opportunity to work with animals that are typically untouchable to the public made volunteering at The Reserve an extraordinary experience.

Spending weeks outdoors in one of the most biodiverse places on the planet offered opportunities to connect with the natural world in ways not accessible in students' day-to-day urban lives.

> "I will be going home to Mexico having new friends from different parts of the world that I would not have known without this experience. Researching and volunteering like this makes it impossible not to connect with nature. I saw colors in plants and animals that I've never seen before because I was surrounded by nature all the time." - Marcela

Rafaela, an EPI Galapagos Local Alumna, hails from islands where she is no stranger to turtle research. However, working up close and personal with the gigantic endangered leatherback sea turtles during their egg-laying

In 2022, our Alumni's commitment to hands-on conservation efforts at Pacuare Reserve stands as a testament to the enduring impact of the EPI experience. Their actions embody the spirit of environmental stewardship and contribute to the ongoing conservation of the leatherback sea turtles and their habitats.

process provided a wildlife interaction unlike any other.

"It is completely different to interact with animals the way you do at The Reserve than at home. I have learned so much through this type of work and can now truly identify the impact humans have on the leatherback sea turtle's habitat." - Rafaela

Beyond the personal growth and connection to nature, the experience of traveling with the purpose of saving an endangered species alongside a dedicated team of conservationists added a new dimension to the journey.

> "Not only are you contributing to conservation while volunteering at The Reserve, but you take your passion and knowledge back home with you and make a difference there, too. The experience completely changes the way you see the world and leaves you wanting to contribute more." - Rafaela

COMMUNITY **COLLABORATION**

EPI MEXICO'S BIODIVERSITY & COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM IN FOCUS

EPI Mexico's past year was marked by a compelling collaboration within the Neovolcanic Axis (COBEN) and the unwavering support from the German Cooperation for Sustainable Development (GIZ).



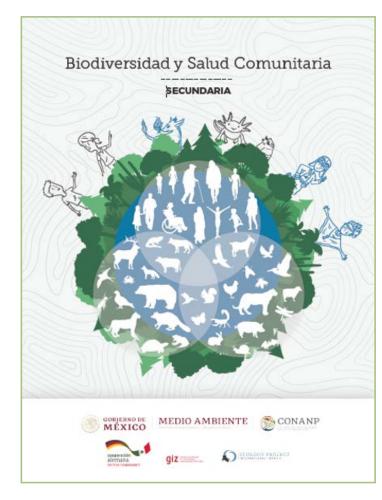
The story unfolds with the birth of the Biodiversity and Community Health Program (PBySC), a response to the urgent need for pandemic prevention awareness in the Protected Natural Areas (ANP) of Mexico's Central Region and Neovolcanic Axis.

Over the course of 11 months, the program was successfully executed, capturing authentic voices through interviews with partners CONANP and GIZ. Amidst the challenges of COVID-19, PBySC emerged as a robust

knowledge management tool, emphasizing communication, evaluation, and collaborative dissemination.

MY STUDENTS ARE NOW MORE AWARE THAT THEY LIVE IN A PROTECTED NATURAL AREA (ANP) AND THAT IT SHOULD BE PROTECTED. THEY NOW RECOGNIZE THAT THEY HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH ANIMALS, BOTH AS PETS AND ON THE FARM, AS WELL AS WITH WILDLIFE.

-COLONIA INDEPENDENCIA, IGNACIO ZARAGOZA SCHOOL. MICHOACÁN



Beyond our expectations, we forged meaningful alliances with the SEP, extending our reach to additional educators beyond our initial target audience. In essence, we celebrated shared efforts, collaborative triumphs, and impactful outcomes that echo EPI Mexico's commitment to environmental education.

The program's holistic health approach, tailored to the audience's needs, showcased innovation and effective social engagement. Its execution transformed CONANP, strengthening collaboration with educators and the SEP, potentially evolving into a sustained alliance for ANP biodiversity conservation.

Highlighting the importance of regional tool sharing, this effort extended beyond immediate impact, enriching understanding and broadening project reach.

The outcomes surpassed the program's initial goals, casting its impact over 376 schools, involving 1,415 teachers, and leaving an enduring impression on 40,942 students.

The Biodiversity & Community Health Program involved 1,415 teachers from 376 schools impacting a total of 40,942 students

FISCAL YEAR 2022 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOTAL REVENUE \$4,982,683

TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,917,365

Assets

Current Assets	\$2,904,091
Fixed Assets (Property & Equipment)	\$1,448,719
TOTAL ASSETS	\$4,352,811
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Accounts Payable	\$-5,816
Credit Cards	\$745
Other Current Liabilities	\$1,997,928
COVID-19 Vouchers	\$332,960
Long-term Liabilities	\$378,901
Equity	\$1,975,981
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$4,352,811

Figures as of December 31, 2022

REVENUE

In FY22, EPI experienced a revenue resurgence, approaching a return to pre-pandemic levels. With 52% of our funding driven by student and educator tuition, this showcased the resilience of our core revenue streams, with donations and other income remaining steady.

Grant revenue continued to play a pivotal role, affirming our adeptness in securing diverse funding streams. Our commitment to a balanced blend of earned income, donations, and grants ensures the sustainability of our mission in environmental education and conservation.

FY2022 REVENUE SOURCES

RESEARCHING AND VOLUNTEERING LIKE THIS MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE

NOT TO CONNECT WITH NATURE

I SAW COLORS IN PLANTS AND

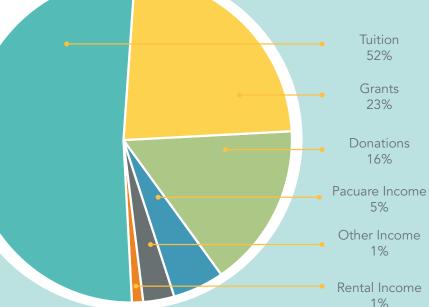
ANIMALS THAT I'VE NEVER

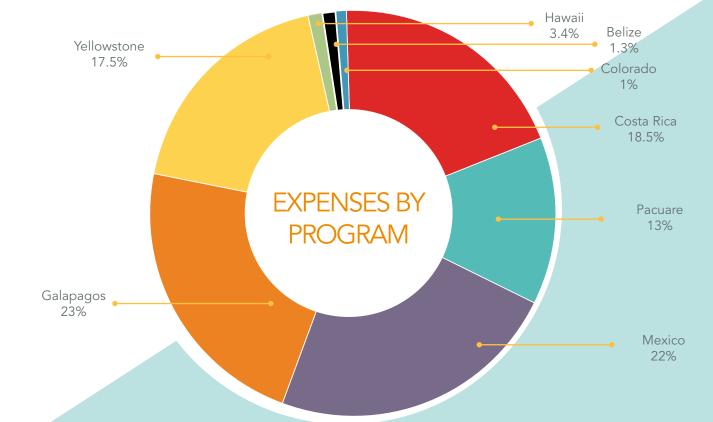
SEEN BEFORE BECAUSE I WAS SURROUNDED BY NATURE ALL OF

THE TIME"

PACUARE RESERVE RA

-MARCELA, MEXICO ALUM &





EXPENSES

As of FY2022, EPI is on track to approach its pre-pandemic program expense levels, nearing the five-year average of 80%. Despite necessary adjustments to mainstain stability in 2020 and 2021, every expense, including crucial mission support, contributes to the development of impactful and transformative programs. Our expenses are categorized into four primary areas:

- number of participants, activities, and course duration.
- Direcotrs oversight.
- participants are underserved students.
- community.

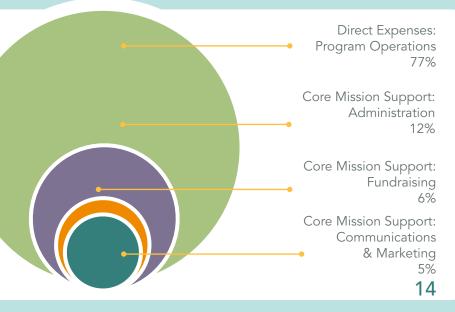
Our achievements and impact thrive on a strong core! Investing in support services is essential for long-term success, ensuring safety and excellence in our field programs.

• **Direct Program Expenses:** The budget for each program is tailored based on factors like the

• Core Mission Administrative Support: Encompassing Finance, HR, Systems, and Board of

• Core Mission Fundraising Support: Facilitating EPI's historic goal that 70% or more of our

Core Mission Communications & Marketing Support: Empowering EPI to establish and sustain relationships with stakeholders, including donors, volunteers, beneficiaries, and the broader



PACUARE RESERVE

EXPANSIVE CONSERVATION INITIATIVES AT THE RESERVE

Transformed from a 1,700-acre landscape marred by deforestation and development, Pacuare Reserve has evolved into a biodiverse tropical lowland forest teeming with hundreds of species.

Scientific research and conservation efforts now extend beyond sea turtles to encompass felines, primates, and the unique agami herons, making The Reserve a pivotal hub for comprehensive ecological studies. This transformation is a testament to Pacuare Reserve's commitment to preserving some of the planet's most vulnerable flora and fauna.

Pacuare Reserve safeguards wildlife while also serving as a hands-on classroom for individuals delving into wildlife biology and the profound impacts of climate change on ecosystems. A true amalgamation of conservation and education, The Reserve engages local and international visitors through educational programs, ecotourism, research assistantships, and internships.

SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

In 2022, 16 dedicated research assistants conducted crucial monitoring of agami herons, the sole nesting colony known between Mexico and Colombia. This effort, during the herons' pivotal reproductive stage, shed light on courtship and nesting behaviors that were previously unknown in the scientific community.



The researchers meticulously documented 186 adult herons, 93 nests, and 181 chicks within The Reserve, contributing invaluable data toward protective measures for the agamis, now under consideration for endangered status by the IUCN.

Moreover, camera traps strategically placed in the heart of The Reserve's forest provided researchers with access to 2,300 hours of footage capturing predators and prey migrating By enhancing knowledge of these species populations at Pacuare Reserve, researchers are better equipped to inform conservation strategies and implement effective protection measures for these vital animals.



throughout the landscape. This footage facilitated the identification of two troops of spider monkeys, three troops of howler monkeys, three troops of capuchin monkeys, ten jaguars, and seven ocelots.

EMPOWERING **TOMORROW'S LEADERS**

Solar Bears Project Lights the Way for Clean Energy Education & Action

For the majority of EPI participants, engaging in hands-on research alongside renowned biologists, ecologists, and conservationists leaves a lasting impression. Students tend to change their behavior after EPI courses in Solar Bears. an effort to leave a smaller environmental footprint and to create a tangible impact in their communities.

Each year, a select group of EPI Alumni take their lessons learned in the field one step further through the EPI Alumni Leadership Awards. In 2022, 17-year-old lan from Moscow, Idaho, completed his Winter Yellowstone Ecology course ready to share his passion for environmental education with his peers back home. By earning \$500 through the EPI Alumni Leadership Award scholarship fund, Ian was able to put his passion into action with the creation of Solar Bears.

The Solar Bears project aimed to educate the residents of Moscow on the workings of solar energy and the importance of adopting renewable energy practices for individuals, schools, organizations, and municipalities. With his Alumni Leadership Award, Ian was able to purchase hand-held demonstration solar panels for students at four different schools to experience how electricity can

be generated from the sun. In addition to showing students the hands-on side of solar energy, he provided a supplemental lecture with each classroom he visited. In total, Ian educated 1,480 individuals with

WITH THE SOLAR BEARS PROJECT, I AM EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS, INNOVATORS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF CLEAN ENERGY GENERATION.

In the fall of 2022, we invited lan to join the EPI Alumni Reunion at Pacuare Reserve in Costa Rica. Come January, lan will be wrapping up his senior year having completed his Solar Bears project, traveled outside the U.S for the first time, and prepared to study Environmental Policy and Law at American University in Washington, D.C.

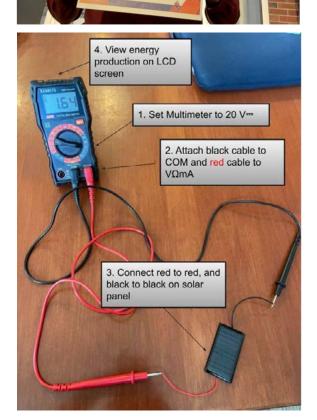
We are honored to have played a part in lan's personal and professional development and can't wait to see the impact of his future endeavors!



EVERY YEAR, I EXPERIENCE THE SAME THINGS: SMOKE FROM IDAHO WILDFIRES CLOSES DOWN SPORTS AND SCHOOL, INCREASING SUMMER AND WINTER TEMPERATURES MEAN DROUGHT, FLOODING, HEAVY RAIN, AND HAIL WHICH REDUCES CROP YIELD. FUTURE GENERATIONS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO LIVE LIKE THIS.

MY LOVE OF NATURE, DESIRE TO FURTHER CHANGE THE RANGE OF CAREERS TO ENACT ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE HAS DRIVEN ME TO BE A LEADER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION.





YOUR 2022 GIFTS Our 2022 supporter lists include gifts made during the calendar year: January 1 - December 31, 2022.

Leatherbacks (\$100,000+)

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Agami Heron (\$10,000-\$49,999)

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IN-KIND BOX

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Jon Thomas Consulting Patagonia - Denver Patagonia

Green Sea Turtle (up to \$249)

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Pronghorn (\$250-\$999)

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Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the members of our Leadership Circle who have generously designated EPI as a beneficiary in their wills. Their unwavering dedication to our planet serves as a shining example of commitment and inspires hope for a better tomorrow.

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I CONSIDER MYSELF VERY LUCKY TO HAVE MET A PERSON LIKE EKOLU. HE TAUGHT US ALOHA 'ĀINA, HOW TO RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS US. WITH EVERY LESSON, WHETHER IT BE RESTORING NATIVE VEGETATION OR CONDUCTING FISH SURVEYS ON THE REEF, YOU COULD TELL HE LOVED WHAT HE WAS DOING. EKOLU SHOWED US THE BEAUTIFUL HAWAIIAN CULTURE WITH SUCH ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM, AND HUMOR, TOO. FOR THAT, I WILL FOREVER TREASURE MY EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH HIM."

-JOSE, 2022 HAWAII ECOLOGY PARTICIPANT