



**Fauna del
Noroeste**

**ANNUAL
REPORT 2017**



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MESSAGE FROM THE ED

2017 was a great year for Fauna del Noroeste (Fauno). We carried out an organizational restructuring, thanks to the support of the JiJi Foundation and the International Community Foundation. We established our first Board of Directors, which will supervise, evaluate and guarantee our activities. Likewise, we received training for administrative work, and created our strategic work lines, and strategic plan, which will allow us to focus our efforts and increase the impact of our activities. We updated our webpage to reflect these accomplishments.

We continue to collaborate on research projects that allow us to better understand the conservation needs of the region. We are working and developing as an organization to produce success stories in the conservation of wildlife and their habitats in northwestern Mexico. Thank you for being part of our story and allow us to work in favor of our biodiversity.

Dra. Anny Peralta García
Executive Director



Our mission and vision

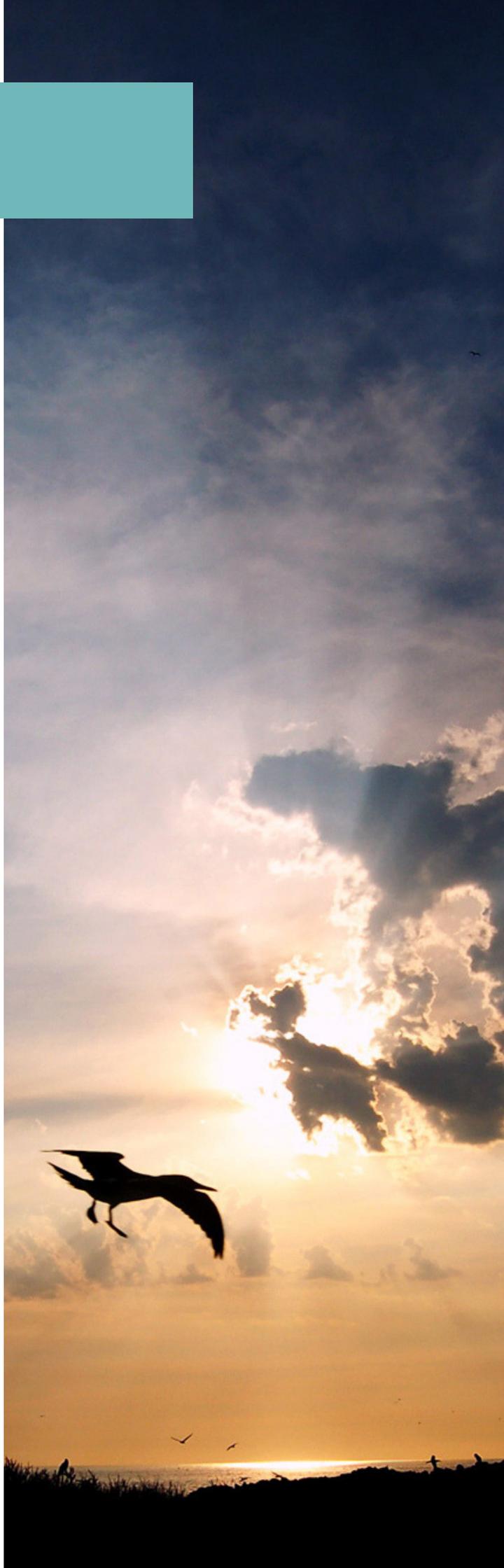
Mission

Fauna del Noroeste is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the research and conservation of native fauna and habitat in northwestern Mexico, and seeks to promote the appropriate management of natural resources via scientific research, education, and collaboration with other institutions and the general public. We develop projects that inform us on the current status of the regional flora and fauna, thus facilitating the conservation of native species in the Mexican northwest.



Vision

Achieve the conservation of regional fauna, along society participation in conservation actions.

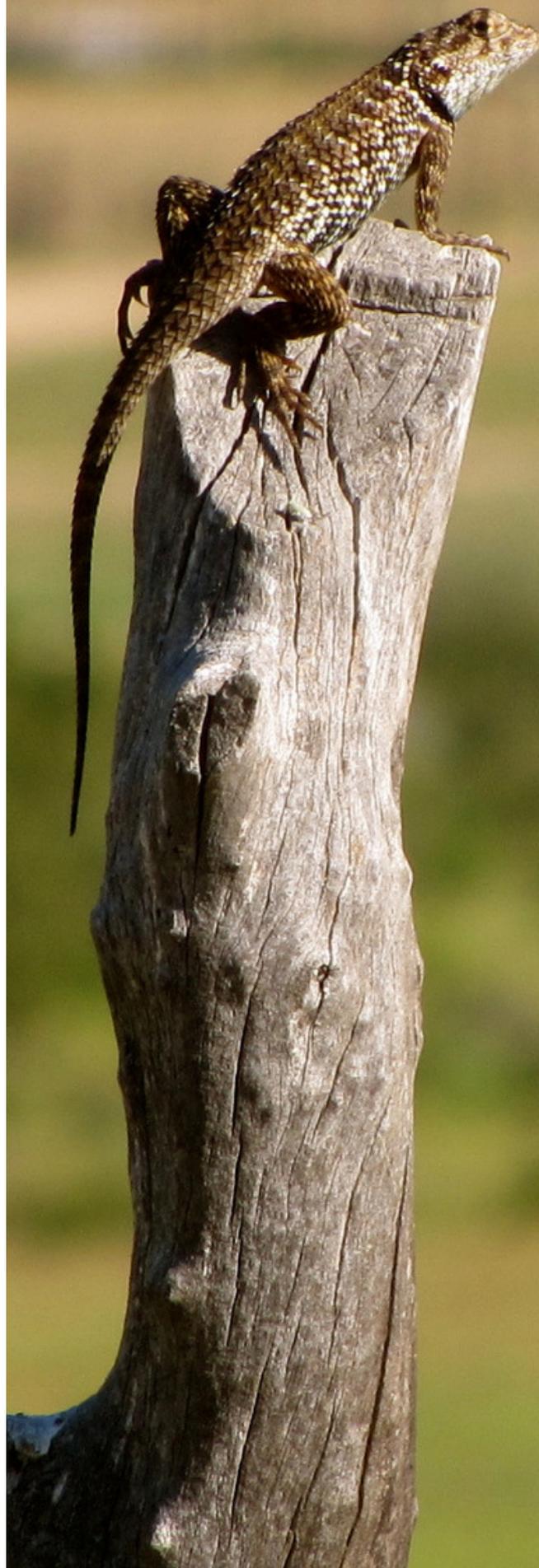


Our organization seeks to combine its efforts in order to achieve a greater impact in the conservation of regional biodiversity.

We want to focus our actions on the groups of animals which are less charismatic and poorly understood, such as amphibians, reptiles, small rodents, terrestrial birds, and arthropods. In light of the scarcity of studies in these taxa, this information is important and necessary to promote conservation action, and we have therefore created the following strategic lines:

The three strategy are :

- Research
- Conservation and restoration
- Education and Disclosure



Working lines

Research

With these strategies we seek to create and/or promote scientific knowledge about rare and threatened species which are little-known in terms of the current status of their populations. Likewise, we seek create and promote scientific knowledge about the effect of different threats (exotic species, loss of habitat, diseases, etc.) on the biodiversity of northwest Mexico.



Conservation and restoration

We seek to develop and promote conservation actions for threatened species, as well as their habitats, through the implementation of restoration efforts and habitat recovery plans.



Education and Disclosure

We carry out environmental education events to inform society and raise awareness about the importance of regional biodiversity and its conservation needs, while promoting participation in conservation actions.



Meet our Board of Directors



Jeff Alvarez



Bradford D. Hollingsworth



Sula Vanderplank



Richard Erickson

Our work team



- Dr. Anny Peralta García
(Executive Director)
- M.S. Jorge H. Valdez Villavicencio
(Research Coordinator)
- M.S. Edith Andrea Navarro Tiznado
(Coordinator of Restoration and Conservation)
- M.S. Salvador González Guzmán
(Coordinator of Environmental Education and Bird Conservations)
- C.P. Nancy J. Barrera Villavicencio
(Accounting Assistant)

Activities and projects in collaboration



Current distribution of the California Vole (*Microtus californicus*) in Baja California.

The California Vole (*Microtus californicus*) is a rodent which was historically distributed from Oregon, (USA) to the San Fernando Mission in Baja California, (México). In Baja California, four subspecies have been reported, three of which are endemic to Mexico. Unfortunately, two of the subspecies (*grinnelli* and *huperuthrus*) have been considered extinct in Baja California.



At the end of 2016, we began a collaboration with Dr. Alan Harper (Terra Peninsular, AC), Dr. Chris Conroy (UC Berkeley) and Biol. Scott Tremor (SDNHM) to confirm the presence of the species in Mexico, and to identify current populations and their threats. We consider it important to conduct a taxonomic review, so that the proper identification of lineages will allow us to adequately focus conservation actions towards the preservation of such lineages or taxa and/or areas of endemism or high diversity.



In 2017 we visited and sampled in 20 of the 33 locations where this species of rodent has been registered in northwest Baja California. To date we have found the California vole is present in just six of the sites visited. Some places where we have not been able to detect this species are severely transformed, the habitat has been lost and there is a lack of water, which is very important for the persistence of this species.



Effect of climate change on reptiles in northwestern Mexico.

Faced with the problem of biodiversity loss due to climate change, in recent years there have been various studies of how this problem affects the survival of reptiles worldwide. In 2010 a group of scientists (some included in this project), determined that climate change has affected and is affecting the diversity of lizards worldwide.

Given the need for more information in Mexico, the project "Effect of climate change on the reptiles of northwestern Mexico: conservation and mitigation measures" was created, which is funded by the Conacyt. The objective of this project is to understand the thermal ecology of different reptile species in diverse environments of northwestern Mexico, to assess vulnerability to climate change and to seek management strategies that help



conserve these species and their habitats. This is a project led by CIBNOR, in collaboration with UNAM, FAUNO, and students of different academic degrees. In 2017 we visited several locations in different ecosystems in the states of Baja California, Baja California Sur and Sonora, in which we took data on the thermal ecology of lizards, and environmental temperature data in each of the sites. In 2018 we will continue with the field work and begin the process of data analysis to evaluate which species are the most threatened in the face of climate change and propose mitigation and conservation measures.



Restoration and maintenance of amphibian and reptile collections in Baja California Sur.

The herpetological collection of the Zoology Museum of the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur (UABCS) was created in the late 70's, and has 1,163 specimens of amphibians and reptiles preserved mostly in alcohol. By the mid-1990s the collection remained inactive and maintenance-free due to the retirement of the collection manager.

We also started the catalog's digital database to make it more accessible and in the future to include this information in the Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles of the Peninsular California (Herp Atlas) of the San Diego Museum of Natural History.

There is still work to be done, and we will continue collaborating with the UABCS to contribute to the care and maintenance of this important natural and scientific heritage of Baja California Sur.



In 2016, we began the restoration of the collection, together with Dr. González Barba (UABCS) and Dr. Bradford Hollingsworth of the Natural History Museum of San Diego. In February of 2017 we visited the collection to continue with the maintenance which included the renewal of jars and alcohol.



Expedition to Los Brasileros and Sierra La Gata, Baja California Sur.



This expedition was led by the San Diego Natural History Museum, in collaboration with Rancho Cacachilas, and members of the local community, to document the diversity of the area known as El Cardonal and Sierra La Gata. This region is located in the vicinity of San Juan de los Planes, southeast of the city of La Paz. This expedition started with the purpose of knowing more about the biodiversity of this region and focusing conservation efforts in the future. The region is threatened with conversion into an extensive agricultural area, increasing water use for this purpose for irrigation.

The expedition was carried out from December 1st to 12, 2017, and FAUNO members participated as part of the herpetology group, which was in charge of documenting the diversity of amphibians and reptiles in the study area

In total 33 species were detected (3 amphibians and 30 reptiles), of which 10 species are endemic to the region, and 22 (67%) are within the list of species protected by NOM-059-2010. In May 2018, a second expedition will be carried out to continue the sampling and better document this beautiful place.



Iguana de palo (*Ctenosaura hemilophà*), especie endémica de la Región del Cabo, Baja California Sur.

Workshops on the use of the citizen science platform Naturalista (iNaturalist).

In 2016, we began collaboration with the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) to give workshops on the use of the Citizen Science Naturalista platform (www.naturalista.mx), known as iNaturalist in the US, which aims to raise awareness in the communities on biodiversity and promote the exploration of natural environments.



In 2017 we gave three workshops, which were directed to the general public, as well as students and professionals. The first workshop was given to the community of the town of El Testerazo where 15 people from children to adults attended. The second workshop was held in San Quintín, at the San Quintín Café and Botanical Garden (Jardín Botánico San Quintín AC), with support from the hosts and from Terra Peninsular, A.C. This workshop was attended by 19 people from different work areas of the San Quintín community. The third workshop was held at the facilities of the Autonomous University of Baja California, Valle de las Palmas unit, which included the participation of 40 undergraduate students.



Environmental education workshop on Amphibians and Reptiles of the region.

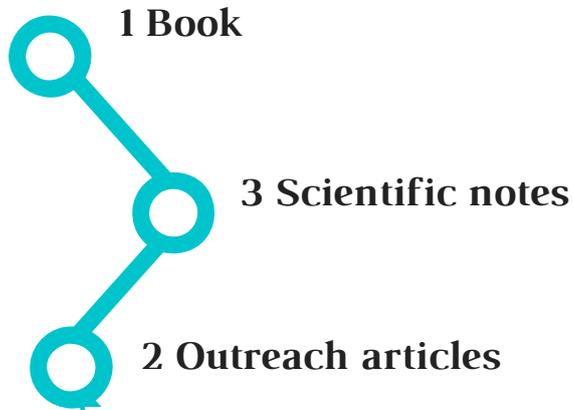
In collaboration with the Caracol Science Museum we offered the "Toads and Frog" Workshop, within the framework of the Museum's 2nd anniversary. The workshop was aimed mainly at primary and secondary school children, as well as the general public, and was held from December 7 to 9, 2017. This activity was led by FAUNO, in collaboration with the Herpetology Club of the UABC and undergraduate students from the same university.

The talks addressed topics on generalities of amphibians and reptiles, their differences, as well as the exhibition of live snakes and interactive activities such as games and crafts for children. We also made a photographic exhibition about

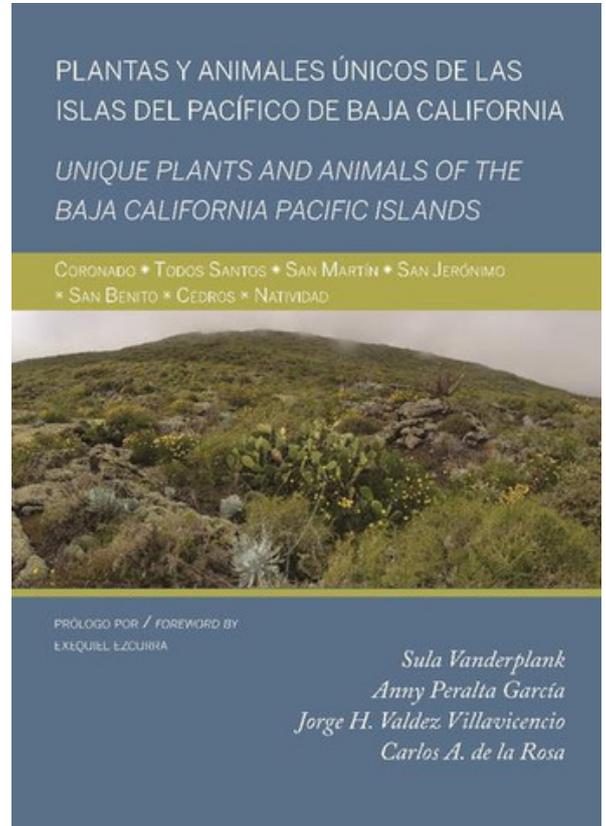
common amphibians and reptiles from the northwest of Baja California. In the three days of the workshop, we received approximately 500 people, mostly children of different ages.



Publications



To see publications and download them
please visit our webpage:
faunadelnoroeste.org



LAGARTIJAS SIN PATAS DE MÉXICO

reptiles vulnerables y poco conocidos

Son lagartijas, pero carecen de extremidades, con cuerpos alargados, que se mueven fácilmente bajo la tierra o a través de las plantas, moviendo su cuerpo de lado a lado de manera similar a las serpientes.





- **Professional practices interns, UABC-Biology**

- Giovanna Segundo Ibarra
- Alejandro Romero de la Mora
- Verónica Hortencia López Frausto

- **Social service interns**

- Moisés Mendiola Rochin

- **Volunteers**

- Itzel Ramírez Salazar
- Norma Selene González Gutiérrez

- **Fauna involvement in thesis committees.**

- Edith Andrea Navarro Tiznado – Master's Thesis

Participation in national and international Workshops and Congresses

Workshops:

Mapping our biological knowledge of the Peninsula of Baja California. Ensenada, Baja California, from October 17-18.

Congresses:

I State Congress on Environmental Protection. Ensenada, B.C. from February 2-3 poster presentation: "Scientific collections: Atlas of amphibians and reptiles of the peninsular California", and an oral presentation: "Exotic species in the northwest of Baja California".

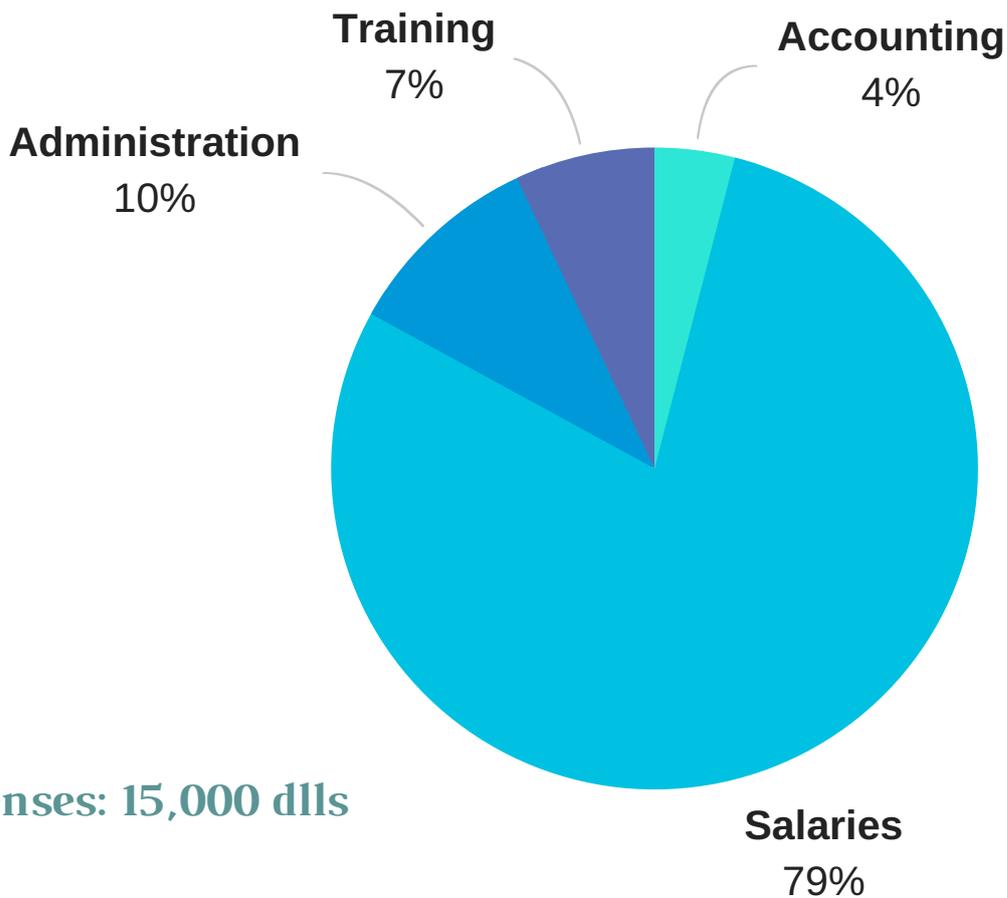
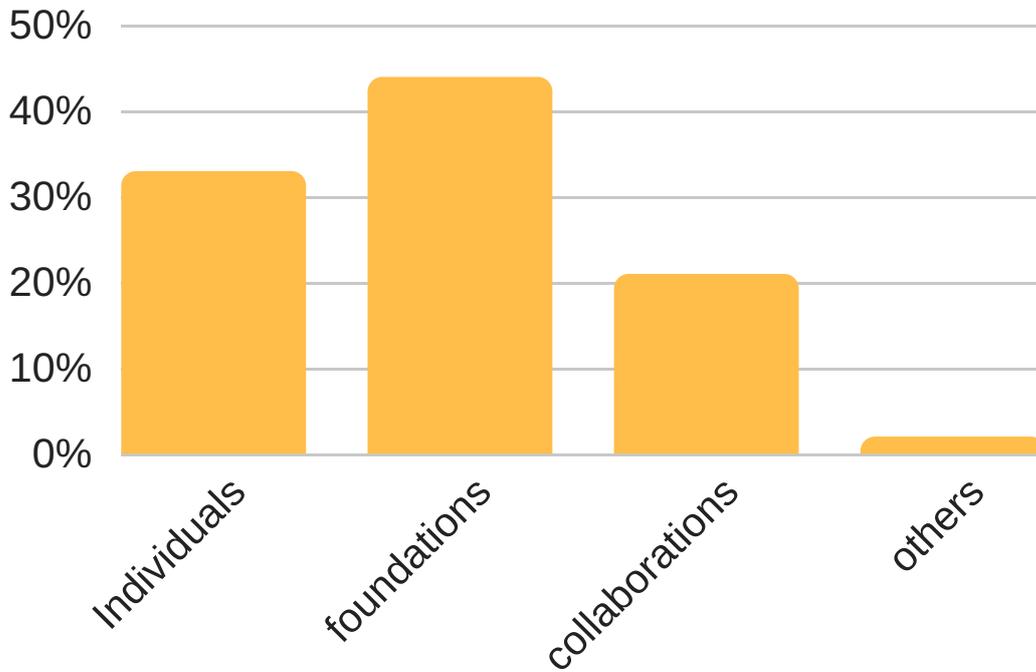
V AICAR National Congress. San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, from October 2-5 paper presentation: "Temperature and use of microhabitat of *Urosaurus nigricaudus* in the Cabo region, Baja California Sur".

IV International Congress Meredith Gould. Ensenada, B.C. from October 20-22. Roundtable participation: "The associations of civil society in the northwest of Mexico: achievements, challenges and perspectives".



Financial report

Income: %20,000 dlls



Expenses: 15,000 dlls

Thank you for your support:

Collaborators



Donors

Individuos:

Jeff Alvarez
Diane Bennet
Mary Power
Roy West

Barbara Andrews

Clark Mahrtdt

Hanoo Lewis

Chris Conroy

Kathy Kramer

Marisa Quiroz

Lauren Elder

Carol Baird

Alan Harper

Dean Leavitt

Bill and Mary Clark

Celica Cuevas

Richard Erikson

Sula Vanderplank

Brad Hollingsworth

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JiJi Foundation

Nex-Generation Sonoran Researchers

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Casey Richard y Jeff Wilcox



Fauna del Noroeste

Please visit our webpage and follow us on social media to learn more about us and how you can contribute to conservation of regional biodiversity.



www.faunadelnoroeste.org