

PRESCOTT COLLEGE  
**KINO BAY CENTER**  
FOR CULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL STUDIES



2025–2026

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                      |    |
|------------------------------------------------------|----|
| LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR .....                       | 1  |
| OVERVIEW, MISSION & VISION.....                      | 2  |
| BIOCULTURAL CONTEXT.....                             | 3  |
| FIELD STATION                                        |    |
| VISITORS & ACTIVITIES .....                          | 4  |
| ACADEMIC STUDIES & RESEARCH .....                    | 5  |
| VISITING EDUCATIONAL GROUPS .....                    | 7  |
| ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ..... | 9  |
| MEDIA & COMMUNICATION .....                          | 11 |
| <b>SPOTLIGHT:</b>                                    |    |
| NATURALEZA Y TERRITORIO.....                         | 13 |
| INDIGENOUS                                           |    |
| COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.....                          | 15 |
| COASTAL CONSERVATION.....                            | 17 |
| COMMUNITY PROJECTS .....                             | 19 |
| <b>SPOTLIGHT:</b>                                    |    |
| KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE.....                              | 21 |
| MEMBERS OF                                           |    |
| OUR COMMUNITY .....                                  | 23 |
| COORDINATED                                          |    |
| INCIDENT RESPONSE .....                              | 24 |
| MARINE MAMMAL                                        |    |
| RESEARCH.....                                        | 25 |
| WATERBIRD                                            |    |
| MONITORING .....                                     | 27 |
| VISITING RESEARCHERS .....                           | 29 |
| <b>SPOTLIGHT:</b>                                    |    |
| DESERT TORTOISE PROJECT .....                        | 30 |
| INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT .....                      | 31 |
| DONORS AND PARTNERS.....                             | 33 |
| 1 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL & STAFF .....                    | 34 |



At the Center, we referred to the 2025–2026 season as **The Year of Collaboration**.

What does it take to bring together people with different experiences, perspectives, and ways of knowing to **COLLABORATE** toward a shared vision and coordinated action?

Collaboration may sound simple, but meaningful collaboration requires years of building trust, and learning to respond together to increasingly complex challenges. It requires intentionally nurturing the conditions in which people from different generations, cultures, disciplines, communities, and ways of knowing feel welcome, heard, respected, and inspired to contribute.

The accomplishments described in this report reflect strategic work that has generated robust datasets, informed conservation decisions, advanced scientific publications, and earned professional recognition—outcomes that are both important and necessary. But what makes it work are **the people behind the accomplishments**.

Investing in people has inspired generations of students, educators, community members, researchers, and staff who now lead conservation efforts in this region and communities across Mexico and the United States.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the accomplishments of the 2025–2026 season and to the 35 years of collaboration that made them possible.

**Thank you for being part  
of the Kino Bay Center  
community!**

  
**Lorayne Meltzer**  
Executive Director and  
Prescott College Faculty

# THE KINO BAY CENTER FOR CULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL STUDIES

(the Center) is a binational field station dedicated to experiential education and community-based biocultural conservation. Our integrated programs are grounded in a constant presence in the region.

Each year, we host approximately 1,000 researchers, students, faculty, community members, and visitors from dozens of institutions and community groups from Mexico, the United States, and other parts of the world.

## MISSION

To protect priority species and habitats through the integrated application of science, education, knowledge exchange, and community participation in conservation initiatives.

Prescott College, a private university in Arizona, began offering classes in the Kino Bay region in the 1970s. The Center opened in 1991, and in 1992 the Mexican non-profit organization (Prescott College A.C.) was established.

Prescott College A.C. and Prescott College U.S. work together to operate the Center as a binational organization with the active consultation of the Kino Bay Center Executive Council.



## VISION

To promote and model collaborations between people from different cultures and institutions to co-create equitable solutions to complex conservation challenges.



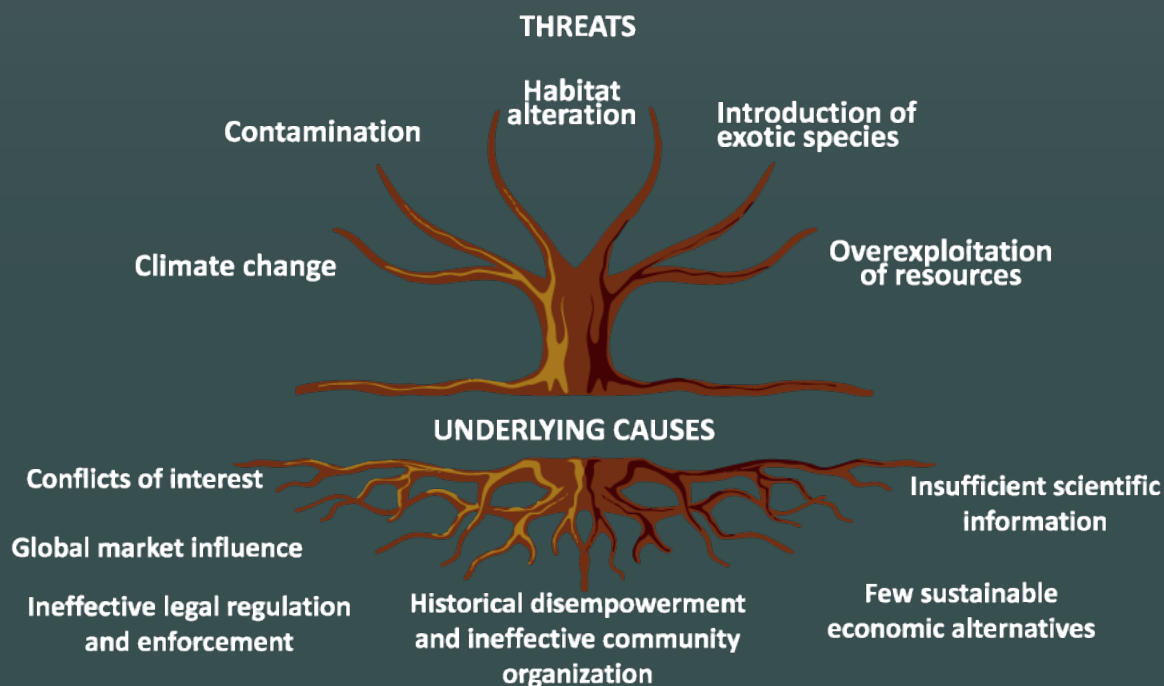
# BIOCULTURAL CONTEXT

The biocultural landscape of the **Eastern Midriff Island Region of the Gulf of California** is unique on a global scale. The great variety of habitats and environmental conditions is linked to high productivity and species diversity.

The region's many islands are legally well-protected and provide habitat for waterbird colonies, California sea lion reproduction, and Sonoran Desert flora and fauna, including many endemic species. The region is home to diverse local and indigenous communities with overlapping social, cultural, and economic relationships with each other and the natural environment.

The diverse experiences and viewpoints of local leaders, Indigenous communities, fishermen, students, faculty, researchers, and resource managers offer deep perspectives for addressing threats and supporting healthy ecosystems and human communities.

Photo: Fishermen in front of Isla Alcatraz - Lorayne Meltzer



# FIELD STATION VISITORS & ACTIVITIES

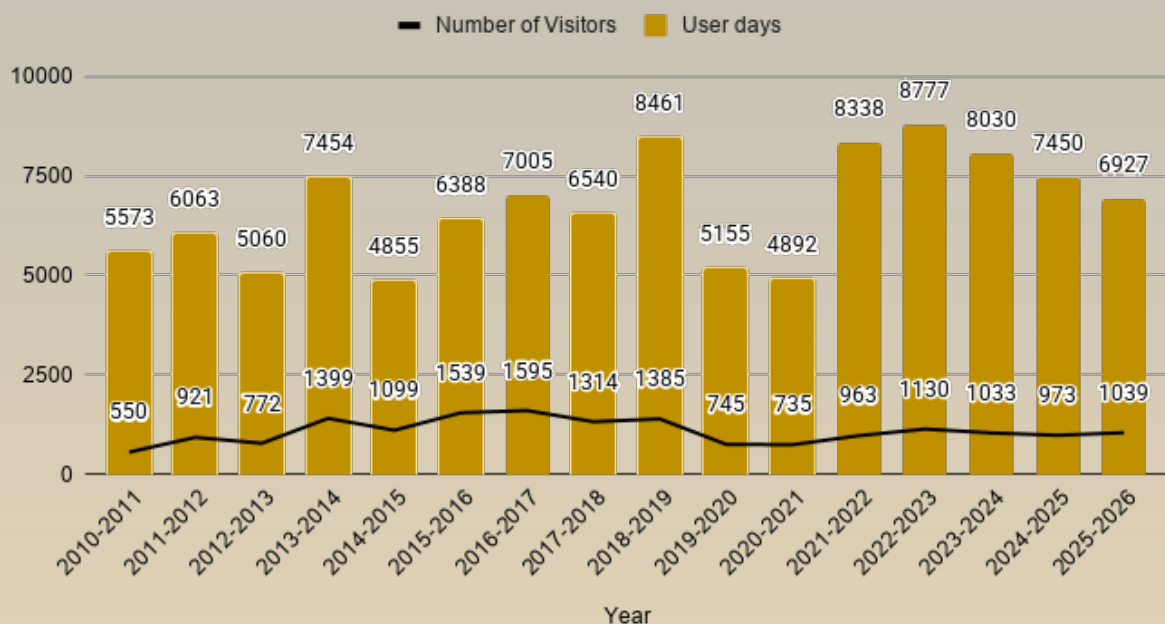
| User Category                                       | Number of Visitors | User Days* |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Day Visit                                           | 413                | 777        |
| Fellow, Intern, Staff, Social Service               | 24                 | 3357       |
| Independent Research                                | 62                 | 488        |
| Meeting                                             | 54                 | 60         |
| Multi-day Educational Group Visit (External Group)  | 119                | 833        |
| One-day Educational Group Visit (External Group)    | 23                 | 23         |
| Other                                               | 13                 | 64         |
| Prescott College Class                              | 39                 | 521        |
| Thesis, Master's, Senior Project, Independent Study | 6                  | 110        |
| Volunteer                                           | 3                  | 93         |
| Workshop                                            | 283                | 601        |

**1,039**  
Individual  
Visitors

**6,927**  
User Days

\*1 user day = 1 person using the site or participating for 1 day.

## Total Visitors from 2010-2026



# ACADEMIC STUDIES & RESEARCH

**This year, 43 Prescott College undergraduate and graduate students participated in four academic courses, a Ph.D. retreat, and five mentored studies, senior projects, or practicum experiences at the Center.**

Their participation enriched the Center's dynamic learning community while strengthening the connection between academic study and applied conservation. Through close mentorship from Center staff, students developed professional skills while making meaningful contributions to ongoing research, education, and community-based conservation initiatives.

In turn, students consistently valued the opportunity to live, learn, and work alongside staff and community partners, gaining hands-on experience in real-world conservation settings.

## IMPACT

Classes at the Center inspire and prepare students to make a difference through advanced study and careers dedicated to socially-just environmental conservation.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Facilitation of truly multicultural, field-based learning experiences
- Increased participation of Center staff as mentors
- Meaningful student contributions to conservation, research, and community-based projects
- Connection of theory and practice for an increasing number of online graduate learners doing fieldwork at the Center



# RESULTS

## Ph.D. Retreat: Social Justice and Community-Based Education, Research, and Conservation

Students, alumni, and faculty, alongside local partners and members of the Comcaac community, explored the Gulf of California by land and sea, and examined community-based approaches to conservation, Indigenous knowledge, and environmental education.



“From joining the Carnival to observing wildlife on Isla Alcatraz and learning traditional ecological knowledge on Isla Tiburón, the retreat transformed online learning into hands-on experience while strengthening relationships, inspiring new perspectives, and building a vibrant learning community.”

— PC Student

**Island Biogeography** students witnessed firsthand the evolutionary phenomena unique to island ecosystems, observed rare endemic species, explored patterns of biodiversity, and examined the effects of isolation on seabird breeding colonies.



“This type of experiential learning fosters a deeper connection with nature and encourages the development of a holistic mindset, enabling students to ask new questions, identify patterns, and recognize the interconnectedness within the intricate ecosystems of the Gulf of California—and beyond.”

— Professor Irene Espinosa

## Spanish Intensive and Cultural Immersion

Students experienced Bahía de Kino's strong sense of community. Ten students participated in Spanish classes while sharing daily life with local host families, creating meaningful cultural exchange and lasting connections.



“Spanish Intensive was absolutely life-changing! Far and away, this class was the one I am happiest about taking at Prescott College.”

— PC Student

## Biological Field

**Methods** students implemented self-designed projects and learned about the joys and challenges of collecting data in the field.

**Diversity of Marine Life** students traveled to the remote and beautiful Playa Venecia for an intertidal and underwater expedition led by Professors Emeritus Ed Boyer and Irene Espinosa.

# VISITING EDUCATIONAL GROUPS

## IMPACT

Educational experiences at the Center foster a deeper understanding of diverse cultures and ecosystems, encouraging critical thinking, open-mindedness, and global citizenship.

Through visiting groups, educational partnerships, and immersive field experiences, the Center connected people with the ecosystems, cultures, and communities of the Gulf of California and Sonoran Desert.

Many visitors and partner groups have returned to the Center year after year, building long-term relationships rooted in trust, shared learning, and place-based education. At the same time, this season the Center developed new partnerships through innovative offerings.

Participants engaged in field science, cultural exchange, conservation, and experiential learning while exploring estuaries, islands, deserts, and coastal waters. Together, these experiences strengthened connections to community, place, and the natural world.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Facilitation of the Center's first-ever yoga retreat, expanding programming into wellness and place-based reflection
- Deepened biocultural programming through partnerships with guides, educators, researchers, and Comcaac collaborators
- Integration of the first high school Spanish Intensive course in 10 years, revitalizing immersive language learning

# HIGHLIGHTS



## ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

ASU's School of Ocean Futures pilot program became a meaningful bridge between academic inquiry and community-based conservation, helping students envision research grounded in community interrelationships and place.



## TARA PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

At Rancho San Francisco, Tara students learned about Sonoran ranching traditions, artisanal dairy production, and the human relationships woven throughout desert landscapes.

## BIOCULTURAL EXPLORATIONS

- Tara Performing Arts High School
- Friends and Family
- Treehouse Learning Community
- Colorado Rocky Mountain School
- Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
- Border Community Alliance
- Arizona State University
- Student Diplomacy Corps

## COLORADO ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

### SPANISH INTENSIVE & CULTURAL IMMERSION

Host family experiences anchored the CRMS Spanish Intensive program, transforming language practice into meaningful daily relationships.

Through shared meals, household routines, conversation, and reciprocal learning, students experienced language as something lived, shared, and built in collaboration with community members.



### MARINE BIOLOGY

On their nearshore boat excursion, CRMS students observed green sea turtles surfacing, encountered feeding fin whales, and deepened their understanding of the marine environment.

### BORDER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

In Punta Chueca, BCA participants joined a plant walk, shared songs, played traditional games, and learned from Comcaac community members.

## GROUPS

- Stanford University  
*The Quest for Sustainable, Community-Based Livelihoods*
- Ambulante/Vivero  
*Documentary Filmmaking*
- Natural History Institute  
*Wild Islands, Rich Deserts*
- Migratory Shorebird Project+  
*Community Conservation Experience Exchange*
- Next Generation of Sonoran Desert Researchers  
*Mentorship Program*
- Yoga in Kino  
*Ocean of the Heart*

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

## IMPACT

Ongoing support for student and community leadership development fosters a strong sense of belonging, environmental stewardship, and the capacity to become agents of change within their communities.

**Environmental education, community engagement, and local capacity building efforts continued to grow through school classes, environmental clubs, and community projects.**

These activities fostered a deeper understanding of conservation issues among students, educators, and community groups, encouraging active participation in environmental stewardship initiatives while strengthening community cohesion.

Community groups assumed an increasingly active role in planning and implementing activities, demonstrating growing leadership and autonomy. In addition, partnerships among organizations, schools, and local stakeholders were strengthened, expanding the reach of conservation efforts and creating new opportunities for collaboration and resource development.

Overall, the results reflect significant progress in **environmental education, community organization, and civic engagement.**



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Co-facilitation of the second Biocultural Field School camp and end-of-year celebration
- Implementation of a field trip program for the Jóvenes Delfines Ecology Club
- Reactivation of the activities and partnership agreement with COBACH (local high school)



# RESULTS

## ECOLOGY CLASSES

**67** 5th grade students reached through Eco-Educator-led environmental education classes at Lázaro Cárdenas Elementary School

**2** End-of-year field days Rally La Cruz (6th grade) and Alcatraz Challenge (4th grade)

**46** experiential ecology classes delivered to

**62** 4th & 6th grade students at Nissan Elementary School



## ECOLOGY CLUB (*JÓVENES DELFINES*)



**1** mural created at the local middle school under the guidance of a PC student

**3** school-based environmental education projects developed and submitted for participation at the national level

**3** field trips conducted in collaboration with PC students



**9<sup>th</sup>** Laguna La Cruz wetland cleanup, removing **1,450** kilos of trash



**1** community film and discussion event focused on the conservation of the borderland jaguar

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS EVENTS

**4<sup>th</sup>** annual Earth Day Festival organized in partnership with community groups

**18** beach & wetland cleanups conducted by the CREDESPA group, removing more than **13,000** kilos of trash

**7** educational modules focused on Laguna La Cruz Wetland conservation delivered by Eco-Educators to **two 5th grade classrooms**

**30** classes facilitated by Comcaac mentors to preserve and strengthen traditional ecological knowledge through the **Biocultural Field School**



# MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

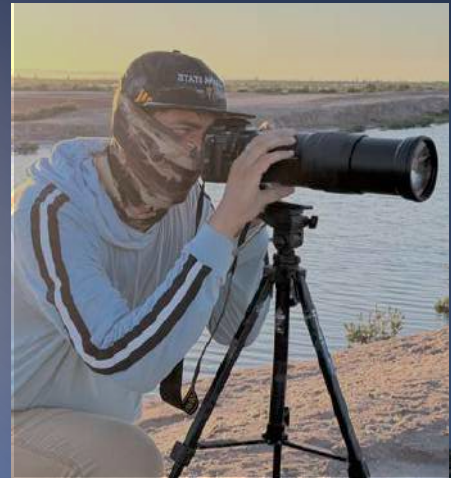
## IMPACT

Compelling media and communication connects diverse audiences with relevant information, raises awareness, and mobilizes action in ways that foster understanding of complex issues, promotes multicultural collaboration, and opens spaces for dialogue, critical thinking, effective expression, and collective conservation action.

**The Center significantly expanded its visibility and impact through a diverse communication strategy that connected science, conservation, and community voices with broader audiences.**

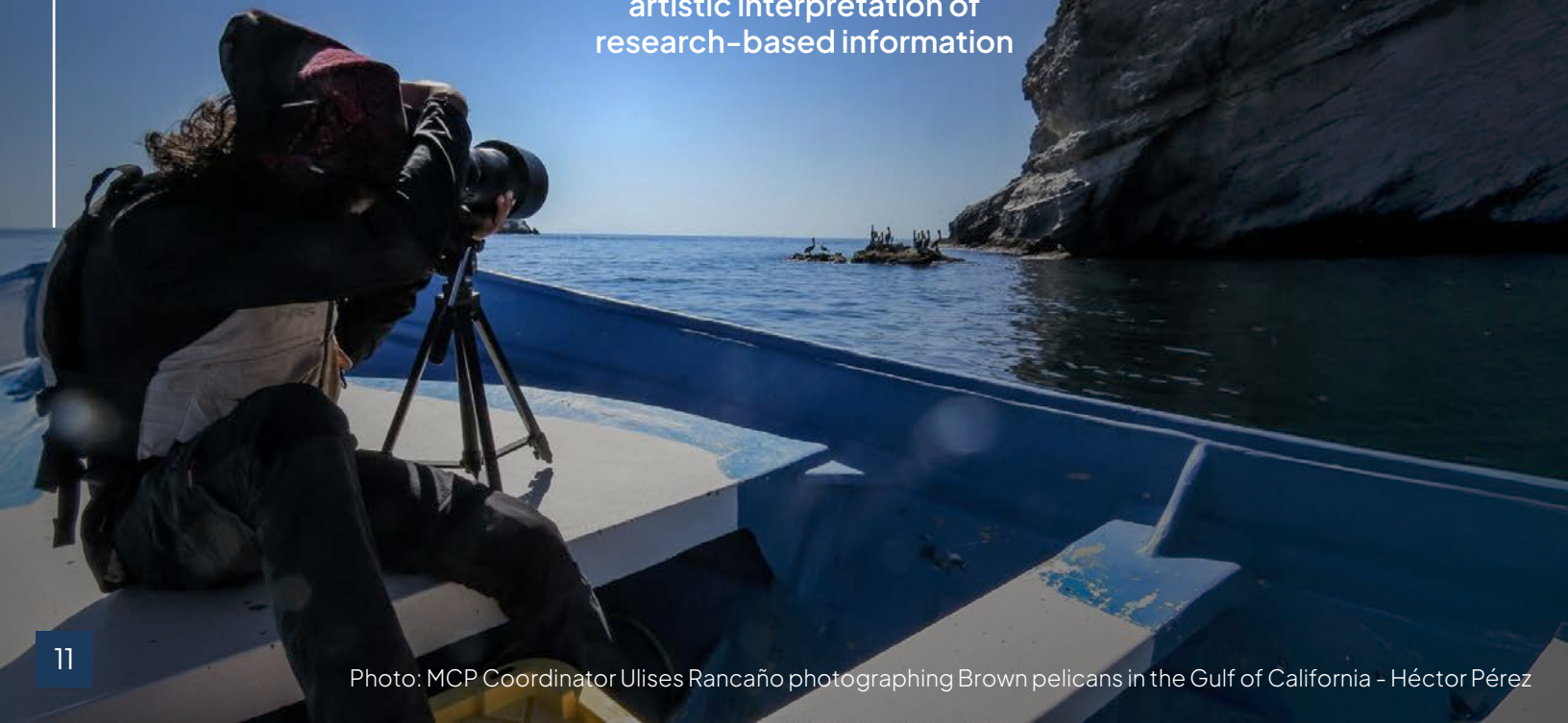
Social media engagement continued to grow, while the Center also achieved a record number of scientific publications, conference presentations, public exhibitions, and community outreach events. The Media and Communications Program developed content for two multimedia exhibitions and an environmental art exhibition.

A special focus this year was bringing attention to environmental incidents in the region using compelling storytelling and creative communications to make complex socio-ecological issues accessible to a broad audience. In this way, the Center's communications inspired reflection, dialogue, learning, and action around issues affecting coastal ecosystems and communities.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Creation, installation, and inauguration of a multimedia exhibition communicating the biocultural context and impact of the Center's work
- Continued professionalization and innovation of communication products, with an emphasis on artistic interpretation of research-based information
- Increased visibility and greater recognition of the Center's impact among local, regional, national, and international audiences



## RESULTS

### MEDIA PRODUCTION



Record number of **562 readers** reached through the creation of **41 articles** for **3 seasonal newsletters**, representing a **332% increase in readership**

**80 original social media posts** created on a weekly basis

**13 videos** produced for social media

**900 new followers** accumulated across social media platforms

Multimedia exhibition

#### ***“Naturaleza y Territorio”***

created and presented in galleries in Hermosillo, Sonora and Prescott, Arizona

**Educational sign** created on the importance of Isla Alcatraz for nesting birds and best practices for tourists

series of **4 educational posters** titled *“Impresiones del Golfo”* created for an environmental art show in Hermosillo



**4 banners** created to communicate the Center's mission, vision, and programs

### INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Updated master list of more than

**400**

**publications, technical reports & conference presentations** authored by researchers whose work was supported by the Center

**441**

**emails** added to the Center's mailing list

Photo database **updated and restructured**, providing easier access for users

**8 pieces of Center merchandise** created based on the series

### CAPACITY BUILDING & COLLABORATION

Ongoing **mentorship and support** for community members, students, and staff seeking to strengthen technical, communication, and storytelling skills

**Support** for the Ambulante/Vivero documentary training program during their 4-day workshop at the Center

### OUTREACH EVENTS & PUBLICATIONS

■ **15 workshops and experience exchanges**

■ **5 scientific conference presentations**

■ **9 community events**

■ **1 mural**

■ **2 art exhibits**

■ **3 interviews for online press**

■ **9 newsletters, popular articles**

# NATURALEZA Y TERRITORIO

## AN IMMERSIVE VISUAL EXPERIENCE

*Naturaleza y Territorio* is a visual and educational exhibition designed to highlight the learning and action that can emerge when people from diverse backgrounds collaborate to create positive change. The exhibition offers visitors an immersive visual experience of the ecological and cultural richness of the Midriff Island Region of the Gulf of California, inviting reflection on the socio-environmental threats facing the region.

The content and photographs were contributed by staff, students, alumni, faculty, and other collaborators of the Center. The exhibition was conceived by Ulises Rancaño of the Center's Media and Communication Program and was presented at the Sociedad de Artesanos Hidalgo in Hermosillo, Sonora, and at the Cicada Gallery in Prescott, Arizona.

The exhibition's visual narrative is organized into four thematic sections illustrating the Center's interdisciplinary, long-term, and solution-oriented approach.

### SEA OF LIFE

The Midriff Island Region of the Gulf of California is one of the most diverse and unique marine and coastal areas on the planet.

Its geographic isolation, the convergence of ocean currents, and the interaction among desert, islands, and sea

support high levels of endemism, remarkable biological productivity, and complex ecological networks that sustain seabirds, marine mammals, and key fisheries.



### FACES OF THE DESERT AND SEA

The section "Faces of the Desert and Sea" is a social portrait of the human communities of the Eastern Midriff Island Region that maintain a deep, everyday relationship with their territory.

Through the gazes, livelihoods, and human landscapes of Bahía de Kino and the Comcaac Nation, this section reveals identities shaped by desert and sea.



# THREATS AND CHALLENGES



The “Threats and Challenges” section depicts the degradation of marine and coastal ecosystems in the Gulf of California.

These are the results of decades of inadequate management, destructive practices, and an extractive economy that serves global markets, rather than prioritizing regional conservation.



## HOPE IN ACTION



The “Hope in Action” section shows that community-based conservation is built within a complex context shaped by ecological, economic, political, and cultural factors that directly influence both the territory and its inhabitants.

In this context, protecting biocultural heritage is not an isolated effort but the result of collaboration among diverse actors and knowledge systems.



# INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**The Center deepened its impact by linking people of diverse perspectives, promoting conservation initiatives within the Comcaac community, and empowering tribal members in the defense of their territory and natural resources.**

The integration of traditional ecological knowledge and Western approaches continued to strengthen the work of the Center and its collaborators through opportunities for learning, exchange, and collaboration. These efforts were reflected in activities that took place at the Comcaac community high school, in community projects such as the Biocultural Field School, and in outreach initiatives focused on the Canal del Infiernillo Ramsar Site.

The program also continued to facilitate activities with community project participants, including experience exchanges, training opportunities, and the development of a new community project. This work promoted transparent and collaborative leadership processes, contributing to stronger organizational capacity and increasingly effective leadership among community groups and projects.

## IMPACT

Dialogue and consistent collaboration with community members, researchers, students, and institutions builds trust, develops leadership capacity, and promotes equitable biocultural conservation initiatives.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Increased participation of local youth in research and community-based conservation initiatives
- Strengthened organizational capacity among community project participants in Punta Chueca
- Formation of Mexico's first community-based desert tortoise monitoring group



# RESULTS

## COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

  
**2<sup>nd</sup> World  
Wetlands  
Day Festival**  
facilitated at  
Punta Chueca

**10**  
**community youth**  
participated in  
classroom sessions and  
**4 days of field monitoring**  
to collect data on desert  
tortoises on Isla Tiburón,  
integrating scientific and  
local knowledge



**3 ×**  
**increase in**  
**desert tortoise**  
**abundance**  
recorded, documenting  
**30**  
**tortoises per km<sup>2</sup>,**  
compared to  
10 recorded in 2001

## EQUITABLE COLLABORATION

**12**  
**community groups**  
supported,  
promoting  
intercultural  
knowledge exchange



Logistical support  
provided for:

- Vivero Ambulante
- MSP+ Point Blue  
Experience Exchange
- Desert Tortoise  
Research Project

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

**30** Biocultural School sessions



and the  
incorporation  
of new  
educational  
spaces for  
program  
activities

**Rehabilitation**  
of Humberto  
Romero's  
Xaaslca An  
Botanical  
Garden



**Continued  
implementation**  
of the Ramsar Site  
management plan  
through a diagnostic  
assessment of fishing  
cooperatives in the  
Canal del Infiernillo



**5**  
**outings**  
conducted by  
the Punta Chueca  
Sea Turtle Group,  
resulting in  
**22**  
**new records**  
in the Canal del  
Infiernillo



**Formation and integration of the  
first community-based desert  
tortoise monitoring group**

# COASTAL CONSERVATION

## IMPACT

The Center continued its active collaboration with community members and other stakeholders to advance the integrated conservation of the Laguna La Cruz and Canal del Infiernillo Ramsar Sites.

Significant progress was made towards the declaration of a state-level Natural Protected Area in Laguna La Cruz. In the Canal del Infiernillo, the Center worked with fishers and community members to explore initial steps toward the sustainable management of fisheries resources.

Through community events, conservation projects, experience exchanges, and training opportunities, participants strengthened and demonstrated their leadership, knowledge, and organizational capacity.

These efforts help lay the foundation for the successful community-based implementation of conservation and management strategies in both Ramsar Sites.

Community leadership and effective inter-institutional partnerships contribute to the sustainable management and conservation of the wetlands and coastal ecosystems that form the base of the region's ecology and economy.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ongoing mentorship, training, and support for community conservation projects and their participants
- Tangible progress toward the designation of Laguna La Cruz as a state-level Natural Protected Area
- Completion of a diagnostic assessment of fisheries resource use and management in the Canal del Infiernillo

## CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT

### FISHERIES STATUS SURVEY OF THE CANAL DEL INFIERNILLO



Since 2020, the communities of Punta Chueca and Desemboque have worked in partnership with the Kino Bay Center to update the Ramsar Information Sheet for Ramsar Site No. 1891, the Canal del Infiernillo.

Through this process, three priority needs were identified: addressing solid waste, strengthening fisheries organization, and improving tourism management.

Efforts to address waste management began in 2024. In 2026, the Fisheries Status Survey of the Canal del Infiernillo was launched, laying the groundwork for a community-driven fisheries management plan for the Canal.

# RESULTS

## PLANNING, MANAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP

**Participative leadership and collaboration with key stakeholders** in processes that will hopefully lead to the designation of a state-level Natural Protected Area

**Strengthened inter-institutional partnerships** to support the management of the Ramsar Site



## PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT & COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

**15** capacity building workshops & experience exchanges involving approximately

**200** participants

Mentorship & support for

**12** community projects

## TRAINING, OUTREACH, EDUCATION & SCIENCE

### World Wetlands Day Festival

collaboratively organized for Bahía de Kino and Punta Chueca, engaging more than

**300** participants



**Mentorship and educational activities** provided to students in local schools

### Interpretive trail

implemented at Laguna La Cruz featuring educational videos produced by community members



- **6 youth** from Punta Chueca trained to conduct **23 surveys** with key community stakeholders

- **7 surveys** conducted with key stakeholders in Bahía de Kino

- **3 workshops** facilitated to share and discuss the findings



- **5 in-depth interviews** conducted with key stakeholders from Bahía de Kino and Punta Chueca

- **7 researchers** with experience in the Canal del Infiernillo were interviewed

# COMMUNITY PROJECTS

**Community leadership, participation, and collaboration are fundamental to biocultural conservation.**

During the 2025–2026 season, the Center partnered with approximately 120 community members from Bahía de Kino and Punta Chueca through 12 community projects.

We define a community project as a collaboration between one or more Center programs and a community group working toward a shared conservation goal.

Together, these projects addressed local priorities and contributed to participatory management and stewardship of the Laguna La Cruz and Canal del Infiernillo Ramsar sites through environmental education, ecological monitoring, restoration, training, and civic engagement.

Projects also operate at different levels of autonomy, creating pathways for community members to assume increasing leadership over time.

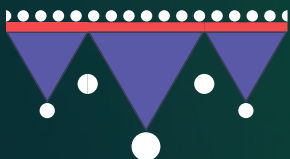
## EDUCATION ————— MONITORING

### BIOCULTURAL FIELDSCHOOL

38 PARTICIPANTS

**OBJECTIVE:** Contribute to the preservation, revitalization, and intergenerational transmission of Comcaac biocultural heritage

**RESULTS:** 30 classes, 1 field camp



### ECO-EDUCATORS

9 PARTICIPANTS

**OBJECTIVE:** Promote environmental education and community participation to conserve Laguna La Cruz and strengthen local leadership

**RESULTS:** 5 environmental education sessions strengthened environmental knowledge and promoted conservation among 58 participating students



### COMMUNITY LEADERS

10 PARTICIPANTS

**OBJECTIVE:** Promote the protection and conservation of Bahía de Kino's ecosystems through community organizing to lead and coordinate collective efforts to defend the territory in response to socio-environmental challenges

**RESULTS:** Increased capacity and participation in coordinated response to environmental incidents (2 formal complaints submitted to the appropriate authorities, 1 official public statement issued, and participation in media interviews)



### GRUPO TORTUGUERO DE BAHÍA DE KINO

14 PARTICIPANTS

**OBJECTIVE:** Document the presence of sea turtles in foraging and nesting areas through systematic monitoring

**RESULTS:** 58 sea turtles documented in foraging areas and 11 nests in nesting areas

### GRUPO COOIJAC

12 PARTICIPANTS

**OBJECTIVE:** Strengthen skills in biological monitoring, data management, and biocultural learning through the integration of traditional and scientific knowledge of waterbirds and their habitats

**RESULTS:** Greater diversification and depth of group activities, along with increased participation in project planning



### DOLPHIN MONITORING IN THE CANAL DEL INFIERNILLO

7 PARTICIPANTS

**OBJECTIVE:** Understand the spatial and temporal distribution and habitat use of bottlenose dolphins within the Canal del Infiernillo

**RESULTS:** 2 field outings (15.52 hours of effort), 11 bottlenose dolphin sightings (162 individuals), and 1 gray whale sighting (3 individuals)





Community members celebrating the conclusion of the 2025–2026 season

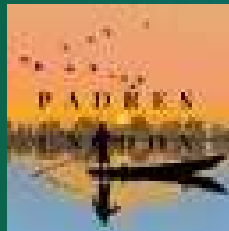
# ORING RESTORATION

## PADRÉS UNIDOS WILDLIFE MONITORING IN LAGUNA LA CRUZ

13 PARTICIPANTS

**OBJECTIVE:** Monitor wildlife within the Laguna La Cruz wetland to document the presence and activity of resident species

**RESULTS:** Identified key areas of wildlife activity on the islet in Laguna La Cruz and collected 500 photographs through camera trap monitoring



## PADRÉS UNIDOS RESTORATION & CLEANUP OF LAGUNA LA CRUZ

13 PARTICIPANTS

**OBJECTIVE:** Improve the health of Laguna La Cruz by removing trash to help maintain healthy mangrove ecosystems

**RESULTS:** Collected 1,080 kg of trash, less than collected in previous years

## GRUPO TORTUGUERO DE PUNTA CHUECA

15 PARTICIPANTS

**OBJECTIVE:** Conduct sea turtle monitoring in foraging areas within the Canal del Infiernillo, Comcaac territory

**RESULTS:** 6 monitoring outings, 26 sea turtles recorded, and 1 recaptured

PUNTA CHUECA



GRUPO TORTUGUERO  
DE LAS CALIPIRIAS

## CREDESPA

28 PARTICIPANTS

**OBJECTIVE:** Strengthen conservation and stewardship of Bahía de Kino's coastal ecosystems through beach cleanups

**RESULTS:** 19 cleanup events, 15,000 kg of trash collected, 40 km of coastline cleaned, and an educational regional lottery game designed and produced



## WATER QUALITY MONITORING

10 PARTICIPANTS

**OBJECTIVE:** Evaluate the effects of aquaculture effluent discharges on water quality in Laguna La Cruz and compare the results to Estero Santa Rosa, an ecosystem showing minimal apparent human disturbance

**RESULTS:** During discharge periods from shrimp farms, microalgae species appeared in Laguna La Cruz that were not observed in Santa Rosa



## XAASLCA AN BOTANICAL GARDEN

6 PARTICIPANTS

**OBJECTIVE:** Restore and maintain the botanical garden

**RESULTS:** Rehabilitation of trails, site cleanup, installation of benches, and development of a plant inventory

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

## Community leadership is fundamental to achieving lasting conservation outcomes.

Over time, conservation efforts become stronger when community members have the knowledge, skills, confidence, and opportunities to participate actively in them. Throughout the year, community group members participated in workshops, training sessions, mentorship programs, and experience exchanges focused on topics including ecological monitoring, environmental education, leadership, project coordination, and communication. The Center's role in facilitating and supporting these events has grown in recent years.

Participants consistently identified these learning and exchange opportunities as some of the most valuable aspects of their involvement. In addition to strengthening conservation efforts, these activities help develop skills that can be applied in employment, education, and community leadership.



As participants gain experience, many take on increasing responsibility within their projects, helping identify priorities, organize activities, and mentor new participants. **In this way, capacity building is not separate from conservation; it is one of the primary ways conservation is built and sustained within communities.**

## 20 capacity building workshops were facilitated for ~260 community members:

- Camera trap protocols for wildlife monitoring
- Camera trap protocols for biological monitoring
- PowerPoint as a communication tool
- Training for conducting community surveys
- Marine mammal identification
- Marine mammal photo-identification techniques
- Legal permitting process and requirements for wildlife research
- Data sheet protocols for sea turtle monitoring
- Waterbirds of the region
- Development of work plans
- Budgets and diversification of funding sources for community projects
- Ecology and monitoring of desert tortoises
- Desert tortoise ecology and care for animals in captivity
- Use of social media for conservation
- Communication and conservation
- Presentation and discussion of survey results on the status of fisheries in the Canal del Infiernillo



## Community Conservation Night

85 community project leaders and participants gathered to reflect on their contributions to the conservation of the Laguna La Cruz and Canal del Infiernillo Ramsar Sites. The evening concluded with a powerful realization: although participants represented 12 different projects, they are part of a single community conservation movement.



# EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE

Some of the most meaningful learning this season occurred through experience exchanges that brought together community leaders, students, researchers, educators, artists, and conservation practitioners from diverse backgrounds and regions.

From Bahía de Kino and Punta Chueca to Arizona, Baja California, and Colombia, these gatherings created opportunities to share knowledge, strengthen relationships, broaden perspectives, and explore new approaches to conservation and community engagement. While each exchange had a unique focus, all contributed to strengthening a growing network of people committed to biocultural conservation and the well-being of the communities and ecosystems upon which they depend.

## MSP+ Community Conservation Exchange

23 participants from five coastal communities in Colombia and northwestern Mexico came together for a three-day exchange focused on community-based conservation of shorebirds and coastal ecosystems. Participants shared experiences, challenges, and lessons learned while building lasting relationships across communities and countries.



## Kino Bay Day at Prescott College

11 Center staff traveled to Arizona to participate in graduation activities and facilitate the *Naturaleza y Territorio* exhibition. The experience strengthened relationships with campus colleagues and students as well as reinforced a sense of belonging within a broader binational community.



## N-Gen Sonoran Desert Researchers Mentorship Gathering

Mentors and mentees from Mexico and the United States participated in a gathering designed to strengthen relationships, exchange experiences, and establish the foundation for collaborative, long-term mentorship.



# MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

We honor and appreciate these students, faculty, staff, community members, and researchers who have contributed significantly to the Center's work this year.

## KAITI HALL



"As a recent graduate of the College of the Atlantic, I completed a two-month volunteer internship with the Center's Waterbird Monitoring Program. My two months at the Center were packed with much more learning and growth than I could have hoped for.

Not only were the field research opportunities particularly rich during my stay, but I was also able to participate in many other opportunities offered by the Center because of its emphasis on interdisciplinary learning. The experience broadened my understanding of both the remarkable biodiversity of the Midriff Island Region and the many ways conservation work can be approached."

**Thank you Kaiti for all of your contributions—from tackling every task with the biggest smile on your face to creating incredible interactive maps that help illustrate the distribution of an endangered seabird species. We are also grateful for your endless enthusiasm in the field and, of course, the Maine blueberry soda.**



## DELFINA MENDOZA

"I work in environmental education and have participated in workshops and training programs that have strengthened my knowledge. Thanks to the Center, I've been able to share what I've learned with visiting groups and children

in local schools, planting the seed of conservation in the next generation. I've also worked alongside other community leaders to find solutions to local challenges and promote the conservation of Laguna La Cruz's natural resources.

The Center has had a very positive influence on my life. It has taught me that by working together we can achieve meaningful change and deepen my commitment to conservation. The scholarships have also come at just the right time when my family needed them most. It has been a privilege to be part of this journey."

**Thank you, Delfina, for walking alongside the Center and turning your love of nature into actions that strengthen your community. Thank you for inspiring, teaching, and demonstrating that commitment, passion, and teamwork leave a lasting mark.**

## VICTOR MOLINA

"I first got to know the Center when I was invited to join the Punta Chueca Sea Turtle Group. Since then, I've tried to participate in as many Prescott activities as I can. The Center inspired me and gave me the foundation I needed to begin building a career in conservation.

When I was younger, I often worried about my future and was afraid I wouldn't become someone or accomplish anything meaningful. Many people around me—including family members and friends—were deeply affected by drugs, and as a result, many ended up living on the streets. I was afraid that the same thing would happen to me. The Center helped take away that fear. As I got to know each member of the staff, I gradually became more and more connected to the Center."

**Thank you Victor, for your enthusiasm, commitment, and willingness to contribute in so many different ways. Your selection by your peers as leader of Punta Chueca Grupo Tortuguero reflects the trust and respect you have earned within your community. Congratulations!**



## ULISES RANCAÑO

"My role at the Center was to serve as a bridge between knowledge and the community through communication. Being part of this program fulfilled a personal and professional dream and allowed me to discover the best version of myself by working toward a cause I believe in, alongside passionate people who share the same mission, in one of the most extraordinary places on Earth.

I am convinced that the Center has the potential to become a regional hub for sustainable development, bringing together science, education, and community to create lasting impact."

**Thank you Ulises, for your extraordinary talent at conveying the Center's work and complex themes in creative ways that simultaneously inform and inspire.**



# COORDINATED RESPONSES TO SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS

## The coastal ecosystems of the Gulf of California face increasingly complex threats.

From fisheries bycatch and illegal activities affecting wildlife to irresponsible tourism, pollution, coastal development, and other activities, these threats can significantly impact highly sensitive ecosystems.

These are the challenges the Center works to address every day in pursuit of its mission. When these threats result in socio-environmental incidents, effective responses require coordinated, timely, and well-informed action that brings together communities, researchers, organizations, and government agencies.

This year, several incidents underscored the importance of having clear, coordinated mechanisms in place to respond effectively.

The mass bycatch and mortality of brown pelicans associated with industrial sardine fishing activities required collaboration among community members, partner organizations, researchers, and government



agencies to document the events, gather evidence, and promote corrective action.

The irresponsible use of a drone over Isla Alcatraz during the double-crested cormorant breeding season caused the colony to abandon its nests, resulting in complete reproductive failure for the season and reminding us that even a single action can disrupt critical ecological processes.

## Our long-term presence in the region and continuous monitoring of ecological trends uniquely position us to respond to critical socio-environmental incidents.

These and other incidents demonstrate that isolated or improvised responses are rarely sufficient.

To address this need, the Center developed the

### **Socio-Environmental Incident Response Protocol,**

a tool that helps coordinate efforts, evaluate each situation within its broader social and ecological context, and define strategic actions in collaboration with communities, government agencies, and partner organizations.

More than simply a protocol, it reflects our commitment to responding collaboratively, thoughtfully, and effectively to the conservation challenges facing the Gulf of California.

### PROTOCOL STEPS

1. Detection and reporting
2. Preliminary evaluation
3. Contextual analysis and stakeholder identification
4. Incident classification
5. Committee activation
6. Strategy and action plan definition and implementation
7. Follow-up, evaluation, and closure



# MARINE MAMMAL RESEARCH

## IMPACT

Long-term monitoring, research collaborations, and participation of community members and students contribute valuable information to the ecological understanding and conservation of cetaceans in the region.

**Long-term monitoring continues to generate valuable insights into the Gulf of California's cetacean populations, underscoring the importance of sustained research for documenting ecological trends and informing conservation efforts.**

Collaboration with national and international academic partners has expanded, supporting the analysis, publication, and dissemination of research findings. A key milestone is the publication of the first scientific article on fin whales in the region, contributing to a better understanding of this resident population.

The work also supports the training of emerging scientists through thesis and capstone research projects. Ongoing efforts focus on maintaining long-term monitoring, deepening data analysis, and strengthening scientific collaboration to advance knowledge of the region's marine mammals.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Publication of the first scientific article on fin whales in the region
- Delivered keynote presentation at the IX AMMAC Mammalogy Conference
- Documentation of the return of short-finned pilot whales after more than 8 years
- Training and mentorship of students and community members



# RESULTS

## MONITORING

**2,218**  
total sightings  
recorded over  
**17 years**  
of continuous  
monitoring



**110 sightings** of **7 cetacean species**  
(4 whale species & 3 dolphin species)  
during 30 survey outings representing more than

**205**  
hours of  
field effort

**12 acoustic recordings**  
(37+ minutes) and  
**63 drone videos**  
(121+ minutes)  
collected for  
**7 cetacean species**

## COLLABORATIONS

Strengthened  
collaborations with

**6 academic organizations**

- Cientinela del Mar
- Caribbean Orca Project
- CICESE
- CICESE La Paz
- UDLAP
- Tropical Pacific Ocean Sperm Whale Consortium

Participated in

**4 meetings**

of the San Pedro  
Mártir Island and Gulf  
of California Islands–  
Sonora Advisory  
Councils

## & CAPACITY BUILDING

### EDUCATION



Delivered:

**3 classes**  
**6 workshops/ webinars**  
**6 presentations**  
**4 guided visits**  
for diverse  
audiences

Co-supervised and mentored projects conducted by  
**5 students** from:

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| ■ UNISON           | ■ College of the Atlantic  |
| ■ CICESE           | ■ Arizona State University |
| ■ Prescott College |                            |

Trained and engaged

**2 students** from the Bahía de Kino high school  
in a community-based dolphin project in the  
Canal del Infiernillo

## INFORMATION EXCHANGE

**2 scientific articles** & **1 technical report**

published through  
inter-institutional collaborations

**2 manuscripts**  
reviewed and

**1 manuscript**  
advanced  
towards  
publication

**6 community festivals**  
and outreach events attended



**4 photo identification catalogs** updated,  
including **1 upload**  
to Flukebook

**1 interview**  
provided to an  
Arizona-Hermosillo  
news outlet

# WATERBIRD MONITORING PROGRAM



## IMPACT

Effective habitat protection and species conservation rooted in long-term cooperative monitoring that prioritizes community involvement, collaboration, leadership training, data analysis, and information sharing on the local, regional, and international levels.

### Long-term monitoring projects continued on Isla Alcatraz, in regional estuaries, the Canal del Infernillo, and the open sea.

Surveys of Craveri's murrelets were expanded to the San Lorenzo Islands with promising results. In contrast, nesting success of multiple waterbird species on Isla Alcatraz was the lowest recorded in decades. Data organization, review, and analysis continued to support the detection of long-term ecological trends.

Ongoing collaboration with community members and other Center programs helped apply data in ways that strengthen and inform coordinated conservation action. This season, the data also contributed to media campaigns promoting responsible wildlife practices in natural protected areas across the region. Plans for the next season include advancing banding and tracking projects.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Participation in Mexico's leading ornithology conference, strengthening regional collaborations

- Craveri's murrelet monitoring confirmed nesting in the San Lorenzo Archipelago

- Mentorship of 4 student and recent graduate projects



## RESULTS

### MONITORING 34 surveys of

**26** surveys monitoring  
**12** nesting species  
on Isla Alcatraz,  
showing the  
least productive  
year in decades



**waterbird species**  
in Laguna La Cruz, Tastiota, and Cardonal estuaries showing a short winter stay of some migratory species



**4** nocturnal surveys  
and one nest search  
confirming the  
presence of  
**Craveri's Murrelet**  
on the San Lorenzo Archipelago

### EDUCATION &

**8** educational, practical  
& theoretical sessions  
strengthening the professional skills of  
**13** Grupo Cooijac members



Mentorship of  
**4** university students focusing on  
ecological data collection, analysis, and  
field methods

### & TRAINING

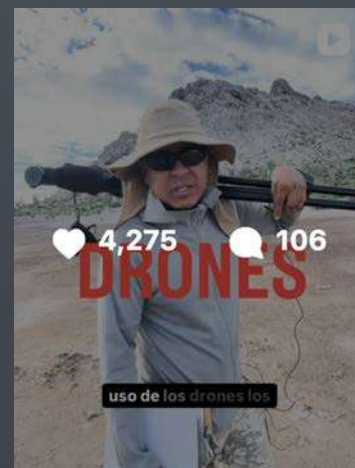
### COLLABORATIONS &

An informative video about responsible wildlife  
viewing practices for tourists, gaining over

**600,000** views  
and **4,000** likes  
on social media

Deeper  
collaboration  
with the  
**Migratory  
Shorebird  
Project+**  
including an  
in-person  
experience  
exchange

**Popular article**  
telling the story of  
Lucy, the leucistic  
yellow-footed gull  
on Isla Alcatraz



### INFORMATION SHARING

Presentation and participation in the  
**Congreso para el estudio y  
conservación de las aves en México**



# VISITING & LONG-TERM RESEARCHERS & PARTNERSHIPS



## Field stations play a vital role in advancing research that expands knowledge and informs conservation.

At the Center, we support visiting researchers with local knowledge, logistical coordination, and trusted community relationships, helping ensure that research is both scientifically rigorous and relevant to the communities and ecosystems it serves.

**This year, the Center supported 62 researchers across 11 projects spanning:**

- Geology
- Linguistics
- Bats
- Chuckwallas
- Documentary filmmaking
- Plants
- Desert tortoises

One of the defining characteristics of this year's collaborations was the long-term partnerships they represent. Most of the lead researchers working through the Center this season first began collaborating with us in the 1990s.

Over the years, these collaborations have expanded well beyond individual research projects to include student mentoring, community engagement, exchanges, forums, and other opportunities for shared learning.

As these collaborations continue to evolve, the exchange of ideas, experience, and perspectives strengthens both the science and its long-term impact.

### MERCY VAUGHN

Desert tortoise biologist and organizer of this year's desert tortoise expedition to Isla Tiburón



# ISLA TIBURÓN DESERT TORTOISE EXPEDITION

SCIENCE, CULTURE & CONSERVATION

In November 2025, we were honored to support a diverse group of biologists from across the United States and Mexico.

Led by biologist Mercy Vaughn alongside young members of the Comcaac community (~60 participants in total), the group undertook an ambitious expedition to gather important data on the presence and ecology of the **Morafkai desert tortoise** (*Gopherus morafkai*) within the Comcaac territory, both on Isla Tiburón and on the mainland.

This was the first large-scale study of this species since 2001 and involved enormous logistical coordination (including sailing portable toilets across the Canal del Infiernillo and hauling them deep into the interior of Isla Tiburón—and then getting them back out full!), but it was a resounding success.



**The study not only suggested a significant recovery in the tortoise population,** but also provided both biologists and Comcaac youth with access to the pristine interior of Isla Tiburón, perhaps the last large area of Sonoran Desert that has never been grazed by cattle or experienced significant development.

The island is also the traditional heartland of the Comcaac people, and archaeological evidence of their long presence was abundant throughout the area. Long field days and evenings spent relaxing in camp forged deep bonds among participants, and this intersection of biology, ecology, culture, and history proved to be a deeply moving and inspiring experience for all involved.

The results of this study were presented at the Desert Tortoise Symposium, as well as at a regional herpetological conference by Helen Barnett, one of the Comcaac participants.

We are also happy to report that the Comcaac participants have come together with the Center to create Mexico's first and only community-based desert tortoise monitoring group,

***Los Guardianes de las Tortugas del Desierto*** (The Desert Tortoise Guardians).

The group is highly motivated to weave together traditional Comcaac knowledge and Western science to conserve this critically important species.



# INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Strong institutions are built through relationships, effective systems, and a commitment to continuous improvement.**

The Center continues its journey toward refining and professionalizing every aspect of our work, while remaining grounded in the authentic relationships and spirit of collaboration that have always defined the Center. This season, we continued strengthening the partnerships, infrastructure, and organizational capacity that support our mission.

Despite a challenging funding environment, the Center remained focused on supporting its programs, partners, and people. The continued trust and generosity of our donors, volunteers, advisors, community partners, and collaborators remain essential to this work.

Together, these efforts help ensure that the Center remains resilient, effective, and well-positioned to lead and collaborate in experiential education, science, and biocultural conservation.

## IMPACT

Investments in people, partnerships, infrastructure, and organizational systems strengthen the Center's capacity for community leadership, scientific research, environmental education, and conservation action.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Strengthened partnerships and collaborations during a period of institutional transition and uncertainty
- Strong communication and collaboration with the new Prescott College leadership team
- Continued leadership, guidance, and support from the Center's Advisory Council
- Enduring support and engagement from a remarkable community of donors, volunteers, advisors, and partners
- Co-facilitation of a budgeting and funding sources workshop for community project leaders

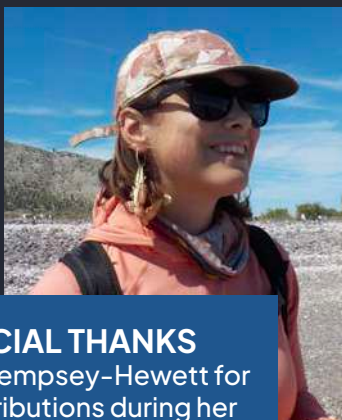


# RESULTS

## DEVELOPMENT

Record number of  
**17 grant proposals**  
submitted,  
requesting a total of  
**\$1,444,022**

- 2 awarded
- 11 declined
- 4 pending



**SPECIAL THANKS**  
to Iliana Dempsey-Hewett for  
her contributions during her  
one-year grant assistantship

**\$55,350** awarded to  
**39 students** by the Heidi  
Koskinen Scholarship since 2004

## LEGAL OPERATIONS IN MEXICO

Maintained full compliance with all  
legal and fiscal requirements for  
the Mexican NGO to retain its  
tax-deductible status

## ADMINISTRATION

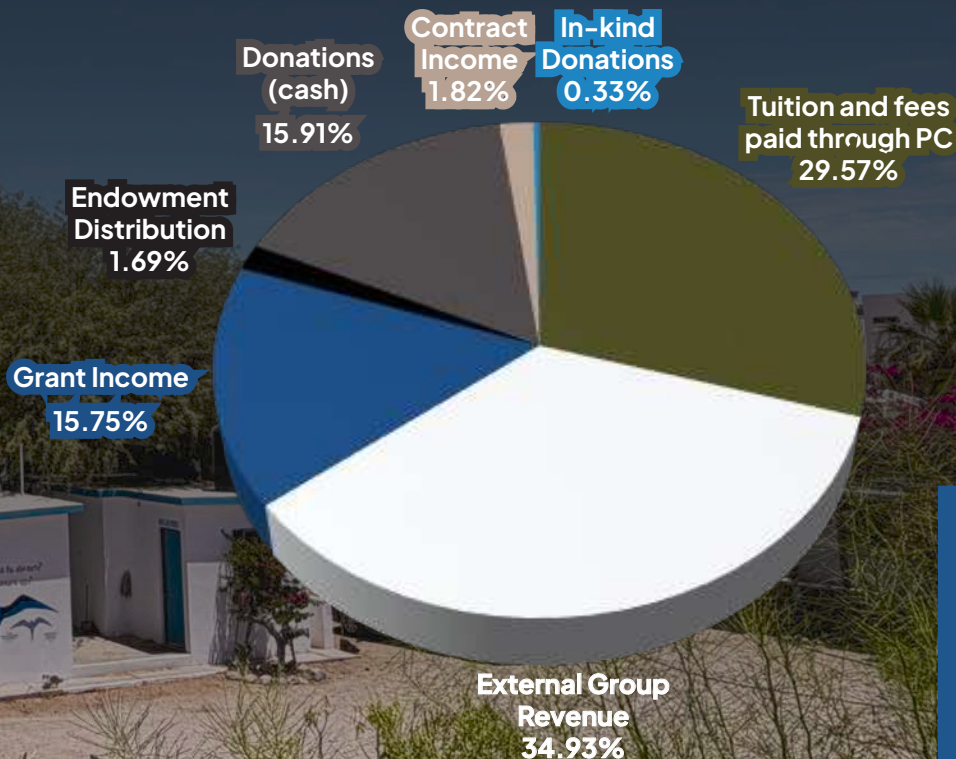
- Effective budget management during a challenging fiscal year
- Continued progress toward completion of the Operations and Personnel Manual
- Upgraded accounting system in collaboration with the Prescott College (Arizona) Business Office

## OPERATIONS

- Installed **2,500 liters of additional water storage capacity** and new pump systems to improve resilience during municipal water outages
- Resurfaced sidewalks and driveways
- Completed a **new mechanical workshop**
- Upgraded **air conditioning** in classroom and library spaces
- Added **2 new-to-us 15-passenger vans** to the vehicle fleet
- Maintained a strong commitment to safety through effective incident response
- Provided reliable logistical and operational support for staff, students, visitors, researchers, and community partners

2025-2026

## TOTAL INCOME DISTRIBUTION



**NAT AND SARAH COBB**  
are among the many donors,  
volunteers, advisors, and  
partners whose enduring  
support, friendship, and  
commitment continue to  
strengthen the Center and  
our mission.

# THIS YEAR'S DONORS



DONATE HERE



## Our donors are an essential part of the Kino Bay Center community.

Their generosity, insight, and steadfast support help fuel the work we do—from research and education to conservation and community engagement. We are deeply grateful for their trust and shared commitment.

### \$25,000 – \$49,999

Nat and Sarah Cobb

### \$10,000 – \$24,999

Jeff Bayha

### \$5,000 – \$9,999

KAKATU Foundation, Cleo Bluth Charitable Foundation, Betsy Bolding, Kenneth Hartlage, Toni Kaus and Mary Trevor

### \$2,000 – \$4,999

Mike Zimmer, Mark Thorkelson, Geoff Barnard, Jamie Lantz

### \$1,000 – \$1,999

Amy Meltzer, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Doug Leslie, Jennie Duberstein, Emily Gable, Joel Hiller, Doug Hulmes, Jerry Secundy

### \$500 – \$999

Ed Miller, Karin Zachow, Peter Coha, Karen Donnelly, Sally Dorsten, Steve Huemmer, Kent Madin, Joel Rae

### \$100 – \$499

Daniel Fleishman, Suzy Olson, Claudia Bach, Ellen Braun, Emily Clark, Darci Jones, Bruce Muller, Wayne Voorhies, Hudson Weaver, Sophie Frandsen, Abram Fleishman, Rob Meltzer, Cynthia Morgan, Mercy Vaughn, Rachel Bernstein, Lorayne Meltzer, Joanie Clingan, Iliana Dempsey-Hewett, Elisa Bocanegra, Travis Toelkes, Stephen Ahmann, Sandra Andersen, Kelsi Black, Bret Blosser, Armene Boatright, Heather Bricker, Charles Brooks, Holly Gellerman, John Goodman, Eric Meyer, Carolyn O'Meara, Diana Papoulias, Ted Schleicher, Mark Riegner, Abbie Roses, Jim Walsh, Alan Weisman, David Young

### <\$99

Stephen Hale, Jennifer Weidenser, Finn Anderson, Larkin Ward, Emily Affolter, Maribel Lopez, Gret Antilla, Erika Galindo, Cecil Goodman, Kristen Hayes, Juniper Hunter, John Isaacs, Oscar Leach, Jane Ratzlaff, Cameron Rudibaugh, Mark Udall, Julia Hawkins, Alivya Malcolm, Alison Zych, Joe Dye, Coralie Palmer, Sav Hollenbaugh, Elizabeth Nguyen, Nathan Banfield, Jaden Best, Luca Dewey, Irene Espinosa, Adam Grimm, Mark Hoffman, Juan López, TreBora Morales, Abigail Nelson, Ada Wanko, Arthur Williams, Matthew Becker, Ann Piombino, Gaby Avila, Cindy Thomas, Paola Galindo, Anh Klink, Celia Parr, Natalie Williams, Maria Castro, Chris Schneider, Miguel Arteaga, Andrea Baltazar, Corey Chan, Haley Hawes, Asha Kinney, Kasia Michalik, Clarissa Moreno, Nichole P., Noah Peters, Andrew Ruelas, Jonathan Swem, Emerson Wisniewski, Abraham Galindo, Grisel Heredia, Kat Miskimen, Rain Bowrys, Milan Bsullakmiller, Ryan Landry, Sean Harper



# KINO BAY CENTER STAFF

The Kino Bay Center staff reflect the diversity of the communities and cultures that contribute to the Center's work.

More than half of the staff are from Bahía de Kino, Hermosillo, or Punta Chueca, while others come from elsewhere in Mexico and the United States. Together, they work across cultures, disciplines, and experiences to support education, science, and biocultural conservation.

## CENTER STAFF MEMBERS

(from left to right)

### BACK ROW

Andrés Galindo, Ulises Becerra, Cosme Becerra, Lorayne Meltzer, Aaron Barnett, Irene Espinosa, Jaime Martínez

### MIDDLE ROW

Emilio Osuna, Ana Martínez, Gregory Smart, Yaritzia Torres, Frida Yañez, Héctor Pérez, Johana Nieblas, Cosme Becerra Esquer

### FRONT ROW

Julio Paredes, Vicky Yañez, Gabriela Salazar, Grisel Heredia, Lauren Dolinski, Elise Maynard, Edgar Magdaleno, Ulises Rancaño

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



The members of the Center's Executive Council have been part of the Center community for many years. Together, they contribute technical expertise, strategic guidance, and institutional leadership that strengthen the Center's programs, operations, and long-term vision.

Their experience spans fields including science, habitat conservation, Indigenous communities, education, and non-profit leadership.

## PROGRAM ADVISORS

Carlos Castillo • Gisela Heckel • Carolyn O'Meara • Eduardo Palacios • Dan Anderson • Abram Fleishman

## LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Jerry Secundy (Chair) • Geoff Barnard • Joel Hiller • Nat Cobb • Annette Candanedo • Mark Thorkelson



# 2025–2026 Annual Report

## Prescott College Kino Bay Center

Design and Art Direction — Andrés Galindo

Photography — Andrés Galindo, Lorayne Meltzer,  
Xavier Basurto, Edgar Magdaleno, Ulises Rancaño,  
Lauren Dolinski, Héctor Pérez-Puig, Aaron Barnett,  
Ben Wilder, Jaime Martínez, Ana Martínez, Abbey Nelson,  
Catherine Barricklow, Naomi Blinick, Iliana Dempsey-Hewett

### CONNECT WITH US!



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Kino Bay Center



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### We'd love to hear from you!

For more information about our work from this year  
or about our organization, please visit our website  
or send us an email.