



Cloud Forest Conservation Alliance, Inc.  
501 (c) 3 Operating Entity of  
Cloudbridge Nature Reserve  
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Executive Director: Casey McConnell

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2022



The non-profit Cloud Forest Conservation Alliance (CFCA) supports and guides the operations of the Cloudbridge Nature Reserve and seeks to expand the knowledge, skills, tools, practices and physical facilities available there. The CFCA collaborates with individuals, educational institutions, non-

governmental and governmental organizations that hold similar values toward education, conservation and sustainability. Its vision is that the Cloudbridge campus will become an international destination known for its thriving, learning laboratory and variety of life-shaping, immersive experiences in the cloud forest.

In 2022, Cloudbridge Nature Reserve continued the excellent trajectory that the project has shown since its conception twenty years ago. Conservation and restoration of the Cloud Forest of the Talamanca mountains combines with environmental education and research, to provide a life-changing experience to our program participants.



For many years, Cloudbridge has offered a unique and inspiring educational experience to researchers and volunteers from Costa Rica and around the world. This year, over 120 people took part in our residential program, including 89 research interns, research assistants and students completing a study placement. In addition to researchers and volunteers who enjoy an extended time on the reserve, we also receive student groups who participate in guided tours and hands-on volunteer activities for a rich educational experience.



In order to continue providing a supported and rewarding experience to our program participants, this year we are very pleased to have built a new RESEARCH LAB, which provides a quiet space dedicated to studies of the Cloud Forest, where researchers can work and keep their samples and specimens. Likewise, given the excessive moisture of the rainforest, we are pleased that the lab includes a “dry room” where a dehumidifier provides excellent conditions for storing equipment safely.





Environmental education can happen in many different ways, many times art can reach emotional depths that are difficult to convey in ordinary classroom settings. For this reason we are quite happy to have hosted various dancers, musicians and environmental educators in our first annual Cloud Forest Festival and Science Fair. Our researchers prepared educational displays and at designated times were available to talk about their research. At other times, participants were able to enjoy a tree tour and a birdwatching tour, and artists of various types conveyed their preoccupation for the state of our environment through different media, including a puppet show. This Festival marked not only the Reserve's twentieth anniversary, but also the completion of the construction of the research lab. However, improvements to the furnishings and equipment of this research lab are on ongoing project which will continue in 2023.



We have also enhanced the experience we are able to offer day visitors, by installing additional safety railings at various places, as well as educational signage on our Waterfall Trail. Both in Spanish and in English, we offer easily digestible tidbits about ecosystem services, ecological succession and more.

We are thankful that 2022 was a great year, and we are confident that 2023 will see Cloudbridge continue to grow.