

### About SalveMonos

SalveMonos (Save the Monkeys, in Spanish) is a nonprofit Association with the mission to *“protect and rescue the wildlife, especially monkeys, through actions that reduce the threats to their way of life, create the environment needed for the survival of their species and guarantee assistance to monkeys that have suffered accidents or are in danger.”*

It was created in Costa Rica in 2004 by two local entrepreneurs of the region of Guanacaste (in the Pacific coast of the country) Patricia Serman (owner of Azul Profundo Boutique) and Simona Daniele (owner of Hotel Luna Llena). Worried about the increasing reduction of the howler monkeys they decided to take action. Howler monkeys have very important presence in the area, and economic and touristic development is threatening their way of life.

The construction of buildings, houses and roads has a negative effect on the amount of trees available for monkeys to move around. When there are no trees, monkeys use streets and electric cables to move from one place to another. Car accidents and electrocutions are the main cause of deaths and injuries of howler monkeys in the area, because cables are usually not isolated and drivers are not always aware of the presence of monkeys on the roads.

Based on this diagnose, the Association has worked during the past 10 years based in 5 pillars that respond to the different dimensions of the problem. The main accomplishments in each pillar have been:

- **REFORESTATION AND REGENERATION OF BIOLOGICAL CORRIDORS:**
  - Creation of two tree nurseries with native species.
  - 4 coast borders were reforested completely.
  - Reforestation Plan approved by the Municipality.
- **ACCIDENT PREVENTION:**
  - Construction and collocation of 200 bridges that monkeys use to move from one place to another instead of climbing on the electric cables.
  - Detection of another 200 spots that needed bridges for the electric company to hang.
    - Installation of devices that prevent monkeys of climbing on light poles.
    - Placement of signs of alert for drivers in the main roads where animals cross.
- **MONKEY RESCUE AND SUPPORT TO SHELTERS:**
  - Assistance was given to over 600 injured monkeys and 100 orphan baby monkeys. This includes picking them up, guaranteeing vet assistance, buying the medicines, feeding them and the follow up of their health.
  - Support to two shelters that take care of the monkeys until their full recovery or until they become adults (in the case of babies).
- **RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION:**

- Two studies were made by local specialists in partnership with SalveMonos to understand better the problem and the monkeys' way of life.
- **COMMUNITY AWARENESS:**
  - 2,300 personas involved, that support the Project by donating, contributing to the detection of spots that need bridges or signs, call for help when monkeys have accidents and contribute in the Association's activities.
  - 25 events have been organized (fundraising, volunteer activities and educational workshops).
  - 1,100 children and young people of 5 local schools and one community center have participated in awareness and environmental education activities.
  - 1 replication of SalveMonos Project in Playa Hermosa. Electric cables were insulated, bridges build and environmental awareness activities were developed.
- **INFLUENCE AUTHORITIES AND ELECTRIC COMPANIES:**
  - The electrical company committed publicly to hang the bridges in the areas that SalveMonos detects as necessary, to insulate the cables that cause accidents, and to lop off the branches near electric poles to avoid monkeys climbing.
  - Joint work with the Municipality and the Environmental Ministry for different projects including reforestation and animal rescues.

The community's commitment has become stronger every year. Local neighbors, companies, specialists, public institutions, schools, animal shelters, have been key to increase the positive impact of our work. They have contributed with their knowledge, time, economic resources, donations and dissemination of information.