AMAZON RAINFOREST CONSERVANCY

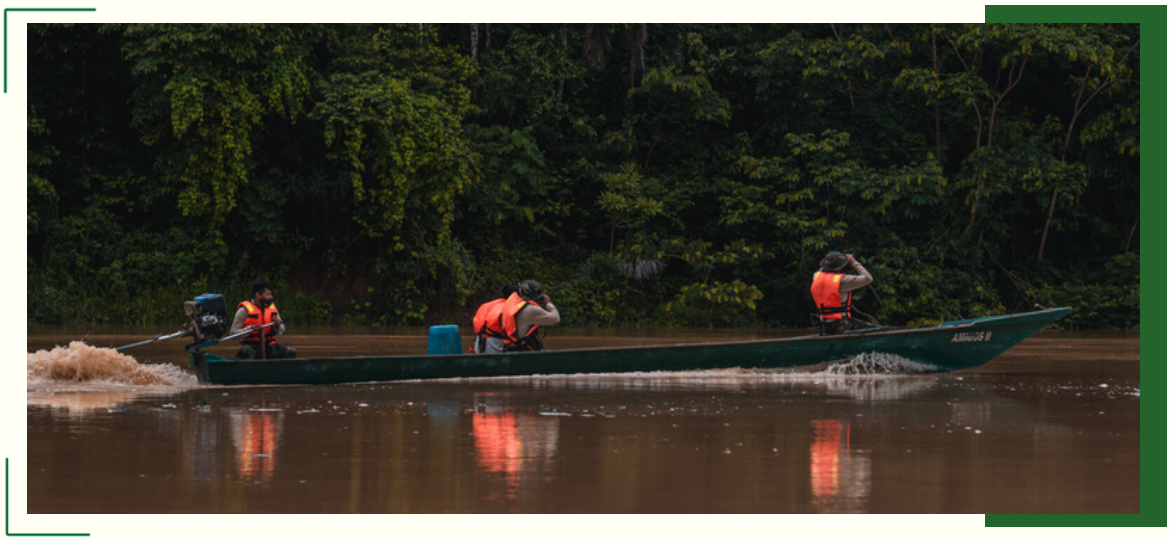
2021 IMPACT REPORT

MESSAGE FROM JANA BELL, FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Amazon Rainforest Conservancy,

It's no secret that 2021 was a challenging year. But thanks to **YOU,** our supporters, we were able to take action despite those challenges.

In the Los Amigos Conservation Concession (LACC), we launched a project aimed at strengthening surveillance and control actions. More specifically, we provided **two ARC Wild Protectors** to work alongside ACCA's Promotores de Conservación to patrol and protect 146,000 hectares (360,000 acres) of pristine old-growth rainforest from the threats of illegal logging, gold mining, road development and poachers.



ARC Wild Protectors & ACCA Promotores on patrol at LACC

And we have funds in reserve to **do more in 2022** – including the launch of our cloud forest and headwaters projects! Find more information on these projects **here**.

For me personally, this past year was exceptional in terms of the people who have joined the team. Jason Ruby, Mark Weinstein, Gurbeen Bhasin, Cindy Reátegui and Samuel Prada are all powerhouses and took ARC to the next level. Jared Schachter as usual kept ARC moving forward with our strategic planning and evaluation. ARC has never been **stronger** in terms of the skills and talents of the team and I am so grateful to all of them.

MESSAGE FROM JANA BELL, FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

But most importantly, **YOU** have shown tremendous dedication and support in spite of the challenges we have faced. What a diverse and incredible group you are. Did you know that ARC supporters live all over the globe? We have donors from Canada, the United States, Europe, Africa, United Kingdom and Australia.

ARC Founder Jana Bell at the headwaters region of the Peruvian Amazon

On behalf of the entire team at ARC, thank you for your ongoing support. We could not do what we do on the ground without you. Saving the rainforest is what we do but YOU are the how. Your support is what makes our work possible and allows us to dream bigger and challenge ourselves to be better every year.

I am truly humbled by the level of support and the power of our community coming together to save the rainforest.

Warmest regards,

Jana Bell

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

LOS AMIGOS CONSERVATION CONCESSION (LACC)

In an on-going effort to strengthen **surveillance and control** actions at LACC, ARC's Wild Protectors began working alongside ACCA's Promotores de Conservación in **June 2021**. Together, they patrol and protect this vital wilderness from the threats of illegal logging, gold mining, road development and poachers.

Our Wild Protectors are committed to tackling illicit activities at LACC; however, for their safety, we can only give you a glimpse as to who these two superstars really are. "Jose" is a forestry technician and former military sergeant in the Peruvian army. He is adept at maneuvering boats, as well as working with engines and global positioning equipment. "Wilbur", also a former sergeant in the Peruvian army, has worked in security and was part of the technical team at an ecotourism concession. He is an expert in repairing engines and jungle infrastructure maintenance.

In addition to their surveillance and control activities, the forest rangers at LACC collect data for **research and biological monitoring**:

- Plant phenology is carried out each month and a total of 976 plants were monitored.
- Mammal, reptiles, amphibian and bird species are monitored each month to compare the number of individuals of these species over time.
- Recording of meteorological data is carried out daily (temperature and rainfall).

ARC Wild Protectors collecting data at LACC

The Uniquely Beautiful King Vulture

Impact In Numbers

146,000 - Protected hectares of pristine old growth rainforest

21 - Species of mammals protected

617 - Species of birds protected

14 - Endangered species protected

15 million - Tons of carbon stored above ground (over 7 years)

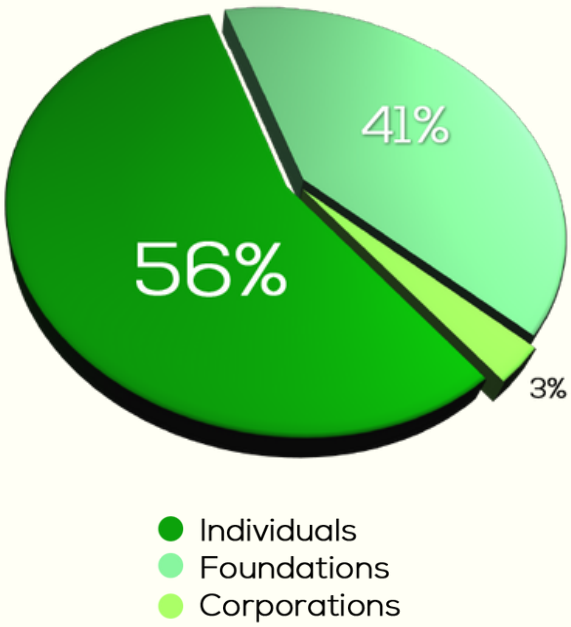
3 - Evidence of PIAC (Peoples Living in Isolation or with Initial Contact) on routine patrols

8 - Specialized patrols undertaken of six or more days duration, as prompted by alerts from the GIS team in Lima, during which illegal logging activity was found, unauthorized persons were identified and removed, and their camps and machinery were dismantled.

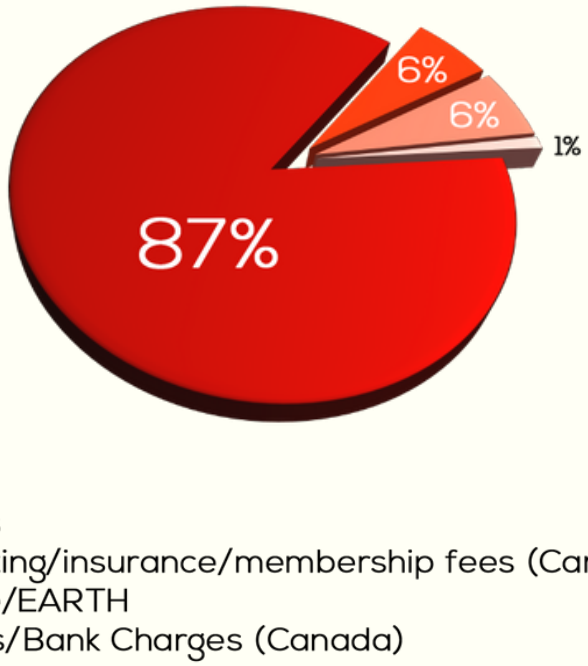
ARC'S 2021 FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

Thanks to your support, we raised a total of $144,754 in 2021. While the challenges of COVID-19 limited our accomplishments over the past year, our expenses were also limited to only $33,916. This means we now have just over $300,000 in reserves from the past two years. We will use these funds to **launch our 2022 projects** - including those in the cloud forest and headwaters regions of the Amazon!

Revenue



Expenses



OUR THANKS

We can't overstate how much of ARC's success relies solely on donations from individuals, businesses and foundations. We are so grateful to all of our remarkable donors who have stayed the course with us as we navigated through another challenging year. Your belief in us and our shared vision of protecting the Amazon rainforest and the ecosystem services it provides will have a lasting impact on future generations.

We would also like to recognize the following foundations for their contributions to ARC's mission:

The Zita and Mark Bernstein Family Foundation
The Five B Family Foundation
The Carrie Yakimovich Foundation

Finally, a special thank you to **Michelle Owen**, Musicians Fighting Climate Change and The Glorious Sons who held a pop-up event in Toronto and raised money for us to save 10 acres of rainforest! In Michelle's words:

> "...when I learned about ARC, I knew MFCC needed to become a supporter."
>
> Michelle Owen, MFCC

*"**Musicians Fighting Climate Change** has an ultimate goal of aligning artists with climate change based businesses and charities in order to combat the climate crisis. Our planet is in critical condition and one of the major contributors to this crisis is harm being caused to our ancient forests. The destruction happening to the **Amazon Rainforest** is unprecedented and catastrophic so when I learned about ARC, I knew MFCC needed to become a supporter. ARC is creating meaningful change that will benefit the entire planet and our pop-up shop partnership with The Glorious Sons aimed to raise money for land protection in South America. We will continue to support ARC with future endeavours and action plans."*

Thank you again for all of your support!

BEHIND THE SCENES

MEET GURBEEN BHASIN, ARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear ARC supporters,

My name is Gurbeen Bhasin and I'm a **proud supporter** and board member of ARC. I'm honoured to participate in the wonderful work that is being done to save the rainforest, the lungs of our planet.

As the story goes, my parents would go hiking every weekend in the beautiful mountains of Iran. Even when my mother was nine months pregnant, they didn't miss a day. She laughingly tells me how I was almost born on the mountaintop. I guess you can say I was a **nature lover** even before birth.

After the revolution broke out in Iran in 1978, my brother and I were sent to boarding school in India. As luck would have it, my boarding school happened to be in the Himalayan Mountains. I loved hiking and the mountains felt like home. We had hiking clubs and I enjoyed learning about **flora and fauna** from my teachers. At the very top of our mountain, on a clear day, one could see Everest. What a sight.

Gurbeen sharing the love in the Amazon!

Moving to Toronto at age 17, I didn't get many chances to hike or play in the mountains but when I treated myself to a trip to Peru in January 2020, that **passion and love was reignited**. My friends Judy and Cindy organized the most incredible trip. We spent a week hiking in very remote areas of Peru and learned from a shaman about the trees, waterfalls and so much more. He played his flute regularly when we hiked to **give back to nature**. It was magical.

BEHIND THE SCENES

I felt like a sponge, wanting to soak in all the knowledge and somehow preserve this incredible beauty. We met some local conservation specialists that taught me about the floating river and how the Amazon is indeed the lungs of our planet. Unfortunately, the magical nature of the Amazon is **under threat** of development, logging and corporate greed. This broke my heart.

What could I do? **How could I help?** We needed to conserve this land, its waterways and find a way to sustain its magic. There had a to be a way. After many conversations, I learned about Jana Bell and the great work that ARC is doing. It is this conservation that will be part of the solution to save our planet, our home, and hopefully the home of generations to come.

Gurbeen exploring the cloud forest of the Peruvian Amazon

Let's be part of the solution. Let's leave a planet that is healthy for future generations. This is the home of many species big and small. It is our duty to **honour mother earth** with our love and respect which ultimately means that we protect her and nurture her beauty. We are one.

I thank you for supporting ARC and the wonderful work that is being done to protect the rainforest.

Best Wishes,

Gurbeen Bhasin

LOOKING AHEAD

In April, the Canadian and Peruvian teams will be meeting in Peru. Together we will visit land parcels we have identified as being potential **strategic purchases** for the launch of our cloud forest and headwaters projects. These projects will allow us to help protect a wider biodiversity of plants and animals, especially endangered species and the wilderness they call home.

Going forward we'll continue to need your support and engagement more than ever. Leading scientists are raising the alarm that the **tipping point** of the Amazon rainforest's degradation to a savanna ecosystem is looming. This could trigger a massive release of stored carbon and lead to catastrophic global warming impact including mass extinctions of plant and animal species.

The good news is there is still time! But we need to **take action** now as - individuals, corporations and governments.

> "Thank you for your ongoing confidence in us. We could not do what we do on the ground without **YOU!**"

A pair of blue-winged macaws whose populations are declining at an alarming rate

Let's stand together to defend the Amazon Rainforest as one of the most meaningful investments we can make for future generations.