

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT MERAZONIA/SAVE ECUADOR'S ANIMALS CHARITY



Thirteen years after the arrival of the first howler monkey, a baby was born in the wild in 2024!

**SEA/MERAZONIA:
PASSIONATE, PROFESSIONAL AND FORWARD-THINKING**



MERAZONIA 

Save Ecuador's Animals/Merazonia is a 501(c)(3)- tax-exempt non-profit organization.

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SUMMARY 2024

Merazonia this year saw 55 new animals arrive at the center in Ecuador but also managed to rehabilitate and release no less than 34. This is an incredibly high percentage (61%) for a wildlife sanctuary, and one that Merazonia is very proud of. Not least because it also includes animals that are difficult to rehabilitate, such as woolly and howler monkeys. The latter even had babies in the wild!

Born wild

Two females from the group of howler monkeys released in 2018 gave birth to respectively a male and a female young. The fact that these were born in the wild is historic and a major step toward what is seen as a successful reintroduction. For this to happen, one more generation must be born in the wild. That will take at least six more years: conservation is a matter of patience and perseverance. This is only possible if continuity is guaranteed, which is why our supporters are so important.

In addition to covering a lot of the daily operational costs of animal care (food and medicine), the American charity has also contributed to the renovation and extensions of existing infrastructure.

Unfortunately, the purchase of the plot of land adjacent to Merazonia has not yet been completed. This is where the new quarantine facility (and later also a new clinic) will be built. The purchase is significantly delayed because of an outdated cadastral map, which had to be redrawn. All the fieldwork for this has been completed. Merazonia is now waiting for approval from the municipality of Mera. After that, the contract will be signed immediately.

The purchase of this plot of land (Phase I - \$32,500) was fully funded by the Dutch foundation. This was made possible by a generous donation in 2023 from the Jaap van der Graaf Foundation, supplemented in 2024 by a donation from the Utrecht student association Storm. But the American foundation will be funding most of the investments needed after the purchase: as soon as the contract is signed and Merazonia officially has the deeds of this land, work will start on remodelling the current building into a quarantine and the purchase of equipment.

New quarantine

This phase is divided into two parts. In part I, the rear section will be converted into a quarantine area (estimated cost \$9,500). In part II, the (larger) front section will be converted into a quarantine area (estimated cost \$15,000). A total of approximately \$20,000 is still needed for this phase. The American charity wants to contribute as much as possible to this in 2025, in addition to money needed for direct (food, medication) and other indirect (rehabilitation projects/renovations) animal expenses. More details about the new quarantine facility can be found on page 7.

The charity is proud to handle donations responsibly. In 2024, 95.49% of every dollar donated went directly to saving, caring for, and rehabilitating wild animals (other expenses were: bank charges, platform fees, transportation and a seminar). No money was spent on wages of board members.

From the treetops to the rivers of the Amazon: thank you to everyone who wants to keep the jungle wild with us. See you in 2025!

PROJECTS: ANIMAL CARE

The greatest success in terms of animals is the birth of two babies in the group of howler monkeys that was released in the Merazonia reserve in 2018 (see photo on front page). This is a milestone that has been 13 years in the making, since the first howler monkey, Neve, arrived in 2011. Now the next goal can be set: a third generation born in freedom. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) considers that a completely successful reintroduction. It is a goal that is still at least six years away. But Merazonia is confident that it will be achieved.

Not only for the howler monkeys, but also for the woolly monkeys. Because three groups have already been released here. The last group was successfully released at the beginning of December. Before this, extensive blood tests were carried out at the foundation's expense to ensure that these animals were free of disease. The same tests have already been carried out for the group of five red howler monkeys that will be released in 2025.



Little monkeys grow up. With the right care and guidance, they can return to the jungle.

The brave young woolly monkeys (Koba, Chester, and Shimi) have exceeded all expectations so far. They quickly ventured into the jungle, ate almost exclusively leaves, wild fruits, and seeds, and no longer needed to be fed by Merazonia. They showed no interest in the team that followed them (and which had difficulty keeping up with them through the rugged jungle).

There now seems to be an interesting timesharing arrangement between this group and members of the group released in 2023. In addition, some of our monkeys have been incorporated into a group of wild woolly monkeys. This group now has more than twenty members, which again indicates that the Merazonia reserve is in good condition if it can provide food for such a large group.

It seems that the woolly monkeys will soon have their own offspring. Get ready for Merazonia, IUCN!

Holiday season

December brought more festivities: two tyras (marten-like animals) named Rowan and Betty were also released. They arrived in early November, and their rehabilitation was prioritized because of their natural, non-human-oriented behavior. A special word of thanks to Ian and Clare in the United Kingdom, who helped us finance this release. We managed to make a short video of them a week after their release, which can be viewed on the Merazonia website.

Puma Pangui underwent a thorough health check last year. Pangui is the oldest (and most expensive) resident of Merazonia. She is too old and too tame to be eligible for rehabilitation. The current veterinarian, Randy, assembled a medical team that examined her inside and out. Conclusion: apart from a little arthritis and a broken tooth, she is super fit for her age! Thanks to a fundraiser through the US charity, her accommodation has also been expanded (total costs materials and labor: \$4,057.18). In 2025, further adjustments will be made to her enclosure to prepare for possible geriatric problems in the future.



Despite her advanced age, Pangui is in excellent health. Her enclosure has been extended.

Other animal news

Two new arrivals this year were the howler monkeys Raya and Nala, who are still being hand-fed and are gradually getting to know the jungle. The gang of five (Akira, Freya, Frodo, Pepita, and Finn) are housed in our new, secluded, and spacious rehabilitation facility and are having a great time together! They are bursting with energy. Just like the woolly monkeys, they have also undergone blood tests and are all completely healthy. As soon as the current release projects and funds allow, the release of this group will begin.

Moving notice

Merazonia is also trying to be more effective with the capacity and resources available. For example, it was decided to move the young capuchin monkeys Elliott and Ryan to another center (Amazoonico), where they have a better chance of a better life. The woolly monkeys Diego and Carlito (unsuitable for release) had already been moved to another part of Amazoonico and are now part of a group living in a fenced area of several hectares. This gave us the space to move the capuchins Tina and Sofia (with baby Tommy) to another, more spacious enclosure in Merazonia, which finally allowed us to add Moira to the group. Tommy is developing well and may also have a future on 'the island' of Amazoonico.

Animals in numbers

In 2024, a total of 34 animals were rehabilitated and released in Merazonia: 3 woolly monkeys, 1 red howler monkey (added to a previously released group), 10 sloths (3 two-toed and 7 three-toed sloths), 1 silky anteater, 1 Andean porcupine, 2 tayras, 1 opossum, 1 porcupine, 3 blue-headed parrots, 2 black-headed parrots, 1 oilbird, 1 striped owl, 1 roadside hawk, 2 common boas, 4 rainbow boas.

In total, Merazonia has received 55 new animals, including an alarming number of new baby woolly monkeys (5) and red howler monkeys (7). Sometimes animals arrive at our center too weak or injured; unfortunately, we were unable to save 14 of these animals. We found a more suitable center for 10 animals to live in or to be released. Most of them went to our partner center Amazonico. Merazonia currently has 98 animals in its care.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Construction and much-needed renovation work was carried out extremely quickly and effectively in 2024 because Merazonia was able to pay two local employees instead of one this year. Labor costs rose significantly, but so did the efficiency and speed with which construction projects and renovations were carried out – these were partly funded by the American charity.

The more infrastructure there is, the more maintenance is required. This is certainly no luxury in the humid rainforest. Guido and Jose Luis worked on all the accommodations for volunteers this year, repairing and refurbishing them. Apart from extending puma Pangui's enclosure, they also built an extension to the woolly monkey enclosure, which is now more than twice as big! The US charity contributed a total of almost 14.000 dollars to these projects combined.



The new extension of the enclosure for young woolly monkeys is now twice as large.

In addition, a large proportion of all (wooden) buildings in the center have been renovated, so that the animal enclosures can also be used for a while longer. Every structure in the jungle requires regular maintenance to protect it from the elements (rain, sun, high humidity). All structures that have not yet been renovated will be renovated by 2025.

Renovation projects are planned for 2025 for the buildings that have not yet been renovated. Merazonia also plans to renovate and expand the current accommodation for the capuchin monkeys.

But the biggest construction project next year is undoubtedly the new quarantine facility. This project will be carried out in two parts, as described on the next page.

OUTLOOK ON 2025

Once the purchase of the new plot of land is finished, the construction of the quarantine facility will be the main investment for 2025. This is urgent, as the old quarantine facility was largely destroyed by flooding at the end of 2023. Merazonia wants to create its new quarantine facility on the other side of the river, near the current entrance. The contract is expected to be signed early 2025, after which work will immediately start on converting the existing building into a functional quarantine facility. There are several advantages to creating the quarantine facility on this site outside the reserve:

- New animals remain outside the reserve during their quarantine period. This ensures better separation between new animals and animals within the reserve.
- Savings on construction costs. Building on the other side of the river, where there is a road, greatly simplifies and speeds up the supply of materials and the construction itself.
- Access to electricity. Merazonia's energy supply consists of solar energy and an emergency generator. However, the new site is connected to the mains. It will be easier to connect high-consumption medical equipment and install heat lamps for sick or vulnerable animals, such as baby monkeys.

Last year, Merazonia drew up a five-year plan for the creation of a completely new health center. The purchase of the above-mentioned plot of land (Phase 1) will be completed in early 2025. Phase 2 should kick off in 2025 and will most likely be financed for a big part by the American charity.

As soon as the land is legally owned by Merazonia, the second phase of the plan will begin with the conversion of the existing building into a quarantine facility.

Phase 2 is divided into two parts. In part 1, the smaller, rear section of the existing building will be converted into a quarantine facility so that a functional quarantine facility is available quickly. The estimated cost of part I is \$9,500. In part 2, the rest of the building will be adapted to Merazonia's requirements. The cost of part 2 is estimated at \$15,000. The foundation hopes to be able to cover the total cost of \$24,500, but is in any case convinced that there is sufficient budget to carry out part I.

In the future, Merazonia hopes to build a new, more modern clinic here (Phase 3) too, so that healthcare facilities are located close together. The current clinic can then be converted into a research center (Phase 4) for students (Masters, PhD, for which there is a lot of interest) who want to conduct research (behavior, DNA) or study the unique flora and fauna in our reserve.

Any help is welcome to make this dream come true. For questions about this plan or donations, please contact Frank: frank@merazonia.org. The updated health plan and a donation link can also be accessed via the following link: <https://www.merazonia.org/en>

Merazonia is thus raising animal health care to an unprecedented level in Ecuador, while at the same time creating opportunities for more study and research.

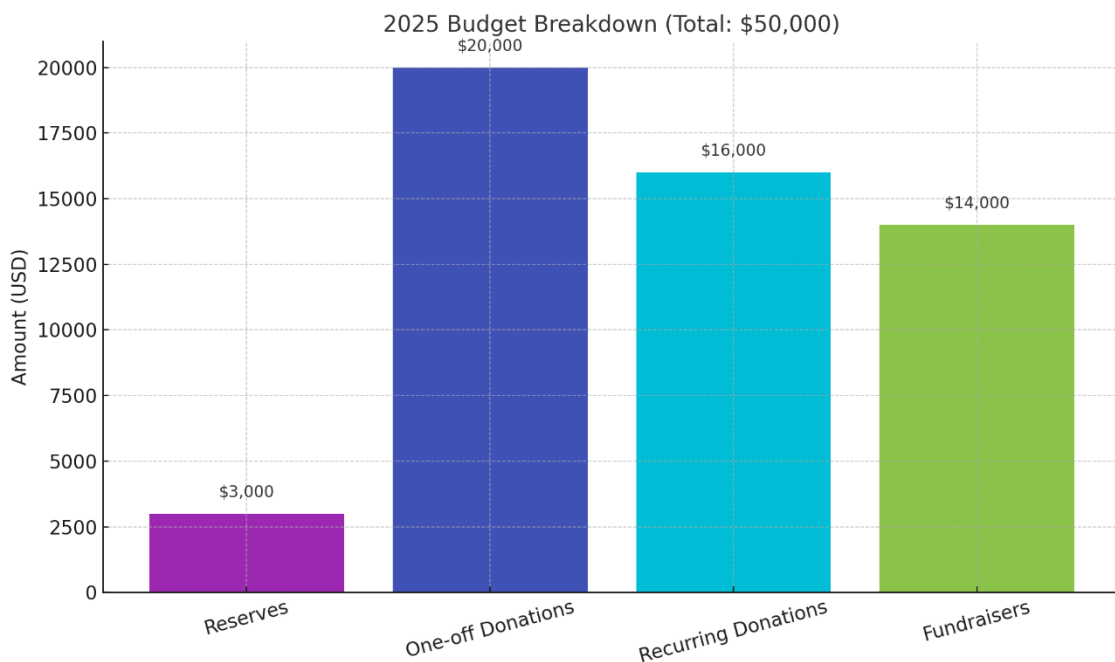
BUDGET 2025

On December 31, 2024, the foundation had reserves of \$2066.92. That is below the minimum amount of \$3000 that the charity wants to maintain in reserves to cover any emergencies. In December, some funds were needed to cover an emergency medical procedure that was done in an external hospital.

The upcoming year SEA/Merazonia hopes to receive at least \$50,000 in donations but aims to reach \$60,000. Based on the average income generated in the last two years, Merazonia expects to raise \$20,000 from one-off donations, \$16,200 from monthly donations and animal adoptions, and hopes to add minimal \$14,000 to this number via special fundraising campaigns.

SEA projects to contribute a minimum of \$35,000 to the basic animal costs (food, medical costs, renovations). The goal this year is to generate enough extra money to cover (a big part of) the construction costs for Phase 1 and 2 of the new quarantine (\$24,500).

The estimated budget for 2025 is \$50,000



Save Ecuador's Animals/Merazonia is a small but transparent 501(C)(3) charity. None of the board members are paid. A high percentage (in 2024: 97.86%) is spent directly on animal welfare. This will hopefully draw more donors to support our cause.

ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

In 2024, the foundation had a total of 101 monthly donors. Hopefully this amount will go up in 2025. The charity had 0 paid employees and received help from 8 volunteers. Jennifer Greene is chairman of the board, along with board members Alex Girard and Megan Birch. The voluntary audit committee this year consisted of Louisa Baillie and Jason Howard. They checked whether the numbers of the annual financial statement added up and were comprehensible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our gratitude to the hundreds of volunteers and students who supported Merazonia this year with their physical labor in Ecuador or conducted research in the reserve. A massive thank you goes out to all the supporters we have. Without their financial support, Merazonia would simply not be able to function.

Resumen Español

En 2024, la mayor parte de las reservas de la fundación norteamericana en 2024 se destinaron al cuidado general de los animales en Ecuador. Pero la fundación también apoyo a los proyectos de rehabilitación y liberación y varios proyectos de construcción y renovación. La creación de una nueva cuarentena será el objetivo principal para 2025. El plan detallado del nuevo centro de salud de Merazonia, se puede descargar aquí: <https://www.merazonia.org/er>

Nederlandse samenvatting

In 2024 werd het grootste deel van de reserves van de Amerikaanse stichting besteed aan de algemene verzorging van dieren in Ecuador. Maar de stichting ondersteunde ook rehabilitatie- en vrijlatingsprojecten en verschillende bouw- en renovatieprojecten.

De bouw van een nieuwe quarantaine zal het belangrijkste doel zijn voor 2025. Het gedetailleerde gezondheidsplan van Merazonia kan hier worden gedownload: <https://www.merazonia.org/er>



Spectacular footage of a wild jaguar in the Merazonia reserve captured with a motion camera.

2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

SAVE ECUADOR'S ANIMALS/MERAZONIA

2024 was a year of incredible resilience, growth, and commitment to protecting Ecuador's unique wildlife. Thanks to your support, we were able to provide critical care, renovate or build new enclosures, and keep the spirit of the jungle alive for many animals.

2024 Financial Highlights

- Opening Balance (Jan 1, 2024): \$7,052.81
- Total Income: \$41,864.79 (2023: \$53,447.01)
- Total Expenditures: \$46,850.68 (2023: \$62,804.54)
- Closing Balance (Dec 31, 2024): \$2,066.92

Income Breakdown:

Category	Amount
Individual donations via Neon CRM	\$32,847.47
Individual donations via Paypal	\$5,109.13
Donations via Direct Transfers	\$2,595.04
Donations via US & UK Giving Fund (Benevity)	\$126.15
Makua Social Media Platform Payments	\$1,193.00

Expenditures Breakdown

TOTAL, SPENT: \$46,850.68

Category	Amount
Withdrawals in Ecuador	\$22,005.76
Bank Transfers to Ecuador	\$24,071.92
ATM Withdrawal Fees	\$185.00
Makua Social Media Platform Fees	\$588
Bank Service Charges	\$ -

How Funds Were Used in Ecuador

TOTAL, SPENT BY MERAZONIA IN ECUADOR: \$46,077.68

Animal Care — \$31,003.58

- Weekly Food Supplies: \$26,212.45
- Veterinary Care (Medicines, Exams, Surgeries): \$4,791.13

Construction & Renovations — \$13,732.37

- Materials for Enclosures, House Renovations: \$7032.37
- Wages for Construction & Renovation Teams: \$6,700.00

Other Costs — \$1,341.73

- Transportation (Gasoline, Car Repairs, Taxis): \$891.73
- Administrative Costs (Licenses, Seminars, Lodging): \$450.00

How Funds Were Used in the USA

Administrative Costs — \$773

- Bank fees (ATM withdrawal costs): \$185
- Fees Makua Social media Platform: \$588

