



CONSERVATION IN ACTION

CELEBRATING HIGH IMPACT OCEAN CONSERVATION AND NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS



Serge Dedina Ph.D. Executive Director

Clearly we are at a tipping point, living in a time where climate change is no longer a future threat, but a present day reality that must be addressed with immediacy.

With the rise in destructive hurricanes, floods, and worldwide wildfires, it is critical that we protect our coast and ocean ecosystems that help us adapt to and mitigate climate change, as well as provide valuable habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife like sea turtles, whale sharks, and the California gray whale.

To address our shared global climate crisis, WILD COAST has stepped forward as a leader in natural climate solutions. The protection and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems like mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrass beds is a natural solution to climate change.

The growth of our team and expansion of our ocean conservation and natural climate solution projects has further fueled our passion to protect our blue planet. We are expanding our coastal wetland and mangrove restoration efforts in Southern California and Baja California, as well as initiating new projects in the southern Mexican states of Oaxaca and Chiapas.

More importantly, we will be providing “blue” jobs for hundreds of people from some of the most marginalized and remote rural fishing and Indigenous communities in Mexico in order to help them protect their communities from coastal flooding, hurricanes, and sea level rise.

And helping to create local jobs, safeguarding communities against destructive storm damage, and restoring critical carbon-storing ecosystems is a big win-win for people and our planet.

As you will see in the pages ahead, WILD COAST is involved in several innovative and high-impact conservation projects in the U.S. and Mexico. We are conserving critical coral reefs in Mexico with plans to initiate coral regeneration programs.

We are also readying to install a second trash boom in the Tijuana River Valley on the U.S.-Mexico border where we have already stopped 225,000 pounds of plastic and solid waste from entering the Pacific Ocean.

We continue to work with local women and fishing communities in mangrove restoration in Mexico, protect wild coastlines in Baja California through private land acquisition, as well as safeguard vital and beautiful marine protected areas in California.

But we need your help to increase our efforts to protect our oceans and coasts and these remarkable, wildlife-filled blue carbon ecosystems.

Your donation to WILD COAST will help us continue to address the climate crisis and protect the world’s most important olive ridley sea turtle nesting beaches in Oaxaca, coastal wetlands in Southern California, the last gray whale sanctuary in Baja, and the incredible coral reefs of the Mexican Pacific.

Please join us in protecting our precious planet for future generations to enjoy.

For our coast and oceans,

Serge Dedina Ph.D.
Executive Director



OUR MISSION

WILD COAST conserves coastal and marine ecosystems and addresses climate change through natural solutions. We are helping protect more than 38 million acres of globally significant ocean habitats, coastlines, wetlands, islands, and wildlife-rich wilderness.

NATURAL SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

DID YOU KNOW?

10x

MORE CARBON IS SEQUESTERED IN BLUE CARBON ECOSYSTEMS VERSUS FORESTS ON LAND, EVEN RAINFORESTS

3x

FASTER RATE OF COASTAL WETLAND DEFORESTATION VERSUS TERRESTRIAL FORESTS

With the dramatic rise in destructive hurricanes, floods, and wildfires worldwide, it is more important than ever to carry out natural climate solutions such as protecting and restoring coastal wetlands like mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass beds.

These aquatic habitats are known as blue carbon ecosystems. They help capture and store carbon, provide critical wildlife habitat, enhance fisheries, filter pollution, and protect coastal communities against flooding, storm surge, and sea-level rise.

Once wetlands are degraded, they emit high concentrations of stored-carbon back into the atmosphere, converting from a carbon sink to a carbon source.

That is why WILD Coast is carrying out natural solutions to combat climate change by conserving and restoring blue carbon ecosystems at seven globally significant coastal wetlands in the U.S. and Mexico.



2.3 MILLION

ACRES OF MANGROVE FORESTS EXIST IN MEXICO, THE FOURTH LARGEST AMOUNT IN THE WORLD, OFFERING GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE





MANGROVES

73,894

ACRES OF MANGROVE FORESTS ARE PROTECTED IN MEXICO BY WILDCOAST

WILDCOAST is protecting and restoring thousands of acres of mangrove habitat in the Mexican states of Baja California Sur, Oaxaca, and Chiapas. In the process, we are helping to create **hundreds of locals jobs** restoring these mangrove forests that help address the climate crisis.

WILDCOAST collaborates with groups of women from **five regions** of Mexico to train and equip them with the knowledge to carry out mangrove conservation and restoration in their local communities.

We have planted **160,000** mangrove seedlings, restoring **271 acres** with local women from Laguna San Ignacio, Baja California Sur, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the world's most pristine gray whale breeding lagoon.

We are planning to plant an additional **1.2 million** seedlings. This has the potential to capture **476,520** tons of carbon, the equivalent of **4 billion** miles driven by an average passenger vehicle or **317,373** homes' electricity use for one year.

Avoiding degradation of mangroves in Northwest Mexico can prevent the emission of at least **70.8 million** MgCO₂ and reduce **12%** of CO₂ emissions caused by land use changes by **2030**.



160,000

MANGROVE SEEDLINGS HAVE BEEN PLANTED IN MEXICO TO HELP COMBAT THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

COASTAL WETLANDS



400
BLUE CARBON SAMPLES HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN WETLANDS THROUGHOUT SAN DIEGO COUNTY



516
METRIC TONS OF CO2 IS STORED IN FORTY THREE ACRES OF WETLANDS THAT WILDCOAST IS RESTORING



WILDCOAST works with community partners to conserve and restore coastal wetlands in California.

We partner with Scripps Institution of Oceanography to measure the amount of carbon stored in the sediment of coastal wetlands. Gathering samples of blue carbon in **five** San Diego County wetlands helps us inform conservation policy and restoration.

WILDCOAST has engaged **427** volunteers to remove invasive species and plant **2,875** native plants across **43** acres of coastal wetland in San Diego County.

To highlight the importance of blue carbon ecosystem conservation and help enhance conservation policy, WILDCOAST partnered with Coastal Quest to create the Blue Carbon Collaborative.

The Blue Carbon Collaborative is an international community of **175** stakeholders that work together to advance blue carbon initiatives in order to address climate change.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



Across the globe, marine protected areas (MPAs) help ensure the long-term conservation of our coastal and marine ecosystems and the wildlife found within them.

California's **124 MPAs** extend from the border of U.S.-Mexico to Oregon, offering refuge to some of the world's most iconic marine species, including humpback whales, blue whales, gray whales, white and leopard sharks, and leatherback sea turtles.

WILDCOAST is helping safeguard **17,779 acres** of MPAs in San Diego County through M2 radar and boat-based enforcement, community science monitoring, community engagement, and Floating Laboratory programs.

We installed **three M2 radar units** to track and monitor vessel activity.

Our team collected over **41,000 MPA watch surveys** with the help of over **5,000 volunteers** that will drive future management of marine protected areas.

By working with over **600 partners**, including local Tribes, management agencies, researchers, fishers, anglers and divers, we are helping to ensure the health of California's MPAs and guiding future ocean protection initiatives.

545,280

ACRES OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS ALONG THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA ARE CONSERVED BY WILDCOAST AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS



CORAL REEFS



2 SPECIES

OF CORALS HAVE BEEN SECURED LEGAL PROTECTION AND WERE ADDED TO THE FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST BY WILD COAST



220

BUOYS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED TO PREVENT BOATS FROM ANCHORING ON CORAL REEFS



10

CORAL REEF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN THE MEXICAN PACIFIC ARE BEING MONITORED AND CONSERVED BY WILD COAST AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Coral reefs are essential to healthy oceans, coasts, and vibrant economies. They play a critical role in everything from protecting lives and property to providing habitat for over **25 percent** of marine species.

Unfortunately, climate change, unsustainable fishing, land-based pollution, vessel damage, marine debris, and invasive species threaten coral reefs.

To combat these issues, WILD COAST is supporting the conservation of **37 million acres** of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Mexican Pacific, that are home to globally important coral reefs and marine biodiversity.

To safeguard these critical marine ecosystems, we monitor coral reefs across **ten national marine sanctuaries** in Mexico, promote reef stewardship, and educate communities and tourism outfitters about the importance of healthy and thriving coral reef ecosystems.

In addition, WILD COAST instructs tourism outfitters on best practices when visiting coral reefs and installs mooring buoys to prevent damage to reefs from anchor drops.

WILDLANDS

39.5 MILES

HAVE BEEN PERMANENTLY PROTECTED IN THE VALLE DE LOS CIRIOS WILDCOAST PRESERVE IN CENTRAL BAJA CALIFORNIA, THE LARGEST PRIVATE CONSERVATION RESERVE IN ALL OF NORTHWEST MEXICO AND THE CALIFORNIAS

In order to conserve the last remaining coastal wilderness along the Pacific coast of the Baja California Peninsula, we established the **51,939-acre** Valle de los Cirios WILDCOAST Preserve through private land acquisition and conservation easements.

This sparsely inhabited coastal desert wilderness is home to mountain lions, bobcats, desert foxes, and rare and **endemic plants found nowhere else on earth.**

WILDCOAST is also supporting the efforts of Mexico's National Protected Areas Commission to safeguard the sprawling desert and coastal wilderness of the **6.3 million-acre** Vizcaíno Biosphere Reserve, which provides critical habitat for gray whales, pronghorn antelope, and bighorn sheep.



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SEA TURTLES



22.5

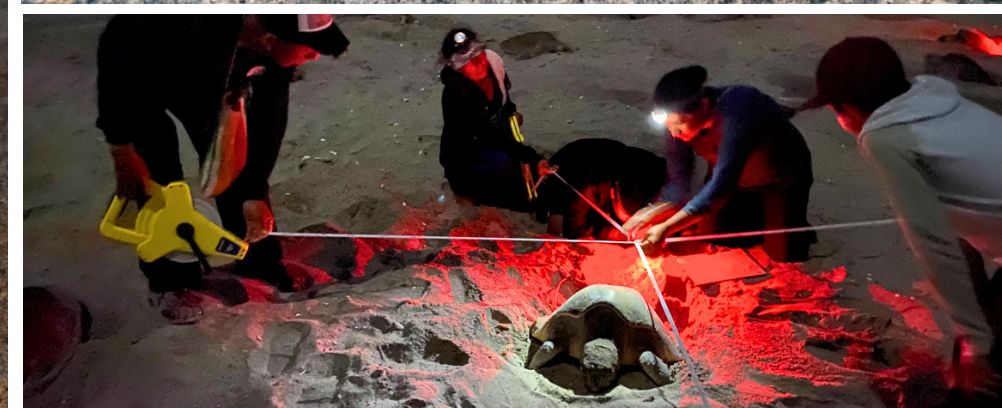
MILES OF CRITICAL SEA TURTLE NESTING HABITAT IN OAXACA IS PROTECTED BY WILDCOAST

Oaxaca's coastline is home to some of the world's most critical sea turtle nesting beaches, vibrant coral reefs, pristine beaches, world-class surf breaks, carbon-storing mangroves, tropical forests, and iconic wildlife.

We work with Mexico's National Commission of Natural Protected Areas and community partners to protect 22.5 miles of the world's most important sea turtle nesting beaches through federal zone concessions.

123 MILLION

HATCHLINGS HAVE BEEN BORN ON OAXACA'S NESTING BEACHES PROTECTED BY WILDCOAST



We have also captured over 200,000 predatory scarab beetles on Morro Ayuta beach, Oaxaca over the past two years, further protecting the sea turtle eggs.

We have developed educational materials for Indigenous students in Chontal and Zapoteco languages to inspire a new generation of local conservation stewards. Over the past two years, 1,000 students have been engaged in conservation programs.

WHALES



484

MILES OF SHORELINE AROUND GRAY WHALE BREEDING LAGOONS ON THE BAJA CALIFORNIA PENINSULA HAVE BEEN PROTECTED THROUGH FEDERAL ZONE CONCESSIONS AND EASEMENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WILD COAST



WILD COAST collaborates with local communities and Mexico's federal government to protect gray whale nursery habitat along the Baja California Peninsula and offshore waters through federal concessions, easements, education, and outreach.

Through conservation concessions, WILD COAST helped protect **484 miles** of coastline surrounding gray whale breeding lagoons in Baja California.

With our conservation partners we also established an innovative **140,000-acre easement** at Laguna San Ignacio, a gray whale breeding lagoon, that saved whale habitat and established an economic development trust fund to support local sustainable economic enterprises.

WILD COAST also helped update the management plan for the **6.3 Million-Acre Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve**, home to three globally significant gray whale breeding lagoons.

MARINE DEBRIS



225,000

POUNDS OF SOLID WASTE HAVE BEEN CAPTURED BY WILDCOAST'S TRASH BOOM AND PREVENTED FROM REACHING THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND CONTAMINATING MORE THAN 100,000-ACRES OF BINATIONAL ISLAND, COASTAL, AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



The Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, located on the U.S.-Mexico border, provides critical habitat for over **300 species** of birds and an abundance of marine wildlife. Unfortunately, it is under threat from toxic runoff and plastic debris.

To combat this issue, WILDCOAST installed Mexico's first trash boom in Los Laureles Canyon, a tributary canyon of the Tijuana River. The **158-ft interception system** prevents an average of **6,850 lbs** of plastic from reaching the ocean each month.



WILDCOAST employs dozens of local residents to help collect the waste, gather data, and sort it to be reused and recycled, preventing **90%** of it from reaching the landfill, including over **128,000 lbs** of plastic.

WILDCOAST has ongoing education programs and outreach and communication campaigns promoting recycling and reducing single-use plastic consumption in Tijuana. We also reused **302 waste tires** collected in the trash boom to build a park for the children of Los Laureles.

Up the coast, WILDCOAST is partnering with Bureo to help collect, recycle, and repurpose **132,277 lbs** of old fishing nets in California.

UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO KEN SALAZAR AND TIJUANA MAYOR MONTSERRAT CABALLERO RAMÍREZ COMMEMORATE THE WILDCOAST TRASH BOOM IN TIJUANA, MEXICO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

An underwater photograph featuring a large, dense school of small, silvery fish swimming in the upper right portion of the frame. In the lower left foreground, a larger, pinkish-purple fish with a yellow stripe along its side is swimming towards the left. The background is a deep blue, and the bottom of the frame shows a sandy seabed with some smaller, darker fish scattered about.

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LOOKING AHEAD

WILD COAST IS EXPANDING ITS TEAM AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN 2024

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



EXPANDING MANGROVES RESTORATION INTO CHIAPAS AND OAXACA WITH PLANS TO PLANT **450,000** MANGROVES ACROSS **1,700** ACRES, SUPPORTING HUNDREDS OF LOCAL JOBS IN REMOTE, RURAL COMMUNITIES



ADDING **60 ADDITIONAL ACRES** TO OUR WETLAND RESTORATION EFFORTS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY



EXPANDING CARBON SAMPLING TO BATIQUITOS LAGOON AND AGUA HEDIONDA LAGOON IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY TO AVOID POTENTIAL EMISSIONS OF **5,803 TONS** OF CARBON



REMOVING GHOST FISHING NETS IN OAXACA TO PROTECT **13,513 ACRES** OF MARINE HABITAT AND CORAL REEFS IN HUATULCO NATIONAL PARK



CONSERVING CORAL REEFS IN THE BALANDRA NATURAL PROTECTED AREA IN BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR BY INSTALLING MOORING BUOYS TO SAFEGUARD **6,209 ACRES** OF OCEAN HABITAT FROM BOAT ANCHORS



INSTALLING TWO NEW TRASH BOOMS NEAR THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER IN TIJUANA, MEXICO, TO STOP AN ESTIMATED **120,000 POUNDS** OF DEBRIS FROM REACHING THE PACIFIC OCEAN ANNUALLY



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND ADDRESS CLIMATE NATURAL SOLUTIONS.

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KEEPING IT WILD SINCE 2000



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