



Friends of Inti Wara Yassi Annual Report 2023

Prepared by

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UK Charity Registration Number: 1124355



MESSAGE FROM CIWY FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT TANIA “NENA” BALTAZAR



Hello everyone!

I would like to thank you all for the immense support you have given us all these years in our work for wildlife. It is sad to see the reality that is currently being experienced in our jungles - the fires left a lot of pain and irreparable losses and even our sanctuaries were at risk, but thanks to the wonderful team of people we have at our side, we managed to protect the home of the animals that are under our care.

But 2023 has also been a year full of joy for CIWY. Finally a good part of Machía's capuchin monkeys are already in Jacj Cuisi, enjoying the land of dreams, and our team continues to work hard to complete the transfer as soon as possible.

Once again, thank you very much from the bottom of my heart for your trust, for your support of CIWY, for being part of this family and for helping us make a difference in the lives of the thousands of rescued animals, giving them a second chance at life, and for helping to conserve our biodiversity.

May our actions be for the good of our planet for these and future generations.

From the Bolivian jungle,

FROM FIWY TRUSTEE CHAIR JON CASSIDY



To all supporters of FIWY and CIWY,

Another year has passed, and we're still here! I can imagine this phrase will resonate with many charities and non-profits currently. In these times of challenging environmental, financial and political uncertainty, it often feels like every day that passes is a new battle, but is also another battle won. We are incredibly fortunate to have many motivations to keep us going - from the continued and extremely generous support of our many individual, corporate and charity donors, to the incredibly selfless and tireless work of the staff and volunteers that work on the ground in Bolivia, and of course the hundreds of animals, birds and reptiles that continue to benefit from our collective efforts.

CIWY in Bolivia is now over 30 years old, and I began working with the organisation over 20 years ago. During that time CIWY has grown, adapted, laughed and cried. It has developed from a small but passionate group of environmental activists to now managing three sanctuaries throughout the Bolivian Amazon, caring for hundreds of rescued animals and having released countless more, not to mention the many young people it has helped, and the education and community outreach it has achieved throughout the world. What never ceases to amaze, however, is that throughout that time it has never forgotten its roots, never swayed from what inspired the creation of this family in the first place, and I for one am proud to be part of it.

Whether you are an old friend of the organisation, a new supporter, or an interested passerby, welcome and thanks for taking time to read this latest annual report. We hope it gives you a flavour of what inspires us, and everyone else involved to keep CIWY going. Read on to learn of the transfer of many animals between the sanctuaries as we say goodbye to Machia, the ongoing seasonal battles with forest fires at Ambue Ari, our growing animal care and enclosure infrastructure at Jacj Cuisi, the ever increasing family of volunteers, staff and supporters, and of course the animals and forests which the team in Bolivia is protecting and caring for.

Many thanks and very best wishes,



BACKGROUND ON FIWY AND CIWY

Friends of Inti Wara Yassi (FIWY) is a UK charity that exists to support Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi in Bolivia.

Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi (CIWY) is a Bolivian Non-Governmental Organisation engaged in protecting wildlife rescued from illegal trafficking and the conservation of ecosystems. Across its three wildlife sanctuaries, CIWY has cared for thousands of animals, providing them a better quality of life and a future in their natural habitat. CIWY has been in operation since 1992 and is recognised internationally for its work in wildlife care and rehabilitation.



FIWY Patron Jane Goodall speaks with CIWY Founder Nena Baltazar during a visit to CIWY's Machía Sanctuary.



In 2023 the Senate of Bolivia honored CIWY with a Chamber Declaration, at the initiative of Senator Cecilia Requena, for CIWY's 30 years of conservation work. This recognition establishes "public honors for eminent services to the State."

FIWY was created by former CIWY volunteers in the UK, in order to provide financial and administrative support to CIWY. As a registered UK charity, FIWY facilitates tax-deductible donations from British taxpayers and qualifies for certain grants that would not be available to the Bolivian NGO.

FIWY manages the CIWY website, online donations, grant requests, the Sponsor-an-Animal program, the monthly newsletter, and the online shop.



Wayra, a puma at CIWY's Ambue Ari Wildlife Sanctuary, inspired FIWY Trustee Laura Coleman to devote herself to supporting CIWY's work in creative ways. Wayra passed away in 2021, after 18 years at Ambue Ari.

OUR VISION

A world where wildlife thrives in its natural habitat, free from the dangers of poaching and the destruction of its ecosystems.



OUR MISSION

Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi (CIWY) works to combat the illegal wildlife trade and the destruction of the environment through educational programs, research projects, and public actions. At its wildlife sanctuaries in the Bolivian Amazon, CIWY rehabilitates and cares for wild animals rescued from trafficking, wildfire, and other harmful situations. CIWY also protects over 1000 hectares of untouched rainforest from poaching, logging, mining, and wildfire.

OBJECTIVES:

- To defend the environment and conserve biodiversity.
- To rescue and rehabilitate wildlife that has fallen victim to trafficking, abuse, or wildfire.
- To responsibly manage and care for rescued wildlife and protected habitat.
- To coordinate research and education programs that support conservation efforts.

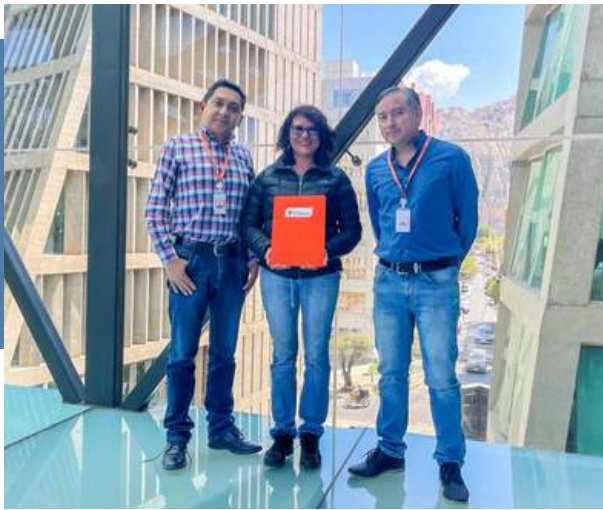
YEAR IN REVIEW

CIWY has been focused on closing its Machia Sanctuary and moving most of the animals who live there to Jacj Cuisi. This is a huge undertaking, but Machia has to close for several reasons, including a highway being built directly through it. The animals will have a better quality of life in Jacj Cuisi's remote 'Land of Dreams', but the transition brings a great financial and logistical hurdle. Construction of new facilities has been slow, because CIWY operates on a very lean budget and its top priority is feeding and caring for the animals that depend on them. Wildfires also demanded a large portion of CIWY's staff time and resources.

We did see the successful completion of two Capuchin Monkey Areas, allowing for the transfer of 38 capuchins from Machia's 'Mirador', 'Heaven' and 'Earth' areas.



In their semi-free state at Jacj Cuisi, Mora the spider monkey and Chamaquito the squirrel monkey have formed an unlikely cross-species bond.



For the fourth year, CIWY has renewed its agreement with **Banco PYME ECOFUTURO** to support the care of the felines at Ambue Ari, and to promote environmental awareness and artistic empowerment initiatives with neighboring communities.

In 2023, forest fires affected two of CIWY's wildlife sanctuaries – Jacj Cuisi and Ambue Ari. For over two months, staff and volunteers labored to protect the 1,300 hectares under our care. These fires greatly affected the adjacent Madidi National Park, one of the most biodiverse protected areas in the world. Millions of wild animals died, and many others suffered habitat loss.

We were able to stop the fires from doing any damage within CIWY's sanctuaries, thanks to all the donors and organizations that supported us in the purchase of fire-fighting equipment and supplies. We also helped protect the land and homes of our indigenous neighbours next to Jacj Cuisi.



Banco Ecofuturo's alliance with Ambue Ari includes fire prevention and protection equipment. This year they gave an additional allotment to equip Jacj Cuisi against the fires predicted for the following years.

RESCUE & RELEASE

Many animals, including those rescued from wildfire, arrive at our sanctuaries without an imprint towards human beings -- they retain behaviors typical of their species. In these cases, after any necessary medical care and rehabilitation, we release the fauna into its natural habitat.



The species that we released the most in 2023 was the yellow-footed tortoise, with 14 individuals, followed by the tamandua (4 individuals), and the red-footed tortoise (3).

One of our biggest success stories was the release of 2 jaguarundis, who arrived in Ambue Ari after the 2022 fires.



Cameras were used to monitor the development of the 2 jaguarundis. Human contact was completely avoided, in order to preserve their natural instincts. Team members discreetly delivered food to the enclosure, often as live bait to be hunted, so that the animals would not lose their survival skills or learn to associate humans with meals.



This young tamandua was rescued after her mother was hit by a vehicle near Ambue Ari. After rehabilitation, we conducted a 'soft release', allowing a gradual acclimatization to her natural habitat.



They were the first felines that CIWY released in Ambue Ari's 1,000 hectares of jungle. We released them by opening their enclosure doors, once they were old enough to defend themselves, were displaying natural behaviours, and had demonstrated that they were able to hunt and sustain themselves. We continued to leave food in the enclosure for a period of time, but we were pleased to observe through cameras that they quickly moved on to life in the jungle.

REHABILITATION & CARE

The largest number of animals that CIWY receives come from the illicit possession of wildlife (33% in 2023). Unfortunately, most of these animals are not able to return to the jungle, so we provide them with a permanent home within our sanctuaries.

2023, By The Numbers

CIWY ended the year with **506** animals, of **37** species.

Over the year, CIWY:

- rescued **55** animals
- released **32** animals
- transferred **36** from Machia to Jacj Cuisi
- hosted **172** volunteers



Valo arrived to Ambue Ari in July, an orphaned puma infant found next to his sibling, who had passed away. Much too young to survive without his mother, he will unfortunately depend on humans for his entire life. He is progressing very well and has 18 sponsors.



The 'Chicos' are 3 pumas who may or may not be siblings, but were rescued together from an abusive captive situation in 2022. They live together in one of Ambue Ari's largest enclosures and they enjoy jungle walks outside of the enclosure. This year we raised the funds to adapt their enclosure with 2 more management cages so that they can be separated if necessary, in accordance with CIWY's safety protocol.



Ambue Ari's 3 Geoffroy's cats received a larger enclosure in 2023. Mariano is older than the brothers Beowolf and Boudicca, but they were all rescued from the illegal pet market. Unfortunately unable to learn survival skills, they can at least enjoy their jungle habitat in their new enclosure, funded by generous volunteers.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

CIWY believes that the education and inspiration of young people is an essential part of improving the future of wild animals and the natural environment.

Conservation education workshops were held at schools near CIWY's Ambue Ari Sanctuary. CIWY staff and volunteers led engaging lessons and fun activities focused on wildlife, the impact of fires and poaching, and our responsibility to protect nature. In total, 403 children were reached through CIWY's workshops in 2023.



We engage school children in discussions about the preservation and conservation of wild animals, using videos, puppets, games, books and other resources, some provided through the Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots Programme. We also utilise stories and photos of rescued wildlife to illustrate the importance of appreciating all living things in our ecosystems, and valuing biodiversity. We continue to share and distribute the children's book "Vengo de la Selva"/"I Come From the Jungle," which was created by past Artists-in-Residence and features the stories of CIWY's rescued animals.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



CIWY biologist Ingrid Bustos led a workshop in San Buenaventura, to publicize the work carried out by CIWY and to advocate for the importance of wildlife conservation in relation to the planned construction of bridges and asphaltting on the Rurrenabaque – Ixiamas highway. This was an important opportunity to engage with the population that lives and works in this strategic area of the Bolivian Amazon.

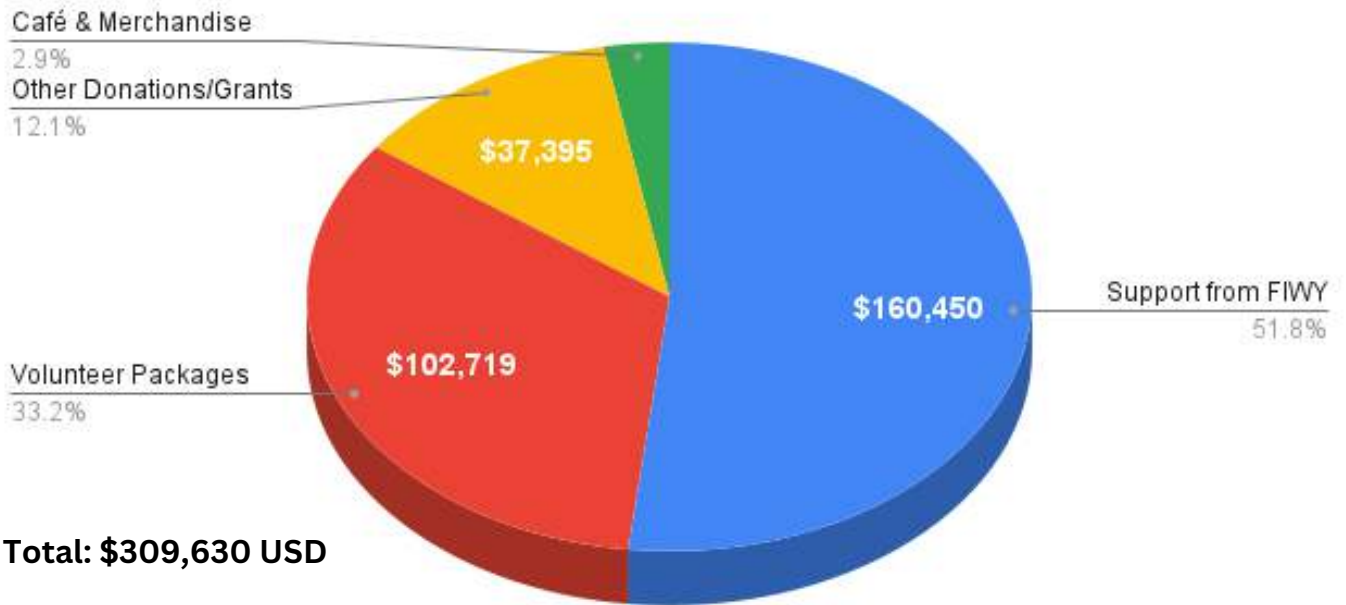
CIWY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 2023 - December 2023

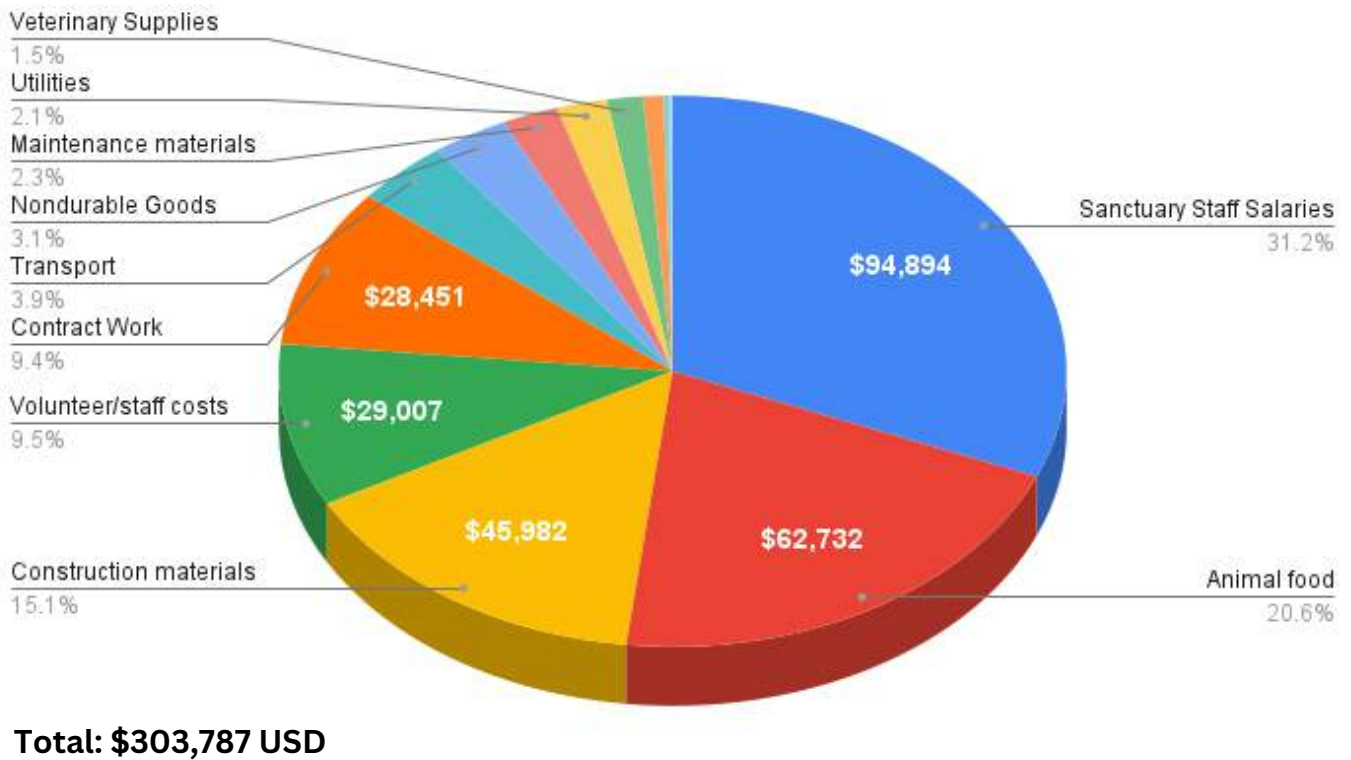


Please note that CIWY and FIWY operate on different fiscal years and currencies.

INCOME

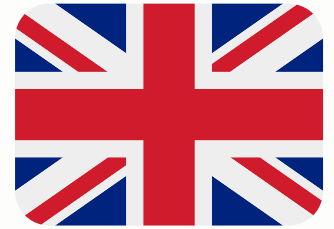


EXPENSE

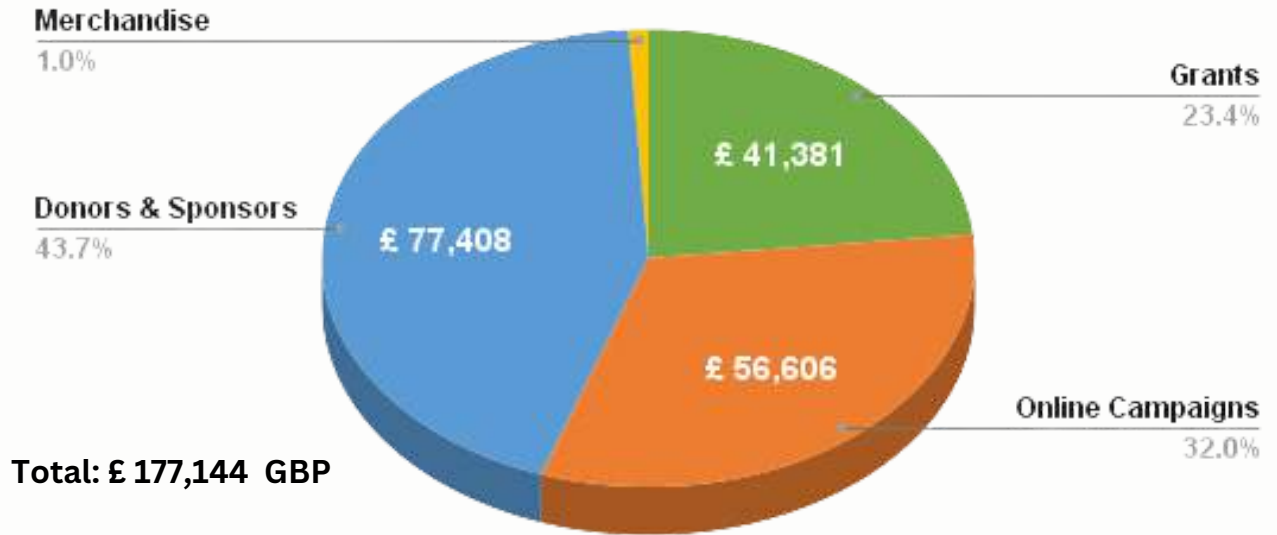


FIWY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

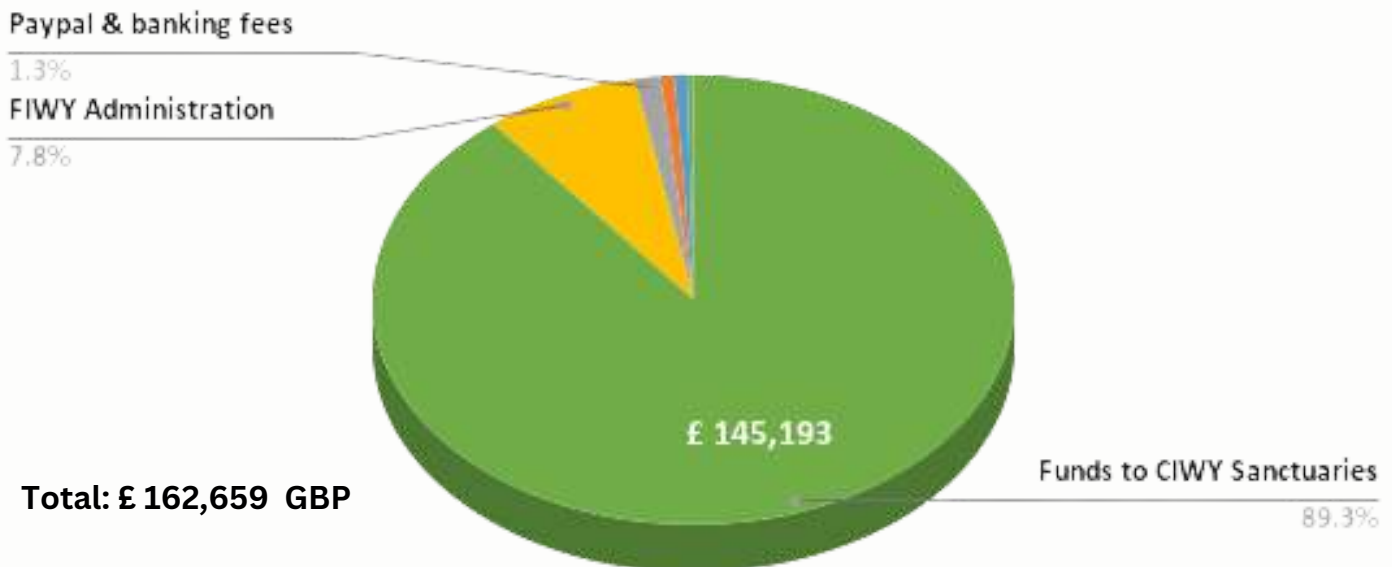
April 2022 - March 2023



INCOME



EXPENSE



The majority of the money FIWY raises is transferred directly to Bolivia, to support the sanctuaries with general operations, such as animal food and veterinary care. Some funds, usually from grants or special campaigns, are restricted to specific projects, such as new animal enclosures. Restricted funds are allocated 100% to their specified projects, and the CIWY team maintains detailed accounting for grant reports.

A minimal amount of unrestricted funds is used to cover FIWY's expenses, which include one salary and small costs related to maintaining the CIWY website, processing donations, selling merchandise, etc.



FIWY PROCURED 7 GRANTS IN 2023:

Lush Charity Pot contributed £20,022 for the Jacj Cuisi clinic, for urgent roof repairs and veterinary equipment. The clinic is now in great shape and equipped to provide proper treatment and preventive care to CIWY's many new arrivals.



20K

LUSH
Charity Pot

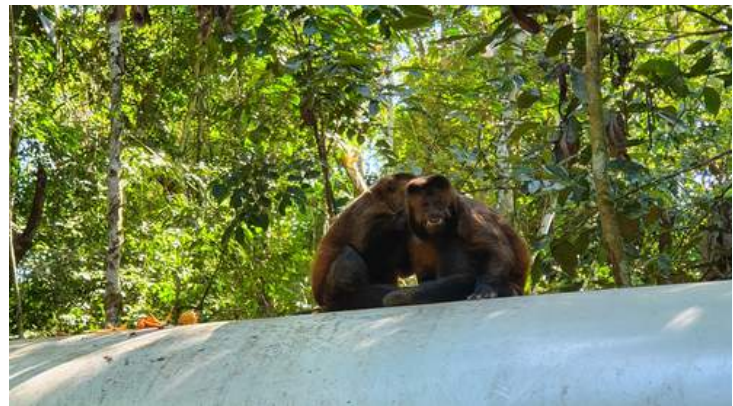
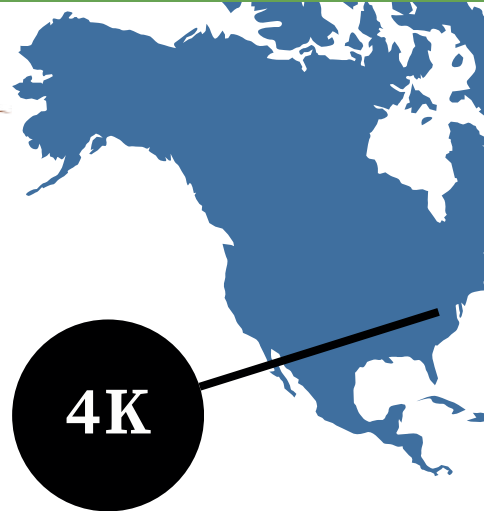
The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust provided £5,000 to support CIWY's general operations in 2023. This grant helped cover essential costs, like food, medicine, and staff salaries for 2 months at Machia and Jacj Cuisi Sanctuaries.



5K

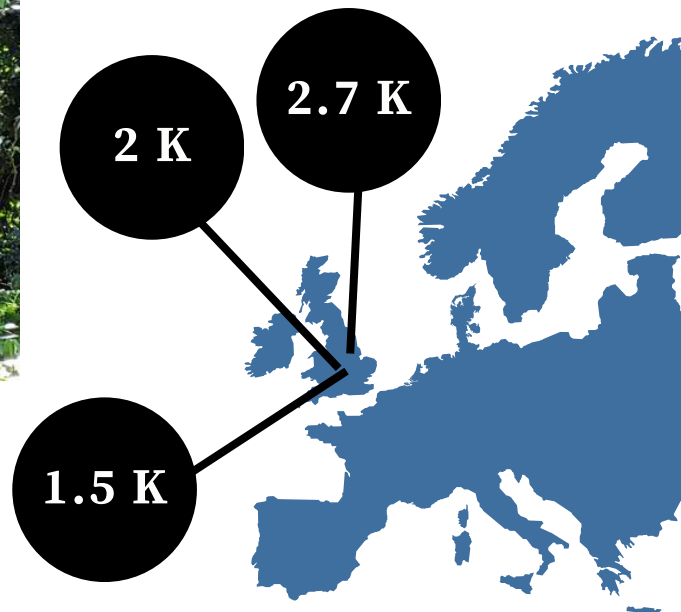


The International Primate Protection League has supported CIWY's primates for many years. In 2023 their £3,991 contribution supported CIWY's first Capuchin Monkey Area at Jacj Cuisi. Construction took place in the early months of 2023 and in April the first group of 19 monkeys moved from Machia to their new home in the "Land of Dreams."



Animal Friends Pet Insurance, the Marjorie Coote Animal Charity, and the Animal Defence Trust all contributed funds towards the second Capuchin Monkey Area at Jacj Cuisi.

Construction was 90% complete in December and 19 capuchin monkeys made the move from Machia's "Heaven" and "Earth" areas to their new home.



Marjorie Coote Animal Charity



THE Animal Defence Trust

FIWY THANKS THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL DONORS, WHO CONTRIBUTED OVER £1,000 EACH IN 2023:

- Brendon Berg
- Tricia O'Malley
- Toril Andresen
- Laura Coleman
- Rick Hunckler
- Pamela Page
- Morten Sivertsen
- Scott Metcalf
- Nicola Andrews
- Mavis Mayers



Brendon Berg gave the most generous contribution during the July campaign to build the third Capuchin Monkey Area at Jacj Cuisi. He named the area "ParaTi."

SPONSOR-AN-ANIMAL

We finished the year with a record 230 animal sponsors. They contribute a total of \$3,854 per month.

Sponsors help provide daily food, medicine and care for CIWY's rescued animals. They receive updates on their animal every 6 months, with current photos and/or video.



Marley the puma took the lead with more sponsors (20) than any other animal.



Rick Hunckler, a recurring volunteer, painted this beautiful portrait of Kusiya the jaguar as a prize in FIWY's 2023 Virtual Auction. Kusiya was rescued from poachers in 2015 and lives at CIWY's Ambue Ari Sanctuary.

AMBUE ARI COMEDOR

Over 3 years, we raised the \$9,000 needed to build a much-needed new comedor at Ambue Ari. Construction

was postponed, due to wildfires and the more urgent need to finish the first capuchin areas at Jacj Cuisi. Donors can still add their name to its future Wall of Fame by "buying a brick" on the online store.





Howler monkeys howl from the canopy at Ambue Ari. Situated along the Bolivian Amazon, CIWY's sanctuaries provide its rescued animals with the closest alternative to life in the wild.

OUTLOOK FOR 2024

Bolivia is a country highly vulnerable to climate change, and this year the dry season is predicted to start earlier, and with it, potentially disastrous forest fires. At the same time, the introduction of the palm oil industry could considerably affect the forests of the Bolivian Amazon and all the biodiversity that lives in them.

We hope to forge new relationships with partners in conservation and help CIWY maintain financial stability. We will work to grow our strong base of monthly donors and animal sponsors, and also pursue new grant opportunities.

FIWY's main focus is to raise funds for the remaining pieces of the Jacj Cuisi construction: two more capuchin monkey areas, the environmental education & research centre, and staff/volunteer facilities. Little by little, we are helping CIWY create the Land of Dreams for more rescued animals. We will also support CIWY's efforts to protect more habitat for jaguars and other wildlife, to expand its educational outreach activities, and to combat the threats of wildfires, poaching and illegal logging.

As always, CIWY will continue rescuing animals from illegal trafficking and working to preserve the Bolivian Amazon. Hundreds of animals remain in CIWY's loving care, and FIWY will be here to help with fundraising and administrative support. We send our gratitude to the grantors, donors, sponsors, and volunteers who continue to support our efforts year after year. None of our work would be possible without you.



CIWY Founder and President Nena Baltazar poses with FIWY Trustee Laura Coleman and a copy of *The Puma Years*, Laura's best-selling memoir about CIWY, which has brought awareness of our work to thousands of readers. Laura took a hiatus from her role on FIWY's Board in 2023, while she volunteered as Ambue Ari's Sanctuary Director for 6 months.

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING NETWORK OF MONTHLY DONORS AND ANIMAL SPONSORS!

David Varela
 John Halladay
 Sean Patrick Walsh
 Nicole Ferris
 Clancy Moore
 Julie Rivet
 Alan Burness
 Graydon Moore
 Ana Rodriguez Carvajal
 Saule Janaviciute
 Silja Ástudóttir
 Romaine Furmston-Evans
 Yuri Mirko Rios
 Felicia Thomas
 Falk Heuer
 Colton Smith
 Leslie Poulson
 Charles Bell
 Michael Moraitis
 Emma Lowry
 Jillian Bellamy
 Eric Shulze
 Gil Hizi
 Bolivian Mountains
 Jon Felices Balasse
 Randall Smith
 Laura Sheen
 Chantal Berot
 Erin Mounce
 Melanie Graf
 Pilar Garcia Carrero
 Hermann Giudici Heidelberg
 Eva Coleman
 Anja Hagenauer
 Brittany Hodgson
 Coral Felix Reilly
 Danitza Tejerina
 Daniela Miller
 Banco Ecofuturo
 Victor Alejo Aquiso
 Tania Evia
 Julie Coupin
 Claire Boulton
 Daniela Ayaviri
 Amanda Akass
 Annike Løkken Amundsen
 Debbie Johnsen
 Morwenna Rogers
 Tweed Steadman
 Helena van Berkum
 Cindy Brom
 Hindi Beauty
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 Carola Gehring
 Alison Rigby
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 Anjelica Cappellino
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 Lisa Johnson
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 Leila Misallati
 Martina Sunnås
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