

Grant Progress Report Alex C. Walker Foundation



Prepared by:

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Project name: Symbiosis: A forest that creates markets; markets that safeguard the forest

Project description: The Children's Eternal Rainforest, owned by the Costa Rican nonprofit Monteverde Conservation League, provides diverse and massive benefits to people on local, national, and international scales. To date, however, recognition of those services – particularly in the financial realm – has been inadequate. This project creates a new staff position, the exclusive purpose of which is to (a) reach out to diverse stakeholders and stimulate reflection about why they are stakeholders, (b) explore and implement mechanisms through which stakeholders are incentivized to contribute reciprocal financial support, and (c) produce a publication that summarizes the lessons obtained from this initiative as a useful reference for others. In 2025, the Monteverde Conservation League received a grant from the Alex C. Walker Foundation for the amount of \$52,752, to cover two years of salary for the new staff position.

Project budget:

\$73,423 total

Walker Foundation: \$52,752 for 2-year period (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027)

MCL counterpart: \$20,671

Project update:

The original proposed timeline for this project was July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027. However, we were not able to announce the position until mid-September 2025. We carried out a search for the new position (Communications Coordinator) and received 45 applications, of which 15 met the basic requirements for the position. In October, we interviewed 6 candidates, and the selection committee unanimously agreed to offer the position to Claire Hassler. Claire is a Peace Corps volunteer who has been working in Monteverde for the past two years. She has a journalism and photography background, is bilingual, bicultural, and is looking to stay in Monteverde over the long-term. She will begin work at in January 2026, after completing her commitment to Peace Corps. We are thrilled to have her on board and are looking forward to seeing advances of this project!

The new timeline for this grant is projected as January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027.