Mission
Oikonos studies and protects imperiled ecosystems by engaging diverse communities through innovative scientific and artistic collaborations.

Goals
- Protect wildlife populations, habitats and food webs
- Conserve biodiversity and threatened species
- Advance management policies and practices that consider ecosystem knowledge
- Create lasting stewardship of critical habitats and fisheries through community and government partnerships
- Lead multidisciplinary collaborations that develop conservation tools and solutions

Expertise
- Ecosystem Science
- Habitat Restoration Solutions
- Conservation Plans & Policy
- Sustainable Fisheries
- Community Partnerships
- Career Training & Education

After nearly 100 years of use, when the lighthouse on Año Nuevo Island was no longer needed, the animals reclaimed this critical predator-free refuge off central California. For 27 years, biologists at Oikonos have been working to conserve the seabirds that return to this precious island to raise their young.
When I started Oikonos with my driven idealistic friends, I could not have known how much joy it would bring. Next year marks the 20th anniversary. My feelings of pride and fulfillment come from watching the growth of our amazing team, past and present, and the impact they make in the world. I also could not have imagined the trials in leading a non-profit dedicated to science-driven conservation. Candidly, being trained as an ecologist and possessing introvert tendencies, my biggest challenge is raising enough funds to match our staff’s grand ideas and commitment to save what we love – the critical habitats and wildlife that need our help to survive. You are on this journey with us as donors, partners, community members, friends and family. Thank you. The accomplishments in this report are yours.

With excitement for the future, I ask you to continue supporting Oikonos (and bring your friends) in building on the shared knowledge, capacity, and partnerships to restore and protect our imperiled ecosystems.

With my heart,

Michelle Hester,
President & Executive Director
Sustainable Fisheries

2018 Accomplishments

**Revealed** the origin of Northern Fulmars injured in Alaska fisheries through genetic studies

**Completed** the 27th year of studying the importance of anchovy and rockfish stocks to California seabirds

**Partnered** with 9 Chilean agencies to coordinate a national marine wildlife stranding network

**Published** where seabirds and coastal fisheries overlap in Chile

Seabird Bycatch

Studying seabird diets and interactions with fisheries

Forage Fish

GPS tracking to find hotspots where seabirds and fisheries overlap

Artisanal Fisheries

Helping Chilean agencies and fishers learn about bycatch impacts and solutions

Jessie’s Story

Jessie Beck leads Año Nuevo Island and Fisheries Programs from our nest in Santa Cruz, California

“We work with resource managers, fishers, and researchers to better understand how our fisheries interact with seabirds, and what sustainable fishing systems might look like. I am inspired every day by our partners in the U.S. and South America as we work together to better understand the ecology of our oceans and protect the resources we all rely on.”
Imperiled Species

Shorebird Conservation
Addressing significant data gaps for phalarope species that depend on saline lakes

Migration Tracking
Conducting risk assessments for wide-ranging seabirds

TIARE’S STORY
Tiare is the local Coordinator of Research and Education Projects on Isla Mocha, Chile. She grew up on the Island.

“In these seven years of work with Oikonos, I realized how special and fragile the ecosystem that surrounds us can be. There is a large group of people who are passionate about conservation, who have shown me another perspective that I did not have before. I learned new tools to protect our environment and in turn, taught others. This has helped me to grow as a person and with a lot of encouragement, to preserve the beautiful paradise we have.”

2018 Accomplishments

Coordinated the first international meeting on phalaropes with census and tracking studies to follow

Completed the national conservation strategy for the Pink-footed Shearwater, a multi-year effort for Chile

Documented and tracked active nests of the critically endangered Masafuera Rayadito

Facilitated meetings with all stakeholders to prioritize Isla Mocha’s social and environmental needs

Endemic Biodiversity
Studying the threatened birds that only nest in the Juan Fernández Archipelago

Community Engagement
On Isla Mocha, Robinson Crusoe, and Selkirk, creating solutions with residents to protect their endemic wildlife
**2018 Accomplishments**

- **Co-authored** a global review of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in seabirds and two studies of plastic ingestion by Short-tailed Albatross and Tristram’s Storm-petrels
- **Educated** more than 15,000 students and 300 educators through Ocean Stewardship STEM curriculum annually
- **Distributed** to classrooms 275 boluses thrown up by albatross on Kure Atoll in the Hawaiian Archipelago for students to dissect and learn about plastic pollution
- **Trained** seven early-career scientists through our BiOPs internship programs

**ILANA’S STORY**

Ilana Nimz, Winged Ambassadors Coordinator & Graduate Student at Hawai’i Pacific University

“The Winged Ambassadors curriculum brings the incredible feats of seabirds to classrooms around the world. Supplemented with real barfs (boluses) from Kure Atoll albatrosses, the experience of seabird foraging comes alive in the students’ hands. I am contributing to this project by expanding the curriculum with more art and updated interactive links, and managing bolus dispersion. As a biologist that has collected hundreds of boluses from Kure over the last decade, I love getting enthusiastic responses from educators and students about the dissection activity.”

**Pacific Partnerships**

New collaborations expanding studies of marine debris ingestion in coastal Chile
2018 Accomplishments

**Documented** that novel habitat restoration efforts resulted in the highest number of Rhinoceros Auklets breeding on Año Nuevo Island in over 27 years.

**Deployed** the first ceramic nest modules in Hawai‘i for the Wedge-tailed Shearwaters.

**Designed** and built cattle exclusion fencing to protect 5.2 acres of critical burrow-nesting habitats for Pink-footed Shearwaters on Robinson Crusoe Island, Chile.

**Controlled** 42 species of incipient plants and developed invasive plant control methods in the Juan Fernández Archipelago.

**David’s Story**

David Calleri, Super volunteer for the Año Nuevo Program for over 20 years

“It has been a privilege to be part of a team that is committed to restoring an important seabird habitat. Working with people who are courageous, talented, and fun to be with, gives me faith in a positive future for our planet.”
On Mocha Island, off central Chile, 600 people live on ranches encircling the pristine native Valdivian Forest. At night thousands of Pink-Footed Shearwaters return from the sea and crash through the trees to find their mates and chicks in underground burrows in this forest.

PHOTO BY FRANCISCO ASTETE

2018 FINANCIALS

Total Revenue: $711,028
- Private Grants: $575,468
- Individual Donations: $76,640
- US and Chile Government Grants: $58,587
- Other type of income: $331

Total expenses: $627,476
- Administrative Expenses: $125,513
- Program Expenses: $470,090
- Fundraising Expenses: $31,873

Financial Health:
Net Assets $445,383
- Assets: $445,867
- Liabilities: $494
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental education activity in the Fardela rio with kids in Robinson Crusoe.</td>
<td>Love Monday at Discretion Brewing Building ceramic nests at windwardcc.</td>
<td>Fardelas start their northern migration.</td>
<td>Participated in the National Seabird Stranding Monitoring.</td>
<td>Fun at the Hawai’i Conservation Conference!</td>
<td>Leadership meeting in Hawai’i.</td>
<td>Celebrated the 8th Copa Fardela in Isla Mocha.</td>
<td>Seabirds leave Año Nuevo Island to spend their winters at sea.</td>
<td>The National Plan for Pink-footed Shearwater recovery is proposed to government.</td>
<td>The last rhinoceros auklet chicks of the season fledged from Año Nuevo Island this week.</td>
<td>Intern Danielle Devincenzi designed an island brochure for the docents.</td>
<td>Exhibit of @ nathanlynchart Nests at the UH art gallery, with a discussion about Art+Science.</td>
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Our work with communities, especially the youth, is the most important aspect of sustainable conservation.
EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Tiare Varela
Matias Venegas

PARTNERS CELEBRATE THE CREATION OF CHILE’S NATIONAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR PINK-FootED SHEARWATERS FOLLOWING AN OPEN STANDARDS PROCESS WITH MANY STAKEHOLDERS.

PHOTO BY OIKONOS

INTERNS & SCHOLARS

John Baczenas
Karina García
Kelly Goedde-Matthews
Tara Johnson-Kelly
Kelli Kigin
Sierra Kohls
Cabila Manríquez
Ciera McQuaid
Dylan Meek
Angelica Moua
Carrie Niblett
Camila Ortíz
Alexa Ottens
Stephany Pohlman
Génesis Ríos
Sara Sirk
Jennifer Urmston
Nicolás Vergara
Oikonos is building the most remote predator-proof fence in the Southern Hemisphere to protect this special burrowing seabird, the Pink-footed Shearwater (called Fardela Blanca in Chile). The customized fence is designed to exclude cows, cats, dogs, coati and rabbits that harm the bird’s fragile nesting habitat 700 km offshore on Robinson Crusoe Island.

PHOTO BY PETER HODUM
There is global concern about the trash in our oceans. Particularly plastic that persists for generations. Every piece of plastic in this photo was in the stomach of two Hawaiian albatross - the parent plucked it from the ocean, fed it to its chick, who then threw it up at the nest. Oikonos contributes to this global problem by studying marine animals that eat our trash, seabirds and tunas, and providing free education resources to inspire change.

PHOTO BY DENNY HENRY
Phalaropes stop at California’s Mono Lake in flocks of tens of thousands. However, they face an uncertain future. Oikonos and partners are updating decades-old population counts and using cutting-edge tracking technology to understand how best to help these tiny salt lake specialists.

PHOTO BY MARIE READ
Your contributions are critical! Together with you and all our partners, we are making meaningful progress towards protecting and restoring imperiled ecosystems.

The first youth meeting of the Biosphere Reserve Juan Fernández Archipelago, took place in Santa Clara Island. Organized by Oikonos in collaboration with CONAF, SAG and the Chilean Navy, aimed to encourage and empower environmental leadership within the local youth of the archipelago.

PHOTO BY OIKONOS

Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge is a 501(c)(3) charity. Donations are tax deductible. To donate, visit oikonos.org/donate.

Donate Today

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Thank You
Serving Communities & Wildlife Throughout the Pacific

Learn more at Oikonos.org

Designed by Jessica Papa and Josefina Mena