

## FUNDACIÓN AGUA Y TIERRA (FUNDAT)

It is an NGO created in 2011 by a group of Panamanian professionals interested in the issue of the preservation of ecosystems. Since then, they have worked on environmental conservation issues, mainly on issues related to sea turtles and the development of community ecotourism.

Since its inception, it has had a volunteer program, both national and international, in addition to a scientific monitoring program. In 2014, the visitor program and the environmental education program were created. In November 2015, Fundación Agua y Tierra was a finalist in the HÉROES POR PANAMÁ contest, dedicated to outstanding members of society who carry out important actions for their communities, highlighting their work on the issue of sea turtle conservation and rural community ecotourism, as an alternative to economics. The same year, it won the FORD incentive for environmental conservation.

Subsequently, in 2016, the organization won the national DORADA FROG award, dedicated to highlighting the work of projects dedicated to the conservation of species diversity in Panama. That year, it was decided to modify the visitor program and change it to a sustainable management program; promoting culture and community ecotourism through a circuit called Eco Ruta Tortuga.

At the beginning of 2017, the first national network of organizations that work on marine turtle conservation issues, called PANATORTUGAS, was promoted.

For the month of May, this year, Fundación Agua y Tierra was selected among the 500 best social-environmental projects in Latin America to participate with the Turtle Eco Route in the Latin America Green awards.

Over the years, FUNDAT has developed projects with funding from local organizations (Fundación Natura, Fundación MarViva, Conservation International) and international organizations (UNDP-PPD, NCSC, IAF).