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## 21 ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

Photo: Bertrand Delvaux + Dhallila Creative

**SOMOS** is a registered Costa Rican non-profit foundation that promotes resilience in local communities through sustainable development strategies, community safety, and social enterprise.

**SOMOS** is a catalyst for collaborative development that operates as an articulator of initiatives, an incubator of innovative programs, and a manager of social projects and public-private partnerships.

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**SUMMARY | 21 ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021**

# SOMOS, AN ARTICULATOR

Photo: Alliance of Organizations

**SSOMOS CREATES SPACES FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, COMPANIES AND/OR PUBLIC ENTITIES TO HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE INTERACTIONS, EXPRESS CONCERNS, FIND SOLUTIONS, AND DEVELOP STRATEGIC PLANS.**

## SOMOS IN NUMBERS

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Thanks to SOMOS' participation, the following was able to occur:

- **13 organizations in**
- **1 alliance**
- **1 strategic plan, prepared during**
- **3 workshops**
- **1 strategic communications video**

The Alliance specified:

- **21 additional hours per week for the visit to the PNMB**
- **1 bill**

SOMOS, on behalf of the Alliance of Organizations, completed:

- **3 public reports**

Thanks to the support of SOMOS in 2021, the ADIU managed to process:

- **902 park membership applications**





Photo: Alliance of Organizations

1. SOMOS articulated, through the Alliance of Organizations of Bahia Ballena, the creation of a strategic plan for the Alliance's larger action route, executing two face-to-face workshops and a virtual and telephone session with the different organizations of the Alliance.
2. SOMOS, in conjunction with ADI, articulated the process for the formalization of the Alliance of Organizations of Bahia Ballena with bylaws which were agreed upon by all 13 member organizations at that time.
3. SOMOS was able to secure a space with Costa Ballena TV to keep the local population informed about the Alliance of Organizations of Bahia Ballena's commitments in the during negotiations with the Marino Ballena National Park (memberships, schedules, and more) and the draft law, completing three progress reports through Costa Ballena News.
4. SOMOS contributed to ADI Uvita with the donation of a special printer for printing PVC ID cards, USD \$1,000 of initial capital, and the purchase of supplies for the implementation of the membership program for free entry into the Marino Ballena National Park.



In 2021, 902 ID card applications were processed of which currently:

- 748 WERE DELIVERED
- 106 WERE RETURNED
- 7 ARE PENDING REQUIREMENTS
- 41 ARE ISSUED AND PENDING DELIVERY

5. SOMOS has helped facilitate space for negotiation with the Marino Ballena National Park's administration for the second phase of the membership program for residents without legal status through a volunteer program.

6. SOMOS channeled resources for the creation of a communication strategy for the Alliance of Organizations of Bahia Ballena, achieving the elaboration of a video explaining its work.





Photo: Bertrand Delvaux + Dhallila Creative

6. SOMOS facilitated negotiations with the administration of the Marino Ballena National Park that resulted in the extension of its opening hours during Holy Week and the end of the year, adding three additional operation hours each day with this pilot plan. The plan served as support for the Marino Ballena National Park to extend the park's opening hours from 6:00am-6:00pm, beginning in December 2021.

7. SOMOS helped carve out space with the Alliance of Organizations of Bahia Ballena to reshape a bill for the creation of a Trust Fund for the Marino Ballena National Park. SOMOS helped represent the majority of community organizations in the Administrative Board of the Trust Fund, and was able to secure a higher percentage of resources that could be used directly by the community. This project is currently in the legislative process.

# SOMOS, AN INCUBATOR



Photo: Anki Cramer

AS AN INCUBATOR, SOMOS ENABLES THE MEANS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE CREATION OF NEW ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS THE GENERATION OF NEW PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS THAT BENEFIT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

## SOMOS IN NUMBERS

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As an incubator, SOMOS supported the process of creation and development of:

- **3 new organizations**

To foster the incubation of SK4L, a new program in the area, SOMOS signed:

- **1 new alliance with ALIARSE; managed to donate**
- **25 new computers; and has mediated communication between ALIARSE and**
- **2 beneficiary schools (Uvita and Cortés)**

To grow the SELAL program that SOMOS executes together with the Cortés high school, SOMOS worked on the generation of networks that will benefit:

- **25 additional students during 2022**





Photo: Bertrand Delvaux + Dhallila Creative

8. As an incubator, SOMOS gives administrative support to the Costa Ballena Lifeguard Association, which guarantees the flow of resources to this organization as part of the larger process of growth and development. SOMOS also provides the link between the lifeguards and the Municipality of Osa, pertaining to the contract that allows the municipality to inject approximately 3 million colones per month to the lifeguards.

9. SOMOS incubated the creation of the Costa Ballena Disaster Relief group, which today is a duly registered and fully functioning nonprofit organization.

10. SOMOS helped foster the process of the creation of the Bahia Ballena Chamber of Commerce and Tourism in partnership with the private sector, which today is a duly registered and functioning organization. It was initially made up of 25 local businesses.



Photo: Bertrand Delvaux + Dhallila Creative

11. SOMOS helped formulate a plan which aims to convert Bahia Ballena into a Carbon Neutral destination prepared for the effects of climate change that are underway, alongside ALIARSE and the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism.

12. Thanks to the alliance between SOMOS and the Peace Corps, a structured volunteer program has been created.

13. SOMOS signed a strategic alliance agreement with ALIARSE and coordinated a union between two schools in the southern region; Liceo la Uvita and Liceo Pacífico Sur in Cortés, for the implementation of the new Skills for Life program. This will allow for the development of similar training programs on a national scale and is expected to prepare 50 students for employability by 2022.

14 .SOMOS enabled a donation of 25 computers that allows for the implementation of the Skills for Life program in the Southern Zone.

15. SOMOS was able to form an alliance with Colegio de Cortés to expand the SELAL program to that community. There are projected to be 25 more students from Cortés and surrounding communities graduating from SELAL in the January 2022 graduating class.





# SOMOS, AN ADMINISTRATOR

Photo: Bertrand Delvaux in Dhallila Creative

**AS AN ADMINISTRATOR, SOMOS USES ITS SKILLSETS TO MANAGE PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL LEVEL IMPORTANCE.**

## SOMOS IN NUMBERS

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As administrator and executor, SOMOS implemented the SELAL program and during 2022, which benefited:

- **75 students benefited, in**
- **2 communities**
- **25 companies and community leaders support the program**

To make all this work possible, SOMOS enabled:

- **Over \$50K which was invested in the above mentioned programs and to covering operating costs**





Photo: Anki Cramer

16. SOMOS was able to help generate matching funds which enabled its counterpart, Stanford University, to execute the ninth edition of SELAL and its expansion, raising U\$30,000 for the execution of the SELAL program in 2022.

17. SOMOS implemented the SELAL program during the vacations (January-July 2021). 75 students from Bahia Ballena and Puerto Jimenez benefited from participating in intensive workshops as well as monthly follow-up activities focused on community participation. About 25 community and business leaders were part of the SELAL program sharing their knowledge and services with SELAL students.





Foto: Anki Cramer

18. SOMOS actively participated in the three public consultation workshops for the update of the Management Plan, a process in which the participating organizations were able to include the focal management element: livelihoods and cultural values linked to ecosystem services. A request was submitted to make the “Aguja Dos” entrance of the Marino Ballena National Park a main, official entrance.

19. SOMOS strengthened its work team to continue incubating, articulating, and managing resources for community development.

20. SOMOS relocated its offices to be closer to the community and specifically local youth.

21. SOMOS consolidated its vision and values during 2021 and reaffirmed it with commitments for hard work and organization for the challenges of 2022.





Photo: Anki Cramer

## HOW CAN I BE PART OF THESE INITIATIVES?

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Be part of this important work in our community: take the 1% commitment today and support these important community projects [HERE](#).

**WEBSITE: [WWW.SOMOS.CR](http://WWW.SOMOS.CR)**  
**EMAIL ADDRESS: [JUNTOS@SOMOS.CR](mailto:JUNTOS@SOMOS.CR)**