

# Mapping and Monitoring a Reforestation Project in Costa Rica

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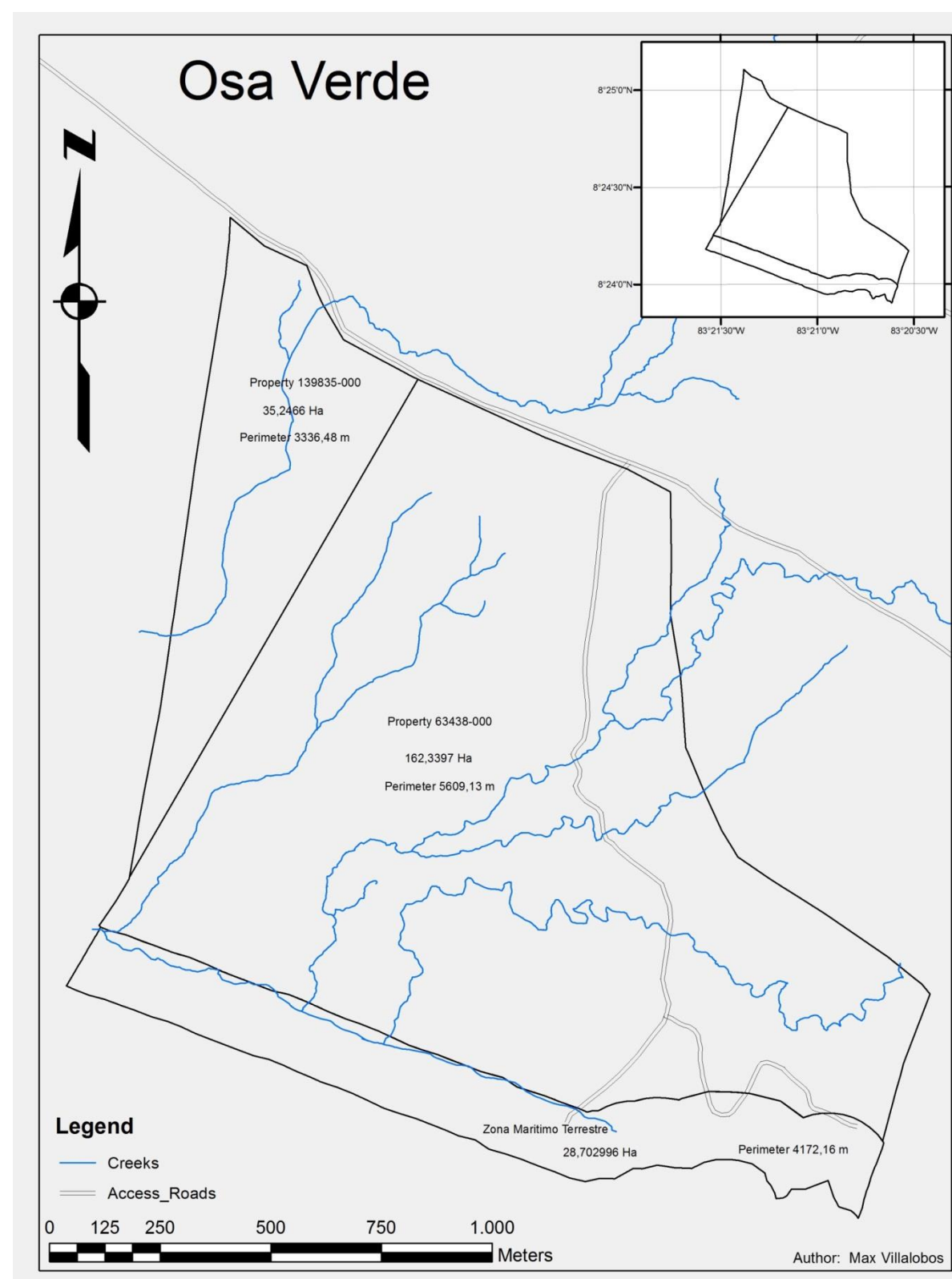
## Abstract

For 7 weeks this summer, I worked in the tropical rainforests of Costa Rica. Six weeks were spent in the Osa Peninsula working with Osa Conservation on a reforestation project. I worked tagging and measuring the seedlings in the reforested area. I also spent time mapping the reforestation plot and the rivers of the area. The last week in Osa, we did a beach clean-up, trail maintenance, and planted trees. The last week was spent in Monte Verde assembling a herbarium collection.

Tracking the progress of the reforestation project will take many years as we wait for the seedlings to reach maturity. To the right is a map produced by my boss of the rivers I've tracked throughout the project.



## Results



The resulting map of the streams in Osa's newly purchased property, Osa Verde.

## Data Interpretation and Impact

The map above is a compilation of the rivers I mapped with the handheld GPS. This will serve as an important tool for the planning and management of Osa's newly acquired land. Our work tagging and recording data on the trees will give the organization the ability to track and analyze their reforestation efforts. Without this data, it would be hard to determine how successful their efforts are.

Throughout my experience at Osa Conservation, I've learned of the many difficulties one will face when working in a tropical rainforest. Our boss sent us to do challenging work to show us that if we ever want to do work in a rainforest, we will know what we are getting ourselves into.

I would love to return to Osa and do more work for them. I would consider going back to work with the turtle protection project.

## Service Project

A week and a half of our journey was spent working on community service projects in both Osa and the Monte Verde Cloud Forest.



We cleaned up all the garbage that had washed up on one of Osa's beaches.



On our trail maintenance days, we helped create a new trail linking two old ones together.



We were all able to plant a few trees and leave a little piece of us behind.



In our week in Monte Verde, we worked on a herbarium project. These leaves have been sitting in filing cabinets for years waiting for volunteers to put mount them on paper as a beautiful collection.

## Intro

Osa Conservation is a non-profit organization in the Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica. They work on numerous projects to protect and preserve the biological diversity of the peninsula. The project I worked on was their reforestation plot. They have been working to plant native species in areas where farming or invasive species has degraded the forest. Our assignment was to tag and monitor the growth of these newly planted seedlings. We also worked on various other projects including:

- Using a handheld GPS to map the streams on newly purchased property
- locating and tagging trees that were previously overlooked when the plots were made
- mapping the perimeter of the reforestation project
- helping on Osa's sustainable farm
- going on turtle patrols to tag females as they lay eggs as well as document the location of the nest and move nests to the hatchery if the location posed a threat to their survival