



Intercambio Cultural & Voluntariado Internacional

Creciendo sin fronteras



ACI Short Term Incoming Programs.

Ecological Project Profiles.

For Gradual Re-opening 2020 - 2021.

ASVO SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION BUENA VISTA (ACICRC01-20).



Description:

The sea turtle conservation program is a scientific-based conservation activity in which the organizations involved try to increase the amount of sea turtle hatchings in order to give higher survival rates.

The camps are located within walking distances from the beach. Apart from the sea turtles, you will also have high chances of seeing tropical birds, iguanas and monkeys. The main goal of these projects is to help the recovering of sea turtle populations. The species of sea turtles that you can find on these beaches are: Leatherback, Olive riddle, Hawksbill, Green and Logger Head, depending on which project and season you visit.

Turtles Season:

The high season is from July to December in both projects. You can come the rest of the months since there is work in the project. Activities like reforestation, cleaning the beach, and also night patrols are done all the year. There is always something to do. They receive around 3-6 turtles per month in low season



Arrivals to both Projects:

Please arrive to Costa Rica 3 days before you start the project. You will have an orientation meeting in San Jose the second day. The third day you will travel to the project. ASVO projects receive volunteers all the week.

Location:

Buena Vista beach is a nesting beach of approximately 2.8 km of length and limited in the north by the blind estuary and in the south by the river Buena Vista, the back of the beach is limited by a system of mangroves, which depend on water from the river and tides, beach slope is low ranging between 3 ° and 4 ° to swell, so the currents are strong which makes it an ideal place for surfing.

The project is located in the northern part of Costa Rica, in the canton of Nicoya, 2,5 km to the center of Sámara.

Working fields for the volunteer:

- Maintenance of the infrastructure and surroundings
- Cleaning of the beach
- Transport of alimentation and water, from the river to the project (1-2 days per week)
- Collection the information about the nesting activity (collection and measures of the eggs in the hatchery, marking of females)
- Monitoring and surveillance of the hatcheries
- Liberation of the babies
- Collection of information about the nests
- Night patrols (3-5 days a week, 3 hours per night)

Space and capacity:

Maximum 26 volunteers. Allowed **minimum stay are 2 weeks**, maximum 12 months.

Preference will be given to volunteers with an availability of more than 2 weeks.





Schedule of the volunteers:

6 to 10 hours per day depending on the intensity of nesting activity and community support commitments. The work is done mostly during the night hours, daytime schedule will depend on the type of activity to develop and the rains of the season. Every week volunteers have a day off (Sundays).

Required skills and interests of the volunteer:

- Volunteers are needed with a strong desire for collaboration, good attitude, excellent physical condition and adaptability to coexist with utilities, those volunteers who have prior knowledge in biology or conservation of turtles (not a must) are preferred, it considered an advantage if staff has expertise in construction or carpentry.
- Basic Level of Spanish
- To be respectful towards the internal rules the project
- To love nature as the main goal of these projects is the protection of turtles
- To be in good physical condition as the patrols imply long walks along the beach at night
- To be open to share accommodation and bedroom with other volunteers
- To be very flexible and to do different tasks during the day which may involve cooking and cleaning as volunteers may be also responsible of taking care of the camp

Description of accommodation:

Currently the project has a **wood rustic lodge** consisting of a common enclosure for volunteers on the second floor, kitchen and dining space. Outside it has 2 bathrooms and 2 toilets. It has water and showers. It **has no electricity service**. It has a solar panel in which you can charge your cell phone once a day. There is not WIFI.



Additional information:

All volunteers must bring: bed linen (2 sheets, blankets), insect repellent/after bite cream, sunscreen, and water bottle. Also dark clothing with long sleeves and closed and comfortable shoes for evening walks, waterproof, additionally bring a hat, flashlight with red filter (mandatory), and fly block (mosquito net).

As an important detail, to get to the project, you should get to Samara town, then after you should take a taxi to Buena Vista River. **Once you are there, you have to cross the river (We recommend you to bring backpacks not suitcases). When the tide is low (in summer time), you can cross the river by wading. When the tide is high, there are people from the project who are going to pick you up with a kayak (you are going to get your pants wet).**

There are surf lessons for rent in the project. So if you are interested you can bring money to pay for the lessons and to learn how to surf.



ASVO SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION MONTEZUMA (ACICRC02-20).



Description:

The sea turtle conservation program is a scientific-based conservation activity in which the organizations involved try to increase the amount of sea turtle hatchings in order to give higher survival rates.

The camps are located within walking distances from the beach. Apart from the sea turtles, you will also have high chances of seeing tropical birds, iguanas and monkeys. The main goal of these projects is to help the recovering of sea turtle populations. The species of sea turtles that you can find on these beaches are: Leatherback, Olive riddle, Hawksbill, Green and Logger Head, depending on which project and season you visit.

Turtles Season:

The high season is from July to December in both projects. You can come the rest of the months since there is work in the project. Activities like reforestation, cleaning the beach, and also night patrols are done all the year. There is always something to do. They receive around 3-6 turtles per month in low season

Arrivals to both Projects:



Please arrive to Costa Rica 3 days before you start the project. You will have an orientation meeting in San Jose the second day. The third day you will travel to the project. ASVO projects receive volunteers all the week.

Location:

Montezuma beach is located on the peninsula of Nicoya, province of Puntarenas and belongs to the conservation area of Tempisque.

Volunteers' work fields:

- Monitor the ocean turtle nesting at Montezuma beach
- Signaling of the beaches and construction of the hatchery of the sea turtle projects
- Night patrols for protection and collection of information about the sea turtles.
- Construction and reparation of the trails for public use at Montezuma beach.
- Maintenance of the infrastructure of the project
- Cleaning of the beach
- Support in environmental education activities and communal protection
- Night patrols (3-5 days a week, 3 hours per night)

Space and capacity:

At least one volunteer and a maximum of 14 volunteers every two weeks. **Minimum stay of 2 weeks**, there is no maximum time. Maximum 20 volunteers.

Required skills and interests of the volunteer:

- The volunteer needs to like it/needs to have the willingness to work in a natural tropic forest and beach and to work physical.
- Basic Spanish Level
- To be respectful towards the internal rules the project
- To love nature as the main goal of these projects is the protection of turtles





- To be in good physical condition as the patrols imply long walks along the beach at night
- To be open to share accommodation and bedroom with other volunteers
- To be very flexible and to do different tasks during the day which may involve cooking and cleaning as volunteers may be also responsible of taking care of the camp

Schedule of the volunteers:

40 or 48 hours per week, 6 or 10 hours a day, 6 days a week. Sundays off.

Description of the living situation:

The place is a building (normal house) with rooms, it has electricity, potable water and a phone. There is WIFI.

Additional information:

All volunteers have to bring linens (sheets, blankets), mosquito repellent, sun block, personal articles, comfortable and light clothes, comfortable shoes (closed for work), water bottle, flashlight with red light (mandatory). Dark clothes for night patrols.

To get to the project, you should get off the bus and walk 8 minutes, you can bring suitcases.

The closest town is 5 minutes walking.



SANTA ELENA CLOUD FOREST BIOLOGICAL RESERVE (ACICRC03-20).



Description:

The Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve, located in Monteverde, is a project that combines conservation, ecotourism and education. This project is an example of a protected area that is administered by a small community which directly benefits from it.

Thanks to the help of national and international volunteers, people from the community, and students, the Reserve has developed a good infrastructure of trails, a visitors' center, a store and a small restaurant. Many volunteers with technical and professional experience also help with environmental education and sustainable-development projects.

Possible tasks for the volunteer:

- Most work is done along with the crew of the Reserve on:
- To maintain and to create trails
- To repair infrastructure
- To help with the reforestation project of the local high school
- To assist at the main office in town with reservations and translations
- If you stay for a longer period and have specific skills, you may also help with research going on at the Reserve.



Required skills and interests of the volunteer:

- Be in good physical conditions
- To work on hard duties such as maintaining of trails
- Willing to work on one side in the nature and to get wet and dirty and on the other side to work in the office
- Be able to work in a foreign country and adapt to a different culture
- To have the maturity to work following the internal rules in a responsible way

Schedule for the volunteer:

From Monday to Friday 5-6 hours a day (depending on tasks and weather)

Things you need to Bring to Santa Elena:

- Mosquito repellent
- Sun block
- Rain coat
- Umbrella
- Closed shoes (hiking shoes)
- Extra shoes (tennis shoes, flip flops)
- Work clothes (that you don't mind getting dirty)
- All in a backpack instead of suitcase.

Accommodation:

The volunteers stay in a host family of the community, in Santa Elena. **Minimum stay of 2 weeks.**

Location:

Santa Elena of Monteverde (Province Puntarenas).



Arrival to the Project:

Please arrive to Costa Rica 3 days before you start the project. The third day you will travel to the community (host family). Santa Elena receives volunteers mostly on Mondays and Tuesdays.

FUDEBIOL BIOLOGICAL RESERVE (ACICRC04-20).



Description:

This is a grass roots organization located in the small village of Quebradas, which is located near to the town of San Isidro in El General Valley. This valley is surrounded by high mountains such as Cerro de la Muerte (3491 meters above sea level) and the highest mountain of Costa Rica, Chirripó at 3820 meters.

The town of Quebradas was founded by farmers. Today, many people work in the closest town, San Isidro. They also make a living from agricultural products such as coffee, sugar cane, fruits and vegetables.

The Biological Center of Quebradas is managed by FUDEBIOL (Fundación para el Desarrollo del Centro Biológico Las Quebradas), which is a non-profit grass roots organization launched in 1989. Their mission is to stop the deforestation of the Quebradas River basin, which is the source of drinking water for the whole town of San Isidro and most of the region of Pérez Zeledón. In the Center, they have also built an educational hub. The project site is located 3km uphill from the community of Quebradas, between 1000 and 2500 meters above sea level.

Possible tasks for the volunteer:

- To maintain the garden of medical plants
- To maintain the (Butterfly) Garden
- To maintain the channel around the lagoon



- To maintain the trails inside the Reserve
- To clean and to maintain green areas
- To make new informative wooden signs for the trails
- To plant flowers and trees and others on the access road
- To paint and to maintain the buildings

Required skills and interests of the volunteer:

- To be in good physical conditions
- To work on hard duties such as constructing and maintaining of trails
- To live under simple conditions and be willing to eat the typical food, probably rice and beans with other local vegetables everyday (the volunteer will receive three meals a day)
- To be ready to walk uphill for 50 minutes every morning in order to get to the project and walk back to the host family in town after finishing work every afternoon

Schedule for the volunteer:

From Monday to Friday 5-6 hours a day (depending on tasks and weather)

Things you need to Bring to Fudebiol:

- Mosquito repellent
- Sun block
- Rain coat
- Umbrella
- Closed shoes (hiking shoes)
- Extra shoes (tennis shoes, flip flops)
- Work clothes (that you don't mind getting dirty)
- All in a backpack instead of suitcase

**Accommodation:**

The volunteers stay in a host family of the community, in Quebradas, Perez Zeledon.

Minimum stay of 2 weeks.

Location:

Las Quebradas, San Isidro de Pérez Zeledón (Southern Costa Rica).

Arrival to the Project:

Please arrive to Costa Rica 3 days before you start the project. The third day you will travel to the community (host family). **Fudebiol receives volunteers all the week.**

ACOTPRO ASOCIACIÓN DE CONSERVACIÓN DE TOTUGAS DE PROGRESO (ACICRC05-20).



Description

ACOTPRO is an organization founded by the people of Progreso, this community struggles to protect the turtles that arrived to the region of Bahia Drake, Progreso Beach, Ganadito, and Ganado Beach. The community Progreso is located 1 km east from the Bahia Drake Airport.

Besides that this organization tries to educate the community about the importance to preserve their natural resources. The ACOTPRO association is integrated by around 30 members of the community of the village.

- Wildlife conservation: protecting the turtles!
- Forest conservation: implement reforestation programs in the community
- Educational program: establish an environmental program for the children of the village and support them learning English or other languages

Geographical location

The community of Progreso is located at Bahia Drake, that is resting on the northern side of the Osa Peninsula, Drake Bay (Bahía Drake) is an adventure-seekers place. It is

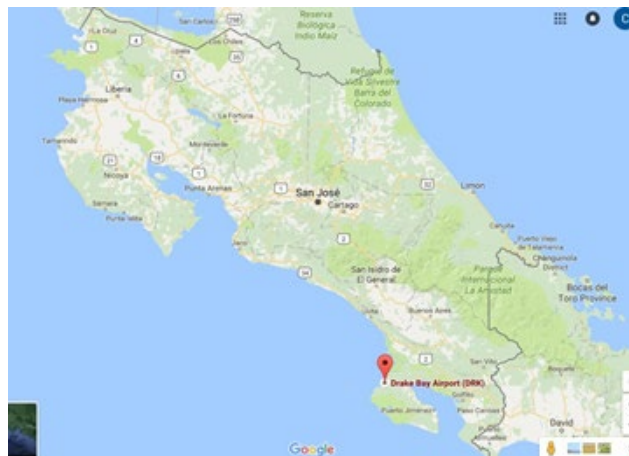
named after Sir Francis Drake who is believed to have ventured here in the late 16 centuries.

The beach where the turtles arrive is located 3.5 km from the village.

The local community

El Progreso is a small village mainly with family houses very close to the beautiful beaches of Bahia Drake. The main economic activity is the agriculture, and also people live from the tourism that comes to Bahia Drake. This community is very far away from main cities.

During the turtle high season that starts in July and finish in October, they organize the work in different shifts during the 24 hours.



Possible tasks for the volunteer

- Night patrols at the beach. This include spotting turtles, recollecting the eggs, measuring the turtle and laying the eggs on the safe location, it is important to know that the volunteer will be never alone.
- Besides that the volunteer will have to tend the hatchery, they have to watch the nest to find out when the eggs eclosionate, but also must check if any predator is feeding from the nest (ants, crabs, birds).
- Clean the beaches.





Schedule

The schedule is flexible.

Required skills and interests of the volunteer

- Willing to do hard physical work, under extreme conditions (heat, rain, work overnight)
- Living in simple conditions in very rural areas
- Accepting to be far away from cities or other volunteers
- Proactive and with a lot of initiative
- Teamwork skills
- Willing to work under supervision
- Person who like outdoor activities and hiking (beach, and forest)
- Be a good swimmer and in really good physical conditions (health certificate)

Further information

Every volunteer will receive a training of two days related to the tasks and information about turtles and the surroundings.

The volunteer will stay in a host family of the community of Progreso. Most of the houses don't have WIFI!

Examples for night patrols: (it depends on ocean`s tides)

*First Patrol: From 7:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

*Second Patrol: From 12:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.

Rules of the project

Volunteers are not allowed to use any type of drugs or alcohol during the time they are volunteering.





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