

ProjectsAbroad

Volunteering
opportunities in the
Peruvian
Amazon

*help...
learn...
explore!*

PERUVIAN RAINFOREST

CONSERVATION

TAIRIYAI LODGE

➔ www.projects-abroad.co.uk

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➔ INTRODUCTION

The Taricaya Research Centre has been operating for over 5 years now and January 2007 saw the arrival of our 500th Projects Abroad volunteer. Through hard work, dedication and imagination we have achieved more than could have been expected and I am proud to run such a dynamic programme where every one involved strives towards one common goal; the conservation of the world's most diverse ecosystem, The Amazon Rainforest.

Stuart Timson

Conservation Manager
Projects Abroad Peru

Here at Reserva Ecologica Taricaya, Projects Abroad volunteers help us by working in various conservation projects designed to help both the ecosystem and the local ethnic communities dependent on the forest for their survival. It is impossible to outline all the projects we have initiated over the years but here are the primary activities currently undertaken in the reserve.



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➔ Pilot Farm



At Taricaya we are sympathetic to the daily problems that local farmers face. The majority of communities located around Puerto Maldonado are not farmers by tradition but primarily gold miners, rubber barons and Brazil nut collectors. Puerto Maldonado was a boom town as little as twenty years ago but the people that flocked to Madre de Dios are not farmers by tradition and as such suffer trying to make the meagre plots of land awarded to them by the government rentable. The riches of the area soon dried up leaving the fortune-seekers high and dry without local knowledge and sufficient means to make them capable farmers. The concept of

the pilot farm is to help the locals manage their land efficiently and hence reduce their impact on the surrounding forest. Hunting, fishing, timber extraction, charcoal burning and palm leaf collection are time-consuming and labour intensive activities which they would gladly rescind given the opportunity. Fortunately after nearly four years of experimentation we are now in a position to help the locals without the need for an initial financial investment by the communities concerned. When people come to us for aid we know that they are receptive to our ideas and the passive approach we have adopted over recent years is finally proving productive. Our combination of livestock management and crop cycling is finally reaching the surrounding communities and, with luck, this novel concept of conservation is being employed in the surrounding area.



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➔ www.projectsabroadperu.org

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➔ Trail Maintenance



Projects Abroad was officially awarded a 476 hectare reserve at the end of 2004 (Reserva Ecológica Taricaya) and now we have to produce a technical report every year to justify our work in the area. The data from daily observations is necessary for these reports to demonstrate that the area is recovering from previous disturbances and that our endeavours are having a positive impact on the ecosystem in the newly-created reserve. The information from the canopy, platforms, blinds and walks is crucial for these reports and whilst we know that the area is recovering well we need concrete evidence to satisfy the relevant authorities and hence maintain the concession that was given to us for forty years.

➔ Wildlife Observations



Due to the hard work of nearly 500 volunteers that have visited us over the past five years we have a trail network of over 50 kilometres. The patrolling of our reserve is crucial to the resident fauna as poachers have been known to enter illegally to hunt and a constant monitoring of the area has become a necessary chore. Tropical storms are violent by nature and tree-falls are common so constant monitoring of our trails becomes an unavoidable task to permit access to all corners of the protected area. I am happy to report that incidents of illegal entry have greatly reduced over the last 18 months but we cannot sit back on our laurels and trail maintenance is an essential part of our work in the reserve.

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➔ Animal Release



The concept of releasing captive animals into a safe environment is a popular concept for conservationists worldwide and Taricaya is currently in line to be appointed the first such centre in Peru. Laws did not exist for such centres in Peru and we are pioneering the concept amidst an ongoing battle for rights to sanction the release of confiscated animals. One would assume that the Peruvian government would be delighted with the offer of such a project but we continue to battle for the rights to help them with their enormous problem of illegal exotic pets. With the construction of adequate enclosures we move ever closer to our goal of finally being able to take mistreated animals out of Puerto Maldonado and re-locate them back into their natural habitats.

2005 saw a breakthrough after several years with our turtle project. The side-necked turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*) has suffered for decades due to the commercial value of its eggs. Locals can raise large amounts of money, relatively speaking, from the sale of their eggs in the markets of Peru. In Puerto Maldonado the problem is particularly severe and the local communities have relied on this income for several generations. At Taricaya we have liaised with the government authorities concerned and the novel concept of employing the natives to help us has proven very successful. Last year, in conjunction with the local community, we successfully raised and released over 500 young turtles back into the wild. We engraved the young turtles with a code on their shells and this means that future recapture will associate the individuals with our project at Taricaya.

➔ Turtle Project





We are also involved with many other projects that operate on smaller timescales. Such investigations involve birds, reptiles, amphibians and medicinal plants to name but a few.

In short, Reserva Ecológica Taricaya is at the forefront of conservation in the area and is part of a larger programme world-wide run by **Projects Abroad**. As manager of these global conservation programmes I can be totally honest and say that our volunteers make a genuine difference in the areas where we work and our programmes are very well respected in the countries where we operate.

Conservation in developing countries has to be developed with local communities, working with the people. Taricaya is the first project I have ever worked on that actually advances in those things successfully. You can be proud of having such a project, run by people with visions and realistic dreams as well as the knowledge of how to move things on in a country like Peru.

Lisa Schuler

Everything was perfect. The staff were incredibly knowledgeable and willing to teach this knowledge. The family atmosphere, the work, just being at Taricaya is like living the best dream you ever had.

Sam Blacker

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➔ 3 Easy ways to apply

☎ Telephone:
+44 (0) 1903 708300

@ Internet:
www.projects-abroad.co.uk
or
www.projectsabroadperu.org
(Under section "Apply Now")

📄 Application Form:
Please see application form overleaf

Feel free to contact us:

info@projects-abroad.co.uk
stuarttimson@projects-abroad.org

➔ **Programme Price**
The cost of **Conservation in Peru** programme is:

MONTHS	PRICE
1 month	£ 1,795
2 months	£ 2,095
3 months	£ 2,395
Extra month	£ 695

Projects Abroad Travel ✈
can organise your return flights

What **Projects Abroad** provide:

- **ACCOMMODATION**
- **FOOD**
- **INSURANCE**
- **WORK EXPERIENCE**
- **and LEISURE ACTIVITIES**



***PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS**

Name :

Home Address :

Postcode:

Phone no.

Email :

Date of birth:

Nationality :

Current school or college (if applicable):

Any special travelling companion :

Any special diet or medication :

Any current or past disabilities or infirmities?

(psychological or physical): YES NO

**If yes, please attach a separate sheet with details for our insurers.*

Conservation in Peru Project length: months

When would you like to start?: DD MM YYYY

When you join **Projects Abroad** you expect to be:

at school/college a graduate

between school and University a career breaker

an undergraduate other

Do you want **Projects Abroad Travel** to organise your flights? YES NO

Please send your **£195** deposit with this form to: **Projects Abroad
Aldsworth Parade, Goring, Sussex, BN12 4TX.**

Cheques should be made payable to **Projects Abroad**
You can also pay by credit / debit card (see below)

Cardholder's Name :

Type of Card (e.g. Visa):

Security Code :

Expiry Date:

Issue Number (debit cards):

Cardholder's Signature :

Date :