



Global Vision International

Jalova, Costa Rica

Terrestrial Conservation Internship in Tortugero National Park

Organization Overview

GVI was established in 1998 and operates award winning International Internships and Service Learning programs focused on global issues and framed around the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We partner and support many local and international NGOs and government organizations including the National Parks of Thailand, Mexico, Costa Rica and South Africa, WWF (Mexico), Save the Children (Mexico), Red Cross (Fiji), Panthera, The UN Global Compact and many others around the world.

All GVI's projects have short, mid and long-term objectives that fit with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or UNSDGs. These are a set of coherent goals focused on sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental fields.

GVI's main goal is based on making viable changes in all the communities we work in. We run responsible and sustainable award-winning projects and are proud to say that the impact of our work is life changing, for both the local people, our partners and our volunteers. Volunteers from all ages and from all walks of life contribute to this important impact and success of our projects.

Our core ethics and best practices we believe are essential to the operation of high quality, ethical volunteer, and sustainable development programs:

- Locally-driven, Collaborative Projects
- Clear Objectives and Sustainable Outcomes
- Impact Reporting
- Working Against Dependency
- Responsible Exit Strategies
- Clear Roles and Specialized Training
- Respect for All
- Local Ownership
- Transitioning from The Orphanage Model
- Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection

Social Issue Focus & Impact

Interns will survey jaguar feeding behaviors and population studies including a 15-mile survey on the beach to monitor the number of predated sea turtles and the use of camera traps to ID jaguars and monitor their feeding patterns. Interns will survey scats (feces) in order to study and collect relevant data. Interns will participate in marine turtle (seasonal end of March to October) conservation using an international protocol to ID nesting greens, leatherbacks (March to June) and some hawksbills. Tropical species surveying and identification techniques will be comprised of surveys in the forest and is focused on the whole biodiversity of the area (amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles). Interns will assist with



inputting the data collected on surveys into the projects databases. Canal bird population and distribution studies carried out on a canal. Short-term interns will be trained on a leadership course, and they will have to do some research and lead activities as part of it, or alternatively will do the BSTC course which has several assignments based on the work done at Jalova.

Position Description

Data collected from our biodiversity and canal birds goes directly to the Costa Rican Ministry of Environment (MINAET) and provides the basis for developing an accurate management plan for Tortuguero National Park. All data collected from the turtle project goes to the Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC) who have been conserving turtles in the Tortuguero area since 1959. The STC patrols the northern stretch of this 18-mile beach whereas GVI patrols the southern end. The jaguar project data goes to Coastal Jaguar Conservation, and some of it goes too to Panthera (one of the world's leading wild cat authorities) and our data will hopefully be collated to gain a greater understanding of this unique jaguar population, with help from the University of Costa Rica (UCR).

- Increase scientific knowledge of Tortuguero National Park.
- Increase awareness of GVI Jalova projects and the ecological value of the Tortuguero National Park.
- Build local capacity to support long-term conservation of biodiversity and sustainable community development in Costa Rica.
- Continue to minimize our environmental impact on Tortuguero National Park and raise awareness of environmental issues amongst volunteers and visitors.

Student Profile

Students with experience working in cross-cultural settings and flexibility will be viewed favorably.

Time Frame

6 – 12 week options available.