

Conservation project, Costa Rica

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I volunteered on a climate change project on the Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica. The project looked at the effects of climate change on the organisms on the Osa Peninsula. This was done by collecting count data on primates, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and insects, all of which I surveyed. I also recorded the environmental data both in the rainforest and out on the beaches. Survey work is essential to an ecologist and this trip allowed me to become comfortable with this. The practical skills I learnt in Costa Rica are highly transferrable with the work I want to do as a terrestrial ecologist.

The project was run in a way that meant that volunteers that had been there the longest would teach the new volunteers the ropes. This allowed me to gain confidence in myself and my ability to take charge of situations. The project was based on teamwork, buddying up for early morning surveys, cooking meals for camp together and writing up data. The diversity of the volunteers and staff at the camp meant there was never a dull moment, and even though we had all come from different backgrounds we were all there for a common reason which was very refreshing. The connections I made at the camp are already proving valuable, with a prospective job in the future coming from this trip.

This project was managed by Frontier. Address: 50-52 Rivington Street, London, EC2A 3QP

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This was taken after a 3km beach clean. We were allowed to do other community based activities in our free time.