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ВОЛОНТЁРСКОЕ ДВИЖЕНИЕ В ЭКОЛОГИИ ECOLOGY AND VOLUNTEERING

Thinking about ecology and volunteering we must first of all mark the significance of these things. Namely, any volunteers have an enormous impact on the health and well-being of communities worldwide. The volunteers make a difference in day-to-day life. The volunteers deliver critical services—from serving as volunteer fire fighters or participating in search and rescue, to delivering meals to homebound seniors or homeless youth, to manning the phone lines at domestic violence. The volunteers help to keep our neighborhoods, streets, parks, rivers, green spaces, and water clean and safe for everyone. The volunteers tutor, teach, mentor, coach, and support young people with everything from math homework to dealing with personal crises to football and soccer tourneys. The volunteers walk dogs, pet cats, clean cages, help with adoptions and feedings, and contribute veterinary expertise to organizations like animal shelters and wildlife rehabilitation centers. The volunteers

educate the public on health and safety; in addition, doctors and nurses donate time and medical knowledge to free clinics and natural civil disaster areas worldwide. The volunteers take tickets at film centers and performing arts events, lead tours at museums and historical societies, and ensure that arts and cultural festivals—from small-scale gatherings to massive multi-stage concerts—run smoothly. In part, the volunteers build houses and schools, dig wells, and repair infrastructure around the globe.

Bright examples:

1. Wachau Cultural Landscape



Initially as one of the oldest cultural landscapes in Austria, the Wachau was declared as a protected zone in 1955, and in the year 1994, attained the European Diploma in Nature Protection. Already, in December 2000, it was nominated to the status of a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Wachau is located in Lower Austria and contains the most valuable and endangered natural habitats in the river valley of the Danube. The river landscape surrounded by hills with small historical villages set in between makes it above all unique. On the slopes there are sunny wine terraces and old orchards, both maintained through hard work. Together with local volunteers local residents revitalize important ecological areas by cutting the grass, bushes and trees. In the floodplains along the river volunteers get rid of invasive species. It is worth noting that for two weeks volunteers are in direct contact with the typical nature in this region and its people. Obviously, this project is part of the World Heritage Volunteer Program of the UNESCO in the past years. Thus. Our article will focus on learning the area that is considered World Heritage: Volunteers might visit sights in the area, like the ruin castle of Hinterhaus and others. Depending on the weather volunteers plan to go hiking and they also go swimming in the Danube.

2. The ancient woodland in Scotland

Trees for life is an award-winning Scottish charity working to restore the ancient Caledonian Forest to a spectacular wilderness region of the Scottish Highlands. Altogether almost all the work is carried out by volunteers. The Caledonian Forest once covered much of the Highlands and was home to many rare and endangered species. Today, only a fraction of the original forest still survives and overgrazing prevents the growth of new trees. Obviously urgent action is required to conserve the forest and its unique wildlife for the future. Conservation volunteering with Trees for Life offers a rewarding and hugely enjoyable opportunity to restore native forests and wildlife habitats. Overall the volunteers have planted over one million trees and they are now working to expand the forests with a million more.

These are the main ways in which you can volunteer with Trees for Life:

- Conservation Weeks

Held at stunning locations across the Scottish Highlands, the Conservation Weeks provide an opportunity for volunteers from all around the world, of all ages and backgrounds, to help restore Scotland's natural environment. From planting trees to removing non-native species, putting up fences, collecting seeds and berries, and growing trees in nursery, there is something for everyone!

- Conservation Days

The Conservation Days are for people who live locally in the Inverness-shire, mid-Highland or West Moray area. They run fortnightly on a Wednesday in a variety of locations across the Highlands. Volunteers take part in a range of exciting activities including tree planting, surveying natural regeneration, rhododendron bashing, collecting seeds and berries, working in the tree nursery and much more! Hence in today's world, everyone is aware of the need to be eco conscious and make sustainable choices in the lives. The harm that is being done to the environment. Unfortunately, forests are disappearing at an alarming rate, more and more flora and fauna are becoming extinct and animals and people alike are losing their homes and their way of life. Volunteering in environmental conservation overseas means that can help to protect the environment and make a difference in some of the regions of

the world that need it the most. If you are a greenie at heart and want nothing more than to trek through rainforests and see some of the most remote corners of the globe then environmental volunteering is for you. People of all ages all across NSW kindly donate their time and gain great satisfaction through sharing volunteer experiences. Clearly volunteers make an enormous contribution to preserving the environment and are rewarded by meeting like-minded people and spending time in a cherished environment. Volunteering is a great way to show your passion for nature and make a positive difference. Maybe you'd like to volunteer in a national park or botanic garden? Or contribute to biodiversity studies? A range of programs and opportunities are available.

Good examples of Volunteering movement you can find in Africa, Latin America and South East Asia. The African continent is rich with an array of biodiversity that people have marveled at for centuries. Yet it is also under threat from an array of environmental factors. Many animals are under threat from extinction from poaching so the protection of nature reserves is really important. Volunteers are in need to help on the reserves, providing environmental education and also on the coast. The more the Amazon Rainforest, spanning eight countries and taking up 40% of the Latin continent is disappearing and under threat. There are many groups working within the countries that the Amazon falls under to try and protect it. They can really take the pick of the destination that intrigues the most. Most of these projects are in remote areas and work with local staff so its also a great way to learn or improve Spanish whilst also protecting the environment. Deforestation is spreading like wildfire through the jungles of South East Asia. In particular Indonesia's biodiversity is disappearing rapidly due to the demand for palm oil. Furthermore many animals are on the verge of extinction in South East Asia as their habitats are disappearing. Environmental conservation volunteers are needed to work on all sorts of fields from eco centres, forest conservation to education.

The next part of our article is devoted to different types of ecological programs. Above all environmental volunteering is a broad topic and there really is something for everyone. Some projects involve really getting hands dirty in the jungle, but if this

does not sound like your thing there are also plenty of other ways to get involved. A big part of environmental conservation is raising awareness about the reasons why the environment is important and should be protected. This includes teaching in schools and running workshops and trainings with local communities. Many projects will cover food and board whilst on placement and if not charge only a small fee but flights, in country travel, visas, vaccinations and other costs will be those of the volunteer. Most projects will provide volunteers with the necessary training and consequently this kind of volunteering is a great way to learn new skills and potentially ignite a new passion.

Forestry: Around the world there are reforestation projects currently underway to attempt to combat the depleting forests. Many of these projects need volunteers to assist with tree planting, soil preparation, trail maintenance, seed gathering, cataloguing of flora and fauna as well as research. If the idea of trekking through the jungle to base camp, sleeping in a wooden shack and seeing some of the most remote areas of the world is your idea of a good time then this type of volunteering is certainly for you.

Education: One main aspect of environmental conservation is educating the local communities about the importance of protecting the environment. There are many projects around the world that specialize in running workshops in schools and with local farmers and communities about how to use natural resources sustainably and the importance of doing so.

Eco reserves/national parks: In many places big stretches of forests have been set aside as eco reserves to protect the flora and fauna. There are many projects that require volunteers to help run the reserves and carry out vital research. For instance tasks can include anything from tracking birds and monkeys, conducting field research and monitoring to helping out with plant cultivation.

Marine: Not limited to just forests and jungles the marine environment under water is also suffering from environmental degradation. Frequently volunteers are needed to conduct underwater research and monitoring. If spending days below the surface doesn't appeal then never fear, there are plenty of projects that focus on

looking after sea from land. This includes beach clean ups, on shore research and monitoring as well as education.

In reality the environment needs protecting in some way or another everywhere in the world. Yet it is most often in the developing world where the environment is shifted down the priority list.

Nowadays there are a lot of types of volunteer programs all over the world. And we can give the examples of the most popular ecological volunteers programs.

1. Volunteer Marine Conservation in Belize. The volunteers work toward preserving marine life and learn more about conservation methods in Belize. All the volunteers get involved as part of a gap year, career break, for university research, or simply as a way to have a meaningful experience during your vacation. There are various protective methods in place, the reef has been deeply affected by mass-bleaching incidents. Although the reason may be a combination of human activity and natural disaster, the chances of recovery are slim as the reefs have become extremely vulnerable to disease. The volunteers help to preserve and protect one of the most valuable ecosystems on earth and the assistance of the volunteers is vital for this project. The volunteers work to help protect the Belize Barrier Reef. Various activities include monitoring projects, bio-monitoring, clean-ups, seaweed planting. The volunteers collect and analyze data to monitor the health status of the reef and seagrass beds in addition to track the number of commercial species such as species of fish, lobster, and conch during and after the fishing season. They also monitor the location of turtle nests and the number of turtles in the protected areas. Besides, the volunteers assist with catching crocodiles for research purposes and conduct surveys of birds and aquatic life. The volunteers frequently take part in beach and island clean-ups and salvage dives to help control the amount of pollution affecting reefs and surrounding seagrass beds. Sustainable development is an important focus for the project and volunteers help local fishermen plant seaweed as an alternative livelihood. This is to help combat overfishing in the area.



2. Conservation Volunteering in Costa Rica. Volunteers work in an incredible environment and contribute to important ongoing work. Every volunteer on this project is researching local wildlife and doing vital maintenance work, not to mention the fact that the volunteers help with the conservation of numerous species of bats, reptiles, birds, scarlet macaws, and mammals such as coatis and ocelots. This all takes place under the guidance and supervision of experienced local staff. The volunteers on this project help with wildlife research, including surveying and monitoring bats, birds, scarlet macaws, mammals, and butterflies. Moreover, they record meteorological information, mapping trails, rivers, and other important areas in the park, maintenance of the park's nursery garden which provides native species of trees to be used in reforestation activities and maintenance of fire breaks in dry season. The volunteers are on average work for around six hours a day. The day often starts early in the morning when wildlife is active. The middle of the day is normally devoted to rest and relaxation to avoid the midday heat. The main aim of this project is to help ensure that the beautiful and diverse natural resources of Costa Rica are not destroyed. Currently over 25% of Costa Rica is devoted to the conservation of plants and wildlife - more than any other country in the world. Projects Abroad the volunteers have an important role to play in Costa Rica's National Parks. These protected areas are under-funded and can only employ a few full time staff. Presence of the volunteers gives the extra hands needed to work on larger and more significant projects. Futhermore, the work of the volunteers allows for work on new research initiatives, such as identifying new species of butterflies and bats or helping with

reforestation. The team of the volunteers and staff at Barra Honda thereby give support and assistance to other national parks from time to time.



3. Volunteer Shark Conservation in Fiji. The volunteers on Projects Abroad's Shark Conservation project in Fiji work on pioneering shark protection projects alongside respected scientists and shark research experts. The primary aim of the Shark Conservation Project in Fiji is to protect and conserve the eight species of sharks that inhabit Shark Reef, as well as the many other species present in Fiji's waters and to raise awareness of the need for shark conservation around the world. The shark research being carried out on the project in Fiji helps to ensure that scientists and marine protection lobbyists are provided with regular and consistent scientific data about the life history, reproductive information, movement, and biology of the sharks found in Fijian waters. This information is vital for devising successful conservation and management strategies, helping to keep these specific shark species off the critically endangered species lists. In Fiji, the volunteers work with local villages on a weekly basis to plant mangroves and local people once or twice a month on our monthly outreach program. As part of the weekly mangrove work the volunteers will calculate the carbon footprint of their return flight to Fiji and perhaps will work with the Mangroves for Fiji Project to produce and plant enough mangrove plants to offset their carbon impact on the planet. This project needs the volunteers with a passion for marine wildlife and the great outdoors. The Fiji Shark Conservation Project offers every volunteer the chance to get up close to some of the most endangered and misunderstood animals in the world. Working directly with the Fiji Shark Conservation Project, conducting the work of internationally renowned shark research scientists, the volunteers is directly involved in scientific shark

research work. The volunteers work within the local community on mangrove reforestation, recycling, and shark education initiatives. The volunteers and the conservation work are supervised by resident marine biologist and local staff. All the volunteers on the Fiji Shark Conservation project observe and assist the local scientists with a wide range of on-going and long term research projects and activities, such as tagging of baby sharks, shark and Fish Indicator Species count surveys and identification, data collection, entry, and analysis. Likewise, they help in mangrove reforestation work and recycling and climate change work. The weekly schedule consists of two dive trips per week where the scientists set underwater research equipment and the volunteers participate in the two shark sighting surveys. Apart from, the volunteers do two tagging boat trips a week to catch and tag juvenile sharks. A typical working day will run from 7am to 4pm. However, depending on the activities volunteers may be required to start earlier or finish later.



4. Volunteer Rainforest Conservation in Madagascar. Volunteering on Projects Abroad's Rainforest Conservation Project in Madagascar is an opportunity for the volunteers to live and work in the heart of one of the most unique ecosystems on the planet. On the whole, the project is based in a local national park located in the forests bordering the Indian Ocean. Help of the volunteers is crucial here as local staff do not have sufficient resources to maintain the park or carry out their own research and reports. In practice, the island is home to nearly 103 species of lemur (the most endangered group of vertebrates on the planet), 283 species of bird, 346 species of reptile, and 238 species of amphibian. The fauna of the island, probably, is under threat from the 22 million people who live there and whose main activity is

subsistence farming. In spite of this, scientists have discovered and identified over 600 species new to science in the last decade. At the project, the volunteers can expect to get involved in the activities like continuous censuses of flora and fauna, reforestation through working at a tree nursery, alien plant removal, rubbish clean-ups, writing reports on the activities, challenges, and successes of the park.



5. Conservation in South Africa and Botswana. Project is based on the Botswana side of the Limpopo River. From hippos to elephants, and kudu to ostriches, this is the heart of wild Africa and an opportunity for experience living in a wild landscape teeming with animals. The South Africa Conservation project involves a collaboration of different reserves and environmental groups in South Africa and Botswana working together. The volunteers help to conserve wildlife and bush ecosystems and to share knowledge about the diversity of the area. The project aims are to create a protected conservancy, bringing together Projects Abroad Wild at Tuli and other reserves in the area to create a central Tuli block. This is an exciting new initiative, combining conservation efforts across international boundaries, including game reserves, national parks, and conservation areas. It is all for the benefit of wildlife, local people, and future generations. Wild at Tuli reserve is 5000 hectares and the conservation efforts are continuous. Therefore the volunteers get involved in a wide variety of different on-going projects. Data collected across these projects are used to gain a greater understanding of the populations and their ecology, which is passed on to various co-operating groups. Volunteers in Southern Africa can help in elephant research studying population dynamics, baobab tree surveys and protection, soil erosion control, dam building and protection, construct natural water holes for

animals, mammal and bird inventory using visual sightings at observation points, camera traps, and identification of tracks and signs. The volunteers are on average work five or six hours a day. The middle of the day is normally devoted to eating, sleeping, swimming, relaxing, and keeping cool.



6. Environmental Conservation - New Zealand, Auckland. The volunteers with an interest to the environment can take part in program. People work in the outlying regions on coastline restoration, waterway clean ups and building tracks in native forested regional parks. This program offers diverse conservation projects for the eco-volunteer who want to lend a hand to help conserve natural environment. Unfortunately, New Zealand is under threat. International volunteers help to assist with essential conservation projects to protect this island paradise for future generations. Goals of this project include protect New Zealand's beautiful parks, reserves and natural heritage, protect many species of wildlife from extinction, restore and open more parks and reserves to the public for them to appreciate and learn more about their significance. The volunteers are sought to help the Department of Conservation, local government Council's and environmental and conservation groups with this work and protect the beautiful natural environment and wildlife of this wonderful country. To a certain extend, the volunteers play an integral role in achieving the goals of this project. The volunteers work to conserve, rehabilitate and manage land using conservation tools and people power to improve conservation land and to provide access for people to enjoy and appreciate nature. Like many conservation programs, a willing volunteer labor force is essential to the success of the program. The volunteers assist program staff with tasks that are essential to

conservation projects such as planting, weeding and mulching around native trees, removing invasive pest plants, fence removal and repairs, seed collection, plant propagation and creating walking tracks.



Many volunteer projects exist around the world and they need the help of volunteers. There are actually projects that are conducted in cities and countries by people to clean their residence. One example, Clean Up Day Challenge in 2017. Teams challenged to clean up as much rubbish as they can in a two hour period, competing against each other to see who will be crowned the champion. Needless to say that there's an opportunity to gain extra points for finding mysterious, unusual or rare items. People helped to clean places like: Adelaide – Semaphore Dunes, Brisbane – Oxley Creek, Canberra – Tuggeranong Lake, Hobart – Derwent Foreshore, Melbourne – Westgate Park, Newcastle – Stockton Bridge, Perth – Thomas Oval Bushland, Sydney – Sydney Olympic Park, Western Sydney – Prospect Creek.



So, in conclusion, we can say, that today every person of any age, nationality, religion, place of residence and profession can become a volunteer. In order to help

the environment people need only the desire to make our world better, cleaner and kinder. If you like to travel and have the time to come to another country, you can become a volunteer and spend time with benefits for nature, plants and animals. It is not difficult and very interesting. Most likely, you will learn new skills and gain different knowledge that you will tell your friends or think about it in old age. If you don't want to leave the country, you can help even with the simplest actions. Whereas, this will be enough to throw garbage in the bins, to help animals in the street and not to pluck flowers from the flower beds. If everyone on Earth would follow these simple rules, the cities and the countries will be much cleaner and neater. Any person needs to begin to change the world with himself.

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