

## Frequently asked questions

### **What is the duration of the expedition?**

The project accepts volunteers for a minimum of 4 weeks. Arrangements can be made if you wish to stay longer.

### **How fit do I need to be?**

The cloud forest of La Esperanza is situated on steep terrain, and walks in the forest are physically demanding. If you are unsure of your fitness, please inform the expedition leaders, as arrangements can be made for people who do not wish to undertake fieldwork in the forest.

### **Do volunteers need any special skills to take part in the project?**

The research project and activities at La Esperanza are suitable for volunteer participation, and the data collection is easy to learn and undertake. You will however need to be able to speak basic Spanish, especially for the education activities. Everything else you need to know will be taught to you by the research staff in the first few days of the expedition.

### **How many volunteers will be on my team and what will they be like?**

As you will be part of a pioneering expedition, bringing the first volunteers to La Esperanza, your team will number no more than four volunteers. Volunteers come from all over the world and will share your interest for conservation work. The project is unable to accept volunteers under the age of 18.

### **Will the accommodation be comfortable?**

Accommodation at La Esperanza is basic but friendly. You will share the lifestyle of the field research team, living in rooms in a local village. Your work hours may be long and tiring, you may get drenched in sun or rain and your tasks may require that you get dirty. But what you get in return are new skills, a new knowledge of conservation and community development issues, fieldwork experience and an unforgettable experience.

### **What about special diets?**

The project caters for vegetarians; however, food is limited to what is available locally, so please advise the

expedition leaders if you have special dietary requirements.

### **Will I get access to communications?**

Internet facilities are available in the village for a low price; however the connection is very poor and slow and can sometimes disappear for a few days. There is a communal satellite phone which can be reached from abroad but is very expensive to call to.

### **Can I leave early?**

If you are unhappy staying with the project, you can decide to leave early; however, please be aware that no refund will be given to you should this happen, and you will still be charged for the full 4-weeks period.

### **How is my contribution spent?**

Your contribution is used by the project to pay for supplies, equipment, rent, utilities, food, accommodation, local travel, and to pay for local guides to assist in the fieldwork. Contributions are only used to ensure the expedition runs smoothly and your experience is as rewarding as possible. Your financial contribution also includes a small participation to general project expenses (e.g. education material,

project facilities improvement, equipment for the tree nurseries).

**What other expenses will I have to pay on top of my contribution?**

Your contribution does not include your travel to the expedition rendezvous, costs incurred before and after the expedition such as passports, travel insurance and vaccinations. Internet and telephone charges as well as personal consumption goods (such as soap, shampoo, or alcoholic drinks) will also be at your charge.

**Am I well protected in case of an emergency?**

Both volunteer coordinators are qualified first-aiders and there are emergency protocols that you can consult if you wish. Emergency medical expenses and repatriation will be covered by your travel insurance. You will also receive a full briefing on health and safety matters with your application confirmation and when you arrive at the site.