Scientific Wildlife expeditions in the Andean Forest, PERU
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Scientific expeditions in the Andean, Peru 2
Project presentation

This research project started in Brazil in 1993 and is now working in Peru. The project's aims are the study and the protection of wildlife. Research has been directed towards finding key information to be used to enhance the survival of threatened wildlife populations inside and outside protected areas. Amongst the most important things these expeditions already allowed a better understanding of:

- The importance of sheep management to avoid losses to puma and thus to minimize retaliations to the felid;
- The rate and direction of disappearance of the jaguar in southern Brazil;
- The recovery of the puma due to complete protection of the Atlantic Rainforest in Brazil;
- How economically utilized and sustainably planted forests intermingled with puma habitats;
- How volunteers, in short expeditions may collect quality data that can be used to publish scientific papers.

All these results have been published in periodic journals, reports or reviews.

The team is recording data about mammals and bird biodiversity. Recording methods are directed to obtain specific information on large and endangered/vulnerable mammals, such as pumas, jaguars and Andean bear. Little is known about distribution of these vulnerable mammals and also bird species in the study area; and all the information recorded during the expeditions are a step forward to define their conservation status more precisely.

Wildlife expeditions run in the region of Cusco, Peru, at the border of the Manu National Park at its highest section (near alpine meadows and temperate forest). The research occurs in a private conservation area that has been set aside by the community who is concerned about the potential impacts of climate change, which is partly driven by deforestation. Community has already observed shifts in rainfall patterns and seasonal temperatures as well as plant species creeping up valleys from the lowlands.

Expeditions are an immersion in nature’s knowledge. Volunteers learn how to identify species and how to collect data, and it is done in such a way that the information collected can be converted into scientific publications. It is very rewarding to share with everyone the experience of building an interpretation of the ecosystem that slowly emerge on the form of charts and maps spread all over the walls of the camp “office”.

Species & natural environment

The expeditions occur in the Andes in the Cusco Region, near the Manu National Park. It is covered by a temperate forest and alpine meadows known as ‘Puna’, ranging from 2,600 to 3,500 meters above sea level.

Species of interest for the study range from large mammals such as puma, jaguar, and Andean bear (the only bear species that is not extinct in South America); other less known carnivore’s species, such as the Endangered Andean cat, and some large birds such as hawks, macaws, guans and tinamous...

The Manu National Park’s region offers a rich biodiversity, with a high variety of vegetation types (more than 4000 species of plants and 250 tree species!). The fauna is luxurious too with about 160 species of mammals, more than 1000 bird species, 155 amphibian species, and 132 species of reptiles...

Ecovolunteers role

Methods

The expedition is looking for data on the relative abundance and distribution/occurrence of species of interest in the study area. Three different methods can be used on the ground:
1. Survey trails of 4 to 5 km long to record species;
2. Use of camera-traps to record species remotely;
3. Use of track-traps to record tracks of large mammals (pumas, jaguars and Andean bear).

Volunteers will be trained to these methods, either by identifying species on site by sight or tracks, or taking photographs for latter identification. They also will be taught how to use GPS to record trails and locations.

Note that the studied species are difficult to observe both day and night time. Volunteer should not expect to see large mammals but most likely track or pictures from cameras.

Program schedule

Volunteer’s tasks include surveying trails, setting track-traps and recording species, from early morning to approximately 4 pm.

After the trail there is a resting period of 2 hours, after which a meeting is held, on a daily basis, to exchange information and images, validate findings and filling of maps, charts and final data forms (in paper and digitally).

Volunteer free time ranges from 4pm to 6pm, and from 8pm onwards.

Schedule of a 7 days expedition:

Day 1: Meeting in Cusco. 3 hours’ drive to the base camp. Unpacking, setting up the camp. Presentation of the routine procedures and safety, and basic concepts on methods. Exploratory hike near the camp.

Day 2: Learning on species recording, sampling designs and trail/ feature mapping using GPS and datasheets. Split in two groups to explore different trails. Collecting results.

Day 3-5: Full day out recording species in small groups, exploring different trails. Return by 16:00 to the base camp. Freshen up, gather to report and data charting.

Day 6: Wider survey by car, making contact with villagers outside the previous routine. Make use of the opportunity to visit a ruin, have a meal in a restaurant, and/or a bath in a hot spring. At night, packing to leave the next day.

Day 7: Trip back to Cusco.

Useful skills / requirements

All training and supervision will be provided, no prior qualifications, skills or previous experience is required. One day and a half is dedicated to training and expedition briefing about the use of campsite, schedules, safety, survey and recording methods, use of equipment, wildlife and ecosystem.

To register to this project

To participate to this volunteering project, you have to:

• Be 18 years old minimum,
• Have a real interest for conservation biology,
• Be able to work in a team
• Be in good physical condition, (i.e. being able to walk 10 km - 5 hours - in the rainforest, carrying a back pack will daily supplies),
• Provide the project with a cover letter (written in English), with motivation, experience in nature/outdoors and wildlife if any, profession, workout (exercise) routine if any...
• Speak English (working language) and/or Spanish,
• Have a comprehensive travel insurance, including annulation and medical intervention.

Important: Volunteers have to really enjoy being outside all day long and under all type of weather conditions. Life and work in the project occurs in the jungle where you should encounter rain, sun, mosquitos and insects...
really basic accommodation and fairly isolated from civilization. You will have to understand and consider the potential risk of wild and possibly dangerous animals like jaguar, pumas, poisons snakes and insects.

Location

The project is in the region of Cusco, near the Manu National Park in its highest section (as it also incorporates lower elevations in the Amazon forest). The environment consists mainly of alpine meadows (Puna) and temperate forests, with altitude ranging from 2500 to 3500 m above sea level.

The research run in a private reserve, adjacent to Manu national Park, that covers habitats ranging from high elevation grasslands to cloud forests to rainforests of the Andean foothills, in the departments of Cusco and Madre de Dios.

The population living around live from local commerce but mainly from family agriculture and farming, raising cows, llamas, vicuna, and growing crops of potato, corn and quinoa. Cultural events usually spin around Christian deities and historical events from the Inka Empire, whereas daily routine of most people is to tend to agricultural lands and their farmed animals.

Climatic conditions vary according to seasons; it is dry in winter with lower rainfall in July (less than 5mm per month), and wet in summer, with rainfall reaching higher than 200mm per month with peak in January. Temperatures drop to 1°C (33.0°F) and top 20°C (68°F) in winter, and vary from 8°C (46.4°F) to 21°C (69.8°F) in summer.

Travel information

Dates
Expeditions are organized at specific dates, for a fixed period of 7 days.

Internships
The project accepts interns.

Internships are considered for volunteers enrolled in a university course in the area of Biological Sciences or similar, and for a period of 7 days. Interns will actively help the project in the expedition’ management: analyses of the data collected by ecovolunteers, further field observations and some house-shores.

Children
The project doesn’t accept volunteers under 18.

Capacity
The project accepts a maximum of 15 ecovolunteers at a time.

Join the project
The first day the team met in a hostel in Cusco. Transfer will be provided from this point to the base camp (3 hours drive).

Language
English or Spanish or Portuguese.

Communication
There is no Internet connection in the base camp, although signal can be acquired while in transit, like when going out to fetch supplies or when moving to reach another region of the study site.

Clothing and equipment
The project provides tents. Volunteers should bring with them: Sleeping bag, rain gear (summer months – November to February), warm clothes, sun protection, sun hat, towel, soap and shampoo, repellent, inflatable mat and pillow, gaiters, comfortable hiking boots or shoes and extra par to use in base camp and in town.

**Accommodation**

Accommodation on the base camp is rustic. The camp is used mainly for meetings and meals, “hot” shower and toilets. The team and volunteers sleep in tents (provided by the project). Tents are for one individual. Volunteers must bring their own inflatable mat and sleeping bag.

**Food**

Breakfast and Diner are held in the base camp. Lunch occurs usually on the trail. There is a cook at the camp. Ecovolunteers are welcome to assist with the meal preparation.

**Other activities**

In day 6, the team organise a wider survey by car, the purpose is to make contact with villagers outside the previous routine to gather information on local biodiversity.

This may be the opportunity for volunteers to visit an Inka ruin, have a meal in a restaurant, and/or a bath in a hot spring.

**Useful information**

**Currency**

Sol

They can exchange in the airport or in Cusco town prior to departure to base camp. Once in base camp it is nearly impossible to exchange.

**Evaluating your budget**

- a meal in a restaurant: 8 €.
- a 1,5 litre bottle of mineral water: 1,5 €.
- a package of cookies: 1€.
- transportation (taxi, bus) to base camp: around 30 €.
- internet connections in local cybercafés: 1€.
- international prepaid phone cards: 4€.

**Voltage**

The supply voltage in Peru is 220 volts at 60 hertz.

**Medical information**

**Before departure**

Please consult your doctor (and dentist if needed).

For medical details please refer to the French Foreign Affairs Ministry website:


Additional information can be found online on the World Health Organization website:
In case of an emergency

The expedition manager has experience in the treatment of minor injuries and traveller’s sickness.

First medical services are in the nearby town, few minutes away from the base camp.

In case of accident or emergency that need urgent medical attention the project will evacuate the volunteer as fast as possible to the nearest hospital in Cusco (this will take at least 3 hours’ drive).

Specific recommendations

- Volunteers are briefed by the project manager at the beginning of the expedition. A guidance will be given to avoid problem related to dangers related to wildlife and jungle
- There are diseases transmitted by mosquitos like malaria and dengue fever, but these are concentrated in urbanized areas below 2500 meters of altitude. Anyway, these risks can be avoided by applying basic prevention measure against mosquitos (tents are mosquito-proof).
- It is not advisable to bring or use drugs. Mild alcoholic beverages can be consumed in base camp at volunteers own cost.

Assurance

Cybelle Planète is covered by a MAIF insurance plan (Contract n° 3100988H). All of our ecovolunteering sessions are insured automatically by this contract for: civil liability, repatriation, and accidents. This insurance is included in our membership.

Nor matter which program you chose, you’ll have to subscribe a cancellation, loss or damage of luggage, flight delay insurance as well. Neither Cybelle Planète nor its partners can be held responsible for the fees that could have been covered by cancellation insurance. You can find more information about insurance on our website: www.cybelle-planete.org.

L’association Cybelle planète est couverte par une assurance souscrite auprès de la MAIF (Contrat n° 3100988H). Tous nos séjours comprennent automatiquement un contrat d’assurance Responsabilité Civile, Rapatriement, Accidents... En adhérant à l’association vous souscrivez automatiquement à cette assurance.

Quel que soit le programme auquel vous souhaitez participer, nous vous devrez souscrire également une assurance annulation, perte ou dommage de bagages, retard d’avion... Ni Cybelle Planète ni ses partenaires ne peuvent être tenus responsables des frais qui auraient pu être couverts par une assurance annulation. Vous trouverez plus d’informations sur les assurances sur notre site www.cybelle-planete.org.

Passeport et visa

Pour toute information sur le visa et les formalités obligatoires, nous vous invitons à consulter le site du ministère des affaires étrangères à http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs/.

For border regulation details please refer to the French Foreign Affairs Ministry website: http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs/

Congés éco-solidaires

The project can welcome employees as ecovolunteers, thanks to the financial support of their employer*, within the framework of their agreed upon annual vacations. To enable this, the employer must have first established a Ecotime-off partnership (congé éco-solidaire) with the non-profit Cybelle Planète. The employers sponsorship donation** will allow the project to finance the necessary material and manpower to sustain itself as well as the hosting of the ecovolunteers. Thus one or more employees can participate. You can find more information about Ecotime-off partnerships on our website: www.cybelle-planete.org

By going to these projects alone or as a group, the employees will be able to bring their skills and motivation as well as learn new skills and know-how. It is a sustainable process that allows employers and their employees to implement their commitment towards biodiversity and the planet.
If you want to establish an Ecotime-off partnership please contact us: info@cybelle-planete.org or + 00 33 4 67 65 25 60.

* Every legal form of establishment can create an Ecotime-off partnership with Cybelle Planète: private business, business Foundation, non-profit or public establishment.

** Every donation made to Cybelle Planète gives the right to a tax deduction (for all establishments or people who are taxable in France).

Le projet peut accueillir des écovolontaires salariés, grâce au soutien financier de leur employeur, dans le cadre de leurs congés annuels et/ou de leur RTT. Pour cela il faut que l’employeur* concerné ait mis en place au préalable un partenariat de congés éco-solidaires avec l’association Cybelle Planète. Le Don de Mécénat** de l’employeur permettra à la mission de financer le matériel nécessaire à son projet, mais également l’accueil d’écovolontaires bénévoles. Ainsi un ou plusieurs de salariés pourront participer à la mission. Vous trouverez plus d’information sur les congés éco-solidaires sur notre site www.cybelle-planete.org.

En partant seul ou à plusieurs, les salariés pourront apporter au projet leurs compétences et leur bonne volonté, et également développer des compétences et de nouveaux savoir-faire. C’est une démarche responsable qui permet aux employeurs et à leurs salariés de concrétiser leur engagement envers la biodiversité et la planète.

Si vous souhaitez mettre en place un congé éco-solidaire, merci de nous contacter info@cybelle-planete.org ou 04 67 65 25 60.

* Toutes les formes juridiques peuvent effectuer un partenariat de congés éco-solidaires avec Cybelle Planète : entreprise privée, Fondation d’entreprise, association, ou organisme public.

** Chaque don effectué à Cybelle Planète ouvre droit à une déduction fiscale (pour les entreprises ou les personnes assujetties à l’impôt sur les sociétés ou sur le revenu en France).
Formulaire d’aptitude médicale écovolontaire

Ce formulaire doit être impérativement rempli, signé et renvoyé scanné à info@cybelle-planete.org

NE PAS IMPRIMER CETTE PAGE SVP

Toutes les informations contenues dans ce formulaire sont exclusivement réservées au traitement de votre dossier d’inscription et pourront être éventuellement utilisées en cas de nécessité médicale. Ces informations sont confidentielles et ne seront pas divulguées en dehors de cet usage.

Vous allez participer à une mission d’écovolontariat. Lors de cette mission, vous allez prendre part à des travaux de terrain (repérages dans la nature, maintenance des infrastructures, ou soins prodigués aux animaux sauvages…) dans des conditions parfois difficiles. Vous allez peut-être séjourner dans un lieu très isolé, où les conditions climatiques sont extrêmes (fortes températures et humidité), et où les conditions de vie sont basiques (électricité sporadique, pas d’eau chaude ni de toilettes « occidentales » …). Votre expérience se fera au sein d’un groupe, constitué le plus souvent par des personnes venant d’autres pays et avec des cultures différentes de la vôtre.

Bien que l’écovolontariat soit une expérience enrichissante et passionnante, il est important d’y prendre part dans des conditions optimales pour vous et pour le projet qui vous accueille. Votre condition physique et mentale va impacter les autres membres de l’équipe et le projet d’accueil, dans le sens où tous les participants partagent les travaux quotidiens et vivent ensemble. Afin de pouvoir éviter d’éventuelles difficultés, nous vous demandons de bien vouloir nous décrire, le plus honnêtement possible, votre état physique et émotionnel.

Les conséquences de déclarations médicales mensongères et/ou omises peuvent s’avérer très contraintes pour toute l’équipe impliquée dans la mission, voire dangereuses dans certains cas (missions en haute mer, dans des sites très isolés…).

À savoir : Le participant n’a aucun intérêt à dissimuler ou travestir la réalité de son état de santé. Quelle que soit leur situation médicale, tous les projets ont vocation à accepter un maximum de participants. Pour cette raison, ils restent à l’écoute et se montrent très compréhensifs quant aux divers problèmes de santé que peut connaître un candidat. Toutes les solutions sont envisagées pour permettre au candidat de participer au projet, quel que soit son état de santé et dans la mesure du possible.

AVERTISSEMENT : Toute fausse déclaration, omission ou information mensongère pourra être sanctionnée par l’exclusion immédiate et définitive du participant à ses frais et sur décision exclusive et unilatérale du projet.

S’agissant de la vie en collectivité et de la sécurité des personnes, le participant est dans l’obligation juridique et morale de communiquer clairement à Cybelle Planète toutes les informations nécessaires liées à son état de santé.
# Medical questionnaire

*(To be filled by the ecovolunteer)*

**Last name, First name:**

**Name of the ecovolunteering project:**

**Country:**

**Participation dates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age :</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood type :</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Allergies? (if yes please explain)**

Describe your allergic reactions

**Do you have a regular medical treatment to take?**

If yes for what medical condition?

**Do you often take prescription drugs (without needing to mention birth control and malaria prevention treatments)?**

**Do you have respiratory conditions (such as asthma)?**

**Are you a smoker? How many cigarettes/day?**

**Do you have high cholesterol?**

**Do you have heart problems?**

**Do you have abnormally high blood pressure?**

**Do you suffer from a chronic disease?**

**Are you diabetic (even if only controlled through dietary adjustments)?**

**Do you have gastro-intestinal problems?**

**Does your health require a specific kind of diet?**

**Do you have an eating disorder?**

**Do you have Crohn disease?**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are you anemic?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are you epileptic? If yes do you take a specific treatment for it?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have neurological problems? If yes are you taking a specific treatment for this?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you had any head trauma or other head injury with loss of consciousness in the last 5 years?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have arthritis?</td>
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<td>Do you have orthopedic problems?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have frequent back problems?</td>
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<td>Do you have the capacity to do moderate physical exercise (such as 10 km of walking)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you had any complications following surgery, an injury or fracture of your back, arms or legs?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you have any notable skin problems?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you had one or more surgical operations in the last two years?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you been hospitalized in the last two years?</td>
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<tr>
<td>If yes, please explain the raisons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is there a specific detail about your health that Cybelle Planète should know?</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please rate your degree of aptitude in terms of the criteria below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Weak</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>View (including correction if needed)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity to walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity to walk on difficult terrain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of your back</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity to carry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy and vigor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endurance</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Agility</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance and coordination</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Psychological and emotional evaluation

Do you suffer from psychological or mental problems? (Anxiety attacks, depression...)
Do you suffer from Claustrophobia or agoraphobia?

Are you currently taking a medical treatment for psychological symptoms or following a continued psychotherapy?

If yes what effect could this have on your participation in a work team or in your general communal living?

How would you globally rate your overall mental stability?
A remplir par votre médecin traitant

Depuis combien de temps suivez-vous votre patient ?

Date:

J’atteste avoir bien examiné (nom et prénom du patient)…………………………………………… aujourd’hui. Nous avons évalué ensemble la compatibilité émotionnelle et physique entre mon patient et la mission d’écovolontariat dans laquelle il/elle souhaite s’engager. Compte tenu des réponses apportées je pense que mon patient est tout à fait qualifié pour participer à ce genre d’expédition.

Nom du Médecin:

Signature

Tampon/cachet
Engagement médical écovolontaire :

Je soussigné(e) .......................................................... atteste avoir pris connaissance des informations fournies à propos de la condition physique et mentale requise pour participer à la mission..........................................................

Je déclare sur l’honneur que toutes les informations sur ce formulaire sont correctes et qu’en cas de changement relatif à ce formulaire d’ici le début de ma mission, j’en informerai Cybelle Planète.

Je déclare avoir bien informé mon médecin sur les activités auxquelles je serais susceptible de participer ainsi que sur le pays et les conditions de vie sur place.

Je déclare avoir fait et être à jour de tous les vaccins obligatoires, conformément à mon pays de destination, et avoir bien pris connaissance des traitements préventifs recommandés.

Je déclare avoir pris connaissance des exigences et recommandations de la mission d’écovolontariat à laquelle je compte participer.

Je comprends que si j’ai pris la décision de ne pas faire les vaccins et/ou les traitements recommandés que je suis le seul responsable en cas de problèmes de santé lié à ces derniers. J’accepte en conséquence les éventuelles limitations posées par le projet et comprend que ses dernières visent à me protéger ainsi que les autres écovolontaires ou les animaux sauvages.

Je déclare avoir compris qu’il est de ma responsabilité d’informer ma compagnie d’assurance voyage de mon état de santé physique et mental avant mon départ.

Je donne mon accord aux membres de la mission et à Cybelle Planète de transmettre les informations contenues dans mon questionnaire, en cas d’urgence médicale ainsi qu’à mon assurance de voyage si nécessaire.

Signature __________________________ Date _________________________

http://www.who.int/countries/fr/