



EXPLORE!

WWF Volunteers 2005-2010

EXPLORE! WWF YOUTH VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

2005-2010

IN SUMMARY:

Female Volunteers	71
Male Volunteers	31
Total Number of Volunteers	102
Nationalities Represented	32

What are WWF's Volunteers doing now?

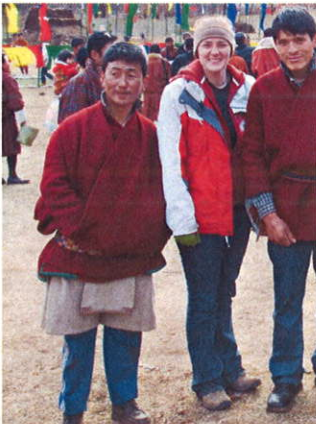
Read some of their stories...

BHUTAN



Colina Frisch (24), Switzerland. Colina was half-way through her psychology studies when she participated as one of the first volunteers during the programme's pilot phase. She is now a psychologist working in research, education and consultancy at the University of Applied Sciences of North-western Switzerland School of Psychology. Further she is doing a PhD in Ethical Leadership at the Zurich University Centre for Ethics.

"The WWF assignment broadened my understanding of ethical issues and was an excellent opportunity to gain experience in field research."



Kimberlee Adolph (24), US. Kimi studied Digital Technology and Zoology at Washington State University. Prior to her WWF assignment, she was already a member of WWF Panda Passport and had volunteered with a number of other organizations, including Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary in Uganda and Cheetah Conservation Fund. Her main goal in life is to reach out to the public to spread the need for conservation through photography and travel writing.

Back in the US, her WWF volunteer placement was instrumental in getting her job with an idea consulting firm focusing on innovative & sustainable solutions for every day life. Photographs she took in Bhutan are now being considered for publication.

"This trip opened my eyes to who I can be, who I want to be, and that all dreams are achievable. Helping others is the best way to heal yourself. I would not trade this experience for anything; the good or the bad."

"Life is something glorious, because in this life we can awaken to who we truly are." (from the Tibetan Book of Living and Dying)

BRAZIL – PANTANAL PROGRAMME

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/brazil/heather_zissler/



Heather Zissler (24), US. With a BA in International Studies & Spanish, Heather had spent several years working for the US Peace Corps, including in Paraguay, prior to her WWF volunteer placement. She is now Volunteer Assessment & Placement Specialist for the Environment and Agriculture Programmes at the Peace Corps in Washington, assessing applicants and placing them into programmes in 77 countries.

"The WWF Volunteer Program led me to pursue a Fulbright fellowship with WWF-Brazil in the Pantanal after graduating with a Master's in International Environmental Policy."

GREATER MEKONG/LAOS & THAILAND – CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/greater_mekong/dorian_ilie/



Dorian Ilie (26), Romania. After studying Communications and Public Relations and working for more than 5 years in the Romanian corporate environment, Dorian decided it was time for a change. He was initially selected for a volunteer assignment in Madagascar but due to the volatile situation there, was re-assigned to WWF's Greater Mekong Programme in Thailand in the lead-up to the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Workshop. Since December 2009, Dorian is Communications & Marketing Assistant with the WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme's Romania office.

"Think of this experience as an investment for yourself. You might want to save the world, but the world starts with you."



Jennifer Raynor (26), US. After studying environmental economics and policy analysis at George Washington University, Jenn went on to work for the US Bureau of Labor Statistics as an Economist. One of her main projects was the annual chart book of international labour comparisons prepared for the US Secretary of Labour. Jenn is keen to transit her career towards conservation and combine her love of economics with environmental economics and management. Jenn is very creative and enjoys painting.

INDIA – TIGER CONSERVATION & TRAFFIC

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/india/



Will Maclennan, UK. With a degree in Zoology from University of Aberdeen, Will participated in the programme's pilot phase in 2005 on the WWF-India Tiger Conservation Project. He went on to do marine conservation work in Fiji helping to set up a turtle conservation project there. Will is currently a Lead Advisor for the Marine & Coastal Team at Natural England where he manages and assesses developments likely to impact upon Humber Estuary. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Area of Conservation, a Special Protection Area & Ramsar site.

"My work with WWF in India helped me a great deal. I spent a lot of time meeting different people and dealing with different stakeholders for the Dudwa tiger reserve and the Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary also designated a Ramsar site). I learned a lot about the different interests people had in these protected areas and what could be done to resolve conflicts and issues in order to achieve positive outcomes where both the surrounding communities and the protected areas benefited. I apply this knowledge on a day to day basis in my current role."



Diana Zazueta Pozos (24), Mexico. Studied International Relations at Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico, and plans to continue with a Masters in Sustainable Development.

With a keen interest in India and its culture, Diana was also looking to gain relevant experience to take back to Mexico, a country rich in natural resources, but which are rapidly depleting.

"Environmental journalism offers an effective way to involve society in the quest for wildlife conservation and the fight against environmental degradation."



Cornelis (Kees) Van der Vlugt (26), The Netherlands. Kees has a Masters in Natural Resource Management from Utrecht University. Prior to his WWF placement his various internships had given him exposure to MSC related issues (with the North Sea Foundation) as well as to landscapes and wetlands. Kees is now a trainee in the Dutch government.

"Before going to India, I didn't like tigers, at least not in the zoo. But seeing my first tiger in the wild gave me an adrenaline rush I will remember for the rest of my life!"



Melissa Wheeler (29), UK/Canada. After graduating in French at Bristol University, Melissa gained experience in journalism, PR, advertising and travel writing. During her placement with WWF-India's TRAFFIC programme, Melissa did a study on the role of the tiger in local economies. Her experience with WWF confirmed the direction she wants to take in the future, and she has now started a post-graduate course in marketing and PR in London, with a view to applying these improved skills to an organization which follows values and causes she would like to promote.

"Manage your expectations diligently and you are sure to have them exceeded."



Hannah Chisholm (22), UK. After studying biology at Durham University, Hannah worked as an education officer at a zoo, followed by 4 months in Uganda with the chimpanzee conservation NGO CSWCT, and a cross-cultural community development exchange between Egypt and the UK. Hannah is passionate about environmental education, and on her return to the UK from India she successfully secured a job with the RSPB doing just that.

"Living in communities so different to my own has helped me develop acceptance and understanding, and an ability to communicate well in a wide range of situations."

MADAGASCAR

WATER MANAGEMENT & FISH CONSERVATION, AMBALAVAO

http://www.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/madagascar/water_fish/



Carolina Zambrano-Barragán (24), Ecuador. With a BSc in Biology, Carolina participated in the programme's pilot phase in 2005 and was tasked with doing a socio-participative study of four local fish species in the forest corridor between Andringitra and Ranomafana National Parks in Madagascar. She then did a Masters in Environmental Management at Yale University, and has since worked both in both public and non-governmental institutions. She is currently Climate Change Advisor at the Municipality of Quito's Metropolitan District and professor at the graduate program on Climate Change at the Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar. Before working for the Municipality, Carolina was Undersecretary of Climate Change for Ecuador and led the negotiating team at the UNFCCC (including during COP15). She has also done research in places like Peru and Galapagos Islands.

"Opportunities like the one offered by WWF's Youth Volunteer Programme are life-changing experiences that are the best way for young, motivated people to get to know the world, get a broad and clear perspective on important issues related to conservation and people, and help other people do it at the same time."



Bette Harms (26), NL. With a BSc in Forest and Nature Conservation, Bette completed her MSc in Applied Communication Science on her return from Madagascar. Her thesis was on "Space for change in discourses of environmental NGOs; a case study on the Amazon". She is currently a researcher in natural resource management at LEI in the Hague, NL, working on projects that promote sustainable development and climate adaptation in agriculture in several African countries.

"My experience in Madagascar has been my inspiration for pursuing a career in this field and I still use the things I learned there regularly, whether it's about intensive rice culture or being able to greet a Malagasy delegate in their own language."

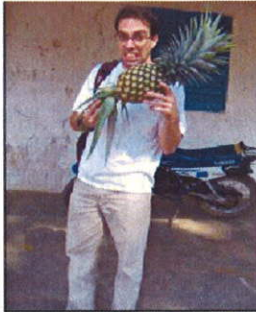


Mari Roald Bern (28), Norway. Mari was doing an MSc in Environmental Governance, and working for the WWF Danube/Carpathian Programme in Vienna prior to going to Madagascar. She then completed her Masters with a thesis on "The nuclear energy discourse in France and Germany from 1988-2008". Mari is currently working for an electricity generating company with hydro-wind-gas power plants primarily in Norway, Sweden and Germany. She is also an environmental advisor in Oslo and Lower Saxony involved in a project addressing ecological continuity and hydropower plants, particularly with regards to fish migration measures.

"Thanks to my stay in Madagascar, I know how a free flowing river looks like!"

MANAMBOLO FORESTS & WETLANDS PROJECT, AMBALAVAO

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/madagascar/forests_wetlands/



Bertrand Calame-Longjean (29), Switzerland. After studying at the University of Applied Sciences in Geneva, Bertrand had already done volunteer work in Tanzania before going to Madagascar with WWF. He then joined the Swiss development NGO EIRENE and spent one year in Chad. Back in Switzerland, Bertrand is now Project Manager at the Int'l Rainwater Harvesting Alliance in Geneva. IRHA was created in November 2002 following recommendations formulated during the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The mandate called for federation and unification of the disparate rainwater harvesting movement around the world.

"Il m'arrive souvent de repenser à mon expérience à Madagascar que j'ai hautement appréciée. Une expérience hors du commun. Et dans mon travail au Tchad, il m'est arrivé de nombreuses fois de faire des comparaisons avec Madagascar et ce que j'ai vécu sur le terrain là-bas. J'ai vraiment beaucoup appris de ce séjour."



Alice Laguardia (28), Italy. Had studied veterinary biotechnology at the University of Milan and been a WWF-Italy volunteer at Vanzago National Park prior to going to Madagascar. Afterwards she applied for an MSc in Wildlife Biology and Conservation at Edinburgh Napier University and then spent 9 months at Mikongo Conservation Centre (Gabon) with ZSL as Research Supervisor. She is thinking of applying for a PhD since this seems to be an important requirement for all job posts, and because she would like to further explore some subjects such as population analysis and dynamics.

"The WWF explore programme gave me the inspiration I needed to seriously pursue a career in conservation."



Nicolas Nadeau (26), Canada. With a Bachelor of Arts & Sciences degree from the University of Guelph specializing in Biology & Organizational Behaviour, Nick became Research Assistant in forest bionomics with Natural Resources Canada, working on the White Spruce Improvement Program. He is now working in Montreal developing environmental education programmes in schools, and is involved in the international youth Climate movement, attending the UN COP on Climate Change in Indonesia, Poland and Denmark.

CONSERVATION OF THE SIMPONA LEMUR

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/madagascar/simpونا_lemur/



Claire Balbo (29), UK/France/Switzerland. After studying political science and environmental sciences at Geneva University, Claire did internships at UNEP and the Geneva Dept of Nature & Landscape before going to Madagascar. Upon completion of her WWF volunteer placement, Claire was hired by WWF's Madagascar marine programme where she worked for 20 months. Not ready to leave Madagascar just yet, she joined the Andrew Lees Trust in Fort Dauphin until end 2009. Claire has just joined the Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation in Bern, and is expecting to be posted to Ethiopia for 2 years with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction unit.

"The WWF Explore Volunteer Programme in Madagascar gave me the chance to understand the reality of conservation and development work in the field. It triggered a set of subsequent experiences which have brought me where I am now".



Antoine Beaulieu (27), France. After completing a degree in corporate communications at the Institut Universitaire de Technologie, Nice, Antoine went on to do a Masters in Management at ESC Pau. He is now Chargé de Développement with the Mission Economique at UBIFRANCE Algeria, the French agency for international business development at the French Embassy, Alger.

"My volunteer experience always helped me, in my social and professional life, because it changed my way to approach a different culture, with respect and patience."



Lucia Canedo Pouso (29), Sweden. During her Biology studies at the University of Stockholm, Lucia did a course in Tropical Ecology which took her to Borneo. After her WWF placement she did her thesis in Uruguay studying the potential effects of agro forestry on the endocrine system in fishes. Lucia is now working as Environmental Advisor at Atlas Copco.

"I could keep on writing about the great things that happened while I was there, but experiencing these things is totally different from reading about them."



Julien Chupin (31), France. After studying Business Management at La Rochelle Int'l Business School, Julien worked as an analyst in Sustainable Investment in London. He returned to Madagascar after his WWF placement where he contributed to a UNDP publication on "Enterprises Solutions to Poverty: cases studies from Madagascar", and worked with the Malagasy NGO "L'Homme & l'Environnement". He has just finished a Masters in Innovation & Development in Rural Communities. His research project focussed on the sustainable management of a plant for cosmetic applications and the articulations between global value chains and local production.

"Nothing is set, everything is builded" Bachelard G. 1996



Corinne Eisenring (26), Switzerland. At the time of applying to WWF's Volunteer Programme, Corinne was doing an internship with WWF-Switzerland in Environmental Education. She then went on to take a degree in Applied Medium Sciences & Communications. Corinne is now a TV-journalist for a news programme with Swiss Television "Schweizer Fernsehen".

"My time with WWF-Switzerland showed me a lot about conservation work, but to see it out there in the forest was more impressive than I had ever expected."



Alicia Fernández Rubio (26), Mexico. Alicia studied Industrial Design at Monterrey University graduating prior to her WWF placement in Madagascar. Since the beginning, her key interest in such a career was the design of sustainable products. She currently works for her family business but her true passion is equestrian horse jumping, competing nationally and internationally.

"I am really proud to have been able to be part of WWF and work as a volunteer. The experience was definitely one of a kind...and one of the most rewarding things I've ever done in my life!"



Mélinda-Ashley Gilhen (25), Canada. Art, in all its forms, has always been a passionate subject for Mélinda-Ashley leading her to study Arts, Letters and Communications. Prior to her WWF placement she had volunteered with the Canadian Museum of Nature doing field and lab work to create a database of trees and insects within the National Capital Region of Canada. She is now moving to the UK to work in conservation and/or journalism whilst completing her English Literature degree online. She also plans to do a masters in wildlife biology and will continue training as a photographer.

"My experience with WWF helped me gain the confidence I needed for a career in wildlife preservation but also in working with people of different backgrounds. I was inspired to return to university and pursue my dreams, but the lessons, the hardships and the joy I encountered and lived in Madagascar will stay with me forever..."



Martina Lippuner (31), Switzerland. After studying Multimedia Production, Martina produced an interactive learning software for biology students for a local Natural Science Association. After her return from Madagascar she finished her second degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Engineering. In October 2009 she was appointed Communications Manager for WWF Madagascar. Her work also involves conducting video training sessions for the newly arrived volunteers.

"Madagascar taught me to give people the benefit of the doubt - instead of getting upset at cultural misunderstandings I learnt that there is always a good reason for people to behave the way they do, even if we don't understand it yet."



Nicole Sarkis (27), Australia/Ireland. Prior to her WWF assignment, Nicole had completed a Humanities degree at Macquarie University and was started on a Law degree. Her thesis led her to conduct research into conservation practices in many countries and how these have changed over the twentieth century. During this time she worked part-time for the Office of Legal Services Commissioner.



Miriam Sewón (24), Finland. Miriam's interest in the environment stems from her childhood years spent in Malaysia. She studied photographic arts and hopes to combine this with her passion for conservation.

"In Madagascar people have to live how they're living since they have no choice. But living in a developed country gives you the possibility to choose how you live. And that, if something, is making a difference!"



Charlotte Whitham (25), UK. With a BSc in Environmental Biology, Charlotte had already volunteered with British Trust for Conservation Volunteers before going to Madagascar with WWF. For her MSc in Conservation Science at Imperial College London, her research project involved spending 3 months in rural Ghana analysing the incentives and strategies employed by bush meat hunters. Charlotte has just moved to Beijing to start a PhD at Beijing Forestry University looking at the wild felid populations of Shanxi Province. The main focus of her research will look at the distribution and dynamics of the human-wild felid conflict in the region, and the feasibility of a win-win result from conservation strategies.

"The Explore programme has its challenges but also unsurpassed rewards. Exposure to both has provided me with an irreplaceable insight into conservation in developing countries – an insight I will continue to learn from throughout my future life and career in conserving our natural world."

MANAGEMENT VONDROZO FOREST CORRIDOR

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/madagascar/vondrozo_forest/



Andrew Beguin (29), Switzerland/US. With a BA in Philosophy and a diploma in Film from Duke University, Andrew's interest in wildlife conservation peaked when he spent a summer at Duke University Marine Lab, North Carolina, studying marine mammals and marine conservation biology and policy. Prior to his WWF experience he was a Production Assistant, and with film production/directing his professional vocation his aim is to combine this with his passion for wildlife and nature conservation.



Moira Hough (23), US/UK. After spending a few years as a young child in Tanzania and Madagascar where her father was working for WWF, Moira went on to study Biology at Carleton University.

"This was an experience that I could never have had another way. There is no better way to get to know a country than by immersing yourself in its culture and its important issues. There is no better way to learn about conservation than to see how it is done and to live an example of its implementation."



Marjolein Kamermans (29), Netherlands. Whilst studying Biology at the University of Amsterdam, Marjolein did a research project on endemic crabs of Lake Tanganyika in East Africa, and was also involved in the coordination of Biology education, and the accreditation of a new master programme. Two months after returning from Madagascar, she started as a PhD student doing research at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. Again her research involves endemic African crustaceans, this time the endemic shrimp species from Lake Tanganyika.

"By applying to the Youth Volunteer Programme of this global conservation organization, I did not only apply for the opportunity to work in the field of conservation, I also applied for an experience of a lifetime, and a huge contribution to my personal development."



Lauren Prince (25), US. At Oregon University Lauren majored in International Relations with a concentration on African Regional Studies. Prior to her WWF assignment she had worked for Al Gore's The Climate Project

"As I see it, this is the ultimate mission of the WWF Volunteer Explore Programme: to weave a rich tapestry of impassioned, creative, tenacious, and courageous young people to spread love of the world—its people and environment equally—and to work hand-in-hand for a better, happier, healthier Earth for All."



Sonam Rabgye (26), Bhutan. With a BSc in Biology and Environmental Sciences from Trent University, Canada, Sonam did volunteer work with Royal Society for the Protection of Nature in Bhutan and a short internship at WWF International. After her WWF placement in Madagascar Sonam returned to Switzerland and worked as Deputy Project Manager Youth Forum at Kofi Annan's Global Humanitarian Forum.

"Not only has this experience helped me learn more about myself, grow as a person, widen my horizons and learning abilities, and made me better equipped for the future, but it has also strengthened my personal pursuit in a career in the field of environment."

Jasmin Sander (26), Germany. Prior to her BA in Political Sciences from the University College Maastricht, Jasmin had volunteered with the American Field Service in Costa Rica working on a butterfly regeneration process as well as at an orphanage for abandoned children. Seeking to gain hands-on experience in

environmental conservation and an opportunity to make a contribution and give back, WWF's explorer programme would enable her to combine learning about new cultures and contributing in preserving the environment in a unique way.

"Through the programme I have a realistic idea of what conservation work really entails and am more aware of the importance of our role to create change. The learning process did not stop with the end of programme, but continues today."



Charles Cauchon (24), Canada. With a Bachelors degree in Biology from Laval University, Charles has been very engaged in "Engineers without Borders" and was president of Laval University Chapter. After Madagascar, he went to Burkina Faso with EWB-Canada where he is now co-director of the Rural Agriculture Entrepreneurship team. He manages a team of 12 people working on family farm management, entrepreneurship and organizational development trying to find ways to trigger and support agriculture as a business through effective and innovative extension services.

"The WWF program helped me to get inspired enough to commit. Working in and out of the aid system is complex and sometime frustrating. By providing an opportunity to deeply connect with rural realities and challenges, the program gave me the passion and vision to engage in the changes I was striving for."



Jamila Haider (21), Austria/Canada. Born in India, Jamila has also lived in Austria where she was a member of the Austrian national figure skating team! She received Honours in Political Science & Biology with 2 years journalism at Carleton University and was always very active on campus in raising awareness on environmental issues. Jamila went on to use the WWF Madagascar project as a case study in her research and is now an Aga Khan Fellow working in Natural Resource Management in Tajikistan.



Manora Leneveu (21), France. Manora grew up up in Singapore and Botswana, and had done previous volunteer work with Conservation Volunteers Australia. On her return from Madagascar she finished her studies and graduated from Singapore Management University with a Bachelor of Business Management. She is currently looking to work in Singapore in the Corporate Responsibility or Environmental sector. Her aim is to do a Master's Degree in Environmental Management.



Elizabeth Johnson (23), Canada. With a degree in Human Biology, Zoology & German from Toronto University, Elizabeth's keen interest in the environment stems from her participation in the Pearson Seminar on Youth Leadership. She currently lives in Nova Scotia teaching yoga and plans to study outdoor education.



Silvia Crespo (24), Spain. Silvia did a BSc in Environmental Studies from Manchester University and her dissertation was on environmental awareness and the difference in people's education and approach to environmental issues. On her return from Madagascar she started a masters degree in development studies in Brussels trying to combine it with conservation and natural resource management. Since then, she has done an internship in Morocco in water management and another in India on participatory forest management.

"WWF Madagascar really opened my eyes to what I really like, and what I would like to do in my life."



Sarah Lafond (22), Canada. At the time of her WWF placement Sarah was majoring in International Development & Environment, Her family has always been very focussed on the environment and her grandfather was forest engineer working with FAO in Africa, including Madagascar. Sarah graduated from McGill University in May and she is currently completing an MSc in Ecological Economics at the University of Edinburgh.

"My WWF placement has given me a valuable opportunity to attain hands-on experience in the environmental conservation field. I have gained insight into issues related to deforestation and sustainable development."



Aurore Sajhau (28), Switzerland. With an MSc in Environment & Development from the London School of Economics & Political Sciences (LSE) and a BSc in Biodiversity Conservation & Management from Durrell Institute of Conservation & Ecology (DICE) at the University of Kent, Canterbury (UKC), Aurore has been working for WWF since graduating. She has done research for the Marine Programme, worked as Government Aid Agency Relations Coordinator and is now Foundations Manager.

"It makes you realise, even if you know this from books, that conservation cannot be done without the involvement and buy-in from local people and that it is so important to think about their livelihoods. Local WWF staff work hand in hand with local people daily and we were able to learn a lot from them and contribute to their work. This experience really made me understand better the realities in the field and helps me in my current work. I believe that all conservation staff should be able to get some field experience. Now that I am fundraising for WWF and developing new partnerships for conservation, I feel I now know better what WWF's local conservation work is really about! On a personal level, this was a truly beautiful "human adventure" and friendships created with colleagues, volunteers and even some Vondrozo locals who have access to email remain today!"



Kunigunde Baldauf (22), Austria. Kuni is currently studying Geography and Conservation & Landscape Management at Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg in Germany. She has previously worked as a volunteer in a school in Thailand, and is also a volunteer with an NGO in Germany conducting seminars for people looking to volunteer. Kuni has just started her WWF placement.



Cara Brook (22), US. Majoring in Conservation Biology within the Earth Systems Program at Stanford University, Cara graduated earlier this year with a Bachelor of Science. During her last year she worked on a senior Honours thesis project for Stanford's Goldman Interschool Program in Environmental Science, Technology & Policy, examining anthropogenic impact and invasive species in Yosemite National Park. Prior to going on her WWF placement in September she was on another Stanford Course entitled The Fusion of Art and Science in Yellowstone National Park.



Henintsoa Ravoala (26), France/Madagascar. Henintsoa has just finished her Masters in political science at the Université de Lyon, and done an internship with the International Guarantee Fund in microfinance. She is now on her WWF placement in Madagascar, where she was born.



Sergio Rejado Albaina (22), Spain. With a degree in Biology, with a specialty in environmental and marine biology from the University of Navarra, Sergio did the last year of study with the Erasmus Programme in Norway. He has done restoration volunteer work on ancient buildings and enjoys creative writing. He is currently on his WWF placement in Madagascar.



Christa Szumski (23), Canada. With a BSc in Biology and Bachelor of Physical & Health Education focused in Biomechanics from Queen's University, Christa is currently gaining experience through her WWF placement and other field biology assignments with a view to identifying specific topics to focus on for her Masters. She has travelled in Nepal and Peru and has training in both theatre and fine arts.



Jeriniaina Ranto Tantely (22), Madagascar. Currently doing his Masters in Sociology, Population and Development at the Institut Catholique de Madagascar, Ranto is also an animator with Zain Madagascar. He applied to WWF's Volunteer Programme to gain field experience in his own country, and has just begun his placement.

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT FOR MAHAFALY PLATEAU

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/madagascar/water_resources_management/

Daniella Blake (27), New Zealand. With degrees in Ecology, Anthropology & French from University of Otago, Dunedin, Daniella worked as Park Ranger and project leader for Auckland Regional Council. After her WWF placement she spent 2 years working in Comoros before deciding to continue her studies. Daniella is now studying for a Masters in International Land and Water Management at University of Wageningen in the Netherlands.

"WWF helped me to gain a valuable insight into the reality of carrying out environmental development work in a developing country and also helped me to be accepted onto this Masters course as development experience was an attribute."

Mark Champion (25), UK. After studying Biological Sciences at Bristol University, Mark was a Horticultural Intern at the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens, before going on to do Photographic & Art Design at London University of Arts.



Teo Lopez Bernal (23), Spain/UK. Teo was studying European Studies with French at the University of Manchester when he was selected to go to Madagascar with WWF. Prior to that he had volunteered with Raleigh International in Chile. He has recently graduated from Manchester with an upper second class degree and is looking to pursue his interest in international development and the environment. After such a valuable time in Madagascar and a year studying in Lyon he is very keen to find further work experience with WWF, this time in Europe.

"Volunteering with WWF in Madagascar was invaluable. I had an amazing experience in an amazing country and as a result am very keen to pursue a career in international development and the environment."

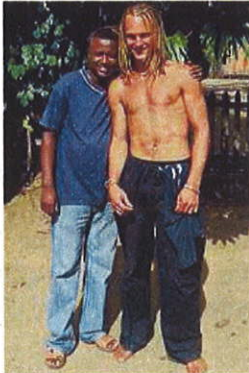


Julie Neeser (29), Switzerland. Julie did a Masters in Environmental Science at the ETH in Zurich, and applied to WWF's Volunteer Programme to find out what conservation work in a developing country was all about, to work hand in hand with WWF and the local community in the field in order to pursue her dream to work in development. Since Madagascar she gained her first work experience as part of the sustainability team at Zurich Kantonal Bank. Since this summer she decided to do something quite different from office work and has just spent a month on a goat farm in the Alps.

"I wasn't disappointed, my expectations had been fulfilled."

POPULATION HEALTH ENVIRONMENT – SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES FROM RIDGE TO REEF

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/madagascar/population_health/



Leon Brown (29), UK. With an Honours Degree in Applied Marine Biology, Leon worked as Environmental Scientist with Peter Brett Associates. He gained extensive experience in the preparation and organisation of Environmental Impact Assessments prior to his WWF placement. Leon is currently pursuing a career in Ecology and Habitat and Landscape design whilst in the UK, but hoping to broaden his horizons into studying terrestrial protected species of Europe.

“Whilst away from the UK I am extending my knowledge and experiences of Marine biology with the aim of continuing to work with conservation groups worldwide over the UK winter periods when ecology and landscaping are quieter, affording me the time to indulge in more satisfying and motivating projects.”



Emmanuelle Landais (30), France. Growing up in the UK, Emmanuelle has a Multi Media Journalism (BA Honours) degree from Bournemouth University. Prior to her Madagascar she had been the environmental reporter for Gulf News in Dubai, biggest English language daily newspaper in the UAE. Two years on from her volunteer placement in Madagascar she is still reporting on environmental issues as senior reporter for Gulf. The UAE is most well known for having the highest carbon footprint per capita in the world, and developing the zero-carbon Masdar City in Abu Dhabi.

“Rome wasn’t built in a day and similarly the UAE is tackling its bad environmental reputation one step at a time. I’m excited to be here documenting it.”



Shana McRae (25), Canada. Shana has a Journalism Minors in Criminology and English from St. Thomas University and did an internship with the Canadian Broadcast Corporation prior to her WWF assignment. She is now working in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the field of Marketing and Public Relations.

“After participating in the WWF Youth Volunteer Programme in Madagascar my life changed in many ways. I broke down a lot of self made obstacles and barriers that used to exist, I appreciate the day-to-day conveniences of life much more than I ever did and I have such an exciting story to tell to strangers who meet me for the first time. This experience has altered the course of my life forever and it’s an experience that I will never forget.”



Naureen Nayyar (29), US. Of Pakistani-Burmese-Bangladeshi origin, Naureen holds a degree in political science/public policy from the University of San Francisco. Prior to her placement with WWF, she was a volunteer in Nepal working on sanitation issues and teaching with a local NGO. Naureen recently spent time in Myanmar where her father lives to look into opportunities to do field work in Myanmar around the issues of rapid urbanization. Back in the US she's taking GIS classes on mapping and doing research to produce information on Madagascar for her class project.



Franziska Peuser (28), Germany. Whilst studying at the Albert-Ludwig University of Freiburg, Franziska did an internship with the "Protection of Natural Resources on Fogo Island" in Cape Verde prior to going on her WWF placement. She has recently obtained her diploma in Forestry and Environmental Sciences ("Diplom-Forstwirt").



Margaux Tharin (24), Switzerland. With a Bachelor of Law from Geneva University, Margaux has been concerned by environmental issues since an early age. She has travelled extensively in Southeast Asia living closely with the local population. After her WWF placement Margaux returned to Switzerland to do a degree in environmental law.

CONSERVATION OF TOLIARA CORAL REEF/MARINE NATURAL RES. MANAGEMENT

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/madagascar/toliara_coral_reef/



Dominic Tilley (28), French. Before going on his WWF assignment, Dominic had studied Environmental Science at the University of Plymouth in the UK, and done volunteer work on a tree-planting programme in Mali, and with a turtle conservation project in Costa Rica.



Shirley Jaarsma (27), Netherlands. After studying biology and environmental sciences at Leiden University, Shirley did an internship in Cameroon to study hippopotamus ecology and investigate hippopotami-human conflict in a cultivated area. On her return from Madagascar Shirley worked as a volunteer with WWF-Netherlands. She is now an educator at a natural history museum, where she is involved in an exhibition about biodiversity, as well as developing and giving lessons to children of all ages.

"The experience in Madagascar was great to learn about conservation projects and other countries and cultures, and I'm still hoping to find a job in conservation."



Alexa Antal (27), Hungary. After studying International Communications at Budapest Business School and Hungarian Sign Language, Alexa joined WWF-Hungary. She was given leave of absence to go on her WWF volunteer assignment and on her return her position as PR/Brand Manager with WWF-Hungary has broadened. She has done TV/radio interviews on her WWF Madagascar experience, written articles that have been published online and in print and developed more awareness raising. Furthermore, it has motivated her to pursue cooperation with other WWF offices.

"My experiences from were excellent to strengthen my commitment to WWF. My thoughts were opened and I became able to think free in transnational/international projects."



Jonas Ewert (29), Germany. Having studied Zoology, Anthropology, Psychology at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Jonas was volunteering with the Madagascar Fauna Group in Ivoloina prior to his WWF placement. He is now volunteering at an exhibition on dinosaurs from Argentina at the Senckenberg museum, Frankfurt, organizing workshops and creating fact sheets. He is also part of a research group studying the socio-ecological impact of non timber forest products in northern Benin, which is helping him to identify the subject for his PhD.

"The experiences of the WWF placement are incredibly rich and helped me a lot. In my job interview the employers had many questions about the experiences in environmental education with people of all ages and the mostly self-contained accomplishment of the placement."



Charles Latimer (28), Canada. Whilst studying for a BSc in Bachelor of Science in Global Resource Systems at the University of British Columbia, Charles was Greenpeace volunteer coordinator for Western Canada where he developed a volunteer programme across the country. After his WWF placement, he moved to Paris to pursue studies in political science.



Ramon Moraes Sales Moura (30), Brazil. A professional ballet dancer for many years, Ramon wanted to work more for the community and took up studies in International Relations at the Open University. He has also done volunteer work in India with street children. After coming back from his WWF placement, Ramon pursues his studies and returns to his work in India whenever he can.

"One needs to acknowledge that there's no right or wrong, but different ways to perceive issues. A volunteer needs to be able to learn more than teach, and become an eternal chameleon."



Claire Moulin (26), Australia/France. With a Bachelor of Environmental Science with majors in Biological Sciences & International Development Studies from Monash University, Melbourne, Claire did an internship as environmental coordinator with Oxfam Australia prior to her WWF placement. After completing her WWF assignment, she begins a Masters in Marine Biology.

"Now back in Australia, having had time to reflect on this experience, I can say that it has impacted on my life in many ways. Among many lasting impressions was the amazing resourcefulness, energy and ability of the local men and women whom I have learnt many lessons from."



Markos Tsikiri-Zangas (28), Greece/Australia. With a Masters in Environment/ Community Based Natural Resource Management from the University of Melbourne, Markos now lives in Greece where he is an Environmental Educator and a kayak instructor.

COMMUNITY FOREST PROJECT, MIDONGY DU SUD

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/madagascar/community_forest_project_in_midongy_du_sud/



Andrea Du Rietz (24), Sweden. Holds a BSc in Management, with a focus on economics, strategy & processes of management, from London School of Economics. Recently completed an internship with a Clean Technology investment fund and is currently doing an internship at ERM, Environmental Resources Management, on their Global Energy & Climate Change Team. In 2009 she began an MSc in Environmental Change & Management at Oxford University.



Arthur Chan (25), Canada. Arthur graduated from York University, Toronto, majoring in Environment & Business Ethics. Having reluctantly left his Madagascar placement, he has since been working with the Ontario Ministry of Environment, and currently with the Ministry of Natural Resources assisting with climate change adaptation and natural heritage systems. He is also exploring opportunities for graduate studies.

"The programme was great in showing me what can be done and how I can contribute."



Deborah Chevalier (28), Switzerland. An Art History graduate from the University of Geneva, Deborah completed her postgraduate programme on Museology, Conservation of Cultural Heritage on her return from Madagascar. After an internship with ICCROM in Rome, she now works for ISOS publications and in parallel is a member of the dance company Silvestre Link Geneva.

"People like to discover their culture and when they realize its value, they understand the reasons why it's important to conserve."



Sarah Jackson (27), Canada. MSc in Chemistry, focussing on organometallic chemistry and catalysis. Has previously worked for Youth Challenge International in Costa Rica and as a scientific assistant at university teaching laboratory classes.

"We are strangers and yet we share common life experiences and interests. I learned how to communicate with people despite not sharing a common language."



Marisa Alexandra dos Santos Queiroz Valério (26), Portugal. Degree in Portuguese and English from the Universidade de Lisboa, and editor of the Portuguese university newspaper. Has done a lot of volunteer work with the Portuguese Forest Youth Institute, particularly working on forest fire projects. Has a keen interest in environmental education and also teaches English. This was her first exposure to a developing country!



Efstathios (Stathis) Antoniou (27), Greece. Stathis studied Applied Mathematics, but decided to pursue his passion which is photography and reporting. He participated in the French humanitarian road trip Paris-Dakar in 2007 and has previously worked with Oxfam and Greenpeace. He continues his work as a photographer but has also started working as a credit risk analyst.

"My WWF placement enlarged the way I perceive things. From understanding environmental / humanitarian issues, to developing problem solving skills, compassion and global thinking, this experience will be a help to everything I'll do."

SYNERGY, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT IN SW MADAGASCAR

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/madagascar/energy_environment_synergy_in_sw_madagascar/



Julie Bremner (24), Canada. Julie has an Hon. Bachelor of Physical and Health Education specializing in Outdoor Adventure Leadership from Laurentian University. Since returning from Madagascar she is back home on Vancouver Island finishing her studies, working full time as a care giver and planning a bike journey with her husband from the Yukon to Patagonia with the aim of exploring endangered ecosystems throughout the Americas and raising awareness for conservation issues.

"My experience with WWF Madagascar profoundly altered my worldview. I have been grappling with the ramifications of the fast paced consumer lifestyle that so many enjoy in North America. WWF helped motivate me to seek alternatives and was a key factor in my decision to spend the next few years biking through the Americas."



Francesca Carbonneau (23), UK/Canada. With a double Major in English Literature & Sociology from the University of Victoria, Francesca received her Bachelor of Arts diploma just before leaving on her WWF placement. She had also worked as a guide for Beach Travellers, taking young Canadians to Thailand on trekking trips, and also played an important part in the implementation of the Beach Travellers Orphanage Mission. Through them she became involved with the Surfrider Foundation, an NGO dedicated to the conservation, protection and improvement of the world's beaches.



Katherine Davey (22), US. A Sociology student, Katherine wanted something beyond books! To learn how organizations like WWF work on a direct level, from the inside out. She finishes her studies at the University of New Mexico this year and is currently working on a project based on the work she did with WWF in Madagascar as part of her Sustainability Studies Programme. Upon graduation she plans to accompany her sister to Poland where she will work on her Master's Degree, again focusing on the sociological element of conservation.

"I am attempting to correlate what I learned in Madagascar with deforestation devastation not just in the States, but more specifically, New Mexico (focusing especially on invasive tree species)."



Ian Martin (24), Canada. Prior to his WWF placement, Ian had just finished his Undergraduate degree in Geography & Environmental Studies in Ontario. He is now starting his Master in Geography & Environmental Sciences focusing on ground water issues and how they pertain to climactic variability. His experience in Madagascar has also encouraged him to pursue conservation related issues around his home in greater detail.

"The desire to continue with my studies in Geography was certainly aided by my experience in Madagascar, work I contributed to and events witnessed. I hope to end with work in the conservation field, be that in Canada or any part of the world where I will share my unforgettable experience living, working and exploring Madagascar."



Robert Montgomery (22), Australia. Growing up Robert travelled in Asia/Pacific with his father who worked on forestry community development projects. When he went to Madagascar he had just finished his Bachelor in International Studies, and whilst in the field he managed to give an interview on his WWF experience on Radio ABC 702, Sydney's second most popular radio station. Back in Australia, Robert is doing a Masters in Economics at the University of Sydney.

"The Explore Programme is unique; there isn't another opportunity like this, it will change you in ways that you won't even realise."



Maia Tanner (19), UK. Growing up in a family very much associated with environmental issues (both her parents work in forest/biodiversity conservation), Maia has had exposure to conservation from an early age. After A-levels in Biology, Chemistry, French, Maths, Geography, Maia benefited from a gap year to go on her WWF placement. She is now about to start her studies in Medicine at the University of Cardiff which will last the next 5 years. She hopes to return to Madagascar during her elective placement in the 4th year of her course.

BIG CONSERVATION WIN PROGRAMME – THE DURBAN VISION

http://assets.panda.org/downloads/mmorrison_my_story_from_nosy_hara.pdf



Megan Morrison (24), US. Megan studied International Affairs and French with a focus on environmental studies at the University of Puget Sound. Prior to her WWF placement, she had been a Communications intern for FAO's The Growing Connection Project that fosters sustainable development & community empowerment, and done volunteer work with GVI in Kenya. She is interested in doing a PhD in environmental anthropology.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT SYNERGY IN SW MADAGASCAR



Roel Cattoor (25), Belgium. With a Bachelor in Biology (Major), Physics/Chemistry and Geography, Roel has done volunteer work doing marine turtle research and writing a children's book on turtles in Suriname, as well as in a national park as outdoor/eco-tourism instructor in Australia. Roel recently finished his WWF volunteer placement and is returning to Belgium to teach science, biology, geography and physics.



Mylène Francoeur (28), Canada. While studying for a Masters degree in Biology/International Ecology from the University of Sherbrooke, Mylène led a study on the conservation of a plant of economic interest indigenous in the national park of Ifrane in Morocco. She has just finished her WWF placement where she yet again confirmed her passion for nature and her desire to work towards conservation in partnership with local communities.

"This experience was both professionally and personally rewarding. I am now more motivated than ever to pursue my dream career in ecology, where adventures and discoveries await me in all four corners of the world!"



Angelica Karlsson (26), Sweden.

Prior to her WWF placement, Angelica spent 2 months in the Comoros to do her undergraduate thesis studying the effects of fishing agreements between the EU & the Comoros on the local fishermen and their livelihoods. She is now doing her master at the University of Stockholm and is currently preparing for a field trip to Tanzania.

"During my experience I have learnt more than I could ever imagine about conservation, development and working in the field. I will appreciate this knowledge, understanding and inspiration for the rest of my life."



Derek Ludlow (26), Ireland/Canada. With an MA in International Business with Spanish with Honours from Edinburgh University, Derek did an internship in Nicaragua with Oxfam-Québec working with local partners on such issues as access to water for agriculture, as well as research on ecotourism as a tool for sustainable development in the Amazon. Since finishing his WWF placement, Derek has begun his MBA at the Schulich School of Business at York University in Toronto, Canada.



Seraphine Valeska Wegner (27), Germany. After spending most of her life growing up in Turkey, Seraphine went on to do a PhD in Chemistry (Environmental & Bioinorganic) on the development of protein based systems to bind uranium and on the separation of radioactive metals from nuclear waste at the University of Chicago. She has just returned from her WWF placement.



Emma Woods (23), UK. With an MSc in Biodiversity, Conservation & Management from the University of Oxford, Emma did independent research for her dissertation working with the Udzungwa Forest Project in Tanzania implementing participatory video projects in local communities. Emma is currently working as an intern for a small London-based think tank, The Foundation for Democracy & Sustainable Development, as a part-time science tutor. She is looking to work full-time in environment and development sectors, across think tanks, government, NGOs and consultancies.

PARAGUAY – ATLANTIC FOREST

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/what_s_it_like_to_volunteer_in_paraguay/



Arjen Struijk (34), Netherlands. With an MSc in Industrial Engineering & Management, Arjen then spent 5 years with Unilever, the last 3 as Brand Manager. Prior to going to Paraguay he had also been the Coordinator of the WWF-Netherlands team of volunteers in Rotterdam. Arjen is now Marketing & Business Development Manager with Climate Neutral Group, which helps companies in the transition to become true sustainable businesses. He is responsible for creating new business opportunities.

"The WWF volunteership has helped me define what I want to aim for in life. In my case, aim that any negative impact human civilisation has on this beautiful earth is minimised."



Helen Baynon (25), Canada. With a Bachelor in Communication & Sustainable Community Development, Helen was Programme Coordinator for the "Micronesia Challenge Young Champions Intern Programme" in Pohnpei, which focuses on capacity building and training the conservation leaders of the future. After her placement with WWF Paraguay, she began her Masters in Environmental Policy & Regulation at the LSE in London.

"My experience in Paraguay has given me a reference point for many of the theories, policies and conflicts discussed in my program, in reference to such issues as deforestation, governance, and environmental advocacy. I am frequently able to draw on the lessons I learned in Paraguay to illustrate examples relevant to class discussions."



Nicole Harari (27), Switzerland/Israel. Nicole has an MSc in Geography with a focus on Development & Cooperation, and a Minor in Social Anthropology & Biology. Before arriving in Paraguay she worked for Friends of the Earth Middle East as the Israeli Coordinator of the "Good Water Neighbours" project. She is now a research assistant at Centre for Development & Environment, University of Berne preparing her PhD which will focus on sustainable land management in the Middle East.

"Due to my experience at WWF Paraguay I will include film as a research method in my PhD. Working at WWF Paraguay was a great experience as I learned how an international NGO works, what are the possibilities of an NGO and the constraints and difficulties. This will help me for my future research where I will also work closely with international NGOs."



Amanda Parker (25), US. Having majored in Latin American studies and Spanish at Tulane University, New Orleans, Amanda took up her 6-month WWF placement with WWF Paraguay in June 2010. Prior to this she had worked as an account associate at an interactive marketing agency in New York and done volunteer work for Digitas Environmental Committee. In Paraguay she is working on communications and fundraising.

"I am so excited to be part of this team that is doing such amazing work!"

PERU – FOREST CERTIFICATION

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/what_s_it_like_to_volunteer_in_peru_/daisy_tarrier/



Daisy Tarrier (31), France. With a background in communications and information organisation, Daisy spent 7 years with WWF-France. She worked in communications on the biodiversity mission and one of her main tasks was to coordinate the “Loire Nature” project. Later she was responsible for the development of their corporate partnerships. Keen to have a WWF experience in the field, Daisy took leave of absence to go on this placement with WWF Peru.

"Mon expérience de volontariat au WWF Pérou, fut particulièrement enrichissante. Ce fut l'occasion pour moi d'aborder des domaines jusqu'alors inconnus comme la gestion de concessions forestières, ou encore la découverte des communautés indigènes avec lesquelles j'ai passé beaucoup de temps. Entrer en forêt est une expérience inoubliable et il est toujours surprenant de voir parfois le décalage entre notre vision européenne et la réalité des choses sur le terrain."

SOUTH PACIFIC/FIJI – CLIMATE CHANGE & MARINE COMMUNICATIONS

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/what_s_it_like_to_volunteer_in_south_pacific/



Michaela Wilczek (32), Germany. After graduating in Business Administration, worked for the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development and German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). Returning from her WWF placement it was clear to her that she wanted to do communications work in this field. She works freelance as a consultant for communications in the field of international cooperation and environment issues, amongst others with WWF and GTZ. Since I returned from Fiji, it was clear to me that I wanted to do communications work in this field - even if this means to work freelance. I even worked for WWF.

"The time with WWF in Fiji opened a new horizon for me and has been an outstanding experience in my life. Today I often think back to collect some energy for my daily life."



Bernard W.T. Coetzee (27), South Africa. Holds an MSc in Zoology *Cum laude*. Has since volunteered as a researcher on Aldabra Atoll with the Seychelles Island Foundation. Is now studying for a PhD in Conservation Science at the Centre for Invasion Biology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Was selected as one of three “young” speakers at the IUCN Congress workshop “Supporting the Next Generation of Sustainable Development Leadership” in Barcelona, organized by IISD with WWF & IUCN.



Corinne Hepburn (25), UK. With a BSc in Biological Sciences from Exeter University, Corinne worked as Public Affairs & Media Support Officer at WWF-UK prior to her WWF volunteer assignment in Fiji.



Matthew Hensby (24), UK. After graduating in Politics from Exeter University, Matt became Project & Communications Officer for a local environmental NGO in North Devon. Prior to this he also had experience working for a radio station and a PR agency.

Matt enjoys creative activities and organizing events; he is also a keen photographer and has done shooting for print and design. On his return to the UK after his 6-month volunteer assignment with WWF South Pacific, Matthew continues as their consultant webmaster. In October 2010, he starts a Masters in Photojournalism.

WEST AFRICA MARINE ECOREGION (WAMER)/SENEGAL

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/senegal/



Sian Whalley (30), Australia. After studying Int'l Relations, Sian was mid-way through her Masters in Int'l Development when she went on her WWF placement in Senegal. She was also Community Relations Manager with Australian non-profit Travellers Aid. Sian is currently doing her Masters Thesis on the value of ecotourism social enterprises as a way to sustain marine protected areas (MPAs) based on her experience in Senegal. She now works in the government sector in Community Engagement & Communications.

"My WWF experience in Senegal gave me first hand experience in project management and exposure to the challenges of cross cultural communications and the realities of working and living in the field."



Anastasia Kirk (23), Canada. As a young girl Ana was already passionate about conservation and started her own magazine about saving the tiger! She continues to pursue her Degree in Journalism & Communications at Kwantlen University, Canada and also works for a local non-profit women's organization teaching computer and technology courses. Recently Ana won the 2010 Peace Project award for "Youth Leader of Social Justice" for her work with WWF and local charities. The Peace Project is a local initiative aimed at showcasing leaders in issues of peace, such as social justice, human rights, environment, and she was given one day at the Olympics to champion the cause of WWF.

"Whether you have been a panda supporter since birth or you are just now looking at the world through panda glasses, there are many opportunities to be had working with WWF and both you and your host community are guaranteed to benefit."



Sawyer Blazek (26), US, has a degree in International Relations, Political Theory and French. Whilst with WWF in Senegal, he was at the forefront of the development and establishment of a three-year business plan to implement substantial environmental education improvement in a region extremely sensitive to climate and environmental issues. Sawyer is now enrolled in a Master's program at American University in Washington, D.C. studying the effects of conflict on environmental development and international environmental institutions. He plans to work in development of international environmental law and policy.

"The driving passion to pursue this interest stems from my time spent working in Senegal, and I will forever be thankful for and indebted to WWF for the opportunity they provided."



Anshu Uppal (26), India. After growing up in Switzerland, Anshu went on to pursue a BA in Biology at Vassar College, New York. He has recently done volunteer work in Madagascar as Research Assistant with the NGO ReefDoctor, and will take up his 6-month WWF assignment with the Marine Protected Area Effectiveness project in Cayar, Senegal, in November 2010.

'HOT HOUSE' POLITICAL & ECONOMIC UNIT/WWF INTERNATIONAL

http://wwf.panda.org/how_you_can_help/volunteer/volunteer/volunteer_stories/global_climate_deal/



Kyle Hunter (21), US. After studying writing and international development at Middlebury College, Kyle took a gap year to pursue his interests in health, development and conservation. Prior to his WWF experience, Kyle had designed and led workshops on issues of equity & privilege in the environmental movement, and volunteered with Aarohi, a public health NGO in the Himalayan foothills of Northern India. Kyle is now pursuing a degree in French & Political Science.

"My time in the Hot House exposed me to the incredibly complex and oftentimes difficult work of negotiating an international treaty. Being at the WWF Secretariat was an invaluable experience in the INGO world; it was inspiring to be around people who are brilliant and dedicated to their work, which just happens to be saving our earth!"



Seline Meijer (27), Netherlands. After studying environmental sciences and nature conservation in the Netherlands, Seline did a master degree in biodiversity, conservation & management at Oxford University. She has done research in Kenya, South Africa and the Azores. At the end of her WWF volunteer placement, Seline joined the Oxford University delegation at the Copenhagen Climate Conference, where she was also able to support her WWF colleagues. Subsequently she was offered employment to continue her work in the WWF Hot House prior to starting her PhD in

agroforestry at University College, Dublin.

"My placement at WWF has taught me many new skills and helped me decide where I want to go in my career."



Alexandra Cleanthous (23), Cyprus. With a Masters degree in International Relations from the Institute of Political Sciences, Bordeaux, Alexandra was doing an internship with the Cyprus Embassy in Madrid before joining WWF's Hot House. She has just finished her WWF placement and is back in her native Cyprus hoping to work as a researcher and continue supporting environmental politics.

"My stay at WWF was amazing as it taught me so many things about politics and the environment but also about the importance of a good team. If you have the chance to do it, don't miss it!"



Jenny Joussemet (25), France. Jenny has a Masters in International and European Law as well as in International Relations from ILERI, Paris. She has experience in Human Rights issues and prior to her WWF placement was working in communications and outreach for Survival International. Jenny will be with WWF's Hot House until end December 2010.

"This programme offers a unique opportunity: to discover the work of WWF and to improve knowledge on environmental protection issues. It is a very rewarding experience that I can only advise".

WWF'S GLOBAL TIGER INITIATIVE



Karen Sim (31), Singapore. Karen graduated from the National University of Singapore and later obtained a Masters from the Dept of War Studies from King's College, London. She spent a year on a French Embassy Scholarship studying International Relations in Aix-en-Provence. Upon graduation, Karen worked for the Singapore Government in Defence Policy & Economic Development and then for the World Economic Forum before joining WWF's Tiger conservation team in February 2010. She is supporting the team in communications, fundraising and coordination in the lead up to the Tiger Summit in Russia in November 2010.

"It was a big step for me personally to join WWF as a volunteer. But it is perhaps the best thing I have done! I have experienced how it good it feels to 'serve' the world and not just one entity. It has also opened my eyes to the world of conservation – a world that I am now going to stay in!"

CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY (CBD) – PROTECTED AREAS FOR A LIVING PLANET



Therese Aziz (25), Sweden/Egypt. With a BA in International Communications from the American University of Paris, Therese has done volunteer work in Tanzania and more recently internships with ICC in Paris and MSF in Sweden. She began her WWF placement in June assisting the CBD team with communications, video and events in preparation for the lead-up to the CBD COP in Japan later this year.

"My placement allowed me to further my already existing skills as well as obtain new ones. I had the opportunity to be apart of the CBD team at a very exciting and busy time in the preparations for COP10. I believe my experience at WWF International will help me in my future career."

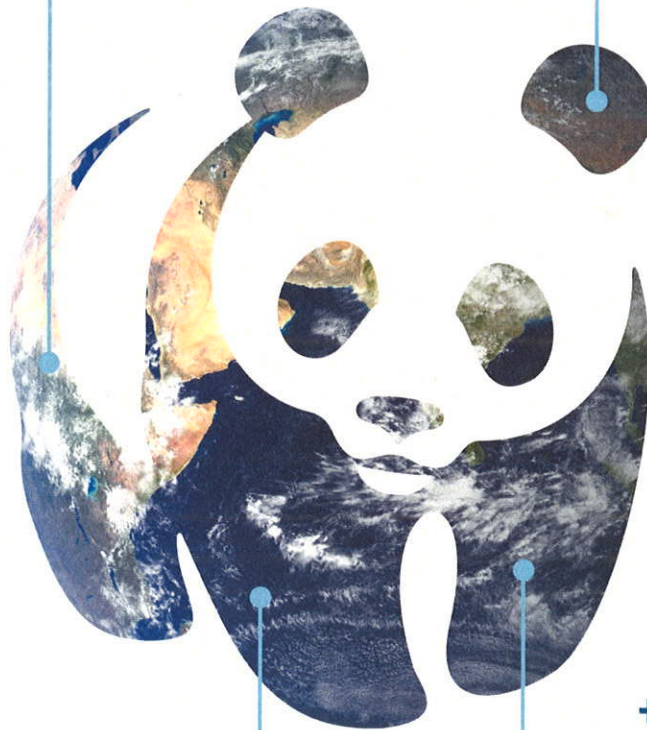
Explore!

+100 VOLUNTEERS

Over 100 WWF volunteers participated to the programme in the period 2005-2010.

13 OFFICES

13 WWF offices and programmes hosted volunteers.



+30 NATIONS

Volunteers represented more than 30 nationalities.

+90,000 VISITS

Explore! website attracted over 90,000 visitors in 2010.



Why we are here.

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

www.panda.org/explore

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