

InterVol Volunteer Role Description and Person Specification



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| Project | Merazonia Conservation Project, Ecuador |
| Date reviewed | November 2018 |
| Purpose | The aim of this volunteer position is to help to care for rescued animals, as well as continue to support the construction of enclosures and trails to improve the centre. The funding and time InterVol volunteers provide allows the centre to develop and grow to meet the need for animal rehabilitation and rescue in the region. |
| Working with | Merazonia Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, https://www.merazonia.org/en/ |
| Location | Mera, (near Baños), Ecuador. |
| Post duration | 4-6 weeks (negotiable). |

InterVol are looking for new volunteers to join this year's team of students, travelling overseas to make a difference to the communities and partner charities we work with.

InterVol

Since 2003 over 650 student volunteers have taken part in international projects through InterVol and our long-term partner organisations. Our volunteers have provided more than 100,000 hours of hard work and £250,000 of funding, focusing on community development, conservation and poverty reduction projects.

InterVol want to maximise the long-term impact that student volunteers can make by focusing on initiatives that contribute to the capacity of non-governmental organisations and communities. We want to provide ethical international volunteering opportunities that are accessible and rewarding for students with appropriate skills to make a strong contribution overseas.

Role Description

InterVol volunteers provide a valuable contribution to our overseas partner organisations. They give their time and skills to increase the capacity of organisations at peak times of the year as well as raising valuable funds to support to sustainability of the projects all year round.

Merazonia is a rescue centre for trafficked and abused Amazonian animals located on 250 acres of rainforest, in Mera, Ecuador. InterVol volunteers have now been visiting Merazonia since 2007.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

Volunteer - You will travel out to Mera to work in the centre for 4-6 weeks. Volunteers are expected to help to care for the animals, as well as continue to support the construction of enclosures and trails to improve the centre.

Fundraising - Each project team commits to their fundraising target that contributes to Merazonia's work. All funds raised are spent on the project itself, in the past they have supported new enclosures to allow more animals to be cared for and re-released. Volunteers cover the costs for their own travel, insurance, training and accommodation expenses.

Develop your skills – You are expected to either have skills and experience related to conservation and/or work with animals, or be prepared to work to gain and develop these in the UK before you travel overseas.

Attend training - You will attend the required training, both at your university and the national InterVol training day, to make sure you are prepared and appropriately-skilled to work on your project. You will not need to obtain a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check to volunteer on this project.

Person Specification

InterVol need volunteers who are ready to give their time and energy. We ask volunteers to join with a willingness to learn and a desire to help others.

Essential

- Volunteering experience - this is not essential at the time of applying. If you haven't volunteered before InterVol can provide guidance on how and where you can volunteer in the UK before you go on your project. We will recommend projects that develop your relevant skills in preparation for your overseas project.
- Experience or knowledge of conservation issues, particularly in the context of the Amazon region.
- Experience of working in a team and also being prepared for the physical demands of park maintenance, animal feeding and walking around in jungle surroundings.
- Resilient - we are asking volunteers to work in unfamiliar countries, often living in basic accommodation. You need to be up for the challenge!
- Willing to give your time, your energy, your compassion. These are all crucial ingredients to a successful project and volunteer experience.

- Good communication skills - you need to be able to talk to people, often with very different backgrounds and cultural norms to you. We expect volunteers to learn at least basic language Spanish before they travel.

Desirable

- International development - understanding of key humanitarian and development issues such as poverty, health, education and environmental issues. Particularly those facing the region you are to work in.