

Project name	Animal care
Location	Near Monterrico, Pacific Coast
Year of foundation	1989
Number of permanent employees:	11
Project description:	<p>This wildlife center is located on the Pacific coast of Guatemala. This center is much more about extinction, reaching out to the five communities to help them develop sustainably, all as part of the broader effort of the management of the Hawaii Protected Area.</p> <p><u>The center is dedicated to these projects:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Sea Turtle Conservation (the center operates the most productive of the 18-21 hatcheries in Guatemala, collecting up to 40,000 olive ridley and leatherback eggs per year) * Captive Breeding (In an attempt to counteract the effects of unsustainable hunting and habitat loss, the center breeds spectacled caimans and green iguanas for release in the mangrove forests) * Environmental Education (the center carries out educational activities such as lectures on litter, ecology and endangered species and interactive events such as beach clean-ups and baby turtle release “races” at area schools) * Mangrove Preservation and Reforestation (ARCAS is working with the Guatemalan government to set up a 3,500 hectare protected area in the mangroves of the area)
Description of volunteer tasks:	<p>Activities for the volunteers include for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Turtle Conservation</u> (Egg Collection and Hatchery Management) During the egg-laying season (June-October) volunteers are formed into patrols and spend nights walking the beach in search of nesting turtles. Then the volunteers collect the eggs and bury them in the hatchery. Between mid-July and Decembers, volunteers assist in releasing the hatchlings. - <u>Cayman and iguana breeding</u> Crocodiles and other animals were once abundant in the south coast, but are rapidly disappearing due to hunting and loss of habitat. Crocodiles and iguanas are captive bred on the grounds of the Hawaii Park and offspring are released into the nearby mangrove forests. Volunteers assist in the feeding and care of breeding caimans and iguanas. - <u>Mangrove reforestation</u> The mangrove forests lining the Chiquimulilla Canal are under constant threat from illegal loggers and fires caused by the cleaning of pasture for cattle. Volunteers assist in mangrove reforestation activities carried out in conjunction with local schools and conservation groups. - <u>Environmental education</u> Volunteers assist in conducting environmental education activities

	<p>in area schools, including teaching classes, developing curriculum, conducting beach clean ups and operating school hatcheries.</p> <p>- <u>Community projects</u></p> <p>Successful sea turtle conservation efforts in other parts of the World have shown the need to work closely with local communities. This is especially true in a country like Guatemala where the resources and/or will on the part of the authorities are lacking to impose more stringent conservation measures.</p>	
Opening hours:	All day	
Requirements:	Spanish level:	Basic
	Minimum time commitment:	1 week
	Work schedule:	Different tasks during the day usually in morning and afternoon shifts. In turtle season there is a night shift for the patrols.
	Others:	There is an additional volunteer fee. The first week is Q2000, and the following weeks Q1600 per week. This fee covers lodging, including bed (dorm room), sheets, shower, toilet, lockers, drinking water and 3 meals per day.
How to get to the project:	Take a tourist shuttle from Antigua to Hawaii (through Do Guatemala) for \$20. Or traveling from Monterrico, take one of the 5x daily local buses that drive past the Puesto de Salud in Monterrico or rent a pick-up taxi.	
Closing dates of the project:		
Lodging options:	There is an additional volunteer fee for lodging (see above). Prices are due to changes, so please always confirm with Do Guatemala what the current rates are.	
	Volunteer guidebook in PDF available.	

Photo impressions

