

## Board of Directors

Dylan Charles - Chair  
*Partner, Crimson Consulting Group*  
Steve McCarthy, Vice-Chair  
*Founder, Systems Engineering Associates, Inc.*  
Jessica Lindl, Treasurer  
*Vice President of Marketing, Scientific Learning Corp.*  
Greg Goldsmith, Member  
*PhD Candidate, Department of Integrative Biology, UC Berkeley*  
Allen Larson, Member  
*Founding Principal, Enterprise Management Group*  
Emily Leys, Member  
*Global Program Officer, Room to Read*  
Julie Osborn, Member  
*Co-founder, Ecology Project International*  
Scott Pankratz, Member  
*Co-founder, Ecology Project International*  
Virginia Perkins, Member  
*ERISA Associate, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP*

## Staff

### USA

Erin Foster West  
*Swift Center Coordinator*  
Haley Hanson  
*Recruitment Coordinator*  
David Hernandez Angeles  
*Administrative Coordinator*  
Julia Horn  
*Development Officer*  
Joshua Klaus  
*Director of Academic Programs*  
Erin Nuzzo  
*Development Coordinator*  
Julie Osborn  
*Advancement Director/Co-founder*  
Scott Pankratz  
*Executive Director/Co-founder*  
Jean Placko  
*Global Programs Manager*  
Kelsey Stamm  
*Grants & Outreach Coordinator*  
Andrea Stephens  
*Global Programs Coordinator*  
Kris Wright  
*Chief Medical Screener*

### COSTA RICA

Mariana Malaver Montenegro  
*Costa Rica Program Assistant*  
Carlos Trejos Jimenez  
*Costa Rica Program Manager*  
Eylen Zuñiga Acuña  
*Costa Rica Program Coordinator*

### MEXICO

Cecilia Cortina Segovia  
*Mexico Outreach Coordinator*  
Sylviane Jaume Schinkel  
*Mexico Program Coordinator*  
Samuel Rose  
*Mexico Program Associate*  
Bertha Montaña  
*Mexico Campus Coordinator*

### GALAPAGOS

Rosemary Andrade Martinez  
*Galapagos Program Associate*  
Susana Baldeon Orrala  
*Galapagos Program Assistant*

## Contact us

EPI World Headquarters  
P.O. Box 9192  
Missoula, MT 59807  
info@ecologyproject.org  
www.ecologyproject.org  
+1 (406) 721-8784



# ECOLOGY PROJECT

INTERNATIONAL



## 2009 Annual Report

September 1, 2008 - August 31, 2009

*Conservation for the next generation*

## *Greetings from Ecology Project International...*

Dear Friends,

It has been quite the year for Ecology Project International (EPI). Keeping in line with our organizational goals, EPI focused on strengthening our programs and continuing to strive to provide high quality, inspirational field education courses that have a real conservation impact.

EPI met, and even exceeded, that goal. In 2009 we worked with more students than ever, despite a lagging economy. The vast majority of these participants were local youth from our field sites – in Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Mexico. In these areas, EPI has become an established organization with broad, local support from schools, scientists, governments, and other conservation organizations.

In order for these high school students to be involved in saving the wildlife of their home lands, EPI provided them with scholarships. Over 92% of our scholarship fund was awarded to local underserved youth at our field sites, offering them access to quality experiential education, awareness about conservation, and equipping them with skills to be leaders in their communities.

While access and participation is increasing, EPI's field programs are also growing to meet this high demand. For the first time ever, a group of Costa Rica students traveled to Montana, to participate in the Yellowstone Ecology Program and interact with local Montana youth. In Mexico, the EPI campus has added activities throughout the year for locals to be involved in conservation and learn more about sustainable living. And at headquarters in Missoula, Montana, EPI purchased the historic Swift building with a long-term plan of creating a non-profit nexus for conservation education.

EPI is building upon these accomplishments for 2010. We hope to involve even more youth in our programs and increase opportunities beyond the field season for youth to be involved in conservation projects. Thank you for your support in helping us inspire the next generation of conservation leaders!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dylan Charles'.

Dylan Charles  
Chair, Board of Directors

## *Goals & Highlights*

### *Conservation*

In 2009, more than **1,260** individuals contributed to vital scientific projects to protect threatened and endangered species. The work accomplished by the student-researcher teams will be used to help protect the Leatherback sea turtle, restore habitat for the giant Galapagos land tortoise, create a protected zone for whales and marine life, and monitor Grizzly bears and the great predators of the Northwest.

In 2010, our goal is to involve over **1,500** youth in field-based conservation, creating **1,500** informed and motivated individuals inspired to take an active role in conservation.

### *Education*

In 2009, the Ministry of Education in Costa Rica recognized EPI as one of the few environmental education programs with a strategic approach towards impacting youth in the Caribbean.

In 2010, EPI will build upon the partnership established with the Ministry of Education and collaborate on future projects to strengthen environmental education.



### *Cultural Exchange*

In 2009, for the first time in EPI's history, Costa Rica students participated in the Yellowstone Ecology Program, interacting with local Montana youth, who had met on a previous trip to Costa Rica.

In 2010, EPI will expand on this new cultural exchange program in Yellowstone, with participating youth from Galapagos and Costa Rica. Additionally, two Costa Rica schools will participate in a Mexico field course.

## Accomplishments & Awards

### *Purchase of the Swift building*

EPI purchased the Swift building in Missoula, Montana, to serve as headquarters and a community resource - a place to share resources, collaborate, and strengthen conservation efforts locally and worldwide.



### *Participation*

We worked with more students than ever in 2009: **1,262** participants, a **10%** increase from 2008. Of these participants, more than **2/3** were local residents, and many of these local youth participated in community workshops and activities after the close of the field season.

To date, EPI has engaged over **6,000** participants in our field programs, with **3,700** of those from local Costa Rican, Ecuadoran, and Mexican schools.

### *Scholarship awards*

Through the generosity of our supporters, EPI awarded **\$174,000** in scholarships for youth to participate in our programs. Over **92%** was awarded to underserved youth in developing countries, who otherwise would be unable to participate. The remaining **8%** were need-based awards to U.S. participants.

### *Winner, Condé Nast World Traveler*

EPI was voted a winner of the Ashoka Changemakers/Condé Nast World Traveler Challenge - an international competition for the most innovative ideas to encourage travel among citizens all over the world, especially for those who cannot travel due cost or other barriers.

### *Winner, Bike Walk Bus Week*

In EPI's commitment to environmentally responsible business practices, all EPI employees are encouraged to commute sustainably. As a result, EPI's headquarters staff in Missoula, Montana won the community Bike Walk Bus Week challenge.

*Our Mission: EPI improves and inspires science education and conservation efforts worldwide through field-based student-scientist partnerships*

## Costa Rica

Costa Rica is home to the **4<sup>th</sup>** most important nesting area for Leatherbacks in the entire world. Critically endangered, Leatherback sea turtles are one of the oldest living species of turtles on earth, and their precipitous population decline in the last **30** years is due mainly to human impacts. EPI's program directly addresses a host of threats to this critically endangered species.

### EPI impacts in 2009

- Involved over **500** individuals in hands-on conservation.
- Students went on **255** beach patrols to protect Leatherbacks and their nests, walking **4,056** km - equivalent to walking to Ottawa from Costa Rica in a straight line!
- EPI was one of the few programs officially recognized by Costa Rica's Ministry of Education for having a solid impact in the youth of the Caribbean with a strategic approach to environmental education.



- Completed **4** years of planting native trees, providing connectivity to the last remaining patches of nearby forest. **Sixty-four** Costa Rica students have collected data to determine the success rate and growth of these trees, and **120** U.S. students have helped plant the seedlings.

### Partners

- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- La Suerte Biological Reserve



*"An experience like this really changes my perspective on life."  
Catherine Gray, Costa Rica 2009*

*Our Vision: Create an ecologically literate society where the world's youth are empowered to take an active role in conservation*

## Galapagos

Booming tourism and an exponentially-increasing population make conservation in the Galapagos imperative: UNESCO declared the Islands a World Heritage Site under threat in 2007. Invasive species and diminished habitat have heightened the survival struggle for native plants and animals. EPI's Galapagos Islands Ecology Program supports restoration and repatriation efforts for the giant Galapagos tortoise and removal of invasive species.

### EPI impacts in 2009

- Involved over **90** individuals in protection and restoration of Galapagos.
- Galapagos youth painted a mural to illustrate the need for conservation.
- Local students created a native garden with the goal to restore native habitat in public spaces.
- Students' understanding of ecological principles in the Galapagos increased **43%** after participating in an EPI course.



### Partners

- Galapagos National Park
- Conservation International
- FUNDAR Galapagos



*"I learned so much about the different cultures and lifestyles. My way of thinking on life and how I live has changed."  
US high school student, Galapagos 2009*

## FY 2009 Donors

### Individual Contributors

**\$5,000 +**

Michael & Rocio Haas  
Glenn & Tana Kincaid  
Linda Smith & Judy Smith

**\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Cynn timer Anderson & Jerry Rampelberg  
Karen & Dale Barry  
Dylan Charles & Markley Bavinger  
Kathleen Dervin & Byron Ackerman  
Jane Freeman  
Richard & Lori Klein  
Jessica Lindl & Anton Honikman  
Stephen & Annette McCarthy  
Christy Miele  
Dale & Katherine Osborn  
Julie Osborn & Scott Pankratz  
Lorraine & Ben Pankratz  
John & Ann Perkins

**\$500 - \$999**

Sachu Constantine & Suzanne Delbanco  
Janel Crawford & Johannes Meerjanssen  
Peter Dailey  
William & Colleen Gardner  
Gregory Goldsmith  
Mark Hayes  
Michael & Joelle Hurlston  
Alex & Tara Kaplinsky  
Paul Carl Kocher  
Steve Kromer  
Tineke Pullens Triggs  
Lisa Stanton

**\$100 - \$499**

Adit Abhyankar  
Richard & Lucille Adelman  
James & Adrienne Akers  
Kara Alfredson  
Tania Balazs-Gvishi  
Colin Bangs & Patsy Plaggemeyer  
Melissa Bangs  
Sydney & Alan Bernier  
John Bishop  
Claire Bonham-Carter  
Natalie Bonnewit & Matthew Myers  
Jennifer Boyer  
Luisa Buada  
Linda Carloni  
Katie & Taras Carpiac  
Jack Corsello & Karen Boezi  
Carla D'Antonio & Thomas Dudley  
James DeGolia  
Tom & Seena Demmons  
Rick Diamond & Alice Kaswan  
Joseph Eto & Elizabeth Heller Eto  
Michelle & K. Ewan Ferguson  
Rob Fleming  
Chuck & Kathy Goldman  
Nicola & Brian Crist  
Heather Hahn Fowler  
Jack & Suzi Hanna  
Craig Hartman & Jan O'Brien  
Mark Henderson  
Victoria Henley & Michael Boli  
Andrea Higuera-Ballard  
Pamela & Willie Hodges  
Julia & Martin Horn

Jean & Ann Horton

Jonathan Hudacko  
James Humes & Jillian Rudman  
Merrill Jones Barradale  
Donald & Judith Kiely  
Jonathan & Melissa Koomey  
Richard Koomey  
Tom Krackeler  
Kristina & Greg LaCommare  
Michael & Leigh Lehman  
Emily Leys  
Robert & Martie Leys  
*In the name of* Jessica Lindl & Anton Honikman  
Tim Lindl & Courtney Griffin  
Dave MacPherson  
Jorge Marchand  
Frank Marquardt  
Gillian McCarthy  
Donna McDonald & Marvin Suomi  
Valerie Messer  
Chris Miller  
Evan Mizrachy  
Jill Moak

Julian Nadel  
Peter Nantell  
Elizabeth Nichols  
Don & Denise Oblak  
Roy & Susan O'Connor  
Sonja Odom  
Carl Palmer & Carrie Kappel  
Loren & Ethelyn Pankratz  
Jill Perelman  
Virginia Perkins  
Linda & Jerry Placko  
Lynn & John Price  
Rob Primmer & Shira Fruchtman  
Thekla Reis  
Debra Reynolds & Steven Hamemschal

Mark & Erin Rhoades  
Linda Ricciardi & Oliver Gajda  
Bill Rossbach  
Fco. Javier Rubio  
Jennifer & Riyad Salma  
David Sheretz & Rosemary Hardy  
Shannon Strong & Laurie Briggs  
Jere Takahashi & Terri Kim  
Joseph Urbanski  
Sarah Vargas-Hurlston & Rene Vargas-Voracek  
Kimberly & Antonio Vernon  
Regina & Helmut Walter  
Kasey Ward  
Steve & Karen Wiel  
Rold Wietelmann & Lynn Owens  
Gary & Lynne Willstein  
Barbara & Steven Wolf  
Phillip & Lisa Rooney Zarri

### Corporate, Foundation, & Non-Profit

Albertsons  
Frankfurt International School  
Genentech  
GoodSearch  
Google Matching Gift Program  
International Community Foundation  
Kaiser Permanente  
Patagonia  
Toledo Community Foundation  
- Whoopee Fund

Vinnedge Environmental Consulting  
Walton Family Foundation  
Wilnot Wheeler Foundation

### Volunteers and Interns

Erik Anderson  
Jessica Andres  
Emily Bley  
Eleanor Boli  
Jeremy Bump  
Sachu & Suzanne Delbanco  
Kirsten Dale  
Raven Dryden  
Aubree Durfey  
Mary Ellen Earnhardt  
Melanie Graham  
Xavier Harr  
Hannah Hart  
Mykala Killian  
Ashley King  
Lianna Leonhard  
Addie Lepley  
John Mattelin  
Trisha Murray  
Ashley Noel  
Joey Pakes  
John Pearce  
Courtney Pils  
Ashley Shult  
Alisa & Charles Spaulding  
Diego Steele  
Shannon Strong  
Michael Sutton  
Hannah Telling  
Kate Trimlett  
Laura Verhaeghe  
Ike Wallace  
Andrew & Auban Willats

### Special Project Advisors

Daniel Kiely, *Merrill Lynch*  
Kent Means, *MMW Architects*  
Dr. Steve Offerman, *Kaaser Medical*  
Jenny Parks  
Tom Roy  
Dr. Robert Korenberg  
Dave McEvoy, *AERIE Backcountry Medicine*  
Jack Shea  
Alisa & Charles Spaulding  
Jack Wade

### In-Kind

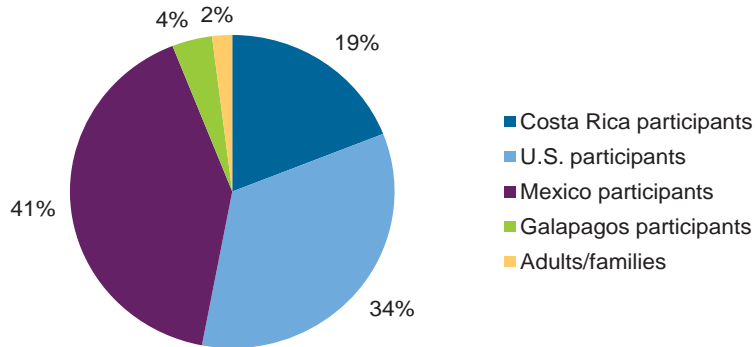
EPI is grateful for generous in-kind gifts from our donors. Please visit our website at [www.cologyproject.org/support\\_us/financials/](http://www.cologyproject.org/support_us/financials/) for more information.

*We strive for complete accuracy and apologize for any omissions or errors. Please contact us with any comments or correction.*

## Enrollment & Financial Summary

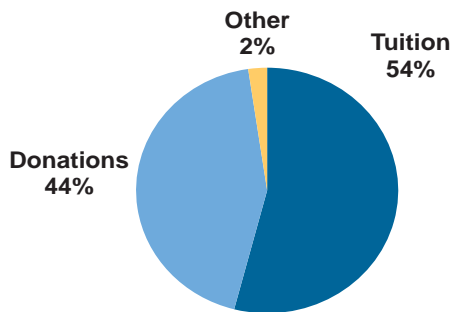
### FY 2009 Enrollment

Total = 1,262 participants



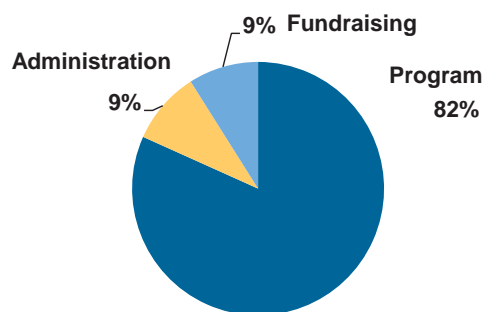
Tuition paid by students comprises over half of our budget; the rest is from grants and donations. EPI offers significant scholarships to make the programs affordable to youth from all economic backgrounds. Donations directly fund local student scholarships and program expenses, and all donations are matched 1:1.

### FY 2009 Revenues



**Total Revenues: \$1,474,886**

### FY 2009 Expenses



**Total Expenses: \$1,462,846**

Overhead is low, with 82% of every dollar spent on programs that directly impact conservation and youth education.

## Mexico

Southern Baja California is rich with terrestrial and marine wildlife; 39% of the world's marine mammal diversity is found in the Sea of Cortez, but ecological and human health is threatened due to increasing development pressures and pollution. EPI's Whale and Island Ecology Programs help scientists catalog diversity and support marine protection efforts in this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### EPI impacts in 2009

- Data collected by EPI participants during marine invertebrate surveys have been included in over 10 professional studies, including a presentation to the 13th International Echinoderm Conference in Tasmania in 2009.

- 600 people participated in our Mexico programs.

- A new cultural exchange program partnered 8 U.S. students with 8 students from a Mexican orphanage, culminating in the creation of one of the largest murals in La Paz, to inspire youth to take pride in nature.

- EPI participants aided scientists in 7 conservation projects, including a cooperative international project studying the Northern Pacific Humpback whale.



### Partners

- Autonomous University of Baja California Sur (UABCS)
- Interdisciplinary Center for Marine Sciences (CICIMAR)
- Marine Mammals Research Program (PRIMMA)
- National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP)
- Natural History Society, Niparaja



*"I did things I never believed I had the ability to accomplish, like contributing to scientific research and snorkeling with sea lions."*

**Mariela Amador Amao,  
Mexico student, Mexico 2009**

## Montana

EPI's project in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem works with youth, land managers, and scientists to increase collaboration and understanding of wildlife and land management in this unique vestige of wild North America. In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, we involve youth in wildlife monitoring in the Gallatin National Forest.

### EPI impacts in 2009

- EPI students volunteered more than **120** hours to install wildlife-friendly fencing, help eradicate invasive plant species, and restore wetlands.
- Participation increased **183%** from 2008 - totaling **70** participants.
- Participants contributed **30** hours to monitor bluebird hatchlings with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - bluebird nesting habitat is declining due to fire-suppression and resulting encroachment of conifers into aspen stands.
- Students from Costa Rica participated in a special exchange program in Yellowstone, marking the first time youth from Latin America participated in EPI's U.S. program.



### Partners

- United States Forest Service
- United States Fish & Wildlife
- The Nature Conservancy
- Sun Ranch Institute



*"The most valuable thing I learned was the inner connections of the world. My way of thinking changed...I should be more conscious of saving the environment."*  
**Chandler Sella, Montana 2009**

## EPI Facilities

In addition to field courses, EPI also has two campuses, in which we hold outreach events throughout the year, offering workshops, field trips, and other activities to engage local residents in conservation.

### *La Paz Campus, Southern Baja California, Mexico*

Established in 2006, the Mexico campus has evolved into a community conservation center, as well as increased the number of outreach activities and participants. More than **774** people attended these events, a **250%** increase from the previous year.

Events included:

- Three movie nights featuring environmental films, followed by five speakers discussing various topics, such as coastal development and regional plants.
- Three field trips to ecologically significant areas, including viewing Whale Sharks, a Cactus sanctuary, and shrimp farm.
- Implemented educational workshops on Shorebird Identification, Environmental Journalism, Urban Gardening, Recycling & Fashion, Sustainability and Leadership, among others.
- Presentation of former EPI instructor's Master's Thesis on environmental education.



- Site of the official international debut of the environmental film, "HOME."

### *The Swift Building, Missoula, MT*

Purchased in 2009, EPI headquarters moved to the historic Swift building in July. EPI plans to develop it into a conservation education center, collaborating with similar mission-based organizations to leverage resources, cut costs, and make conservation efforts more effective and efficient.



*"EPI's plan for the [Swift] building is a model of how we can preserve our past, but also protect Montana's future."*

*- John Engen, Mayor of Missoula*