ECOLOGY PROJECT
INTERNATIONAL

COSTA RICA EDUCATOR TRAINING

Using Phenomena & Field Science to Bring Your Classroom Alive

JOURNEY TO THE RAINFOREST. FIND A PATH FOR PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL GROWTH.

Learn how to use the NGSS* to connect your students to Costa Rican phenomena and create rich lessons that encourage students to ask questions and delve deeply into science topics. Come away with a better understanding of Environmental Literacy and the tools to help students develop the disposition of environmental stewardship. Build a more complex network of peer relationships, a bigger toolbox of online and classroom resources, and a stronger attachment to the natural world.

PROGRAM LENGTH: 7 days

PD HOURS: 40 hours

COLLEGE CREDIT: Optional 4 graduate credits through Hamline University. Separate registration and tuition fees apply.

*NGSS is a registered trademark of Achieve. Neither Achieve nor the lead states and partners that developed the NGSS were involved in the production of this product and do not endorse it .

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1: Meet the rest of the group and spend the night in a local hotel.

Day 2: Travel by private shuttle over the Braulio Carrillo National Park to Costa Rica's Caribbean Coast. From there, travel by boat along canals to Pacuare Reserve.

Days 3-5: Spend your days enjoying field excursions that model student activities. Monitor leatherback sea turtles at night and explore the lowland tropical rainforest. Begin creating a framework for integrating the NGSS into your classroom.

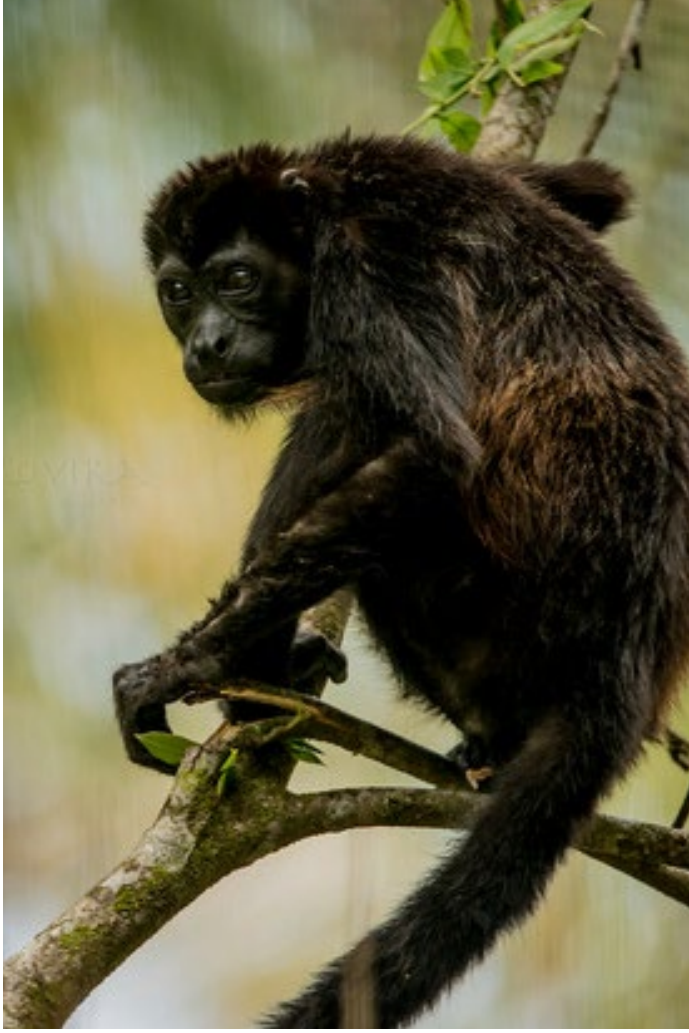
Day 6: Reflect upon your field science knowledge and experience, and its application for the classroom, then celebrate all the work you've done to protect this unique and biodiverse corner of Costa Rica during an aerial tram ride.

Day 7: Depart for home.

COSTA RICA
EDUCATOR TRAINING

On Ecology Project International's (EPI's) Costa Rica Teacher Training program, you'll be immersed in the lowland tropical rainforest and Carribean coastline of EPI's Pacuare Reserve—the region's most imporant leatherback nesting beach and a vital wildlife corridor for Central American felines and primates. Once logged for timber and grazed by cattle, Pacuare Reserve's coastline has been protected since 1989 and is now home to more than 2,700 species of wildlife including jaguar, ocelot, three species of primates, and 200+ species of birds, including the rare agami heron.

You'll assist researchers on projects that delve deeply into the NGSS-connected science topics. Biodiversity is the key to health in the rainforest and you will have the chance to explore the connections in nature that keep the rainforest balanced. Join research into the behavior and population dynamics of elusive jaguar and puma by exploring how wildcam data is collected in the rainforest. Forge deeper into the forest to observe the behavior and migratory patterns of monkeys as they travel through the canopy. Analyze the significance of the little creatures, too—leaf cutter ants shape the forest floor and give some clues about changes in the environment. Walk the shoreline at night searching for nesting turtles, collect data as the baby turtles hatch, and watch them scramble into the surf to start their long migration to distant feeding areas.



COSTA RICA IS YOUR CLASSROOM

While participating in research and conservation service projects at Pacuare Reserve, you'll learn strategies to help your students observe, question, collect data, discuss, and critically analyze the world around them. In addition to first-hand, deep science exploration, you'll have time to collaborate, plan, and write lessons with other science teachers. You'll also have space to share your teaching challenges, best practices, and opportunities to enhance science education with your cohort.

Return home with a template for creating future lessons and unit plans, as well as new resources and peers to support and guide you on your continuing teacher journey. Dive head-first into the NGSS framework using the rich, real world phenomena of Costa Rica to develop lessons and unit plans that will captivate your students and kindle their passion for science.

SKILL BUILDING

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Read and interpret the NGSS for classroom use
- Create the NGSS-aligned lessons using the 5E Learning Cycle
- Inspire students to question, make claims, and provide evidence and reasoning to support claims
- Use research-supported teaching methods, tools, and strategies for supporting students in growing their science and engineering practices
- Identify and collaborate with research and conservation partners available in your community