Since its official beginnings in 2000, Ecology Project International (EPI) has catalyzed growth in our students’ environmental literacy and in the impact of on-the-ground conservation work. As we look to the future, we’re focused on nurturing youth on a robust educational pathway that guides students from their initial EPI field course into lifelong engagement with conservation.

After their EPI courses, many students join EPI Eco-Clubs and initiate activities like river cleanups, community recycling campaigns, reforestation, fundraising, workshops, and environmental awareness campaigns. Alumni opportunities like these allow for vast personal growth and the development of leadership skills. Mexican student Adriana, for example, honed her leadership skills as a member of our Californios Verdes Eco-Club, by supporting the protection of the local Balandra beach and leading the certification of EPI’s Mexico campus as a sustainable “Smart School.”

With our mentoring, alumni continue down the EPI path to pursue education or careers that enable them to continue making a difference.

Several EPI alumni from Galapagos are proud officers and naturalists for the Galapagos National Park, where just a few years ago they were eager EPI students collecting data on course. In Costa Rica, Dayana is one of several alumni who later raised funds to travel to the U.S. to participate in our Yellowstone program – engaging with conservation as global citizens. Dayana also recently became a teacher and brings students to EPI’s Costa Rica program, leading them on the pathway to start their own journeys.

Often, the path our students take leads them back to their own communities, where they contribute to local conservation efforts. A river cleanup in Costa Rica organized by our Sebali Eco-Club drew dozens of community members who collected hundreds of pounds of trash. 2007 EPI alumnus Keylor organizes reforestation campaigns and climate change awareness in urban parks as part of his company’s social responsibility program. Our Mola Mola Eco-Club in Galapagos collaborates with local nonprofits and the city council to operate events during environmental holidays. They manage recycling, eco-rallies, and public awareness campaigns.

Stories like this multiply each year as more youth head outside to learn with EPI and join our 20,000+ alumni network. We are proud of our students and the paths they pursue with enthusiasm and respect for the natural world. As these teens determine the mark they will make on the world, we are honored to play a part in nurturing them on their journeys.

NURTURE, NATURE, AND THE EPI PATHWAY

By Carlos Trejos, Education Manager (above, second row, far left)
After her EPI Mexico course, Laura studied at the Teton Science School, then spent a summer interning for EPI’s Yellowstone Program. Now she is studying environmental law so she can help catalyze long-term changes in her country’s environmental policies.

My course experience changed my perspective about life and about the impacts people have on nature.

On course and immersed in nature, Neison learned first-hand about the critical issues facing the local ecosystem and now feels more motivated to protect marine life in the Mesoamerican Reef.

Conservation is about taking care of what we have and what we are about to lose. It’s about being less selfish with what has been given to us.

After two EPI Mexico courses and obtaining a Marine Biology degree, Olivia returned to EPI as an instructor in Mexico and Yellowstone.

From our Galapagos Program to our Mola Mola Eco-Club, and now to studying Marine Biology in college, Walter wants his conservation journey to last a lifetime. Through the generosity of EPI donors, Walter received the first EPI Collegiate Scholarship to help him pursue his dream of becoming the future director of the Galapagos National Park.

After her EPI Mexico course, Becky started “My Climate Story,” a website where people worldwide can share stories of how their lives have been impacted by climate change.

EPI’s courses are like a handrail, giving youth support and guidance to take an active role in conservation. Here are real-life stories about the leadership journey of just a few of our 20,000+ alumni.” ~ Scott Pankratz, Executive Director
Ecology Project International improves and inspires science education and conservation efforts worldwide through field-based student-scientist partnerships.

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Celebrating 15 Years With Us!

EPI’s 15th Anniversary Fundraiser & Auction
San Francisco, CA
Thursday, November 5th, 6:30 - 9:00 pm
Join us for a festive evening in celebration of 15 years of conservation, education, and youth empowerment.

BioCiencia Festival in Limon, Costa Rica
Saturday, November 14th, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Celebrate EPI’s 15th anniversary where it all began! Come and be inspired by the contribution Costa Rican teens are making to conservation.

Adopt a Hatchling
Looking for the perfect “green” gift for the conservation lover in your life? Adopt a Hatchling with EPI, and you’ll get our new Turtle Defender Booklet, an adoption certificate, turtle photos, & more!

To Adopt a Hatchling Visit: www.ecologyproject.org

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