



PROJECT REPORT
MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY VOLUNTEER EXPEDITION

June 8-17, 2015

Executive Summary

Conservation Volunteers International Program (Conservation VIP) organized and led a volunteer expedition to the Historical Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, June 2015, in collaboration with Peru's Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Environment (National Service for Protected Area Management, SERNANP). The project was authorized by architect Ricardo Ruiz Caro Villagarcía, Regional Director, Ministry of Culture-Cusco, and by engineer José Carlos Nieto Navarrete, Director of the Historical Sanctuary of Machu Picchu for SERNANP. The projects were discussed with anthropologist Dr. Fernando Astete Victoria, Director of the Historical Sanctuary of Machu Picchu.

Fourteen volunteers plus three trip leaders: Janice Ballak, Member of the Board of Directors of Conservation VIP; William Atwill, Member of the Board of Directors of Conservation VIP; and local guide Santiago Carrasco Bellota, performed 336 hours of volunteer work related to the following projects:

1. Removed lichen and plants from 370 square meters of rock walls, windows, and niches within the Chachabamba archaeological site at Km. 104 under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Culture local staff. This work was performed on June 12 and 13, 2015.
2. Removed lichen and plants from three of the fountains located on the northwest side of the Chachabamba archaeological site under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Culture local staff. This work was performed on June 12 and 13, 2015
3. Removed 770 square meters of invasive weeds from the reforested area on the north side of the Chachabamba River, previously damaged by torrential rain in 2010.
4. Cleaned 100 meters of trails and flowerbeds in the orchid garden located on the east side of Machu Picchu Pueblo. This work was performed on June 14, 2015.

5. Donated to Anthropologist Edwin Campos Castro, Administrator of P.N. Machu Picchu, Ministry of Culture, and one static 60 meter x 11 mm climbing rope, one Black Diamond Class B locking carabiner, and one Black Diamond figure 8.
6. Donated to SERNANP, one static 60 meter x 11 mm climbing rope, one Black Diamond Class B locking carabiner, and one Black Diamond figure 8.

Trip leaders will provide this report to architect Ricardo Ruiz Caro Villagarcía, Regional Director, Ministry of Culture-Cusco; engineer José Carlos Nieto Navarrete, Director of the Historical Sanctuary of Machu Picchu for SERNANP; and anthropologist Dr. Fernando Astete, Archaeologist for the Machu Picchu Sanctuary.

Detailed Trip Report

On June 10, 2015, volunteers traveled from Cusco by bus to Ollantaytambo, then by train to Machu Picchu Pueblo (Aguas Calientes). On June 11, 2015, the volunteers received a welcome from SERNANP at the Machu Picchu Pueblo office. The volunteers each picked up tools and brushes from the cache of equipment previously donated by Conservation VIP. The tools were used by the volunteers at Chachabamba in order to perform the assigned tasks.

Chachabamba Inka Site Volunteer Project Description

On June 12 and 13, 2015, the volunteers traveled at 0800 hour by Inka Rail from Machu Picchu Pueblo to km. 104. The Ministry of Culture requested the assistance of the volunteers in removing lichen and plant material from the walls, pillars, windows, niches, and fountains of the Inka site at Chachabamba.



Figure 1 Volunteers cleaning walls and fountains at Chachabamba

Upon arrival at Chachabamba, the volunteers received an orientation from Ministry of Culture and SERNANP staff. The team worked all day June 12, 2015 at the archaeological site of Chachabamba with the Ministry of Culture staff. The volunteers worked in the reforestation area with the SERNANP staff the morning of June 13, 2015 then returned to work in the ruins of Chachabamba during the afternoon of June 13, 2015, with the Ministry of Culture staff.

All of the volunteers working at the archaeological site used only nylon brushes and wooden sticks to clean walls, niches, windows, and fountains. The volunteers removing weeds from the reforested area pulled them by hand. Work continued until 1700 hours, at which time the volunteers prepared to leave to take the train back to Machu Picchu Pueblo.

Orchid Sanctuary - Machu Picchu Pueblo

On June 14, 2015, all of the volunteers removed fallen leaves from plant beds and trails in the orchid sanctuary located on the east side of Machu Picchu Pueblo. Approximately 100 meters of trail were cleaned.



Figure 2 Volunteers working in the orchid sanctuary

Visit to Machu Picchu Sacred City

All of the volunteers visited the Machu Picchu Sacred City on June 11 and June 15, 2015. Admission to the Sacred City was paid by Conservation VIP. During the two visits to the Sacred City, the volunteers received extensive lectures by local guide Santiago Carrasco Bellota about the Inka culture and preservation issues related to increased visitation. The volunteers visited the Sun Gate, the Inka Bridge, Huayna Picchu, the Temple of the Moon, and all of the ruins in the Sacred City.

Prior to traveling to Machu Picchu, the volunteers visited the Machu Picchu Museum in Cusco on June 9, 2015. At the Museum, Santiago Carrasco Bellota lectured to the volunteers about how the Peruvian government struggled to have the artifacts returned to Peru from Yale University. This provided a historical context for the volunteers to understand how the Peruvian government has worked diligently under difficult circumstances to protect the patrimony of Peru from looting and destruction.

Acknowledgements

Conservation Volunteers International Program acknowledges and thanks the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Environment/SERNANP (National Service for Protected Area Management) and the community of Machu Picchu Pueblo for the privilege of volunteering in Peru.

We also thank Sr. Sixto Miranda, CONSETTUR Machu Picchu, for assistance with bus tickets to Machu Picchu.

Many thanks to Inka Rail for arranging to stop at Km. 104 to enable our volunteers to travel to the Chachabamba archaeological site to perform the work described in this report.

We appreciate the help of our local travel agency, Viracocha, and their representative Jorge Garcia. Special thanks are reserved for our local guide Santiago Carrasco Bellota, who provided extensive historical and environmental information. He also worked alongside of our volunteers at Chachabamba and the Orchid Sanctuary. His assistance in obtaining permits from the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Environment/SERNANP was invaluable.

Janice Ballak, Director
Conservation Volunteers International Program



June 2015 Machu Picchu Volunteers