



ECOLOGY PROJECT  
INTERNATIONAL



# COSTA RICA

## EDUCATOR TRAINING

Using Phenomena & Field Science to Bring  
Your Classroom to Life

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

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

**PROGRAM LENGTH:** 7 days

**LODGING:** Shared hotel rooms and shared cabins

**PD HOURS:** 40 hours

**COLLEGE CREDIT:** Check with your course coordinator about options. Separate registration and tuition fees apply.



## SAMPLE ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Meet the rest of the group and spend the night in a local hotel in San Jose.
- Day 2:** Travel by private shuttle through 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 digging into field research, exploring the ecosystem, and collaborating on standards-linked lesson design with your learning community. Activities may include turtle patrols, hatchling monitoring, primate observations, and/or feline camera trap monitoring.
- Day 6:** Share ideas and resources linked to phenomena in the field, discuss classroom application of the NGSS processes, and reflect upon your field science experiences. Relax and enjoy one more adventure in learning as we travel outside of the Reserve.
- Day 7:** Depart for home.

\*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.



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### PACUARE RESERVE

Join EPI's Costa Rica Professional Development Program and explore the lowland tropical rainforest and Caribbean coastline of EPI's Pacuare Reserve—the region's most important leatherback nesting beach and a vital wildlife corridor for 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.

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'll have the chance to explore the connections in nature that keep the ecosystem balanced. Learn about research that delves into the behavior and population dynamics of elusive jaguar and puma by using wildcam data. Forge deeper into the forest to observe the behavior and migratory patterns of monkeys as they travel through the canopy. 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.

### PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OBJECTIVES

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

- Explore strategies to facilitate students' identification of phenomena, exploration of lines of inquiry, and collaboration to problem-solve through a scientific process.
- Model tools to support best educational practices while exploring environmental science and nature in the field.
- Collaborate with colleagues and share ideas about how to integrate, modify, and use the concepts and activities shared during the field experience.
- Identify and collaborate with research and conservation partners available in your community.

### KEY CONCEPTS

- Biodiversity in critical ecosystems
- Species adaptation & resilience
- Conservation research
- Human impact on the environment
- Scientific protocols for research in the field
- Environmental literacy
- Phenomena to inquiry and the NGSS

