

FRONTIER

Press Kit & 2013 Fact Sheet

Introduction to Frontier / The Society for Environmental Exploration

Frontier is an international non-profit volunteering NGO that runs over 350 conservation, community and adventure projects in over 60 countries across the world. Established in 1989, Frontier has over 25 years of experience in sending volunteers abroad on engaging and capacity building projects. By encouraging the combination of travel with volunteering, Frontier inspires people to step off the beaten path and make their travel meaningful.

Missions

The Society for Environmental Exploration

To conserve the world's most endangered wildlife and threatened habitats and build sustainable livelihoods for marginalised, under resourced communities in the world's poorest countries. To create solutions that are apolitical, forward-thinking, community-driven, and innovative and which take into consideration the long-term needs of low income communities.

Frontier

It is Frontier's mission to empower people, both young and old, to become active global citizens motivated by the power of their volunteering experience. Through travel and volunteering abroad Frontier aims to inspire a dynamic network of those who realise their potential to deliver positive change, and who have an understanding and value of local perceptions. Frontier's projects are committed to involving volunteers in work that is of genuine value. By constantly developing projects and evolving to meet the needs of communities and environments we work in, Frontier's projects are able to make a truly positive impact and provide help where it is needed most.

Types of Project

Group: Frontier / The Society for Environmental Exploration operates Group projects researching wildlife conservation and improving education and infrastructure within local communities in Tanzania, Madagascar, Costa Rica, Cambodia, Fiji and Greece. It has previously had past Group projects in Nicaragua, Mozambique, Uganda, Ghana and Vietnam. Frontier also runs ethical adventure trails, combining backpacking with volunteering, in South East Asia, Central and South America.

Partner: Partner Projects allow Frontier volunteers to connect directly with smaller, in-country organisations and have a real effect in helping them achieve their goals through increased volunteer numbers. Projects may require funding or resources, additional manpower in the form of volunteers, specialist skills or perhaps simply they need to build awareness of their activities by advertising themselves internationally. By joining with more 100 organisations working on conservation, humanitarian and adventure travel projects worldwide, Frontier has been able to offer its volunteers a huge wealth of opportunities to make their travel abroad both exciting and meaningful.

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Who we currently work with:

- The Society for Environmental Exploration (SEE)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Young Explorers' Trust
- Year Out Group
- Field Guide Association of South Africa (FGASA)
- Edexcel
- PADI
- Department for Nature Conservation and Protection (Ministry of Environment, Royal Government of Cambodia)
- Marine Conservation Cambodia
- Osa Conservation, Costa Rica
- Wildlife Conservation Society, Costa Rica
- Friends of the Osa, Costa Rica
- University of South Pacific
- International Ocean Institute – Pacific Islands
- University of Antsirana, Madagascar
- Eau et Forêt, Madagascar
- National Association for the Management of Protected Areas in Madagascar (ANGAP), Madagascar
- South West Regional Environment Authority (SAGE), Madagascar
- University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Mafia Island Marine Park, Tanzania
- Over 100 in-country Partner Project organisation

Past partners include:

- Conservation International (CI)
- Fauna and Flora International
- Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF)
- WWF
- UK Department for Environment
- Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Department for International Development (DFID)
- Global Environment Fund
- National Lottery Charities Board, UK
- Darwin Institute

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Frontier volunteers

In 2013 Frontier deployed over 1,000 volunteers on dedicated projects across the world, whose work equated to 41,578 days of volunteering.

- During this time the oldest volunteer deployed was 75, and the youngest was 16.
- On average volunteer ages ranged between 15-37, with a roughly 60% female and 40% male divide.
- Volunteers came from 33 nationalities and took part in projects around the world spanning 5 continents, making Frontier a truly international organisation with global impact.

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Percentage of Volunteers	Type of Project
5 %	Medical or Healthcare
8 %	Internship, Study or Work Abroad
48 %	Conservation
22 %	Teaching or Community
11 %	Volunteering Project Combination
6 %	Cross Cultural Exchange or Adventure Travel

Frontier Projects

In 2013, Frontier:

- Operated **304 projects in 56 countries across 6 continents.**
- **Started working in 6 new countries:** Panama, Israel, Malaysia, Laos, Portugal and Belize.
- **Launched 64 new projects** including: PADI Divemaster Internships; Group Project NGO internships offering people the chance to gain understanding of the overseas running of a conservation NGO; Frontier's first two free projects; new Road Trip style travel experiences and Frontier's first zoo assistant project.
- **Partnered with over 100 in-country organisations,** through the running of its Partner Projects, to provide continued support to small in-country schools, orphanages and NGOs.

Frontier Education

In 2013 Frontier trained **47 volunteers for BTEC qualifications.** This included:

- 23 Tropical Habitat Conservation Certificate BTECs
- 14 Tropical Habitat Conservation Diploma BTECs
- 2 Expedition Management BTECs
- 8 Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) BTECs

In 2013 Frontier awarded **55 TEFL Certificates to volunteers representing a minimum of 1,100 hours of teaching.**

In 2013 Frontier awarded **3 Certificates of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE).**

In 2013, **8 Frontier volunteers gained the Field Guide Association of South Africa (FGASA) Level 1 qualification, and 2 Frontier volunteers completed 6 month FGASA Field Guide Internships.**

In 2013 Frontier issued **177 PADI Dive qualifications.** This included:

- 81 Open Water
- 74 Advanced Open Water
- 10 Rescue Diver
- 9 First and Second Primary Care Diver
- 1 Discover Scuba Diving
- 1 Adventure Diver
- 1 Scuba Diver

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Frontier / The Society for Environmental Exploration Environmental Science Projects

In 2013, project research for the Frontier / The Society for Environmental Exploration was published in one independent peer-reviewed journal. Since 1989, Frontier has had over 100 peer-reviewed publications and discovered 56 new species of flora and fauna in sites across the globe.

Throughout 2013:

Madagascar Marine (MGM): completed 156 hours and 45 minutes of dive surveying time through Baseline Survey Protocol transect surveys and Active Searches. Species surveyed include 172 species of fish and 59 invertebrate species, not including a great number of unidentified nudibranchs, all of which range from data deficient to critically endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Madagascar Forest (MGF): completed a total of 393 hours of surveying and recorded 141 species in the categories of Amphibians and Reptiles, Lemurs, Birds, Butterflies and small Mammals. The project recorded 16 species of Amphibians and Reptiles listed as Near Threatened to Critically Endangered and two as data deficient. MGF additionally collected over 100 hours of Black Lemur data which are listed as Vulnerable. The project also discovered a species of chameleon, possibly *Furcifer petteri*, new to the island of Nosy Be and is working to confirm the identification of the species.

Madagascar MGM & MGF: together volunteers took part in 7 Environmental Awareness Day in several locations both for local adults and for children within Frontier's partner schools. Volunteers also conducted 14 beach cleans throughout the year, collecting rubbish from the coastal areas of their survey sites.

Tanzania Marine (TzM): volunteers completed a total of 118 surveying hours over 242 surveys. The project recorded 48 fish species during this time, four of which are listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List and some as Data Deficient. The project continues to work closely with the Mafia Island Marine Park, which was Frontier helped to establish back in 1989, to assess the ongoing management and effectiveness of the marine park.

Tanzania Forest (TZF): volunteers completed a total of 94 surveying hours over 103 surveys throughout 2013, using a variety of Birds Point Points/ Transects, Pitfall Traps and Butterfly Sweep Netting. The project recorded 52 species, one of which is listed as Near Threatened.

Tanzania TzM & TZF: together completed 10 beach cleans on near-by Juani Island, a turtle hatching site, and held 2 Environmental Awareness Days providing educational materials for local village children and Frontier's partner school.

Cambodia Marine (CMM): volunteers completed 98 hours of snorkel surveys studying fish, coral and invertebrates as well as erosion, diadema and colonization. The project recorded a total of 67 species during this time. Volunteers also conducted regular beach cleans throughout the year and taught English to local children and adults during weekly lessons.

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Greece Turtle Conservation (GRT): For four months over the summer of 2013 volunteers helped to secure Loggerhead sea turtle nests and the safe first run of hatchlings to the ocean. During this time volunteers helped protect just over 450 nesting sites, each containing up to 100 eggs each giving an estimate of around 40,000 turtles hatched.

Fiji Marine (FJM): Since the project started in July 2013 the project been collecting baseline data for the new dive sites over 326 surveys which equates to 108 hours of survey time. During these surveys the project has recorded 84 species of fish, including the white tip reef shark which is classified as IUCN Near Threatened.

Costa Rica Forest (CBP): the project has been accepted to present the findings of their primate project as a PODIUM presentation at the 2014 AAPA conference in Calgary, Alberta Canada thanks to the hard work of staff and volunteers in studying the black handed spider monkey *Geoffroyi*. In 2013, volunteers and staff conducted 3,772 hours of surveying over 1,087 surveys. The project recorded 173 species during this time including all four species of marine turtles and primates known in the area.

Frontier Community Projects

As Frontier's conservation projects established themselves within communities around the world, there was a natural evolution for the development of teaching and community projects as volunteers, staff and locals integrated. Conservation is unsustainable without the support of local communities who are often dependent on the land or sea for income. All Frontier's Group project involve some element of promoting sustainability and environmental education and staff continue to develop formal teaching and community projects in all Frontier's Group project locations.

In schools across Madagascar, Tanzania, Costa Rica, Cambodia and Fiji, Frontier taught English to over 1,500 children and adults.

In Madagascar, a new Sports Coaching project was launched offering over 1,000 children access to physical education and sports. New construction, childcare and physiotherapy projects have also been developed to be launched in early 2014.

In Fiji, Healthcare volunteers have been working closely with the Ministry of Health to promote nutritional well-being, and the project has been instrumental in the implementation of government legislation in schools on the matter. Healthcare volunteers have also been working with the Spinal Injury Association of Fiji to produce informative exercise videos for wheelchair users about how to stay healthy.

Frontier Partner Projects

Frontier partners with a huge range of both conservation and humanitarian organisations around the world. This allows Frontier to provide volunteers to support a wide scope of projects that are in need, as well as offer a great number of adventure activities and cultural immersion experiences.

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By partnering with some of the world's leading conservation organisations, Frontier is aiding in the conservation of endangered key species and partake in such activities including:

- Tigers
- Mountain Gorillas
- Sloth
- Chimpanzees
- Black Rhino
- Orangutan
- Conducting vital and innovative research into species behaviour
- Reducing human-wildlife conflict
- Environmental conservation including reforestation programmes
- Improving sustainability of communities, agricultural and fishing practices
- Rehabilitating and working to improve care for animals in captivity through enrichment activities

By partnering with smaller organisations in country such as schools, orphanages and non-profit NGOs, Frontier volunteers are able to assist directly in aiding those in need. Volunteers support is imperative to these projects to provide care and funding for such things as infrastructure development and academic or sport scholarships.

Partner Projects also account for the majority of the medical and healthcare projects on offer as Frontier partners with various hospitals, clinics, dentists and healthcare NGOs around the world.

Internships offered by Frontier as a Partner Projects include:

- Medical & Healthcare
- NGO Management
- Journalism
- Hospitality
- Music Production
- Veterinary
- Construction

Adventure activities on offer include:

- Studying Kung Fu
- Learning to surf
- Learning to windsurf
- Trekking & mountain climbing expeditions
- Sailing expeditions
- White Water Rafting
- Rock-climbing

How do people benefit from volunteering with Frontier?

Frontier is dedicated to continually improving the volunteer / traveller experience. Volunteering or travelling with Frontier means the opportunity to embrace new life challenges with the support of an experienced NGO. With a 25 year history of dedicated conservation projects also people gain the chance to make a difference on long-term conservation projects that continue to carry out valuable scientific research.

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Individual benefits of travelling and volunteering also include:

- Improved self-confidence and a sense of achievement
- Enhanced career prospects from vocational learning and successful project planning
- A more worldly view and a respect and understanding of other cultures
- A social and environmental awareness of the challenges we face as a global community

Job Opportunities Abroad

In addition to volunteers Frontier has over 100 Assistant Research Officers, Conservation Apprentices, Principal Investigators, Teaching Coordinators, Project Managers, Field Communications Officers and Ethical Trail Leaders contribute greatly to the running of its Group projects every year. Working with Frontier offers the opportunity to gain:

- Team leadership skills
- Field experience in conservation
- Experience working in international development
- Project Management Skills
- Travel journalism and media content production skills

Many individuals who work with Frontier in the field or in its Headquarters in London or California go on to more senior roles within the company, or with other large conservation, travel and sustainability organisations.

For more information or for press enquires please contact press@frontier.ac.uk.