

**Caitlin Chew, PCM-17 | Parque Nacional Isla Isabel, CONANP | San Blas, Nayarit 2014 - 2017**

My passion has been to serve communities and the environment in foreign countries since stepping outside the United States as a young girl. Although I had some experience working overseas when I submitted my Peace Corps application, it is still very difficult to establish yourself in a foreign country when you lack professional experience as a young graduate, and the language skills necessary to work efficiently. Peace Corps Mexico was, for me, the perfect stepping stone to becoming a fluent Spanish speaker with the project management skills to be able to find a meaningful career in Latin America. During my service, I designed and implemented three small grant projects in my community with the support and guidance of Peace Corps Mexico staff. Today I am back working in collaboration with CONANP (Mexican National Parks Commission) on exciting new opportunities and challenges at Islas Marías Biosphere Reserve. I am employed by Fondo Noroeste A.C., part of the Mexican Fund for Conservation, as a field technician for the Reserve and to generally help out with anything the CONANP team need. That has meant everything from designing and implementing the 16-day presidential environmental and cultural education course “Muros de Agua-José Revueltas” for young adults to giving workshops to members of the Mexican Navy based on the island, collecting and cultivating native trees, planting coral reef fragments, biodiversity monitoring and an endless amount of sweeping and mopping. Thanks Peace Corps Mexico!



Beach Cleanup with a high school environmental club I formed “Bio 12” in San Blas, Nayarit, April 2016.

Ecostoves that were delivered to small communities in the municipality of San Blas, Nayarit in 2017 as part of a Climate Change education project I implemented.



Reforestation with the second generation of “Guardians”, a two-week environmental and cultural education course I helped design and implement at Islas Marías Biosphere Reserve (Muros de Agua- José Revueltas Environmental and Cultural Education Center), January 2021.