

Protected Areas Management



Your Skills. Our Jobs.

Protection and preservation of the earth's resources is a top priority throughout the world, but many developing countries lack the expertise to change centuries of traditional practices that weaken the natural environment and wildlife habitats. The Peace Corps is helping these communities protect their natural resources, and is calling on experienced environmentalists to join the effort and become part of a service legacy that dates back to 1961. While you may have many job prospects, nothing in your career is likely to compare to the challenges and rewards of the Peace Corps.

Sow the Seeds of Change and You Can Move Mountains.

Add a new dimension to your career. Discover innovative ways to apply your classroom, volunteer, or work experiences. Work in unforgettable locations where your knowledge and resourcefulness are in great demand. Forge new and lifelong relationships within the communities you serve, while empowering communities to sustainably protect and manage their natural resources. The possibilities as a Peace Corps Volunteer are endless and yours to leave an indelible mark.

Upon returning to the U.S., you'll discover open doors leading to new and exciting personal and professional opportunities. Fluency in a foreign language, international experience, and cross-cultural understanding are highly sought-after assets in today's global economy. You'll take away the satisfaction of knowing your efforts will have a lasting influence abroad while making you stand out here at home.

Peace Corps environment experience is valued by numerous organizations, including the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, United Nations Environment Program, and many private companies, NGOs, and public organizations seeking individuals with unique skills.

The Work.

As a Protected Areas Management Volunteer, your role will be to provide formal and informal training and support to individuals, communities, and institutions in effective management of natural resources, conservation of biological diversity, and generation of sustainable economic returns. Your work will depend upon collaboration with host country counterparts. Depending on your specific assignment, you might:

- Conduct training workshops in resource inventory techniques, land-use planning, environmental impact assessments, or park interpretation skills
- Create conservation education programs, park guide trainings, and nature trail construction
- Establish tree nurseries to raise soil fertility and increase crop production and income-generating opportunities
- Establish conservation education centers and wildlife clubs in schools and communities
- Increase awareness of causes, prevention, and solutions to local environmental degradation
- Conduct land-use studies and ecological surveys to document and examine threats, locate boundaries, or identify important species for protection
- Help communities develop sustainable environmental projects to generate income, via tour services, crafts, and other uses for recycled materials



As the Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, it continues to promote peace and friendship, with Volunteers serving in over 70 countries. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Americans have served the Peace Corps in 139 countries around the world

Are You Ready?



How do I qualify?

To qualify for a Protected Areas Management assignment, you will need at a minimum:

- Bachelor's degree in wildlife biology, wildlife management, natural resource management, or recreation and park administration or
- Bachelor's degree in any discipline with three years of work experience in park planning or administration, resource management, or wildlife management

Is this the right fit?

Let the Peace Corps match your skills and ambitions with the right type of program. Based on the areas identified by our host countries, there is a pressing need to teach residents of protected area buffer zones about the economic, social, and environmental value of the protected areas and how they can minimize negative effects of human activities while at the same time sustainably improve their living conditions. You will live and work in a rural area or a very small community that is in or near an established or newly created park. In all sites, you have the opportunity to put your knowledge and ideas into practice and, in the process, be a catalyst for change and set the groundwork for a truly sustainable impact.

How can I stand out?

Competitive applicants have experience in providing technical assistance and training in natural resource management through volunteer work or internships. Many have had seasonal employment as a park ranger. You will strengthen your application if your credentials include: conducting biological surveys of plants or animals; initiating environmental campaigns, tree planting, or other local conservation activities; and grant writing for conservation efforts.

The ability to learn a new language is an important ingredient to a successful volunteer experience. Become more competitive by taking at least a year of French or two years of Spanish at the university level. If you have learned a language informally, Peace Corps may consider the CLEP and ACTFL exams to consider you for placement.

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Call 800.424.8580, option 1 to talk to a recruiter near you.

"The new eco-tourist park has the largest zip line in Guatemala, passing over the forest canopy. It was built with the hope that it will be sustainable and help support the management and conservation of the protected areas. I'm very proud to work with such an exemplary project focused on conserving natural resources instead of using them."

— Justin Fleury, Volunteer in Guatemala