

**PROJECT REPORT**  
**MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY VOLUNTEER EXPEDITION**  
 November 4 - November 12, 2013

**Executive Summary**

Conservation Volunteers International Program (Conservation VIP) organized and led a volunteer expedition to Machu Picchu Sanctuary, November, 2013, 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 Anthropologist Dr. David Ugarte Vega Centeno, Regional Director, Ministry of Culture – Cusco, and by Biologist Dra. Ada Castillo Ordinola, Director of the Santuario de Machupicchu for SERNANP. The projects were discussed with Anthropologist Dr. Fernando Astete, Director of the Historical Sanctuary of Machupicchu.

Volunteers at Km104 at entrance to Chachabamba

Eighteen volunteers plus four trip leaders: John Hollinrake, Executive Director of Conservation VIP; William Sapp III, Ph.D., Archaeologist, licensed in Peru, and Member of the Board of Directors of Conservation VIP; Chris Braunlich, Chief Executive Officer of Conservation VIP; and, local guide Santiago Carrasco Bellota, performed **429 hours of volunteer work** related to the following projects:



1. Removed moss and plants from **303.2 square meters of rock walls, windows, and wall niches**, within the Chachabamba archeological site at Km. 104 under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Culture local staff. This work was performed on November 8 and November 9, 2013.
2. Removed dirt, moss, and plants from **65.5 linear meters of water channels** within the Chachabamba archeological site at Km. 104 under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Culture local staff. This work was performed on November 8 and November 9, 2013.
3. Removed dirt and plant material from all of the fountains located on the north side of the Chachabamba archaeological site under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Culture local staff. This work was performed on November 8 and 9, 2013.

4. Removed **615 square meters of invasive weeds** from the reforested land managed by SERNANP at the confluence of the Urubamba River and the Quebrada Chachabamba operated by SERNANP adjacent to the Chachabamba ruins. This work was performed on November 8, 2013.

5. Removed invasive weeds and shrubs, **cleaned and swept 700 linear meters of trail** within the Orchid Sanctuary which is managed by SERNANP, located adjacent to the Pueblo of Aguas Caliente under the direct supervision of the SERNANP Rangers.



Dr Bill Sapp III donates rescue rope to Park Ranger Leonarda Quino Rodriguez SERNANP



Volunteers donate rescue rope to Machu Picchu Park .  
Lic. Marco Palomino Cuela, Administrator

6. Donated to Lic. Marco Palomino Cuela, Administrator of P.N. Machu Picchu, Ministry of Culture: two 60 meter x 11 mm static rescue/climbing ropes. Written official acknowledgement of the donation is attached as ANNEX A.

7. Donated to GP Leonarda Quino Rodriguez of SERNANP: one 60 meter x 11 mm static rescue/climbing rope. Written official acknowledgement of the donation is attached as ANNEX B.

The Ministry of Culture and SERNANP representatives invited Conservation VIP volunteers to return to the Machu Picchu Sanctuary for additional volunteer opportunities.

Trip leaders will provide this report to Biologist Ada Castillo Ordinola for SERNANP; Anthropologist David Ugarte Vega Centeno, Ministry of Culture in Cusco; and Anthropologist Fernando Astete, Archaeologist for the Machu Picchu Sanctuary.

Discussions were conducted with SERNANP and Ministry of Culture staff regarding the volunteer's activities, and future projects.

### **Detailed Trip Report**

On November 6, 2013, volunteers traveled from Cusco by bus to Ollantaytambo, then by train to Machu Picchu Pueblo (Aguas Calientes). On November 8, 2013, the volunteers received a welcome from SERNANP Park Ranger Leonarda Quino Rodriguez, and staff at the Machu Picchu Pueblo office. An Inventory of tools that have been donated by Conservation VIP was conducted. All of the tools were counted, and the list was determined to be correct.



## Chachabamba Inca Site Volunteer Project Description.

On November 8, 2013, the volunteers traveled at 0800 hrs by Inka Rail from Machu Picchu Pueblo to Km 104. The Ministry of Culture requested the assistance of the volunteers in removing moss and plant material from the walls, pillars, windows, niches, and fountains of the Inca site at Chachabamba. .

Upon arrival at Chachabamba, the volunteers received an orientation from Ministry of Culture and SERNANP staff. It was decided that the volunteers would work one half of the day with Ministry of Culture staff at the Chachabamba archaeological site, and one half of the day at the Reforestation area at the confluence of the Urubamba River and Quebrada Chachabamba with SERNANP staff.



All volunteers began cleaning the stone walls, pillars, niches, water fountains, and water channels at the Chachabamba archaeological site, and were supervised by Ministry of Culture staff and Conservation VIP Archaeologist William Sapp III. Using only nylon brushes and wooden sticks, the volunteers began removing vegetation, moss, and invasive plant species.

All of the volunteers were assigned to remove weeds from the area reforested at the confluence of the Urubamba River and Quebrada Chachabamba by SERNANP. This work was performed by the volunteers in two groups. A total of 615 square meters was cleared of weeds.

After the weeds were removed from the reforestation site, the volunteers returned to cleaning the ruins at Chachabamba. This work continued until 1700 hrs, at which time the volunteers prepared to leave to take the train back to Machu Picchu Pueblo.



On November 9, 2013 the volunteers traveled at 0800 hrs by Inka Rail from Machu Picchu Pueblo to Km 104. Volunteers worked all day cleaning the stone walls, pillars, niches, water fountains, and water channels at the Chachabamba archaeological site and were supervised again by Ministry of Culture staff and Conservation VIP Archaeologist William Sapp III. Using only nylon brushes and wooden sticks, the volunteers removed vegetation, moss, and invasive plant species.

It was estimated that a total of 303.2 square meters of stone walls, pillars, and niches, within the Chachabamba archaeological site were cleaned by the volunteers.



It was estimated that a total of 65.5 linear meters of water channels connecting the water fountains on the north side of Chachabamba ruins were cleaned. This represents 100 percent of the water channels on the north side of the ruins.

All of the water fountains on the north side of the Chachabamba ruins were completely cleaned by the volunteers.





## Orchid Garden

On November 11, 2013, the Volunteers worked within the rare orchid area of the sanctuary with SERNANP staff and local volunteers from the Municipality of Machu Picchu Pueblo cleaning the rock steps, trail, and three resting/seating areas by removing loose soil debris, vegetation, and moss to improve safety. Vegetation and invasive plant species within the trail prism were cut back or removed along a 700 meter length of the trail to improve safety for hikers, and enable the orchids to thrive.

## Visit to Machu Picchu Sacred City

All of the volunteers visited the Machu Picchu Sacred City on November 7 and November 20, 2013. Admission to the Sacred City was paid by Conservation VIP. During the two visits to the Sacred City, the volunteers received extensive lectures by Conservation VIP archaeologist William Sapp III and local guide Santiago Carrasco Bellota about the Inca culture, and preservation issues related to increased visitation,. The volunteers visited the Sun Gate, the Inca Bridge, Huayna Picchu, and all of the Sacred City. At the Sun Gate, the volunteers were able to see the Inca Trail system and the orientation of Chachabamba with the Sun Gate.

Prior to traveling to Machu Picchu, the volunteers visited the Machu Picchu Museum in Cusco on November 5, 2013. At the Museum, the volunteers were lectured by Dr. William Sapp III. During the lecture, the history of the struggle to return the artifacts collected by Hiram Bingham, and kept at Yale University was discussed. This provided an important historical framework for the volunteers to better understand the relationship between Government of Peru and Yale University.

A series of short videos of the volunteer activities performed on this expedition were filmed by videographer and volunteer Peter Murphy. These narrated videos can be viewed on the Conservation VIP YouTube channel at: <http://www.youtube.com/conservationvip>



## Acknowledgments

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.

Special thanks to Peter Murphy, videographer and volunteer who worked tirelessly to record our activities at Machu Picchu. The videos have enabled those who are interested in joining our future trips to see what the volunteer work involves, and the videos provide an essential documentation of the hard work and dedication of our volunteers.

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

Thank you to REI Adventures for enabling Conservation VIP to acquire the donated climbing rescue rope at cost. The rope is essential rescue equipment for the Rangers in Machu Picchu, and is prohibitively expensive in Peru.

We also thank the staff of 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 local representative Jorge Garcia.

Special thanks are extended to our local guide Santiago Carrasco Bellota, who provided excellent historical and environmental information. He also worked with all of the volunteers at Chachabamba and at the Orchid Sanctuary.



John Hollinrake, Executive Director  
Conservation Volunteers International Program

