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PROJECT REPORT
MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY VOLUNTEER EXPEDITION
June 6-15, 2014

Executive Summary

Conservation Volunteers International Program (Conservation VIP) organized and led a volunteer expedition to Machu Picchu Sanctuary, June 2014, in collaboration with Peru's Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Environment (National Service for Protected Area Management, SERNANP). The project was approved by Architect Edwin Ricardo Ruiz Caro Villagarcia, Regional Director, Ministry of Culture-Cusco, and by Engineer José Carlos Navarrete Nieto, Director of the Sanctuary of Machupicchu for SERNANP. The projects were discussed with Dr. Fernando Astete, Director of the Historical Sanctuary of Machupicchu.

Thirteen volunteers plus four trip leaders: John Hollinrake, Executive Director of Conservation VIP; Dr. William Sapp III, Archaeologist, licensed in Peru (RNA No. BS-9917) and Member of the Board of Directors of Conservation VIP; Mark Hardgrove, Member of the Board of Directors of Conservation VIP; and local guide Santiago Carrasco Bellota, performed 340 hours of volunteer work related to the following projects:

1. Removed lichen and plants from 341 square meters of rock walls, windows, and niches within the Chachabamba archaeological site at Km. 104 under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Culture local staff. This work was performed on June 10 and June 11, 2014
2. Removed lichen and plants from three of the fountains located on the northwest side of the Chachabamba archaeological site under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Culture local staff. This work was performed on June 10 and 11, 2014
3. Removed 423 square meters of invasive weeds from the reforested area on the north side of the Chachabamba River, previously damaged by torrential rain in 2010
4. Removed leaves and weeds, and swept rock lined paths in the garden on the east side of the Machu Picchu Site Museum on June 12, 2014

5. Removed weeds and invasive plants from 52 meters of road on the west side of the Machu Picchu Site Museum on June 12, 2014.
6. Donated to Maria Elena Bustamante, Administrator of P.N. Machu Picchu, Ministry of Culture, one Petzl Mambo 10.1mm dynamic climbing rope, one Edelrid climbing harness, and two Omega KN-22 carabiners
7. Donated to Heli Haidee Villena Zuñiga of SERNANP, one Petzl Mambo 10.1mm dynamic climbing rope, one Edelrid climbing harness, and two Omega KN-22 carabiners.

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 Architect Ricardo Ruiz Caro, Regional Director, Ministry of Culture-Cusco; Engineer José Carlos Navarrete Nieto for SERNANP; and anthropologist Dr. Fernando Astete, Archaeologist for the Machu Picchu Sanctuary.

Detailed Trip Report

On June 8, 2014, volunteer traveled from Cusco by bus to Ollantaytambo, then by train to Machu Picchu Pueblo (Aguas Calientes). On June 10, 2014, the volunteers received a welcome from SERNANP at the Machu Picchu Pueblo office. The volunteers each picked up tools and brushes from the cache of equipment previously donated by Conservation VIP. The tools were used by the volunteers both at Chachabamba and the Machu Picchu Museum in order to perform the assigned tasks.

Chachabamba Inka Site Volunteer Project Description

On June 10, 2014, 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 lichen and plant material from the walls, pillars, windows, niches, and fountains of the Inka 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 be divided into two teams. One team worked one half of the day on June 10, 2014, in the reforestation area on the north side of Quebrada Chachabamba with the SERNANP staff while the other half worked at the archaeological site of Chachabamba with the Ministry of Culture staff. During the afternoon of June 10, 2014, both teams work in the ruins of Chachabamba with the Ministry of Culture staff. The other team worked in the reforestation area with the SERNANP staff or one half day on June 11, 2014, and again both teams worked in the ruins of Chachabamba during the afternoon of June 11, 2014, with the Ministry of Culture staff.



All of the volunteers working at the archaeological site used only nylon brushes and wooden sticks to clean walls, niches, windows, and fountains. The volunteers removing weeds from the reforested area pulled them by hand. Work continued until 1700 hrs. at which time the volunteers prepared to leave to take the train back to Machu Picchu Pueblo.

Machu Picchu Site Museum

On June 12, 2014, all of the volunteers toured the Machu Picchu Site Museum. After touring the Museum, each volunteer was presented with a gift from María Elena Bustamante, Administrator of P.N. Machu Picchu, Ministry of Culture. The volunteers were then divided into two groups. One group worked in the garden on the east side of the Museum removing dead leaves and other detritus. They also swept stone paths.

The other group removed invasive species from the road bed on the west side of the Museum.



Visit to Machu Picchu Sacred City

All of the volunteers visited the Machu Picchu Sacred City on June 9 and June 13, 2014. Admission to the Sacred City was paid by CVIP. During the two visits to the Sacred City, the volunteers received extensive lectures by Conservation VIP archaeologist Dr. 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, the Temple of the Moon, and all of the ruins in the Sacred City.

Prior to traveling to Machu Picchu, the volunteers visited the Machu Picchu Museum in Cusco on June 7, 2014. At the Museum, Dr. William Sapp III lectured to the volunteers about how the Peruvian government struggled to have the artifacts returned to Peru from Yale University. This provided a historical context for the volunteers to understand how the Peruvian government has worked diligently under difficult circumstances to protect the patrimony of Peru from looting and destruction.

Acknowledgements

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.

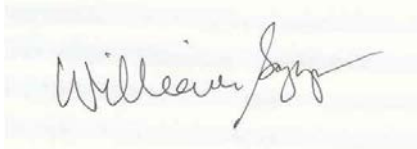
We also thank Sixto Miranda, CONSETTUR Machu Picchu, for assistance with bus tickets to Machu Picchu.

Thank you to REI Adventures for enabling Conservation VIP to acquire the donated climbing rescue ropes. The ropes are essential rescue equipment for the Rangers in Machu Picchu and are prohibitively expensive in Peru.

Many thanks to 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 their representative Jorge Garca.

Special thanks are reserved for our local guide Santiago Carrasco Bellota, who provided extensive historical and environmental information. He also worked alongside of our volunteers at Chachabamba and the Machu Picchu Site Museum. His assistance in obtaining permits from the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Environment/SERNANP was invaluable.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "William Sapp".

William Sapp, Director
Conservation Volunteers International Program