



**PROJECT REPORT**  
**MACHU PICCHU SANCTUARY VOLUNTEER TRIP**  
November 6-15, 2014

**Executive Summary**

Conservation Volunteers International Program (Conservation VIP) organized and led a volunteer expedition to the Historical Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, November 2014, 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 architect Ricardo Ruiz Caro Villagarcía, Regional Director, Ministry of Culture-Cusco, and by engineer José Carlos Nieto Navarrete, Director of the Historical Sanctuary of Machu Picchu for SERNANP. The projects were discussed with anthropologist Dr. Fernando Astete Victoria, Director of the Historical Sanctuary of Machu Picchu.

Fifteen volunteers plus three trip leaders: Dr. William Sapp III, Archaeologist, licensed in Peru (RNA No. BS-9917), Member of the Board of Directors of Conservation VIP; Janice Ballak, Member of the Board of Directors of Conservation VIP; and local guide Santiago Carrasco Bellota, performed 360 hours of volunteer work related to the following projects:

1. Removed lichen and plants from 393 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 November 10 and November 11, 2014.
2. Removed lichen and plants from seven 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 November 10 and 11, 2014
3. Removed 770 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. Cleaned 100 meters of trails and flowerbeds in the orchid garden located on the east side of Machu Picchu Pueblo. This work was performed on November 12, 2014.
5. Donated to Anthropologist Edwin Campos Castro, Administrator of P.N. Machu Picchu, Ministry of Culture, one Mammut dynamic 60 meter x 10.2 mm climbing rope, one Petzl 362 Class B locking carabiner, and one Black Diamond figure 8.
6. Donated to SERNANP, one Stealth Cam model STC-E28 motion activated camera and one 32 GB Maxflash memory card.

Trip leaders will provide this report to architect Ricardo Ruiz Caro Villagarcía, Regional Director, Ministry of Culture-Cusco; engineer José Carlos Nieto Navarrete, Director of the Historical Sanctuary of Machu

Picchu for SERNANP; and anthropologist Dr. Fernando Astete, Archaeologist for the Machu Picchu Sanctuary.

### **Detailed Trip Report**

On November 8, 2014, volunteers traveled from Cusco by bus to Ollantaytambo, then by train to Machu Picchu Pueblo (Aguas Calientes). On November 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 at Chachabamba in order to perform the assigned tasks.

### **Chachabamba Inka Site Volunteer Project Description**

On November 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.



**Figure 1** Volunteers cleaning walls and fountains 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 November 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 November 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 November 11, 2014, and again both teams worked in the ruins of Chachabamba during the afternoon of November 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.

### **Orchid Sanctuary-Machu Picchu Pueblo**

On November 12, 2014, all of the volunteers removed fallen leaves from plant beds and trails in the orchid sanctuary located on the east side of Machu Picchu Pueblo. Approximately 100 meters of trail were cleaned.



**Figure 2** Volunteers working in the orchid sanctuary

### **Visit to Machu Picchu Sacred City**

All of the volunteers visited the Machu Picchu Sacred City on November 9 and November 13, 2014. Admission to the Sacred City was paid by Conservation VIP. During the two visits to the Sacred City, the volunteers received extensive lectures by local guide Santiago Carrasco Bellota and Conservation VIP archaeologist Dr. William Sapp III about the Inka culture and preservation issues related to increased visitation. The volunteers visited the Sun Gate, the Inka 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 November 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 Sr. Sixto Miranda, CONSETTUR Machu Picchu, for assistance with bus tickets to Machu Picchu.

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 Garcia.

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.

William Sapp, Director  
Conservation Volunteers International Program

