

Working Abroad 20th Anniversary (97–17)

Achievements by our local Project Partners around the World

It has now been 20 years since we in June 1997 started compiling together information from our travels and volunteering experiences, and from information we had collected from all over the world to create a volunteer database. The database consisted of personalised reports on NGOs and grassroots organisations that were interested in bringing volunteers to their projects. Over the years, the requests for our personalised reports grew continuously, and we were doing about 100 reports each month. Needless to say, that for 16 years, we had been doing a lot!

In the summer of 2013, our database went online and has since then continued helping people to easily find organisations with volunteer projects around the world. Since it went online;

- The database has been searched over 220,000 times
- Total views are over half a million (incl. all pages/projects within the database)
- Volunteer organisations have received 10,000 contacts from interested volunteers
- Over 1200 volunteer projects have been added by organisations around the world
- The database has volunteer projects listed from over 120 different countries

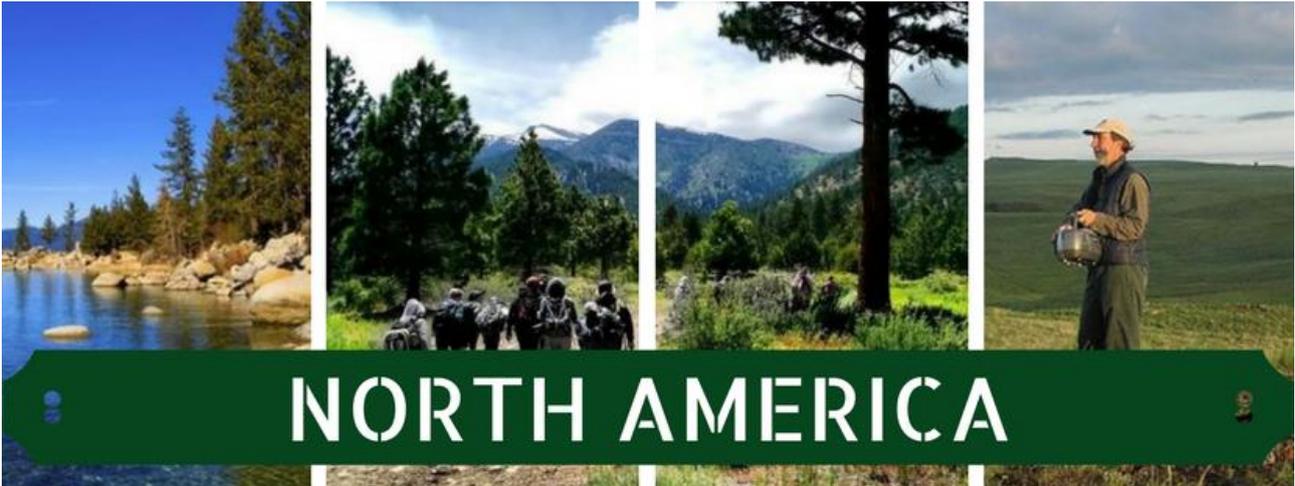
In the year 2001, we started to collaborate with local partner organisations directly, some which we have been cooperating with for the past 10+ years. In the past few months, we have gathered information from many of our project partners around the world in order to quantify what the volunteers have achieved. Some represent numbers from the 2015/16 season, while others since their inception.

What they all have in common regardless of location or type of project, is that every single one of our partners are greatly appreciative and grateful for the help that volunteers bring to the project every year. Many of these projects wouldn't be able to keep going without volunteers to assist them, so we and our partners are sending a big THANK YOU to all our volunteers for your time and efforts!

We look forward to continuing to help people and our partners alike, to come together in many years to come, and to produce great results and achieve goals in the name of conservation and development.

All the best,

Vicky & Andreas



We have four volunteer project partners in the United States of America, which all engage with nature conservation programmes on both the East and West Coast.

At our **Galena Creek Visitor Center Naturalist project in Nevada**, which we have been working with since 2009, volunteers work alongside local staff to teach 440 kids in their summer programme. All kids participated in a full 5-day science programme, which means the project provided 2,200 so-called participant days in 2016.

Our **Conservation project in California** offers volunteers the opportunity to do ecology and conservation work at several locations. This is what volunteers from 2016 spread on 21 different service locations assisted with:

- about 17 miles of trail maintenance
- 2.9 miles of brushing
- cleared 16 logs from the trail
- planted 1,039 native plants and trees (on another location 5.7 acres!)
- mulched 2000ft² and installed 184 tree stakes at Madrid Middle School and Mullhall Elementary
- watered 600ft² of California blackberry and stinging nettle
- set 74 rocks to build 3 multi-tier walls and an armouring wall
- performed 33 acres of brush-cutting
- built 1.5 mile of new trail
- created 1 mile of fire break
- removed 25 bags of trash from Pinky Field
- built 103 ft² of log cribbing
- mulched 197 y³ of pinyon pine needles to build 10x10x5 ft. conical structures around the edge of restoration sites
- removed 4.6 acres of invasive Jubata and fennel, 2500 ft² of English ivy, Cape ivy, and Ereharta, around 6 acres of invasive Himalayan blackberry, 3 acres of invasive yellow star thistle, medusa head, and Maltese thistle, and invasive artichoke thistle and Saharan mustard from approx. 10 acres

Since 2011, we have been working together with our **Cape Fear River Watch project partner in North Carolina**. Each year during their 3-month internship, every volunteer teaches 75 children about local water quality issues, conservation efforts etc. on their Eco-Camp. They also partake on Enviroscape presentations that teaches 100 children each year about environmental matters, and paddles that take about 300 people from the community out on the Cape Fear River or its tributaries. This means in the past 6 years; more than 1000 children have been receiving important education on environmental matters related to their local community.



In Central America, we have three conservation project partners in Costa Rica. They work to help the further conservation of several turtle species such as the Olive Ridley, Green, Leatherback and Hawksbill sea turtles, as well as crocodile monitoring and community development.

We have worked with the **Pacific Sea Turtle project** since 2011. From July to December 2016, volunteers helped record in total 3230 sea turtle activities on Rio Oro beach, of which 97% were by the Olive Ridley turtle, 2.9% by the Green turtle and 0.06% by the Hawksbill turtle.

Volunteers at our **Playa Tortuga project**, which we have also partnered with since 2011, have been part of 1620 hours of monitoring Tortuga beach in 2016. They helped find 20 turtle nests, tag 30 nesting turtles, and release close to 1000 hatched turtles. In 2016, volunteers also took part in the monitoring of crocs in the Terraba river. They assisted in the detection and data collection, where 60 American crocodiles and 30 caimans were captured. This is double the number from 2015.



CARIBBEAN

In the Caribbean, we have three volunteer project partners in Carriacou, Grenada and St. Eustatius. They engage with sea turtle conservation, reef monitoring and other marine and nature conservation efforts.

Our [Leatherback Sea Turtle Conservation partner in Grenada](#) has been working with us since 2006, and volunteers have helped release 1000s of rescued hatchlings, and educated over 1,000 students on turtle education. Volunteers have also assisted with:

- recording 330 leatherback sea turtles
- counting 110,541 eggs
- tagging 443 turtles
- recording 1,144 leatherback nests
- planting 500 trees
- teaching 50 students to swim under national learn to swim week

We first started sending volunteers to our [Caribbean Reef Buddy project in Carricacou](#), in 2016. The project has from the time and profits gathered from volunteers, been able to:

- Extend their grant from the Global Environment Facility for another 6 months. This meant that funds could be allocated to pay local fishermen to catch lionfish, conduct extra dedicated cull dives with locally trained divers, and award prize money for an additional lionfish derby.
- Fund a ReefCheck Course Director from the US to train 4 staff as ReefCheck instructors. This has enabled the team to conduct valuable reef surveys (ongoing), and provided a facility where government rangers and other NGO staff can undergo ReefCheck training.
- Build a new dive boat, as Hurricane Matthew destroyed the main one. The contract was awarded to a local boat builder.



In South America, our project partners are spread out on the continent from conservation efforts in Peru and Ecuador to community development programmes in Brazil and Argentina.

We have partnered with our **Community Development and Teaching project in Argentina** since 2012. Having volunteers has enabled our partner to buy medicine and food for the children at the orphanage, as well as helped the orphanage to pay the rent for one of the houses. They have been able to start an English teaching cooperative, so the older students can now be teachers for the younger, and have a job. Next to this, they have been able to buy tools for the organic garden, and build a small classroom at the Pacheco Community Centre. This helps the youth from the neighbourhood with agricultural skills.

In **Ecuador**, we have been working with our local **Cloud Forest Conservation project** partner since 2008. Volunteers are monthly contributing to:

- the maintenance of 1 hectare of organic vegetable gardens, 2 ha. coffee- and banana plantations
- planting on average 150 trees in the field and nursery
- taking care of around 100 trees
- collecting an average of 50 seeds of native trees
- maintaining an average of 5km of forest trails

Besides this, volunteers assist with construction and maintenance of infrastructure, including building a goat house, coffee drier and roof for cutting grass in 2016.

At our **Amazon Basin Research and Conservation Programme in Peru**, volunteers have been helping two of our local project partners with important conservation and research efforts in the Amazon rainforest. With our local project partner on the taxonomic groups, Working Abroad volunteers have since 2011 assisted with many varied tasks related to mammal, bird, insect and herpetofauna conservation and research. In 2016, WorkingAbroad volunteers were part of:

- 36 Mammal species registered with transects and camera traps (80% of total registered in 2016)
- 1366 mammal encounters during transects and camera traps (65% of total)
- 590 km of Mammal transect sampled (65% of total)
- 463 birds measured and ringed/banded using mist nets (50% of total)

- 271 bird species recorded using mist nets and point counts (70% of total)
- 675 Herpetofauna encounters with transects, cuadrats and pitfall traps (50% of total)
- 62 Herpetofauna species registered with transects and cuadrats (60% of total)
- 21 km of Herpetofauna transect sampled (40% of total)

With our other project partner, volunteers have assisted with several important tasks since the inception in 2015. Numerous volunteers have taken part in patrolling the conservation area, and have successfully prevented any deforestation of 4,460 hectare highly-threatened virgin rainforest, despite the surrounding areas of the rainforest sadly experiencing increasing rates of deforestation! One previous WorkingAbroad volunteer has even helped develop a renewable energy plan for the project's solar energy installation.

Also, did you know that several volunteers taking part on this programme have later come back to join as a member of the team? One WorkingAbroad volunteer, Adam will return this year to assist the coordination of the Forest Ranger programme. Harry Turner also volunteered in 2014 on the Herpetofauna team, and later came back to work as a Forest Ranger.



We have numerous volunteer project partners around Europe in Spain, Scotland, Italy, Greece, Croatia, Sweden, Slovakia and Iceland. The programmes range from dolphin and other marine conservation efforts to wildlife tracking and community development.

We have worked with our **Dolphin Research programme in Spain** since 2015. In 2016, six volunteers from Working Abroad joined the project. The volunteers spent on average 40 hours per week working, and participated in approximately 30 boat-based observation trips, and spent more than 200 hours at sea. This covered 400m² of sea per survey, and helped identify around 200 bottlenose dolphins, 50 common dolphins, 16 harbour porpoises and 3 minke whales in 2016.

At our **Conservation & Community Volunteering Project in Valencia and Denia, Spain**, volunteers have since 2015 helped remove more than 1,000 invasive plants, as well as planted and taken care of about 250 local plants.

Volunteers at our **Bear and Wildlife tracking project in Sweden** has since 2009 assisted with keeping the farm in Dalsvallen ongoing and thus further shared awareness on the disappearing forest and bears in Sweden.

We have partnered with our **White Wilderness - Carpathian Wolf Tracking Project in Slovakia** since 2011. Volunteers have assisted with surveying approx. 600 km of snow tracking routes each year during two months, in which some 100-200 samples are collected each year for genetic analysis of wolves and lynx. This data allows our partner to build up a detailed and reliable picture of wolf packs and numbers in the north of Slovakia, providing a basis for sound conservation management.

In 2016, we started our partnership with the **Whale and Dolphin Conservation project in the Hebrides, Scotland**. Last year, they recorded the highest number of dolphins in one season (May-October), and volunteers were part of recording no less than 2,303 common dolphins, 42 bottlenose dolphins and 94 Risso's dolphins. The project also documented more than 1,300 cetaceans and basking sharks, and recorded almost 700 hours of underwater detections of cetaceans using specialist listening equipment. The project now holds data from more than 95,000km of survey effort, and covered more than 5,000 nautical miles in 2016.

Since 2011, we have sent volunteers to our **Bottlenose Dolphin Research project in Croatia**. They cover the whole North Adriatic, which is known as a nursing area for bottlenose dolphins, meaning volunteers often get to observe mothers with their calves. In 2015, volunteers assisted in the recording of 86 individual bottlenose dolphins. Of the total 122 sightings that year, 27 individuals were newly registered in their catalogue. Next to this, they observed 19 sea turtles of which it was possible to place satellite transmitters on 9 turtles for further research.

Volunteers from Working Abroad has since 2010 assisted our **Dolphin Research Volunteer Project in Greece**. In the Ionian Sea, volunteers have been part of surveying 9,948km of sea for the past 7 years, and taken 894 behavioural samples. Volunteers have in the same time been part of trips that have sighted in total 17 short-beaked common dolphins, 399 common bottlenose dolphins, and 439 loggerhead turtles. They have also been part of photo-identification tasks of which 34,336 pictures have been taken of both dolphin species in the inner Ionian Sea and the Ambracian Gulf.



Our volunteer project partners in Africa are located in the South – Namibia and South Africa, and in the East – Kenya, as well as in the island nations of Mauritius and Seychelles. The aim of the projects range from wildlife and marine conservation to ecology and community programmes.

In 2016, volunteers at our **Nature Valley project in South Africa** assisted in reaching 3,000 community members with environmental education and community awareness programmes. They also assisted with:

- planting 50 indigenous trees in local schools and communities
- 4 kids birding clubs at local schools
- teaching 7 lessons for 4 local schools in the Adopt-a-Beach programme
- a large community clean-up event in Kurland village (around 500 people collect around 500 bags of trash each year), as well as two large beach clean-up events on International Coastal Clean-up Day in September
- beach litter surveys each month
- catching and ringing 1000 indigenous birds for long term monitoring
- monthly monitoring of invasive Mosquito Fish populations in the Groot River estuary
- 4 annual surveys of marine fish use in Groot river (measure around 20,000 fish per year)
- interviewing/engaging around 200 recreational fishermen on sustainable fishing each year

At our **Ocean Research and Marine Conservation Volunteer and Intern Project in South Africa**, volunteers have taken part in a great variety of activities since 2014. In the past year, volunteers have assisted with:

- collecting 6,800 elasmobranch egg cases in surveys
- ringing around 476 birds
- rescuing 4-6 penguins (every year)
- planting about 60 trees (every year)
- conducting 24 river health assessments

Also, thanks to volunteers, our partner is able to pay for 11 teachers' salaries in the local community, and provide 2 cooked meals every day to all 265 children in their crèche. Next to this, they can fund 20 shows a year at the Lunchbox Theatre, which reaches over 500 children from disadvantaged schools per show raising awareness on important social and conservation issues. This year, they also sponsored the Adopt-a-Beach programme for two schools in collaboration with our Nature Valley project, and thus assisting with further important educational activities.

Our wildlife conservation programmes in South Africa keep their wildlife surveys and data confidential due to the poaching risk. So, while volunteers have contributed greatly to these efforts since we started working with them in 2014, we are not able to disclose this information. The two following volunteer programmes thus only reveal how volunteers have assisted in relation to restoration and rehabilitation of reserve landscapes, alien plant control and bird monitoring.

In 2016, volunteers at our **Big 5 Game Reserve volunteer project in Kariega, South Africa** have assisted with:

- 53 alien plant removal sessions on the reserve
- 24 BIRP monitoring sessions (approximately 114 hrs), with the result of 145 different bird species being encountered. Meaning that volunteers have encountered around 52% of the bird species historically recorded on Kariega (280 species), which included rare sightings of the Booted eagle, African cuckoo hawk, Gabar goshawk black morph, Half collared kingfisher and the Olive woodpecker
- planting about 3914 pork bush plants on the reserve

At our **Shamwari Game Reserve volunteer project in South Africa**, volunteers have contributed to the following in 2016:

- cleared 100ha pines
- cleared 149.2ha prickly pears
- poisoned 119.8ha of rooikrans
- poisoned 43ha of jointed cactus
- cleared 24.7ha of Eucalyptus
- cleared 9km of Datura stramonium
- removed 1.8km of fence

Volunteers at our **Big Cat Sanctuary in South Africa** has since its start in 2015 assisted with:

- planting 10 large trees in lions' enclosures
- educating nearly 200 children from the local community about nature and animals

The project has also thanks to volunteers been able to rescue nine lions, two tigers, two leopards, three caracals and three jackals, and as a result, stopped the breeding of these. It has recently taken on the task of rescuing two lions and two tigers from a ZOO closing down in Argentina. They have also managed to educate nearly 8000 tourists about the big cat industry, helped with wild leopard and African wild cat relocations, as well as educate in farmer wildlife conflict. The project is an

advocate of ending predator breeding in South Africa, and has been able to end breeding of lions at a game lodge.

We have worked with our **Watamu Sea Turtle Volunteer Project partner in Kenya** since 2010. The project has achieved many great things with the support from volunteers, also known as eco-visitors. Since their *By-catch Release Programme* was initiated in 1998, they have released over 15,000 turtles caught accidentally in fishing gear. Their *Turtle Rehabilitation Centre* has since 2003 admitted and cared for over 400 sick and injured sea turtles giving them a second chance of life. Volunteers have taken part in their *Nest Monitoring and Protection programme*, which has monitored over 750 nests since 1997, and seen over 57,000 hatchlings crawling into the ocean. In 2001, our partner started the *Marine Environment Education Programme* which involves 30 schools in Watamu. Every year, more than 2,500 local children take part in education sessions and field work related to the marine environment. Beach clean-ups are also an important task that volunteers take part in, and on World Environment Day in 2015, volunteers alongside 400 school pupils removed 4 tonnes of rubbish from the Watamu Marine Park Beach. Finally, volunteers have helped plant over 200,000 mangroves seedlings in the Mida Creek to help preserve the marine environment.

At our **Desert Elephant project in Namibia**, volunteers have helped build 176 protection walls and around 10 alternative drinking points since the beginning in 2003. Volunteers have also assisted in completing identification on all elephants in the region thanks to the patrols they partake in. Funds from volunteers have also helped contribute to their PEACE Education Project, which helps communities understand how to live safely with elephants. Thus far, around 2,000 local community members have taken part.

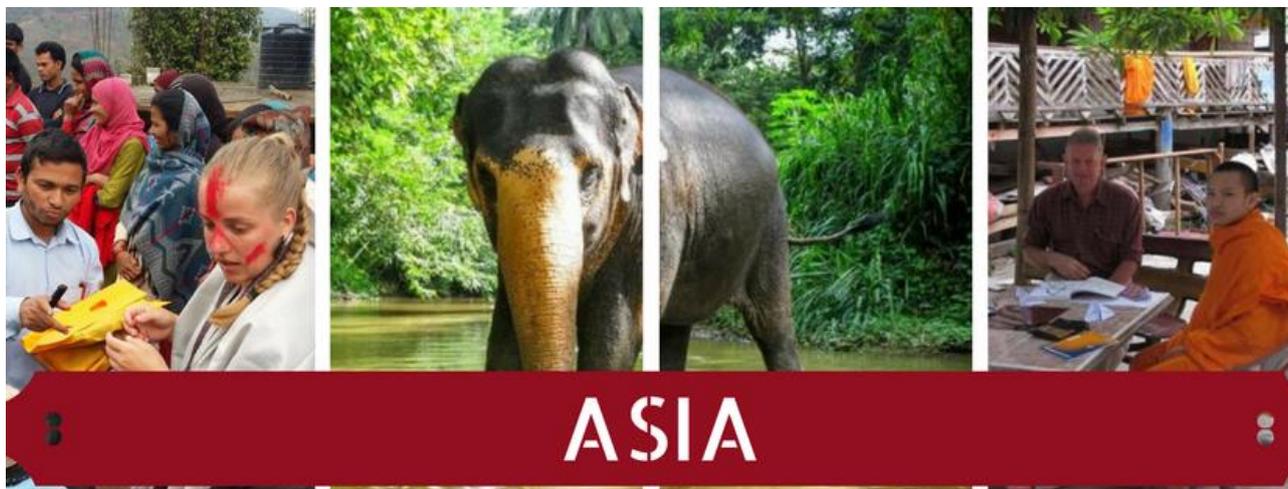
Our **Wildlife Conservation & San Bushmen Community Project in Namibia** takes on a great variation of tasks. With help from volunteers, they have since the beginning successfully collared and released 87 carnivores. In 2016, this included 9 leopards, 1 brown hyena and 1 spotted hyena. Also in 2016:

- 8 cheetahs, 11 baboons, 1 aardwolf, 11 jackals, 1 kudu, 2 leopards, 9 meerkats, 4 banded mongooses, 2 spotted gents, 1 oryx, 2 pangolins, 15 porcupines, 3 rock hyraxes, 3 vervet monkeys, and 5 African wild dogs were rescued to the wildlife sanctuary
- The Rapid Response Team drove in total 10,240 km, which included attending to 40 human-wildlife conflict cases
- The Lifeline Clinic provided 1600 nutritious meals as part of its "feed the village" afternoons
- 17 children of the San Bushmen community attended their Clever Cubs school

In 2008, our project partner covered 8% of Namibian farmland, but in 2016 this had increased to 60%! Of the large carnivores collared in 2016 - less than 10% proved to be a habitual livestock killer. With livestock protection methods, it has resulted in a loss reduction of up to 88%.

Since 2014, our **Blue Lagoon and Coral Reef Monitoring Volunteer project partner in Mauritius** has been receiving volunteers to assist with important reef and marine conservation efforts. Since 2010, over 1500 children have participated in the educational classroom sessions learning about the lagoon and over 300 have taken part in Mangrove planting. In 2016, they managed with help from

volunteers to identify around 100 different species of fish, and have thus been able to compare dominant families at each site as well as the diversity of species.



ASIA

Our volunteer project partners in Asia range from teaching English and community development programmes in Laos, Nepal, Cambodia and India to our Elephant Sanctuary in Thailand.

In 2016, we started working with our **English teaching project in Laos**, where volunteers were part of in total 265 teaching hours, helping some of the 345 students to learn English throughout the year.

We have worked with our **Community Development project partner in Nepal** since 2012, and the project has thus far been able to do the following with the help and money from volunteers:

- painted 2 schools inside and out to protect the building and have a brighter look, as well provided them with solar panels, batteries, and various equipment like books, pens, first aid kits, water filters etc.
- planted around 5,000 trees to reforest an area close to Chitwan national park
- taught 15 lessons on the environment and effects of plastic on waterways and land
- ran 6 free health camps in six different rural areas of Nepal providing free health checks and treatment to over 4,000 people
- gave around 8,100 English teaching lessons to around 150 students
- provided 7 Nepali students scholarships and placements at universities abroad
- handed out 10 boxes of toys, clothes and stationary to three different orphanages
- provided a water pump to an orphanage in Kathmandu and new toilet in Rupa School
- provided further education to four girls by paying their university fees
- given 8000+ hours of disabled child care and support

After the 2015 earthquake, the project provided emergency repair work to the disabled day care centre, when the building got badly damaged. They handed out food and basic shelter to more than 2,000 people in three different locations in the weeks that followed, which included tarpaulin sheets, rice, dal, salt, sugar, tea, soap and other basics. They also rebuilt 4 homes and livestock buildings in

two villages that were destroyed, as well as an 8-classroom school that was re-opened in April 2017. They also provided \$1000 worth of tin sheets for Ghorka school to build temporary classrooms.

Volunteers at our **Elephant Sanctuary in Thailand**, which we started working with in 2013, have helped plant roughly 40 trees and 1.5 tonnes worth of grass in 2016. They have also helped mix around 115 bags of cement and lay over 700 buckets of sand to level the ground, so it could be cemented and a temple built upon it. Volunteers have also helped chop more than 10,000 pumpkins and water melons, and peeled over 100,000 bananas to feed the elephants. Finally, volunteers have assisted with teaching 50 private (one on one) English classes with individual locals.

We have been partnering with our **Teaching English project in Cambodia** since 2011. Thanks to volunteers, our local project partner has been able to recently:

- open a new school ECE (English Courses for Education) based in the Toul Kork area of Phnom Penh. They now aim to help teach an average of 300-600 new students
- help Lataste School financially, which welcomes children who come from difficult family conditions in north-western Cambodia
- help the NGO Teuksaat with providing clean water to at least 5000 children for an entire year
- help provide on-going support for Eco-tourism
- help Capax World financially with a small donation to build a house for a vulnerable widow
- provide some financial help to a primary school in Kampong Thom province, which will help them provide sport materials and a football field.

Since 2013, we have partnered with our **Island Volunteer Project partner in the Maldives**. They have since their inception in late 2012, been able to achieve the following with assistance from volunteers:

- Care for 237 Turtles
- Release 146 Turtles
- Rescue 6 (injured) Turtles
- Partake on 104 Beach and Reefs cleans
- Complete 51 Reef/Fish surveys
- Assist on 18 Community development projects
- Make 104 visits to Uninhabited Islands
- Transplanted 5 Coral Frames
- Teach 2,160 lessons on many different subjects such as art, sciences, music etc.
- Teach 225 swimming lessons for the Islands' women and children
- Assist for 671 days with medical tasks on a local hospital
- Donate 410 Medical Supplies



We have a few conservation and ecology volunteer project partners in Australia and New Zealand, who we have been collaborating with since 2013 and 2014 respectively.

In the past four years, WorkingAbroad volunteers at our **Kiwi Conservation Programme in New Zealand** have helped cut 5km of conservation tracks in the forest, and monitored about 30 kiwi chicks for a total of 60 hours. This has been achieved from 300 hours of biodiversity ranger work for the New Zealand Department of Conservation and 1200 hours for the Pupu Rangī Nature Sanctuary.