

# Indigenous Community Environmental Project



The project is organized by a family of the ethnic group, the 'Kichwa', which are situated in the upper Napo in the Amazon of Ecuador. It started as a project in 2006 and all community members are part of in total 35 families.

The Kichwa language is the second language of Ecuador, because of the fact that the Kichwa's are the biggest indigenous population in the country. They have their own lifestyle with their own habits and specific traditions. The health system is based on the shamans and medicinal plants. Unfortunately the Kichwa culture is disappearing because of the worldwide globalization. The Jatunyacu community is located in the Napo province in the Ecuadorian Amazon, about 40 minutes outside of the capital of the province, which is called Tena. The community consist of 35 Kichwan families, a school with 3 teachers and a child day-care centre. The daily activities consist of agricultural activities and fishing. The food is mainly based on consuming banana's, papaya's, oranges, yuca's, chicha's, exotic fruits, chicken, fish, chonta curu etc.

Volunteers help the community in a number of areas in order to protect this unique culture and the surrounding environment whilst at the same time learning a lot about the modern day conflict faced by many indigenous communities that want to progress in modern society whilst preserving their heritage for future generations.

## **VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

Volunteer tasks vary greatly depending on the needs of the community and the time of year that you visit, however activities can included:

- Give English classes at the school of the community, during school times from Monday till Friday.
- Give classes about the environmental problems or about health
- Conduct specific studies about issues which are related to the flora and fauna within the area of the community.
- To support and advice in the construction of making cottages.
- Help with the sales of the local food at a local supermarket.
- Making artisanal crafts to improve the sales in other countries.
- Help with construction of environmentally friendly baths and helping with the development of an alternative for organic compost through good management of organic wastes

## **WORK SCHEDULE**

You will work from Monday to Friday and will have your weekends free to explore the local area. Your working hours are flexible depending on the task that are need to be carried out however generally you will work in the morning from 8.30am until midday and in the afternoon from 2pm till 4pm. You will work approximately 4 to 6 hours per day.

## **LOCATION**

This project is based in the a community located in a rural area just 40 minutes outside of the city Tena.