ECOLOGY PROJECT
INTERNATIONAL

COSTA RICA TEACHER TRAINING

Professional Development & Field Science Using the NGSS*

JOURNEY TO THE RAINFOREST. FIND THE PATH OF PERSONAL GROWTH.

On Ecology Project International's (EPI) Costa Rica Teacher Training program, you'll be immersed in the lowland tropical rainforest and Carribean coastline of EPI's Pacuare Reserve - the region's most imporant leatherback nesting beach and a vital wildlife corridor for Central American felines and primates. You'll learn how to bring real-world phenomena into the heart of your curriculum.

Once logged for timber and grazed by cattle, Pacuare Reserve's coastline has been protected since 1989 and is now home to more than 2,700 species of wildlife including jaguar, ocelot, three species of primates, and 200+ species of birds, including the rare agami heron.

During your research and conservation service projects at Pacuare Reserve, you'll learn strategies to help your students observe, question, collect data, discuss, and critically analyze the world around them. Dive head-first into the NGSS framework using the rich, real-world phenomena of Costa Rica to develop lessons and unit plans that will captivate your students and kindle their passion for science.

*NGSS is a registered trademark of Achieve. Neither Achieve nor the lead states and partners that developed the NGSS were involved in the production of this product and do not endorse it .

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive in San Jose airport and meet your EPI instructors before shuttling to a local hotel for the night.

Day 2: Travel by private shuttle over the lush premontane rainforest of the Braulio Carrillo National Park to Costa Rica's Caribbean Coast. From there, leave civilization behind as you quietly boat along meandering, wildlife-rich canals - the only access to EPI's private and unplugged Pacuare Reserve.

Days 3-5: Spend your days enjoying field excursions that model student activities. Monitor leatherback sea turtles at night and explore the lowland tropical rainforest's abundance of primate, reptile, and bird-life. Begin creating a framework for integrating your growing NGSS skills into the classroom.

Day 6: Reflect upon your field science knowledge and experience, and its application for the classroom, then celebrate all the work you've done to protect this unique and biodiverse corner of Costa Rica during an aerial tram ride.

Day 7: Depart for home.

TEACHING SCIENCE
With the NGSS

COSTA RICA TEACHER TRAINING

COSTA RICA IS YOUR CLASSROOM

EPI's Pacuare Reserve teems with life. Howler monkeys call through the canopy. Leatherback sea turtles nest in the night. What better place to grow your personal teaching practice? On EPI's Costa Rica Program, you'll assist researchers on a variety of projects. Do you want to track big cats in the rainforest? Or observe the behavior and migratory patterns of monkeys? There's no wonder in the world like walking the beach by moonlight, searching for hatchling turtles.

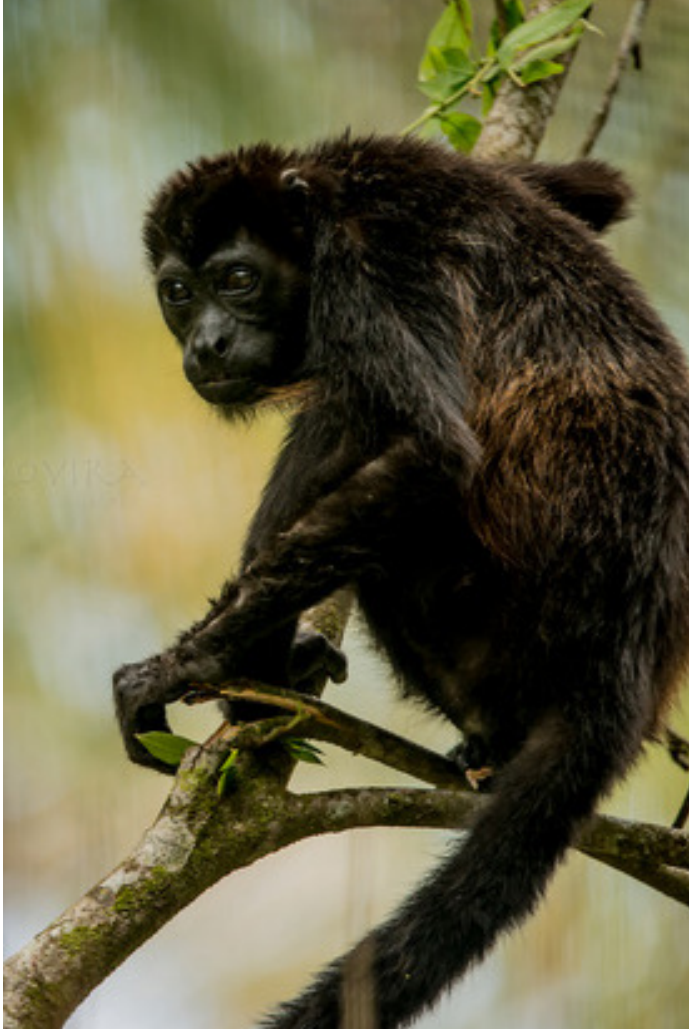
SKILL BUILDING

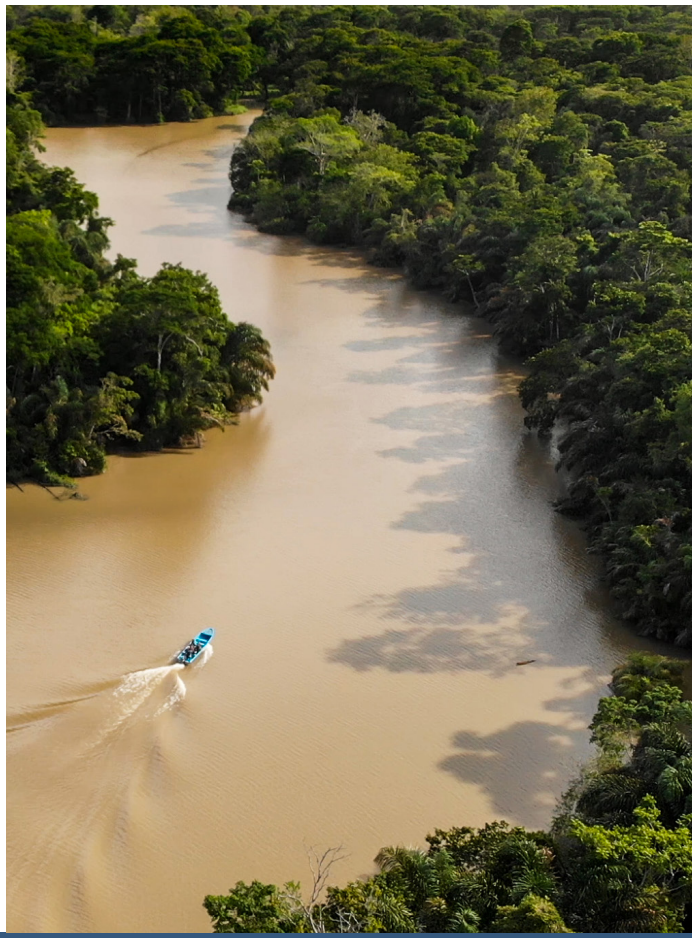
Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Read and interpret the NGSS for classroom use
- Create NGSS-aligned lessons using the 5E Learning Cycle
- Teach science in or out of the classroom
- Use research-supported teaching methods, tools, and strategies for supporting students in growing their science and engineering practices
- Identify and collaborate with research and conservation partners available in your community

DEVELOP A PEER NETWORK

Back at camp, you'll have time to collaborate, plan, and write lessons with other science teachers. You'll also have space to share your teaching challenges, best practices, and opportunities to enhance science education with your cohort. Return home with a template for creating future lessons and unit plans, as well as new resources and peers to support and guide you on your continuing teacher journey.





PROGRAM LENGTH

7-day

DATES

June 21
June 29

TUITION

$1,995 (plus airfare)

ACCREDITATION

4 Graduate Credits

HAMLINE UNIVERSITY

(Registration fees apply)