TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)

Volunteer Opportunities 2027

Wayqecha Biological Station
Andean Bear Conservation Program

Season: February to October 2027

Work where the Andes meet the Amazon



Three ways to join us

Position 1
Botany & Wildlife
Plant inventories, restoration, camera traps and Andean bear research

On-site

Position 2
Environmental Education
Support our local team with lessons, groups and activities in the cloud forest

On-site

Position 3
Design & Interpretation
Create posters, trail panels and educational materials

Remote or on-site

1. Location

Wayqecha Cloud Forest Biological Station, Kosñipata Valley, Cusco, Peru (buffer zone of Manu National Park).

More information: acca.org.pe

2. Dates, duration and costs

Volunteer season	Opens February 2027 and remains open until October 2027
Start date	Flexible: you may start any month within the season
Minimum stay	2 months (on-site positions)
Applications	Reviewed on a rolling basis until positions are filled
Costs (on-site)	Self-funded. Room and board approx. USD 35 per night (subject to change). Travel and health/travel insurance are covered by the volunteer
Costs (remote)	None. Remote design volunteers work from home

3. Context

Imagine waking up above the clouds, at the edge of Manu National Park, one of the most biodiverse places on Earth. Wayqecha is a research and teaching station on the eastern slope of the Andes (2,000 to 3,000 m), home to more than 300 bird species, the elusive Andean bear and the dwarf Peruvian deer. Volunteers join our Andean Bear Conservation Program, which combines biodiversity monitoring, forest restoration, environmental education and outreach.

POSITION 1 **Botany & Wildlife Volunteer** ON-SITE

Spend your days between plants and wildlife. This hybrid role gives you hands-on experience in both botanical and wildlife research, so you see how a cloud forest works as a whole: from seeds and saplings to the mammals that depend on them.

Botany	Wildlife monitoring
• Cloud forest plant inventories • Ecological restoration experiments • Germination trials focused on threatened tree species	• Camera-trap monitoring • Mammal identification • Ecology studies of the Andean bear and the dwarf Peruvian deer

Love photography? Your images may feature in our field guides, catalogs and outreach materials. You will also:

- Support environmental education and citizen science activities
- Help share stories from the field through social media

You bring

- Studies in, or a strong interest in, biology, ecology or related fields
- Basic botany knowledge and eagerness to learn
- Advanced English and conversational Spanish

POSITION 2 **Environmental Education Volunteer** ON-SITE

Love sharing nature with others? Working alongside our local education team, you will help children, students and visitors discover the cloud forest and the Andean bear, and inspire the next generation of Andean conservationists.

You will support our local team to	You bring
• Design and deliver lessons and outdoor activities • Accompany school groups and visitors • Guide interpretive walks on station trails • Facilitate workshops and citizen science activities • Develop educational materials	• Experience in education, teaching, interpretation or facilitation • Basic Spanish, with the opportunity to improve it • Creativity, patience and enjoyment of working with children and groups • Interest in biology, ecology or conservation



POSITION 3 **Design & Interpretation Volunteer**

REMOTE OR ON-SITE

Are you a designer or scientific illustrator who wants your work to protect a cloud forest? Wherever you are, help us turn research into materials people can see, touch and learn from.

You will	You bring
• Design educational and interpretive materials: posters, trail panels, booklets, field guides • Work with our science and education team to turn research into visuals	• A portfolio in graphic design, illustration or science communication • Skills in Illustrator, InDesign, Canva or similar

Commitment: remote volunteers complete at least 3 pieces, with scope and timeline agreed with the program coordinator. On-site volunteers follow the same season, minimum stay and costs as the other positions.

For all on-site volunteers

Who we are looking for	What you will gain
• Happy living in a remote, rustic station with a small team • Fit to hike trails in a high-altitude, humid environment • Friendly, adaptable, proactive and passionate about conservation	• Certificate of participation upon completion • Hands-on experience in conservation, research and education • Connections with national and international researchers • Cultural exchange and ties with local communities

How to apply

Send your CV and a motivation letter (max. 1 page) stating the position, your preferred start month and length of stay. Design applicants: include a portfolio link and say whether you prefer remote or on-site.

jyuca@conservacionamazonica.org | rpillco@conservacionamazonica.org

Subject: Wayqecha volunteer 2027 – [Position] – [Your name]

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