Volunteer Agreement

Drake Bay · Osa Peninsula · Costa Rica

1. Programme purpose

The volunteer programme supports daily station operations, maintenance, guest support, trail upkeep, biodiversity monitoring and conservation activities at Tamandua Biological Station. Volunteers contribute to the practical needs of a working biological station; the programme is not a free holiday.

2. Duration and working hours

- Minimum stay: **2 weeks**.
- Maximum stay: by mutual agreement and volunteer performance.
- Working schedule: **4 hours per day, 5 days per week, with 2 free days**.

For stays of one month or longer, free days may be organised according to project and station needs.

3. Selection priority

Priority is given to people with backgrounds in biological sciences, environmental sciences or relevant field experience. Other useful practical skills may also be considered.

A maximum of **2 volunteers** can stay at the same time.

4. Living conditions

Tamandua is in an isolated tropical rainforest environment. Volunteers must be comfortable with insects, wildlife, humidity, rain, forest sounds and periods of relative isolation.

- Accommodation is normally a room or bungalow with a shared bathroom.
- During periods of high guest occupancy, tent accommodation may be used.
- Volunteers bring their own bed sheets and towels.

5. Programme fee

The programme fee is **USD 100 per week**.

Included

- Accommodation.
- Basic food supplies.
- Programme-related transportation for arrival and departure.

Not included

- Personal trips to town.
- Other personal travel.
- Optional external activities or tours, unless specifically agreed.

6. Food

Basic food supplies are provided. Volunteers normally prepare their own meals. When guests are present, volunteers may sometimes share prepared meals where appropriate.

7. Documentation after acceptance

If accepted, volunteers must provide:

- A copy of their passport.
- A completed personal information form.
- A signed Volunteer Agreement.
- Active medical insurance covering emergencies.

The personal information form is handled after selection. It is not part of this public programme agreement.

8. Responsibilities

Volunteers contribute to cleaning, maintenance, guest support, trail upkeep, supporting monitoring projects when required, butterfly monitoring during relevant monitoring periods and other reasonable station tasks.

When guests are present, guest-related station needs have priority.

- Care for station property and equipment.
- Report unusual or potentially illegal activity.
- Respect instructions from station staff.
- Volunteers must not leave the station unattended without prior notice and approval from responsible Tamandua staff.
- Volunteers may not invite, admit or allow unauthorised visitors onto station property without prior authorisation.

9. Conservation rules

- Do not litter or pollute rivers.
- Do not remove plants without authorisation.
- Do not disturb wildlife or hunt.
- Do not handle or trap wild animals unless this is part of authorised scientific work.
- Do not purchase or accept wild animal meat.
- Report suspected hunting, chainsaws, gunshots or similar activity.
- Pets are not permitted where they could affect wildlife.

10. Safety

The tropical forest contains potentially dangerous wildlife. Volunteers must follow station staff instructions and take care in the forest and around the river.

- Wear shoes outdoors.
- Use a flashlight at night.
- Check footwear before putting it on.
- Take care during heavy rain and avoid unsafe river crossings.
- Be aware of flash floods and landslide risk during prolonged rainfall.
- Follow staff instructions.

11. Transport

Programme-related transportation for arrival and departure is included. Personal trips to town and other personal travel are not included.

Weather and river conditions may sometimes affect transport. Confirm current access conditions and arrival arrangements with Tamandua before travelling.

12. Connectivity

The station has **Starlink satellite Wi-Fi** and **solar-powered electricity**.

13. Biodiversity contributions

Volunteers with cameras are encouraged to contribute useful biodiversity photographs when appropriate, supporting documentation, research and conservation. Specimens or biological material must not be removed without authorisation.

14. Responsibility and inherent risks

Volunteers acknowledge that living and working in tropical forest involves inherent risks. They are responsible for following safety instructions and maintaining appropriate medical insurance.

15. Acceptance and signatures

Volunteer name: _____

Volunteer period:

From: _____ To: _____

I confirm that I have read and understood the Volunteer Agreement and agree to follow the rules and safety instructions of Tamandua Biological Station.

Volunteer signature: _____

Date: _____

Tamandua representative: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

16. Contact

Tamandua Biological Station
Drake Bay · Osa Peninsula · Costa Rica

Email: tamanduadrake@gmail.com
WhatsApp: +506 6131 2708
Website: tamanduacr.com