

“SELVA PURA”

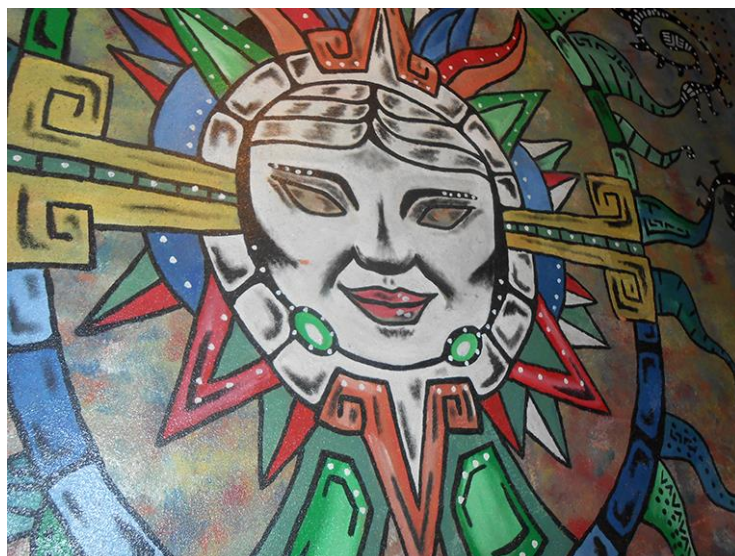


INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL CENTER



“SELVA PURA” CENTER

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INTRODUCTION: *This is a project already experimented in 2003/2004 and in 2004/2005 with the “Ecole des 4 vents” (School of 4 winds). We welcomed a group of 12 young people from 9 to 17 years old schooled at CNED (French National Center of Distance Learning). Four adult teachers supervised the schooling in the morning from 8 am to 12 am. Each teenager passed successfully their school final exams and took part in all discovery projects related to a professional activity. They went on a roaming trip to India for 3 months.*

CHAPTER I

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, SUB-OBJECTIVES AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS

1 / A MORE OPEN VISION OF THE WORLD

TRAVEL

- Host teenagers for 6 months.
- Allow them to have time for themselves and reflect on their future
- Develop their critical thinking and intelligence thanks to a life experience

CHANGE OF SCENE

- Meet different people
- Speak foreign languages
- Live in a setting of wild nature
- Live the present without virtual communication

CHANGE OF ROUTINE

- Adapt to the local weather
- Adapt to new food
- Adapt to another rhythm (12 hours of day, 12 hours of night)
- Learn to love rain, even heavy rain



2 / EXPERIENCE A GLOBAL ECOLOGY

EAT

- Harvest the vegetables planted in the center
- Eat simply
- Understand what kind of food our body really needs

SLEEP

- Learn to do without comfort
- Build a living space
- Discover how much space we really need

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

- Listen to our body
- Exercise daily
- Learn to identify common medical plants

MOVE

- Use public transport whenever possible
- Use our feet to get around
- Move with bikes or use animal traction



3 / BE PART OF A GROUP IN A NATURAL SETTING

COMMUNICATE

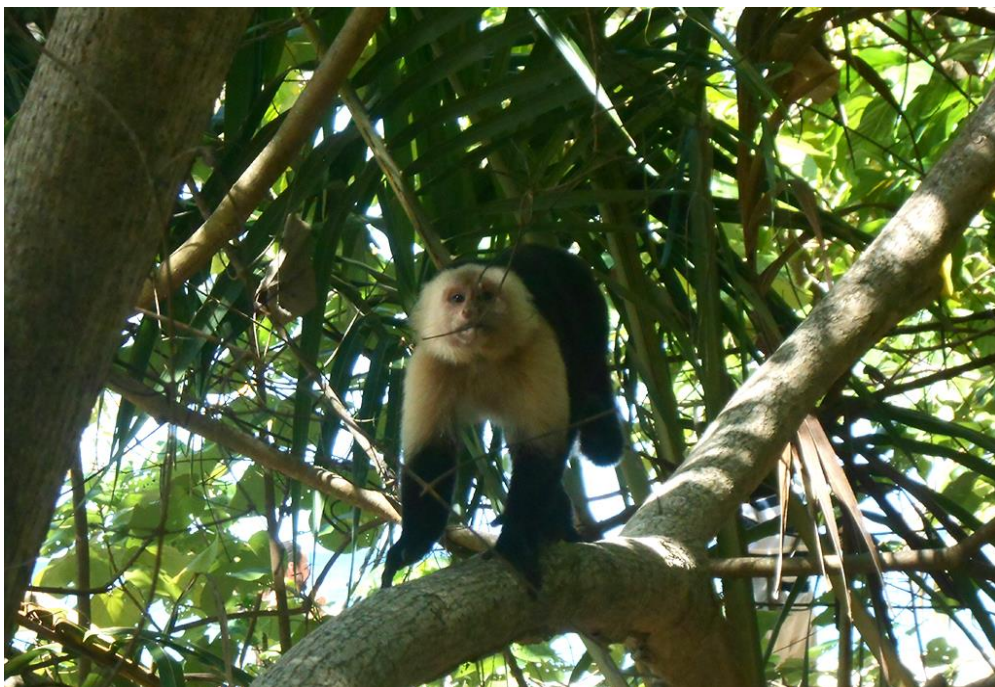
- Express feelings
- Set limits
- Be aware of what others expect

SHARE THE NATURAL SPACE

- Respect and take care of all living things (flora and fauna)
- Take care of any kind of animals and protect them
- Reduce our impact on the environment (No Waste goal)

LIVE IN A GROUP OF PEOPLE

- Ask for help to the other members of the group
- Share daily tasks
- Learn with others



4 / LISTEN TO OUR INNER NEEDS

LEARN

- *Be curious and enthusiastic*
- *Go to events and meetings*
- *Learn from native people and local people who have a wide knowledge*

CREATE

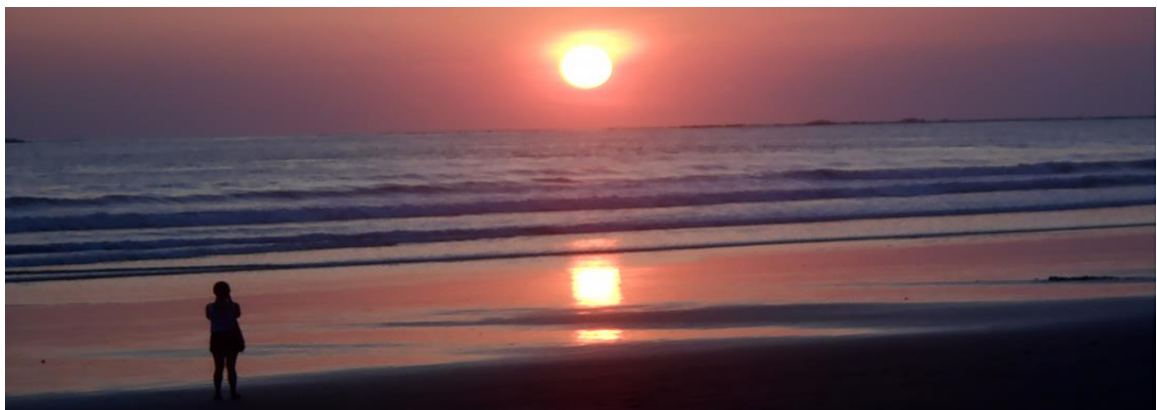
- *Do handicrafts*
- *Write a travel diary*
- *Practice an art that you like*

LOVE

- *Know what's best for the other person*
- *Help others whenever possible*
- *Share all kinds of emotions (joy and sadness)*

BE LOVED

- *Accept the help offered by others*
- *Understand and discover other forms of thinking*
- *Create bonds with others*



TARGET AUDIENCES

- Any person who wants to take part of the project needs to have a goal that will be validated by the "Selva Pura" center.
- The motivations of the candidate will be either protection of the fauna, flora, ethnic medicine, education, motor development, mental development or digital detox.
- Our qualified and experienced educational team (see biographies in the annex of the project) will take care of the schooling of teenagers through the CNED (French National Center of Distance Learning) or will guide the teenager with any other courses.
- The applications will be examined on a case-by-case basis. A physical and psychological monitoring will be done regularly to make sure the teenager is supported to reach his or her goals of getting better results at school, getting rid of an addiction or dealing with a growth retardation.
- We can legally host teenagers under 14 years with parental agreement.
- In some cases, the teenager will need to be accompanied by a person legally responsible.
- Any group of teenagers under 18 years old will not exceed 14 teenagers at the same time.

PROJECT DURATION

- Each project will last 3 weeks minimum and 6 months maximum.

PROJECT LOCATION

There are several propositions and we are analyzing each proposition to choose the one that best meets our functional specifications.

- The site needs to be close to the forest, with a river which flows all year round for the farming. We also need to build sanitary facilities and to have access to spring drinking water (drilling might be needed) or public water supply.
- We will share the products of the harvest from our garden or from the forest with the native people and with the people in the "Selva Pura" Center.
- We will create an autonomous farm.

- There will be work for the local people and in many areas such as: construction work, maintenance work at the center, farming work (permaculture gardens) and educational projects.
- The place will host 14 persons in addition to the 4 persons who will stay on site and the gardener (19 persons in total).
- The center will also be used to help harmed animals.
- The forest will be our classroom where we will observe nature, harvest plants (medicinal plants) and we will leave the forest untouched, apart from small paths that we will create.
- There will be a road to access the center, but only vehicles with heavy loads will be allowed to enter. We won't bring to the center any product poisonous for the environment.
- If there is a general motivation and if the local population agrees, we will guide people into the Selva.
- We are in touch with Costa Ricans who are suggesting us two parcels that would be adapted to our project: Montezuma in the peninsula of Nicoya on the Pacific Coast or Bribri in the Talamanca region on the Caribbean Coast.
- Buying the parcel is not our priority. It could be a lease of 20 years and the funds could be used to build the center.

CHAPTER II

A - PEDAGOGIC MEANS

I / HAVE A MORE OPEN VISION OF THE WORLD

TRAVEL / CHANGE OF SCENE / CHANGE OF ROUTINE

- We will host teenagers with several goals in mind.
- For 6 months, we will be helping teenagers to reflect on their future, we will introduce them to different populations, to foreign languages and to living in nature near a virgin forest.
- The main goal is to live in the present with as many virtual communications as possible.
- The teenager will learn to adapt to the local weather (hot and humid), food and day/night hours (12 hours of day light and 12 hours of night).
- Central America is a perfect place for this project. Many languages are spoken: Spanish, English and local dialects.
- The area is safe, welcoming and has a rich flora and fauna.
- Each teenager will have a main point of contact among the educational team to express any concern.



“SELVA PURA” CENTER

II / EXPERIENCE A GLOBAL ECOLOGY

EAT / SLEEP / TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF / MOVE

- Meals will be a time of gathering and will be taken together. We will eat in banana leaves and we will cook with wood fire.
- There will be meat but only white meat from animals raised on site.
- There will be two meals: one in the morning and one around midday. In the evening there will be only a snack.
- All the food will be local and of the season.
- There will be as many permaculture gardens as possible.
- We will sleep in simple wooden house on stilts or on the ground with palm-tree leaves or coconut leaves on the roof. The floor will either be plain earth or crushed wood.
- We will go daily to the selva and we will swim in the river or in the sea.
- To move from one point to the other, we will use public transport, our feet, our bikes or our horses as much as possible. There will be a pickup for heavy loads or large groups of people.
- There is a bus every hour from Cahuita to Bribri and the public buses make it very easy to move in the country.



III / BE TOGETHER AND LISTEN TO ALL LIVING THINGS

COMMUNICATION / SHARE THE NATURAL SPACE / LIVE IN A GROUP

- Talking circles will allow each of us to express our feelings about living in a group.
- We will work together on daily tasks and activities and there will be one “day off” during the week.
- The “Selva Pura” Center will be self-managed but there will be a code of conduct to be known and respected by everyone.
- We share the space with animals, plants and humans.
- The food chain is our main concern.
- Environmental education will be done through games to better understand living things.
- A care center will be created to help harmed animals.
- We will get the energy and inspiration for living in harmony in a group and grow as a person through mutual help and curiosity to know the people from the tribes living in the forest.
- There will be blackboards in three languages to sign up for daily tasks.
- Important decisions will be taken in a collegial way.



IV / LISTEN TO OUR INNER NEEDS

LEARN / CREATE / LOVE / BE LOVED

- The wealth of the forest will naturally trigger curiosity.
- It will be the opportunity to get to know the local people and create unique bonds with the locals.
- Back in their country of origin, the teenagers will share this unique experience with others.
- There will be creative workshops adapted to the preferences, needs and abilities of each teenager. Here are some examples of creative activities that will be organized: creation of a travel diary, writing workshops, photography, drawings, handicraft with calabashes, coconuts, feathers, weaving, pottery and cooking.



B - INVOLVEMENT

- A true involvement in the project is expected: it's not just about going on holiday, it's about wanting to gain self-confidence.
- Volunteers will receive physical and psychological support from the educational team.



CHAPTER III

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT***PEDAGOGICAL ASPECTS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS, VOLUNTEERING AND LOCAL PEOPLE***

- The project initiators will make sure the 4 general objectives are being met and understood by all.
- The founding members will stay on site to help and manage the center in a democratic and collegial way.
- Among other administrative tasks, the administrator will manage resources, take care of accounting and communication tasks.
- Volunteers will be selected from “Workaway” and “Helpx”.
- Young volunteers will have the opportunity to live a unique experience of sharing and working on their self-development, gaining confidence in teaching others what they know.
- Two natives from the area will be paid to work part-time. They will make sure the center is well maintained, make the necessary repairs and will keep an eye on the center during off-peak periods.



CHAPTER IV

A/ LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND B/ FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

A/ We will create a foundation in Costa Rica. In France, the association that already exists (“Les 4 vents” / the 4 winds) will support the “Selva Pura” center.

A legal expert will declare the “Selva Pura” center and establish documents certifying the ownership the center or the lease indicating the rent.

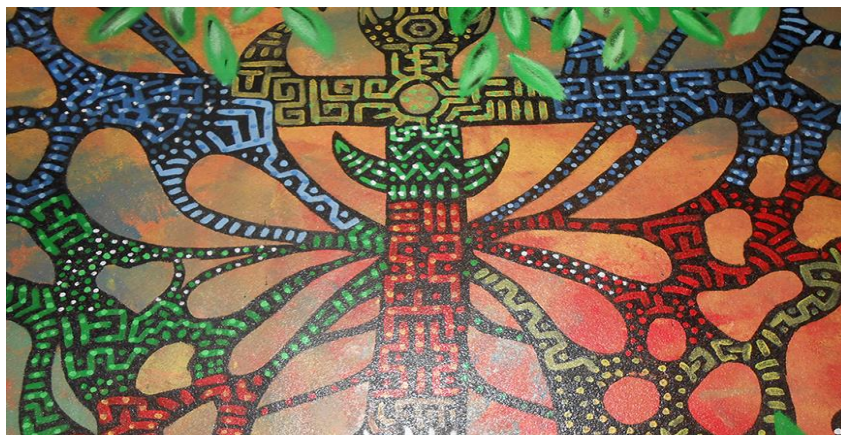
In case of a purchase, a surveyor will give a land registry survey of the parcel.

We will pay the mandatory taxes linked to the purchase and we will comply with the buying procedure laws for foreigners in Costa Rica.

B/ A complete estimate of the total cost of the project is given in the annex.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- A fundraising will be organized.
- The “Attrape Rêves” association will give all surplus to the other association (“Les 4 vents”).
- Elisabeth Gaillot is the project founder and will donate her personal funds.
- A crowdfunding will be online from September 2019: we will open a platform for donors who will donate according to their possibilities. We will offer a compensation for donors who will donate more than 1 000 \$ (For example, a stay of 15 or 21 days in the “Selva Pura” Center). The other donors will be offered chocolate made in the tribes and other handicrafts.



CHAPTER V

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

- A patent will be filed in Costa Rica to protect the “Selva Pura” project.
- The French State will give us a certification to make the project even more sustainable.
- A blog will be kept up to date so that the donors and the public can follow our adventures and comment on the project progress.
- We want to build on the concept of “educational travel”. Many teenagers want to healthier planet.



CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

I naturally invest a lot of energy in my projects.

I have been developing for 35 years projects in the area of popular educational where people participate actively in their education.

We are born with a full potential of life and with a spontaneous curiosity to learn and be creative.

We can see that our socio-educational patterns only offer a standardized way to being which take little into account all living things (humans, animals, plants).

I strongly believe that travelling is a great way of building our self-esteem, our audacity and truly opens the mind.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this project.

Do not hesitate to contact me. I will be very happy to answer your questions, give you more information and listen to your comments.

Elisabeth, founder of the association “Attrape rêves” in 1999

Founder of the school “Les 4 vents” in 2003

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