



Volunteer Abroad



Letter

In 1995, I was living on a remote beach in Malawi running a hostel I had bought from the local chief. At the ripe age of 22 I was the proud owner of a few run down huts on a beach in Africa that you could only get to once a month by boat.

Living there, I spent a lot of time in the local village, getting to know people, meeting with community leaders and hearing about the challenges the community faced.

Inspired to help them, I began to think about how volunteers could really help address the problems they encountered on a day-to-day basis.

I called my old friend Ben who was carrying out marine research in Honduras. During university we had both had amazing experiences volunteering, but felt the experience and the sustainability of the impact could have been greatly improved.

Together, we set out to build an organisation that worked hand in hand with local communities to build sustainable environmental and humanitarian volunteer projects. We believed that because of the long-term vision and community involvement in our projects, volunteers would ultimately have a deeper, more responsible and more rewarding personal experience.

It is this long-term commitment that demonstrates our passion to help people and improve the communities where we work.

Richard Walton,
Founder and Owner of Global Vision International

Mission Statement

From critical global initiatives to grassroots community issues, we empower people to take action through education, cross cultural communication and life changing experiences. We instill ownership through trust, respect and mutual understanding. We believe that fun, friendship and happiness are our most valuable tools to building a cohesive international family.



Table of Contents

Programmes	{ 2
Volunteering with Children Teach English	{ 5
Wildlife & Terrestrial Conservation Marine Conservation	{ 6
Construction Projects Healthcare Projects	{ 9
Sports Projects Why Choose GVI	{ 10
GVI Hubs	{ 12
History of GVI	{ 14
GVI Staff Where the Money Goes	{ 16

Programmes



2

Expeditions

Get out and explore the world on a GVI expedition. Live as a member of an international group of volunteers that will work closely together as a team on a broad range of community development and conservation issues. You will find yourself in some of the most remote and dramatic destinations in the world. Exploration, travel and cultural immersion are key components of all GVI expeditions.

Internships

Train for your career on one of our amazing GVI internships. You will not only receive comprehensive training, official certifications, and lots of hands on work, you will also be mentored by a GVI staff member, an exclusive chance to gain experience from some of the best programme operators out there. The work placement, the life experience and the training that you will receive will ultimately help you take that next step in your chosen career.

Volunteer Projects

Choose from over 100 different volunteer projects, operating in over 25 countries and representing 7 different volunteering focuses. From tracking jaguars through the Costa Rican rainforest to teaching Buddhist monks in Laos, there is such a flexible and wide selection of opportunities offered, we are sure that you will find your perfect programme.

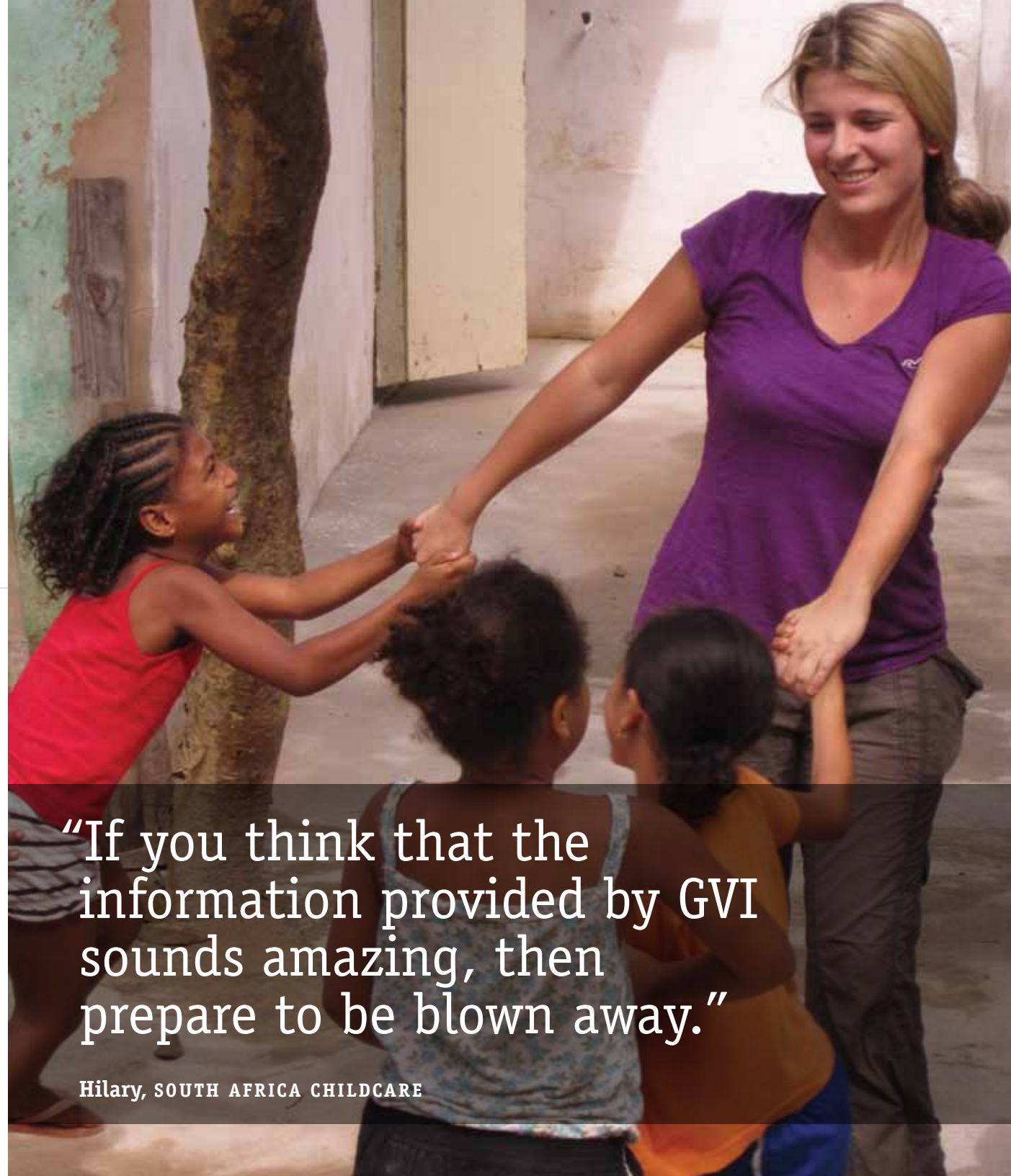
3



“From the minute we were on the ground I felt like the local community really wanted us there, and they truly appreciated and respected GVI volunteers.”

Gene, THAILAND ELEPHANTS

{ Volunteer with baby elephants on
Thailand Elephant Rehabilitation Project



“If you think that the information provided by GVI sounds amazing, then prepare to be blown away.”

Dancing with children on the
Brazil Childcare Internship }

Hilary, SOUTH AFRICA CHILDCARE

Volunteering with Children

The best way to fight poverty is through education. We offer children a safe environment, with support, supervision, socialisation and education in a range of subjects, including basic maths and English. Our projects increase education standards in the schools that we operate and teach life skills to the children that empower them to work with their community to make sustainable improvements.

COUNTRIES

Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Kenya, Laos, Nepal, Nicaragua, Peru, Romania, South Africa, Thailand



Teach English

The ability to read and write in English leads to higher paid jobs and offers people the chance to improve their standard of living. The communities and schools we work with request English teachers more frequently than any other resource. Our volunteers help us meet these requests, and help individuals in these communities build a better future for themselves and their families.

COUNTRIES

Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Kenya, Laos, Nepal, Nicaragua, Peru, Romania, South Africa, Thailand



Wildlife & Terrestrial Conservation

Biodiversity is vital in the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem. Currently 1 in 8 birds, 1 in 4 mammals, and 1 in 3 amphibians face the threat of extinction. Our wildlife and terrestrial conservation projects focus on the preservation of endangered plant and animal species and provide education to local communities so they can implement long term, effective approaches to conservation.

COUNTRIES

Australia, Borneo, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Thailand



6

Marine Conservation

Marine ecosystems are vitally important for the overall health of both marine and terrestrial environments. Ocean waters serve as a critical source of food and valuable natural resources to communities around the world. Our marine conservation projects focus on restoring damaged marine ecosystems and protecting endangered marine species.

COUNTRIES

Australia, Fiji, Greece, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Scotland, Seychelles, South Africa, Thailand, Vanuatu

“Amazing. Absolutely AMAZING.
All caps.”

Jordan, SEYCHELLES CONSERVATION



7

Following a mother turtle back to the sea on
the Seychelles Terrestrial Expedition



“The project taught us a lot about sustainable development, the local culture and the importance of preserving communities alongside the surrounding wildlife.”

Jan, KENYA CONSTRUCTION

Selecting foundation material for a pathway in a local community near the Ecuador Amazon Expedition

Construction Projects

Proper infrastructure and efficient systems are key aspects to the health and well-being of local communities. Our construction projects focus on addressing basic human needs and aim to help protect those most at risk. From clean burning stoves to brand new schools to water storage tanks, each of our construction projects builds a sustainable contribution for the communities that we work in.

COUNTRIES

China, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Kenya, Laos, Nicaragua, Peru, Romania, South Africa

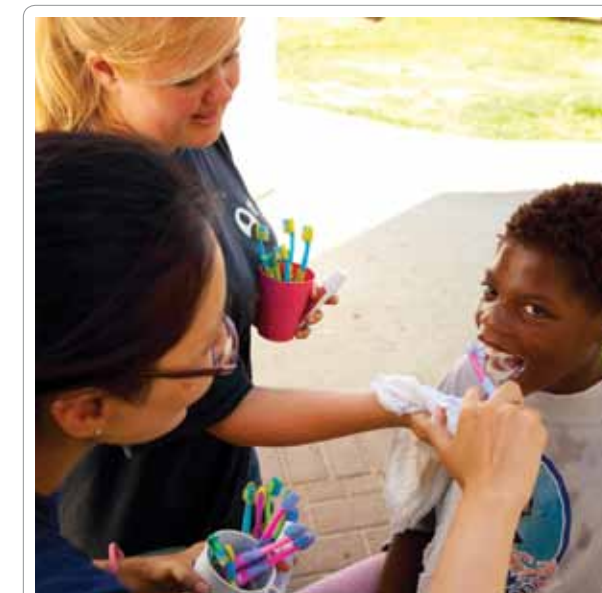


Healthcare Projects

Access to healthcare varies across countries, groups and individuals and is largely influenced by social and economic conditions. Our healthcare projects aim to serve many areas of public health interest, such as hygiene, water security, HIV/Aids awareness, parental health, and the reduction of child mortality rates.

COUNTRIES

Brazil, China, India, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Romania, South Africa, Thailand



Sports Projects

Sport is recognised as a viable, valuable tool when working with children. It helps fight depression, aids with better concentration, teaches the fundamentals of teamwork, respect for rules and can be a great boost to individual confidence. Our sports projects work with disadvantaged and at risk children and focus on offering additional opportunities in experiential education.

COUNTRIES

Brazil, Costa Rica, India, South Africa



10

Why Choose GVI

Since 1997, we have built over 100 volunteer projects around the world. We have developed these projects with an aim to make them beneficial for both our volunteers and for the people and local communities in which they are working. In order to truly serve the needs of local communities, projects must be long term. That's why we work so hard to make projects that are actually sustainable.

Here are some other reasons why we're just better...

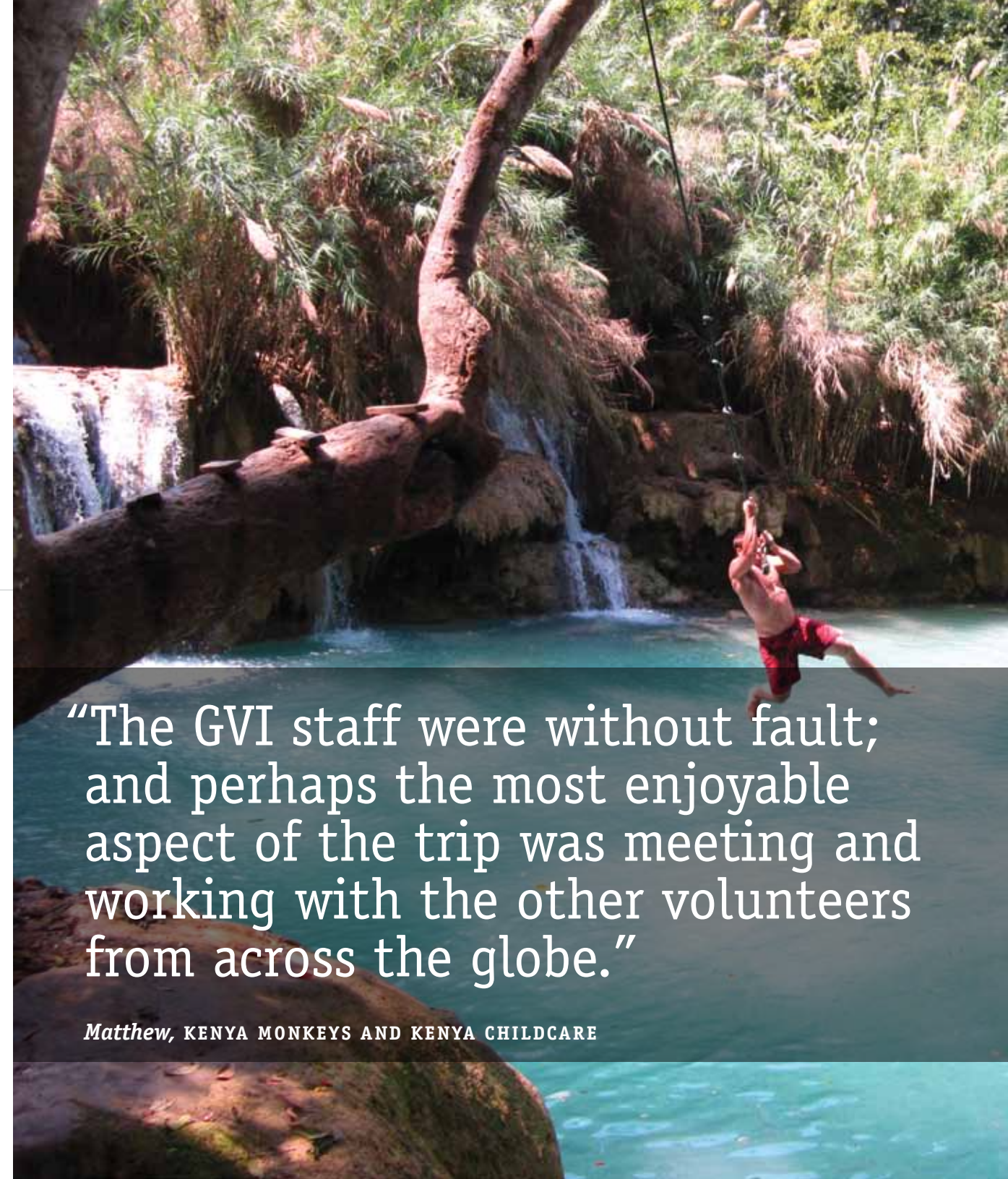
They're our projects... Because we own and operate almost all our own projects, you can KNOW that they make a REAL and lasting positive difference. You can also always expect the same high level of safety, support, training and service from each of our programmes.

We take health and safety more seriously... Feel free to stack any other organisation's health and safety protocols and procedures against ours. We are confident ours are more comprehensive.

Big names send their volunteers to work on our projects... Ever heard of STA Travel? How about Whole Foods? They send volunteers to us each year because they know that we will provide a safe and quality experience for the participants, while maintaining a sustainable positive impact on the ground. For these big names there is a significant benefit to working with us rather than having to deal with lots of different ground operators who have vastly different consistency in the quality of their programmes.

We work with some of the most respected organisations in the world... We work alongside some of the most leading and prominent conservation and community development organisations in the world; The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, Rainforest Concern, The Jane Goodall Institute, The Costa Rican Ministry for the Environment, 350.org, South African National Parks, Kenyan Wildlife Service, Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and many more.

We've got a proven track record... Since 1997 we have brought over 10,000 volunteers to work on our projects around the world. We have over a 95% approval rating from these participants and the vast majority described their experience as life changing.



"The GVI staff were without fault; and perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of the trip was meeting and working with the other volunteers from across the globe."

Matthew, KENYA MONKEYS AND KENYA CHILDCARE

11

{ Swinging into the warm waters of Fiji during time off on the Fiji Community Project

GVI Hubs

GVI runs over 100 volunteer programmes that are consistently amazing. How do we know this? Because we built them. Our organisation is globally renowned for its sustainability and for providing safe, friendly and inspiring experiences. By and large, we run our own operations from the application process to the field work which means the leaders you meet on-site are employed by GVI, living and working at our locations year-round to ensure the longevity of our work. Our projects are designed to adapt to the communities' most urgent needs, from education to construction, to conservation. We include the local community members in our

efforts and decisions, fostering these relationships to build stronger, healthier communities for the future.

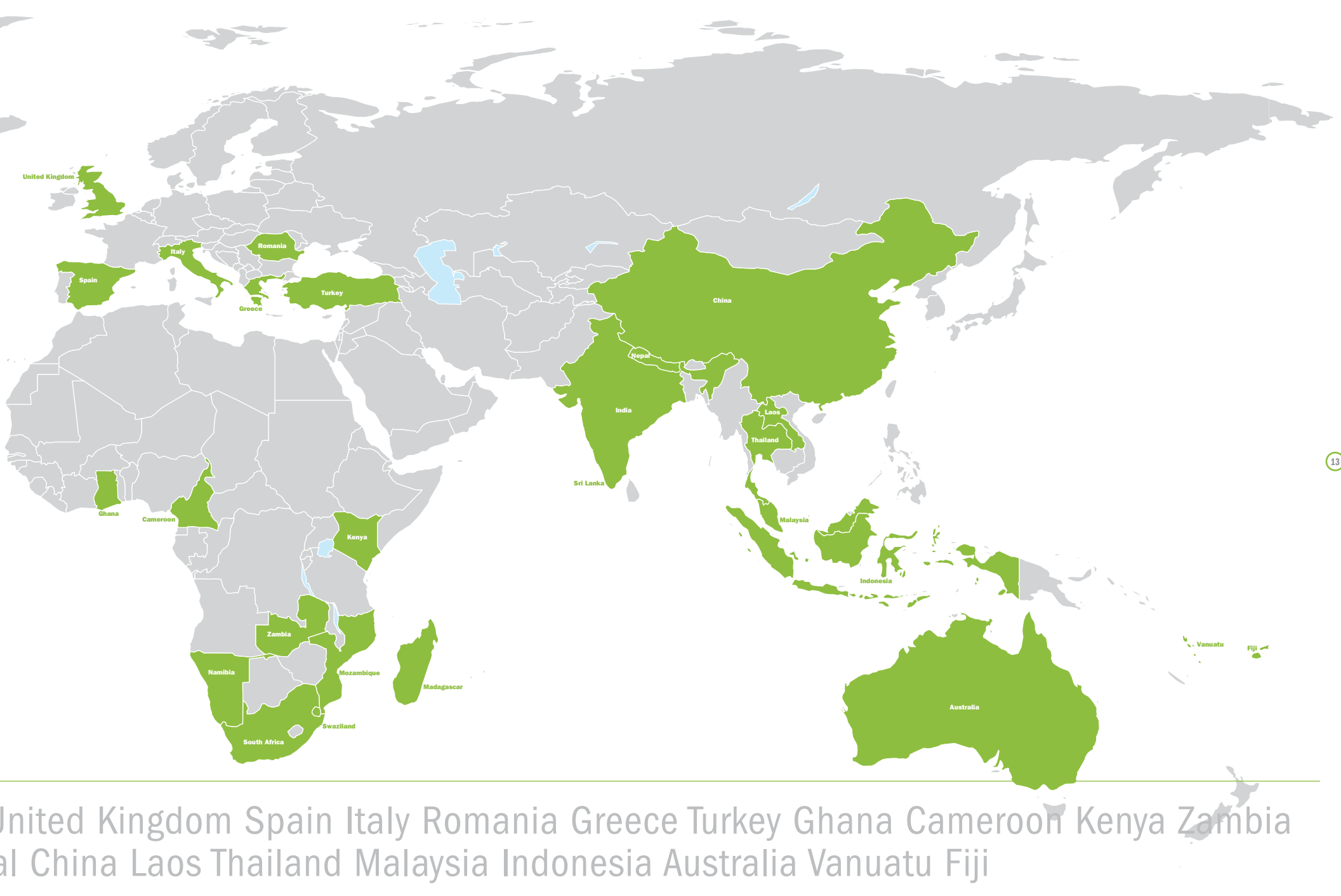
Our hubs are home to some of the most remote and pristine environments in the world. Find yourself on our South African reserve where you will share in the excitement of tracking a cheetah earlier that morning with your Field Guide. Or sway in a hammock on a breezy day at our base in Mexico, listening to your favourite tunes while studying the marine life down on the Yucatan Peninsula.

Wherever you travel, our hubs are places of profound discovery, awe-inspiring observations, and once-in-a-lifetime experiences. You will work side-by-side with those around you to feed the fire of the GVI spirit as people from all walks of life come together in one place to achieve a shared goal: improving the quality of life for indigenous communities and the natural environment by building sustainable systems that last for generations to come.



COUNTRIES

Mexico Guatemala Belize Honduras Nicaragua Costa Rica Ecuador Peru Brazil United Kingdom Spain Italy Romania Greece Turkey Ghana Cameroon Kenya Zambia Namibia South Africa Swaziland Mozambique Madagascar Sri Lanka India Nepal China Laos Thailand Malaysia Indonesia Australia Vanuatu Fiji





{ Practising research on the Costa Rica Turtles Project

History of GVI

10,000

Volunteers placed with over 95% saying they would participate on another GVI project.

GVI ECUADOR STARTED
(September)

GVI SOUTH AFRICA STARTED
(September)

GVI FOUNDED
(September)

Richard Walton and Ben Greig found GVI with the first programme running on the island of Roatan. It was a marine conservation programme assisting local NGO's.



GVI GUATEMALA STARTS
(October)

GVI starts teaching and childcare projects in Guatemala in support of Phoenix projects, which expanded through time to Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil.

2001

GVI MEXICO STARTS
(June)

GVI opens first marine expedition in Mexico in support of leading Mexican NGO, Amigos de Sian Ka'an

2003



GVI OPENS SECOND MARINE EXPEDITION BASE
(April)

GVI expands marine conservation programme due to demand from partners and volunteers.

GVI INTRODUCES COUNTRY DIRECTORS ROLE TO FIELD TEAMS
(April)

GVI introduces the Country Director role to its field teams to allow us continuity on our projects, and preventing loss of experience.

GVI SEYCHELLES STARTS
(July)

GVI develops a new marine programme in Seychelles

GVI PARTNERS WIN PRESTIGIOUS CONSERVATION AWARD
(July)

Mexican partners, Amigos de Sian Ka'an win prestigious Whitley Award for conservation

2004

GVI COSTA RICA STARTS
(July)

Due to demand from partners and volunteers, GVI starts a second rainforest research and conservation programme, this time in Costa Rica.

2005



GVI INTRODUCES FIELD REGIONAL DIRECTORS
(June)

GVI strengthens its international support system by incorporating Regional Directors to supply additional experience and regional knowledge to support our field teams.

2006

GVI NORTH AMERICA STARTS

GVI launches in the US to better assist volunteers originating from North America.

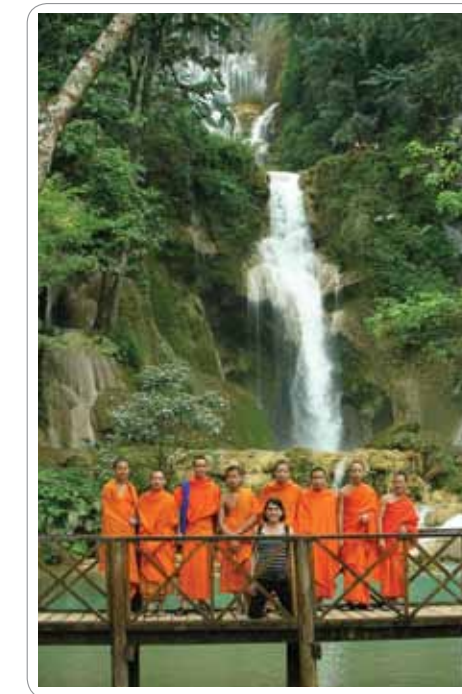
GVI THAILAND STARTS
(July)

GVI's first operations in Asia, based around community development and now also containing wildlife conservation programmes.

2007

GVI CA
(April)

Launched employee volunteering services to better assist organisations run long term, high impact corporate social responsibility programmes. First partner was Whole Foods Market a leading supermarket in the United States.



GVI AUSTRALIA STARTS

GVI launches in Australia to better assist volunteers originating from North America.

GVI LAOS STARTS
(July)

GVI starts community teaching programmes and expands into community development.

2008



GVI SOUTH AFRICA FORMED
(July)

The Cape Town office supports our South African operations.

2010

2011

GVI NAMED BEST INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING ORGANISATION
(November)

GVI is awarded best volunteering organisation by Virgin Holidays

GVI HAS OVER 1000 VOLUNTEERS IN THE FIELD SIMULTANEOUSLY
(July)

All of which are working hard to solve local issues and impact upon global ones.

TO COME...

Where the Money Goes

Since we opened our doors in 1997 GVI has spent over 70% of all funds directly on our projects. It is our mission to support field operations in the long term. Rather than abandon programmes that recruit fewer volunteers we strategically invest from our fully staffed sites to help maintain our presence across the globe.

The remaining 30% that is not directly invested in our programmes covers the cost of volunteer recruitment, the operations of our head offices, and the support of projects indirectly through the GVI Charitable Trust. Our offices are of vital importance to ensuring the safety and well-being of all our volunteers and our charity is an essential tool of providing financial support to our ongoing efforts.

HERE'S A LIST OF WHERE MOST OF OUR PARTICIPANT FEES GO:

- 100 fully funded, long-term volunteer projects globally
- Around 150 staff worldwide
- A senior staff member for each country of operation to ensure continuity in the project implementation, direction and impact
- An experienced operations team on hand to manage development, issues and emergencies for each region
- Review and improvement of our protocols and procedures for volunteer support, training, and health and safety issues
- Emergency operation fund
- Staff training and development
- Food and accommodation for our volunteers
- Orientation and training for our volunteers
- Project equipment including vehicles, boats, utensils for schools, building materials and more
- General operating expenses like gas for vehicles, volunteer transfers, included excursions and travel

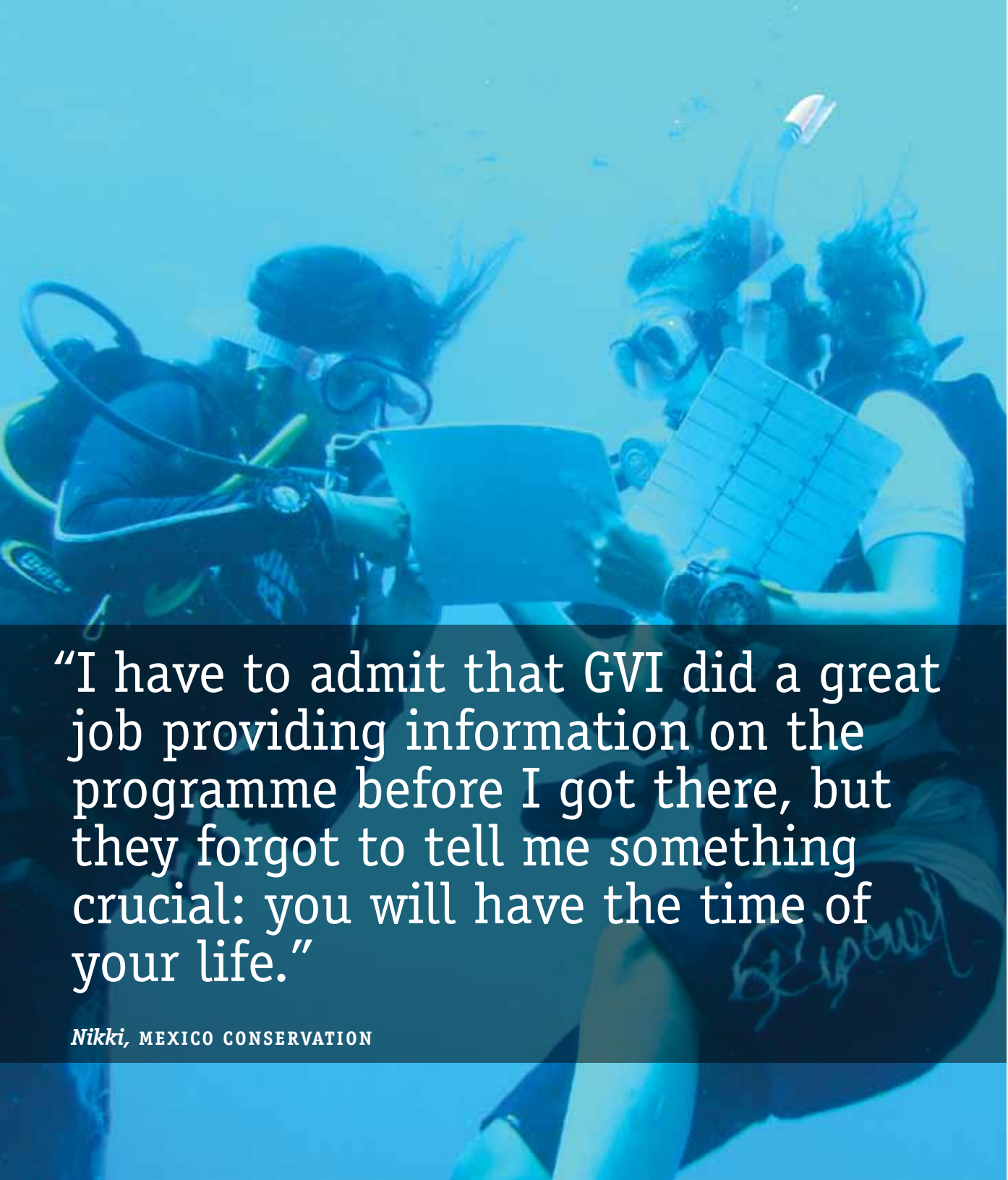
16

GVI Staff

GVI Staff are not only experienced and knowledgeable about best practices in sustainable travel, but are also experts in their respective fields of development. Beyond academics, our team is known for their friendly, compassionate and supportive dispositions. After all, you will hear from us a mere 48-hous after submitting your application, and it's important to us that you enjoy the process every step of the way! We think it is an absolute necessity to work in a fun environment, so we work tirelessly to hire those that we get along with, and who jive well with adventure and challenge created by a young and spirited organization.

GVI is quite lucky when it comes to recruitment, as most of our staff are former volunteers themselves, and due to their dedication and expertise have become welcome members of our team. In this way the experience with us is continuously cultivated, furthering a passion for our ultimate goal of global, *sustainable* aid. Staff members are united by this shared enthusiasm which brings us all together as a close knit team as we collectively work towards our goals.

17

A blue-tinted underwater photograph showing several divers. One diver in the foreground is holding a large white clipboard with a grid pattern, looking at it intently. Other divers are visible in the background, some with their heads and masks above water. The scene is set in clear blue water.

“I have to admit that GVI did a great job providing information on the programme before I got there, but they forgot to tell me something crucial: you will have the time of your life.”

Nikki, MEXICO CONSERVATION



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