‘I have come away feeling like I have genuinely contributed to making a difference.’ - Daniel Williams
WHO ARE WE?

Established in 1989, Frontier is a global conservation and sustainable development NGO. Having begun with a single conservation project in Tanzania, we are now celebrating 30 years of safeguarding biodiversity, empowering communities and inspiring both the young and old to make their travel meaningful.

Frontier operates marine and terrestrial projects in 5 countries and has developed partner projects in 70+ more, working in collaboration with organisations that share our commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable, local initiatives. We have always aimed to create a symbiotic relationship between our volunteers and projects, thereby giving rise to mutually beneficial, sustainable growth, from the personal to the ecological.

With climate emergencies being declared around the world and a summer that has seen record wildfires spread across the Amazon, Frontier’s conservation work is now more important than ever, both in the conservation of vulnerable ecosystems and in the mobilisation of young people to engage with the state of the global environmental crisis. 2019 has witnessed Greta Thunberg ascend to the world stage, urging millions to attend school climate strikes. This exponentially heightened awareness and participation is hugely exciting - here at Frontier we want to harness young people’s energy to help preserve the equilibrium of our global environment.

OUR MISSION IS TO:

Conserve the world’s most endangered wildlife and threatened habitats and to build sustainable livelihoods for marginalised and under resourced communities in the world’s poorest countries.

Create solutions that are a political, forward thinking, community driven & innovative.
“As someone who travelled far from home for the first time on my own, the people I met and experience in Beqa made this trip safe, fun and unforgettable”
- Gemma Newmam
COSTA RICA
It may cover a measly 0.01% of the world’s surface, but Costa Rica is home to more than 6% of the world’s total biodiversity! Nestled between Nicaragua and Panama, this nature-rich paradise is teeming with flora and fauna. Frontier Costa Rica carries out vital research on the effects of deforestation, poaching and climate change in the ecosystem of the Osa Peninsula.

MADAGASCAR
Madagascar is the 4th largest island in the world and 80% of its creatures are indigenous species – including the lemur! 5% of all known plant and animal species of the world can be found on this amazing island, but sadly Madagascar’s unique ecosystem is under threat. Frontier Madagascar is based in North Madagascar on Nosy Be, where we study and catalogue a huge variety of wildlife and habitats, and work with the local Malagasy community to improve protection for these creatures.

TENERIFE
Tenerife is the largest and most populous of the 7 Canary Islands. Tenerife has an impressive spread of marine life, including 730 native fish species, 4 turtle species and 28 cetacean species! Frontier Tenerife works closely with dolphins and whales, observing their migration patterns and behaviours in the face of increased tourism in the area. Frontier volunteers also carry out vital beach clean-ups alongside the local community.

BELIZE
Belize, bordered by Mexico and Guatemala, is a Central American country with a fascinating history of Mayan civilisation and an abundance of wildlife. With the Belize Barrier Reef being the second largest in the world, and its being home to the world-famous Blue Hole, Belize is a haven for snorkellers, divers and water-babies! Frontier Belize operates on Caye Caulker, where it carries out important surveys on Belize’s marine creatures and habitats, with a particular focus on manatee populations, seagrass and mangroves.

FIJI
The incredible Fijian archipelago consists of 333 islands in the South Pacific. This stunning island country is renowned for the diving on its soft coral reefs and is a leader in eco-tourism. Frontier Fiji is based on Beqa and works closely with the Mataqali people – the island’s guardians – as well as in and around world-famous Beqa Lagoon.
Since 2011, the Frontier Madagascar Marine Conservation Programme has been located in the village of Ambalahonko in North West Madagascar. The project conducts surveys to assess the health of coral reefs in the Nosy Vorona Passage, in addition to cleaning up the local beaches, and monitoring the surrounding mangrove forests. The wide variety of conservation projects allows volunteers to see how the local ecosystems are all linked – coral reefs, beaches, and mangrove forests – and the importance of protecting each of these aspects of the environment. The significance of our data enables us to work with local government in its marine conservation efforts.

**BIOLOGICAL MONITORING OF CORAL REEFS**

In view of importance coral reef ecosystems in providing food security and coastal protection, as well as sustaining biodiversity and eco-tourism, one of our main project aims is to monitor their health. Using lectures, cue cards, group study, and in water practice, we train staff and volunteers in Baseline Survey Protocol to monitor the health of coral reefs by identifying and counting benthos, fish, and invertebrates. We then use this data to study the abundance and diversity of species and benthic morphology to assess reef health.

As local fisheries management is under-resourced, it is important to keep abreast of the state of the reefs and examine the possibilities for future conservation methods.

By taking frequent trips to the Marine Reserve at Nosy Tanikely, volunteers can gain first hand experience and see the benefits of protecting a coral reef. The most recent phase has introduced chemical sampling of our dive sites, involving taking surface and bottom water samples to test for nitrogenous waste compounds such as NH$_4^+$, NO$_3^-$ and NO$_2^-$. We have also begun sampling pH and the salinity of the waters around the reefs. The combination of these factors can be used to assess how healthy the corals and fish are and with enough data, we will be able to detect any sudden changes in the communities of these fragile ecosystems.

**MANGROVE SURVEYING**

Our mangrove project is currently engaged in assessing species composition. Previous surveys had suggested that there were only 3 species present, Rhizophora mucronata, Ceriops tagal, and Sonneratia alba, but through targeted surveying we have identified a further two, being Avicennia marina and Bruguiera gymnorrhiza. We aim to assess the species diversity present and their distribution along the Ambalahonko shore, as well as to create a survey method suitable for analysing the health of our local mangrove ecosystem.
HAWKSBILL TURTLE SURVEYS
One of the major threats to turtle populations is climate change, as they exhibit Temperature Dependent Sex Determination, with warmer temperatures causing more female turtles to hatch.

Our surveys focus on determining the sex ratio of Hawksbills as well as their size, behaviour, features, and interaction with snorkellers.

In 2018, we spotted a total of 27 turtles – 22 of which were female! We have been unable to sample the turtle population in the Nosy Vorona passage this last month while our boat was being serviced, but will be continuing the work as soon as we are able.

BEACH CLEANING
Our team completes at least two beach cleans every week along the coastline of Ambalahonko. We collect everything we find from the mangrove roots, sand, and tree line and count each piece while sorting them into several different categories (plastics, fabrics, fishing nets, food wrappers, glass, metals, batteries, electronics, etc.). Last year a total of 7,290 pieces of litter were collected along the beach! Most of the litter collected was plastic, in the form of bottles, bags, and unidentifiable pieces of hard and soft plastic. Volunteers really enjoy seeing the direct effect of their hard work in removing these materials, thereby preventing them from reaching the nearby coral reefs. It has also been wonderful to see the local children so excited to join us in cleaning up the beaches and we hope to work more closely with the village to increase awareness of the effects of marine pollution and how people can help by disposing of litter properly.

INTERVIEW WITH EDMOND RANDRIAMALALA
FRONTIER LOCAL MEMBER OF STAFF SINCE 2007
In this the 30th anniversary year of Frontier, we decided to have a chat with our longest-serving local staff member, Edmond Randriamalala, who has recently retired. We asked him what he had enjoyed most about working with Frontier, to which he replied “meeting all the international people, and making friends with them”. Edmond said that since leaving Frontier he missed the people and the fact that every day was different. Edmond is now living in Diego with his wife and two children, and is looking forward to relaxing and spending quality time with them.
Situated near the impressive Lokobe National Park, Frontier’s base camp is located on the island of Nosy Be, off the North West coast of Madagascar. Despite being smaller than the Isle of Wight, and only about a tenth of the size of Rhode Island, Nosy Be boasts an impressive diversity of habitats and an array of fauna, including endemic lemurs, reptiles and amphibians.

**STUDYING HUMAN IMPACTS**

For an island of its size Nosy Be is fairly populous, being home to over 70,000 people. These people interact with the island’s environment and ecology in their daily lives, causing many changes to its habitats. As well as old-growth forest, our study area includes routes passing through highly degraded forest, including fragments and regions converted into plantations. In other areas we see regrown secondary forest, which offers interesting insights into the preferences of different organisms for different stages of forest succession.

**RECORDING NOSY BE’S FAUNA**

The central elements of our project are herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians), lemur, and bird surveys. These surveys build on the efforts Frontier has been making to investigate Nosy Be’s fauna since 2011. The occurrence and abundance of different species vary substantially from one habitat type to the next, often to a very large degree. For example, in the last three months species richness in primary forest was found to be two and a half times greater than that of degraded forest. Differences such as these have important consequences for how we should manage land use to conserve the most threatened species, such as where the edge of the buffer zone of Lokobe national park should lie. Clearly, if a species is uniquely suited to primary forest, but the primary forest is replaced by plantations, the consequences can be disastrous.
RECENT RESULTS

Over the last six months, our project has been assessing the difference in species diversity and how it compares as between areas of more and less disturbed forest. We continue to see an astonishing diversity of reptiles and amphibians in the beautiful old-growth forest near Lokobe, including the elusive leaf-tailed gecko Uroplatus henkeli. It is perhaps even more interesting to see which organisms have managed to adapt to degraded habitats and even thrive there, despite a complete change in the landscape and frequent proximity to humans. Seeing how species such as Hawk’s Sportive Lemur (Lepilemur tymerlachsonorum) has been able to make that jump, despite other similar species in well-studied locations such as Montagne d’Ambre being confined to secondary forest fragments, raises new questions and is a fascinating avenue for research.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Our forest staff have been busy coming up with new ideas for ways to answer the questions we have about Nosy Be’s wonderful ecology. We are planning to look deeper into the behaviour of the sadly understudied frogs of the island, which include the agile tree-living Boophis tephraemystax and the squat, heavily set Rhombophryne testudo. Our bird project is expanding to include a wider range of different habitats, where we will use both visual and call-based identification techniques to survey the avifauna. Lastly, thanks to Frontier’s observations of rare reptile species such as the Leaf-nosed snake (Langaha madagascariensis) in forest fragments, we are looking into how these animals are managing to live in what are usually considered to be very vulnerable landscapes, using location data and previous records of rare reptile sightings.
ECOLE FRERE

Ecole Frere is a local school, just a 10 minute walk from our townhouse with stunning seaside views. We teach at Ecole Frere 4 times a week, Monday through to Thursday. The classes are split into abilities, which makes planning and recording progress all the more easy, and last for half an hour. We have been following a curriculum which all volunteers have a copy of, starting with the ABCs and ending with daily routines. The children are all highly enthusiastic and keen to learn, and are also patient with your own learning of French and/or Malagasy. In school holidays, we also teach English to the children at Ecole Frere in a holiday club, through things such as endless games of ‘What’s the time Mr. Wolf?’ and singing songs like ‘Head and Shoulders Knees and Toes’- so much so that they sing it in school when we return!

YOUTH CLUB

We hold classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Beginner/Intermediate classes last one hour each, whereas the advanced classes last for two. This gives the beginners the opportunity to join in topic discussions with more advanced English speakers, helping them to improve their confidence in speaking English in front of other people. The students come from all over Nosy Be and range from 17 to 25 years of age. The lessons focus on pronunciation and grammar for the first hour and then we have topic discussions, which usually end in showing them pictures of Yorkshire Puddings or Floating Yodas commonly found around London. The last 15 minutes is usually taken up by Malagasy lessons but can also be taken up by random ‘can you tell me’ questions. The students accompany us on our walk back to the community house, where a few may ask to see you on a free day to learn more English, or even take you to see crocodiles. We have some very talented students: one chef, one black belt in Karate, football fanatics, basketball enthusiasts, and also a few tour guides. The result is that, whilst we hold formal lessons on Mondays and Tuesdays, students take it in turns on Wednesdays to share their skill, with the class learning English whilst carrying out activities such as cooking or playing basketball. Either way, by the end of your time here you will have made plenty of Malagasy friends, with all volunteers given the opportunity to gain authentic cultural experiences.

www.frontier.ac.uk
BAMBINO

We have recently started classes at a private school, just two minutes walk from the community house. Classes take place between 7 and 8am - before school starts. We teach English on Tuesdays and Thursdays, whilst there are dance classes on Mondays and Wednesdays. We give lessons which are similar to those taught at Ecole Frere, following the curriculum in a similar way. However, there are about 1/3 of the number of children in the class and as a before school class we always include an activity for the last half hour. We recently completed a topic on numbers. The children who finished the chalkboard activity first played a matching numbers game with one volunteer, while the children who took longer or arrived later played a number throw and catch game. This kept everyone on their toes.

STELLA MARIA

On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, we travel further around the coast of Nosy Be to teach English through play at a rehabilitation centre. There you will practise your origami skills and reaction time in a competitive game of snap. The older children prefer reading books and practising their English through scrabble, whereas the younger ones will shout ‘Duck, duck. Goose’ at you until you give in. On Wednesdays we take the able children to the beach just outside the centre’s gate, to play cricket, football and volleyball and have also joined in their swimming lessons in the sea.

ANTAFONDRO

On Thursday afternoon, we take the boat to Ambalahonko to join the other Frontier projects at our conservation camp. On Friday morning from 9 to 11am we teach at a school a half-hour walk along the beach from camp. The classes are divided by age, which we factor into planning. As with Ecole Frere and Bambino, the lessons follow the curriculum. However, lessons are more interactive, especially with the younger years. In the lowest class, we have a carpet area where we sit with the youngest and use flashcards and storybooks to encourage them to participate.
Surrounded by dense greenery from coast to coast, the tropical paradise I have been fortunate to call home resounds with bird song each morning. The high canopies bear fragrant mangos, coconuts and papayas for breakfast. The day begins. Gathering for breakfast on our porch overlooking the veggie patch, I run through the daily schedule in thorough detail. Diving in the morning; snorkelling and mangrove measuring in the afternoon. Dive officer Aaron briefs his advanced students on their underwater requirements including knot tying, buoyancy training and navigation techniques.

Trained in reef species identification, our research assistants hop onto our dive boat. Led by Assistant Research Officers and senior staff, our surveyors document reef inhabitants from megafauna to macro invertebrates. Common sightings include reef sharks, turtles, colourful parrotfish and hunting trevally. Once we return from our dives, the Assistant Research Officers enter our data whilst the Research Assistants make a hearty lunch. Never a group to bide our time, we divide into monitoring groups. Heading to the mangroves, we plant new propagules and measure the success of our established planting sites, with the researchers anticipating a long afternoon on the shoreline.

Our newer researchers are led by senior staff to house reef, who help with their identification skills and test them on their identification abilities. Ending the day with delicious coconut curry, we share stories on what was seen and done during the day. Videos of turtles and nudibranchs are passed around, along with Emily's famous ginger cookies. A snippet into the daily life of camp shows a fun yet busy day, as research assistants learn and document the islands lagoon and reef systems. Behind the scenes staff are also tested on their ability to innovate and educate. Before working with Frontier Fiji Marine, I for one certainly didn't know how to pipe water from a running water source, maintain engines and compressors or rig up an electrical system run on solar power. Not only have I learnt how to manage a remote research camp, but I have also created and curated my own shark research.

With the support of my Project Coordinator and Dive Officer, as well as the entire team in Beqa, we all work towards maintaining monitoring methods and creating new conservation projects. Working on the island is certainly not the usual 9-5, with duties beginning the moment you rise to well after sunset. I have realised, however, that in work as in life, it is important to appreciate the smallest fleeting moments within the day. The Fiji Marine project challenges the most experienced scientists and managers, but the fruit it bears facilitates conservation efforts and a better understanding of our natural world.
GET YOUR DIVING QUALIFICATION WITH FRONTIER
Wow! Where has the time gone!? The past six months have passed by like a Caribbean tropical storm and, as high season in the region comes to an end, we are left wondering where everyone has gone, rejoicing in the tranquility of what feels like our very own island and ready for the next storm to arrive: Frontier busy season.

Looking back over the first half of 2019, it is impossible to forget the exceptional staff and volunteers who have come and gone in this time. So let’s get the acknowledgements out of the way and say a big thank you to all of those who have left their mark on Frontier Belize: We miss you! Christos did an excellent job of improving our social media platforms, whilst Bridie and James’ dock survey project continues to develop and preserve their legacy for the future of Frontier Belize. Dagny, the biologist, the myth, and the legend, stepped down from her Project Manager role at the end of last year, having left her distinct mark on the project and all of the Caye Caulker community. Dagny’s departure made room for the next generation of senior staff to come through: Matt joined as the new Project Coordinator and Sophie continues to climb the Frontier ladder, being promoted once again to become the project’s Principal Investigator.

Our latest additions to the Assistant Research Officer (ARO) team, are a testament to Frontier’s ability to attract scientists of the highest calibre and their input so far has been exceptional. Finally, we must pay tribute to all the contributing volunteers who have come and gone over the months, of which there are too many to name. Frontier volunteers, your input to our research has been invaluable and all of us staff have fond memories of each and every one of you.

With the assistance of our volunteers, the scientific team, led by Sophie, has been busy collecting data and developing projects both old and new. Our latest project, studying the protected nurse sharks and southern stingrays who reside in shark ray alley, aims to reduce the impact of provisional feeding and the ever-expanding tourism industry that it attracts. Dock surveys are also new this year and whilst the methodologies continue to evolve, the resulting data from the surveys is already beginning to prove its worth as we identify differences in marine life surrounding different dock structures. Social science is another aspect of our work that has come on in leaps and bounds.

Having embraced 21st century technology in recent months and begun to use a survey app which collates and analyses survey results, aiming to raise touristic awareness of the threats that local ecosystems face, we hope soon to be using this information to design informational posters and encourage tour companies to take a more environmentally friendly approach to their activities - just one example of the positive impact our data has on Caye Caulker and its community.

Not inclined to sit back and ‘Go Slow’ as Caye Caulker’s motto mandates, we continue to strive for bigger and better things in the second half of the year. Due to the success of the Lionfish Derby (hosted by Sports Bar which united the community through a common goal), and our own Frontier fundraiser hosted by Bondi Bar, we have been able to raise the funds necessary to purchase a drone and take our research to new heights (pun intended). Future access to a drone will enable us to begin conducting aerial surveys of the mangroves to assess species zonation and identify any correlations between deforestation and ecosystem health. Perhaps more excitingly, we will also be able to push our unique studies of the endangered West Indian Antillean Manatee further into the public eye.

We plan to discover more about the species’ migration through Caye Caulker, both outside of and within the manatee season, as well as to obtain more data to establish the composition of the overall population.

Whether it’s senior staff, AROs, volunteers or visiting family and friends, no one has left Caye Caulker underwhelmed by the magic of our island, and the exemplary work that everyone strives so hard to achieve. A real home away from home, we hope that the good times continue to roll as we invite everyone to come and be a part of our exciting plans for the future.

So as we sit in paradise, balancing the heart-wrenching destruction of habitats with the glimpses of magic that they offer, we remind ourselves of a quote by Jimmy Buffett, who fell in love with Belize in much the same way as the rest of us; “Shells sink, dreams float. Life’s good on our boat.”
PIONEER RESEARCH
FOCUSING ON THE IMPACT OF TOURISM ON ELASMOBRANCHS (SHARKS AND RAYS)
In 2016 I hopped on a plane as a very shy, nervous new traveller. I had no idea what to expect; all I knew was that I was interested in marine science and wanted to start dipping my toes into what being a part of an NGO was like.

The Frontier Tenerife Whale and Dolphin project was the first time I worked as part of a field research team in an area of conservation I was truly passionate about. I had just completed my first year studying Zoology, and came to the realisation that the terrestrial world was not where my passion lay - and I didn't really know where to go next.

The Tenerife volunteer house was beautiful, set in a remote town away from the hustle and bustle of the tourism of the south of the island. All the volunteers were so welcoming and friendly, and we spent our first evening sharing stories of other adventures whilst playing cards and watching the beautiful sunset on the balcony. I only stayed for two weeks but we packed in so much, from learning about data collection and cetacean behaviour to spending our free time hiking, paddle boarding and surfing. At 18, in the modern world, I had really struggled to find girls my age who would pick a sweaty hike over sitting on their phones and partying. At Frontier I was able to find my niche - it was a breath of fresh air to be surrounded by like-minded people. The house was filled with relaxed, open minded and determined young women and at this point I was hooked.

Belize was my next stop. I wanted to push myself further afield after having had such a great experience in Tenerife. The balance between the remoteness of base camp on the North Island and the accessibility to the South Island for weekend chill time really appealed to me.

The main reason I selected Belize was for the manatees. After a few talks with HQ, I had decided to complete my dissertation on manatee feeding ecology. Again, the staff team were absolutely incredible! The Principal Investigator in particular was the person who blew me away. She was outgoing, incredibly determined and had a bubbly personality, going above and beyond to push me and make my study as successful as possible. The passion and knowledge within the team was

The Belize project showed me that marine biology is not as glamorous as it is portrayed, which somehow fascinated me. Working in basic conditions, where a 'sea shower' was the treat of the day, and the long hours of theory, writing, reading, stats and data input are the things that go into experiencing those golden moments when you come face to face with the beautiful 'hippies of the sea'; it is the blood, sweat and tears that make those special and rare moments so breathtaking.

The project itself really stole my heart. I loved the simple lifestyle and the projects felt made for me - the whole experience enabled me to identify my weaknesses and strengths and I loved that. I began visiting the island and the Frontier team every time I had a break from university, eager to hear about their progress and findings. It was then that I set myself the long-term goal of learning everything I could about the area and slowly working my way to my dream role of Principal
Less than a year later I received the call that I had successfully got the job of Assistant Research Officer at Frontier Belize. After spending so much time studying, reading and learning about seagrass and manatees, it was exciting to come back and get involved in a new dimension to the project - fish and coral. Over time I got to observe and be a part of the development of the smaller projects, such as mangrove and dock surveys. There were many highlights for me, but one of the biggest was my improvement in diving. I arrived in Belize as a PADI open water diver and worked my way up to be a rescue diver; progressing and being able to lead the divers was incredibly rewarding. Throughout my time as a staff member it has been amazing to work with people from all walks of life. The staff team were diverse both in their experience and skills, which made what we learned from each other more interesting and rewarding. I really admired and looked up to the senior staff and their achievements. Becoming Research Officer was the next step; it was nerve wracking but incredibly exciting to take on new challenges and a lot more responsibility. I became a boat captain, wrote my first science report for Frontier, and led all of the training and data collection exercises. I loved Frontier’s way of organising the surveys and taking part in them. I got to work on my weaknesses and gain new strengths, with the Lionfish Derby being a highlight! I have never enjoyed public speaking, but after being on the project for a long time, my knowledge of the topics and my confidence have increased. In fact giving lectures and talks to the public and the team has now become one of my favourite parts of the job. In the coming weeks, I will start my next challenge of taking on the role of Principal Investigator. I am really looking forward to running the high season having watched and assisted last Summer as an Assistant Research Officer (ARO), and experiencing the volunteer perspective the Summer before. I look forward to carrying on working with the current team; training the staff and volunteers to love the wonderful ecosystems around us, working together in developing aspects of the current projects, and watching the new projects we have created come to life. Frontier encompasses so many things I love: travel, science and adventure. But for me, Frontier has above all been about finding my confidence, and, with that, I have found happiness in the simple things in life - as well as my true passion for ocean conservation. Frontier was the stepping-stone that fueled my drive to make a change, and now I get the chance to inspire others to do the same.
1000 nests
Protected in 3 months
Frontier Costa Rica has a long association with turtle conservation. Our turtle programme has recently updated its methodologies so that we can see the number of eggs with bacteria and fungus, rather than just how many eggs are in the nest. We hope to create enough data in the upcoming season to publish another successful paper on turtle nesting and the hatching patterns of Olive Ridleys on Playa Carate. We have also given tourists the opportunity to participate in the night turtle surveys and tours of our hatchery so that they can develop an understanding of the importance of turtle conservation in the area.

On the 10th of March, we organised a turtle festival with local food stalls, a raffle, public talks and presentations, bringing the public together to celebrate the successes of turtle conservation and to build donations for the project. This festival was a huge success and was hugely popular with the local community. We have been able to share this responsibility with local organisations such as COPROT who are also passionate about turtle conservation; we work together on turtle monitoring so that Frontier and COPROT members help with the beach patrols. Training is an important factor in the development of this project and so we have worked with this organisation to train members in data collection even offering turtle talks to build enthusiasm!

We have also focused on birds such as the Riverside Wren which allows us to protect the exotic species of this region. Our team has now started another lagoon trail, allowing us to spot unique bird species such as herons and many wetland birds, while also allowing us to develop our Scarlet Macaw Feeding Ecology survey. Furthermore, we have also developed new methodologies for our habitat surveys and camera traps that allows us to understand the diversity of species on our trails.

**The development of our camera trap survey was made possible by surrounding lodges donating cameras and equipment, enabling us to spot many different species including pumas, ocelots, tapirs, tamanduas, and coatis.**

We strive to be part of a much larger network on the Osa, and to collaborate with other similar organisations to get the best possible understanding of the terrestrial wildlife, such as more detailed knowledge on the health and distribution of the Jaguar population on the peninsula. Within the local community, we have given project presentations to the lodges focusing on turtles, camera traps and climate change to educate both members of the public and the tourists who come to Carate. Beach clean-ups have also been a success for Frontier from Carate beach to the Corcovado National Park, as well as extending the initiative to Puerto Jimenez to reduce waste in these ecosystems.

Overall, Frontier Costa Rica has had an exceptional six months and has been constantly building our team's morale in these project developments. We have been more than thrilled to work with the local community and organisations on several different campaigns and are continuing to do so into the new season. Our team looks forward to the new season to see what our new camera traps bring, how the development of birds and habitats moves forward and how else we can coordinate with the local community on further projects. As a team we have been able to pursue strong scientific results and maintain this passion with our work the community.
It has certainly been a busy 6 months for the Tenerife Project. We have had some incredible encounters with whales and dolphins (known as cetaceans), had some major work done to the house, formed a new partnership with the boat Mola Mola, and have been working tirelessly to clean up the beaches of Tenerife.

The Frontier Tenerife Whale and Dolphin conservation project’s work is centered around protecting the whale and dolphin populations in the waters surrounding Tenerife, with the primary focus on the Bottlenose Dolphin (Tursiops truncatus) and the Short-Finned Pilot Whale (Globicephala macrorhynchus). Cetaceans face a number of threats worldwide from various sorts of pollution including noise, plastic and environmental runoff. They are also under threat from overfishing, boat collisions and unfortunately whaling.

Currently, there is a lack of data on how these threats are affecting the populations of cetaceans around Tenerife, and this is what our volunteers work to collect during their time on project.

The cetacean surveys we carry out onboard local, ethical whale watching boats (all of whom fly the Barco Azul / Blue Boat flag) provide critical scientific data about local populations of cetaceans. The data collected includes population numbers and population health; interactions with other vessels and animals; behavioural patterns; habitat conditions and their effect on animals; and fin identification. This information allows us to develop our record of cetacean populations in the area. Our volunteers have had amazing once-in-a-lifetime sightings onboard the boats, such as: Fin, Eden’s and Beaked Whales, pods of over a hundred Short-beaked common dolphins, and adorable Short finned pilot whales and Bottlenose dolphins calves. What’s more, we’ve observed their incredible behaviour- from breaching, to tail slapping, to feeding from a bait ball!

As well as protecting the oceans around Tenerife, the project is increasingly focusing on improving the health of the oceans. Our beach cleanup efforts have gone from strength to strength and are well on the way to reaching our target of collecting 1 tonne of rubbish from the beaches (in just 4 months, we have collected 1000 kilos!). With the help of one of our partners at Grand Azul we organised a massive beach clean-up day at Palm-Mar beach. With the help of Big Fish Diving Centre, we collected rubbish under the waves for the first time; and with the help and support of the local community, volunteers combed the beach of any rubbish, collecting over 50 kilos in one day.

As we anticipate our best summer ever, I’d like to say a massive thank you to all past and present project staff and volunteers. Without your contributions to the project it would not be the success it is today, and to all our boat partnership I’d like to say a very special thank you for your continued support of Frontier and our work. I’d also like to invite everyone to join us on this incredible project where you will have an unforgettable experience and join in our efforts of to conserve these beautiful animals in their natural habitat.
DID YOU KNOW?
IN 4 MONTHS FRONTIER PICKED
ONE THOUSAND KILOS
OF RUBBISH FROM THE BEACHES OF TENERIFE!
Careers in the conservation sector are often perceived as both desirable and prohibitively competitive; we aim to demystify this and showcase the reality of an NGO workplace experience. Frontier runs regular work shadowing days, for 16-18-year-old students, at our London HQ. They allow students to shadow a member of our team and thereby get a glimpse of the day-to-day running of an industry-leading non-profit company. The departments available for students to shadow include:

**CHOOSE YOUR DEPARTMENT:**

- Marketing & Digital Media
- Research
- Overseas Operations
- UK Operations and Administration
- Events & Outreach

This is a fantastic way to get a flavour of what it takes to work in environmental conservation and get hands on experience.

We aim to spark new interest in research and conservation and simultaneously help students (and budding conservationists) to diversify their CVs, whether they are drawn to a career in international development, media & journalism or the NGO sector more generally.

**Here is what our work shadowees had to say:**

“Most places only offer work shadow experience for people over 18, so it was very appealing to me that Frontier offered work experience in my age group. I’ve learned a lot about climate change in school and am interested in doing a gap year abroad, so work shadowing showed me the manifold things Frontier offers. I had to generate and pitch blog ideas, as well as posting on social media.”

Shelley Smith (17), 12th grade Didcot Sixth Form College

“...I’m doing research into the most important conservation issues of the year today. I picked the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, the nutrient pollution that is caused by rapid algae growth. The algae grow because of the runoff by farming and consume all the oxygen that is needed by the fish and animals living there. So, they die. That’s something I have learned today, also more about other conservation projects. Very enriching.”

Greg Brunt (17), 12th grade Oakham School

Frontier runs work shadowing placements twice during the academic year.

If you would like to get involved with our next intake, or would like more information, please email [marketing@frontier.ac.uk](mailto:marketing@frontier.ac.uk)
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It has only been 2 days since I settled back into the hustle and bustle of Hong Kong city life, but already I am missing the colour of the pristine blue waters of Fiji, the luscious jungle greens and the laid-back culture of the local community.

I took part in the Frontier Fiji Beach Conservation Project for 2 weeks, having just left a high-intensity job in Hong Kong after 6 years. Voluntary work has always been something I wanted to do, especially work that involves the ocean and its inhabitants.

I chose the Fiji Beach Conservation Project, because I believe in the importance of protecting shore environments in order to conserve marine biodiversity. The project took place on Beqa Island, whose shores are fringed with mangroves. Mangroves play a vital role in the area as they are home to a large variety of marine life, not to mention being an essential source of food for thousands of coastal communities. During the 2 weeks on Beqa, I had the opportunity to plant my very own mangroves, help monitor their health (by measuring their height and number of leaves, and removing unwanted sea snails who eat them!) and also snorkel off the beach to perform surveys on various coral reef communities.

I was honoured to have worked alongside a group of passionate marine scientists and dive instructors who taught us interesting facts about feeding habits and the behaviours of various marine life. Spending time at sea almost every single day also meant we got the chance to learn and identify marine wildlife, which was incredible as I have learnt to love and appreciate the ocean even more than I already did.

Those 2 weeks on the Fiji Beach Conservation Project have reminded me of the beauty of nature which is often neglected and forgotten when living in a busy city. As I remember watching the glorious sunsets split across the horizon after a long day’s work, I will never forget the feeling of fulfilment at the end of each day, and will always appreciate everything I have learnt and witnessed in Fiji - not to mention the lifelong friends I have made throughout this wonderful journey.
DID YOU KNOW?

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS

HOW I DEALT WITH MY ANXIETY ON PROJECT
By Selina Troll (Frontier Tenerife volunteer)

We recently heard from our volunteer Selina, who finished her 10 week placement with Frontier Tenerife. Here’s her amazing testimonial as she talks about her experience overseas, from the good times to the challenges.

I am Selina from Germany. I have been in Tenerife for 2 months now. I was extremely nervous the week before my arrival day, because despite the fact that I have several long-distance travels experiences under my belt, I’ve never been away for more than 3 weeks before. As a person who suffers from social anxiety, my first week was very hard – not only to be in a new environment, but to face living in the volunteer house with so many people whom I didn’t know.

Every week I have been here there have been many challenges, but I’ve been able to overcome all of them somehow...

In the end, all I can say is that it was amazing! As an animal rights activist, it was especially nice for me to see the whales and dolphins from the distance of the boats, as they are busy living happily in their natural habitats and not in captivity! We’ve been doing beach clean-ups as well, and it’s been such a good feeling to receive a lot of appreciation from those who have watched us working during our time there.

Due to my anxiety problem I mentioned above, I decided to write about mental health in my testimonial. I know that around 30% of people suffer from anxiety, so it’s not good at all to pretend that it doesn’t exist.

On a practical level, our sympathetic, wonderful staff were always here to help if I needed them. Any time. Every day. And as I got to know other volunteers and they got to know me, some of them learnt about my issue and were so understanding.

Considering my social anxiety, it’s incredible how many different people I’ve met and talked to in these 8 weeks. And since I’ve been here, I’ve actually learned that it’s okay that I behave, act and feel the way I do; it’s okay that I am the way I am. But the best part of this entire trip was not the dolphins or the whales, or even the people - the best part was to see how I’ve grown in confidence and how I’ve completely left my comfort zone as the project has gone on. Volunteering in Tenerife has been the best experience in the 23 years of my life so far.
TRIP OF THE YEAR 2019:

BELGIUM’S BOY SCOUTS JOIN US IN TENERIFE

FRONTIER HOSTED A GROUP OF NINE BOY SCOUTS FROM BELGIUM.

The troop joined our team in Tenerife and were able to gain hands-on research experience using our photo fin-identification software, Darwin, as well as being thoroughly grounded in species identification training to help survey the twenty-eight cetacean species that inhabit the waters around Tenerife. Other activities included fish identification snorkel trips, daily beach clean ups, coastal surveys and, of course, going on the much beloved dolphin and whale watching boats.

Their motivations for getting involved in this project ranged from a desire to undertake some real-life conservation work to the impulse to make a measurable difference to a vulnerable ecosystem, whilst some envisaged the conservation and NGO sector as a viable career option in the future. This trip was many months in the planning and from the testimonials we received from the group, we know we delivered on a once-in-a-lifetime trip:

“Everyone was very friendly and extremely helpful, specifically the staff members who all not only met my expectations, but exceeded them, as did the safety and accommodation on this project ...I liked both the fact that we were all mixed in different rooms, so that we had to socialize and also discovering the marine life in Tenerife. I would go on another Frontier project because I have learned so many things about ecology.”

We plan group trips all around the world, starting every week. If you and your group want to take part in a Frontier adventure, get in touch with us at: contact@frontier.ac.uk
WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS SAY

**Costa Rica**
"The social life and camp culture is extremely welcoming and for an introvert, made the experience less daunting."
- Murray Liptrot, United Kingdom

**Belize**
"Snorkeling with manatees, sharks and corals was absolutely mind-blowing, and a story to tell for the rest of my life."
- Lara Seysfied-Cohen, Germany

**Fiji**
‘The Fijian seas are wonderful. It’s like a dream when you are diving in these places!’
- Jordan Manhes, France

**Tenerife**
Seeing the cetaceans was the greatest thing about the days I was on boats. [The project] definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone and I actually enjoyed that.
- Lasmina Carbunescu, Romania

**Madagascar**
‘I had great weeks within a culture full of happiness and pleasure. Experiencing an alternative way of life very close to nature gives you the chance to (re)recognise things in life which are of real importance.’
- Bettina Schoberegger, Austria
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