

**UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN**  
**GREEN BAY**

**Service Learning Travel Course**

**ENV SCI 499: Tropical Conservation and Ecology in Costa Rica**

Overview:

Students and professors from the UW-Green Bay annually live and work with the staff at Carara National Park, Costa Rica for the first two weeks in January. Direct student involvement with park staff and park-initiated projects provides students with a Costa Rican perspective to their natural resource challenges. Located on Costa Rica's Pacific Coast, Carara National Park manages 4,700 hectares (11,600 acres) of transitional tropical forest containing critical watersheds, tremendous biodiversity, and threatened species such as scarlet macaws and American crocodiles.

Challenge:

Effective conservation of public assets, such as Carara National Park, requires support from surrounding communities. Thus, in an attempt to reduce future poaching and to enhance relationships between Carara and the surrounding communities, Carara National Park has asked for our assistance in the development of school programs targeted at neighboring communities.

Project Goals:

1. Improve local community knowledge of and support for Carara National Park by working with park staff to engage students and teachers through assistance with school supplies, teaching aids, and educational opportunities.
2. Provide financial support to bring local school children and their teachers to Carara National Park and for educational programs highlighting the unique resources of the park, its mission and conservation efforts.
3. Enhance the capacity for Carara National Park to achieve their conservation objectives.

UWGB Student Fund Raising for Schools:

Students from UW-Green Bay will collect school supplies and raise money to purchase supplies that they will distribute to teachers and students in schools adjacent to Carara National Park during the January 2008 travel course to Costa Rica. Additional funds will cover the transportation of school groups to Carara and for hands-on educational programs.



Faculty Instructors: Professors Kevin Fermanich, Mathew Dornbush, Daniel Meinhardt



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