

Be part of a solar project in Costa Rica

with Light Up The World (LUTW) - May 2014 (final dates to be confirmed)

Project evaluation of a LUTW supported project in Costa Rica

While Costa Rica has one of the highest rates of electrification in the Americas, many Costa Ricans living in remote areas such as the Talamanca Canton lack basic services including access to electricity. In absence of electric light, people buy candles to study, cook and socialize in the evening. Not only is the open flame a hazard to children, many families that earn the equivalent of \$100 per month spend \$20-\$30 on light alone.

LUTW has been working alongside partners to provide sustainable energy solutions and light to communities in the Talamanca region since 2008. Since that time more than 800 solar energy systems have been installed in homes.

You can work along with LUTW staff and local partner in conducting a project evaluation in Costa Rica. Through this evaluation, you will be part of helping to develop solutions to existing challenges to supporting off-grid solar home systems in the Talamanca region. By volunteering on this project, you will gain a unique insight into the challenges of implementing sustainable energy projects within the wider context of development in Costa Rica.

About the region...

Talamanca is a territory of great ecological diversity and home to the Cabecar and Bribri indigenous groups. With more than 88% of its territory now protected, Talamanca was isolated and inaccessible until the late 1970s. With a strong tradition of self-sufficiency and farming, many in Talamanca produce cacao, banana, plantain, beans and rice.



Itinerary highlights

- Day 1: Arrive in San Jose, briefing and introduction to LUTW
- Day 2: Travel to Talamanca, visit a local cooperative
- Day 3: Introduction to local partner, seminars on project implementation and project sustainability
- Day 4: Workshop on solar photovoltaic systems
- Day 5: Home evaluations – interview families living off-the-grid about the impact of solar
- Day 6: Home evaluations
- Day 7: Home evaluations, present findings and recommendations
- Day 8: Morning visit to beach nearby, Return and debrief in San Jose
- Day 9: Depart San Jose

DATES: MAY 2014 (exact dates to be confirmed)

COST: \$1,400 (does not include cost of flight)

REGISTRATION/PAYMENT DEADLINE:

MARCH 31ST, 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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Be sure to sign up early - Only 9 spots available