

[A Summer of Tree Hugging](#)

Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 3:20pm

I'm looking out the patio door right now, watching the first thunderstorm/downpour of the year. I love it, I think it's gorgeous...but then again, I remembered that I'll be spending 10 weeks in Costa Rica's **rain season**. I bet I'll have ample opportunity to enjoy said precipitation.

I now know the specifics of the project we'll be working on this summer. We'll be in a place called Juanilama, where they have a natural reservation. It seems like they've made it up from a complete conservation project to an ecotourism thing. The Costa Rican government is big on environmental conservation. The idea is to

1. Raise environmental awareness by taking people through the biodiversity reserve, and
2. to make the town some money, obviously.

Also worth noting: This project has been endorsed by the United Nations Development Program. Here's what the document says about the work I'll be doing:

Most of the work in this project will revolve around the reservation. This is very demanding by nature, but it is made easier by the constant presence of community members who will be sharing their customs, knowledge and culture, and also by the beauty of the reservation. The community has already organized to have the volunteers work individually in local farms to learn first hand the nature of their living environment. The group can also expect a huge involvement with local youth and kids through conferences organized for schools and high schools to teach them about environmental awareness.

So I guess I may just be doing bitchwork on a farm, which is a far cry from what I expected. Well for all of you who supported me financially, at least you know. However, it does seem that most of the work I'll be doing has more to do with awareness and any improvements to the natural conservation and **that** I look forward to. It seems as though I'll have internet access at times this summer. I'll keep you all posted.

Cheers everyone. I cannot thank you all enough for your encouragement thus far.



[Déborah Nadeau](#) at 9:15pm May 7

Yay for natural conservation!!

:)



[Valerie Arseneau](#) at 12:02am May 8

don't be too much of a hick by the time you come to Guadalajara. lol.

Hope it goes well over there. I'll be there to welcome you back to civilization. hehe.



[Michael Leukert](#) at 9:53am May 9

you're gonna love this.