



**U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR**
INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



DOI-ITAP

Factsheet

Youth Engagement

Youth Engagement in Natural and Cultural Resource Conservation

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is responsible for natural and cultural resource management, and is a leader in helping young people connect with their land and heritage. The Department works to educate youth on the value of public lands, water, wildlife, culture and heritage, and provide young Americans with employment opportunities that help promote conservation objectives and revitalize local communities. DOI's efforts are helping to cultivate the next generation of conservation leaders.

DOI's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) builds capacity in other countries by sharing the expertise of the organizations overseas. DOI-ITAP has harnessed the Department's youth engagement expertise to promote in other countries environmental stewardship and a conservation ethic with children and their families.



A National Park Service ranger engages youth through the Junior Ranger Program. Photo credit: DOI-ITAP

Selected Accomplishments

Croatia: Employed Youth in Croatia's National Parks

- Provided job skills training and temporary employment in national parks to young people from diverse ethnic groups in war-affected regions.

Tanzania: Trained Youth in Wildlife Tourism Skills

- Trained hundreds of community members – with a focus on youth, women, and other economically vulnerable populations – in the design and development of visitor and operational infrastructure and educational programs in five Tanzanian Wildlife Management Areas.

Jordan: Partnership with Petra National Trust

- Developed a youth education program at Petra Archaeological Park to engage local children in their cultural history. The program was patterned after DOI's National Park Service Junior Ranger Program.



Jordanian children discuss an outdoor activity at Petra Archeological Park. Photo credit: DOI-ITAP

Chile: Educating Youth to Combat Wildlife Trafficking

- Organized and led a Marine Science Camp for 100+ Chilean students and teachers to learn about marine conservation through hands-on experiments and from world-class experts.
- Designed and launched public outreach events -- such as a traveling visual exhibition and education fairs -- to educate youth and their families about the negative impacts of wildlife trafficking.



DOI-ITAP In-Country Coordinator Cristobal Barros hosts an educational wildlife trafficking event for youth and families at the National Zoo in Santiago, Chile. Photo credit: DOI-ITAP

Morocco: Partnerships for Youth Engagement

- Developed a series of youth-focused initiatives, including environmental clubs, green space in schools, eco-tourism painting workshops, and environmental education lesson plans.
- Contributed to the development of an “Ambassador’s Initiative” through which select Moroccan youth are trained as ambassadors to educate members of their communities about the threats and conservation needs of Barbary macaques.
- Produced an environmental education teacher’s guide for the Moroccan Ministry of Education which includes concepts, methods and practices to increase participation in and improve environmental decision-making.
- Partnered with the U.S. Peace Corps to expand the reach of ITAP’s environmental awareness activities to youth in remote cities and towns in Morocco.



Peace Corps volunteer conducts an environmental trip with teens to Toubkal National Park, in Morocco. Photo credit: DOI-ITAP

Partnering with DOI-ITAP

Funding partners

DOI-ITAP partners with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development to support and strengthen governments and civil society organizations across the globe.

How to Partner with DOI-ITAP

DOI-ITAP has well established mechanisms to efficiently and effectively transfer and manage funding from partner agencies, including multiple existing Inter-Agency Agreements with State Department and USAID Regional Missions.

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