



## Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

**Report Title:** Galapagos Islands and Amazon Rainforest      **Name:** Yamile Ledesma and Yamile Ledesma

**Other Team Members:**

**Program:** New York City Program

**Trip Dates:** 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001

**Location Visited:** Ecuador

**Post Fellowship Reporting Template:** PFR Template 01

**Project Summary:** When you think of the Galapagos Islands, you think of Darwin's Finches. When you think of the Amazon Rainforest, you think of deforestation. As high school biology teachers we wanted to experience firsthand what we had been teaching our students all year, evolution, natural selection and deforestation. These words were engrained in our minds as we took on the adventure of a lifetime. We wanted to see with our own eyes how Darwin's finches have adapted to the changes in their environment and investigate the causes of this change. While on this summer adventure, we were able gain a better understanding of how change affects a community. We have gained the knowledge and experience necessary to enhance the learning of our students. Our personal experiences on this journey along with the development of new curriculum are sure to stimulate the learning environment in our classrooms.

**Career Impact:** \* Provided an opportunity to observe firsthand the interactions of various species in their natural habitats.

- \* Further developed an understanding of adaptation.
- \* Provided the opportunity to further investigate the exploitation of wildlife.
- \* Became aware of the medicinal uses of various plants.
- \* Gained knowledge of the local indigenous tribe, the Quichwa tribe, and their daily practices.
- \* Developed new curriculum.

**Classroom/Community Impact:**\* Participated in local religious practices in order to gain a better understanding of our student's culture.

- \* Firsthand experiences that will enhance the learning environment by using personal experiences to further students' understanding of Natural Selection.

**Open Response:** \* A slideshow presentation of our experience.

- \* Interdisciplinary curriculum unit on indigenous cultures in Latin America.
- \* Further development of curriculum on Ecology.

**Quote:** The beauty seen in Ecuador is sure to inspire anyone.

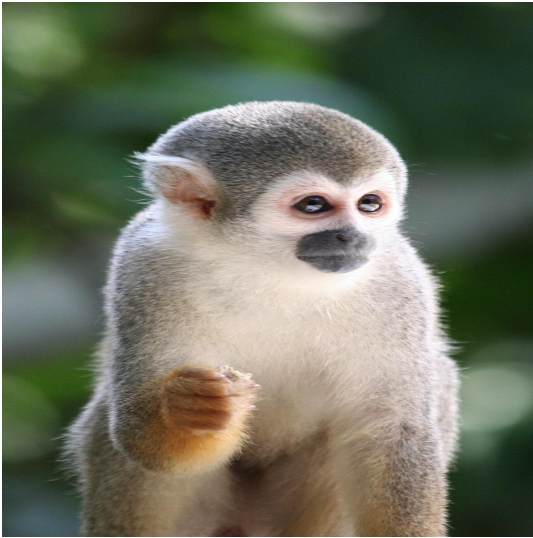
Photos:



Waterfalls in the Amazon Rainforest



Butterflies fluttering by



Squirrel Monkey



The people of the Amazon



Fishing in the Amazon



Totem Pole



Beautiful view in the Galapagos Islands



More beautiful views in the Galapagos Islands