



**PUNTACANA Ecological Foundation  
Coastal Marine Project**

*Marine Conservation Promoter*

Background	<p>The PUNTACANA Ecological Foundation is working with a team of researchers from the University of Miami Rosentiel School of Atmospheric Research to conduct a social-economic diagnostic of fishing communities, linked to the Punta Cana coast. The results of the research will provide the Ecological Foundation with a better understanding of the fishing community's dependence on the Punta Cana reef and their impact on the coastal environment.</p>
Job Description	<p><b>Coastal Monitoring:</b> The volunteer will help researchers collect data about local fisherman, identifying the equipment they use, work schedules and fishing routes. The volunteer will measure and identify these fisherman's fish and invertebrate catches.</p> <p><b>Mangrove Reforestation:</b> The PUNTACANA Ecological Foundation is developing a mangrove reforestation and monitoring project, which seeks to improve mangrove establishments along the coast.</p> <p>Volunteers will be reforesting mangrove trees and monitoring their progression.</p> <p><b>Turtle Monitoring:</b> Habitat loss, poaching and lack of environmental awareness are threatening the integrity of turtle's populations in the Punta Cana region. The PUNTACANA Ecological Foundation is working with local biologists, university students and volunteers to collect critical scientific data about the health of local turtles.</p> <p>The volunteer will assist the PUNTACANA Ecological Foundation in the monitoring and conservation of turtles that come to nest along the Punta Cana Coast. The work consists of nightly (9 p.m. to 4 a.m.) patrols along beaches, snorkeling/diving patrols along the coast, monitoring, protection, tagging and relocating nests 2-3 times a week. There is an Environmental Education component to the program, raising awareness among tourists, students and the community as a whole.</p>
Supervisor	Benjamin Kushner
Duration	2 weeks