



## **'Building the Osa Travelers' Philanthropy Fund' is a finalist. Vote for our joint project!**

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The Center for Responsible Travel (CREST) and Fundación Corcovado are pleased to announce that our joint project has been selected as a finalist in the Geotourism Challenge 2010 "Places on the Edge" sponsored by Ashoka Changemakers, National Geographic, and the Inter-American Development Bank. Our project entitled "Building the Osa Travelers' Philanthropy Fund" was selected as one of twelve finalists from among 250 entries from 54 countries! Selection as a finalist honors our project as "among the most innovative solutions for coastal, waterway, and island destinations that protect the environment and strengthen the heritage and livelihoods of local residents," but...

### **To become a winner, we need your VOTE!**

From the dozen finalists, the three who receive the most online votes will win a prize of \$5,000 to be put toward the project's implementation. Please check out our project and [vote for it now](#).

Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula is among the world's crown jewels of biodiversity, offering outstanding nature-based tourism experiences. But it is one of the poorest regions in the country. *Building the Osa Travelers' Philanthropy Fund* offers a new tool for expanding the positive impacts of tourism flowing to both community and conservation priorities in the Osa Peninsula. "The project moves the concept and practice of travelers' philanthropy to a new strategic level – one that generates resources collectively via destination-wide donations of 'time, talent and treasure' for a set of high-priority development and environmental projects" says CREST Co-Director Martha Honey. The Osa Travelers' Philanthropy Fund is projected to become self-supporting within five years, and it is replicable, offering a model that can be adapted for other tourism destinations around the world.



Watch a clip of *Travelers' Philanthropy: giving time, talent or treasure*

In fact, CREST and the Monteverde Institute are currently involved in a similar project to develop a destination-wide travelers' philanthropy initiative in Monteverde. Both these innovative

projects – in Monteverde and the Osa Peninsula -- will be showcased at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Travelers' Philanthropy Conference to be held in Costa Rica July 20-23, 2011. For conference details and registration, go to [www.travelersphilanthropy.org/conference](http://www.travelersphilanthropy.org/conference). To learn more about Building the Osa Travelers' Philanthropy Fund and to cast your vote, click below:

[Cast Your Vote Here](#)

*About Center for Responsible Travel*



The Center for Responsible Travel (CREST) is a policy oriented research institute with offices at Stanford University and in Washington, D.C. committed to using tourism as a tool for poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation. Our network of experts provides interdisciplinary analysis and innovative solutions through consultancies, research and field projects, publications, conferences and courses. Our core programs include Travelers' Philanthropy, Market Research, Coastal and marine Tourism, ecotourism, and Certification.

*About Fundación Corcovado*



The Corcovado Foundation was created by concerned neighbors of Costa Rica's Corcovado National Park to lead the fight to stop illegal hunting and logging. We are a hands-on, down to earth local leader in conservation, who works closely with the National Park Service to protect the wild heritage and the future of protected areas. We advance the cause of environmental education and champion the rights of the local communities, while encouraging responsible tourism as a tool to help protect this incredible gift that we have been left, the Osa Peninsula.

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