

**Chris Taylor joined the Costa Rica 2007 expedition as a communications officer.**

I had the opportunity to take a sabbatical from work, and wanted to do something structured and interesting. Raleigh offered a really exciting sounding option, where I felt confident that it would be as good as what it said on the tin. I was also keen to try out some new types of work, and the communications role sounded interesting and different.

I was really pleased with the things I created in the communications officer role – the expedition t-shirt, the magazine, the blog – and I also took on the responsibility for the photography. I'm still in touch with quite a few people from the expedition and it was great to hear them talk about the memories that these things bring back for them.

On the expedition I was proud of the part I played in getting the ambassador along to open an eating area built by one of the project teams, as it was clear it made them really proud, and created quite an event for the local community. More broadly all the time I spent with the other volunteer managers and venturers was just great fun! One of the biggest things I gained from the expedition was rediscovering my capacity for just having a great time.

My outlook on life has changed since being on Raleigh. I think the expedition gave me a new sense of perspective on life (although it is hard to hold onto that when you return), a better understanding of some global issues like environmental sustainability and economic development, and opened my eyes to lots of other ways of living life.