

Appendix C: Post-trip Question 14 Open-ended Answers

Question: Please use the space below to write anything you want about whether the Earthwatch Expedition experience changed the way you participate and think about social change at home:

2015 It did more to change the way I think about myself and who I am rather than change my beliefs. I don't think Earthwatch's purpose is or should be to do that.

2020 I have a lot to learn.

2029 Earthwatch was a great experience and I'll do another. Re this survey, I feel a couple of these questions, answers, choices, are biased and leading. This is not necessary to achieve your objectives, in fact, it's mildly offensive.

2046 It showed me what steps a couple biologists were taking to improve wetlands, and it showed me which way to go if I wanted to do something similar.

2056 Maybe I missed something, but what does the toxicity of a caterpillars host plant affecting predation (which was the study in Costa Rica) have to do with social issues?

2063 Experiencing life in a 3rd world country changed my perception of 1st world lifestyles; made me realize how wasteful we can be; how much we take for granted.

2064 (Will never feed fish again!!) Am much more aware of commercial and tourist trades effects on ecosystem.

2065 This was a great trip, but had nothing to do with social change or my attitude about social change.

2066 I definitely appreciate everything about the U.S. Compared to Mexico, our problems are few. I very much enjoyed this experience and the knowledgeable leadership of Dr. Oscar Garranza and Dr. Wade Miller- very enthusiastic, caring people.

2080 With every overseas Earthwatch trip I've participated in (10 of 13) I've come to appreciate the U.S.A more and more and renew my increased value to voice my opinion. I voice my opinion more now.

2089 No change here, but it's a good feeling to discuss issues with "formerly strangers".

2096 Participating in Earthwatch Expeditions reinforces my ethics and provides me with additional materials in which to teach others. Without these expeditions, I probably would not have an adequate forum for which to discuss my values with others.

2097 This trip has encouraged me to take up schooling (college) again. I am starting classes in the fall.

2110 Racism is still alive and well in Mississippi although things have changed dramatically since the 50s and 60s. Institutional racism is worse than I thought.

2125 These expeditions combat ethnocentrism. They help to show diverse cultures and values and foster understanding.

2139 Makes you believe things worth saving in our culture should be saved before they are in ruins. (people or things)

2144 No change.

2163 Our biggest social problem is lack of respect for things around us (other people, wildlife, natural resources.) Earthwatch projects have helped me and others gain respect for things around us.

2169 While we were there 4 lobbyists “dropped in” to see the mist net operation. Defender of Wildlife Audobon, NRA(!!) and Wilderness Society. The Fish and Wildlife guy from Anchorage with them had them take a boat ride on the Lake rather than talk about the issue of MAPS stations, funding, bird habitat issues, etc. We have LOTS of work to do.

2174 So far as I could tell, Rocky Mtn. Wildflowers had no immediate concern with social change.

2179 It didn't at all.

2191 Americans need to understand the extreme privileges they enjoy even under the locally worst conditions. We are gluttonous consumers of resources and information. Yet, have the potential to do great things because of that affluence.

2203 First, I would like to say that it was the most awesome experience of my life- I've never missed anything so bad in my life. The experience had made me more aware of global issues, and I've become more involved at home. Thanks!

2204 After seeing the extreme poverty in China I believe we should stop complaining about our “problems” and start helping others more.

2209 I became more aware of how others think, feel, and the extent to which they have become “imprinted” by their age, work, common goals, perceptions, , re the project. In some ways I am disappointed, and in some ways encouraged this should affect my behavior at faculty meetings and my overall view of humanity.

2214 I can't think of any way that it did.

2240 More aware of global problems.

2241 Need more non-governmental organizations such as EW.

2274 I am far more aware of need in the world and in my neighborhood. This was a wonderful experience.

2282 In Costa Rica- where I went, the people, although they spoke a different language and had a different skin color had the same social and economic problems and Americans did.

2291 The Yagui Indians have practically nothing- yet they seem happy we have everything yet we seem unhappy.

2292 Certainly, the expedition has mostly expanded my life experience and knowledge in subtle ways which will affect how I live my life in a wealthy country. I do hope to write articles and publish photographs about the experience.

2293 The Team had members that both strongly agreed and strongly disagreed with my views. Conversation had very lively moments, but we all parted as friends at the end of the project time.

2317 It changed me because so many people in Russia work without wages that I actually acknowledged how well our own government is doing. Still, their feelings of helplessness make me realize how important it is to have ambition!

2319 Oh my gosh! It was just AMAZING! The people were mostly what made me realize a lot. They made me realize what quality can be achieved. The whole thing was very inspiring. Thank You. I have become more aware of myself and more confident.

2327 I do not correlate the Earthwatch experience with social change at home. Bad idea. Could undermine Earthwatch while doing little for social change. The social change field seems to be amply represented already.

2328 When I went on the expedition I did not think anything would change my way of thinking (which wasn't a lot), but an assistant researcher, Greg Jodie,

really made me stop and think about what people are doing to this Earth and how I am a part of it and what I can do to change it.

2336 Meeting a young man who has been in a drug rehab program who was one of the participants. He had been on last year's expedition and was accompanying 2 others from drug rehab this year. He seemed genuinely interested in change. It heightened my awareness of our system of crime/punishment/rehabilitation...Where emphasis is so often on punishment instead of rehab.

2343 I plan to become active in the protection of the common loon by participation in NALA and by other means which I am exploring.

2344 Just a thought: simplicity of life and "suffering" vary and are mutually exclusive... It is hard to compare and comprehend the differences of people's lives around the world.

2358 Found out many local problems (e.g. exotic Habitat destruction) also found in Oregon!

2361 We learned a great deal about mountain lions and their population biology. Most of the other volunteers could have been our children and grandchildren. We enjoyed working with these bright and dedicated young people.

2391 It broadened my knowledge of Mississippi and about agriculture.

2396 Not really it's focus.

2404 The way of life in rural Argentina was so different from the United States, it gave/opened whole new perspectives on social issues that I hadn't even considered.

2405 To be on an Earthwatch trip was like really being totally at home and comfortable. It reminded me I was not alone in my efforts to help build a better society and preserve what is really of value. I felt refreshed and reinvigorated.

2406 No, due to lack of qualified applicants.

2407 I had the best two weeks of my life. I will remember the people I met, the work I did and the culture of the Hopi Indians.

2410 The expedition I participated in was very enriching for myself, but I don't think that it has any implications to today's social problems.

2415 I do not think the experience changed the way I participate and think about social change at home.

2428 I have a new appreciation for archaeology. This important form of research is tough, physical labor which can be quite tedious and uncomfortable. I value tremendously the information that is available because of tireless work of archaeologists.

2437 No effect. Sorry!

2442 On my trip I painted a mural in the town of Bahia de Los Angeles and so many people were willing to help me. I realized how motivated people can be when they find something they love.

2450 I don't feel that the expedition changed my social awareness greatly-except of some scientific issues involved in wildlife preservation. (Such as: how to keep excavation at a low-impact level). I have also learned that humans cannot help affecting their natural enviro.

2455 By participating in my Earthwatch Expedition in the Bahamas, which just gained independence about 25 years ago, it really showed me how important it is for people to be active in their government and stand up for what they believe in.

2464 It changed the way I look at the world. I feel more competent and excited about getting involved.

2465 I think that now I will try to take a more active part in protecting the environment.

2466 I was already aware of human population and development and its affect on the environment, yet it was good that a lot of our field work emphasized it all!

2468 It didn't necessarily change something just reinforced existing beliefs.

2472 Viewing and experiencing the social problems in Kenya makes me more optimistic about my own country.

2487 Not particularly. I've been involved for so many years. The project provided some wonderful experiences, but in all other Earthwatch projects I've been on I've made a difference. Here the volunteers were irrelevant-not really need. The project really just wanted our money. That's disgraceful, in that it was not upfront!!

2489 I have learned that other countries are at a disadvantage and being here in the USA is a great opportunity as well as a social advantage, Appreciating my own lifestyle is a very important value.

2513 Did not change the way I participate or think about social change.

2521 The expedition did not change what I do, because I am already active. But, I met wonderful volunteers who shared my views.

2525 Earthwatch was an excellent experience and this expedition was one I will remember for a long time.

2526 Made me aware again, of how lucky we are and wishing others could experience the same so they would understand they are lucky too!

2537 My Earthwatch expedition exposed me to something that is so different to what I'm used to and makes me appreciate everything I have so much more and I'm more conscious of my actions and others.

2547 By spending time with teens from all over the country, I was made more aware of the fact that one person can really make a difference, because each one of them did.

2548 The only change I noticed was being more aware of the level of trust and friendliness. The Native Bahamians were very trusting and friendly compared to US.

2566 Meeting the Hungarian people reminded me we are all one. We should keep this in mind while working for social change in our own country.

2569 My Earthwatch experience didn't so much change my views of society; by studying the lifestyle my conviction that superficial possessions are essentially meaningless.

2634 No. I think curious people interested in helping with research, equal typical volunteer. Not people interested necessarily in "social action". (A sweeping, sloppy term!) And we assess worth of Earthwatch project by project. Not all make sense to all of us! Scientific research = the broad interest!

2682 Since we mainly spent 14 days with 5 people on a small sailboat out at sea, I think it had little effect on my views. When we did venture ashore I saw the same Mexico that I've seen before. I do feel as strongly, as ever about protecting the non-human majority on earth from our horrendous monopolization of earth, resources.

2693 Change takes time.

2701 It opened my eyes to grassroots environmental groups.

2710 It was an unbelievable experience - one which I shall never forget. It has probably changed me forever in many areas. A wonderful opportunity to grow and learn!

2716 This Earthwatch Expedition made me realize how much time one little thing can affect so many other things the whole world is like a chain.

2733 I plan to be more involved in my teaching and to show young people how they may be more involved in their communities.

2760 It made me realize more about the plight of many animals and how they are treated.

2780 I joined this expedition not with views of social change at home in mind, but to observe as much as I could of life, times and change in the country of the expedition.

2785 My Earthwatch Expedition helped me see that I should and want to be involved in the different movements going on around me.

2836 Not much impact about participation- I am more courageous of a person.

2884 I believe people are poor for many reasons-combination listed above plus mental health problems/medical issues, etc. Yes, I am even more committed to joining more expeditions. What I consider "meaningful" travel- you'll never find me on a cruise ship, that is for sure! Social change-(What I'd like to see in the U.S.) is moving at a snails pace.

2900 This trip was chosen based on my existing social values and did nothing to change them.

2925 Literacy and English are very important to get ahead in life in US and other countries esp. 3rd world.