

Application: Population, Health and Environment Study Tour to India

- Application as a Word doc file
- Application as a pdf file

Since 2003, Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program has conducted a series of study tours to explore issues around sustainable development and the environment. Past study tour countries include Ecuador, Madagascar, Ethiopia and the Philippines. These study tours provide Sierra Club activists with the unique opportunity to witness first-hand the challenges and opportunities associated with community-based integrated development programs, and to learn about the connections among population, health and the environment.

Our next study tour will be to the South Asian nation of India. India hosts extraordinary energy, environment and green development work. For more information about Sierra Club recognizing Indian environmental successes, please visit (<http://www.sierraclub.org/india/>) However, India also struggles with a range of development issues including poverty, natural resource degradation and rapid population growth.

The 2009 study tour will include site visits to urban and rural development projects that address key conservation, economic and social issues. Final study tour dates will be determined based on travel to project sites within India, and will be finalized in October 2009. Participants will need to be available for a minimum of 9 days between November 11 and November 25, 2009. Specifically, the trip will highlight:

- Interrelationships among gender, resource conservation, education, economic opportunities and population growth
- The role of health education and services and their relationship to population trends
- Innovative approaches that local people are creating to address the challenges of growth and development

Participants will have assignments for data collection, documentation, and group reporting. In addition, selected activists will develop and commit to an individual work plan of activities before, during and after the study tour, including:

- Participating in 2 one-hour teleconference briefings with other study tour participants in the weeks leading up to the study tour
- Sharing your study tour experiences through a variety of organized outreach activities upon your return to the U.S. (communicating with decision-makers, making presentations to local chapters or community groups, writing newsletter articles, conducting interviews to create a viral advocacy video upon return, etc)

Selection Process

Our limited budget for this study tour means that we have only 3-4 slots for activists, and we expect the selection process to be competitive. Activists will be selected based on a set of criteria, including:

- Demonstrated commitment to Sierra Club and the Global Population and Environment Program's mission
- Demonstrated interest in international development issues
- Experience with outreach/advocacy activities at the community or national level
- Ability to remain flexible and open-minded

Travel Costs and Logistics

Sierra Club's Global Population and Environment Program will cover the cost of airfare and in-country ground transportation, hotel lodging (which you will share with a roommate) and meals.

Other expenses including travel insurance; passport; airport departure fees (approximately \$20); vaccinations and trip related medical expenses; film, film development or other photo processing; personal items; and souvenirs are the responsibility of the participant.

The study tour will involve a fairly rigorous schedule including early mornings, evening working sessions, extended travel (including international flights) and visits to field programs in remote locations. While we plan to build in time for rest, and cultural exploration, please take these travel conditions into consideration before submitting your application.

We must receive applications by Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Please send completed applications by fax or e-mail to:

Sandeep Bathala
Global Population and Environment Program
408 C Street NE
Washington, DC 20002
E-mail: sandeep.bathala@sierraclub.org
FAX: (202) 835.2072

Letters of invitation to selected participants will be sent out by **Friday, September 30, 2008**.

Anyone who is considering applying for the India study tour should check the following websites additional information:

- Indian Embassy to the U.S. tourist information (<http://www.incredibleindia.org/>)
- U.S. Agency for International Development - India Mission (<http://www.usaid.gov/in/>)
- U.S. State Department country background (<http://www.state.gov/p/sca/ci/in/>)
- Security Information (http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1139.html)
- Health Information for Travelers to India from the Centers for Disease Control (<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/india.aspx>)