



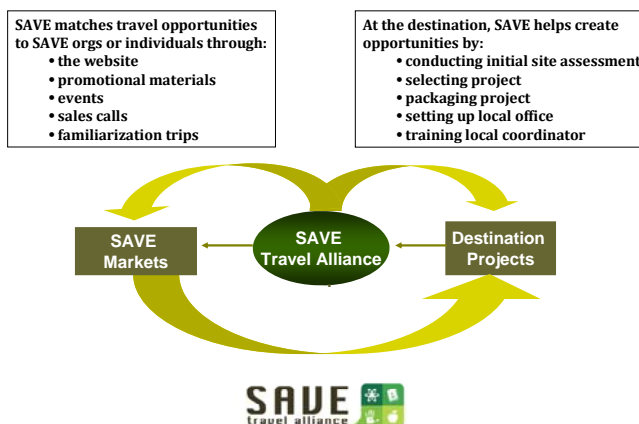
In 2003, the George Washington University formed the SAVE Travel Alliance (SAVE) creating an alliance consisting of the National Geographic Society, Counterpart International and Institute for Honduras Tourism. SAVE is an acronym for Scientific, Academic, Volunteer and Education Travel. Dr. Don Hawkins, IAST Fellow, serves as chairman of SAVE.

In 2009, SAVE became a member of the **Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance (VEGA)** <http://www.vegaalliance.org/> which was founded in 2004 as a vehicle to allow the USAID Economic Growth Officers to reach out to organizations providing technical experts in private, public and NGO sector development. VEGA is the world's largest consortium of economic growth volunteer organizations. These organizations collectively have assisted over 140 developing and transitional countries by sending out more than 67,000 experts/advisers to help promote economic growth activities.

SAVE's focus is on both volunteer sending and volunteer receiving organizations. As tourism becomes more recognized by the international development sector as an effective tool to assist in poverty alleviation and contribute to other aspects of the Millennium Development Goals, there is an increasing need to develop international volunteer programs which focus on tourism planning, policy, and development at the destination level and capacity building at the firm level.

SAVE relies upon its founding consortium and alliance members to assist in recruiting volunteers and to identify high quality opportunities. SAVE's overall vision is "Connecting People to Places to do Good" and is linked to a global movement linking volunteerism with tourism described by the new hybrid term "voluntourism" as described in the following figure:

### HOW DOES IT WORK?



Some examples of SAVE's work follow:

GW offers an International Consulting Practicum every summer as a School of Business Study Abroad Program. It involves graduate students from GW and a local university focused on a real-life consulting assignment. Past projects have focused on Jamaica (2000), Bulgaria (2001), Dominica (2002), Honduras (2003), Morocco (2004), Panama (2005), Montenegro (2006), Istanbul, Turkey (2007), Lake Atitlan, Guatemala (2008) and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic (2009).

SAVE also assists with arranging for USAID funded Global Sustainable Tourism Alliance (GSTA) volunteer assignments which range from 3 to 12 months in Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Montenegro, Ethiopia, and Uganda. Other examples of SAVE activities follow:

Bulgaria -- With funding from Innovation Norway, development of a SAVE Center in the Rodolpe Mountains in cooperation with a local municipality to design and implement SAVE activities.

LAO PDR -- As part of sustainable financing for the Nam Kading National Protected Area (NKNPA), the WCS and the GoL have built the Nam Kading Research and Training Centre (NKRTC) and SAVE is in the process of arranging a long term volunteer to assist the NKRTC.

Dominican Republic – With funding from the STARFISH Foundation, development of SAVE volunteer program to provide technical assistance and ICT training to support donated computers. Also, a grant request is under consideration by the Tourism Cares Foundation for development of tourism initiatives in the Puerto Plata area.

Indonesia -- Way Kambas National Park, in Lampung Province, Sumatra volunteer based skills transfer program; also, provide volunteer technical support and training with a focus on sales, reservations and product marketing to personnel of the Bali head office of Ecolodges Indonesia.

Thailand-- Volunteers are being recruited to assist with community-based tourism development and English language training for periods between 4 weeks to 6 months on Koh Sukorn Island, South Andaman coast, Thailand.

Southern Africa -- This 2 year Ford Foundation funded project to enable southern African countries to identify, document and integrate unique cultural resources into their heritage tourism strategies through the development of a Southern African Slave Wrecks and Heritage Route. This would involve the African Diaspora Trail and National Association of Black Scuba Divers in volunteer activities.

Honduras – Technical assistance has been provided to the Honduras Institute of Tourism to develop a SAVE Center on the North Coast with a \$1 million support grant from the Inter American Development Bank.

Post Conflict Societies -- Diaspora investment motivation and volunteer activities are being investigated in collaboration with the GW Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER). Potential project activities are under consideration in Jamaica, Sri Lanka and Ethiopia.

A case study of the valuation of SAVE travel's economic impact is being developed by Dr. Carol Kline at the University of North Carolina. This will include a previous study of the impact of SAVE created by volunteer organizational activities on Honduras North Coast after hurricane Mitch. SAVE is also planning to convene a meeting of "Without Borders" volunteer groups in 2010 in order to focus on their economic contributions and impacts.

Please refer to the SAVE web site for further details-- <http://www.save-travel.org/>