

## Trekforce Worldwide goes Carbon Neutral

Trekforce Worldwide, the leader in gap year/career break conservation projects is making sure that it continues to travel ethically and responsibly by becoming carbon neutral from July 07, following its expedition to Eljio Panti National Park in western Belize. The expedition aims to build on previous projects helping to improve the tourist infrastructure, protect sacred caves from looting and to ultimately encourage tourists to visit the park.

In partnership with World Land Trust, Trekforce Worldwide has pledged to off set its carbon emissions so that every volunteer who joins any of its conservation projects knows that they are travelling responsibly. The calculations look at everything from the flights to the land rovers and tractors used to transport volunteers and materials deep into the rainforest to carry the project.

John Burton, Chief Executive of World Land Trust said: "Despite the link between aviation and climate change, it is important to be realistic about travel. The important thing is for people to travel responsibly and that means offsetting flights. We are delighted that Trekforce is encouraging its clients to do this with World Land Trust."

Trekforce Director Rob Murray-John explains: "There are times when there is no choice but to fly in order to carry out the worthwhile work Trekforce and its volunteers do, deep into some of the most remote parts of the world. Our aim is to leave behind sustainable projects which benefit the area long term. By employing local guides; buying local food and sourcing wood for the project from local farmers or already fallen trees and by pledging to make their expeditions carbon neutral, we will make sure that we are doing everything possible to travel responsibly and increase the positive effect the expeditions are having on the environment."

Trekforce has worked closely with local partners in Belize, Guyana and Borneo communities who welcome them year after year. The latest project carried out in March 2007 saw 50 volunteers working on 2 projects which included establishing a new national park to protect the area around Davis Falls- the second highest waterfall in Belize and renovating buildings and bridges to encourage scientific research in the Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve, Southern Belize.

**Ends.**