

## WTA Workshop Session Outcomes

### VOLUNTEERS AND RESEARCH IN WILDLIFE TOURISM

#### **Facilitator**

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#### **Main Points of Session:**

- We are seeing growth in volunteer tourism, but still relatively small in Australia
- Conservation Volunteers Australia is the largest such organisation in Australia

Why are we not seeing more growth in Australia?

- Supply issue
  - The researchers don't want to do the logistical arrangements, ie. Accommodation, meals but they need the labour
  - Insurance impediments
  - Some see it as getting rid of paying jobs, but it is actually about job creation
  - Issue of accountability in the work volunteers do
  - Studies show that volunteer tourists are often the best; PhD students usually have their own agenda and uni students can be more interested in personal lives. Volunteer tourists have come solely to help, they have given up their time and money, particularly the older volunteers.
- Demand side
  - There is considerable interest from tourists

#### **Actions**

There was general discussion and questions about the issue, and how to support it's growth but no specific actions were generated.