

SNAKE RESEARCHERS VISIT

INKATERRA AREAS OF INFLUENCE IN MADRE DE DIOS



Renowned herpetologist/toxinologist and tropical adventurer Zoltan Takacs (who is a member of National Geographic Society's 2015 Emerging Explorers program) visited from July 13th to 15th Inkaterra's areas of influence in Madre de Dios, to carry out research on snakes and other venomous animals in the Amazon rainforest.

Dr. Takacs holds a PhD in pharmacology from Columbia University and has co-invented the designer toxin technology, which creates a large number of animal toxin variants and screens for those that bind a potential drug target. He has been featured in National Geographic Channel in several snake documentaries, and has traveled to 133 countries. More information on Zoltan Takacs at:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/explorers/bios/zoltan-takacs/>)

› INKATERRA ◀

AUTHENTIC NATURE TRAVEL IN PERU
SINCE 1975

He was assisted by explorers Barrington Irving and Chris Verna, French herpetologist Pierre Berthon and the Inkaterra Asociación team. Pilot and educator Barrington Irving (Jamaica, 1983) is also a member of National Geographic Society's 2015 Emerging Explorers program. In 2007 he became the youngest man to pilot a plane around the world solo.



His airplane, a Cessna Corvalis 400, is named the 'Inspiration' and since 2006 is registered to Experience Aviation, a non-profit organization founded by Irving and dedicated to empowering minority youth to pursue careers in aviation.

Among snakes found, stand out a two-meter shushupe (*Lachesis muta*) and a 1.5-meter coral (*Micrurus lemniscatus*). One of the project's main objectives is to study animal venoms that can be used in medicines to treat various ailments such as high blood pressure, diabetes, chronic pain and heart attacks. "Animal toxins evolved to be perfect killers, but they can also be lifesaving drugs. We've discovered a novel way to generate and screen a vast array of toxins in numbers and speed unheard of before," has stated Dr. Takacs.