

WHV – “Reverdecer” Program – The Sower Children, Friends of Tak'alik Ab'aj: All Patrimonitos

National Archaeological Park Tak'alik Ab'aj, Guatemala

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2023) 05 May – 15 September 2025

THE SITE - Tak'alik Ab'aj is an archaeological site located on the Pacific Coast of Guatemala. Its 1,700-year history spans a period that saw the transition from the Olmec civilization to the emergence of Early Mayan culture. Tak'alik Ab'aj had a primary role in this transition, in part because it was vital to the long-distance trade route that connected the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in today's Mexico to present-day El Salvador. Ideas and customs were shared extensively along this route. Sacred spaces and buildings were laid out according to cosmological principles, and innovative water management systems, ceramics, and lapidary art can be found. Today, Indigenous groups of different affiliations still consider the site a sacred place and visit it to perform rituals.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims to promote the value of the National Archaeological Park Tak'alik Ab'aj among children and adolescents, fostering a sense of belonging and encouraging them to become active participants in its preservation. The project aims to achieve this through educational and recreational activities that connect young people with the cultural and natural heritage of the site, ensuring its transmission to future generations.

ACTIVITIES - The project's activities are designed to engage children and adolescents in learning about and appreciating the Tak'alik Ab'aj National Archaeological Park. The volunteers will be involved in educational workshops, guided tours tailored for young audiences, creative expression sessions (such as drawing and storytelling) focused on the park's heritage, and reforestation activities to connect them with the site's natural environment. The intended outcome is to instill a sense of pride and responsibility in the young participants, motivating them to protect and promote the park as they grow.

PARTNERS – Centro Educativo para Niños Sordos “Ruth Villa de León de Balda” El Asintak, Retalhuleu; Guatemalan World Heritage Delegation.

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