

Natural Resources Internships Agroforestry with CRACYP for Progreso Verde ("Green Progress") 2013



Introduction

This document should be read in conjunction with the Internship Information Pack available at www.progresoverde.org/internship.html

CRACYP has helped to develop the community business CADO, an organic sugarcane farmers' cooperative, since 2000. CADO farmers produce organic, Fair Trade aguardiente (cane alcohol) for export to companies such as The Body Shop and Dr. Bronner's Soaps. CADO's farmers in their cultivation and production processes and CADO in its buying and export practices both differ markedly from their non-organic, free trade counterparts in the region. In order to produce this alcohol, farmers need to harvest trees for use as fuel to heat alcohol in the distillation process. To maintain Fair Trade certification, farmers must plant 10 new trees for every 1 harvested. For 2013, CADO has around 300 farms in 26 communities.

Objectives

We need agroforestry interns to continue managing a tree nursery project and to work with local farmers to integrate trees into their farms. Trees in the nursery will have various functions: carbon sequestration, lumber production, wildlife habitat, food security (via fruit production), water regulation, beauty (for ecotourism) etc. CADO works with around 300 farms in over two dozen different communities, at different altitudes with different soil types, so there are a variety of trees that can grow. You will likely also help facilitate educational workshops on the benefits of trees and how to incorporate them into farms. You may help design reforestation plans for local communities. For the nursery, you will continue to collect and plant seeds and transplant seedlings as well as to help farmers plant existing trees from the nursery.

Location

You will be based in the picturesque little village of Jilimbí in Bolívar Province, close to the border with Cotopaxi Province. The nearest town you might find on a map is Moraspungo, about an hour's journey up into the mountains from the main road between Quevedo and Ventanas. You will work in various communities near the border between the Bolívar and Cotopaxi provinces.

Requirements

Interns will need to either be fairly independent or else have access to advice by email from their university or other sources (e.g. former employer, conservation organizations, etc.), if needed. Classwork or work experience in forestry is preferred. Interns should also have experience working outdoors in a somewhat physically demanding environment. Spanish language skills would be useful; however, CRACYP's Volunteer Coordinator can help with translation.

How to Apply

Read the Internship Information Pack for details of how to apply.

