

# Community and Eco-tourism Internship 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](http://www.progresoverde.org/internship.html)

CRACYP (which stands for Rural Forestation and Progress Network Corporation, in Spanish) is a non-profit organization facilitating reforestation and sustainable rural development in an agricultural area of extreme poverty. We work with over 200 communities in the subtropical foothills of the Western Andes in Ecuador.

Our mission is "Progreso Verde" or "Green Progress" - that is, social and economic development, but in a way which protects the environment. We build environmental awareness and motivate and assist local communities to take practical conservation action. Our sustainable development projects help to increase incomes to the point where people are able to think further ahead than the next meal and can afford to care about the environment.

In order to expand the local economy and help stem rural-urban migration in the region, CRACYP is developing an eco-tourism project. Infrastructure will consist of several cabins constructed near the little village of Jilimbí, which is a farming community at the edge of forested Andean foothills. Two of the main attractions will be exploring the ecosystem via guided hikes, and experiencing the local culture through visits to sugarcane cultivators who make organic, fair trade alcohol. CRACYP will provide education and job training for members of the local community so that they can eventually assume control of all levels of the business.

## **Objectives**

You will help develop an on-going program in ecological and community tourism in Jilimbi. This will include organizing the community to prepare for visits, organizing practice runs of tourist visits, serving as a bridge between initial tourists and community members, organizing training sessions, helping to build trails, creating promotional materials, etc. It will also likely include longer term planning for their ecotourism project, such as strategic and financial planning.

## **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. We live in a similar house to most Ecuadorians in the area—it's pretty basic, but a great opportunity to see what the life of a campesino (country-dweller) is like.

## **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), if needed. Classwork and/or work experience in ecotourism, financial planning, or hospitality is essential. Strong Spanish language skills are necessary as well, as you will be working extensively with community members. You should also be physically fit, as you will likely spend a lot of time walking.

## **How to Apply**

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

