

Natural Resources Internships  
Forestry  
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 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 forestry interns to investigate the best tree species to plant for multiple benefits. Some of the benefits of trees may be carbon sequestration, lumber production, wildlife habitat, food security (via fruit production), water production (via cloud moisture interception), beauty (for ecotourism), etc. CADO works with around 300 farms in over two dozen different communities, at different altitudes with different soil types, so this will not be a "one size fits all" solution. For each farm or area you evaluate, you will recommend which species should be planted and at what density, and/or note any particularly beneficial species from which seeds or cuttings could be collected to be propagated for use on other farms.

Depending on the time of year you are here, you will either collect suitable seeds or cuttings, or leave recommendations for future reforestation volunteers to follow, so that appropriate species can be cultivated in our tree nursery. At the appropriate time of year, the relevant seedlings/saplings will then be handed over to the farms for planting.

## **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 Bolivar 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. Ideally, a forestry internship would take place at some time between February and August, although there may also be opportunities in other months. Spanish language skills would be useful; however, CRACYP's Intern Coordinator can help with translation.

## **How to Apply**

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

