

Natural Resources Internships
Water Resources Assessment and Planning
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 distil alcohol, the farmers need a reliable flow of water throughout the year, and they are conscious of the need to keep the higher parts of their land forested to attract rainfall. For 2013, CADO has around 300 farms in 26 communities.

Objectives

We need interns with appropriate studies/experience to assess water resources on CADO farmers' land. You will assess available water, investigate factors impacting this, and evaluate the situation to recommend a suitable solution or highlight positive aspects which could be replicated on other farms. For example, you might recommend the planting of more trees in the watershed to intercept cloud moisture, a pump, the construction of a reservoir, or simply to improve the management of an existing water source. You might also find exemplar farms and facilitate discussions between those farmers and other farmers in order to spread best management practices throughout the cooperative. You may also identify situations where farmers could benefit by working together to share water resources.

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 water resources or watershed management 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.

Ideally, a water resources internship would take place at some time between February and June, although there may also be opportunities in other months.

How to Apply

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

