

Natural Resources Internships – Watershed 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. For 2013, CADO has around 300 farms in 26 communities.

CRACYP and CADO are both interested in practices that improve the area as a whole. For that reason, they've been involved in many projects that do so, such as education and reforestation. Looking to the future, they search for areas in which strategic moves could have multiple benefits. Integrated watershed management promises to improve soil and water quality, while also benefiting local communities.

Objectives

We need interns with appropriate studies/experience to create a watershed management plan for the area. Work has been done on agroforestry, water resources, and mapping in the area, and you will integrate some of these results into a holistic plan for improving watersheds. You will likely focus on a specific watershed as a pilot project, and hold workshops in the community to determine low-hanging fruit for improved ecological functioning. You will assess the various goals of the communities (such as commodity crop production) and provide recommendations of how to improve soil and water quality.

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 a must, and additional experience in GPS/GPS technology and with forest and soils ecology. Interns should also have experience working outdoors in a somewhat physically demanding environment. Strong Spanish language skills are necessary, as you will be interacting frequently with community members.

How to Apply

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

