

ACUS Project:

Description: Contribute to a large-scale conservation initiative located along the Ecuadorian coast. Participate in monitoring throughout the corridor as well as working with local communities to promote and educate about sustainable practices.

Project Background: Ceiba is working with four municipalities in Manabí on the creation and development of a Conservation and Sustainable Use Area (ACUS). The ultimate goal is to promote sustainable land uses that satisfy economic needs of landowners while also allowing local flora and fauna to flourish. The total area will contain 206,000 hectares, including more than 112,000 hectares of remnant forest. Ceiba's Conservation Corridor is within the planned area, this project started in 2019 and 208 hectares were restored through various conservation practices, including reforestation and assisted regeneration. Within this program, we will continue promoting connectivity of forests through reforestation, providing technical assistance and training to landowners enrolled in the program, and educating the public on the importance of conservation and sustainable land use practices. Interns will help in different areas depending on the time of the year. Due to the seasonality of this project, please contact us for more details regarding specific activities during your intended internship session.

What will you do?

- Assist Ceiba staff in logistical organization of meetings with local communities and municipalities
- Assist Ceiba staff in promoting ACUS activities, communications with local communities, reports
- Collect data within the ACUS including: wildlife monitoring (camera trap project), water quality, beach impact surveys, and other projects that relate with the ACUS
- Develop educational material about the ACUS
- Work with local communities and schools on awareness on issues related to conservation of the region
- Work with local nurseries to deliver plants to local landowners willing to participate in active restoration programs.
- Create a map of bio-entrepreneurships that need help to improve sustainable activities in the ACUS area

What will you learn?

- The many facets of a large scale conservation project
- Standard field methods for a variety of biotic and abiotic factors associated with reforestation (seasonal)
- Communication and public education skills
- Collaboration with multiple stakeholders

What do we seek?

Interns must have intermediate Spanish language ability for the ACUS project. Interns must also be willing to hike long distances in rugged conditions and conduct field work, often in hot weather. Enthusiastic, self-motivated interns with attention to detail are strongly preferred.