Environmental Education

Description: Coordinate with Ceiba staff and our partners to create and provide environmental education programming for students in the communities along the coast.

Project Background: If you are seeking experience in environmental education, this is for you! Ceiba has an agreement with a local library called A Mano Manaba. This library is in the town of Don Juan, near the Lalo Loor Dry Forest Reserve where Ceiba bases its operations on the coast. The mission of A Mano Manaba is to improve the lives of the most vulnerable population - girls and women - in northern Manabí through formal and informal education programs. They work to empower girls and women so they may explore their full potential, promote gender equality, female leadership, and environmental awareness. Learn more about our partner A Mano Manaba: https://www.amanomanaba.org/en/

We also work with Hombre de Paz ("Man of Peace"in English), another NGO that works with kids of the community of Coaque. The mission is to be a safe space for the community in which children receive the opportunities and tools they need in order to succeed, and be a safe place for them. https://ecthemanofpeace.org/

Interns will help coordinate environmental activities to teach the kids the importance of conservation; topics range from marine to terrestrial environments. Interns will also support the A Mano Manaba and Hombre de Paz team in other education activities such as tutoring students in reading and math. Activities will be carried out at the reserve or at their locations.

Depending on the time of the year, you may also be working with another partner focusing on environmental education. Our collaboration with the Latino Earth Partnership (LEP) focuses on training teachers in environmental and science education. Once a year, an LEP educator comes to Ecuador for a weeklong teacher-training. Throughout the year, we work alongside teachers to implement LEP's environmental education curriculum in rural schools on the coast. Activities include leading school visits to the Lalo Loor Dry Forest Reserve, creating school gardens, leading environmentally themed activities in classrooms and/or libraries, giving public presentations on environmental themes in local communities, and creation of exhibits or other educational materials for use in the community library, local school, and nature center.

What will you do?

- Organize elementary school student field trips to the reserve
- Create and guide environmental education afterschool programming with Don Juan library and Hombre de Paz
- Plan educational sessions at schools or participate in already established sessions
- Visit schools to talk about the reserve and generate interest in the environmental education program and lead environmental education activities
- Organize and co-lead environmental activities in the community library and community fairs
- Depending on the time period: help to plan and participate in a week-long Latino Earth Partnerships workshop for teachers
- Help with activities required at A Mano Manaba and Hombre de Paz.

What will you learn?

- Group facilitation and teaching skills, with children and adults
- Nuances of education in a rural area of a developing country
- Cultural awareness and sensitivity in communicating and collaborating with diverse audiences
- How to implement environmental curriculum in Spanish and English based on the Latino Earth Partnerships program (subject to time of the year)

What do we seek?

This project requires someone with fluent Spanish language ability. Experience in education (especially environmental education) and/or tutoring is helpful but not required. Interns must be enthusiastic, self-directed, and resourceful with good organizational skills. For the LEP workshops, we prefer students who have knowledge of EP's curriculum, either by participating in a Madison institute or receiving training from the LEP coordinator.