

A Tropical Rainforest Paradise: Monte Saíno Natural Resource Conservation Center Volunteer Program



To the southwest region of the province of Esmeraldas, you find Punta Galera, the last remnant of preserved coastal rainforest in Ecuador, located in the transitional zone of two important eco-regions, El Chocó and Tumbesina. This area is one of the 25 hotspots in the world due to the incredibly high biodiversity of species. Monte Saíno Conservation Center is situated only 6 km/3.73 miles from the coastal community of Cabo de San Francisco.



Monte Saíno Natural Resource Conservation Center is situated in a protected forest reserve that consists of 209 hectares/ 516 acres of land. The Center is managed by EcoCiencia, (Ecuadorian Foundation for Ecological Studies), a private non-profit organization with headquarters based in Quito, the capital of Ecuador. Monte Saíno and EcoCiencia have pioneered conservation projects in the area for more than six years.

The objective of Monte Saíno Conservation Center is to promote sustainable management of natural resources among local community members through conservation efforts. Monte Saíno offers volunteer opportunities through a range of environmental projects. The Center is currently seeking volunteers to support this goal in meeting the following priorities:

- **Forest restoration by incorporating analog forestry methods into neighboring farms.**
- **Sustainable collection of native forest seeds from community seed sources.**
- **Quality control inspection and providing a guarantee of viability for seeds.**
- **Sustainable collection of seeds and other products for the development of handicrafts.**
- **Experimental management of crawfish as an income generating project.**



Volunteer opportunities exist at Monte Saíno all year round but require a one-month commitment. However, special projects may be arranged for shorter time periods as appropriate.

Monte Saíno Natural Resource Conservation Center Volunteer Program

Fax/Telephone Quito: EcoCiencia 011(593-2)252-2999/254-5999/223-1624

E-mail: montesaino@ecociencia.org

Web Page: www.ecociencia.org

