

AGROFORESTRY

Description: Establish a new organic agroforestry demonstration plot and take baseline data for its long-term monitoring.



Project Summary: In order to research sustainable and productive agroforestry techniques, Ceiba is implementing an agroforestry research plot to help provide data on the best techniques to be used throughout the coast, mainly within the Jama Conservation Corridor. The goal is to create an agricultural system that maximizes biodiversity while also creating a productive landscape. This project can be combined with the Reforestation and Restoration Internship, Forest Dynamics Research Internships, or the Conservation Corridor Internship.

What you'll do:

- Prepare site for planting
- Work with local experts to plant mixture of native species and cultivates
- Maintain plot (watering, cleaning, and weeding as necessary)
- Catalog species and create a map documenting plantings
- Collect baseline data on canopy cover, soil infiltration rate, secondary forest layer, and other abiotic factors
- Collect baseline data on presence/absence of terrestrial mammals
- Conduct bird surveys
- Maintain records of plantings, maintenance, and biodiversity monitoring
- Collaborate with local landowners and regional experts to evaluate various agroforestry methods
- Conduct meetings in local communities to disseminate results

What you'll learn:

- Identification and cultivation techniques of common tropical agricultural crops
- Principles and practices in organic agroforestry
- Conventional agricultural practices in the tropics
- Sampling methods for monitoring biomass, soil nutrients, and biodiversity

What we seek: Strong interest in botany, horticulture, forest ecology, and agroforestry; detailed and organized, with good data collection and management skills; knowledge of Excel; ability to use keys and other resources to identify plants; willing to conduct field work in rugged conditions.