



Photo by Jessie Doll

As both the largest country in Central America and the least populated, Nicaragua has the opportunity to enforce environmental protection and conserve its natural resources. However, a variety of forces are driving deforestation and quickly increasing pollution. The conversion of forests to agricultural land and commercial logging with little or no government regulation is having a severe environmental impact. Currently, around seventy five percent of Nicaraguan forests have already been transformed into crop and pasture land while pesticide use is steadily rising. Another major land issue in Nicaragua stems from the lack of comprehensive waste management systems. Not only are there no forms of municipal support for waste collection, but the lack of regulations for businesses creates a situation where many of Nicaragua's most important water sources are becoming increasingly polluted.

FSD partner organizations in Nicaragua often seek to maximize their influence by combining areas of environmental focus with other areas, such as youth education, health, or community development. FSD interns support environmental initiatives within local nongovernmental organizations that span a vast array of subjects that address resource usage. Whether you offer trainings in sustainable agriculture, educate youth on pollution and deforestation, or support organic farmers make use of micro-credit, FSD will provide you the training and guidance for your efforts to make a lasting impact on a community.

## Internship/Volunteer opportunities in environment in Nicaragua include:

- Support the development of sustainable agriculture programs, such as the conservation and recovery of soil and water, use of natural insecticides, crop diversification, and reforestation efforts.
- Assist farmers who are making the transition from using pesticides and synthetic fertilizers to organic, sustainable agriculture.
- Provide farmers with micro-credit opportunities and training on how to efficiently apply funds to the growth of their operations.
- Train youth on organic, sustainable farming practices, making use of school farms for project work.
- Teach children and adolescents environmental education courses that discuss a variety of topics, from pollution to water use to deforestation.
- Support an organization with activities that include: building micro-credit opportunities in agricultural communities, developing community workshops on topics such as natural medicine, preventive health, agricultural management, organic agriculture, and citizenship and community participation, and running a pharmacy with herbal medicines and organic and medicinal plants.

For more opportunities in environment in Nicaragua, visit our website or contact us directly.