



FSD Bolivia – Gaia Pacha

Cochabamba, Bolivia

Research Intern: Climate change and actions from small farmers

Organization Overview

Foundation for Sustainable Development is an international development organization that seeks to support communities in achieving their goals through asset-based development and international exchange in Bolivia (Cochabamba) and Argentina (Salta). FSD provides opportunities for students and professionals to engage in real community development work instead of a typical study abroad or drop-in service project program. The internships are thoughtfully designed to help you build your career while having a lasting impact on the people in the community in which you serve. Our internships have a strong emphasis on community ownership and follow the principles of Asset-Based Community Development. Interns receive extensive training in sustainable development principles and gain professional skills in project planning and budgeting, program evaluation, community assessment, and proposal writing. Interns apply their new and existing skill sets as they collaborate with their local colleagues on identifying, designing, and implementing a project to benefit the community.

Social Issue Focus & Impact

In 2006, a group of young Bolivian environmental professionals decided to create an institution that would respond to the big environmental challenges in the country. This institution would allow the members to unleash all their passions, imagination, and technical skills in order to improve Bolivia's environment and help its people. Thus, on Earth Day, 2006, the environmental non-profit foundation Gaia Pacha was born.

Currently, the foundation is functioning with more than 11 active members and training 4 part time members studying abroad pursuing their master degrees. Gaia Pacha's main office is located in the city of Cochabamba; and since 2012, the foundation expanded its activities into the lowlands of the Santa Cruz Bolivia department.

The Gaia Pacha Foundation seeks to create and implement scientific proposals to increase environmental awareness and change people's attitudes and behavior towards the environment. The Foundation's overall goal is to tackle problems where human actions alter ecosystem balances by developing real alternatives using local and scientific knowledge, thus satisfying the needs of both humans and their environment while taking into consideration the social and political realities of Bolivia. Gaia Pacha's environmental programs are based on principles of ethics, transparency, justice, and solidarity.

The general objective of the Gaia Pacha Foundation is to create, propose and implement real alternatives and efficient solutions, based on local and scientific knowledge, to problems where human actions alter the harmonic dynamics of the environment, to meet human needs and to make them compatible with the environment.

Gaia Pacha's activities are organized around the following three program areas: research and technology; education; and environmental politics, protection and conservation. Their work involves intensive research on environmental issues in the Cochabamba region in order to promote technical and scientific strategies that respond to the needs of the local community and value traditional knowledge and socio-cultural concerns. The Foundation's educational model is dynamic and participatory, seeking to engage citizens, and specifically children and youth. In addition to research and education



Position Description

The objective of this project is the identification and analysis of the actions that small farmers take in the face of the challenges of climate change. Faced with the changes that occur at different times of the year, farmers' associations have been preparing strategies on how to reduce these effects for their crops, changes in the sowing season, varieties resistant to droughts and floods, marketing strategies, etc.

Over the last 5 years, farmers have detected new pests, decreased rainfall at planting time and excess rainfall at harvest. The purpose of the research is to identify the strategies developed by small farmers in 3 different municipalities and their effects on the production of fruits and vegetables

Student Profile

- Intermediate Spanish
- Basic knowledge of environmental and issues desirable
- Willingness to work in the field and travel throughout various provinces

Time Frame

The program it is flexible for the start between May 17 and June 14 2021