

Fully funded M.Sc. opportunity in Andean páramo peatlands

Characterization of plant communities of high-elevation peatlands along environmental gradients of the Ecuadorian Andes

Program start: August 2021

Páramo peatlands are a critical ecosystem with a strong role in water regulation, carbon storage, and biodiversity conservation in the Northern Andes. Despite their importance, these ecosystems remain understudied and highly threatened by a diverse array of unregulated human activities, including overgrazing, ditching, unsustainable water withdrawals, and climate change. This M.Sc. project will be aimed at characterizing peatland plant communities along the strong



environmental gradients that occur throughout the Ecuadorian Andes. The successful candidate will receive a full scholarship to participate in the new M.Sc. in Tropical Ecology and Conservation at Universidad San Francisco de Quito.

Qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree in Biology, Ecology, or Environmental Sciences
- Fluency in English
- Availability and enjoyment for field work on harsh mountain ecosystems

How to apply: for dates and other important information on the application procedure please visit: [Maestría en Ecología](#)

For additional information about the project, please contact Dr. Esteban Suarez (esuarez@usfq.edu.ec).

For more information about the M.Sc. program, please contact Dr. Elisa Bonaccorso: (ebonaccorso@usfq.edu.ec)

