

Team Monterey 5, El Salvador Project Descriptions, 2011

Team Monterey provides a professional, international opportunity for MIIS students to hone development skills and enhance language and multicultural competency by developing and nurturing a partnership with La Coordinadora through ongoing projects aligned with its strategic objectives. A continued relationship between the two organizations will offer invaluable practical experience for burgeoning young development professionals and linguists, while assuring sustained benefit to La Coordinadora and its constituents through project elaboration, capacity building and cross cultural integration. Team Monterey 5 anticipates working on 3 of the following 4 projects depending on the needs of the La Coordinadora this January, 2011. The three Team Monterey 5 leaders will be coordinating one of the following four projects in El Salvador.

These projects include:

Production 1 — Students working on this team would assist the Production Program staff with a “production diagnostic” survey to obtain a comprehensive idea of agricultural production in the Bajo Lempa. The objective would be to refine a survey and develop clear indicators. This project would carry on with the work of previous Production teams. Last year’s team project focused on organic agriculture and developing an Organization of Local Producers.

Production 2 — This team would develop a survey instrument with indicators to assess the economic and environmental damage caused by flooding from Hurricane Agatha to farmers and land in 26 communities of the Bajo Lempa. An initial survey and impact assessment have already been carried out by 23 students from the University of El Salvador, and Team Monterey students would be providing in-depth technical assistance to arrive at such measurements and indicators.

Infrastructure — Students on this project team would work to further develop a waste management model that was created in Isla Mendez and assess how it can be expanded to other communities such as Las Mesas. This assessment will consider factors such as how much waste is generated, what is done with it, what behaviors are manifested in the communities in that regard, etc.

Environmental — Students in this group would participate in the further planning and implementation of a sustainable eco-tourism model. This project would follow up on the efforts of last year’s environmental project team in seeking to create alternative income generating opportunities for the *tortugueros* who lost their jobs when the government implemented the ban on turtle egg harvesting.