Partner Organization Project Proposal
Conservation Leadership through Learning - Colorado State University

Thank you for your interest in CLTL. We are excited to work with you to develop Capstone Project opportunities for our students. Please read through our Project Partner webpage, and then fill out this project interest form to propose your project ideas and email it to Terra.Smith@colostate.edu.

Organization Information
Organization Name: Paso Pacifico
Primary Contact: Eduardo Boné
Office Phone Number: Alternate Phone Number:
Primary Contact Email:

Capstone Project Information
Students will participate in coursework at CSU from August 2016 to May 2017. Capstone project fieldwork will commence June 2017 and be completed by October 1, with all deliverables completed by December 1, 2017.

✓ Please check this box to acknowledge these dates.

Brief Project Description:
Paso Pacifico operates a sea turtle program in the Pacific coast of Nicaragua. This work focuses in the conservation of La Flor Wildlife Refuge, one of the most important nesting beaches in the area. Ecotourism is a flourishing activity in the area that requires a clear understanding of conservation priorities. Part of this work focuses in training community-based guides that can offer their services to a growing market without compromising the biodiversity of the area. These guides need tools and training that will be created through this opportunity.

Below are the project criteria. Please check each criterion the project would likely meet.

✓ Community-based: on-the-ground work at a community/regional level, including interactions with and/or exposure to local decision-makers and/or stakeholders
✓ Multi-disciplinary: analysis and investigation of a conservation issue through multiple lenses (e.g., ecological, economic, social, political)
✓ Cross-cultural: opportunities for students to interact with individuals and/or in a culture vastly different than their own
✓ Networking: opportunities for students to interact with other conservation professionals

Capstone projects should provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge from their CLTL coursework. Please check the topics the proposed project would address:
✓ Biodiversity □ Systems thinking
□ Governance/Decision-making □ Policy
✓ Facilitation □ Ecosystem services
✓ Spatial analysis □ Collaborative conservation
✓ Social science research methods □ Ecological research methods
□ Multi-level views of conservation □ Outreach
Students are required to provide their project partner with a professional-level deliverable (e.g., management plan, technical report, communication materials, set of policy briefs, series of podcasts, etc.). Please provide a brief description of potential deliverables for your project:

Guides and norms for ecotourism-based activities in La Flor Wildlife Refugee for community-based guides.

Please describe the project team, including who the student(s) would likely work with at the project site or if it would be mostly independent:

The student will interact with key Paso Pacifico project coordinators.

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**Project Details**

Project location (city, state/province, country): **Cádiz, Nicaragua**

Desired Number of Students: Min 1  Max 3

Please indicate in-kind support, if any, the student would receive (check all that apply):

- ✓ Room and board during fieldwork
- ✓ Translators
- □ Travel to/from U.S. to project location
- □ Additional support

Please describe:

Please elaborate on any of the checked items above:

The students will join Paso Pacifico staff members in their daily routines to learn more about the operation of the organization. During that time students can travel with Paso Pacifico’s vehicles and stay at their office in the rural community of Ostional. Some staff members speak English.

**Preferred/Required skills and experience of the student(s):**

Language proficiency: □ Preferred  ✓ Required  Specify language: Spanish

Technical skills: ✓ Preferred  □ Required

Please specify: Facilitation skills, community-based experience, use of communication tools

Prior experience in country/region: ✓ Preferred  □ Required

Please describe the connectivity at project site (e.g., internet access, mobile phone coverage):

Most of the area where Paso Pacifico operates has mobile phone coverage. Internet access is limited in some areas but there are different alternatives if this access is required.

Additional Comments:

Paso Pacifico has three offices, one in California and two in Nicaragua: Managua and Ostional. Students can use these offices for meetings, workshops or working places.

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Thank you for proposing a CLTL Capstone Project. We will contact you with any further questions about the proposed projects. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at Terra.Smith@colostate.edu. We look forward to working with you.
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| Office Phone Number:                          |
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| Alternate Phone Number:                      |

**Capstone Project Information**

Students will participate in coursework at CSU from August 2016 to May 2017. Capstone project fieldwork will commence June 2017 and be completed by October 1, with all deliverables completed by December 1, 2017.

☑ Please check this box to acknowledge these dates.

Brief Project Description:

Paso Pacifico is in the process of acquiring a property for conservation purposes. For this project, Paso Pacifico will work with CSU-CLTL students to create an inventory of social and biophysical variables within this land. This information will be used to obtain a baseline of these attributes and to delineate further conservation projects. Students will interact with Paso Pacifico staff, community members, and other organizations in the area. The variables to be assessed will vary depending on the students skills and areas of interest.

Below are the project criteria. Please check each criterion the project would likely meet.

☑ Community-based: on-the-ground work at a community/regional level, including interactions with and/or exposure to local decision-makers and/or stakeholders

☑ Multi-disciplinary: analysis and investigation of a conservation issue through multiple lenses (e.g., ecological, economic, social, political)

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☑ Networking: opportunities for students to interact with other conservation professionals

Capstone projects should provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge from their CLTL coursework. Please check the topics the proposed project would address:

☑ Biodiversity
☑ Governance/Decision-making
☑ Facilitation
☑ Spatial analysis
☑ Social science research methods
☑ Multi-level views of conservation

☐ Systems thinking
☐ Policy
☑ Ecosystem services
☑ Collaborative conservation
☑ Ecological research methods
☐ Outreach
Students are required to provide their project partner with a professional-level deliverable (e.g., management plan, technical report, communication materials, set of policy briefs, series of podcasts, etc.). Please provide a brief description of potential deliverables for your project:

Baseline and assessment of social and/or biophysical variables in Paso Pacífico’s property.

Please describe the project team, including who the student(s) would likely work with at the project site or if it would be mostly independent:

The student will interact with key Paso Pacífico project coordinators.

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**Project Details**

Project location (city, state/province, country): **Cárdenas, Nicaragua**

Desired Number of Students: Min 1 Max 3

Please indicate in-kind support, if any, the student would receive (check all that apply):

- [✓] Room and board during fieldwork
- [✓] Translators
- [ ] Travel to/from U.S. to project location
- [ ] Additional support

Please describe:

Additional support: Please describe:

The students will join Paso Pacífico staff members in their daily routines to learn more about the operation of the organization. During that time students can travel with Paso Pacífico’s vehicles and stay at their office in the rural community of Ostional. Some staff members speak English.

**Preferred/Required skills and experience of the student(s):**

Language proficiency:  [✓] Preferred  [ ] Required  Specify language: Spanish

Technical skills:  [✓] Preferred  [ ] Required

Please specify: Analytical and research skills, GIS, community-based experience.

Prior experience in country/region:  [✓] Preferred  [ ] Required

Please describe the connectivity at project site (e.g., internet access, mobile phone coverage):

Most of the area where Paso Pacífico operates has mobile phone coverage. Internet access is limited in some areas but there are different alternatives if this access is required.

Additional Comments:

Paso Pacífico has three offices, one in California and two in Nicaragua: Managua and Ostional. Students can use these offices for meetings, workshops or working places.

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Brief Project Description:

Paso Pacifico focuses its work in the Paso del Istmo area since 2005. During that time a significant amount of information has been collected that needs to be analyzed and made easily available. Paso Pacifico requires a comprehensive GIS system that can include all this information in one single information system. Students will interact with Paso Pacifico staff, community members, and other organizations in the area to gather this information and create this GIS system.

Below are the project criteria. Please check each criterion the project would likely meet.

☑️ **Community-based:** on-the-ground work at a community/regional level, including interactions with and/or exposure to local decision-makers and/or stakeholders

☑️ **Multi-disciplinary:** analysis and investigation of a conservation issue through multiple lenses (e.g., ecological, economic, social, political)

☑️ **Cross-cultural:** opportunities for students to interact with individuals and/or in a culture vastly different than their own

☑️ **Networking:** opportunities for students to interact with other conservation professionals

Capstone projects should provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge from their CLTL coursework. Please check the topics the proposed project would address:

☑️ Biodiversity  
☐ Governance/Decision-making  
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☑️ Spatial analysis  
☑️ Social science research methods  
☑️ Multi-level views of conservation  
☑️ Systems thinking  
☐ Policy  
☐ Ecosystem services  
☐ Collaborative conservation  
☐ Ecological research methods  
☐ Outreach
Students are required to provide their project partner with a professional-level deliverable (e.g., management plan, technical report, communication materials, set of policy briefs, series of podcasts, etc.). Please provide a brief description of potential deliverables for your project:

GIS system with social and biophysical variables in Paso del Istmo.

Please describe the project team, including who the student(s) would likely work with at the project site or if it would be mostly independent:
The student will interact with key Paso Pacifico project coordinators.

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**Project Details**

Project location (city, state/province, country): Cárdenas, Nicaragua

Desired Number of Students: Min 1 Max 3

Please indicate in-kind support, if any, the student would receive (check all that apply):

- [x] Room and board during fieldwork
- [ ] Room and board during entire project
- [ ] Translators
- [x] Research assistant(s)
- [ ] Travel to/from U.S. to project location
- [x] Travel within/around project location
- [ ] Additional support

Please describe:

The students will join Paso Pacifico staff members in their daily routines to learn more about the operation of the organization. During that time students can travel with Paso Pacifico’s vehicles and stay at their office in the rural community of Ostional. Some staff members speak English.

**Preferred/Required skills and experience of the student(s):**

Language proficiency: [ ] Preferred [x] Required Specify language: Spanish

Technical skills: [x] Preferred [ ] Required

Please specify: **GIS advanced skills, community-based experience.**

Prior experience in country/region: [x] Preferred [ ] Required

Please describe the connectivity at project site (e.g., internet access, mobile phone coverage):

Most of the area where Paso Pacifico operates has mobile phone coverage. Internet access is limited in some areas but there are different alternatives if this access is required.

**Additional Comments:**

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