Research Project Title: Environmental Interventions Impact in Salta, Argentina
Location: Salta, Argentina
Research Topic: Environmental Sustainability
Partner Organization: Foundation for Sustainable Development and Amigos del Árbol

Description of FSD: 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 Africa, Asia, and Latin America. 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. FSD works in six countries, and for more than two decades has supported more than 250 community partner organizations and trained more than 3,000 volunteers. Its community development efforts have maintained an ongoing project sustainability rate of nearly 80 percent, addressing health, social, environmental, and economic issues by responding to community priorities and offering training, grants, and volunteer support to community partners.

Description of Community Partner: The organization Amigos del Árbol, Bosques y Parques Nacionales, has been working in the city of Salta since 2001. Since its founding, it has developed relationships with various State entities, as well as third-sector and private entities. The current Site Team consists of young professionals and students involved with their local environment, and who believe in making a difference through community participation and collaborative work. Amigos del Árbol develops different socio-environmental projects in rural and urban areas, with intervention activities and educational techniques aiming at preserving, enhancing and promoting respect and knowledge of our natural resources. Amigos del Árbol works towards environmental preservation, awareness and education. They work with communities in both urban and rural parts of the Salta Province.

Social Issue: In Salta, there is a renewed effort to protect the environment through recycling campaigns and a ban on plastic bag use. However, there is still little known about the community awareness and attitudes surrounding environmental sustainability.

Research Project Description: Amigos del Árbol is looking for a researcher to support a variety of projects they are currently working on in order to help the organization understand the community’s perception of the environment, the awareness of environmental issues, and attitudes surrounding sustainable practices. Some of the programs the Amigos del Árbol currently runs include:

- Biodiversity conservation and land use planning
- Technical training and environmental education workshops
- Gardens that promote food sovereignty
- Environmental management and consulting
- Forestation and bio-construction
- Ecotourism
- Renewable energy
Methodology: The research would combine quantitative and qualitative methods. Data collection methods will include interviews, surveys, focus groups, and online research and any other methods deemed appropriate.

Community Impact: This research will assist Amigos del Árbol renew their efforts to educate the community to sustainable practices and environmental sustainability.

Student profile: The researcher should have an intermediate level of Spanish. Additionally, the researcher should have a background in research methodologies. He or she should also be studying environmental sustainability, agriculture, science, or a similar subject.