



ECOLOGY PROJECT  
INTERNATIONAL

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

# MEXICO FIELD PROGRAM

EPI Mexico offers inspiring, hands-on educational adventures in nature for students and educators. Visiting students can embark on 7–9-day marine or coastal ecology courses, while local students in Baja California Sur explore sea turtles, ecosystems, and leadership through 2–4-day field programs. Day trips feature activities focusing on ranch life or aquaculture. Educators can join dynamic 5–8-day workshops to connect with local scientists, explore conservation efforts, and bring new ideas to their classrooms.

## CONSERVATION RESEARCH

### Saving Sea Turtles

In 2024, EPI Students worked alongside scientists at San Lucas Beach, one of Baja California Sur's most visited sea turtle nesting sites, collecting vital data on turtle behavior and the environment. By following protocols for handling and releasing turtles, students contributed to understanding how climate change impacts sea turtle reproduction, life cycles, and population dynamics.



### Under the Sea

With waterproof pencils and paper in hand, participants identify fish species, estimate the number of individuals, describe behavior, record water temperature and depth, and take pictures for REEF, a global marine research and conservation organization. EPI Mexico's contributions inform hypotheses about fish population changes over the years, identify factors influencing the presence or absence of certain fish, and support solutions to address biodiversity conservation.



### Monitoring Starfish to Save Reefs

Students participated in a local citizen science project on Espiritu Santo Island in 2024, collecting data on crown-of-thorns starfish and other marine invertebrates. They measured starfish, recorded environmental factors, and identified species to assess their impact on reefs. This vital data helps understand seasonal patterns, threats to reef health, and supports informed conservation and management efforts to protect marine ecosystems.

## FIELD PARTICIPANTS AT-A-GLANCE



382	MEXICAN PARTICIPANTS
136	U.S. PARTICIPANTS
29	TOTAL COURSES

## CONSERVATION SERVICE

### Beach Clean-Ups

Midway through 2024, EPI students began following the Citizen Observers Network Beach Bleanning Protocol, a new method for identifying and recording the types of trash found on local beaches. EPI instructors then uploaded this data to an electronic device to track trash types and their origins. This activity helps students understand pollution pathways, human health, and environmental impacts, while developing strategies to prevent future pollution.



"Participating in activities with the Green Californians and learning about sea turtles has been a challenge that has helped me lose my fear of leading. I have had the opportunity to practice leadership and guide a group, which made me realize that I have the ability. I have also learned to work as a team and I feel more confident." - Fany, Mexico Student Participant



# ALUMNI & OUTREACH

The EPI Mexico Alumni Program continues to strengthen the professional development of youth, encouraging them through strategic programs, collaborations with partner organizations, and ongoing support to enhance their employability skills. During this period, alumni actively participated in various initiatives aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the La Paz, City of Learning initiative, consolidating their role as agents of change in the community.

## ALUMNI ACTIVITIES AT-A-GLANCE

217	ATTENDEES AT THE FESTIVAL "MY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY" IN LA PAZ
56	YOUTH MEETINGS HELD BY CALIFORNIOS VERDES
458	COMMUNITY MEMBERS IMPACTED BY EPI ALUMNI VOLUNTEER WORK

### Californios Verdes:

EPI work by promoting the Californios Verdes eco-club, facilitating access to exchange programs, volunteering, scholarships and professional stays that allow them to acquire practical experience and expand their contact networks.

With activities such as beach cleanups, educational workshops, project advice, environmental fairs, community talks and events, we have impact **2,768** members of the community.

The organization of our two events "Feria de Invierno MX" and the "Tribute to the Whale Shark 2024" was a success, we had a record attendance of more than 500 people, adding the amount of both events.

"It was a beautiful experience that changed the way I see the sea, and how it is not just water, but an impressive world of life. Without a doubt, when I see the sea, I will once again be grateful and and share how much I learned from this great experience. - Angel, Mexico Student Participant.



## NOTABLE

### EPI Alumni Professional Development Opportunities



EPI, in collaboration with Teton Science School and Fundación Alumbra, is strengthening environmental education in La Paz through the Professional Development Program for Experiential Educators. This yearlong program equips educators with advanced teaching strategies, place-based education techniques, and systemic thinking skills to inspire the next generation of conservation leaders.

Divided into three modules, the program includes virtual sessions and immersive, in-person training. Thirteen educators from organizations like Ándale La Paz, Pronatura, and EPI México dedicate 100 hours per module to honing their skills and fostering collaboration.



By creating a space for educators to exchange ideas and refine their teaching methods, this initiative enhances the local education system and connects youth with careers in green and blue economies. Through experiential learning, these educators are shaping a more sustainable future for La Paz.

## DONORS

Alumbra Innovations Foundation  
Esterito Community Fund at  
International Community Foundation  
Family Health International (FHI 360)  
The United States Agency for  
International Development (USAID)

## PARTNERS

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