

**CHARACTERISTICS OF AQUEDUCT
MANAGEMENT IN COSTA RICA:
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TWO RURAL TOWNS ON THE MID-PACIFIC COAST**

Kayla Peterson, St. Olaf College

Advisor: MS Vivienne Solís

Potable water access is often taken for granted but there are many actors and conditions that can affect responsible water management. Through interviews, meeting attendance, document analysis and infrastructure site visits, I explored the conditions surrounding local aqueduct management that differentiate the water quality and provision between two neighboring Costa Rican towns on the Mid-Pacific coast: Tárcoles and Playa Azul. I analyzed social and organizational indicators—community interest, the condition of the infrastructure, and the institutional mechanisms—that play an important role in the effective management of these aqueducts at the local level. From these categories, I provide the following suggestions to local aqueduct systems: introduce a long-term aqueduct plan, responsible management of finances, increased community participation and feedback and increased communication between ASADAS and community and between AyA and ASADAS.