



*CoCoDA and the Rotary Club of Danville, IN  
Proudly Present*

# **The 2021 Central American Sun and Water Conference**

*March 12-14, 2021  
in Suchitoto, El Salvador*





## COME TO LEARN, BE INSPIRED AND RETURN HOME EMPOWERED

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A gathering of Central American community leaders and North American supporters to explore the incredible potential of using solar power to bring clean, affordable and sustainable water to rural Central Americans.

### THE NEED

Since 2000, Companion Community Development Alternatives (CoCoDA) has been partnering with Central American communities, local NGOs, Rotary International, local Rotary Clubs and the Washington Ethical Society in building potable water systems.

While there has been significant progress, potable water continues to be a challenge in Central America. At present, about 88% of Salvadorans and 68% of Nicaraguans have access to clean water.

Unfortunately, those still without access to clean water live largely in rural villages where the pumping of water is required.



In 2010, CoCoDA and our US and Central American partners created one of the first solar-powered community water systems in Zacamil Dos, El Salvador.

This project reduced the cost of water by more than 50% and enabled the village to expand and sustain their water system.

In 2017, CoCoDA launched the Sun and Water Initiative which replicated this approach.

This initiative raised or leveraged over \$180,000, constructed three projects serving nearly 1000 people and demonstrating that solar power can save Central America communities \$2500 each year.

**The 2021 Central American Sun and Water Conference will highlight what we've learned about solar-powered water systems, connect Central American community leaders with North American supporters and introduce four shovel-ready, solar-powered water projects in need of funding in 2022.**



## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Three days in beautiful colonial Suchitoto.
- Wonderful Salvadoran food.
- Three sessions on advantages of solar power, best practices in system management and water system sustainability.
- A visit, tour and lunch at one of the recently constructed solar powered water project.
- Optional cultural, historical and technical tours on Saturday afternoon.
- Opportunities to interact and develop international partnerships and collaborations.

(All conference sessions and events will be bilingual with interpreters available.)

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# CONFERENCE LOGISTICS

## EXPECTATIONS

It is assumed that all Central American participants either represent a community targeted for a solar powered water system or an organization committed to financially supporting this effort. Targeted communities will commit to raising 20% of the project budget. Supportive organizations will leave the conference with packets designed for fundraising and grant writing.

## COST

Lodging and food has been generously provided for all conference participants. Transportation costs for Central American participants will be reimbursed. North American participants are only responsible for a \$100 conference fee and their airfare (usually about \$700).

## CONFERENCE SITE

Our conference host will be the Centro Arte Para La Paz in Suchitoto, El Salvador, which is about ninety minutes from the San Salvador airport.



## ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE

The conference begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 12th and ends at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 14th.

Please arrive at the San Salvador airport by 4 p.m. on March 12th if possible.

Transportation will be provided from and to the airport.

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## **LODGING**

Lodging will be in local hostels and hotels within walking distance of the conference site with electricity, showers and single beds. Most participants will share a room or bathroom with others. We are also happy to arrange home stays.

## **FOOD**

Meals will be supplied by local vendors and include typical Salvadoran dishes. With advance notice, some special dietary needs can be met.

## **INTERNET ACCESS**

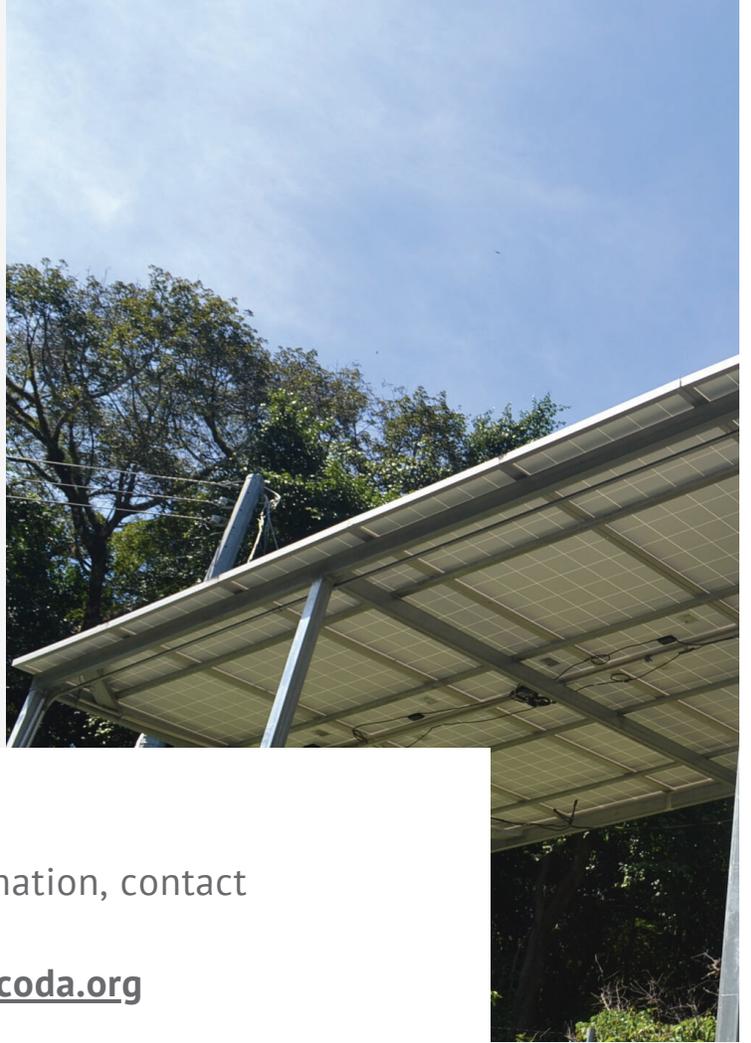
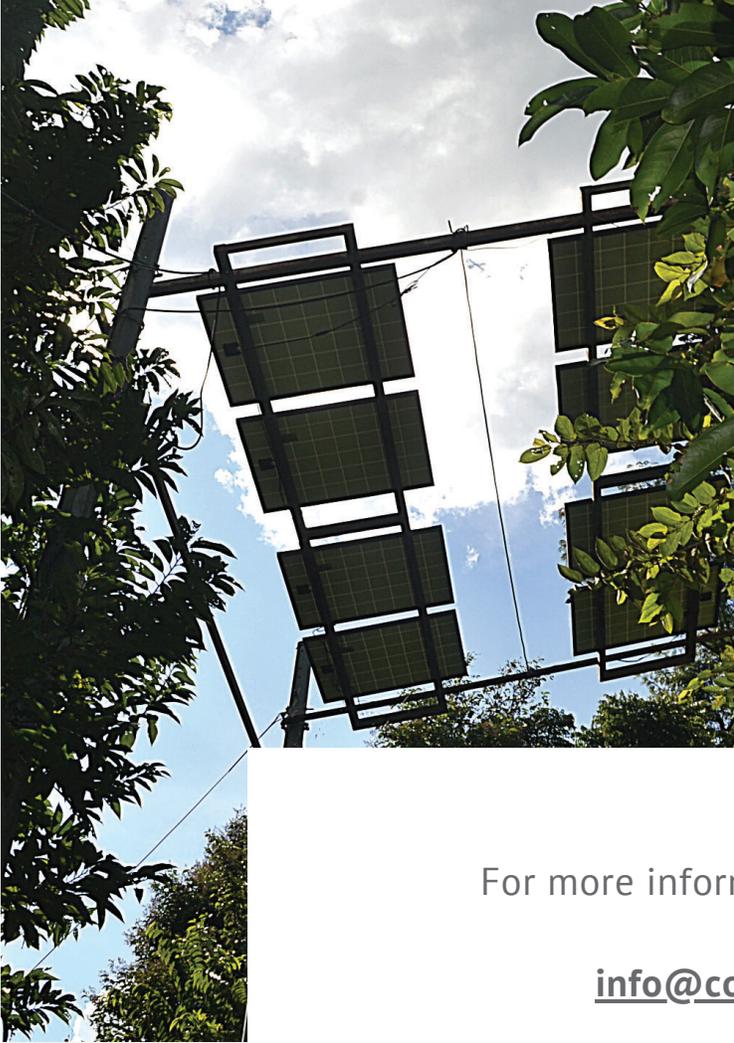
The Centro Arte Para La Paz and many local hotels and restaurants have free internet access. Phone access is available, but can be expensive.

## **WEATHER**

March is usually hot in El Salvador with temperatures in the 90s and clear skies.



**REGISTRATION LINK**



For more information, contact

[info@cocoda.org](mailto:info@cocoda.org)

**REGISTRATION LINK**

