

## **Archaeologists carried out an investigation in the location of Agavero**

Region—A group of six archaeologists begin an investigation this week with the objective to identify the sights with archaeological potential in the recognized zone of the UNESCO like the location of Agavero, and eventually, to take measures to protect the listed sights.

Dr. Verenice Heredia, professor and investigator from the College of Michoacan, explained that the project consists of covering by foot the 330 square kilometers that make up the area of Agavero, located to the north of Tequila Volcano and goes until the Santiago River, covering the towns of the Arenal, part of Teuchitlan, Amatitan, part of Tequila and part of Magdalena.

The team of archaeologists made up of the Mexicans Gabriela Garcia, Barbara Elizalde, Lane Frederico Fargher, the North American **Hannah Morris** and the Japanese Nobuyuki Matzubara, and Heredia who is in charge of the investigation.

“The traces that we saw could be archaeological or historical and if we decide that it is necessary, we will define the limits in order to assure us that the area is preserved for further studies,” referred Heredia.

The root of investigation will begin in the town of El Arenal, which is the first to economically support the project. Later they will advance to Amatitan and later to the other towns that promote the investigation. Heredia and her team already have been given the permissions necessary from the National Institute of Historical Anthropology.

To encourage the identification and protection of the archaeological sites is one of the compromises of the Mexican government in order to save the appointment of the Agavero area, like Patrimonio Mundial, awarded by the UNESCO in 2006.

“We made study documents and aerial photographs and it is evident that the archaeological sites exist in the zone, but they have not been registered officially. The importance of this study resides in the increased knowledge of the history of this region and, furthermore, the ability to preserve the declaration of the UNESCO,” concluded Heredia.

—Translated by Michelle Terry, UGA Spanish Major