

Community Reforestation in Nicaragua



Justina Gutierrez Munos, farmer in Mansico, Nicaragua, has planted 5000 trees in 2019.

This community-based reforestation initiative is situated upon a critical watershed that feeds into Nicaragua's most important estuaries, the Estero Real. This estuary is home to one of the biggest extensions of mangroves and migratory birds in the region, and has been recognized by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. By reforesting this region, the programme plays an important role in regulating the hydrological cycle, providing important water and biodiversity benefits both locally and internationally and improves the quality of life of smallholder farmers.



6.9

million USD payments being made to farmers and communities



2,900

seasonal jobs per year



10

million trees planted

These aims will be achieved through the establishment of multiple small-scale native species forest plantations on smallholder land. Participants entering the project own underutilised land and must demonstrate that participating will not conflict with their subsistence activities, notably

Project type:

Land Use and Forestry

Project location:

San Juan de Limay and Somoto, Nicaragua

Project status:

In operation, credits available

Annual CO₂ reduction:

624,216 t (across 15 years)

Situation without project

Forest degradation, deforestation

Project standard



Awards



Impressions



Sergio Gonzalez Sandoval happy with his forest he has been growing since 2012 thanks to the project.

cattle ranching and agriculture. The project area covers 86 square kilometres and will support rural communities desperately in need of support and incentives to take control of their resources. Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with a GDP per capita income of \$1,079 per year.

The trees improve the temperature of the farm and the planet as well. They also give us wood, shade, and better soil, helping stop erosion.

Justina Gutierrez Munos, farmer in Mansico, Nicaragua.

Land use planning around watersheds is a key supporting activity; the project area includes one of the most critical watersheds in the municipality of San Juan de Limay, which suffers from seasonal water shortages and flooding. Increased forest cover will retain water through the dry season and minimise flooding in the rainy season. The project will also distribute fuel-efficient fireplaces equipped with chimneys that reduce smoke in the household, generating health benefits, particularly for women.

We hope to create solidarity among communities, provide opportunities for families to earn extra income, act as a role model for others and build environmental awareness among subsistence farmers.

Elsa Gonzales, Head Community Technician and Office manager Taking Roots Nicaragua

The project addresses the causes of deforestation, ensures direct, ongoing community involvement and technical training, and provides financial benefits for participants throughout the project. This occurs through payments for ecosystem services (PES) and income from timber and sustainable forest products. As a result, this multi-faceted approach will reduce forest degradation by easing pressure on surrounding natural forest while at the same time sequester quantifiable volumes of CO₂ from the atmosphere and improve the environmental and socio-economic conditions of families located in the community of San Juan de Limay.

The project contains 3 types of plantations: Mixed species plantations (multi-purposed tree plantations composed of fast growing firewood species and longer-lived hardwood species), coffee agroforestry (shade-grown coffee and fruit trees) and silvopastoral planting (tree planting on areas use for cattle-breeding).

This project contributes to 12 SDGs:



Over 6.9 million USD payments being made to communities across 1,357 farming families where people are living on less than \$2/day.



One of the projects nurseries for growing thousands of seedlings.



Loading the card with seedlings: Each rainy season, entire villages come together to plant hundreds of thousands of trees.



A newly planted tree having been moved from nursery to farm.



Conducted over 30,000 capacity building workshops providing education & training to smallholder farmers.



Women make up 45% of the professional team, many of whom hold leadership positions.



Regeneration of critical watershed helping protect over 100,000 people from drought and flash-flooding.



Natural wood fallen from forest provide renewable source of energy for cooking.



Additional income is created through selling firewood and high value woodcrafts from the smallholder forests.



2,900 seasonal jobs per year, 80% of them are landless farmers.



292 rural communities engaged in the project.



Farmers are not only sequestering CO₂ and regenerating ecosystems but adapting the microclimate and reducing on farm temperatures to protect their yields.



1,518,386 t CO₂ being stored.



10 million native trees planted, reforesting over 6,167 ha of land (equivalent of 11,527 football fields), habitat and local wildlife regeneration.



All forests grown through equal partnerships with farmers, communities, local government, international funders and the project implementation team.