

# 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.**



**2,900**

**seasonal jobs per year**



**292**

**rural communities engaged in the project.**



**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 cattle ranching and agriculture. The project area covers 86 square

## Project type:

Land Use and Forestry

## Project location:

San Juan de Limay and Somoto, Nicaragua

## Project status:

In operation, credits available

## Annual CO<sub>2</sub> reduction:

624,216 t (across 15 years)

## Situation without project

Forest degradation, deforestation

## Project standard



## Partner



## Awards



## Impressions

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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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:



Payments being made to communities across 1,357 farming families where people are living on less than \$2/day.



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



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.



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



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



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION  
Regeneration of critical watershed helping protect over 100,000 people from drought and flash-flooding.



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY  
Natural wood fallen from forest provide renewable source of energy for cooking.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH  
Additional income is created through selling firewood and high value woodcrafts from the smallholder forests.



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



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES  
292 rural communities engaged in the project.



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION  
Farmers are not only sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> and regenerating ecosystems but adapting the microclimate and reducing on farm temperatures to protect their yields.



13 CLIMATE ACTION  
1,518,386 t CO<sub>2</sub> being stored.



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



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