

## MASLAGO: Saving the lake that feeds Nicaragua

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Digitalization



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@foodsystems

# MASLAGO: Saving the lake that feeds Nicaragua

## Why?

- ⊕ Nicaragua's third-largest lake | **620 km<sup>2</sup>**
- ⊕ **3,500** coffee farmers | 55% of the planted area.
- ⊕ **30%** for production of staple grains,
- ⊕ **3000** horticultural smallholders | 15% of the planted area.
- ⊕ Supplying **60%** of the vegetables consumed in the larger cities of Nicaragua.

## ¿How?

- ⊕ Developing a **common understanding** of the **landscape** and,
- ⊕ Defining 2 strategic lines: reducing **sedimentation** and **contamination** of the lake.
- ⊕ Action plan for the sustainability of 1 of the 8 micro-basins of Apanás.

## ¿Who?

- ⊕ Rikolto brought together stakeholders in the Lake **food system** to form **MASLAGO**, a multi-stakeholder group of 20 organisations.



# Key results and how they were achieved

## Social Cohesion

- ⌚ Actions helped to build social cohesion and inspire community action to improve the sustainability of the Lake Apanás basin and to **invest time and resources**.

## Environmental

- ⌚ Studies on sedimentation and contamination.
- ⌚ Model farms to showcase the sustainability of productive landscapes.
- ⌚ Recycling campaign to collect agrochemical containers. In 2018, over 120,000 containers were collected. By 2019 this had increased to over 150,000.
- ⌚ \*28% of the families inhabiting the Lake Apanás micro-basin of Sisle implemented at least 1 practice related to erosion control. By 2021, the project expects a 25% increase.

## Economic

- ⌚ With Rikolto's support in helping farmers establish contracts with large retailers and SMEs, the average farmer's income from vegetables increased by almost 50% between 2017 and 2019.

**3 factors that enable project successes: Validated tools and methodologies on integrated landscape management; neutral, third-party facilitation of the process (Rikolto), and the leadership and participation of local actors.**

\*Based on data from 2019,

# key challenges

1. **Combining production and conservation:**  
Cost-benefit analyses are needed to demonstrate that investments in restoration and conservation of productive landscapes are cost-effective in the long term.
2. Interventions related to the restoration of productive landscapes, should **be considered "impact investments"**, in particular in the most degraded landscapes where direct economic benefits alone may not be sufficiently attractive to private investors and donors.
3. Facilitate a sustainable multi-stakeholder / inter-institutional space with public and private needs the **participation and articulation with all sectors represented.**



## key opportunities and scale up

- ⦿ Sustainable sourcing from sustainable landscapes (ie. Coffee and cocoa)
- ⦿ Global efforts towards Zero Deforestation
- ⦿ Networks and communities of practices about Sustainable Landscapes
- ⦿ Key actors of the Food System are more and more collaborating in MSPs settings
- ⦿ SDGs in the global agenda
- ⦿ Integrating more landscape-driven initiatives in our program 2022-2026



# OBJETIVOS DE DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE

17 OBJETIVOS PARA TRANSFORMAR NUESTRO MUNDO

