

CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT IN THE NATURE RESERVE TISEY- ESTANZUELA THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED ECOTOURISM

Project No: NIC/04/03

Grantee: Asociación Programa Agrícola San Nicolás (ASOPASN)

Location: Tisey-Estanzuela Reserve, Nicaragua

SGP Contribution: US\$30,000.00

Cash Co-Financing: US\$30,676.00

In-Kind Co-Financing: US\$24,665.00

Number of people served: 20 Families

Focal area: Biodiversity

Background

In 2004 and 2008 SGP supported two consecutive projects that aimed to conserve and restore the pine forest cover and the associated species of flora and fauna in the nature reserve Tisey – Estanzuela. In particular, the communities of La Tejera, The Jalacate and La Garnacha, proposed projects aimed at reducing the pressure on the ecosystems and conserving the biodiversity of the natural reserve by strengthening the ecotourism industry as a source of additional

income to the productive activities of their populations.

Project description and activities



The project focused on the ecological restoration of the area, as well as in reducing the pressure in the ecosystem by creating alternative sources of income through the commercialization of agricultural and artisanal products. In addition, the project helped build the basic infrastructure for the visitors: trails, shelters equipped with toilets, and a dining room. Through this project, the implementing organization ASOPASN, also aimed to increase awareness of the local populations on sustainable natural resource management.

Environmental impact

This project enabled the conservation and sustainable management of 144 hectares of mountain forests through reforestation and natural regeneration. Thanks to a program of environmental support, awareness has been raised throughout the population about the importance of protecting the environment. In particular, the project has encouraged producers to replicate organic agricultural processes, which contribute to reducing soil and water pollution in the area.

Socio-Economic Impact

Under proper management, the project has been able to benefit the communities that surround la Garnacha. The organization raises funds and returns these to the community allowing for the economic growth of many families involved in ecotourism activities. The relations between the community and the visitors have also improved. The community has learned how to market their products and offer their services including tour guides, horse rentals, sale of ornamental plants, crafts and delicious cheeses.



Replication

The project developed by ASOPASN has established itself as a strong example for surrounding communities who want to preserve their local biodiversity, while also improving their quality of life by developing sustainable microenterprises and ecotourism services.

s its interests in front

of the government.



High Forest Ecosystem:

Pine, oak and other associated species are part of the high forest ecosystem, and historically have had a medium commercial value at the local level. Due to its weather conditions, soil and topography Pine and Oak are the most dominant species, but have been subject to interventions and uncontrolled use by local populations.