



# Plan Vivo

Carbon management and rural livelihoods



## Plan Vivo programme summary: Limay Community Carbon, Nicaragua

**Location:** San Juan de Limay, Esteli, Nicaragua

**Project coordinator:** Taking Root Nicaragua ([www.takingroot.org](http://www.takingroot.org))

**Status:** Registered Plan Vivo project since March 2011

**Carbon activities:** Afforestation, reforestation, agroforestry.

**Extra activities:** Protecting watersheds, fuel efficient cook stoves.

**Project area:** 42 ha in year 1, aiming for 280 ha by year 3

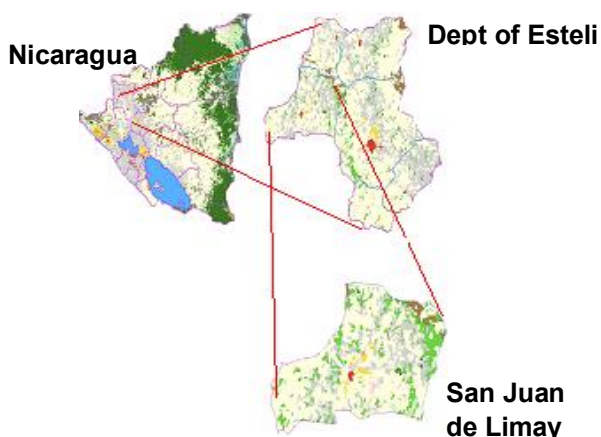
**Capacity to generate Plan Vivo Certificates:** 277,500 tCO<sub>2</sub> (by year 3)



The aim of the project is to improve livelihoods of subsistence farmers in the Platanares watershed in the municipality of Sun Juan de Limay, Nicaragua. The project will increase and diversify small farmers' income through payments for ecosystem services (PES) and income from timber and sustainable forest products. It will also reduce forest degradation by easing pressure on surrounding natural forest.

These aims will be achieved through the establishment of multiple small-scale native species forest plantations (carbon crediting activity) on smallholder land. Participants entering the project own under-utilised land and must demonstrate that participating will not conflict with their subsistence activities, notably cattle ranching and agriculture. The project area covers 74 km<sup>2</sup> and will support rural communities desperately in need to 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.

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 (unlike traditional stoves) that reduce smoke in the household, generating health benefits, particularly for women.



## What is the Plan Vivo System?

The Plan Vivo system is a framework for community-based sustainable land-use projects in developing countries. Plan Vivo projects and programmes deliver long-term carbon storage as well as biodiversity and poverty reduction local benefits. The System includes a standard, the Plan Vivo Standard which lays out requirements that each project must meet on carbon, livelihood and ecosystem aspects. Projects are registered by the Plan Vivo Foundation, who ensure independent validation and verification is carried out against the standard.

## How it works

The Plan Vivo System provides a mechanism for communities in developing countries to access payments for ecosystem services. Payments are the catalyst for community action; they serve to strengthen the ability of communities to protect, restore and improve the natural and productive ecosystems on which they depend, and which also provide global public goods. The delivery of these benefits is denoted by the **Plan Vivo Certificate** . an environmental service certificate representing the long-term sequestration of one tonne CO<sub>2</sub>e, plus additional environmental and social benefits:

- Biodiversity conservation through expansion and strengthening of protected areas and native species;
- Poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods through sustainable agriculture and micro-enterprises
- Restoration of degraded and degrading ecosystems;
- Provision of sustainable bioenergy;
- Adaptation of natural and managed ecosystems to climate change (watershed protection, soil stabilization, regulation of regional micro-climates).

The carbon sequestration activities that are eligible under the Plan Vivo System are:

- Agroforestry and small-scale timber, fruit or wood fuel plantations (native and naturalised species);
- Restoration of degraded or damaged ecosystems such as woodlands;
- Conservation of forests and woodlands under threat from deforestation.

The System provides a robust framework for establishing, managing and scaling up projects, and for measuring and monitoring carbon benefits. Plan Vivo projects work much like a microfinance scheme . by aggregating the efforts and enterprise of large numbers of farmers and forest user groups in a cost-effective way through community trust funds or similar transactional structures. The delivery of long-term benefits is secured through a risk management approach, that includes the holding of reserve assets of unsold carbon (buffer), and staged of payments to participants in line with agreed performance milestones.

## Contact

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