

PASO PACÍFICO

THE SMILING OYSTER COOPERATIVE



Fondo Multilateral de Inversiones
Miembro del Grupo BID



“There aren't opportunities for women here. We are Nicaraguan women and just want to be able to work to put food on the table.”
- Maria Jose Sanchez, age 42, mother of 3

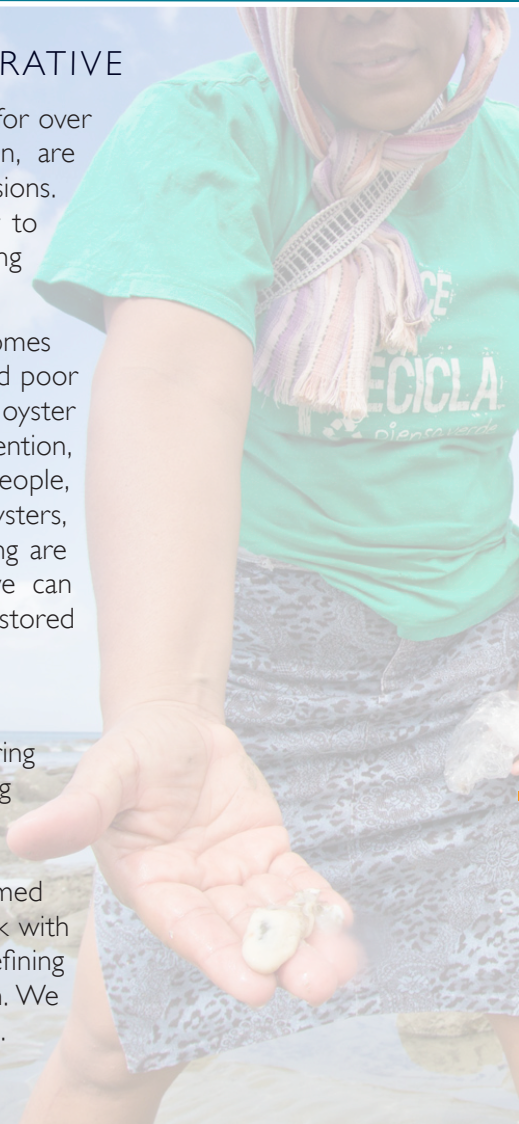
A WOMEN'S OYSTER COOPERATIVE

Fish are the primary source of animal protein for over one billion people, yet half of them, women, are excluded from fisheries management decisions. Women fishers in Central America are ready to lead as ocean stewards by restoring and managing shellfisheries.

Oyster harvesting has supplemented family incomes since pre-colonial times, but overharvesting and poor management practices are pushing native oyster populations toward collapse. Without intervention, oyster fisheries will not recover. As local people, particularly women, lose their supply of oysters, their food security and environmental wellbeing are jeopardized. Through shellfish aquaculture we can bring sustainable food production and a restored marine environment to communities.

Our commitment

In 2013, Paso Pacífico committed to empowering women fishers across Central America by helping them develop shellfish aquaculture. We have launched this commitment in the village of Ostional, Nicaragua where 15 women have formed the “Smiling Oyster Cooperative”. As we work with them to build a successful enterprise we are refining this model before replicating it across the region. We need partners to bring this initiative to full scale.



OUR IMPACT

SOCIAL WELLBEING

- ◆ New sources of income for local families
- ◆ Business/technical training
- ◆ Ocean stewardship embedded in community
- ◆ Greater food security
- ◆ Women's leadership

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- ◆ Ocean restoration and protection
- ◆ Native species recovery
- ◆ Water quality improvements
- ◆ Nourishment for shorebirds

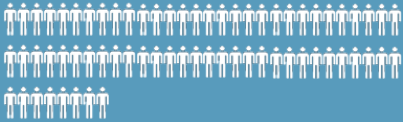
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Sustainable oyster supply to local markets
- ◆ Increase financial resources for women
- ◆ Localized value chains
- ◆ Farm to table approach



15

women have formed the first cooperative



68

community members directly affected in the next year



500

Central Americans directly affected in the next two years

We are actively seeking your partnership and support.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP:

- ◆ Impact investment
- ◆ Philanthropic donations
- ◆ Micro-enterprise development
- ◆ Financial management training
- ◆ Technological capacity building in aquaculture
- ◆ Product development & marketing



"... I want to give my son the gift of a healthy oyster population. I don't want him to have to read about oysters in a book. I want him to see them and enjoy them for himself."

- Rafaela Vargas Pizana, age 24, mother to one son, Lucas.



"We can't wait to teach our children how to manage our resources, we want them to learn to take care of the environment."

-Angela Vargas
age 38, mother of 3

For more information please contact:
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"... There are no other projects for women here, but my grandchildren are impressed that I am trying to make something of myself, even at 73."

-Lucrecia Sanchez Guzman, age 73, mother of 5

