

# Apanas Lake

Located in Jinotega, Nicaragua, Apanás Lake is an important source of water, energy and livelihoods. It was the first artificial reservoir built in 1964 for energy production.

Three rivers drag per year an average of 4,000 tons of sediment toward the lake, mainly due to deforestation and intensive land use.

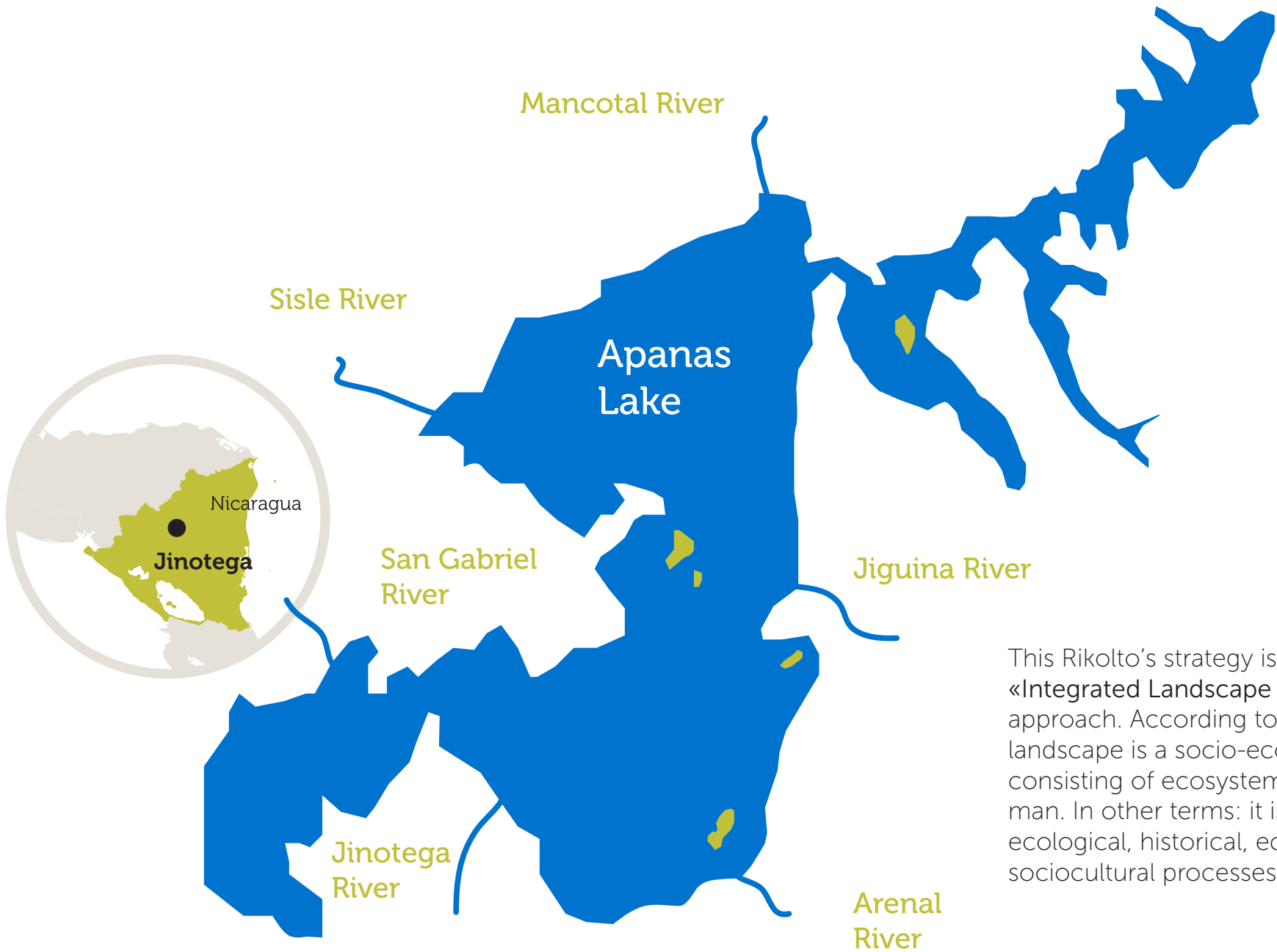
Forest has been reduced by 26%, evidencing an annual loss equivalent to 1.24%, or 120.22 hectares per year.

Some effects of this environmental degradation are loss of landscape beauty, contamination, increased pollution (soil, air and water), health problems, migration, poverty and unemployment.

## Our strategy: multi-actor group MASLAGO

As good agricultural practices and the care for natural resources are obviously interlinked, Rikolto in Central America "is calling for action" in order to save lake Apanás.

We have supported the set-up of a multi-stakeholder group. Since its launch, the platform, called Grupo Multiactor MASLAGO, is mapping all actors in the region (Jinotega) and elaborating an action plan for the environmental, economic and social sustainability of lake Apanás.



This Rikolto's strategy is based on the «Integrated Landscape Management» approach. According to this approach, a landscape is a socio-ecological system consisting of ecosystems modified by man. In other terms: it is influenced by ecological, historical, economic and sociocultural processes.

### Social

- Promoting spaces for organizational and associative strengthening.
- Linking platform to knowledge management networks.
- Promoting a cross-sector dialogue, emphasizing conservation and sustainability of the Lake.

### Economic

- Supporting alliances with differentiated markets that recognize added value, quality and safety of the Lake's products.
- Proposing and implementing environmental subsidy mechanisms aimed at protecting the landscape.

### Environmental

- Promoting mitigation actions: reforestation and reduced emissions.
- Influencing policies and standards that regulate and promote integrated landscape management.
- Managing support services for strengthening safety and sustainable production.

# What is "integrated landscape management"?

- 1 Understanding the landscape
- 2 Deciding on the results expected to for the landscape
- 3 Design of the intervention and action plan
- 4 Implementing laccording to the action plan
- 5 Evaluating the progress made



Source: Adaptation of the "Small book on Sustainable Landscapes"

Using this "landscape approach" in rural development implies linking actors from different sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, fishing, farming and tourism in order to find collaborative and innovative solutions to alleviate the ever growing pressure on global resources threatened by climate change.



## Partners



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# Sustainable production to save Apanas lake in Nicaragua

