



Selected Photos from Casa Congo's Photo-Voice Project

How do you see the interaction between humans and nature?

The question we posed to those who participated in our participatory photography project in El Astillero looked to explore the relationship between humans and their natural environment.

We had ten disposable film cameras and gave 2 to: farmers, fishermen, and mothers, as well as 4 to youth. 9 were returned to be developed, in order to gain insights into their various points of view. Unfortunately there was no laboratory in Nicaragua to develop the cameras and therefore we could not easily interview the participants about the photos they have taken as we had to develop the photos outside of Nicaragua.

We have selected some of the best shots from each category to discuss some themes and discussion points that emerge from analysing these photos. We hope to return these prints in El Astillero in order to display them in Casa Congo and discuss the photos further with the community.

What is Photo-Voice?

Photo-Voice is a research methodology used to explore the stories of people who lack space in key debates, society and politics. The camera lets them capture their experiences and point of view to share it with others in a creative way. Participants who take the photos directed to a specific topic are then interviewed about the photos, and what they have discovered. Then the photos can be shared in an exhibition to promote dialogue between the community towards a positive change through art.

What is Casa Congo?

Casa Congo strives to be a fertile ground for experimentation and innovation we aim to provide the resources and support necessary to grow healthy food for their families, care for the nature, and encourage the future generations who dream of becoming stewards of their environment. El Astillero's Centre of Agroecology is home to the community seed and soil bank and ecological regeneration projects. The Apprenticeship program enables women to gain paid experience gardening as well as funding for them to begin their own agroecological home garden. We work with small holder farmers and farming cooperatives in order to reduce soil erosion and flooding with agroforestry, and integrated watershed management.

Contact & Media

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Los Campesinos.

Our two farmers come from very distinct backgrounds, one as a local member of a farming cooperative and the other as a military veteran from Diriamba who was gifted land by the Nicaraguan Government in the area.



“a farmer recovering his energy to continue realising his farm work at the Achotal farmers cooperative.”



“We observe tools under a shady tree. A blue bottle to fumigate and inside the bag lots of bottles of water for hydration and a tool to fertilise.”



Augusto Cesar Medina in his corn field with his wife holding a sunflower which they planted. The sunflowers serve as food for the Parrots.



Augusto Cesar Medina, in front of his house with material for building fence posts and his crop of cassava, maize, beans, peppers, tomatoes avocado, mango and banana.



Augusto Cesar Medina with his friends, who help him during the planting and harvesting of their crops as well as sharing and spreading knowledge.

Las Mujeres.

The two mothers' photos explored the household experience in far greater depth than our male participants, with cooking and animals being a strong component of their work.



little chicks and their mother scratching for bugs and food besides water stored for cleaning and drinking.



A pot of beans being cooked on a wood fire using driftwood, construction scraps and held together with road blocks



A bull roams the streets of El Astillero late at night. Most animals in El astillero wander around freely, overgrazing public spaces and creating health risks as their faeces mixes with grey water and is swept into the ocean.



A Pig takes a nap inside of the living room. Many pigs live alongside families inside their homes and are raised to be eating for special occasions.



Old Plastic Bottles, and old kitchen bowls have been reused to create a green wall for decoration.





Los Pescadores.

The whole family helps to repair and prepare the nets for the next day of fishing.



Often fisherman head out at night, and our fisherman struggled to get the right exposures during the dark hours of the night and early morning.



A fellow fisherman takes a rest as they wait to pull up their nets after a hard night of work.



A Panga undergoing repairs rests amongst the horses.



All the Pangas line the shore of El Astillero's beach.



A Guayaba tree in the back garden.

Los Jóvenes.

2 teenagers and 2 younger children took part in the project. Here one of them plants a tree on the edge of a farmers field.



Members of Casa Congo's Brigada Ecologica take part in a reforestation project alongside rangers of the Chacocente Escalante Wildlife reserve.



Patrolling the beach during a beach cleanup, looking for plastic amongst the driftwood.



Natural regeneration occurring on the beach in front of Casa Congo due to the collection of driftwood.



A pet Parrot curiously looks into the camera lens.



Plastic lines the main street in El Astillero.

