








United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



**« Cultural Revitalization and  
Creative Productive Development  
in the Caribbean Coast of  
Nicaragua »**

**MDG-F Culture and Development Joint  
Programme implemented in**

**NICARAGUA**

<p><b>DURATION :</b> February 2009 – August 2012</p>	<p><b>CONTRIBUTION TO MDGS :</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>1</b> ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>2</b> ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>3</b> PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>7</b> ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>8</b> A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT</p> </div> </div>
<p><b>UN PARTNERS :</b> UNESCO, UNDP, WTO, UNIDO, UNICEF, ILO</p>	
<p><b>BUDGET :</b> 8.5 million USD</p>	

**OVERVIEW :**

The Joint Programme aims to ensure socio-economic development of Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities living in the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast, through the recovery, promotion and productive development of their culture as well as the generation and dissemination of cultural research, statistics, indicators and public policies pertaining to those regions to further their knowledge about tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

**Specific objectives :**

- Strengthen the capacity of Indigenous and Afro-descendant groups living in Nicaragua’s Caribbean Coast in the areas of cultural revitalization, management, production and administration
- Strengthen cultural policies aimed at revitalizing and promoting the cultural diversity of Indigenous and Afro-descendant groups of Nicaragua’s Caribbean Coast, and safeguarding their cultural heritage
- Completion, systematization and dissemination of studies on tangible/intangible cultural heritage of Indigenous and Afro-descendant groups of Nicaragua’s Caribbean Coast
- Strengthen the cultural identities of Indigenous and Afro-descendant groups of Nicaragua’s Caribbean Coast through cultural/creative industries
- Promote the cultural/natural heritage of Indigenous and Afro-descendant groups of Nicaragua’s Caribbean Coast through sustainable cultural tourism, contributing to social development and the safeguarding of tangible/intangible cultural heritage

**DIMENSIONS ADDRESSED BY THE JOINT PROGRAMME:**

- Economics
- Education
- Heritage
- Communication
- Governance
- Social
- Gender equality

**CULTURAL DOMAINS COVERED :**

- Cultural and natural heritage
- Intangible cultural heritage
- Performance and celebration
- Visual arts and crafts
- Books and press
- Design and creative services
- Tourism

## **INTERNATIONAL CULTURE CONVENTIONS COVERED :**

- 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
- 169 Convention of the International Labor Organization, of 1989
- 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

## **GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE :**

North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) and South Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS)

## **SNAPSHOT OF MAIN ACTIONS TO DATE:**

- **Enhanced capacities of the Indigenous and Afro-descendants of the Caribbean Coast to develop cultural ventures:** cultural mapping and evaluation of 6 Indigenous and Afro-descendant groups; cultural ventures financed by the ProCulture Fund and micro-credits granted by the Renewable Credit Fund; 416 beneficiaries trained in cultural business management; creation of a network of culture promoters and networks of cultural entrepreneurs
- **Strengthened cultural and natural heritage of the Indigenous and Afro-descendants of the Caribbean Coast, through the revitalization and promotion of their culture:** cultural tourism supported (studies aiming to identify cultural routes for tourist activities and to strengthen existing tourism development plans through the inclusion of cultural components, products promoting cultural tourism, cultural tourism trainings organized for 504 beneficiaries, support provided to 15 entrepreneurs for their participation in the first International Tourism Fair etc.); design, construction, management and recovery of public cultural spaces; curriculum established for a degree in cultural management
- **Generation, systematization and dissemination of studies and statistics relating to the cultural expressions of the Indigenous and Afro-descendants of the Caribbean Coast:** cultural and archaeological research conducted; systematization of 1 520 cultural studies relating to the Caribbean Coast; system of cultural indicators focusing on Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants established (SICPIA)
- **Strengthening of public policies and cultural institutions to promote and revitalize the cultural diversity of the Indigenous and Afro-descendants of the Caribbean Coast:** strategic plans for the cultural development of Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants established; intercultural approach to education ensured through a curricular reform; Secretariats for Culture established in the 2 autonomous regions

## **BENEFICIARIES :**

**Direct: 12 300 – 52% women**

**Indirect: 72 557 – 54% women**

- Indigenous peoples: Ulwas, Ramas, Sumu-Mayangnas and Miskitos
- Afro-descendants: Garifunas and Creoles
- Entrepreneurs in the culture sector, artists and artisans
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nicaraguan Institutes of Culture and Tourism
- Development Council of the Caribbean Coast; regional, municipal, communal and territorial government authorities
- Centers of public education

## **LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS :**

- Nicaraguan Institutes of Culture and Tourism
- Regional Councils of the North Atlantic Autonomous Region and South Atlantic Autonomous Region
- Government authorities at the regional, municipal, communal and territorial levels
- Universities
- Indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations
- Private sector
- Community associations and leaders

### **ALIGNMENT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES :**

The Joint Programme is in line with national plans and policies as well as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2008-2012. It is also linked to the Cultural Policy of Nicaragua and the Caribbean Coast Development Strategy.

### **SUCCESS STORIES :**

❖ Creation of the ProCulture Fund to appreciate and promote the cultural expressions and practices of Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities living in Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast

Enhanced economic opportunities and improved living conditions of the Indigenous and Afro-descendants of Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast have been observed, thereby contributing to socio-economic development, through the creation of the 'Fondo Procultura' (ProCulture Fund) to rescue and promote their artistic and cultural expressions. The fund's main beneficiaries are women, and projects that are being funded involve areas such as crafts, gastronomy, sewing, dancing and traditional medicine.

❖ Strengthening entrepreneurial skills through capacity-building and specialized technical training and assistance, and provision of renewable credits, to enhance the economic development of family businesses

Indigenous and Afro-descendant entrepreneurs taking part in the Joint Programme have been able to obtain renewable micro credits and thus enhance their productivity and economic well-being, thereby contributing to economic development, through specialized technical support and trainings in how to better manage their businesses.

❖ Cultural revitalization of the indigenous Ulwa dances and music in the community of Karawala (South Atlantic Autonomous Region)

Cultural diversity has been promoted and intercultural understanding strengthened, thereby fostering social development, through a project funded by the ProCulture Fund aiming to revive the dances and traditional music of the indigenous Ulwa peoples of Karawala municipality as well as to recreate the costumes, jewellery, musical instruments and other types of crafts used in those ancestral dances and music. As a result, the community has paid tribute to the Watyu (a spiritual figure known for his healing prowess and for establishing rules of social order) and established work priorities, research topics and plans to continue the revitalization of the Ulwa culture.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION :**

MDG-F website:

<http://www.mdgfund.org/program/culturalrecoveryandcreativeproductivedevelopmentcaribbeancoastnicaragua>