



Raising the Marine Environmental Awareness of Nicaraguan Young -Crowdfunding Campaign-

Fabio Buitrago, PhD Student
PROJECT SYNOPSIS

Fabio Buitrago is a Ph.D. student at Boston University deeply involved in conservation and advocacy in his home country Nicaragua. Using his large collection of photographs and extensive knowledge of marine ecosystems, Fabio has created the text book "**Nicaragua Azul**" to be delivered to students and teachers in classrooms across Nicaragua and the Central American region. The book describes thoroughly the geological, climatic and oceanographic features of Nicaragua, including both oceans (Pacific and Caribbean) as well as the complex array of freshwater rivers, lagoons and crater lakes unknown for most Nicaraguans. This Crowdfunding Project will allow him to print and deliver free of charge the textbook as an educational tool to contribute increasing the knowledge and awareness that Nicaraguan young have of the submerged ecological heritage that the country boasts. Jacques Cousteau said: "*We protect what we love*" but we cannot love and protect what we don't know !

Given the complex socio-political situation of the country raising funds for conservation has become harder than ever. Despite the several efforts along the last 12 months applying for grants, and trying to find private donors or sponsors we have had no success in securing the funds for printing the book. We are now relying on people to help us raise the required amount (or exceed it) and make the book a reality, please help Nicaraguan youth learn about their natural submerged heritage and get engaged in conservation activities.

We are fundraising to print and distribute free of charge 250 copies of the textbook among Nicaraguan schools, libraries and universities primarily located in coastal communities. The US\$10,000 goal is intended to be used as follows:

- (a) printing of 250 books = \$8,750 (\$35 per book),
- (b) distribution of 250 books = \$1,250 (\$5 per book, mail/transportation).

By making the textbook available for schools, libraries and universities of the country we are estimating a direct positive impact on at least 50,000 Nicaraguans per year (200 people per book), who will now have access to the knowledge/information of their natural submerged heritage.

With your contribution you are helping thousands of Nicaraguans learn about the marine and freshwater biodiversity, the threats they are facing, and how to take immediate action and engage in conservation actions to protect marine biodiversity. Thank you for your support to make our planet a better place. "*We protect what we love, we love what we know, we know what we are taught*".