

A top-down photograph of a pair of brown leather boots resting on a muddy, brown ground. The ground is covered with various fallen leaves, some brown and some green, and small twigs. The boots are positioned diagonally, with the right boot at the top and the left boot at the bottom. The text 'BAMBÚ SOCIAL 2.0' is overlaid on a green bar at the top, and 'UPDATE 1' is written in large white letters across the center. At the bottom, a green bar contains the date '09 / 11 / 2015'.

BAMBÚ SOCIAL 2.0

UPDATE 1

09 / 11 / 2015

A man wearing a grey cap, a light-colored sleeveless shirt, dark pants, and black rubber boots stands in a dense bamboo forest. He is holding a walking stick. The forest is filled with tall bamboo stalks, and a prominent tree trunk in the foreground is covered in green moss. The ground is covered with fallen bamboo leaves and other forest debris.

**BIENVENIDA**

**EN EL RAMA**

November 1st, after spending many hours in trains, planes, cars and busses, team Bambú Social 2.0 finally arrived in El Rama, Nicaragua!

The first thing we noticed as we got out of the airplane was the heat and humidity that fell down on our skin; the tropical climate is unavoidable! On our way from Managua to El Rama, the chaos of colored busses, so called moto taxi's and pick-up trucks filled with people gets replaced by the noises of music, crickets, frogs and exotic birds that are continuously filling the air around us. Bienvenida en El Rama!

Our first impression of this rural town exceeds all expectations. It's clear that it is not common to see people from outside Nicaragua walking around the streets of El Rama and the people are even more open and welcoming than we expected. Also, we noticed that Bambú Social is a well known project and the municipality is enthusiastic about the work done last year. We are happy to continue this project!

During the two months of hard work in the Netherlands, we were looking forward to our arrival and with your help and donations it became reality. The last weeks in the Netherlands were busy but exciting, at departure the estimated budget was almost closed! We are very grateful for your support and your shared interest in contributing to a sustainable solution for the housing crisis in Nicaragua. It will be our pleasure to keep you updated on the progress we make. Not only by posting our progress on [www.bambusocial.com](http://www.bambusocial.com), but also by sending you a total of four summarizing updates on our findings and milestones.

In this first update we will share our progress of the past two months, a short insight in our project plan and a preview on the coming three months in Nicaragua.

Read and enjoy!



# PREPARATIONS

Arriving in Nicaragua, we officially completed the first phase of our project. One of our main activities in this phase was defining the assignment by gaining background knowledge about Nicaragua and the Bambú Social Foundation, setting up a business model and writing a project plan.

As you all know, fundraising was also very important in this phase. We opened a bank account, applied for funds and personal grants, set up a donation website and organized a fundraising party.

Next to this, gaining (inter)national publicity and therefore increasing the support was a continuous task for our team.

This update will give a brief description of our activities. For more detailed analyses, the complete project plan can be found online on [www.bambusocial.com](http://www.bambusocial.com)

## BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

In order to prepare for the journey to Nicaragua we had to know what we could encounter and how to tackle certain problems.

## NICARAGUA AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY

Over the past decades, Nicaragua has been hit by devastating events; both political, economical and environmental. These have left the nation in a precarious development position in this century. According to the functions of Innovation Systems by Hekkert

# SORTING IT OUT..



and Van Alphen, we made a detailed analysis of Nicaragua as a developing country. The full report can be found as an appendix in the project plan.

### THE BAMBÚ SOCIAL FOUNDATION

To continue the work of Bambú Social we analyzed the work done, resulting in the formulation of their mission in one sentence:

*“To solve the housing problem in Nicaragua by sharing knowledge with the local students and craftsmen and stimulate the social acceptance of bamboo as a standard construction material.”*

### COMPANY OF THE FUTURE

By pursuing the mission of Bambú Social, a chain of entrepreneurship and employment opportunities will be triggered. The demand for bamboo plantations, bamboo treatment companies, transport, the production of prefab bamboo elements and bamboo-house constructors will increase.

Following the business model canvas by Steve Blank, team 2.0 wrote a business plan for one link in that chain; a small, local company that produces the bamboo elements needed for the construction of a bamboo house.

This prefab company, named *BambúBueno*, will be an important factor in making a sustainable, affordable and comfortable house accesible for all citizens of Nicaragua. This business model can be found among the appendices in the project plan.

### ASSIGNMENT

The most important part of the preparation phase was defining our own assignment.





Taking all the research into account, the defined assignment exists of three main parts; evaluation of the previous work (1) and social research (2), concluding in a building assignment (3) to improve a part of the designed bamboo house.

By constantly sharing our findings with local craftsmen and students we hope bamboo will become an appreciated construction material and gets adopted by the local architects and students, so the local research on bamboo can keep developing.

### FUNDRAISING

To be able to execute our assignment we estimated a budget of 9000 euro, to be completed by fundraising. We opened a bank account (NL74RABO0306067285) and we can proudly announce that upon our

arrival in Nicaragua we have already raised €8000,- so the deficit is set at 1000 euro... Donations are still welcome!

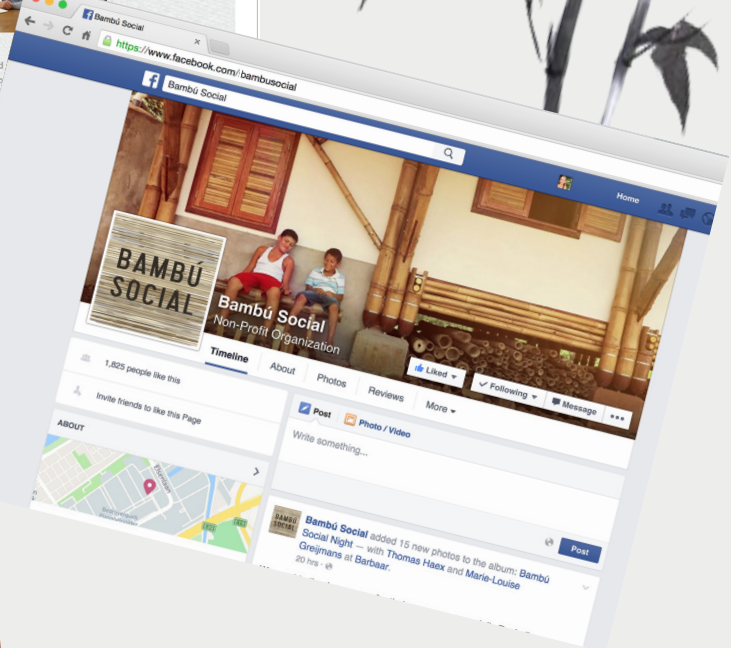
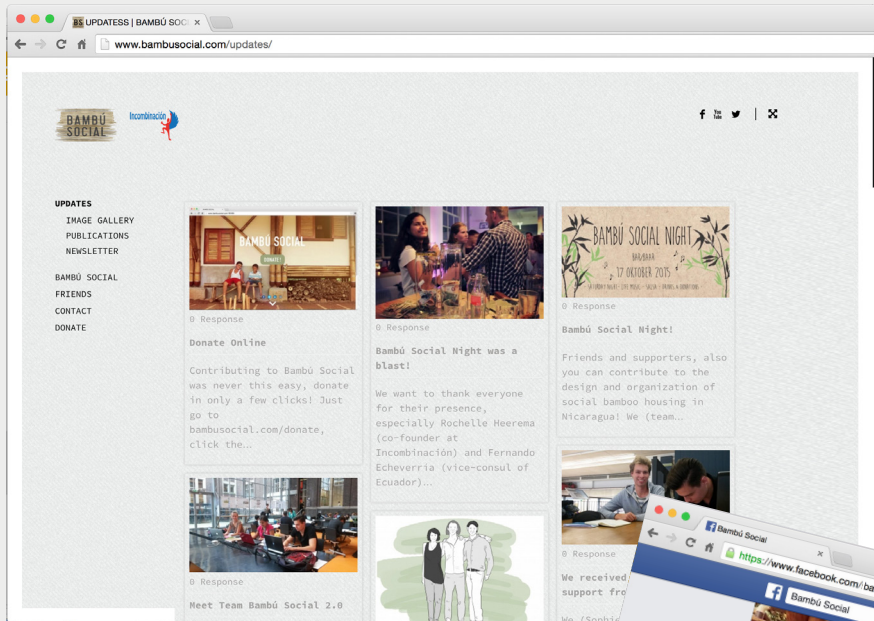
### DONATION WEBSITE

To make donating more easy we reached another important milestone by opening our own donation website, [www.bambusocial.com/donate](http://www.bambusocial.com/donate). On this page, you can safely and securely make a donation through iDeal in only a few clicks. Of all donations 100% will be invested in the living situation in Nicaragua. Special thanks for creating and hosting go to Peter Evers and Michel Greijmans!

### BAMBÚ SOCIAL NIGHT

The fundraising event in Barbaar was a blast and the highlight of our two months of preparations. We were very excited





## Bouwen met bamboe

Omdat de hun bouwkundeopleiding te weinig toegepast en duurzaam vonden, besloten ze zelf maar een project op te zetten. De studenten van Bambú Social brengen duurzaam bouwen tot bloei in Nicaragua. Binnenkort vertrekt de tweede lichter.

**H**et is een 'tweede' generatie van studenten die zich inzet voor duurzaam bouwen. De studenten van Bambú Social brengen duurzaam bouwen tot bloei in Nicaragua. Binnenkort vertrekt de tweede lichter. Het is een 'tweede' generatie van studenten die zich inzet voor duurzaam bouwen. De studenten van Bambú Social brengen duurzaam bouwen tot bloei in Nicaragua. Binnenkort vertrekt de tweede lichter.





to welcome so many friends, family and supporters and we want to thank everyone for their support and donations. Special thanks go to Fernando Echeverría, viceconsul of Ecuador, and Rochelle Heerema, founder of from Incombinación foundation, for their inspiring speech and their support!

We had an amazing evening and we are very grateful for the opportunity to share our project with so many people. Eventually, the Bambú Social Night raised 700 euro. We want to thank everybody for a great evening!

### (INTER)NATIONAL PUBLICITY

Among other locations, we presented the project at The House of Europe in The Hague, the Rotary Club in Amstelveen and

during lunchlecture “*Natuurlijk Bouwen Kun Jij Ook*” at the architecture faculty of TU Delft.

Not only by presentations, but also on paper the word is spread. Last week an interview with the Bambú Social team was published in TU Delta magazine! Read more at [delta.tudelft.nl/artikel/bouwen-met-bamboe/30667](https://delta.tudelft.nl/artikel/bouwen-met-bamboe/30667) (Dutch).

During both the preparation and the execution phase, the Bambú Social website ([www.bambusocial.com](http://www.bambusocial.com)) is the main platform to post updates on our progress. Also the Bambú Social facebook ([facebook.com/bambusocial](https://facebook.com/bambusocial)) will keep you updated... Follow us and stay tuned!



# THE TEAM

# THE PLAN

After arriving in Nicaragua we officially started the second phase of our project, the execution phase. This is also where our new team member Verónica Mejías Reyes comes in. Verónica is born and raised on the Canary Islands and studied both Tourism and Business Administration. We are happy to welcome her to the Bambú Social team! With her great communication skills and Spanish language she will be an amazing addition to the team.

During the upcoming three months we will work on the following stages; evaluation research (1), social research (2) and technical research (3).

## EVALUATION RESEARCH

One of the main activities during the evaluation research will be inspecting the physical conditions of the built model house. This means that we will visit the model house and inspect the quality of the bamboo, evaluate the current use of the

house and inspect the climate conditions within the house. During this stage we will also interview the local craftsmen who were involved in the construction last year. We will ask them about their experience of the building process and what they think about the result. Their opinion is very important because the success of our project depends on their cooperation and enthusiasm.

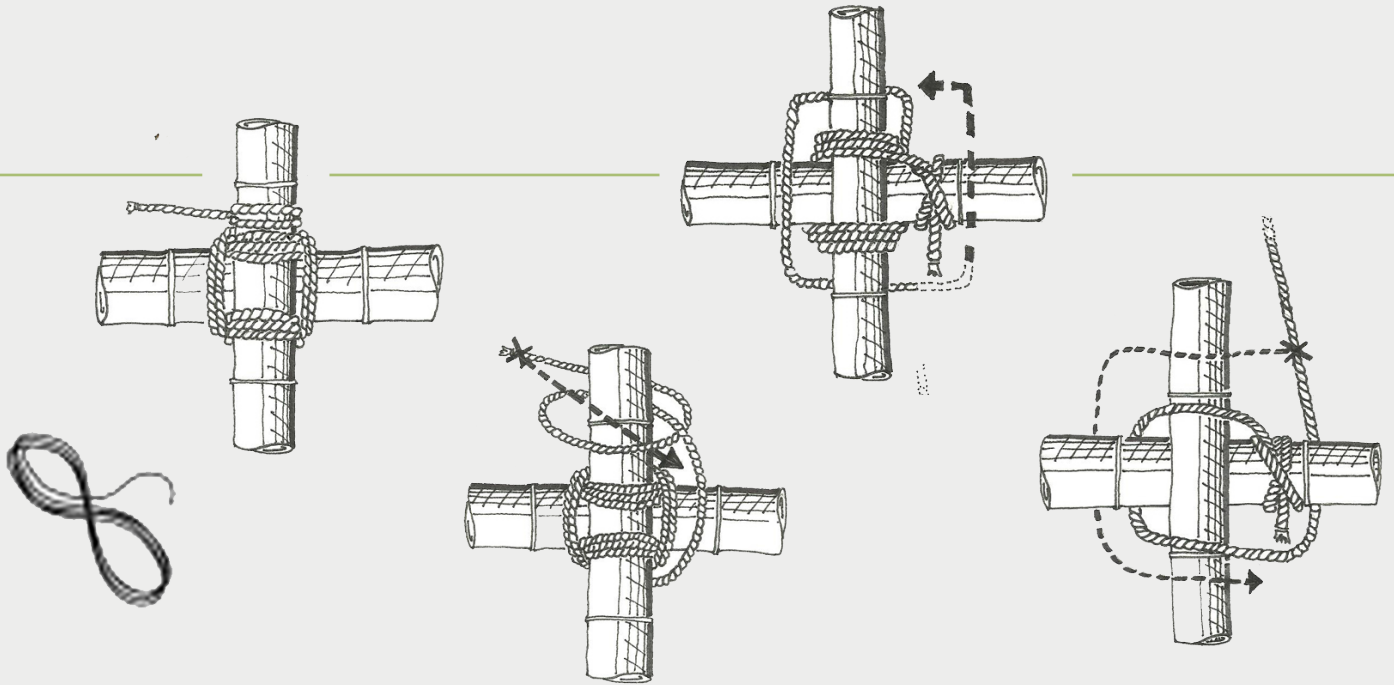
## SOCIAL RESEARCH

During the second stage we will evaluate the social acceptance of bamboo as a building material and the opinion of the local Nicaraguans on bamboo housing. The main activity during this stage will be visiting people in their homes and interviewing them about the living standards in El Rama and the surrounding rural areas. Hereby we hope to find the most important and essential aspects of a (bamboo)house, according to our target group.

We will also organize gatherings in the model house so people can experience the house and different parts of the design.







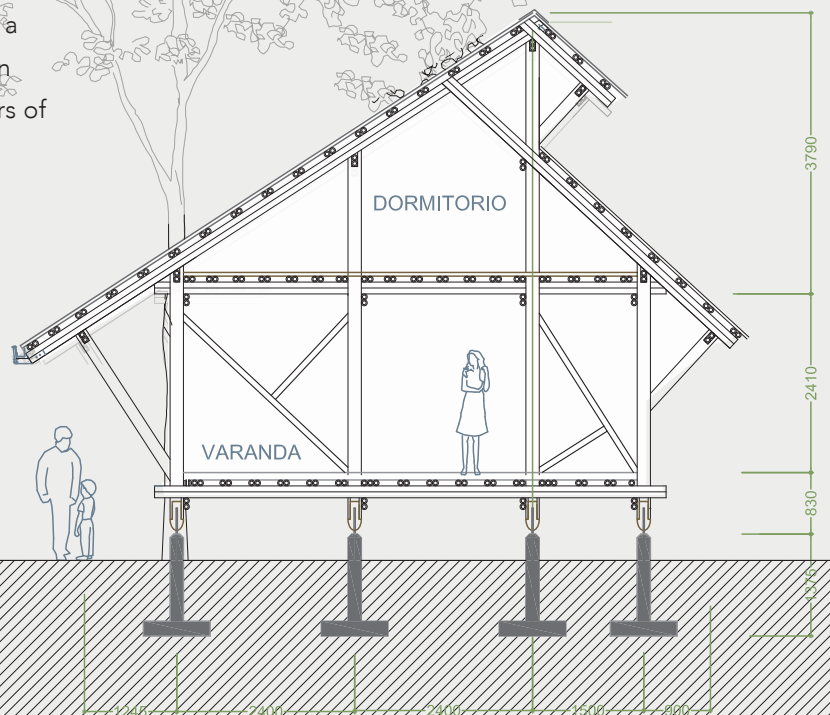
Apart from this, we will organize design cases and workshops/brainstorm sessions with the students of UCA University in Managua. By organizing this workshop we hope to get in touch with the Nicaraguan students and find out what possibilities they see for building with bamboo. We will ask them to design a bamboo house that complies with our requirements. Hereby we gain new ideas and views on constructing with bamboo. These new ideas can be very useful when we are working on the improvements of the design.

### TECHNICAL RESEARCH

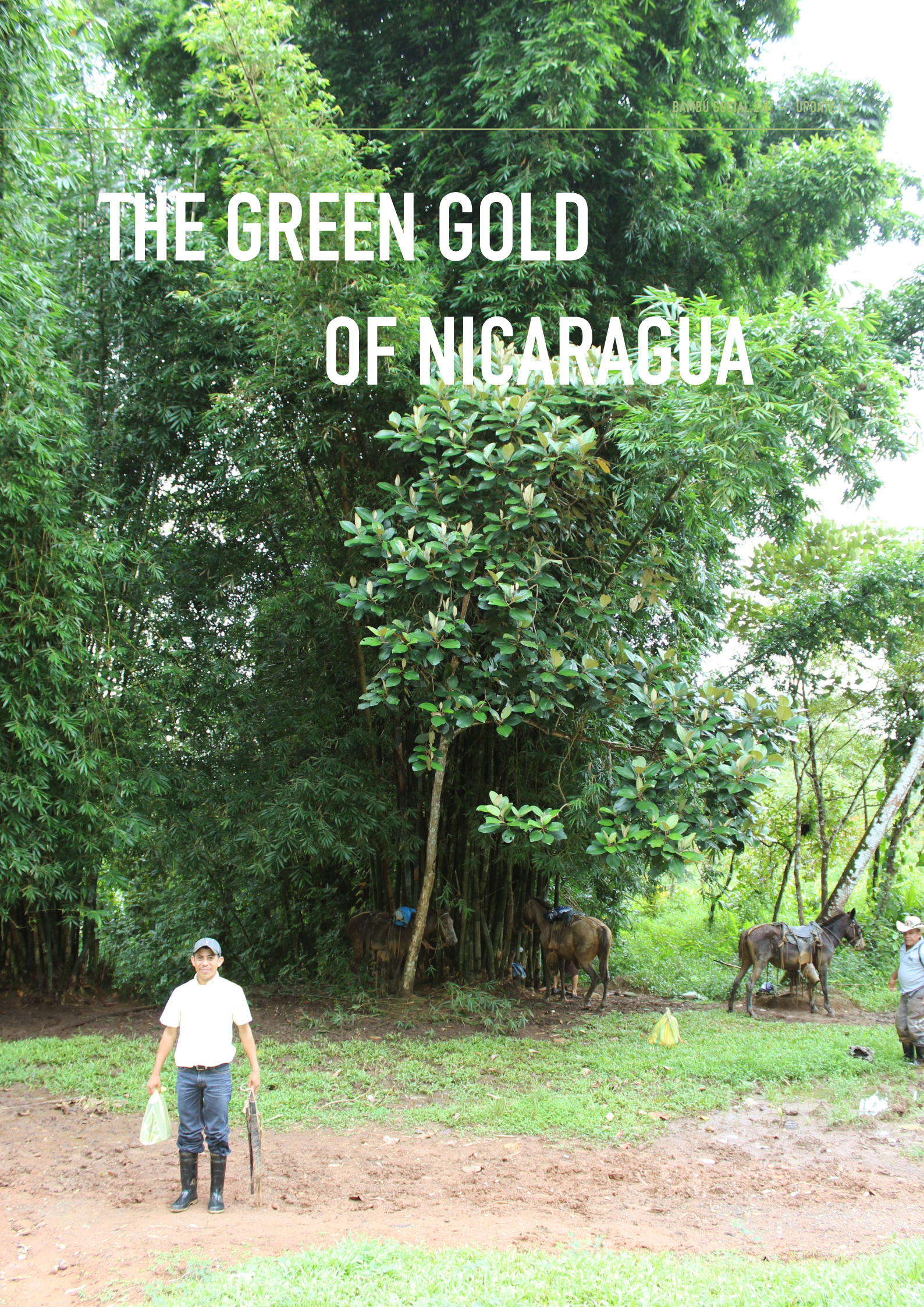
The first two stages will both result in a report. Based on those reports we can conclude the enablers and the barriers of

bamboo housing in El Rama and which aspects/components of the design for a bamboo house should be improved. During the third stage we'll make multiple design options based on the two reports.

By constructing and testing these improvements we hope to get one step closer to an affordable, easy-to-build house of good quality that is adaptable to the various needs of the residents of Nicaragua.



# THE GREEN GOLD OF NICARAGUA



# FIRST IMPRESSION

This first week we dedicated our time to get to know the city and its culture. We also met the persons who were involved in the project last year, especially Henky Bogstein, who gave us a warm welcome in Managua after a long day of travelling.

As said our first impression of El Rama exceeds all expectations. It is a town that is big and really small at the same time. It can be chaotic and calm, it has a lot of concrete and traffic but as soon as you cross the river you arrive in a rural area where nature takes over.

Although El Rama is located in the middle of the jungle, the Rama river forms an easy connection with the coast, so fisherman come to El Rama itself to sell their catch. To hear a man shouting at the window '*carne de tortuga! carne de tortuga!*' (turtle meat) is not a rear thing.



Of course, although there is a lot to see, we are mainly focused on the housing situation and the bamboo. On our first search for the right bamboo (*Guadua Amplexifolia*) we explored the jungle of the natural park of El Recreo... To be continued in the next update!

We organized the first meeting in La Alcaldía of El Rama (local government) where Javier









Balmaceda, director of city planning, Rafael Acevedo, director of BICU (Bluefields Indian & Caribbean University) and students who participated in the construction of the model house attended. We explained the last two months and especially our goal for the coming months in El Rama. Together we discussed the progress of last year and the future opportunities and barriers of Bambú Social.

Meeting all involved people, and also talking to other residents of El Rama and surrounding areas really motivated us to continue the project the best we can.

We want to thank you again for your interest and we hope that you have enjoyed reading this first update. Special thanks go to all supporters named on the next page, for donating on [www.bambusocial.com/donate](http://www.bambusocial.com/donate). Of course we will keep you posted on all of our upcoming activities here in Nicaragua.

Now we put our boots back on and continue our work. Because if you can dream it, you can do it; *si lo puedes soñar, lo puedes hacer*.

¡Hasta pronto!

– Team Bambú Social 2.0

**BAMBÚ  
SOCIAL**



# ¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!

¡Gracias por su contribución! Bambú Social 2.0 wants to thank you for your contribution to the project;

Anissa Abalhousaien

Javier Balmaceda

Bird family

Henry Borgstein

Rogier Bosman

Burton family

Sam Buunk

Rutger Cohen

Jehan Da Camara

Wouter Dalmeijer

Devran Diktas

Gijs Druif

Fernando Echeverria

Peter Evers

Antonio Javier Gil Gopar

Juan-Carlos Gaviria Morena

Michel Greijmans

Joost de Groot

Phia Gubbels

Thomas Haex

Lilian Hebbink

Gerbert Hebbink

Sander Hebbink

Arjan Hebbink

Hans Hebbink

Saskia Hebbink

Arnold Hebbink

Janny Hebbink

Rochelle Heerema

IJsbrand Heeringa

Robert Hengeveld

Michiel Hengeveld

Frans Hengeveld

Hans Kool

Kool family

Alex Kouwehoven

Van de Loos family

Livandro

Daan van der Meer

Veronique Misteli

Tineke Munts

Corina Langendam

Peter Munts

F. M. Munts

J. J. Munts-Staal

Sonia Solano Federick

Anja Plantinga

Wim Ravesteijn

Anton Reuvekamp

Gerben Reuvekamp

Teun Reuvekamp

Thea Reuvekamp

Marietje Reuvekamp

Marthi Reuvekamp

Wendy Reuvekamp

Femke van der Schoot

Inge Suringar

Maria-Elena Tabares Castillo

Ewoud Veltmeijer

Maria Veltmeijer

Thomas Veltmeijer

Max Verhoeven

Annelies Viegers

Jaarclub VSOP

Jos Wassink

Thije Wubs

**rogier**

advies · realisatie · onderhoud **bouw**



Team Bambu Social 2.0 with 'motosierrista' Juan Ortega



Rotaryclub  
Amstelveen-Amstel

OnderzoeksBoek.nl

STUDENTS  SUSTAINABILITY



¡GRACIAS POR  
SU CONTRIBUCIÓN!

SI LO PUEDES SOÑAR,  
LO PUEDES HACER

