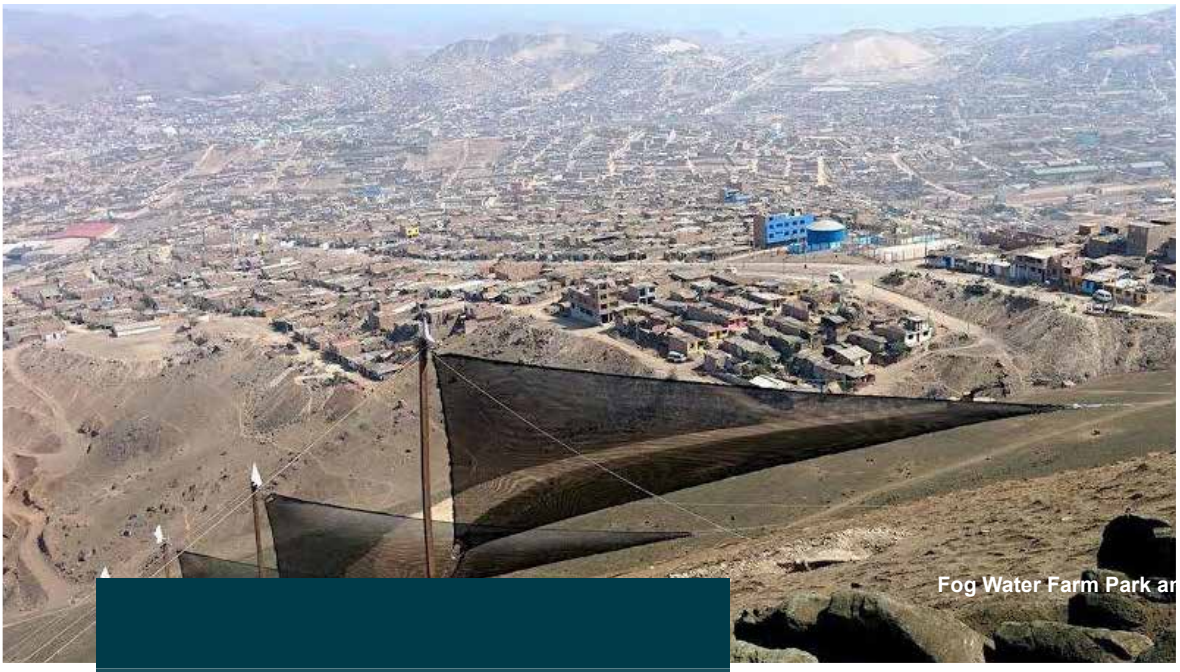

Fog Water Farm Park and Gardens / Image: Traction

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUE

The Community of Eliseo Collazos is an informal urban slum settlement in Lima, Peru. Residents experience food and water insecurity, extreme poverty, poor mental wellbeing and a lack of basic public services including extremely low greenspace per capita. In addition, Lima gets <10 mm of rain/year, and the primarily glacier fed water source may deplete in as little as 15 years, leaving slums even more vulnerable. Yet Lima has fog up to 6 months/year. The Fog Water Farm Park and Gardens is a project phased over five years that addressed these health issues through community-driven projects. Projects included a fog collector system, recreation park, terraced farm and 50 home gardens with plants for food, medicine and beautification.

Fog Water Farm Park and Gardens

Community of Eliseo Collazos, Lima, Peru

Traction

ENGAGEMENT

Residents were deeply engaged in each step of the project. Projects were defined from community identified needs, desires and priorities, and the design and construction process used a variety of community participatory implementation techniques.
[Spencer & Andrews 2014; Spencer, Bolton & Alarcon 2014]

OUTCOME

Over one year we found statistically significant improvements in quality of life, social capital and perceived stress (+48%), water security (up to 1,650 liters per day), access to recreation (soccer and volleyball court), and access to food and medicine (1,000 food and herb plants in the gardens and farm park). A Project Impact Assessment administered each year showed the projects met residents' expectations and community-identified goals. Gardens became expressions of culture and art and boosted economic opportunities.
[Korn et al. 2018; Spencer 2018; Feld, Spencer & Bolton 2016]

RESOURCES

Project partners include: Community of Eliseo Collazos, non-profits (Traction; Robert Rauschenberg Foundation; the Landscape Architecture Foundation; Architects Without Borders-Seattle; Peruanas Sin Agua), universities (University of Washington; Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos), and government agencies (National Institutes of Health; Environmental Protection Agency P3 Competition; the local municipality of Puente Piedra).

LESSONS LEARNED

Participatory techniques promoted stewardship, education, social cohesion, emotional investment and overall sustainability. Challenges included mafia and neighboring municipal interference with maintenance by organizing land invasions surrounding fog collectors.