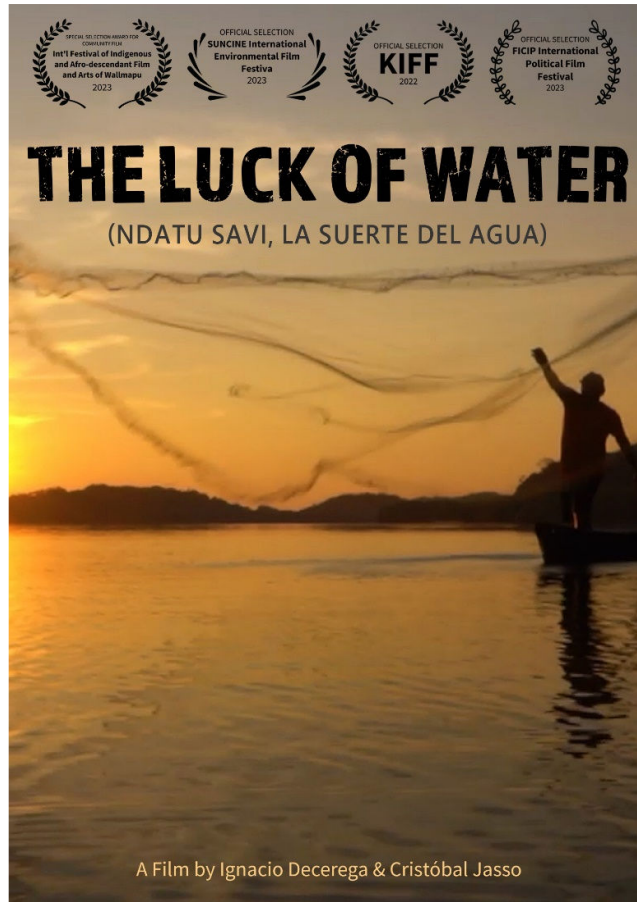


# THE LUCK OF WATER NDATU SAVI, LA SUERTE DEL AGUA



A FILM BY  
IGNACIO DECEREGA & CRISTÓBAL JASSO

64 mins / 2023 / Spanish, Mixtec, English Subtitles, Spanish Subtitles / Mexico



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## **AWARDS AND FILM FESTIVALS**

Special Award for Community Films - FICWALLMAPU The Int'l Films &  
Indigenous Arts Festival, Chile

Political Film International Film Festival, Argentina

DOCA International Documentary Film Festival, Argentina

MUNIC National Scientific Images Exhibition – National Autonomous  
University of Mexico Film Library

Durban International Film Festival, South Africa

Official Selection – National Day of Mexican Cinema Film Program

FICIP Political Film International Film Festival, Argentina

Oaxaca's Indigenous Guelaguetza Film Festival, Mexico

Suncine Environmental Film Festival, Spain

Oaxaca Exhibition of Mixtec Film, Mexico

## **SYNOPSIS**

The Luck of Water profiles two rivers and a sacred saltwater lagoon system in the indigenous Mixtec, mestizo, and Afro-descendant communities in the Oaxaca's coastal region in Mexico. For indigenous Mixtec communities upstream, the fate of water is in the hands of gods and rain goddesses that dwell in caves and mountains. For mestizo farmers and population in urban centers, everything revolves around water scarcity and pollution. For Afro Mexican fishermen downstream, the crucial issue is the quantity of fish and the complex relationship between river runoff and ocean saltwater. The Fate of Water delves into this struggle and the threat that these communities face.

## **DIRECTORS' STATEMENT**

Our objective with this film is to provide a safe space for urgently needed conversations about water and water management in Oaxaca's Pinotepa Nacional/Laguna de Alotengo region, a land known in the Mixtec language as Soco TaNu'u or "the Ocean's Limb." Indigenous and Afro Mexican communities share this magical land but know little of each other and of the multiple threats to the remaining reserves of clean water in the area. We hope our film can, as Gombrich proposes, bridge a cultural gap and provide "mutual clarification" bringing neighbors together in a common struggle for survival as well as sharing their voices with the outside world, in Mexico and elsewhere.

The Mixtec people call themselves Nu Savi or people of the rain. From them and from the Afro Mexican fishermen who reside along the Laguna de Alotengo, we learned about sacred mountains and caves and the intrinsic relationship between water and territory. Unfortunately, we also learned that violence is a permanent threat to community organizers and human rights and environmental defenders in our country. During the production of this film five community members were killed trying to protect the Rio Verde water basin. Our film is dedicated to these human rights defenders, specially Jaime Jimenez, one of our protagonists, whose voice we hope can be heard by all those concerned about justice and protecting the environment.

Ignacio Decerega & Cristóbal Jasso

## **DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHIES**

Ignacio Decerega has been living and working in Mexico for over 20 years, with around 15 years dedicated to environmental issues, especially those related to environmental justice and water. His feature films have addressed themes of discrimination and racism, justice and human rights, and the regional scourge of illegal migration.

Cristóbal Jasso has been involved for over 10 years in various processes related to the care and defense of natural resources in the Costa Chica region of Oaxaca, Mexico. Whether as a collaborator of the community radio station Ñuu Kaan or as Director of Ecology of the Municipality of Pinotepa Nacional, he has supported the communities featured in "Ndatu Savi, the Fate of Water," such as Santa Maria Jicaltepec, Pinotepa Nacional, Collantes,

Corralero, and Paso de la Reyna. For over 10 years, he has lived in Santa Maria Jicaltepec with his wife and children, both born there.

## **PRODUCTION CREDITS**

Director: Ignacio Decerega & Cristóbal Jasso

Screenplay: Ignacio Decerega & Cristóbal Jasso

Cinematography: Ignacio Decerega/Tonatiuh Diaz

Sound: Cristobal Jasso

Sound Design: Alberto Castro Gurria

THX Mixing Operator: Alberto Castro Gurria

Music: José Luis Esquivel

Editing: Rocio Zambrano, Ignacio Decerega, Cristóbal Jasso & Ivan Jimenez

Postproduction: Rocio Zambrano

Colorist: Rocio Zambrano

Still Photography: Erick Uriegas

Appearing in the Film:

Eva Castellanos Mendoza

Francisco Nicio

Taurino Vargas

Pedro González

Rafael A. García

Flavio Cruz León

Pedro Pérez

Dagoberto Mariche

Pedro Curtidor

Juan Daniel García M.

Felipe García

Acela López López

Juana García García

Juana López Sánchez

Jaime Jiménez

Calixto Díaz

Ricardo Gazga

Felipe García Hernandez

Máximo Mayren

Pedro A. Martínez P.

Epifanio García López

Jerónimo García Tello

Julia Herrera Bustos