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**BOLETÍN**  
AMÉRICA LATINA



**February 2025 to June 2025**

This newsletter is intended to exchange information, tools and news related to the program entitled “**El Agua Nos Une**” (**Water Unites Us**), an initiative led by the Water-Themed Division of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (COSUDE). The objective of this program is to work collectively on strengthening water stewardship while making decisions based on evidence. We focus on reinforcing the systemic monitoring of the quality and quantity of water, and on the evaluation and reduction of the impacts on water emerging from the production processes. We promote actions and leadership by example, thus elevating the value of both water and ecosystems for society. In the period between 2022-2025, we developed direct actions in **Mexico, Colombia, Peru and Brazil**. Simultaneously, exchanges with government agencies are maintained in Ecuador, Panama, Uruguay and Chile. Moreover, the water stewardship **Practice Community** in Latin America facilitates training activities, conversations and collective learning across the region. This newsletter covers the period from February to June 2025.



**REGIONAL**

**HYDROLOGICAL IMPACT EVALUATION COURSE: ISO 14046 AND WATER FOOTPRINT NETWORK (WFN) METHODOLOGIES**



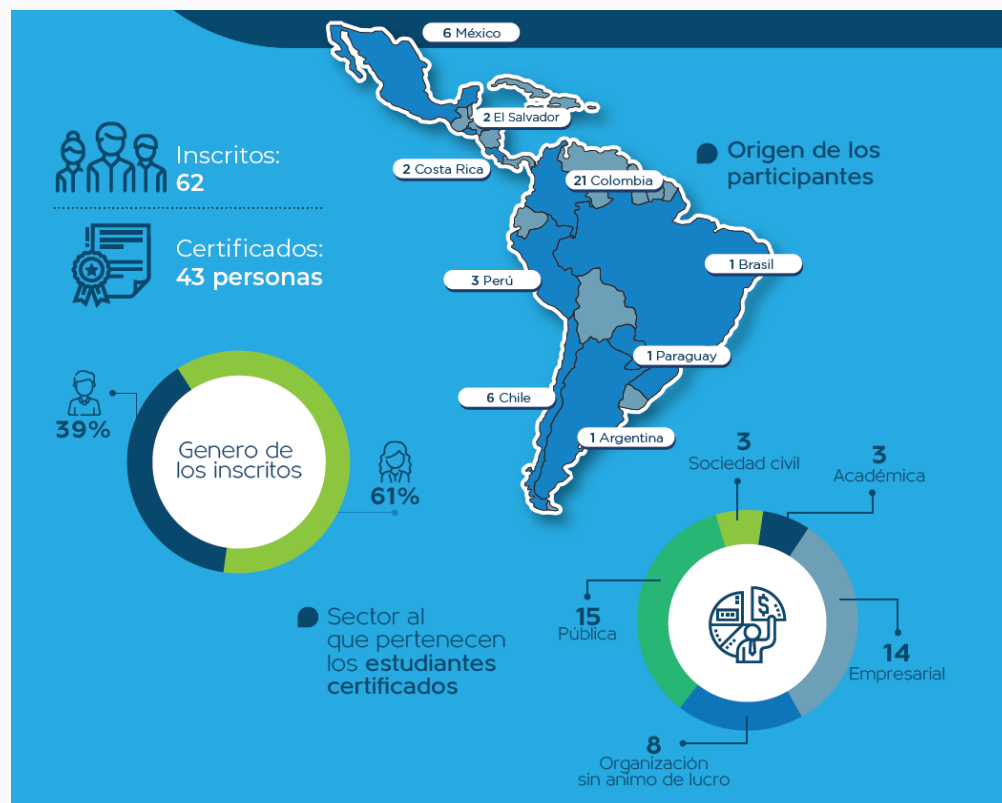
Gestión Corporativa del Agua

The online course titled “Hydrological impact evaluation: ISO 14046 and Water Footprint Network (WFN) methodologies” was held from September 19, 2024, to February 28, 2025. This was a key initiative to enhance the technical capabilities of Latin American professionals.

The purpose of the course was to provide the participants with training centered on the evaluation and interpretation of water footprint studies according to the **ISO 14046 standard** and on the application of the methodology developed by the **Water Footprint Network (WFN)**.

The course content combined theoretical modules with practical exercises, evaluations and asynchronous and synchronous interaction sessions. **43 people successfully completed** the training process and were granted the corresponding certification. The participants came from diverse sectors and countries, with a balanced participation in terms of gender.

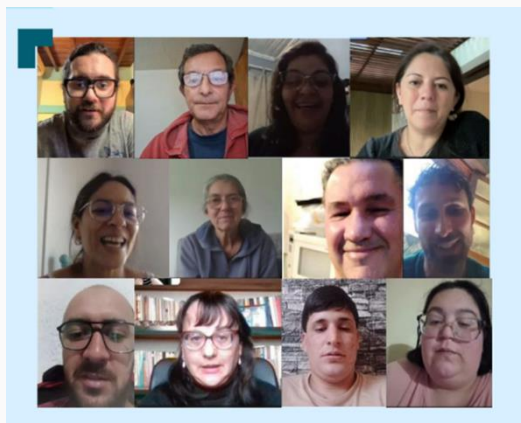
Moreover, the participants gave a positive assessment of the course content, highlighting the practical exercises and the support provided by the lecturers. Additionally, key topics were identified for future training opportunities, including **water footprint audits, circular economy, underground water and hydrological modelling**.



## REGIONAL EXCHANGE FOCUSED ON THE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF WATER



Within the framework of the advisory sessions held for Uruguay, a research initiative was carried out in collaboration with **Obras Sanitarias del Estado (OSE; Spanish for Sanitary Works of the State) and the consulting firm Etnológica**. The objective was to identify inspiring elements in order to steer the design of a nationwide campaign focused on the efficient use of water in the residential, industrial and commercial sectors adapted to the country's sociocultural context.



The research combined two approaches: an international benchmarking of successful water-saving campaigns and an ethnographic exploration of the perceptions, habits and practices of Uruguayan users regarding water usage. For such a purpose, 38 ethnographic interviews were conducted (**15 with experts, 15 with families/households and 8 with companies**), a workshop run by experts was organized and the analysis of outstanding international campaigns was performed.

The main findings included the identification of milestones and phenomena that influence the perception in terms of the use of water, as well as motivating factors, obstacles and consumption patterns. Additionally, the key messages of existing campaigns were reviewed, and strategic lines were proposed for the construction of a more effective communication.

This process allows the *OSE* to obtain valuable international inputs for the formulation of a culturally relevant water saving campaign, informed by the international experience and anchored to the local realities.

### ENHANCE YOUR PROFESSIONAL PROFILE WITH OUR ONLINE WATER FOOTPRINT COURSES

*El Agua Nos Une* developed two online courses centered on strengthening the knowledge on water footprint and corporate water stewardship. These courses have been made available in Colombia, Peru and other Latin American countries. We encourage you to enhance your professional training by taking these two online courses, which are currently available on our website and have been designed to strengthen your capabilities in relation to the **assessment and sustainable management of water resources**.

## Our courses:

### 1. **Hydrological impact assessment through the Water Footprint (ISO 14046) and Water footprint Network (WFN) methodologies**

Master the technical tools used to identify, measure and manage the hydrological impacts of production processes and activities, applying the Water Foot Print Network methodologies and the ISO 14046 standard.

### 2. **ISO 14046 Water Footprint: Sustainable Management and Public Policy**

Learn to use the Water Footprint as a key instrument in the decision-making process, the formulation of public policies and the implementation of hydrological sustainability strategies at the organizational and territorial levels.

## What do you get?

- ✓ Updated contents developed by experts.
- ✓ Practical tools applicable in your professional field.
- ✓ Participation certificate.
- ✓ Flexibility to learn at your own pace and from anywhere.

## Who is the target audience?

Technicians, professionals, consultants, public officials, scholars and people interested in delving into water stewardship.

## Sign up right now:

Go to  <https://cursoselaguanosune.org>

***El Agua Nos Une. Learn, apply and transform.***

## 'I VALUE WATER AND MY FOOD' CAMPAIGN



The video titled "I value water and my food" was launched on July 10. It is part of a campaign that will be deployed regionally as a reflection and call for action to use both water and food efficiently, by reducing waste and conserving the water resources. This is done by visualizing the relationship between water and food as a journey through their process and transformation. An alliance among the participants was consolidated: The Swiss Embassy in Colombia (COSUDE), the National Business Association of Colombia (ANDI), the United Nations Global Compact in Colombia, El Centro de Ciencia y Tecnología de Antioquia – CTA ( the Science and Technology Center of Antioquia) and the 'Modo Acción Sostenible' Foundation, in addition to the creative support and production of Magic Markers.

Click here to watch the video: <https://bit.ly/3IkVZ86>



# COLOMBIA



## STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS



Through the **Local Territorial Management** component, progress is being made in the strengthening civil society organizations by means of monthly online talks with mentorships specializing in subjects like disclosure, social appropriation of knowledge, project management and strategic partnerships.

### Conclusion of territorial actions

In May, two organizations concluded their interventions with satisfactory results:



- **Fundación Humedales Bogotá:**

On May 9, Fundación Humedales Bogotá, supported by the firm Tecser Laboratorios S. A., held an event centered on the conclusion of its actions associated with the social-environmental initiative titled “Proyecto aMa, el agua de Márquez nos une” (aMa Project, Márquez’ water brings us together) in the rural district of Márquez, located in the municipality of La Calera, Cundinamarca, Colombia. This initiative promoted collaboration and joint actions among the local communities and the parties involved with the aim of tackling the challenges related to the protection of water and the preservation of the ecosystems in this region.

- **Outstanding actions:**

1. Environmental education workshops centered on the conservation of local fauna and flora.
2. Transfer of **knowledge of agroecology** and plant transformation.
3. **Educational encounters focused on biodiverse gardens:** butterflies and rainwater collection systems.

- **Impact:**

1. Start of the riverine **restoration** of the main streams.
2. Creation of **natural product entrepreneurship** projects as solidarity-based economy.
3. Creation of biodiverse **gardens**.
4. **Implementation of rainwater collection systems** for school gardens, thus promoting both circular economy and community governance.



- **Corporación Alianza Empresas Aprovechamiento del Magdalena Medio – CEAMBIENTAL– (Corporation-alliance of companies for harnessing the potential of the *Magdalena Medio* region):** An event was held on May 30, focusing on the conclusion of the actions carried out by CEAMBIENTAL, an organization that is supported by Ecopetrol S. A. The purpose of this action was to reinforce the environmental education strategy of the Solid Waste Management Plan (abbreviated *PGIRS* in Spanish) formulated by the Barrancabermeja District through the implementation of the ‘Juntos Reciclando’ (recycling together) program, which is led by the Environmental Secretariat in partnership with CEAMBIENTAL. The initiative was centered on the technical and educational strengthening of recyclers, as well as the promotion of the process of sorting waste at the source, thus benefiting communities from seven counties of the district.
  
- **Outstanding actions:**
  1. **Ornamental plant and native tree planting sessions** in the municipality’s public recreational park.
  2. **Talks with recyclers**, who shared their experiences during the process.
  3. **Online discussion panel about water stewardship, with the participation of Ecopetrol, the Swiss Embassy in Colombia, Barrancabermeja’s Environmental Secretariat and CEAMBIENTAL.**
  
- **Impact:**
  1. **The work of recyclers was dignified**, as they recover exploitable materials, thus contributing to extending the service life of landfills.
  2. Strengthening of **12 groups of recyclers** from the district in terms of their work conditions and technical knowledge.
  3. Actions centered on cleaning and conserving key water sources such as the **Miramar swamp and the Las Lavanderas and Las Camelias river bayous.**

## **WATER MONITORING WORK WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES**



Throughout February and March, in-person encounters were held with five Regional Autonomous Corporations (Corpoguvio, Corporación Autónoma Regional para la Defensa de la Meseta de Bucaramanga - CDMB, Corporación Autónoma Regional de Santander - CAS, Corporación Autónoma Regional del Alto Magdalena - CAM and Cortolima) with the purpose of discussing progress achievements and recommendations related to their **Regional Institutional Program for the Monitoring of Water Quantity and Quality (abbreviated PIRMA in Spanish)**.

From May 12 to 14, we joined efforts at Corpoamazonía's headquarters in Mocoa with the aim of making progress in the strengthening of the comprehensive monitoring of water across the region. During the event, the participants addressed issues such as the consolidation of protocols, methodologies, platforms and science for the management of data and information in favor of a more responsible water stewardship.

The encounter not only included the participation of Corpoamazonía officers but also the involvement of the HR A Subt. Technological Institute, who addressed topics such as hiring, campaigns, protocols, forms, information systems, technological innovation and investment.

## **TECHNICAL NOTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND HYDROCARBON SECTORS**



A discussion panel was held on February 19 with the aim of presenting the sector-based methodological progress achievements, with the participation of multiple trade association and government bodies. Additionally, technical notes about the hydrocarbon and agricultural (palm and banana) sectors were developed and subsequently disclosed and presented to the corresponding players of said sectors.

This represents an important accomplishment due to the articulation of these public and private actors regarding the management of water resources within the framework of these economic activities.

## COMPANIES AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY

We are in the final stretch of the work carried out with the 37 companies that are part of the program. The water footprint and carbon footprint reports of the baseline measurements are already available, as well as the corresponding improvement plans, which include proposed actions centered on reducing these impacts. The modeling of the second measurement is underway with the aim of showcasing the results of the actions taken by the companies.

Additionally, on April 24, the webinar titled **“Training in the use of the water and carbon footprint calculator”** was held under the direction of Incyclo with the objective of enhancing the capabilities of the assigned personnel of the companies participating in the program. The goal is for them to be able to autonomously implement the water and carbon footprint calculation tool, thus facilitating the management and follow-up of their action plans.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2025: miPÁRAMO – TONA, SANTANDER

On February 6 and 7, miPáramo’s first Executive Committee 2025 was held in Tona, Santander, with the participation of 25 representatives of partner organizations.



The Committee’s agenda included visits to the Las Brisas and El Reposo estates, where important progress has been attained regarding the water conservation actions. At Casa Tona, an enriching co-creation session was held. This event included the presentation of

Alianza Biocuenca and a collaborative workshop centered on generating new ideas and strategies. During the session, the Committee reviewed the established commitments, proposed public policy articulation mechanisms and underscored the need to strengthen partnerships around green businesses, thus reasserting the value of joint work in favor of both environmental sustainability and regional development.

## **"JUNTOS POR EL AGUA" (TOGETHER FOR WATER): AN ENCOUNTER OF HOPE AND CONSERVATION**



### Infraestructura Natural

On March 22 and to commemorate the World Water Day, a touching environmental session was held in Cúcuta. The event was organized by partner institutions that are committed to protecting the water resources.

More than 500 people actively participated in this celebration, which included a collective reflection about the value of water, an activity focused on planting more than 300 native tree species and the installation of bird feeders. With the guidance of experts, the community demonstrated a profound environmental commitment. During the closing of the event, Alianza Biocuenca reiterated its mission of conserving water, reinforcing partnerships and promoting the citizen involvement in the protection of strategic ecosystems.

## **WATER-CENTERED PARTICIPATORY EVENTS**

### Consumo Responsable

The Alianza BioCuenca Water Fund participated in two key meetings centered on the protection of water and the paramo ecosystems. On March 26, in the 2nd Seminar-Workshop titled “Hablemos de Agua” (Let’s talk about water), the progress achievements of the miPáramo program were presented. This program has been active for 10 years and it has stood out due to its positive impacts, and for its inter-generational commitment to taking care of water resources.



On March 28, the RAP Gran Santander-convened Strategic Governance Roundtable for Water Security was held with the aim of contributing to the formulation of the Regional Water Security Plan, whose purpose is to ensure the access, protection and sustainable use of water in the Colombian departments of Santander and Norte de Santander.



# BRASIL



## 2025 CYCLE OPENING MEETING OF THE *EL AGUA NOS UNE* INITIATIVE IN BRAZIL



Gestión Corporativa del Agua

The second cycle of the El Agua Nos Une initiative in Brazil was started with an online opening meeting that gathered the representatives of the participant companies and the team of the organization that is implementing the project in this country, **FGVces**. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a session centered on presenting the planned activities and to foster the integration of the officers responsible for the studies at this new stage. The cycle that starts in 2025 includes the participation of **seven new companies** that join the four firms that have already been part of the initiative.

The joining companies are the following: **ArcelorMittal Brasil; Entrevias Concessionária de Rodovias; Fredini Alimentos; Igaratiba; JBS S.A.; M. Dias Branco; and Taboca Mineração**. Thus, the objective of the event consisted in introducing all representatives to each other, promoting integration among the participants and sharing the planned stages for developing the project, which should be concluded by the end of the year.

In the meeting, the progress made in the previous cycles was highlighted and the challenges that drive the actions of this second cycle were discussed, particularly in the context of corporate water stewardship and the strengthening of responsible practices in the production chains. The detailed schedule was presented, including the execution of training activities, the selection of the product and the creation of the process map, as well as the furtherance of the collection of data for the consolidation of the **Life Cycle Inventory (abbreviated ICV in Spanish)**, in addition to the modeling efforts centered on obtaining the water footprint results.

## WATER FOOTPRINT TRAINING FOR PARTICIPANT COMPANIES

A technical training event was held in April. The main subject of the event was the water footprint and it was intended for the participant companies. The objective of the training was to **deepen the knowledge of the water footprint calculation methodology**, which guides the quantification and the efficient management of the use of water in the production processes.



The training sessions addressed fundamental concepts, such as the guidelines for defining the objective and scope, in addition to practical examples for drawing up the Life Cycle Inventory of the companies according to their reality, with the purpose of training the teams to conduct a comprehensive study in an autonomous manner.

The training was carried out via an online platform and included **more than 30 participants** in three sessions, totaling more than **12 hours of content** presented. At the end of the event, the companies demonstrated a higher level of understanding about the importance of measuring and managing the water footprint as an essential tool for mitigating risks, improving the efficiency in the use of water and enhancing their commitment to using water resources responsibly in their operations.

### FIRST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2025



The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the 2025 Cycle of the *El Agua Nos Une* initiative in Brazil, held on April 30, had as its main objective to welcome the new companies that have become part of the project in this phase, in addition to monitoring the progress that has already been made in its implementation in the country and discussing future challenges regarding its expansion. The event gathered, in addition to the companies already participating, multiple representatives from the public and private sectors, thus strengthening

the multi-sector and collaborative character of the initiative.

In total, the meeting included the participation of 23 people, who collaborated both in person and via an online platform, totaling more than 15 organizations represented by the attendees. Representing COSUDE, the opening of the Committee meeting included the participation of the Cooperation Chief in Peru, **Marylaure Crettaz Corredor**, and the Regional Officer of the Lima Regional Hub program, **Kenneth Peralta**. One of the components of the meeting was the presentation of an outlook of the activities carried out so far, as well as the main results obtained, from which the strengthening of technical capabilities and the broadening of the commitment to the corporate water stewardship stood out.

## NEXT STEPS: EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



The next activities include stages that are essential for the progress and the consolidation of the work in collaboration with the participant companies. Among them, it is worth highlighting the **presentation, review and validation** of the selection of the product that will be the subject of the study, followed by the detailed creation of the process map. This phase is crucial to **guaranteeing that the ICV and the water footprint assessment are conducted** based on accurate and representative information of each company's operations, thus ensuring the quality and soundness of the results.

Additionally, a plan has been established to hold a specific training activity to train the teams in the use of the water footprint modeling form, a tool that will allow the **systematization and the processing** of the data collected, thus supporting the calculation and analysis of the results. Supplementing these technical activities, a workshop will be organized to address two crucial topics: climate risks and corporate water stewardship. The aim is to raise the participants' awareness about considering these strategic dimensions in the corporate decision-making process. This set of actions is focused on enhancing the **internal capabilities of the companies** and fostering an approach that is increasingly integrated into the management of water resources.



PERÚ



## COMEXPERÚ COMPANIES INQUIRE ABOUT THE BLUE CERTIFICATION AND THE HYDROLOGICAL FOOTPRINT



Taller Informativo:  
**HUELLA HÍDRICA  
Y CERTIFICADOAZUL**

**10 marzo**  
9.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.

Conoce los beneficios del CertificadoAzul y accede a asistencia técnica para implementarlo en tu empresa.

**EXPOSITORES:**

 <p>Luis Enrique Yampufe, Director de la Dirección de Administración de Recursos Hídricos, Autoridad Nacional del Agua</p>	 <p>Jaime Dupuy, Director Ejecutivo de Comexperú</p>
 <p>Tanya Laguna, Especialista de la DARH, Autoridad Nacional del Agua</p>	 <p>Diana Orellana, Jefa del proyecto El Agua Nos Une, CARE Perú</p>
	 <p>Herberth Pacheco, Especialista del proyecto El Agua Nos Une, SABAVIDA</p>

Comparte esta oportunidad con tus proveedores para que también accedan a los beneficios de esta certificación y fortalezcan su compromiso con la gestión sostenible del agua. ¡Hagamos juntos la diferencia!

Te esperamos en  
nuestra sala de ZOOM

**INSCRIPCIÓN**



### Gestión Corporativa del Agua

The *El Agua Nos Une* Program, funded by COSUDE and implemented by CARE Peru and SABAVIDA, organized and held the workshop titled “Water Footprint and Blue Certificate” in collaboration with the National Water Authority (ANA) and COMEXPERÚ. The event had the purpose of informing the COMEXPERÚ companies about the benefits of the Blue Certificate, which recognizes organizations that reduce their water footprint and create shared value in water stewardship.

The event included the presentation of achievements, certification processes and opportunities to join. In addition, a specialized course was announced with the aim of enhancing technical capabilities related to the efficient use of water, thus reasserting the corporate commitment to sustainability.

Find more information here:  
<https://bit.ly/45ZMaX2>

## FOR A BLUER PERU: 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION OF THE PROGRAM FOR TRAINING WATER FOOTPRINT CALCULATION SPECIALISTS



The National Water Authority (ANA), with support from the *El Agua Nos Une* Project (COSUDE, CARE Peru, SABAVIDA), launched the second edition of the **Program for training water footprint calculation specialists**. In 2024, 72 specialists were trained (60% women) to promote the hydrological sustainability in SMEs. For this new edition, 45 participants from all across the country were selected.



The program enhances capabilities centered on reducing the water footprint and designing shared value strategies. It is worth highlighting the collaboration of the *El Agua Nos Une* online platform. The aim of the initiative consists in minimizing environmental impacts, getting aligned with the SDGs and reinforcing Peru's water security. Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/3HOryXE>

## WOMEN IN CHARGE OF WATER STEWARDSHIP



The Forum titled **“Women and Water: Leadership centered on sustainable management”** was held during the World Water Day. The event was organized by the ANA and multiple partners with the purpose of shedding light on the key role of women in Peru's water stewardship. The issue of the scarce participation of women in decision scenarios (only 5% in water user boards) was underscored. Female leaders like Jackeline García shared successful experiences in water sowing and harvesting.

Diana Orellana, from *El Agua Nos Une*, underlined the challenges to achieving inclusion-driven governance. The event promoted commitments to **reducing gender gaps** and tackling climate change challenges.

## INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: WATER, INNOVATION AND CHANGE

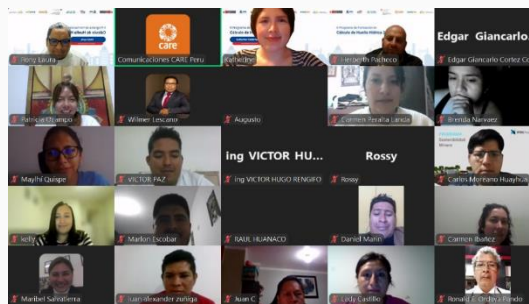


Within the framework of the World Water Day, the National Water Authority (ANA), in collaboration with the COSUDE-backed *El Agua Nos Une* Program, organized and held the international symposium titled **“Circular economy and water footprint,”** which brought local and international experts together. The event addressed innovative strategies for a sustainable water stewardship, highlighting policies, technologies and success stories in **Peru, Uruguay and Colombia.**



A discussion was brought up regarding how both circular economy and water footprint measurement are key aspects in optimizing the use of water, reducing waste and tackling the challenges of unequal distribution. The symposium reasserted the commitment to a sustainable hydrological future. Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/43OdTZo>

## CARE PERU CONCLUDES ITS COORDINATION OF THE TECHNICAL GROUP FOR THE CONSERVATION OF WATER AND NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE (GT INCA) AND PREPARES THE TRANSFER OF LEADERSHIP



CARE Peru, through *El Agua Nos Une*, concluded its tenure as coordinator of the **Technical Group for the Conservation of Water and Natural Infrastructure (abbreviated GT INCA in Spanish)**, which is formed by approximately 30 public and private institutions that, since 2017, work on the Chillón, Rímac and Lurín basins.

During the final meeting that took place on March 27, an agreement was reached to submit a key letter for water stewardship in Huarochirí, and the transition to a new coordinator organization was started. Thus, CARE Peru confirms its commitment to strategic partnerships focused on strengthening water security and environmental sustainability in the country.

## COMPANIES FROM ALL ACROSS PERU WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE EFFICIENT WATER USE TRAINING THANKS TO A NEW SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM



The *El Agua Nos Une Program*, led by CARE Peru and Sabavida, with funding provided by COSUDE and in partnership with the National Water Authority (ANA), launched the initiative titled “**Companies committed to the efficient use of water.**”



The purpose of this initiative is to strengthen the water stewardship in Peruvian companies through both training and advisory for them to be able to secure the Blue Certificate, which recognizes the companies’ good practices in relation to the responsible use of water. Even though 36 companies have already secured their certification, the program seeks to broaden its scope and reduce the water footprint in more organizations countrywide by means of online classes starting in May 2025 and custom technical advisory. Visit the following link for more information: <https://bit.ly/460iXev>



## FORUM ABOUT MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES: PURCHASES AND SPARE TIME




The **4<sup>th</sup> Forum on sustainable lifestyles centered on purchases and spare time** was held on May 28, 2025. During the event, renowned content creators spoke about the importance of consuming and having fun in a responsible and sustainable way.



Additionally, a comprehensive presentation was made about options to enjoy spare time with lesser environmental impacts, allowing us to improve our quality of life without forgetting about sustainability. Read about the results here: <https://bit.ly/4412HY>  
Watch again the event here: <https://bit.ly/4eXA1od>



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