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BOLETÍN
AMÉRICA LATINA

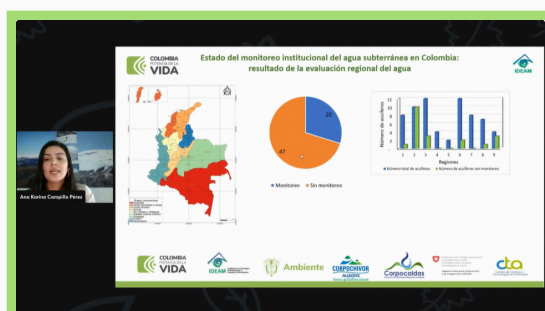


This is a channel for exchanging information, tools, and news related to the program entitled **El Agua Nos Une (Water unites us)**, an initiative launched by the Water Thematic Division of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The objective is to work collectively to strengthen water governance, making evidence-based decisions. We work on enhancing the systemic monitoring of the quality and quantity of water and evaluating and reducing the water in production processes. We encourage acting and leading by example, elevating the value of water and ecosystems for society. "El Agua Nos Une" program is based on the experience gained since 2010, working with the private sector, public institutions, and civil organizations. During 2022 - 2025, we develop direct actions in **México, Colombia, Peru and Brazil**. Simultaneously, exchanges are held with governmental agencies in Chile, Ecuador and Panama. Additionally, the water management **Practice Community** facilitates training, conversations, and collective learning among Latin American countries.



REGIONAL

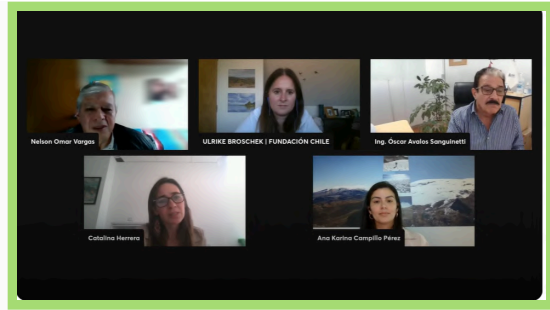
EVENT ON INSTITUTIONAL GROUNDWATER MONITORING IN THE CONTEXT OF LATIN AMERICA



Comunidad de Práctica

On April 30, 2024, the event on institutional groundwater monitoring experiences took place. Cases presented by Ana Karina Campillo, groundwater specialist at the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies of Colombia; Oscar Alberto Ávalos Sanguinetti, Head of the Groundwater team at the National Water Authority of Peru; and Ulrike Broschek Santelices, Deputy Manager of Sustainability at the Chile Foundation.

With the moderation of geologist Omar Vargas, they discussed the status of aquifer monitoring, tools, protocols, and challenges to implement in monitoring this strategic water source. 90 people from 9 countries participated live. The video has 1200 views. See here <https://bit.ly/3JLHZle>



See the main results of this event by clicking the following link: <https://bit.ly/3wCSKDz>

For additional information about institutional groundwater monitoring, visit this link: <https://bit.ly/3QLKeJ8>

To be a part of these community of practice activities, register at this link <https://bit.ly/CdP-EANU>.



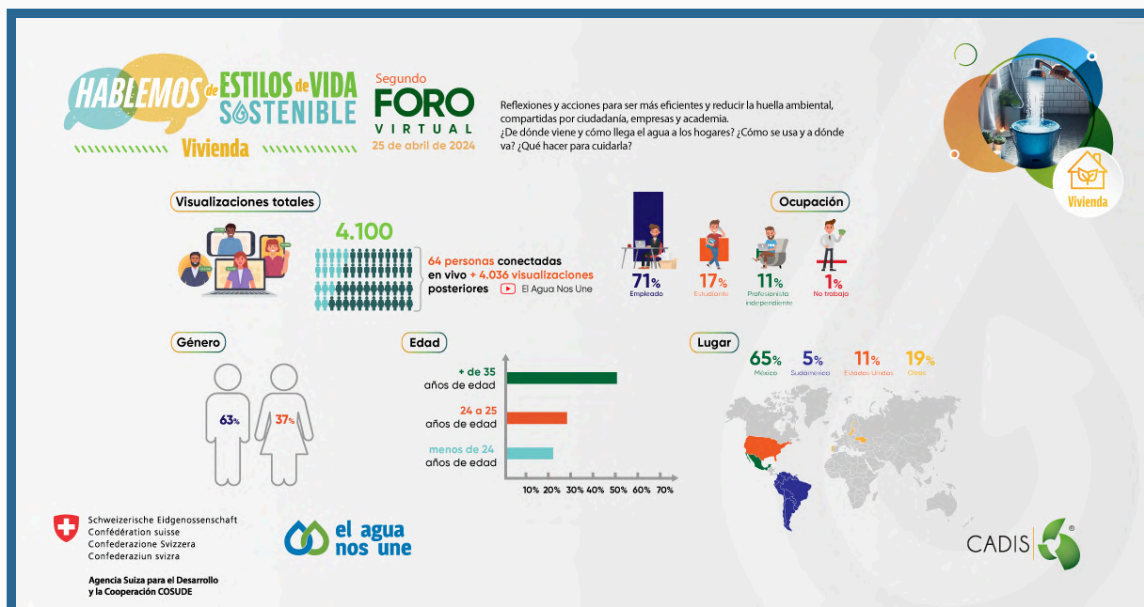
LET'S TALK ABOUT MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES WITH EXPERIENCES FROM MEXICO



Gestión Corporativa del Agua

The virtual meeting on more sustainable lifestyles was held on April 25, 2024. Reflections and actions shared by citizens, companies, and academia are focused on being more efficient and reducing the environmental footprint. Where does water come from, and how does it reach households? How is it used, and where does it go? What can we do to take care of it? 64 people participated online, and the video has 4100 views.

<https://bit.ly/3UzE55f>.



MEXICAN COMPANIES MAKE PROGRESS IN THEIR WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



Gestión Corporativa del Agua

Ten Mexican companies are part of El Agua Nos Une in Mexico and receive training on applying the water footprint (ISO 14046) and carbon footprint (ISO 14067). As part of the consultancy, they receive impact reduction and eco-innovation contributions.



COLOMBIA



COLOMBIAN COMPANIES REGISTER PROGRESS IN CORPORATE WATER MANAGEMENT



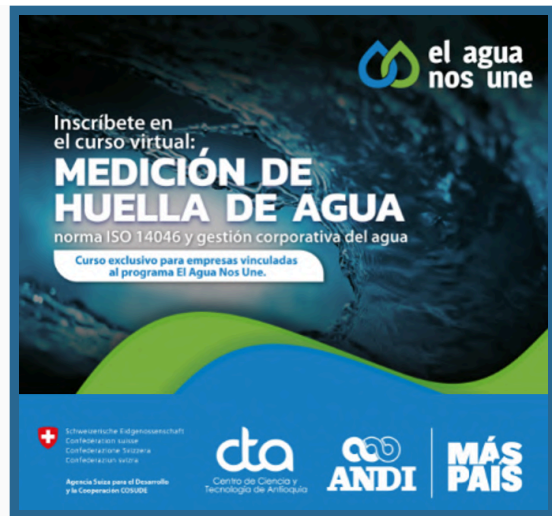
Gestión Corporativa del Agua

37 Colombian companies are part of El Agua Nos Une, which includes companies from different sectors, such as food, chemicals and petrochemicals, agroindustry, leather, construction, textiles, and energy. The roadmap for the inventory of modeling and calculation of the water footprint is currently being implemented, starting with the baseline for the years 2022-2023. The technical team of the Science and Technology Center of Antioquia and INCYCLO has visited all the facilities to recognize the processes.



Additionally, with these companies, it has been proposed that they invest COP \$1.395.000.000 (approximately USD 350.000) in contributing to 13 actions or projects with a socio-environmental impact in their areas of influence.

Concurrently, the companies linked to the program conduct the skills transfer process with the virtual course **Water Footprint ISO 14046: Sustainable Management and Public Policies**. It started on February 1, 2024, for 4 months. The course comprises personnel from the companies in charge of calculating the water footprint, and international guests such as the Panamanian Ministry of the Environment and Panamanian businesspeople will participate. There are 7 modules with sessions, 8 modules with practical exercises, and accompanied by synchronous sessions.



TRAINING IN GROUNDWATER MONITORING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES IN COLOMBIA



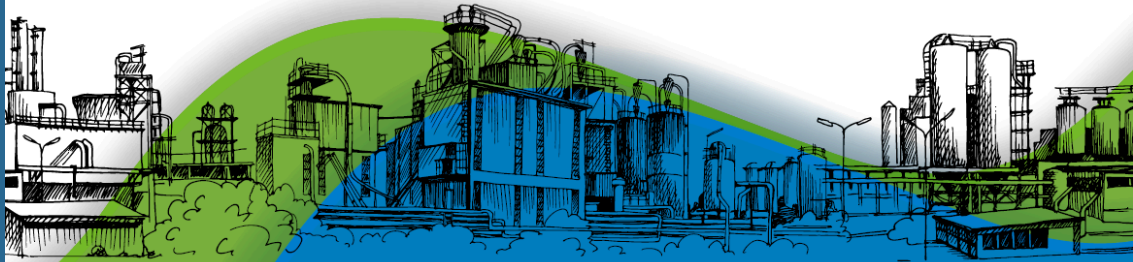
From March 13 to 15, training in isotopy and hydrogeochemistry for groundwater monitoring was completed. 24 professionals from 3 environmental authorities of Colombia (Corpocaldas, Corpochivor, and CARDER) who work on their Regional Comprehensive Water Monitoring Programs (PIRMA), as well as from the Catholic University of Manizales, the VivoCuenca Water Fund, the Caldas Hydroelectric Plant and the SDC participated. With the leadership of the Institute of Hydrology (IDEAM) and the Center for Science and Technology of Antioquia, a theoretical-practical course was achieved in La Dorada. <https://bit.ly/3IRxYmc>.

ARTICULACIÓN ENTRE EL PROGRAMA EL AGUA NOS UNE – COSUDE Y ENTIDADES PÚBLICAS Y PRIVADAS DE PANAMÁ



La Agencia Suiza para el Desarrollo y la Cooperación - COSUDE, por medio del programa El Agua Nos Une, se encuentra trabajando con el Ministerio de Ambiente de Panamá, en lo siguiente:

- Acompañamiento técnico en el fortalecimiento de capacidades técnicas en conceptos y metodologías de los indicadores de Huella de Agua (Norma ISO 14046) y Huella Hídrica (Water Footprint Network).
- Participación en el curso virtual Huella de Agua ISO 14046: Gestión Sostenible y Políticas Públicas por parte del equipo técnico de la Dirección de Cambio Climático del Ministerio y tres entidades del sector empresarial de Panamá.



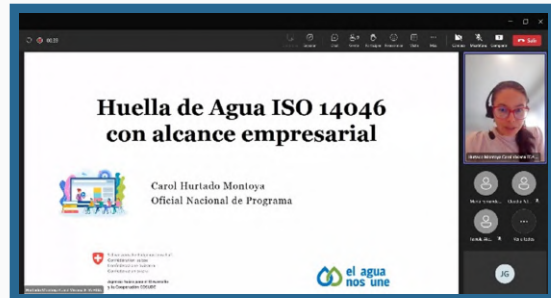
**FORTALECIMIENTO TÉCNICO
AL MINISTERIO DE AMBIENTE
DE PANAMÁ Y A LA DIRECCIÓN
DE CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO.**



Gestión Corporativa del Agua

El Agua Nos Une, within the framework of the Community of Practice, has liaised with the Ministry of Environment of Panama to contribute to structuring its Reduce Your Corporate Footprint program. Information about the approach and the consultancies are available at the following link: <https://bit.ly/4aVCigc>.

In this framework, on January 19, 2024, a technical consultancy was provided to the **Climate Change Directorate of the Ministry of Environment of Panama** team about the **ISO 14046 Water footprint**. The SDC conducted this consultancy.



**TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO URUGUAY'S NATIONAL WATER DIRECTORATE –
DINAGUA IS MOVING FORWARD**

Asesorías implementadas

29/11/2023

Sistemas y tecnologías para el uso eficiente del agua sector doméstico

06/02/2024

Sistemas y tecnologías para el uso eficiente del agua sector agrícola

19/02/2024

Sistemas y tecnologías para el uso eficiente del agua sector agrícola











CASOS PRÁCTICOS DE USO EFICIENTE Y AHORRO DE AGUA

Sector doméstico: 

Experiencia de la Ciudadela La Esperanza (unidades habitacionales), ubicada en Cundinamarca, Colombia. Allí, se ha implementado la recirculación del agua. El proceso incluye la captación de agua lluvia, tratamiento y aprovechamiento en actividades como el riego de jardines. Principales resultados:

Suministro de agua: 

Sistema de abastecimiento incluye: recolección de agua lluvia, más **3 pozos y 7 pondajes** (lagunas de retención de aguas residuales). Agua tratada promedio año: **796.500 m³ / 0 % pérdidas.** Uso de agua lluvia: **84.000 m³ anuales.**

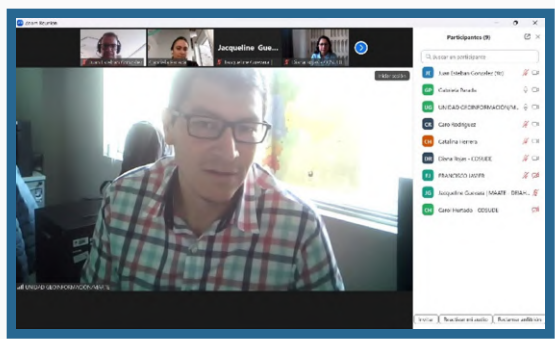
Aguas residuales: 

Agua tratada: **750.000 m³**
Eficiencia de tratamiento: **96 %**
Agua apta para reúso: **100 %**

 **Gestión Corporativa del Agua**

On February 6 and 19, 2024, technical strengthening was provided to the National Water Directorate (DINAGUA) of Uruguay on issues related to using technologies and systems for efficient water use in the agricultural sector. Both consultancies addressed technical and technological aspects, information systems, and actual application cases that allow farmers to make decisions based on technical information regarding water use in this crucial economic activity. These consultancies were in charge of the company BRIOAGRO, to whom we extend our gratitude for all the knowledge shared during these work sessions. Information about the approach and the consultancies are available at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3yIvqmU>.

THE ESTIMATION OF THE WATER FOOTPRINT OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN ECUADOR: TECHNICAL SUPPORT



 **Gestión Corporativa del Agua**

In coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition MAATE – Ecuador and the Latin American Forum Foundation, technical assistance is being provided to estimate the Water Footprint for the agricultural sector in a pilot case in the Guayllabamba river basin.

In that sense, the fourth virtual consultation was held on April 11, 2024, where conceptual and technical aspects were clarified for the estimation of this strategic indicator for informed decision-making by the MAATE and other entities such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, INAMHI.

miPáramo®: STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS IN CHITAGÁ, NORTE DE SANTANDER



Infraestructura Natural

On February 26 and 27, the miPáramo Steering Committee met at Rincón de Comagueta in the municipality of Chitagá, Norte de Santander. In her ecotourism initiative, the host received farmers' organizations, SDC, GIZ, Bavaria, CORPONOR and the BioCuenca Alliance. The results and indicators of the program were presented, marking progress and new alliances for the conservation of the region's ecosystems.

The space included a participatory workshop and a field trip to observe the paramo ecosystem and bird watching.

miPáramo®: STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECT (PRAE) AGUA-SANTURBÁN

Consumo Responsable

miPáramo stands out for its interest in promoting environmental education and community commitment to protect the ecosystem of the Páramo de Santurbán. Thanks to the inter-institutional collaboration agreement with the Government of Norte de Santander and other allies, with eight educational institutions in Pamplona, Pamplonita, Silos, Mutiscua, Cucutilla, and Chitagá, the strategic project Agua PRAE, Santurbán, has generated awareness and commitment to the preservation of water.



Through a pedagogical toolbox and the strengthening of educational strategies, a PRAE network has been established between the institutions to amplify their impact on environmental protection. See more: <https://bit.ly/49WOpw>.

miPáramo®: WATER FOR PEACE

Consumo Responsable

On March 22, in the rural community of El Rosal in the municipality of Pamplona, Norte de Santander, 15 farming families discussed the theme “water for peace” at the Community Roundtable. The main reflection was the crucial role of water management in promoting peaceful coexistence.



It was concluded that its care goes beyond environmental issues. It is a vital resource for human security and well-being, especially in rural communities where access to clean water may be limited. 15 water purification filters were delivered. See more: <https://bit.ly/4dq53E2>



BRASIL



EI AGUA NOS UNE IN BRAZIL ADVANCES IN THE STAGES OF CALCULATING THE WATER FOOTPRINT



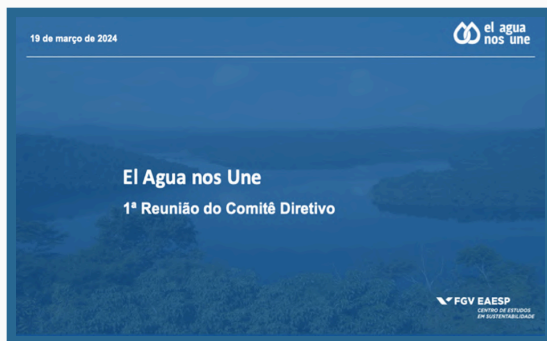
For the El Agua Nos Une - Brazil program, the year 2024 began working on data collection and consolidation of life cycle inventories. The companies presented information regarding the processes involved in the stages considered for each product. While three companies focused on the cradle-to-grave approach, one company chose to include, in addition to production, the product's stages of use and end-of-life.

To complete the data collection and consolidation of the inventories, several meetings were held between the teams of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGVces) and the participating companies. The next stage began with face-to-face training of the SimaPro Software, which brought together more than 15 people in Sao Paulo for a day of exchange and learning.



The training was held on February 22 and featured an expert from ACV Brazil to present theory, apply a practical exercise, and discuss the results of a water footprint study.

THE FIRST EL AGUA NOS UNE STEERING COMMITTEE IN BRAZIL



The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held on March 19. The meeting occurred at the FGV facilities in Sao Paulo and was attended online. The meeting was attended by representatives of SDC and FGVces, together with key stakeholders of the initiative, such as the participating companies and partners of the National Confederation of Industry, the Ministry of the Environment, the UN Global Compact, and the ACV Network.

During the event, the initiative's results in Brazil were presented, and discussions were held on the potential for future activities and the possibility of involvement of the institutions involved.

WORLD WATER DAY HAS A WEBINAR AMONG THE PARTNERS AND NEWS ON THE FGV WEBSITE



In celebration of World Water Day, the FGVces, in conjunction with the UN Global Compact and the ACV Network, organized a webinar to discuss water resources with a focus on availability and the importance of the water footprint. The practice of reuse in the corporate context was also evidenced. The event, held on March 22, lasted one hour and thirty minutes and had more than 200 participants. Watch the recording here: <https://bit.ly/4aZ1PFj>.

In parallel to the webinar, a news item was published on the FGV website entitled "World Water Day: water scarcity and the importance of reuse". The publication emphasizes how water footprinting and reuse can help address the climate crisis, both in the public and corporate spheres, and the promotion of the debate is fundamental for advancing integrated water resources management and reducing its risks and impacts. Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/4d0VIHO>.

Webinar
PEGADA HÍDRICA E REÚSO DE ÁGUA

22 de março
 10h às 11h30 (online)

Temas de destaque da programação:

- Panorama da disponibilidade dos recursos hídricos no Brasil
- Importância da pegada hídrica e do reúso de água na gestão corporativa

bit.ly/webinar-el-agua

Inscreva-se!

Organização: FGV EAESP, ACV, Pacto Global Rede Brasil, ecosan

Apelo: Universidade Empresarial, Conferência Inter-Universitária, Agência Sudeste para o Desenvolvimento e a Sustentabilidade

Sonia Chapman
 Rede Empresarial Brasileira de Avaliação de Ciclo de Vida

Juliana Picoli
 Centro de Estudos em Sustentabilidade da FGV

Rubens Filho
 Pacto Global da ONU - Rede Brasil

Talita Carvalho
 ECOSAN Transformando águas

NEXT STEPS: EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

el agua nos une

CAPACITAÇÃO

Pegada Hídrica e Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável (ODS)

Datas: 09, 16 e 23 de maio de 2024
Horário: 9h às 12h30 (horário de Brasília)
Link Zoom: bit.ly/ph-ods

Temas em destaque: Apresentação da ferramenta Pegada Hídrica e suas aplicações no setor empresarial, incluindo métodos, cálculos e interpretação dos resultados.

Também serão discutidos os Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável (ODS) e estratégias para a gestão hídrica.

Realização: FGV EAESP, Pacto Global Rede Brasil, ACV, Agência Sudeste para o Desenvolvimento e a Sustentabilidade

In the coming months, important steps will be taken to complete the calculation of the water footprint of the companies involved in the current cycle of the El Agua Nos Une - Brazil program. In April and May, meetings will be held between the teams to adjust the modeling and interpretation of the ACV results. In the sequence, the companies began to develop their water footprint reduction plans, which should be completed by the middle of the year. In May, there will also be another edition of the Water Footprint and Sustainable Development Goals training in conjunction with the UN Global Compact and the ACV Network, which united more than 50 people, in the previous semester, in 10 hours of content transmitted through the Zoom platform. The new edition will take place on May 9, 16, and 23, from 9:00 a. m. to 12:30 p.m.

To conclude, on June 6 and 7, a visit of the SDC delegation to El Agua Nos Une - Brazil is planned, which will involve a trip to the Aquapolo plant in Sao Paulo, the largest water reuse project in Latin America, and will bring together critical actors for discussions of possibilities for future cooperation in the field of the initiative.



EL AGUA NOS UNE AND THE NATIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (ANA) EMPOWER WATER-RESPONSIBLE SMES WITH THE BLUE CERTIFICATE



El Agua Nos Une and the National Water Authority (ANA) are collaborating to strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through the Blue Certificate. This recognition, granted by the ANA, recognizes the water-responsible companies that participate in the "Water Footprint Program," promoting responsible water management.



To this end, two events were held to promote the Blue Certificate among Peruvian SMEs: a face-to-face workshop on March 1, where the perspectives of various representatives of associations of entrepreneurs of SMEs on the Blue Certificate, and its benefits, and its impact on water management in their business operations were explored. The second virtual event, on March 27, focused on informing SMEs about the Blue Certificate, highlighting the program's advantages and registration process, with the aim of encouraging its implementation in this emerging business sector.

Recording here: <https://bit.ly/3UI65JV>

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/4bpORR5>

EL AGUA NOS UNE LEADS EFFORTS IN THE NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP OF THE CHIRILU BASINS



EL AGUA NOS UNE (EANU) assumes the role of coordinator of the Working Group of Natural Infrastructure and Water Conservation of the Basins (GT INCA). This entity, comprised of various public and private institutions, was established in 2017 to promote natural infrastructure in the Chillón, Rímac, and Lurín basins.

At the first annual meeting convened by the Technical Secretariat of the Water Resources Council of the Chillón-Rímac-Lurín Interregional Basin (CRHCI -CHIRILU) of the National Water Authority (ANA), the progress made in 2023 was reviewed, actions for this year were prioritized, and the new coordinator of the GT INCA was appointed. The presentation of an EANU study on natural infrastructure in the basins was highlighted, identifying 109 initiatives, with challenges such as financing and operational problems. A comprehensive strategy was proposed to stimulate investments and strengthen capacities. The EANU team was elected as coordinator of the GT INCA, demonstrating its commitment to water conservation and natural infrastructure.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/4b7lcMQ>.

EL AGUA NOS UNE CELEBRATES WATER DAY BY PROMOTING WATER AWARENESS

El Agua Nos Une celebrated Water Day with activities promoting water awareness among students and the community. In collaboration with the Provincial Municipality of Huarochiri-Matucana and the local UGEL, a school banner and a poster contest were organized involving eight local schools, ranging from kindergarten to secondary. This contest aimed to raise awareness among students about the importance of caring for water and promote responsible practices for its conservation.



In addition, as part of its efforts to promote gender equity concerning water, the project participated as a facilitator in the event “Water and Gender for Peace and Prosperity,” organized by the National Water Authority (ANA) on March 18. At this meeting, Diana Orellana, head of the El Agua Nos Une program, and Susana Osorio, Head of Gender and Compliance at CARE Peru, shared knowledge and experiences on the intersection between water, gender, and sustainable development, thus contributing to the exchange of ideas and progress in this crucial field.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3JPfOSw>.

THE IMHEA 2024 ASSEMBLY WAS HELD TO ENSURE THE GENERATION OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT DECISION-MAKING IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



The iMHEA 2024 Assembly, a regional initiative that seeks to increase and strengthen knowledge on the hydrology of Andean ecosystems to improve decision-making in the integrated management of water resources in the Andean region, was held from March 18 to 22. It had the participation of partners from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, including the El Agua Nos Une program, which was present for the second consecutive year.

During these days, workshops were held to plan the network's objectives for 2030, strategies were ratified, and responsibilities were assigned for each scheduled activity. Partners were also trained on issues related to monitoring mountain ecosystems.

This assembly reaffirms the institutions' commitment to conservation and sustainable management, positioning the iMHEA as a critical actor for informed decisions in the region.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/4adfKqg>

CARE PERU AND AQUAFONDO JOIN FORCES TO GUARANTEE A SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURE IN LIMA AND CALLAO



Through its El Agua Nos Une project (EANU), CARE Peru signs an agreement with the Water Fund for Lima and the Callao-Aquafondo to strengthen sustainable water management in the Lima region. The signing ceremony, held on March 26 by Mariella Sánchez Guerra and Marilú Martens, seeks to consolidate institutional alliances.

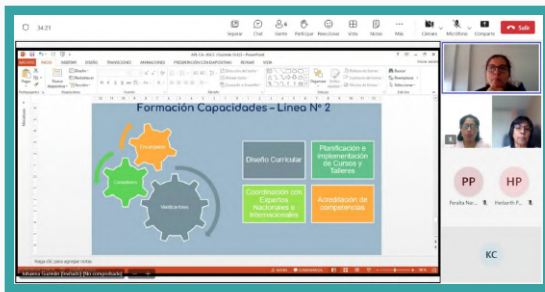


This vital alliance strengthens our commitment to the fulfillment of the three effects of the project in the Rimac River basin, for which we have established joint actions and information exchange with Aquafondo, such as participation in the Water Footprint Calculation program, capacity building in public investment in natural infrastructure and support to rural communities in the restoration and conservation of their environment.

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3y7Zn14>.



STRENGTHENING THE ALLIANCES OF THE EL AGUA NOS UNE PROGRAM IN CHILE WITH THE ASCC



Consumo Responsable

Within the activity framework that provides technical spaces that promote the implementation of Clean Production instruments, coordination was developed with the Chilean Agency for Sustainability and Climate Change (ASCC) through the Senior National Coordinator for Clean Production Agreements (APL), Johanna Guzmán Cerda.

In the same context, as part of the process of preparing the study “Conceptual and Regulatory Analysis of Water Reuse and Recirculation in Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Brazil,” the Chilean Desalination Association (ACADES) has been contacted to include an outstanding business experience in water reuse in production.

Close coordination is also being established within the framework of the Water Footprint programs being developed in Peru and Chile, exploring the possibility of generating spaces for collaboration and knowledge exchange in the coming months.



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