

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR** 2023







## **Peace Corps in** the world



#### Central America and The Carribean

- \* Costa Rica
- \* Guatemala
- \* Mexico
- \* Panama
- \* The Dominican Republic
- \* Dominica
- \* Granada
- \* Santa lucia
- \* Jamaica
- \* Belize
- \* St. Vincent / The Grenadines



#### **South America**

- \* Colombia
- \* Ecuador
- \* Paraguay
- \* Peru
- \* Guayana



#### Africa

- \* Benin
- \* Botswana
- \* Cameroon
- \* Comoros
- \* Ethiopia
- \* Morocco
- \* Madagasgar \* Malawi
- \* Tanzania
- \* Senegal \* The Kingdom

\* Rwanda

- of Eswatini
- \* Ghana
- \* Guinea
- \* Kenya
- \* Lesotho
- \* Liberia

- \* Gambia
- \* Togo
- \* Uganda
- \* Mozambique
- \* Namibia
- \* Sierra Leone
- \* South Africa
- \* Zambia







The Pacific Islands

\* Fiji \* Samoa \* Tonga \* Vanuatu \* Vietnam



### Words from our National Director

2023 was a challenging year for Peace Corps Peru. Starting the year out with 32 Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) serving in our two-year projects in Ancash, La Libertad, Cañete and Chincha; and four Volunteers in the one-year project of Peace Corps Response, serving in the Department of Lima. At the end of December 2022, outbreaks of sociopolitical instability obliged us to consolidate our PCVs for almost four weeks in Lima. After that, the continuing instability led to the evacuation of our Volunteers out of Peru on January 30 of 2023, and 31 Volunteers returned to service on April 24, 2023. Finally, we ended 2023 with 26 Volunteers in total: 22 two-year PCVs serving in Community Economic Development, Community Health, Youth Development, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and four Peace Corps Response Volunteers working in Special Education, Data Analysis, Forestry and Natural Resource Management. We are tremendously proud of the work our Volunteers are doing, of their capacity to interact effectively with their counterparts, families, and communities.

#### Here are some of the highlights of 2023:

We re-opened our program of Small Community Project Assistance (SPA) which permits our PCVs together with their partners, advance in the programming of activities for resilience and climate adaptation. We have continued to develop and promote the Virtual Service Program and volunteerism in the host country, increasing our participation and impact in both programs.

We received a group of Trainees in September, 2023 (Peru 40) who swore in as Peace Corps Volunteers in December of 2023. This group is working in Community Health and Youth Development together with their partners and are well integrated into their community host families. We also received three Peace Corps Response Volunteers to work in Special Education, Data Analysis and Forestry, and Sustainable Community Development.



At the end of 2023, we had 71 Volunteers in Peru, including two-year PCVs and those of Peace Corps Response. Although these numbers are somewhat lower than we had originally hoped, we are optimistic that the next years will allow us to continue increasing our community of Volunteers, amplifying the opportunities to contribute to Peru's development, and to promote peace and intercultural understanding.

Throughout the year we have centered on adapting to the needs of the communities where we serve, working to improve our capacity to identify and develop adequate sites where our Volunteers can live and work effectively. Our main focus has been to establish solid associations with community organizations whose work could be strengthened with our programs. This implies guaranteeing the safety and protection of our Volunteers as well as facilitating their access to essential services and finding safe and adequate housing in their communities.

We have collaborated closely with community members, partner organizations, and local authorities to better understand their needs and to be prepared to offer the support needed by our Volunteers in carrying out the community projects. In addition, we make the effort to promote a fruitful intercultural exchange which enriches both the Volunteers and the local communities.

The year 2023 also revealed the need for Peace Corps Peru to continue strengthening the way we work to support "Successful Service" by way of our focus on "One Team". These areas are the backbone of what we do, and where we will put our focus during 2024.

Susan Kolodin, National Director of Peace Corps Peru



## Peace Corps in the world

The Peace Corps is a network of international service made up of Volunteers, community members, organizations in the host country and Peace Corps personnel, all who are motivated by the mission of this organization to promote peace and friendship around the world.

At the invitation of governments worldwide, Peace Corps Volunteers work together with community members on local priority projects in the sectors of education, health, environment, agriculture, community economic development and youth development.

During their service, members of this Peace Corps network develop abilities to transfer and develop intercultural competencies that prepare them to be the next generation of world leaders.

From the time President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps in 1961, more than 240,000 citizens of the United States of America have served in 142 countries around the world.

The Peace Corps currently works in more than 60 countries and sends out an average of 7000 Volunteers per year.



## Mission and goals of Peace Corps

Promote world peace and friendship by way of the following:

- Support people in interested countries to satisfy needs through developing their capabilities.
- Promote better understanding of the culture of the United States on the part of citizens of the host country.
- Promote better understanding of host country realities and cultures on the part of people of the United States.

## Who are the Peace Corps Volunteers?

Volunteers are citizens of the United States, graduated from United States universities, coming from different States and from different ethnic origins, religions, sexual orientations, and socio-economic levels. There are Volunteers of all ages, varying in range from 20 to 85 years old.

Upon arriving in Peru, and before beginning service at their assigned sites, the Volunteers receive training in order to live and work within a different culture, language and environment, in some cases very unlike what they know and are accustomed to.

After their training they are assigned to different communities in the host country to collaborate on a variety of projects. During this time of service they live with the people they work with as an integral member of the community.

The main role of the Volunteer is to support local residents so that they can take the initiative in their own community development, and for the Volunteer to integrate into the Peruvian culture.

To achieve this objective, and in accord with each community's needs, Volunteers carry out activities together with community members, responding to the requests of the organizations with which the Volunteers serve.



#### **Peace Corps in Peru**

At the invitation of the Peruvian government, Peace Corps was in Peru from 1962 until 1975, when they withdrew due to the political and social instability during that time. During this first stage more than 2,600 Volunteers worked in the areas of education, agriculture, small businesses and infrastructure.

Once again at the invitation of the Peruvian government, Peace Corps returned to Peru in 2002, signing an agreement of cooperation between the two governments in March of that same year. Since that time Peace Corps has renewed its commitment to Peru's community development and it continues working to strengthen the ties of friendship between people in the two countries.

During this second stage more than 1300 US citizens have come to Peru to serve as Volunteers in eight regions: Loreto, Ancash, La Libertad, Junin, Pasco, Cajamarca, Piura and Amazonas. Peace Corps Peru Volunteers work in five different projects: **Community Health Promotion, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Community Economic Development, Youth Development, and Peace Corps Response,** which focuses on Climate Change Adaptation.

In addition to their specific activities for each program, Volunteers are also committed to promote gender equity, digital literacy, the promotion of national volunteerism and social development where youth can be actors and resources for their own communities.

The work and support of the Peace Corps Volunteers over the years has made a significant contribution to the development of important social sectors in Peru.





#### **10 IN AMAZONAS**

CHP: 5 YD: 5

#### 8 IN CAJAMARCA

CHP: 4 YD: 4

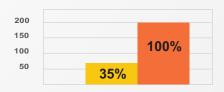
#### 19 IN ANCASH

CHP: 8 PCR: 4 YD: 7

#### 1 IN ICA

WASH: 1

## Volunteers in the Fieldand Projection



Now: (69 Volunteers)

**Projection:** (200 more Volunteers)

#### 1 IN LORETO

PCR: 1

#### 13 IN LA LIBERTAD

CHP: 7 YD: 6

#### **8 IN LIMA**

CED: 5 PCR: 1 WASH: 2

#### **8 IN JUNÍN**

CHP: 4 YD: 4

### **Projects in Peru:**



YD Youth Development



CED
Community
Economic
Development



CHP Community Health Promotion



WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



PCR Peace Corps Response



## Peace Corps Initiatives





#### 1. Host Country Volunteerism

The National Office of Volunteering (DNV) sought the support of Peace Corps Peru to help implement SINAVOL (the National System of Volunteering). This collaboration has allowed for the creation of a National Platform for online Volunteering, supported by the Peace Corps and IBM, to facilitate a register of individual and organizational efforts of volunteer service in the nation.

As the DNV establishes regulations and policies for volunteer efforts, Peace Corps offers support in the evaluation and pilot for the National Program of Volunteering, emphasizing the regions of La Libertad and Ancash.

Training in Project Design and Management (PDM) was offered to teachers and PCVs who participated in this pilot program, together with information about the SINAVOL platform for effective follow-up.

Meanwhile, Peace Corps has collaborated with the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) in Project Design and Management workshops in the regions of Ancash and La Libertad. These workshops involved 25 local volunteer organizations, and were coordinated with regional government officials in order to guarantee effective participation.

Currently these organizations are developing projects in line with the objective of tackling critical social problems in their communities. This kind of collaboration demonstrates a shared commitment to sustainable development and the promotion of a culture of volunteering in Peru.





#### 2. Empowering women through Digital Literacy

**The Peace Corps empowers women** through digital literacy as a way of closing gender gaps in technological capacities. Technology is key to economic development, but many women lack access to it.

**Peace Corps Volunteers** work with women and community leaders to identify barriers and opportunities and to be catalysts for finding solutions that are sustainable and culturally appropriate. In Peru, Peace corps applied for funds in order to design a digital education platform that could promote the economic empowerment of women.

This course will teach digital literacy abilities, personal empowerment, and business development for adult women in the Community Economic Development program (CED).

The goal is to improve income and quality of life. Volunteers and their counterparts will be trained to implement these activities during 2024.





#### 3. Climate Change Adaptation

Peace Corp's strategy is centered on securing a future global resilience with two principles and three objectives:

- **Principle 1:** "Leading with Integrity": Improve the sustainability of Peace Corps operations both in its country of origin and abroad.

  The related objectives include the development of sustainable infrastructures and sustainable operations (Objective 1.1) and the promotion of an internal culture of sustainability (Objective 1.2).
- **Principle 2:** "Advancing in Global Adaptation": Support the development of resilience to climate change through programs that promote sustainability and adaptation. The objective is to implement programs that support resilient and sustainable development (Objective 2.1) together with local communities and partners.

The strategies for adapting to climate change center on two main aspects:

- Assigning Volunteers to organizations that focus on the environment, with the Ministry of the Environment as a principal ally.
- Assigning Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Volunteers to rural communities, working with local leaders for the care of water resources.







#### **Our Vision**

We are an organization committed to diversity, inclusion, excellence in volunteer service and sustainable development. We are aligned with national priorities, as well as the needs and resources of the communities we serve.

## **Our values**



We adapt to respond to the constant changes around us and to accomplish our mission.

#ladaptToChange



We count on each member of the team, and assuming good intentions we depend on each other.

#lbelievelnYou



We make an effort to understand and put ourselves in the others' place, recognizing their needs, feelings and perspectives, motivating our working together to accomplish our mission and

#IputMyselfInYourShoes



### 👸 Equity and inclusion

We celebrate equity and inclusion, treating each human being with dignity and respect, not apart from their diversity, but because of it. Everyone has something valuable to offer.

**#WeAreAllimportant** 



The Peace Corps mission inspires us to serve with responsibility and dedication our colleagues, our volunteers, our partners and communities where we work.

#IputOnMyShirt



## Online Service (Pilot)



Peace Corps' Online Virtual Service is a new mode of cooperation that offers the opportunity for Peruvian organizations to receive online support from a professional United States citizen in order to reach their organization's objectives.

Currently this mode of service is in an experimental phase, and Peru is one of the participating countries in this pilot program, allowing us to work together with our partners in designing the future of this online virtual volunteer experience.

#### **Characteristics of the Service**

- Government organizations and NGOs in Loreto, Piura, La Libertad, Ancash, Junín, Pasco y Lima are participating in this initiative.
- This mode of service at present can last from 3 to 6 months of joint collaboration, with a commitment on the part of the Virtual Participants to dedicate between 5 to 15 hours a week.
- The host organization should assign a team of at least 2 to 3 people to work with the Virtual Participant.
- Up to December 2023, 41 United States virtual service participants had collaborated with more than 30 Peruvian organizations in reaching common goals to benefit the target populations served by our partners.



On December 9, 2022, we restarted operations of the project with the first 11 Volunteers to work with youth from the regions of Ancash and La Libertad. During 2023 we plan to assign Volunteers to the regions of Cajamarca, Amazonas, Junin and Pasco.



## Focus of the Project

The Youth Development Project has as its goal helping youth toward a successful transition to a productive adulthood. With the support of Youth Development Volunteers, we plan to:

- Strengthen the implementation of the Ministry of Education's national strategy for student participation "We are peers", as well as the initiatives "In High School you do it" and "Ideas in Action"
- Train 9000 youth in vocational orientation during homeroom sessions in the schools, hold 300 vocational fairs and panel discussions with professionals
- Train 750 tutors from educational institutions in project design and management for youth projects
- Train 2250 parents in how to better communicate with adolescents, during sessions of "Schools for Parents"



#### Project Achievements

This was the work of the 8 Youth Development Volunteers during 2023:

- 193 youth participated in clubs and extracurricular activities to develop life
- 453 students participated in job fairs and panels of professionals in schools where our Volunteers offer support.
   197 of the youth made decisions about what course of study they wanted after high school.
- 173 youth and 28 teachers were trained in the design and management of projects for community service, and then led by youth who implemented 28 projects that benefited their communities.
- 307 parents received orientation regarding ways to better communicate with their teenagers.
- 5 youth projects participated in the contest "Ideas in Accion", one of which won in the national contest ("Proyecto vitrina" in Paijan, La Libertad), another won 12th place in the regional contest in Ancash, and three more entered the national contest, thus increasing the number of schools participating from Ancash and La Libertad.



## Main Partners

- The Ministry of Education (MINEDU): The team responsible for the national strategy for student participation "We are peers"
- The Regional Governments of Amazonas, Ancash, Cajamarca, Junin, Pasco, and La Libertad
- The National Police (PNP)
- The National Commission for a Drug-free Life - DEVIDA















## Ideas in Action: An Opportunity for Community Service

**Kevin, a Volunteer in Paijan,** La Libertad, worked with the emblematic educational institution Leoncio Prado, where the staff and the students always seek improvement and collaborate on various projects.

A notable success was entering the annual contest of "Ideas in Action", sponsored by the Ministry of Education. The Volunteer supported teachers and students during the 2023 school year and one result was that a team from the school won first place at the regional level, and first place for the department of La Libertad at the national level, as a recognition for their hard work.

During a visit from regional government officials and from Peace Corps, they carried out a ceremony to recognize the successes and challenges of this achievement. The visiting officials offered encouragement and awarded them certificates for their team work.

Plans for the new school year include the participation of the newly elected student council in solving some social problems identified by the student body.

Kevin has decided to take maximum advantage of his remaining time in the community to continue supporting its development. He is grateful to the support of his host family and to the Peace Corps, and recognizes the importance of the local authorities in facilitating a significant change.









#### Main Goal:

Develop capacities in members of Peruvian rural and peri-urban communities in order to expand their economic opportunities inclusively and with gender equity, thus improving their quality of life and reducing poverty by way of the following three objectives:

- Manage personal finances through financial education and the promotion of savings by way of community banks or savings clubs
- Training in youth entrepreneurship to develop capacities for start-ups and business management, in students and teachers.
- Economic empowerment for women through personal development workshops and the use of business skills to start a business or improve an existing one. This is directed to women belonging to social programs and grass root organizations.



This was the work of the 6 Community Economic Development during 2023:

- **522 people** got to know the methodology of community savings and credit groups, also known as community banks.
- 15 community banks were formed where 50 people saved more than 8,000 soles.
- 461 Peruvian youth
   were trained in youth
   entrepreneurship, offering
   business skills for the future.
- 44 women participated in workshops for the economic empowerment of women.



## Main Partners

- The Ministry of Education (MINEDU)
- The Superintendence of Banking, Insurance and Pension Funds (SBS)
- The Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP)
- The Ministry of Exterior Commerce and Tourism (MINCETUR)
- The social development programs "JUNTOS" and "FONCODES"
- Regional governments of Ancash, Amazonas,
   Cajamarca, Junin, Pasco and La Libertad















# Cañete Economic Empowerment for Women: A Path to Progress and Equity

One of the objectives of the Community Economic development Project is to work for the economic empowerment of women. That is why in May of 2023 the project provided training for the Volunteers and their community partners in the province of Cañete to help them become promotors of economic empowerment for the women of their communities.

As a result of this training, workshops were developed in five districts of Cañete (Calango, Mala, Lunahuaná, Santa Cruz de Flores y Nuevo Imperial), with the support of strategic actors from each community, and from the Emergency Center for Women (CEM).

Based on the experience of the district workshops, three CED Volunteers identified an opportunity to replicate the workshop at the provincial level, in coordination with the Provincial Municipality of San Vicente de Cañete y with the support of the CEM and other provincial authorities.

One of the main objectives of the workshop was to transfer and strengthen business skills so that the participants could improve their businesses or start a new one.

It is known that women who are economically independent can take care of themselves and cultivate abilities for making decisions, and construct their own life projects. These women have a better chance of being on equal standing with their male counterparts in the household, more access to medical care, more opportunities and better education for their children.

This workshop was met with great interest from the participants, and became a space for personal development and empowerment.

Currently the workshop has more than 60 participants and has awakened the interest of other municipalities of the province who have asked for the Volunteers to replicate the workshop in their districts.





Empoderamiento Económico de las Mujeres - Distrito de Calango



Empoderamiento Económico de las Mujeres - Sta. Cruz de Flores



Feria de mujeres emprendedores - Distrito Lunahuaná



Empoderamiento Económico de las Mujeres - Cañete





With the support of Community Health Volunteers, we expect to develop capacities in Peruvian rural community health providers, focusing on

- Motivating coordination between the health and education sectors in order to achieve effective results for family health
- Promoting activities of prevention and promotion that involve the active participation of health personnel along with the education sector to generate sustainable changes
- Supporting the national strategy to counter anemia and chronic childhood malnutrition through training activities for community health workers and first level health personnel
- Carrying out coordinated activities with the education sector to join the efforts of the national strategy for sex education and planning



## Project Achievements

This was the work of the 6 Volunteers of the Community Health project during 2023:

- 56 health providers with the support of the Volunteers carried out activities to promote the prevention of anemia and chronic malnutrition
- 52 teachers and health personnel were trained to educate in adolescent health, including sex and reproductive education. Of these, 19 replicated sessions from the manual of Adolescent Health with their own students.
- 50 women, among them mothers of children under 5 years of age and pregnant women, received help from Volunteers and health personnel and reported improvements in complementary feeding practices or more frequent visits for pregnancy check ups.



## Main Partners

- The Ministry of Health (MINSA)
- The Ministry of Education (MINEDU)
- The social program "Cuna Mas" from the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS)
- Regional governments of Ancash, Amazonas, Cajamarca, Junin, La Libertad and Pasco













## Acopampa A successful cultural experience and the importance of team work

Our Community Health volunteer, **Joshua Francisco**, and **Jorge Haro Chávez**, a nutritionist doing his rural service (SERUM) at the Health Post, began working together in Acopampa without much previous knowledge of the population and of the area.

In spite of this lack, they planned projects and worked together to carry out trainings and educational sessions. Throughout 7 months they carried out various activities, including 3 sessions about nutrition for adolescents in the high school, 3 information fairs at the school with the theme of nutrition, 4 training sessions for community agents, and 5 demonstration sessions. Besides their professional relationship, they became friends and shared cultural experiences.

This experience showed them the importance of working as a team and inter-institutional collaboration as well as being adaptable and working with people of different origins and experiences.







The aim of this project during this new period is the development of capacities in rural community leaders to better manage water resources and sanitation services, focusing on the following priorities:

#### Plans for Water Security

Strengthen the capacities of community –level leaders for identifying areas of risk, for establishing mitigation strategies among sectors, thus assuring water quality and adequate sanitation services

#### Administration, Maintenance and Operation of Water and Sanitation Services

Empower the providers of rural sanitation services (Water Committees, etc.), improving their technical, leadership and organizational skills to guarantee adequate services

#### Environmental and Sanitation Education

Strengthen the capacities of local leaders to develop activities to raise awareness of the value of water resources, promoting the sustainability of the services and hygiene practices

The program will promote the assessment and sustainability of the sanitary services with a focus on gender and capacity building.



#### Project Achievements

This was the work of the 3 WASH Volunteers during 2023:

- 49 people participated in the inspection of water systems to evaluate health risks. 18 of these implemented corrective actions and improved their abilities to maintain the water infrastructure in good condition.
- 3 water systems were improved to lower the risk to health, thus benefitting 289 families with cleaner water.
- 39 members of 12 local Water Committees (JASS) were trained in administration, operation and maintenance of infrastructures and water services in their communities.
- 8 municipal functionaries in charge of technical matters received orientation so that they could support the local Water Committees in their area.
- 15 community leaders were trained in promoting the proper and rational use of water in their areas.



#### Main Partne<u>rs</u>

- The Ministry of Health (MINSA)
- The Ministry of Education (MINEDU)
- The Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation (MVCS)
- Regional governments of Ancash, Amazonas, Cajamarca, Junin, and La Libertad













## Water Chlorination in Rural areas: A Challenge with Solutions

**The strategy of water chlorination** motivated by the Peruvian Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation presents diverse challenges for rural populations in the country.

Nevertheless, the experience of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Volunteers in the province of Cañete, in the Lima region, shows that it is possible to overcome these obstacles.

#### Teamwork:

In Lunahuaná, the province of Cañete, WASH Volunteer Jonah Magid, together with the Langla and San Jerónimo communities, worked to gain access to safe, clean water. After evaluating the water systems and the difficulties facing them, the team identified two problems:

- Infrastructure: Deficiencies in the systems which impeded the correct chlorination;
- Behavior: Disinformation and myths about chlorinated water

**Facing the challenge:** One of the major challenges was the chlorination. The Municipality had a team that measured the level of chlorine, but not the necessary reagents. Jonah and his partners managed the delivery of the materials. When the team did the measurements in Langla and San Jerónimo, they discovered that

 The chlorine level was ZERO because six times more was needed than the quantity being used, and more chlorine was needed during the dry season (more than 12 kilos per week)than in the rainy season (only 2 kilos).

**The solution:** Jonah and his partners, María Portugués (JASS Langla), Fernando Luyo and Julia Vicente (JASS San Jerónimo), implemented the following plan:

- Monitoring: measuring and calibrating the chlorination system each week.
- Training: Information about the importance of chlorine, its effects, the taste and color of the water (calcium and inadequate measures) and safety in manipulating the chlorine.
- Preparation of the chlorine: Training for the operators Cristian Calderón and Javier Sánchez.
- Equipment: the JASS bought a kit of protective equipment.
   Personal protective equipment (EPP) for the operators, using their own funds.

**Results:** thanks to the team work, Langla y San Jerónimo became the first communities in Lunahuana with chlorinated water at levels over 0.5 ppm, without complaints about taste.

We are proud of the committed work done by Jonah and his partners in providing access to safe water for the rural communities. This experience shows that collaboration among Volunteers, communities and authorities is a key to overcoming the obstacles and achieving a future with safe water for everyone.







## Focus of the Project

**Peace Corps Response** seeks to strengthen the capacities of Peruvian environmental organizations to better implement the National Plan for Adaptation to climate change (NAP).

- Improve internal management practices
- Strengthen technical skills and knowledge in their personnel in topics such as research about climate change, developing means for effective adaptation, and project management.
- Support the resource mobilization so that organizations can implement their projects for adaptation to climate change

The final objective of the Project is to increase resilience to climate change in Peruvian communities



## Project Achievements

## The first workshop for Adaptation to Climate Change in Iquitos:

 This workshop gathered the Ministry of the Environment (MINAM), Peace Corps Peru, and environmental organizations from the department of Loreto in order to explore ways to collaborate in the struggle against climate change.

They discussed actions for the themes of Forests and Water from the regional Strategy for Climate Change (ERCC)

The workshop seeks to build a greener and more resilient future for Loreto, and to strengthen the cooperation among institutions.



## Main Partners

#### The National Service of Natural Protected Areas (SERNANP) from the Ministry of the Environment

- The Institute of Research for the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP)
- The National Institute of Research for Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems (INAIGEM)
- Organism for Environmental Evaluation and Inspection (OEFA)

#### The Ministry of Production

- IPE (CITEs)
- The Ocean Institute of Perú (IMARPE)

### The Presidential Council of Ministers (PCM)

 The National Superintendence of Sanitation (SUNASS)

### The Ministry of Agriculture (MIDAGRI)

- The National Water Authority (ANA)
- The National Forrest Service (SERFOR)











## Ecohydrological Characterization of Wetlands in Pachacoto

Nancy Argueta, a Peace Corps Response Volunteer, has been working with the National Institute of Research for Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems (INAIGEM) on research about the "Wetlands" or "Oconales" - singular highland wetlands of vital importance.

These enclaves in the Andes play an essential role in carbon capture, water regulation and as pastures for the local livestock. In Huaraz, Ancash, Nancy is working with Helder E.Mallqui Meza and Cristian E. Quispe Ccajavilca in the Office of Mountain Ecosystems doing research on the ecohydrological characterization of the wetlands in the hydrographic unit in Pachacoto.

This characterization seeks to:

- Describe the main hydrological parameters, its porosity, its hydraulic conductivity and its piezometric level;
- Estimate the annual useful volume capacity, and the approximate time of water storage;
- Develop the characterization of physiochemical parameters such as electrical conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, etc. in the water at each evaluation point;
- Establish the interaction of the water with the surrounding vegetation.

Her support in the collection of data and field studies in the wetlands has helped INAIGEM achieve a characterization of these ecosystems.

We are proud of Nancy for her collaboration with this scientific research which represents an important milestone in the conservation and correct management of the wetlands. This work contributes to the understanding of these ecosystems and to their conservation.





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