Puna Resiliente

Adapting ecosystems in Peru's High Andes to climate change

Context

Around 4.5 million people live in Peru's High Andes. Many of them keep animals such as lamas or alpacas and practice agriculture. The ecosystem of the Puna plateau in the south of Peru also provides a reliable source of water for coastal areas.

However, climate change is having massive negative effects on the region. Glaciers are melting and precipitation patterns are changing, while droughts, floods and severe frost are damaging livestock farming, crop production and water supplies. The livelihoods of the population are threatened, thus putting pressure on communities.

Objective

Ecosystems and the population of the High Andes are better equipped to deal with the effects of climate change.

Title	Ecosystem-based adaptation for sustainable High Andean communities and ecosystems in Peru (Puna Resiliente)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country	Peru
Lead executive agency	Ministry of Agriculture (MIDAGRI)
Overall term	2023 to 2027

Approach

This project strives to strengthen the capacity of the highland population to restore, preserve and sustainably manage the Puna ecosystem, as well as to create resilient livelihoods. To this end, it promotes nature-based and traditional knowledge-based measures that help to improve climate change adaptation in agriculture, in livestock farming and also in the ecosystem as a whole.

It is setting up a sustainable mechanism for funding the communities so that they are able to restore wetlands, highland pastures, terraces and watering points. The funding, together with technical assistance, will also promote participation in agricultural and artisanal value chains such as highland crops and camelids.

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To achieve this, the project begins by analysing the needs of local communities and producers and gathering their knowledge with a gender approach. It supports the development of advisory services that help participants in participatory planning and monitoring, formulating measures and making use of available funding instruments.

Specialist personnel in local, regional, and national authorities are trained to use participatory and gender-sensitive planning and coordination mechanisms. This increases the significance of inclusive and climate-resilient practices in spatial and land-use planning.

The project works together with the Ministry of Agriculture (MIDAGRI), Profonanpe (the Peruvian environmental fund), the National Service for Natural Protected Areas (SERNANP) and the Mountain Institute (Instituto de Montaña).

Expected results

- Nearly 24,000 hectares of puna ecosystems are managed sustainably.
- More than 60,500 people benefit directly from the sustainable management of puna ecosystems. An additional 2 million people benefit indirectly. Half of them are women.
- The ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures supported, i.e. the restoration and conservation of qochas, peatlands and grasslands, capture and store water during the rainy season or when glaciers melt to recharge aquifers. This increases the availability of water during the dry season for agriculture, livestock and drinking water.

On behalf of
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Ecosystem-based adaptation for sustainable High Andean communities and ecosystems in Peru (Puna Resiliente)

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