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## NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR WATER SECURITY (NIWS)

Peru is vulnerable to hydrological and climatic extremes. Droughts, fires, floods and landslides in recent years demonstrate the acute water crisis Peru currently faces, while population growth and climate change threaten to worsen these environmental hazards. Natural infrastructure (like forests and wetlands) increase resilience of both upstream communities and downstream water users to these risks. USAID is working to scale-up efforts to protect and restore natural infrastructure while addressing gender inequities that are incompatible with a water- and climate-secure future.

### HOW DOES THE ACTIVITY WORK?

USAID is working to enable natural infrastructure (NI) investment and efforts to address gender inequities in water management, beginning with political and public awareness to support a common vision. We work closely with planners and policymakers to incorporate NI into planning instruments and address policy bottlenecks to scale effective natural infrastructure investments.

We work with universities, technical institutions, and decision-makers to identify knowledge and information gaps related to the impacts of natural infrastructure in Peru; collect state-of-the art data to address those gaps; and develop guidelines and tools to improve natural infrastructure interventions.

We help develop portfolios of natural infrastructure investments and break through bottlenecks to mobilize investments. We focus these efforts in priority watersheds: Chira-Piura, Chillón-Rímac-Lurin-Alto Mantaro (Lima and Junin), Quilca-Chili (Arequipa), Tambo-Moquegua, Mayo (San Martín) and Vilcanota-Urubamba (Cusco).

## RESULTS ACHIEVED

- The project convened leading authorities from the water, environmental, sanitation, and agricultural sectors at the National Forum on NI to commit to work together to break through persistent bottlenecks preventing the required action. For example, NIWS convened MINAM, MIMP, ANA, SUNASS, MINAGRI, SERFOR and MVCS at the launch of the Gender Gaps publication, where they all ratified commitments to mainstream gender in ANA and SUNASS.
- NIWS also contributed to the development of the OECD's recommendations to Peru on water governance, both through supporting the Water Policy and Governance Dialogues organized by MINAM and through developing and sharing technical analysis.
- Working closely with MINAM, SUNASS, ANA, MIMPV, MINAGRI, and water utilities, we have developed and secured regulatory changes that: accelerate investments in natural infrastructure, improve representation in watershed councils, and protect fragile ecosystems. For example, the SUNASS MERESE Directive, representing the first SUNASS regulatory instrument to explicitly include gender approach, and the Andenes Law' bill that declares the restoration of Andean terraces a public necessity and national interest.
- Capacity building for more than 1,100 professionals from national and subnational governments, water utilities, and civil society to design, monitor, and manage natural infrastructure projects.
- NIWS worked with SERFOR and MINAGRI to develop HIRO (Quick Opportunity Identification Tool) for Disaster Risk Management, as well as a series of methods which allow for rapid quantification of benefits of NI interventions at the site level,

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**IMPLEMENTER:** Forest Trends

**PARTNERS:** Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN), the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA), EcoDecision and Imperial College London

**PROJECT DURATION:** December 6, 2017 to June 5, 2023

**USAID FUNDING:** \$15,000,000

**CANADA FUNDING:** \$12,500,000

**REGIONS:** Arequipa, Cusco, Lima, Moquegua, Piura, and San Martín

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