

NATURALIA

Natura Foundation Newsletter N°1/2023



We support **communities** to
protect their **water sources**
and **forests**

Contents



Pag. 1-2

Bolivia joins GCF Task Force to work on protection of tropical forests

Pag. 3-5

we keep on adding hectares of forest conserved under Watershed Agreements in Bolivia

Pag. 6

Delegation from Sucre visits El Torno, a benchmark in the creation of Water Funds in Bolivia

Pag. 7

Celebrating the value of protected areas : Anniversary of the Bajo Paraguá Concepción Municipal Park

Pag. 8

Anniversary of the San Lorenzo Integrated Management Natural Area

Pag. 9

Indimbo, a new brand is born to connect and add more forest guardians

Pag.10

World Water Day 2023: Be the change you want to make to see in the world

Pag.11

Fundación Natura Bolivia, 20 years on the road of conserving water sources and forests

Pag. 12

Bolivia con Agua, a project that will bring safe water to 3 thousand families by 2023

BOLIVIA JOINS GCF TASK FORCE TO WORK ON PROTECTION OF TROPICAL FORESTS

During the annual GCF meeting in Yucatan, Mexico, the governors of Santa Cruz, Tarija and Pando were approved to become full members of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF). The GCF was created in 2008 when 10 governors from Brazil, Indonesia and the United States decided to jointly address a common problem, global climate change. Today this platform brings together 42 states and provinces with a common goal, to work on the protection of tropical forests and the reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation.

Under the premise that subnational governments are key in the fight against climate change. This working, learning and joint support group has grown year by year, adding states and provinces from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Spain, the United States and now Bolivia.

This network encourages state and provincial leaders, from governors to key agency secretaries, to participate in the fight against climate change and, together with important civil society and private sector partnerships, subnational government leaders are well positioned to have a scalable impact on our most pressing climate issues.



Gobernadores de Bolivia, tomando la palabra



Foto grupal en el GCF Task Force de 2023



SEEKING BOLIVIA'S PARTICIPATION AND INCLUSION IN THE GCF

Fundación Natura Bolivia has been promoting and facilitating the participation of Bolivian governments with important tropical forests, such as Santa Cruz, Tarija and Pando. In 2018, the Autonomous Departmental Government of Tarija, with the technical advice of Fundación Natura Bolivia, began the process to become part of the GCF. That year at the annual meeting, Tarija receives the approval of the working group to be an observer member. In 2019, Tarija participated again in the annual meeting of the GCF Task Force, ratifying its interest in becoming full and active members of this network.

Bolivia has important tropical forests in Santa Cruz and Pando, that is why since 2020 Fundación Natura Bolivia has been working to promote and advise these two governments so that they can participate and join this important working group, including the Autonomous Indigenous Government of Charagua Iyambae.



Fundación Natura Bolivia, under the commitment to have 3 subnational governments belong to the GCF (Santa Cruz, Pando and Tarija) and to incorporate Charagua Iyambae as an indigenous territory, managed the participation of these territories.

Finally, after fulfilling all the requirements and steps for the GCF membership process, and with the recommendation of 2 members of the group (governorates of Mato Grosso and Acre), the governorates of Santa Cruz, Tarija and Pando were accepted as full members at the 2023 annual meeting in Yucatan. For Bolivia, this is a very important achievement, which empowers and strengthens subnational authorities in the country's climate agenda.



Foto grupal en el GCF Task Force de 2023, durante la votación

WE KEEP ON ADDING HECTARES OF FOREST CONSERVED UNDER WATERSHARED AGREEMENTS IN BOLIVIA

A new year has begun for Fundación Natura Bolivia and we begin it with great hope, aware of the great work that lies ahead of us and the commitment to the families that are guardians of the forest, to the municipal governments and allied institutions.

This year is special, we are celebrating 20 years of work, two decades that have been a challenge, which have come with accelerated technological changes and changes in thinking, which can be a challenge for organizations that are still being established. But we are not afraid of change, betting on innovation or trusting that there are other ways of doing things.

And how could we not, if our most representative tool - the Reciprocal Water Agreements - came from young and idealistic people, unafraid to propose new ways of conservation. Today this tool, which is already implemented in 80 municipalities in Bolivia, continues on its way and does so in these regions.

CHARAGUA

The Itayu Community is committed to the protection of its forests and does so through the Watershared Agreements. This commitment was made through the coordination with the Charagua authorities, the Itayu Community, and Fundación Natura Bolivia. This commitment is rewarded with the provision of materials for the construction of a communal water supply system for human consumption in the Itayu Community (Charagua Pueblo Zone).



Foto grupal de entrega de incentivos en Charagua



This water system will supply 20 families of the Itayu Community, who signed a voluntary conservation agreement for 2,000 hectares of forest. Thus guaranteeing quality water for their future and that of their families. None of this would be possible without the commitment of all of them.

YUNGAS

The Watershed Agreements have an enormous impact on people's lives, improving access to water for families throughout Bolivia. This was the experience of the multitudinous watershed agreement event in the Municipality of Caranavi (La Paz).



A total of 40 communities received supplies to improve their water systems. Among the materials received are storage tanks and polytubes, which will enable the construction of gravity-fed water access systems. All this would not be possible without the joint work with the Municipality of Caranavi and the commitment of the communities that will protect 4717 hectares of forest.



Foto grupal de entrega de incentivos en Caranavi



CHACO

The Chirimollar Community, the Autonomous Municipal Government of Caraparí, through the Environment and Basic Sanitation Unit, signed a Watershed Agreement for Water in order to conserve 581 hectares of forest where water sources originate.

The families of the Chirimollar community will reforest the areas affected by forest fires. For this reason, forest seedlings, barbed wire and stakes were provided to the community.



Entrega de incentivos en Caraparí

CHIQUITANIA

San José de Chiquitos adds 77 families from the communities of Taperitas, Quituquiña and Pororó, as new guardians of water sources and forests. This commitment will be reflected in the integrity and preservation of 3608 hectares of forest. Thanks to the support of the Autonomous Municipal Government of San José de Chiquitos, we signed Watershed Agreements and had provided incentives for this commitment assumed by the communities, who received materials to improve the quality of the water that supplies their homes.



Palabras durante el evento de entrega



Foto grupal de entrega de incentivos en San Jose de Chiquitos

DELEGATION FROM SUCRE VISITS EL TORNO, A BENCHMARK IN THE CREATION OF WATER FUNDS IN BOLIVIA

On Thursday, February 2, 2022, a delegation formed by authorities of the Autonomous Municipal Government of Sucre participated in the exchange of experience with the consortium of cooperatives of the Municipality of El Torno CECOSAPET in order to share the process behind the 10 years that the Water Fund has been operating.

The program began with a meeting at the offices of Cooperatives of El Torno, the corresponding presentations were made, to give way to a brief review of the process that gave rise to the Water Fund, and how it has become an effective tool in managing water resources, on which agricultural communities depend.

Following this meeting, we moved to the community Quebrada León, located 30 minutes away, to meet two forest guardians, Doña María Binda and Benita, who through the Water Fund, the Municipal Government and the Natura Foundation have implemented Watershared Agreements in order to conserve forest and water sources.

El Torno is a model municipality when it comes to implementing Watershared Agreements. It is located in the area of influence of the Amboró National Park, an area of vital importance for the region because its forest cover guarantees water supply for the city of Santa Cruz.



Beneficiaria Benita, recibe a la comitiva



Foto grupal comitiva de visita en la comunidad Quebrada León

CELEBRATING THE VALUE OF PROTECTED AREAS: ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAJO PARAGUÁ CONCEPCIÓN MUNICIPAL PARK

What is not known, is not valued. That is why this year we seek to create more space for the dissemination of information about municipal protected areas and to promote the recognition of their contribution to people's lives. In this edition we share with you the events that took place around the anniversary of the creation of two protected areas.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUNICIPAL PARK BAJO PARAGUÁ CONCEPCIÓN

Together with the Municipal Government of Concepción and other institutions that work in the area, we participated in the event for the second anniversary of the Bajo Paraguá Municipal Park of Concepción. The area is a valuable natural territory that protects a great variety of fauna and flora that inhabit its forests. Created on March 9, 2021 under municipal law, it preserves 154,368 hectares of Amazonian forest and cerrado pampas that store a significant amount of carbon and contribute to climate and water regulation.



In addition, during the event, the decree approving the Area's Management Plan, a key tool for its management, was presented.



Foto grupal en el evento por el aniversario del AP Concepción

ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN LORENZO INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT NATURAL AREA

On March 22, World Water Day, the Municipality of San Javier, took the opportunity to not let this day go unnoticed, carrying out an important and significant act for the anniversary of the Natural Area of Integrated Management Serranía de San Lorenzo.

The event was attended by the municipal mayor Dany Añez Montalván, councilors, representatives of allied institutions, members of the COSSAJA Administration Committee and the Fundación Natura Bolivia.

Created on March 16, 2021 with an area of 54,745.46 hectares, it is one of the areas that contributes to the generation of water for the town of San Javier, indigenous communities and private owners of cattle ranches, besides being home to a diversity of species of fauna and flora.



Evento realizado en instalaciones de COSSAJA



Evento realizado en instalaciones de COSSAJA



Material realizado por estudiantes

INDIMBO, A NEW BRAND IS BORN TO CONNECT AND ADD MORE FOREST GUARDIANS

The Kapeatindi brand was created in 2020 to represent the values and work of the Guaraní community of the same name. Kapeatindi sought to promote the work of 22 women artisans, who decided to use their skills in traditional Isoleño weaving and seek new economic income alternatives. In the search for new alternatives for the women of the community, Fundación Natura Bolivia, together with the Autonomous Indigenous Government of Charagua Iyambae and the community decided to participate in the Watershared Agreements.

The community voluntarily decided to conserve 1,000 hectares of forest and received materials and training to carry out this project. Seeing the success of this first project, two more communities decide to join and find a new form of income, while taking care of the forests.

Indimbo is the new brand, that brings together the work of the women artisans of Alto Isoso and today Kapeatindi, Casa Alta and Yapiroa will market products made from their weavings.



Mujer guaraní tejiendo

But each specializes in a product. If Kapeatindi sells costume jewelry, Casa Alta sells household products and Yapiroa makes handbags.

Through Indimbo, more than 50 Guaraní indigenous women are connected to be guardians of the Parapetí, protecting between them more than 1700 hectares of riparian forests of the Parapetí. It also seeks to keep our Guaraní culture alive with these hand-woven pieces, and promotes collective environmental awareness.



Grupo de mujeres tejedoras de la comunidad de Kapeatindi

WORLD WATER DAY 2023: BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO MAKE TO SEE IN THE WORLD



Cartel oficial del Día Mundial del Agua 2023

First held in 1993, each edition seeks to focus on a specific theme. This year, the global campaign "Be the change" was launched to encourage people to take action in their own lives to change the way they use, consume and manage water resources.

This proposal encourages local and individual participation, with small actions, which, when replicated by more people, can achieve significant change and contribute to a Water Action Agenda, which seeks to achieve commitments on a larger scale from governments, companies and institutions.

From the official UN Water website you can make a list of actions that you commit to take to solve the water and sanitation crisis. As stated on the website "This set of voluntary commitments aims to accelerate progress on SDG 6 and other internationally agreed goals". To do so, they have prepared a list from which you can choose to save water, consume local products or protect nature, among others. In addition, you can take the initiative and propose new actions to take care of water.





TO ACCELERATE CHANGE, WE NEED MORE ACTION

In Bolivia, this date is used by various institutions to talk about access to water and sanitation, a subject in which there are significant advances, but there are still challenges, especially in rural areas, where 31 out of every 100 people do not have access to drinking water service according to data from the Ministry of Environment and Water, mentioned in the Economic and Social Development Plan 2021-2025.

Emphasizing that access to drinking water and sanitation are essential for the welfare of Bolivian families, most of the policies implemented are focused on the infrastructure for access to water and not precisely on the ecosystem that gives rise to this resource. Having water in our taps is not limited to the infrastructure that transports water to our homes, but is part of a process that begins in the forests of the upper watershed and ends in our homes.



LOCAL ACTIONS WITH GLOBAL IMPACT

Fundación Natura Bolivia knows closely the value of local actions, for 20 years, we have been counting on the commitment of farmers and rural families who individually or communally commit to preserve intact a part of their forest. Ensuring the availability of clean and sustainable water for themselves and for water users, who are generally located in the lower basin, in urban areas.

On World Water Day 2023, let's remember that we are just another cog in the wheel and that our actions do have an impact, and have greater value if they are shared.



Evento de entrega de incentivos en Yapacaní 2023

FUNDACIÓN NATURA BOLIVIA, 20 YEARS ON THE ROAD OF CONSERVING WATER SOURCES AND FORESTS

Fundación Natura is a Bolivian non-profit organization that was founded in 2003 and since its inception has worked tirelessly to preserve and restore the ecosystems that provide water in Bolivia. It all began in the Los Negros river basin - in the inter-Andean valleys region of Bolivia - where the Watershed Agreements were first developed as a conservation scheme based on reciprocity, providing incentives as alternative projects for small farmers to conserve their forests.

Twenty years after that first experience, the model has been replicated in more than 80 municipalities in the country, it has been perfected and we have learned from each new experience. It has not been a road we have traveled alone, we have walked hand in hand with farmers and rural families, visionary municipalities that have understood the importance of protecting these critical ecosystems.

Without forgetting key organizations, such as water cooperatives and irrigation associations, without them, we would not have achieved the accomplishments that we share with you today.



This twentieth anniversary we wanted to do something special, so we organized a cocktail in which various leaders, municipal and departmental authorities and other prominent actors who have contributed with their commitment to the consolidation of our organization participated. The event was attended by very special guests.

Fundación Natura Bolivia reaffirms its commitment to continue working for the conservation of natural resources in the region, and hopes to continue counting on the support of the community and all entities committed to the protection of the environment.



Equipo de trabajo de la Fundación Natura Bolivia



BOLIVIA CON AGUA, A PROJECT THAT WILL BRING SAFE WATER TO 3 THOUSAND FAMILIES BY 2023

On March 29th, in the month of water, we participated in the official launch event of the campaign "Bolivia con Agua 2023" in the city of Santa Cruz, an event that marks the starting point to achieve the goals set by Bolivia con Agua, a program that until its third year has benefited up to 3300 families.

The event was attended by Marcio Oblitas, National Director of FH Bolivia, Sara Metáis, Director of Habitat for Humanity Bolivia, María Teresa Vargas, Director of Fundación Natura Bolivia, and Lourdes Valenzuela, Communications Manager of Aguatuya.

Also present were distinguished business allies such as Claudia Fernández, Director of the Coca-Cola Bolivia Foundation. Nadia Eid, Corporate Communications and CSR Manager of Nacional Seguros, and Mauricio Enrique Garrón Daza, Commercial Manager of Plastiforte. All of them reaffirmed their commitment to continue supporting the consortium.

ABOUT BOLIVIA CON AGUA

Bolivia con Agua is a consortium formed by 5 organizations: Water For People, Habitat para la Humanidad, Aguatuya, FH Bolivia and Fundación Natura. This year's program has the goal of benefiting three thousand families with access to safe water, raising US\$500,000 to invest US\$2 million. The desire of the partner organizations is to expand the network of allies, raise awareness among Bolivians to help other Bolivians, improve the lives of families to enjoy the right of access to water. And to contribute to the correct administration of water in order to have water coverage.



We are five organizations, experts in water and sanitation, we know firsthand the big impact of the lack of access to safe water in thousands of Bolivian homes. We want to unite our experiences and skills in a single program called "Bolivia con Agua", whose main objective is to bring water and sanitation for better health, hygiene, nutrition and dignity.



EVERYTHING WE DO IS POSSIBLE
THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS

