



UN
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CONFERENCE

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UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

Andean Water Fund Platform: a proposal to face the local challenges of joint watershed management in the Andean countries.

March 21, 2023 10-11:30 EST, Virtual

Organized by: [Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano](#)

Background on the event

Water Funds have proven to be a successful, locally led mechanism for the protection of water resources, that constitute a governance platform for public, private, and community stakeholders to work together for the equitable access and supply of clean and safe water. The 20+ years of Water Funds' experience in the Andean region sustain the impact of protecting approximately 1.8 million hectares of high Andean mountain ecosystems that supply water to more than 30 million inhabitants in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. However, the sustainability of these mechanisms is a continuous challenge.

The Andean Water Funds Platform gathers ten Water Funds in the Andean region to work on a joint vision to mobilize action towards achieving the 2030 agenda. The joint effort of these Water Funds—through a community of practice—aims to address these challenges by working together on local financial contributions or mechanisms, fostering political will and support, demonstrating greater impact at a larger scale, and peer-to-peer learning from what has or has not worked in other contexts. This virtual side event was led by Fundacion Futuro Latinoamericano—the organization that facilitates the Andean Water Funds Platform, and jointly organized with [FONAG](#)-Fondo para la Protección del Agua (Quito's Water Protection Fund--the first water fund of its kind), and [South South North \(SSN\)](#) through its Climate and Development Network, to capture different points of view from stakeholders to address these challenges. Speakers included representatives from the national Water Authorities of Ecuador, Water Funds from Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, and representatives from the private sector and a local community participating in a Water Fund in the Andean Region.

The objective of the event was to learn from the Andean Water Fund Platform, gathering ten locally-led financial mechanisms on a joint vision for source-water protection, mobilizing action and promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The initiative was financed by the Tinker Foundation and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN).

Water Action Agenda (one paragraph, if possible, please include the link to your commitment in the [Water Action Agenda database](#))

The Andean Water Funds Platform highlights the voluntary commitments to the Water Action Agenda in sustaining and scaling implementation of local financial mechanisms--Water Funds. These locally led mechanisms promote partnerships and action through a multi-stakeholder platform to improve coordination across institutions and sectors, for the achievement of SDG 6, recognizing the central role of healthy ecosystems for water security.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- What is a Water Fund, what are the most relevant results for a local community in participating in a Water Fund, considering both women and men, and what are the principal factors that attract the participation of the private sector in a Water Fund.
- The five factors for success of a Water Fund that can be highlighted after more than 20 years of learning in Latin America and the Caribbean, which are: 1. Clear scope and goals, 2. Allies and stakeholders, 3. Accountability and results, 4. Long-term investment, 5. Political support and leadership ([Spanish Version](#)) ([English Version](#))
- The challenges of Water Funds, including the arguments that are decisive for long-term financing commitments, key factors in ensuring the participation of the private sector and the principle challenges in maintaining an active participation.
- The relevance and impact of the Andean Water Funds Platform collective space and the Colombia Water Funds Network (Red Colombia de Fondos de Agua) and the collaboration needs and direction in the future between Water Funds.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Promote locally led multi-stakeholder spaces for integrated water management
- Promote private sector engagement in Water Funds
- Expand the collaboration and learning space of the Andean Water Fund Platform community of practice to include more actors and potentialize actions.

Link to the event recording: https://youtu.be/7ez3u3_k4rQ