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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



CASE STUDY (JANUARY 2018)

# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION EXPERIENCES FROM FIVE PROJECTS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

The objective of these projects was to promote the adoption of adaptive measures to mitigate the risk of changes in water availability in rural communities located in alpine ecosystems.

How did the project engage these rural communities to reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change? How can we motivate and ensure their participation given that the benefits of green infrastructure extend beyond their territorial boundaries?

## MAIN LESSONS LEARNED



- **The territorial approach**, at the level of grouped communities, sub-basins or micro-basins, **provides a strategic approach for the watershed.**



- **Implementers' technical capacity and local knowledge enables an effective approach to the communities** and facilitates interaction with key actors that are committed to the measures and practices for climate change adaptation.

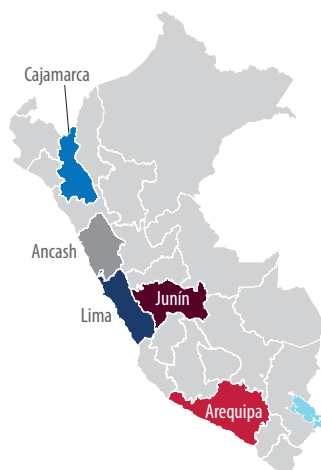


- **The use of intercultural communication to adapt projects to local contexts is a determining factor** in the participation of communities in targeted processes and in the achievement of objectives.



## CONTEXT

This case study considers five climate adaptation projects based in alpine ecosystems implemented over 2-4 years at a cost of \$1-3 million each. Projects worked with agricultural communities, villages or pre-existing organized groups, and 'mancomunidades' (formally constituted groups of villages). Each project used different ways of also working with local governments, universities, NGOs, water service providers and private companies.



- **Strengthening ourselves for climate change** (Special Association for Sustainable Development - AEDES) **Provinces:** La Union and Condesuyos
- **Climate-smart territories for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public investment projects** (Tropical Agronomic Research and Education Center - CATIE) **Districts:** Tambo and Huancayo
- **Securing water and livelihoods in the mountains** (The Mountain Institute -TMI) **Districts:** Bolognesi, Recuay, Carlos Fitzcarraldo, Mariscal Luzuriaga
- **Adaptation to climate change for the communities of the Lima basins** (The Nature Conservatory- TNC) **Districts:** San Mateo, San Pedro de Casta, San Mateo de Huanchor, San Pedro de Laraos, San Juan de Iris, Surco, Huamantanga.
- **Adapting Together** (Lutheran World Relief - LWR) **District:** Hualgayoc

## OTHER LESSONS LEARNED

- **The diversity of the local beneficiary populations is a central challenge.** If the ecosystemic and socioeconomic complexity of the watershed is not taken into account, the relationships between stakeholders can be confrontational and can impede the adaptation objectives.
- **It is highly beneficial to use participatory methods appropriate for the stakeholder context,** avoid the imposition of technical-scientific knowledge over local knowledge, and reconcile adaptive measures with local practices.
- **The competitions and exchanges (“See to Believe”) are effective in promoting the adoption of practices.**
- **The real empowerment of women remains limited** beyond their participation in the implementation of measures.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Design and implement adaptation measures using a territorial approach at the scale of river watersheds.
- Foster the articulation of the local system stakeholders to make the process and adopted measures sustainable. This articulation must occur at two levels: (i) communal and (ii) institutional.
- Facilitate community research, the design of adaptation measures and the preparation of public investment projects using participatory approaches to ensure their implementation.
- Facilitate practical activities that offer proof of the success of adaptive measures, e.g. “See to Believe”, as a way to promote their replication.
- Raise awareness among men regarding gender equality topics and promote women’s local and political participation.

The content of this document is based on the study of “Case study of the experience of five USAID projects implementing climate change adaptation in rural communities”. These projects have been implemented in various regions of the country in recent years. The full report is available at PGRD: [www.pgrd.org](http://www.pgrd.org) | [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PA00SW56.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00SW56.pdf).

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