

USAID/PERU LESSONS FROM THE EVIDENCE:

ENVIRONMENT



PHOTO: MELS, 2020

This document presents key learning from USAID/Peru's efforts related to the environment. Between 2019 and 2024, USAID/Peru has commissioned various studies across several development sectors and USAID initiatives under its portfolio. This document is a synthesis of evidence gathered from key relevant studies and it should not be considered representative of the entire USAID portfolio in Peru.

✓ **CLEAR GUIDELINES, EFFECTIVE MONITORING, AND STRONG ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS PROMOTE HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE RATES, WHEREAS LOW COMPLIANCE RATES MAY INDICATE THE NEED FOR IMPROVED AWARENESS, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT.** Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plans (EMMPs) outline how environmental compliance will be achieved and maintained under USAID-funded projects; EMMPs identify potential environmental impacts of project activities and describe measures that will be taken to mitigate these impacts. EMMP compliance can vary widely across projects and sectors due to factors such as project type and complexity, stakeholder engagement, and environmental sensitivity of the target area. Economic limitations, lack of inter-institutional coordination, limited awareness and environmental training, and insufficient technical or financial support for maintenance hinder compliance with environmental measures. As such, USAID/Peru environment initiatives have had mixed success when it comes to working with stakeholders such as local government environmental officials, farmers, and community associations to achieve EMMP compliance.

✓ **ENGAGING FARMERS, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND PRIVATE COMPANIES IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES FOSTER A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY AMONG STAKEHOLDERS, WHICH HAS LED TO HIGHER ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE RATES.** While USAID environment activity mitigation actions may vary, USAID/Peru evaluations highlighted tailored interventions and stakeholder engagement as key in the improvement of overall compliance with EMMP measures. Environmental management-targeted capacity-building efforts and effective stakeholder engagement strategies significantly contribute to improving environmental compliance rates, especially in key areas such as water conservation and solid waste management. Providing training, technical assistance, and investing in capacity-building initiatives to enhance beneficiaries' knowledge and skills in environmental management ultimately empowers project participants to practice effective environmental mitigation measures.

“ Field training strategies and individualized technical assistance show better results for environmental measure compliance. In the interviews carried out during the field visits, it was confirmed that training given by the technical team to the producers was gladly accepted. They commented that training was practical and not just theoretical. As it is known, Coffee Alliance is not a conventional project, it is appealing because it involves the private sector, such as PERHUSA, which is a purchasing company. The company appoints its field technicians to training farmers and has also been mentioned by producers who are contributing with mitigation measures compliance. - Environmental Compliance Review – Peru 2020

“ Constant training on environmental practices, farmers become aware and are all well trained for inspection, they already know how to do it, other neighbors see such practices and emulate them; they no longer throw away bottles anywhere as they realize that with time their soil becomes unproductive. — Huanuco Coffee Farmer, Environmental Compliance Review - Peru 2020

✓ COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS, COMPANIES, AND NGOS THROUGH TARGETED ACTIVITIES PROPEL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND DRIVE SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION.

Public institutions, private companies, and international organizations positively influence compliance with environmental measures by providing targeted capacity-building efforts, effective stakeholder engagement strategies, and new approaches to environmental management. These institutions and organizations often provide technical expertise, financial resources, and capacity-building initiatives that enhance stakeholders' understanding of environmental regulations and their ability to comply. Partnerships with these entities can help create a culture of environmental responsibility and sustainability within communities and industries, further enhancing compliance rates.

- Under the CAFÉ Project, private companies such as PERHUSA provided training in environmental measures through field technicians to farmers. Farmers also collaborated with other non-government organizations like Campo Limpio who collected empty pesticide containers free of charge, which facilitated compliance with environmental mitigation measures.
- The Cacao Alliance employed the use of technological agents and farmer leaders in each community to provide technical support, intensive training, and field practice in the agronomic management of cacao and care of the environment, which increased compliance with environmental measures and helped farmers renew their cacao organic certifications.

✓ CLEAR AND CONSISTENT MESSAGING IS ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AS IT ENSURES THAT ALL STAKEHOLDERS ARE WELL-INFORMED AND ALIGNED IN THEIR EFFORTS.

Uninformed perceptions and limited knowledge among the population regarding environmental issues can hinder compliance efforts. While USAID/Peru's engagement with several public and private organizations involved in environmental issues is an advantage, weak or limited coordination among various entities working on environmental issues may result in different messages being conveyed to stakeholders, thus generating confusion among participants. To ensure that participants receive consistent messaging around environmental compliance issues, USAID activities should consider the establishment of coordination mechanisms (such as inter-institutional committees or working groups), communication channels to ensure relevant information is shared efficiently, and define roles and responsibilities for each institution involved in environmental initiatives to avoid confusion and duplication of efforts.

“ In the field visit, it was found that coffee farmers are highly aware of environmental mitigation measures. This is because, besides Coffee Alliance, there are other institutions in the area that work on the environmental topic. For example, there are public institutions (National Commission for Development and Life without Drugs - DEVIDA, municipalities, Regional Government, Regional Environmental Authority - ARA), international cooperation organizations (United Nations Development Program - UNDP) and, especially, private companies. PERHUSA is the most recognized company for its commitment with Coffee Alliance and because they have technicians in the field assisting farmers both in the production process and in the knowledge and respect for environmental measures... — Environmental Compliance Review – Peru 2020

✓ **STRATEGIC CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES HELP EMPOWER PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AND LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO FOREST MANAGEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT.** An emphasis on strengthening capabilities of forestry authorities at the national and regional level significantly improved the sustainable use of forests and enforcement of forestry laws. USAID/Peru's Amazonia Verde Project focused on the education and training of public servants working in forest management institutions including National Forest and Wildlife Service, Forestry and Wildlife Resources Oversight Agency (OSINFOR), regional governments, and specialized environmental prosecutor offices. Under this project, significant improvements in institutional capacities as well as public servants' skills and understanding of forestry issues led to the design and development of strategic instruments and studies in forestry law. As a result, these institutions were able to make significant improvements to management instruments (such as OSINFOR's Forestry Backpack) and they were able to make regulatory improvements which strengthened mechanisms for environmental crimes. In addition, they drafted guidelines for public procurement of timber, as well as new instruments to strengthen public officials' capacities for better decision-making.

✓ **USAID EFFORTS IN PERU THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE HAVE NOT ONLY EMPOWERED WOMEN IN WATER GOVERNANCE BUT HAVE ALSO FOSTERED A MORE INCLUSIVE AND GENDER-EQUAL APPROACH, ESPECIALLY WITHIN NATIONAL WATER AUTHORITIES.** To address entrenched gender stereotypes, the absence of female leadership within local entities, and a lack of gender integration-related processes, the USAID/Peru Natural Infrastructure for Water Security Activity (NIWS) provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP) to incorporate a strategy and an approach into the activities of national water authorities (such as the National Superintendency of Sanitation Services (SUNASS) and the National Water Authority), with the purpose of improving gender equality in their work. According to USAID/Peru evaluations, strategies such as developing tools, creating forums, and technical assistance to MIMP, the Ministry of the Environment, and NGOs were successful in promoting gender equality. For example, to sustain these results, SUNASS strengthened its institutional work plans and established a task force on gender equality with representatives from all its core units. The implementation of these efforts is expected to result in normative changes that will continue to promote gender equality within entities such as SUNASS in the coming years.

THE EVIDENCE

- [Environmental Compliance Review, 2020](#)
- [Environmental Compliance Review, 2023](#)
- [Impact Evaluation Design & Baseline: Transforming the VRAEM: The Land of Fine Flavor Cacao, 2024](#)
- [Mid-Term Evaluation of Human Trafficking in the Peruvian Amazon, 2020](#)
- [Mid-Term Evaluation of Peru's Natural Infrastructure for Water Security Activity \(NIWS\), 2023](#)
- [Whole of Project Evaluation of Amazonia Verde Project, 2024](#)

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