

AUGUST 2025

Acción Andina Quarterly Impact Report April - June 2025



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Generation



“What makes Acción Andina unique is its heart—our communities. This is not just about planting trees, it’s about restoring our relationship with nature and each other. Every forest we bring back to life is an act of love, generosity, and ancestral wisdom. Thank you for walking this path with us.”

Constantino Auca Chutas

President of ECOAN and Acción Andina



“Acción Andina is more than a movement—it’s a continental strategy for water security, rooted in Indigenous leadership and collective action. Restoring the high Andes is not only urgent, it’s possible—but only if we all come together, across sectors and borders, to make it happen.”

Florent Kaiser

CEO of Global Forest Generation and Acción Andina

● ACCIÓN ANDINA PARTNERS

Acción Andina is restoring and conserving forests and water across six countries in the Andes: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

16 local partners make up the Acción Andina initiative. While local partners primarily focus on regenerating high-Andean ecosystems and watersheds, Acción Andina also supports water and irrigation projects, microenterprise, trainings for conservation leaders, and other community requests. Ancestral principles are woven into Acción Andina's holistic approach, contributing to the preservation of ancient cultures and traditions.



Acción Andina's main activity is reforestation with native species, primarily a tree genus called *Polylepis*. As part of high-Andean ecosystems, *Polylepis* forests are an essential driver to water security, biodiversity, and climate resilience.



Take a deeper dive into this remarkable *Polylepis* genus with our [Fact Sheet](#).



Impact & Goals in 2025

Prior to 2018: Communities were working on their own with fewer tools, less training or funding, and unable to scale. In 2025, (our eighth year), we're active in more countries and landscapes than ever.

26

Landscape-level projects to restore and protect high-Andean forest ecosystems

35

Local conservation leaders receiving salary support and training

160

Local and Indigenous communities actively participating

194

Project coordinators, nursery technicians, and assistants, crucial to production and operations

102

Nurseries producing native species

2.3M

New native trees planted during this season, to total ~15 million trees planted since 2018



Tracking Our Progress



Every tree and hectare under management is tracked through our Measurement, Reporting, Verification (MRV) platform, [Restoration Scope](#).



This interactive map showcases the growing impact of **Acción Andina** across the Andes.



It offers a visual window into the work of thousands of people who are coming together to restore the world's highest-elevation native forests.



New: Water Impacts in 2025

While Polylepis forests have a profound impact on regional water security, Acción Andina partners are securing water sources through a variety of means for the communities where they operate. We are currently developing our ability to better demonstrate our water impact.

10

Acción Andina projects requested funds to respond to water security concerns this quarter.

This includes:

2

Potable water systems for clean drinking water in communities in Ecuador and Peru

5

Enhanced irrigation systems to improve nurseries and agriculture production in Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru

1

Project working to establish a water fund alongside government agencies in Bolivia

2

Green infrastructure projects through wetlands restoration in Ecuador and Peru



Irrigation tubing provided in Tunari, Bolivia. May 2025. Credit: Armonía

Fun Fact: Well over 5,000 meters of irrigation pipes were laid this quarter in FONAG's Acción Andina project in Ecuador. That's over 3 miles!

Local Voices

Reyner Torres, Park Ranger (ECOAN, Calipuy): As a long-serving park ranger in Peru, Reyner has been instrumental in the transformation of the Calipuy National Sanctuary. He has witnessed and contributed to the recovery of water flow and soil regeneration. This dedication has directly led to the renewed availability of water for nearby communities.

Doña Tania Andina, Community Member (Andean Adventures, Chimborazo): From El Altar, Ecuador, Doña Tania embodies the resilience of her community in the Chimborazo project, which experienced severe landslides and river overflows from intense rains. Her hope, expressed with "hands still fresh with earth," lies in reforestation with native *Polylepis* trees. This effort, undertaken through communal *mingas* (cooperative work) involving over 300 people, is crucial.



Reyner Torres in the Calipuy National Sanctuary, Peru. May 2025. Credit: ECOAN



FONAG provided laying hens to 21 women in Ecuador so far this season. May 2025. Credit: FONAG

Microenterprise Development

Beekeeping: In Tupiza, Bolivia, Prometa's project now offers apiculture (beekeeping) training. This initiative provides a direct opportunity to diversify livelihoods and strengthen economic resilience by connecting communities to tangible benefits derived from their reforested areas. Seven women have received training so far.

Organic Egg Production: In the communities of San José del Tablón and San Francisco de Cruz Loma, Ecuador, FONAG is supporting women's entrepreneurship by providing laying hens and implements to establish organic egg production.

Honey: Kallma, operating in Tucumán, Argentina, launched a microenterprise program to sell pure honey collected from hives in mountain trees. Four communities are currently participating. This initiative is particularly significant given job scarcity and the economic crisis in Argentina.

● CASE STUDY

Community Nurseries

Adapting Nursery Infrastructure: In Fundación Bosquizar's Jujuy project in Argentina, rustic nurseries in communities like Cangrejos demonstrate ingenious adaptation to local conditions. The Cangrejos nursery, includes a "dark chamber" that naturally cools the main production area, effectively acting as an air conditioner. This ensures optimal conditions for *Polylepis* seedling growth.

Dedicated Nursery Technicians: At the Paluguillo nursery in FONAG's Pichincha, Ecuador project, community member Diana Sópalo administers and operates the nursery. She and a small crew used to collect all the production materials, but today, she involves community members, leading to greater production capacity as well as environmental awareness and community engagement.

Nursery Management Skills: Fundación Actividades Biosféricas in Córdoba, Argentina, offers a variety of workshops about nursery management. One special program is its nursery management and plant cultivation workshop with prison inmates. These workshops provide inmates with skills in native woody plant production, fostering environmental awareness and building capacity in an often-overlooked demographic.



A nursery technician in Tucumán, Argentina, prepares substrates for plant production. May 2025. Credit: Kallma



Project Highlight: The Chincha Valley Watershed

Acción Andina's Chincha Valley Watershed Project is a bold pilot to protect and restore high-Andean ecosystems, innovative in its dual approach to recuperating water resources. The impact? Faster water returns and ecological resilience.

- Led by Acción Andina and [Textil del Valle](#), with support from global apparel brands [Patagonia](#) and [Lacoste](#) (in partnership with [Lacoste Foundation](#))
- 30,000 native trees to be planted in the highlands of Peru's Chincha Valley that feed water all the way down to the dry, industrial coastline
- Wetland restoration and green infrastructure to improve water security across the region
- Direct benefits for 2,000 highland residents, with the potential to improve water access for over 250,000 people downstream

[Link to press release](#)

Like what you see? Get more photos from Acción Andina project activities [here](#).

Photos from the past three months cover:

Community Workshops and Education: Educational workshops for students of various age groups and community members, focusing on environmental awareness, Polylepis tree species functions, and project promotion.

Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvements: This includes improvements in irrigation infrastructure, construction of water wells, and initiatives supporting community businesses.

Tree Nursery Activities: Activities related to tree growth monitoring, nursery maintenance, and plant propagation.



Nursery workers in Vilcanota, Peru, tend to Polylepis seedlings. June 2025. Credit: ECOAN

● GLOBAL FOREST GENERATION - SUPPORTING ACCIÓN ANDINA

Global Forest Generation, together with ECOAN, leads Acción Andina to create lasting change through community-driven initiatives that support people and heal ecosystems.

Thanks to you and all of our Acción Andina supporters, GFG disbursed **US\$ 1,315,385** for this season to date.

Media Highlights & Updates:

- GFG is hosting quarterly Acción Andina update calls - A recording of the April call is available [here](#).
- Check out GFG's new [Visionary Council](#), who gathered for the first time in July to challenge us to reimagine what's possible for the future of restoration.
- Cisco Foundation invited us to feature a [new short film](#) on Acción Andina during San Francisco Climate Week.



Key Allies & Supporters



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Acción Andina Quarterly Impact Report

July - Sept 2025



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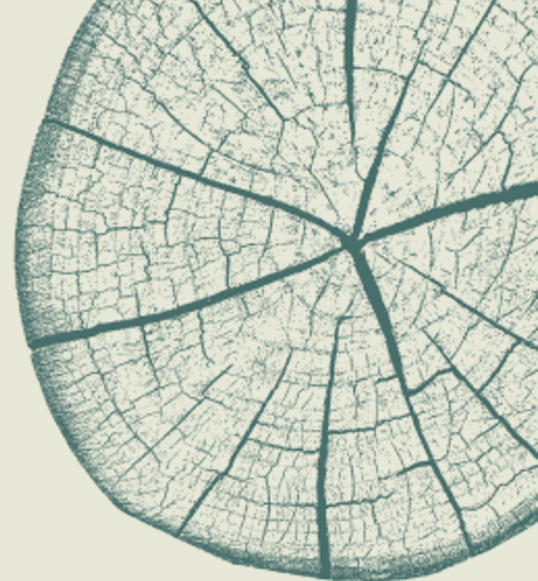
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“Together, across an entire continent, we speak the same language and seek the same solutions for our beloved Pachamama (Mother Earth). I collaborate with so many nations and people who work tirelessly for a better future. It fills me with happiness.”



As Operations Director, Ani is responsible for high-level supervision of projects, including reporting, metrics, and site visits. She also participates in project design and conservation strategy. In 2024, Ani was nominated by Daughters for Earth to apply for support to promote women leadership in projects. She chose the Warmi Kewiñas, a women's collective in Bolivia that currently manages a nursery and the planting of hundreds of thousands of native *Polylepis* trees.

Ani Luna

Operations Director of Acción Andina

Co-founded by Global Forest Generation (GFG) and Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN), Acción Andina is restoring and conserving forests and water across six countries in the Andes: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

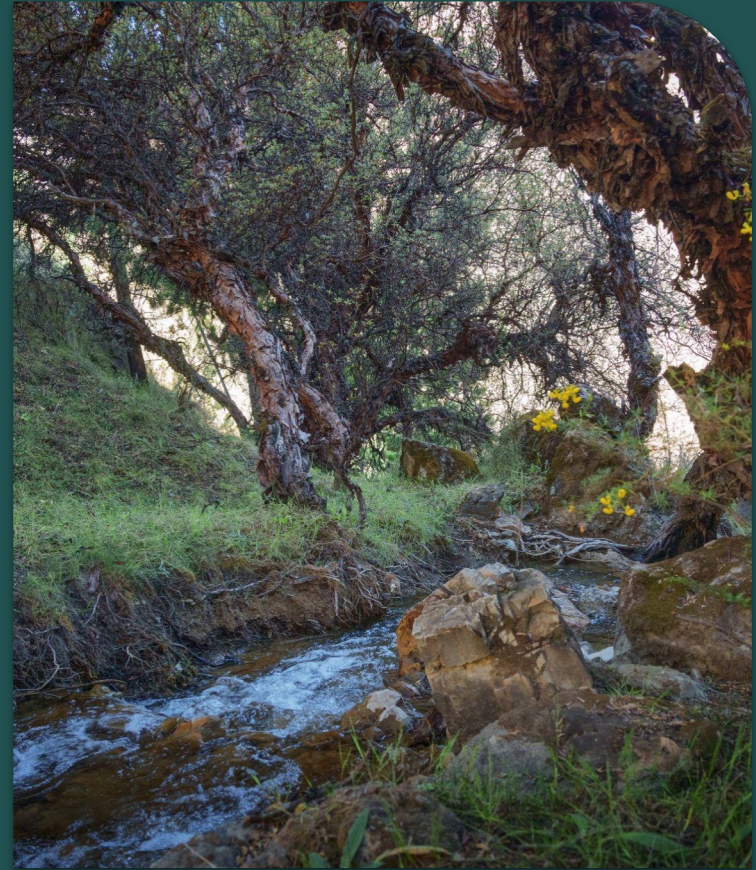
16 local partners make up the initiative, working together to support native reforestation, water and irrigation projects, microenterprise, trainings for conservation leaders, and other community requests. Ancestral principles are woven into Acción Andina's holistic approach, contributing to the preservation of ancient cultures and traditions.



Acción Andina's main activity is reforestation with native species, primarily a tree genus called *Polylepis*. These hardy trees are essential to long-term water security for the continent.



Learn more about these ecosystems' importance for water in this [Fact Sheet](#).



Impact & Goals in 2025

Before 2018, communities across the Andes were restoring forests largely on their own, with limited tools, training, or resources to grow their impact. By 2025—just eight years later—GFG has helped transform these local efforts into a coordinated, continent-wide movement active across more countries and landscapes than ever before.

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Our Impact Map



Every tree and hectare under management is tracked through our Measurement, Reporting, Verification (MRV) and visualization platform.



Take a look at any time at [this interactive map](#) showcasing the growing impact of Acción Andina.



It offers a visual window into the work of thousands of people who are coming together to restore the world's highest-elevation native forests.



Water Impacts in 2025

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Acción Andina projects are implementing water resource management activities this year.

One example:

Tungurahua, Ecuador: Fundación Incana delivered a significant upgrade to the drinking water system in the Cunugyacu community by providing **500** pressure tubes for drinking water systems. There, **50** community members participated in a massive *minga* (collective work day) to excavate ditches, remove old piping, and successfully install the new system. This collaboration resulted in improved and better quality water flow, and eliminated frequent interruptions to directly enhance the daily lives of residents.



Did you know? Every year, high-Andean ecosystems generate freshwater that benefits over 138 million people!



Project Highlight: The Next Generation of Forest Stewards

In December 2024, ECOAN's Aquia project in Peru made **Acción Andina** history by reforesting over **150,000** native trees in a single day.

In August 2025, the project teams engaged the **entire local school (100% participation from 124 students)** in a comprehensive environmental education campaign and art contest.

The project is getting every member of the community involved, ensuring the next generation continues to care for current and future forests.



Local Voices: A Future for Plant Growers through Acción Andina

Yatzaputzan, Ecuador: For years, José Manuel Punina, a nursery technician in the Ecuadorian Andes, grew native trees to restore the land he loves. But with few buyers and little local support, he faced a painful choice: let his saplings die or burn them to make room for new ones.

Then came Acción Andina. Through this community-led restoration movement, and implemented specifically by local partner Fundación Incana, José found partnership and purpose. Every tree he grows now helps regenerate Andean forests, protect water sources, and restore hope to his community.

“Before, I burned 40,000 plants a year. Today, each one has a purpose. Acción Andina finally valued my work.”

— José Manuel Punina, Ecuador



Microenterprise Development

Across the initiative, Acción Andina partners work with local communities to develop new or augment existing income. Activities range from beekeeping and fruit cultivation, to ecotourism and textile production.



Vilcanota, Peru: ECOAN links conservation with ecotourism by maintaining and cleaning the scenic Vilcanota Trek routes, helping communities provide tourism services, and generating communal income.



Jujuy, Argentina: Fundación Bosquizar held a First Participatory Workshop on Environmental and Cultural Tourism, involving 20 participants in developing ideas related to ecotourism, local gastronomy, and high-Andean crafts.

Community Nurseries

Most nurseries in Acción Andina projects are community-managed, where local community members work in rotation to care for growing seedlings. Nursery technicians and coordinators are also hired to oversee plant production.



Pichincha, Ecuador: Diana Sópalo is a nursery technician, described as being at the heart of seedling production by ensuring that more than 119,000 native plants continue to thrive.



Challabamba, Peru: Abraham Abel Córdova Cjuno, a local promoter, represents a powerful story of personal transformation. After leaving mining work, he is now the driving force behind the nursery, successfully cultivating 32 native tree species.



Vilcanota, Peru: Teaching materials used in forest fires prevention and management training sessions. These hands-on sessions include practical components too, where trainees practice putting out fires.

Forest Fire Prevention & Management

Forest fires are increasingly prevalent in the Andes, which is why all Acción Andina projects have a forest fire prevention and management component. Community-led fire brigades are equipped and trained across the initiative.



Tunari Park, Bolivia: Asociación Armonía held training sessions for community-led fire brigades with the municipality of Cochabamba. When an actual fire broke out, firefighters were prepared and managed it quickly.

Our Challenges this Season

Difficulties experienced across projects in the last quarter include:

- **Argentina:** national economic instability, driving up logistical costs and adverse weather;
- **Bolivia:** frost *and* fire, requiring adaptations to nurseries and quick responses;
- **Colombia:** logistical complications from old roads that have not been used in years;
- **Ecuador:** political instability and adverse weather caused roadblocks and other logistical obstacles;
- **Peru:** institutional delays for legal conservation processes; intense winds and snowfall requiring adaptations to nurseries.

The enduring commitment of local communities and implementing partners, who maintain restoration activities and results despite these challenges, provides constant inspiration during difficult times.



Despite sudden frosts in Yala in Jujuy, Argentina, Acción Andina partner *Árbol y Vida* has managed to keep seedling safe and warm in the nursery. July 2025.

Like what you see? More photos from Acción Andina project activities [here](#).

Photos from the past three months cover:

Community Sessions such as educational workshops for students of various age groups and community members, focusing on environmental awareness.

Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvements, such as improvements in irrigation infrastructure.

Tree Nursery Activities such as tree growth monitoring and plant propagation.

Forest Fires Prevention & Management including practical training and equipping of community-led forest fire brigades.



Young students from Ccochamarca community learning about biodiversity monitoring in Wayqecha, Peru. Sept 2025. Credit: ACCA

Global Forest Generation, together with ECOAN, leads Acción Andina to create lasting change through community-driven initiatives that support people and heal ecosystems.

Funds are pooled and disbursed across Acción Andina projects to cover all activities, ensuring that everyone moves forward together. **US\$ 1,714,385** has been disbursed for this season to date.

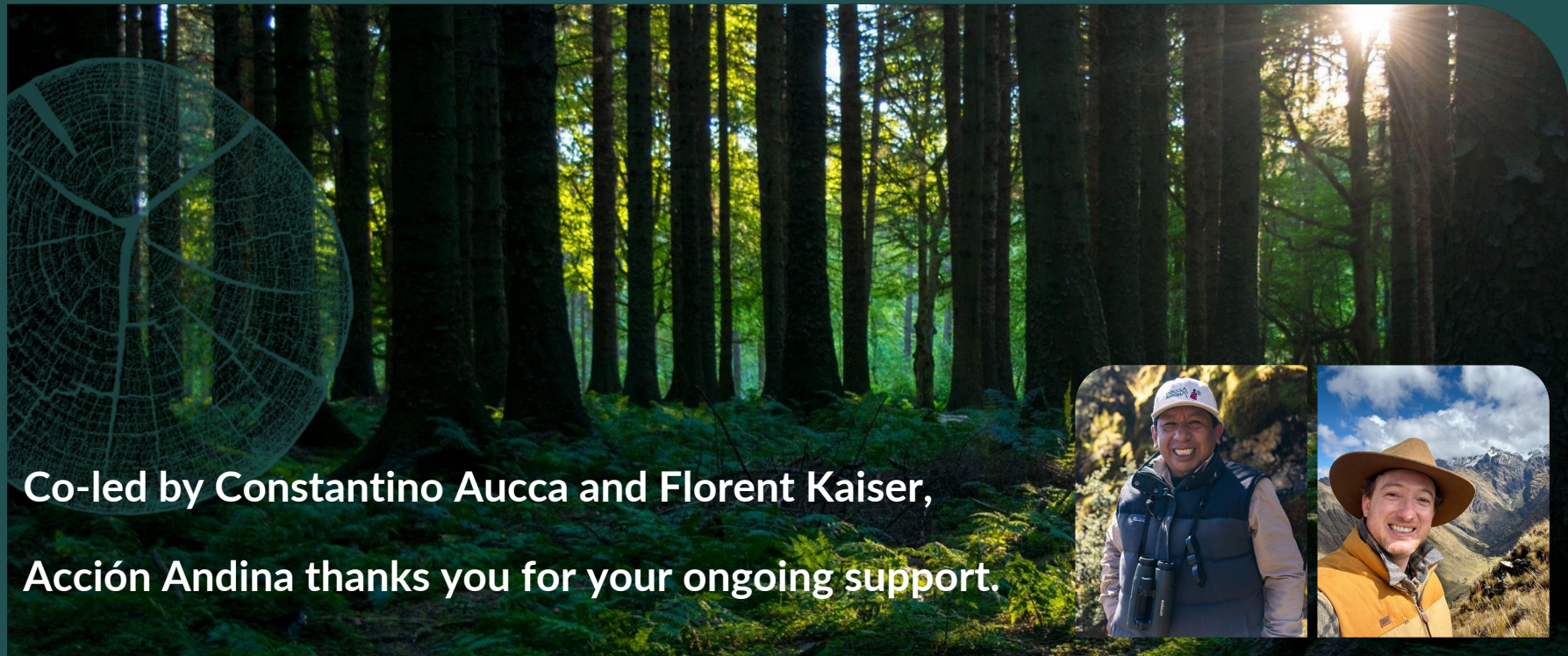
Media Highlights & Updates:

- GFG is hosting quarterly Acción Andina update calls - A recording of our October call is available [here](#).
- GFG welcomed a new board member, Saima Qadir. Her diverse background includes serving as a bond and energy trader, and then leading quality assurance for carbon projects globally at Conservation International.
- Check out our [blog post](#) by GFG CEO, Florent Kaiser, and his new vision for water in the Andes.
- Sign up for Florent Kaiser's [LinkedIn Newsletter here!](#)



Key Allies & Supporters





Co-led by Constantino Auca and Florent Kaiser,
Acción Andina thanks you for your ongoing support.



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FEBRUARY 2025

Acción Andina Quarterly Impact Report Oct - Dec 2025



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Acción Andina Partners: Inspiration on the Ground

- **Q'ero, Peru:** A tiny, 5-centimeter *Polylepis serrata* cutting planted in 2022 is already bearing fruit and attracting pollinators, proving that small human interventions can successfully jumpstart entire biological cycles in just a few years.
- **Urrao, Colombia:** Ecotropics grew the first critically endangered *Polylepis frontinensis* seedling in the nursery in 2025, and now has thousands. Local elders traditionally use this tree's bark to heal kidney and lung ailments, making its restoration a promise of both environmental and community health.
- **Cajamarca, Peru:** Local women lead the difficult task of transporting fencing materials up steep slopes by horseback. They call these fences a "protective embrace," viewing them not as barriers, but as a way to create a safe space for the forest to grow.



Women in Cajamarca carrying fencing materials on horseback. Nov 2025. Credit: ECOAN

Impact & Goals in 2025

Before 2018, communities across the Andes were restoring forests largely on their own, with limited tools, training, or resources to grow their impact. By 2025—just eight years later—GFG has helped transform these local efforts into a coordinated, continent-wide movement active across more countries and landscapes than ever before.

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The map offers a visual window into the work of thousands of people who are coming together to restore the world's highest-elevation native forests.



Water Impacts in 2025

Acción Andina partners are securing water resources through a variety of means for local communities. We are currently developing ways to better measure and demonstrate our water impact.

10

Acción Andina projects are implementing water resource management activities this year.

One example:

Tunari National Park, Bolivia: Acción Andina partner Asociación Armonía constructed a 100,000-liter water reservoir in the community of La Aguada, a critical intervention that benefits 50 families in a region vulnerable to water scarcity.



The new water reservoir in La Aguada, Tunari Park, Bolivia. Oct 2025.
Credit: Armonía



Laura Punina from Yatzaputzán, Riobamba, Ecuador. Credit: UNEP

Chimborazo, Ecuador: Water Born from the Mountain

Monitoring results by local partner Andean Adventures are demonstrating how Polylepis reforestation recharges high-Andean springs: reliable running water is beginning to arrive directly to homes and schools for the first time.

“Planting a plant is giving life for the world, because we won't just benefit the community who plants them - water reaches everyone.”

— Laura Punina (Yatzaputzán)

This transformation has eliminated the physical burden of carrying heavy water buckets over long distances, a task that previously fell mostly on women, children, and the elderly.

Beyond providing a vital resource, the project has turned healthy forests into living classrooms, where children learn that caring for the mountain sustains life in the valley.

Puna, Argentina: Reforestation Across Generations

In the Santa Catalina community, restoration is taking place in landscapes scarred by more than a century of mining activity. Roads, extraction sites, and degraded soils left many residents doubtful that forests could ever return.

Then came this moment: A community planting event led by *Árbol y Vida* brought together residents across generations. In just eight hours, they planted 17,443 native trees.

One young girl initially doubted the reforestation project; even her grandmother said planting trees was a "waste of time." However, after seeing the trees survive in the harsh environment, she reflected: "They did grow, it was possible," a shift echoed by her grandmother. After seeing the team's patient work, people have begun to actively defend restoration in their community.



Reforesting in Santa Catalina in November 2025. Credit: *Árbol y Vida*



Calipuy, Peru: Through embroidery workshops, mothers depict Polylepis forests and landscapes in their textiles, transforming ancestral craft into environmental education.

Microenterprise & Environmental Education

Across the initiative, Acción Andina partners work with local communities to develop new or increase existing income. Activities range from beekeeping and fruit cultivation, to ecotourism and textile production.



Tarija, Bolivia: 23 beehives were distributed to 20 families in Papachacra, Sala Huayco, and La Tranca communities, creating a new source of income. Unlike extractive activities, beekeeping reinforces the value of forest protection. Healthy forests mean healthy pollinators, better honey production, and more resilient ecosystems.

Community Reforestation

Acción Andina partners and local communities are now transitioning from the nursery to the field, where tens of thousands of people will plant native seedlings in priority areas identified through a blend of local knowledge and scientific mapping.



Vilcanota, Peru: Queuña Raymi (The Queuña Festival), an annual massive tree-planting event inspired by ancient Incan traditions of collective work (Ayni and Minka), is underway. More than 20 Indigenous communities come together to plant native saplings; as many as 60,000 trees are planted in a single day.



Tucumán, Argentina: In Tafí del Valle, community planting days included families who began the project two years ago and returned with their children. Yael, now five, first came to the nursery in his father's arms; today he plants alongside him. The forest now shapes the memories of the next generation.

Forest Fires in the Andes

Forest fires are increasingly prevalent in the Andes. Acción Andina partners integrate prevention and rapid-response strategies, training community-led brigades to intervene, contain the spread, and carefully restore affected habitats.



Córdoba, Argentina: Despite severe intentional fires historically used to clear land, Fundación Bosquizar has successfully engaged local youth groups like the Arcani Scouts to maintain 68 km of fencing and fire lines. This infrastructure acts as a primary defense, protecting restored forests from the recurring threat of fire.



Yanahurco, Ecuador: In December, a severe wildfire broke out but was eventually contained by firefighters trained by local partner Aves y Conservación. To protect growing seedlings, the team installed emergency shade netting and applied anti-stress treatments such as organic fertilizer and hydrogel.

More photos from **Acción Andina** project activities [here](#).

Photos from the past three months cover:

Community sessions such as educational workshops for students of various age groups and community members.

Infrastructure and livelihood improvements, such as improvements in irrigation infrastructure, and small enterprise development.

Nursery work and reforestation such as tree growth monitoring and community planting campaigns.

Forest fires prevention & management including practical training, certification, and engaging communities to protect forests..



A literacy class supporting women in community-led restoration in Puna, Argentina. November 2025. Credit: Árbol y Vida

Global Forest Generation, together with ECOAN, leads Acción Andina to create lasting change through community-driven initiatives that support people and heal ecosystems.

Funds are pooled and disbursed across Acción Andina projects, ensuring that everyone moves forward together. **US\$ 2,595,483** has been disbursed for this season to date.

Media Highlights & Updates:

- GFG is hosting quarterly Acción Andina update calls. Our next one is coming up on 19 February - [Click here](#) to access the invitation and register.
- Check out the [blog post](#) written by GFG Co-founder and Board Chair, Leslie Danoff, about the importance of doing something in challenging times.

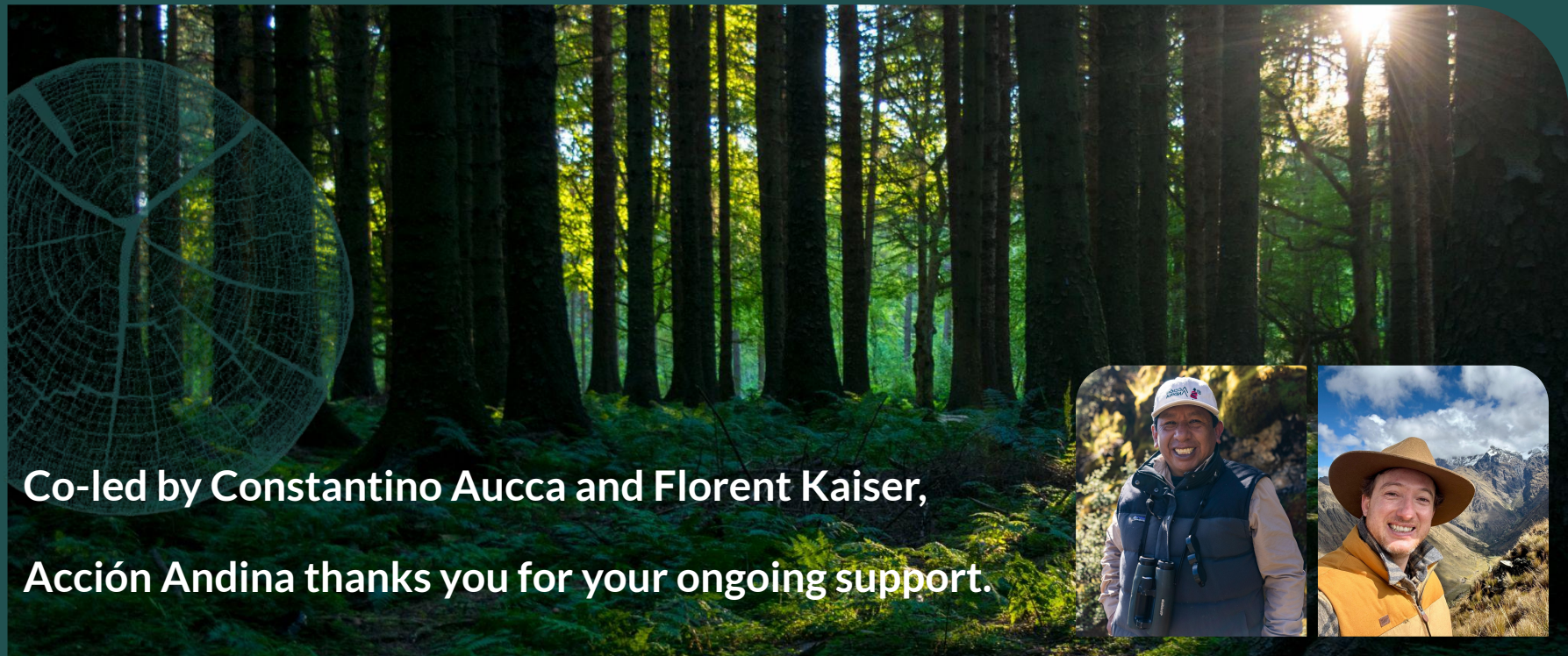


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