

MAY 2026

# Acción Andina 2025 Season Impact Report



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Co-founded by Global Forest Generation (GFG) and Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN), Acción Andina is a growing movement to restore the Andes, reviving forests, securing water, and strengthening communities across Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

At its heart are 15 local partners, leading community-driven efforts that go far beyond tree planting - restoring native forests, improving water systems, supporting microenterprises, and training the next generation of conservation leaders. Rooted in ancestral principles, Acción Andina's work not only regenerates ecosystems, but also sustains the cultural knowledge and traditions that have protected these landscapes for generations.



# SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Across the Andes, climate variability is intensifying, bringing longer dry seasons, unpredictable rains, and increasing pressure on the ecosystems that sustain water for millions. At the same time, communities are coming together to restore the forests, wetlands, and landscapes that regulate water at its source.

**This season, Acción Andina mobilized thousands of people across six countries to restore high-Andean ecosystems, strengthening water security, biodiversity, and livelihoods at scale.** Together, these efforts represent one of the largest coordinated initiatives to restore high-Andean ecosystems and protect the headwaters they sustain.

26

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

34

Local conservation leaders receiving salary support and training

2.2M

New native trees planted during this season, for a total of ~15 million trees planted since 2018

160

Local and Indigenous communities actively participating

193

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

104

Nurseries producing native species

# 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.



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.



# Acción Andina's Impact on Water

Beyond the long-term impacts all Acción Andina projects have for regional water security, **75%** of Acción Andina project sites this season included a direct, tangible water infrastructure or watershed management component.

## Ancestral Systems & Agriculture

Canal Rehabilitation: Acción Andina partners restored 4.7 kilometers of traditional irrigation canals and ancestral *Amunas* (infiltration channels) in Peru. These systems capture high-altitude rainfall and guide it underground to recharge lower-elevation springs, feeding agriculture and general water needs.



## Water Infrastructure & Community Supply

Potable & Domestic Systems: Notable projects include a potable water system in Ecuador and the 100,000L reservoir in Bolivia (left), both specifically built for domestic consumption.

Storage Solutions: A 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> reservoir was constructed in Bolivia to capture runoff for communal agriculture, while 33 household water tanks were delivered to remote families to improve safe storage (middle).

Distribution Networks: Partners installed 4.4 km of high-density piping across Bolivia and Ecuador (right) to transport water from high-altitude springs to village centers, significantly reducing water loss and directly improving food security for over 1,250 people.





## Wetland Management & Green Infrastructure

**Wetland Protection:** In the Tunari National Park, Bolivia, 12,000 hectares (left) are managed with a focus on protecting high-altitude forests by Armonía. These forests act as natural sponges, absorbing seasonal rain and slowly releasing it to downstream communities. In the highlands of Chinchicancha, Peru (right), ECOAN constructed infiltration ditches and check-dams to capture sediment and reduce runoff, directly benefiting water-dependent agriculture and other industries in the valley below.

**Natural Springs:** 1,500 hectares were formalized as a "Water Protection Zone" in Aquia, Peru by ECOAN to safeguard springs from industrial encroachment.

## 2.2M trees planted between October 2025 and April 2026



In Aquia, Peru, **380 people** representing an entire student body as well as the local community came together to plant 32,400 trees in record time.



In Tunari National Park, Bolivia, **13 communities** united for the first time to plant 236,100 trees.



In San Francisco de Cruz Loma, Ecuador, women's groups are managing seedlings for planting to restore **biological corridors** for endangered birds.

As an example of integrating traditional and western scientific knowledge, ICEA leader **Pavel Jose Atauch**i brought together members from three communities (Chúa, Kishuara, and Ocobamba) in Abancay, Peru to talk about sustainable mining and water protection as part of a series called *Allpata Amachaqkuna* (Quechua for “Guardians of the Earth”). Together they mapped links between healthy forests and the purity of communal water supplies, connecting issues they see with the decrease in quality and quantity of water supply and ways they plan to address it through restoration, livestock management, and negotiating mining agreements.



ICEA leader Pavel Atauch.



Fundación Bosquizar leader Ricardo Suárez.

**Ricardo Suárez** from Fundación Bosquizar also talks about intimate local knowledge held by the “Gaicho” (cattle ranching) families of Córdoba, Argentina. By recognizing these families as the true owners and guardians of the mountains, Suárez leverages their ancestral knowledge of the terrain and weather to ensure high survival rates for the *Polylepis australis* (Tabaquillo) plantings. Gaicho families commit to fencing off rugged, high-altitude water sources to exclude cattle, while the project reciprocates by providing technical support and infrastructure to improve livestock productivity and water access in lower, safer grazing zones.

## Native Trees planted by Acción Andina project

Country	Partner	Landscape	No. Nurseries	No. Trees	Hectares
Argentina	Árbol y Vida	Yala, Northern Argentina	4	29,850	3.1
		Puna, Northern Argentina	4	30,043	3.81
	Kallma	Tucumán, Northern Argentina	1	2,000	1
	Fundación Bosquizar	Jujuy, Northern Argentina	4	20,535	5.14
		Córdoba, Central Argentina	1	120,200	30
	Fundación Actividades Biosféricas (FAB)	Córdoba, Central Argentina	26	134,057	43.42
Bolivia	Asociación Armonía	Tunari National Park, Cochabamba, Central Bolivia	2	252,500	67.4
	Faunagua	Tunari National Park, Cochabamba, Central Bolivia	2	100,000	10.45
	Prometa	Tarija, Southern Bolivia	3	16,500	8.3
Ecuador	Aves y Conservación	Imbabura, Northern Ecuador	3	123,300	34.3
		Yanahurco, Central Ecuador	2	84,800	32.57
	Andean Adventures	Riobamba, Central Ecuador	1	55,000	7.7
	Quito Water Fund (FONAG)	Pichincha, North-central Ecuador	5	136,300	80.3
	Fundación Incana	Tungurahua, Central Ecuador	2	75,000	37.59

## Native Trees planted by Acción Andina project

Country	Partner	Landscape	No. Nurseries	No. Trees	No. Hectares
Colombia	Ecotropics	Urrao, Northwest Colombia	1	n.a.	n.a
Peru	Conservación Amazónica (ACCA)	Challabamba, Southern Peru	2	118,560	33.45
		Q'ero, Southern Peru	3	59,900	17.2
	Instituto para la Conservación de Especies Amenazadas	Abancay, Southern Peru	2	51,000	17
	Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN)	Vilcanota, Southeast Peru	20	426,900	136.6
		Ccorca, Southeast Peru	4	105,800	33.85
		Nor Yauyos Cochas, Southwest Peru	5	91,793	17.37
		Aquia, Western Peru	3	155,360	46.82
		Cajamarca, Northern Peru	1	35,000	8.43
		La Libertad, Northwestern Peru	1	32,000	8.5
Chincha, Western Peru	1	14,000	2		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>104</b>	<b>2,254,398</b>	<b>666.3</b>

\* Acción Andina Urrao, in Colombia, is still planting throughout May 2026.

\*\* Reforestation polygons will be available from August 2026.

# Argentina

Workshops & Participants: **28** workshops with **854** participants, including with schools

Topics: Pasture management, livestock management, agroecology, and tourism infrastructure and events

## Community Services & Infrastructure:

- Distribution of 156 alfalfa hay bales and maize seeds to 91 families to offset grazing restrictions; support for participation in tourism activities (Fundación Bosquizar)
- Livestock management to improve productivity through sustainable pasture management, as an alternative to forest expansion (Árbol y Vida)
- Sessions with three Indigenous communities to align goals with ancestral land rights, focusing on integrating local knowledge into a regional conservation strategy (Kallma)
- Formalization of 12 new land-use agreements, including with traditional Gaucho (cattle ranching) families (Fundación Actividades Biosféricas)



A bi-national (Argentina & Bolivia) tourism festival with Fundación Bosquiza in Jujuy.

# Bolivia

Workshops & Participants: 29 workshops with 715 total participants, including schools  
Topics: Nursery management, organic fertilizer production, and water governance



Beekeeping workshop by Prometa.



Warmi kewiñas in a weaving workshop with Faunagua.

## Community Services & Infrastructure:

- Distribution of 23 beehives to 20 families in Tarija to support a honey-based micro-enterprise (Prometa) (left)
- Distribution of efficient cookstoves to reduce fuelwood dependency and benefit health (Armonía)
- The Warmi Kewiñas (women's collective) received support to integrate forest branding into their traditional textile weaving, creating a "conservation-grade" artisan product for regional markets (Faunagua) (right)

# Ecuador

Workshops & Participants: **30** workshops with **760** participants, including with local schools  
Topics: Nursery management, importance of Polylepis forests, eco-tourism, agriculture

## Community Services & Infrastructure:

- Computers and printers provided to a community to support formalization of land titles and the management of communal restoration funds (Fundación Incana)
- Rehabilitation of "Andean Chakras" (ancestral home gardens) by distributing native seeds and organic fertilizers to 85 families (Andean Adventures)
- "Living Classroom" workshops take students outside to learn about their environment, while dairy processing kits are distributed to women's associations (FONAG)
- Training in financial and communications management for women nursery technicians, and materials for community infrastructure, such as roof repairs and water system maintenance (Aves y Conservación)



Workshop with schoolchildren in Pichincha by FONAG.



A workshop with community members at a local nursery in Abancay, Peru by ICEA.

# Peru

Workshops & Participants: **52** workshops with **1,345** participants

Topics: Ancestral irrigation (*Amunas*), fire brigade training, and conservation leadership

## Community Services & Infrastructure:

- Support for the construction of solar-heated greenhouses, which allow for the cultivation of vegetables like lettuce and tomatoes (ICEA)
- Training, path-clearing and interpretive signage provided for community-led trekking circuits (ACCA, ECOAN)
- Support for the sustainable shearing and management of Alpacas and Vicuñas, ensuring higher market prices for communal producers (ECOAN)
- Implementation of the "Fotovoz" (PhotoVoice) project, where local women use photography to document and communicate their perspectives on territory and conservation challenges. (ECOAN)

# Colombia



Nursery in Ecotropics new project in Urrao.



An environmental education day with schoolchildren.

Ecotropics joined Acción Andina in 2025, implementing a project in Urrao in the Antioquia region of Colombia.

They began working with three communities, holding environmental education workshops with **32** schoolchildren, training in plant production for **45** community members, and forest fire prevention and management training for **15** community members.

Ecotropics also provided technical assistance for sustainable cattle ranching practices to reduce pressure on forests.

## Active Conservation

Acción Andina projects engage in “active” conservation. This means that conservation areas are not only **legally recognized, but titled to entire communities with co-created management plans, or actively managed as national parks or sanctuaries.**

Many Acción Andina partners work inside protected areas, but they also work with local communities to establish them. In Bolivia, Prometa manages 10,000 hectares of protected areas and is processing two more with other institutions totalling 89,982 hectares. In Ecuador, Fundación Incana is working to establish an 80,000 hectare area, and ECOAN in Peru (who already managed 10,000 hectares) is processing 1,170 hectares more with four Indigenous communities. ECOAN also successfully established a new water protected area of 1,500 hectares in Aquia, northern Peru, this season.

## Protective Fencing

**20.8 kilometers of protective fencing were installed across the initiative this season.**

This includes fencing and designated exclusion zones in Colombia to prevent cattle grazing, as well as in Argentina, Bolivia (Tunari), and across various Peruvian landscapes to protect young seedlings and water-recharge zones from livestock grazing.



Inauguration of a water protected area of 1,500 hectares in Aquia, Peru.

## Forest Fire Prevention & Management

14 specialized workshops were held across the initiative in 2025, a significant expansion of this work from previous seasons. 291 people are now formally trained and equipped. This total includes community volunteers, local authorities, and specialized brigade members who were trained in prevention techniques, firebreak maintenance, and the use of firefighting equipment.



Community firefighter brigade training in Bolivia carried out by Armonía.

## Park Guard & Surveillance Activity

Acción Andina partners in Bolivia, Argentina, Ecuador, and Peru are working with or directly supporting 28 park guards in conservation areas. They collectively completed 156 days of patrolling this season.

Park patrols identified and mitigated threats, including 3 instances of illegal charcoal production and several cases of fence breaches by stray livestock, which were immediately repaired to protect the monitoring plots.



## Monitoring Highlights in Acción Andina Restoration Sites & Conservation Areas

Acción Andina partners monitored **87** sites this season, finding an average survival rate of **81%**. The highest survival rates were linked to production techniques, such as the hardening of seedlings in open-air nurseries before planting, increasing their chances for survival. In fenced sites in Tarija, Bolivia and Jujuy, Argentina, teams noted an increase in native grass cover and the emergence of non-planted native shrubs, once again proving the importance of excluding livestock from restoration sites.

In Challabamba, Peru, ACCA identified **21** individual Spectacled Bears (*Tremarctos ornatus*). Bears are using the restored corridors to move between high-altitude forests and lower-elevation cloud forests. ICEA, in Abancay, Southern Peru, also observed the Spectacled Bear.

In Imbabura, Ecuador and Tunari National Park, monitoring by Aves y Conservación and Faunagua revealed the presence of “indicator species” such as the Giant Conebill, Tit-Spinetail, and Cochabamba Mountain-Finch. These *Polylepis*-specialist birds were found nesting in sites that were reforested just four years ago, proving that even young forests provide functional habitat.



A Giant Conebill observed on a *Polylepis* tree branch.

## ● CHALLENGES

### Challenges faced by Acción Andina partners this season

Most challenges faced by Acción Andina partners this year were climate and weather related. These challenges reinforce the urgency of investing in resilient ecosystems and community-led solutions.

Across the initiative, nurseries faced critical water shortages during the dry months. This led to the prioritized investment in specialized infrastructure, such as the geomembrane reservoirs to prevent die-off. Other landscapes, particularly in Bolivia and Southern Peru, reported delayed rainy seasons. This shortened the optimal "planting window," forcing communities to mobilize much faster than usual to ensure seedlings could establish roots before the dry season.

During the extended dry periods, the risk of fire was a constant threat. In Argentina and Bolivia, partners had to redirect resources from planting to fire monitoring and active suppression of small brush fires near restoration plots.

In high-altitude sites (above 4,300m), unseasonal heavy frosts and unexpected snowfall events in late 2025 damaged young seedlings in nurseries that lacked adequate thermal protection, such as in Argentina, although partners were able to save the majority.

**These conditions are increasingly consistent with the climate change trends projected for Andean regions.**



Community firefighters supported by Armonía putting out a forest fire in Tunari National Park, Bolivia.



Unexpected frosts in Jujuy, Argentina led partner Árbol y Vida to spend more time in nurseries to ensure survival of growing seedlings.

## Check out these photos and videos from across the initiative this season.\*

- GFG, Acción Andina, Faunagua, and Armonía — Community Fire Brigades
- GFG, Acción Andina, and Faunagua — The Warmi Kewiñas
- Bloomberg Media — An Optimist's Guide to the Planet: "What's Next for The World?"
- CGTN — "This Week on Americas Now: Restoring the Forests in the Andes Mountains"
- FONAG — 25 Años protegiendo el agua para Quito
- G20 Global Land Initiative — "Inside Ecuador's High-Altitude Forests"
- Restoring the Andes Podcast — "Global Lessons from Ancient Wisdom - with Florent Kaiser"

\*You can use these photos and videos (with proper credit information) in your communication channels.

## International Coverage

- UN Decade on Restoration – [“A Call to Action for Humanity: Why We Must Become #GenerationRestoration”](#)
- World Economic Forum – [“3 ways nature-based solutions are tackling climate displacement in the Global South”](#)
- The Science Matters – [“The Inca Blueprint For Climate-smart Farming”](#)
- Restoration Scope – [“Acción Andina, Transforming Forest Restoration Data”](#)
- Geographical Magazine – [“How Polylepis forests are reshaping the Andes”](#)
- Google Arts & Culture – [World Wide Wood: “Festival of Trees”](#)
- Race to Resilience – [“Acción Andina’s community-led restoration builds resilience from the ground up”](#)
- Mastercard – [“Harking back to the Inca’s golden past to plant a greener future”](#)
- Mongabay – [“Project sees long-term success restoring forests in the high Andes: Study”](#)
- The Conversation – [“Lessons from the Incas: how llamas, terraces and trees could help the Andes survive climate change”](#)

## Local Coverage

- Agro Perú Informa – [“Día de la Biodiversidad: Iniciativa peruana destaca en la restauración ecológica andina”](#)
- Eju.tv Bolivia – [“Día de la Biodiversidad: Acción Andina impulsa la restauración ecológica como respuesta a la pérdida de biodiversidad en Sudamérica”](#)
- Gobierno de Tucumán, Argentina – [“Tucumán apuesta a la reforestación con queñua en los Valles”](#)
- Revista Vistazo Ecuador – [“Ecuador es parte de un programa regional de conservación de ecosistemas andinos”](#)
- News Total Jujuy – [Special report from Todo Jujuy: Tree and Life](#)

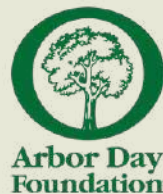
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Acción Andina is co-led by Constantino Aucca and Florent Kaiser.

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