



Livestock fields in Huasta, Tres Cuencas Commonwealth, Peru

Addressing Water and Climate Issues Through Community Adaptations in Rural Peru

PROJECT CONTACTS

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PROJECT COSTS

Assessment II Cost: \$8,600

Implementation I Cost: \$88,000

Funds Needed: \$96,650

PROJECT TIMELINE

Assessment II: Jan. 2011

Implementation I: July 2012

PERU PROGRAM

RECOGNITION

The Peru Program 501 - "New Program Application" was recognized by EWB-USA as an outstanding document and will be used as an example for other chapters.

Background

Only 2% of Peru's water resources are stored in the country's Western Andes, where approximately 70% of the population resides. Furthermore, extreme vulnerability to climate variability due to reliance on tropical glacial melt and seasonal precipitation has resulted in degraded water quality and decreased water availability for millions of agrarian villagers in the region. Twenty-five municipal districts located in the Santa, Fortaleza, and Pativilca watersheds in Ancash, Peru, have taken a proactive approach to addressing water and climate issues by forming a common entity, the Tres Cuencas Commonwealth (Commonwealth). EWB-Greater Austin (EWB-AUS) and The Mountain Institute (TMI), an international NGO, have agreed to partner with one another to implement new technologies and conservation practices to address water and climate issues in the Commonwealth.

The Need

The Commonwealth represents almost 50,000 people, in provinces where traditional farmers struggle to maintain their livelihoods as result of climate variations affecting their productivity. It has been well documented that the climate variability in this area has led to shorter and less reliable rainy seasons, resulting in significant water shortages during the dry seasons. In addition, natural heavy metal contamination in some tributaries makes the use of stream water for agriculture or consumption unhealthy. Communities in the Commonwealth have expressed the need for technical solutions for a variety of water issues including quality, storage, and efficient usage.

The EWB-USA Response

Assessment I

In August of 2011, EWB-AUS completed an initial project assessment centered on two Commonwealth communities: Huasta and Canrey Chico. Foundational relationships are now established and a memorandum of understanding is active between the Commonwealth, TMI, and EWB-AUS.

Project I

Based on information gathered in the 2011 assessment trip, EWB-AUS anticipates that the first project will be located in Huasta and address water conservation in a project to recycle waste water. The project will reclaim treated effluent and demonstrate conservation gains through a combination of enclosed pipeline, sprinkler, and/or drip irrigation systems. The project will irrigate a currently unused section of community-owned pasture resulting in a shared economic gain estimated at \$10,000 a year.

Moving Forward

EWB-AUS will continue to develop long-term relationships with the Commonwealth, TMI, and community members to facilitate local participation, logistical support, and fundraising. The success of the first project will serve as a model for replicating other water and climate adaption projects in communities of the Commonwealth.

PARTNERS



MANCOMUNIDAD
TRES CUENCAS



THE MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE



Engineers Without Borders-USA (EWB-USA) is a non-profit organization established in 2000 to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life.

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