



POSNER CENTER
**INTERNATIONAL
COLLABORATION FUND**

Final Report

Implementing Organizations:

Project Name: The Restoration and Protection of *Bofedales* in Alpaca Communities

Please respond to the following questions in a format of your choice (typed, handwritten, video) or request a meeting with the Posner team to discuss your responses on a recorded video call. Your responses do not have to be perfectly articulated; the Posner team will ask clarifying questions and format your responses to the donors' preferred report format.

Project Outcomes & Impact

1. **What did this ICF grant allow you to accomplish? What were the major successes of your project? How did you evaluate success?**

We believe that our project, "The Restoration and Protection of Bofedales in Alpaca Communities," was successful due to the following factors:

- The project not only **aligned with ICF's institutional mission**, but it **addressed Sustainable Development Goals** #1 - No Poverty, #8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth, #12 - Responsible Production and Consumption, #13 - Climate Action, and #15 - Life on Land.
- Because of climate change and anthropogenic factors the grasslands and wetlands of the beneficiary alpaca communities (Coarita, La Unión, Pucarayllu, Alto Pucarayllu and Sapanccota) have been affected over time, reducing their area. With the implementation of the project, these **areas are in the process of being restored**, guaranteeing the availability of food for their alpacas. This action has ultimately led to an **economic improvement** for the beneficiary families and has **improved their quality of life**.
- The project **incorporated ancestral practices** and **techniques** during its implementation. This has included pasture fertilization, rotational grazing, pasture closure, among other techniques. These actions have been reflected in the creation of individual intervention plans of each beneficiary.
- The project allowed for the **formation of alliances** between different institutions such as: The Chijnaya Foundation, Wichay Association and Pro-DIA Association. This partnership demonstrates that collaborations were fundamental to achieving a coordinated work plan that was carried out successfully.
- The project **strengthened the trust that our partner communities have in our organization**, Asociación Pro DIA, encouraging a sustainable long-term



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commitment to development projects for the same beneficial activities while also allowing for word of mouth of its success to encourage neighboring communities to work towards their own development.

Specific tangible indicators that further confirm the success of our project include:

- There has been an improvement in the quality of the pastures located on the Pucarayllu and Sapancota beneficiaries' properties. A comparative analysis with the information obtained during the baseline analysis shows a significant increase in the yield of biomass composed of different native species. We believe that this is due to factors such as the late onset of rainfall (second half of March) in these areas, the implementation of fertilization practices on the farms, the location of the farms in the headwaters of the watershed, and the presence of greater vegetation cover which has allowed for greater soil moisture retention.
 - In the case of the other beneficiary communities such as La Unión, Alto Pucarayllu and Coarita, yields have been lower, which is mainly related to the low rainfall recorded in these areas as well as the quality of the soil (Coarita).
- **Thirteen micro reservoirs with geomembranes have been** installed in the communities of: La Union, Pucarayllu and Coarita.

The purpose of these micro-reservoirs is to capture and divert water from a nearby spring, preserving the water recharge area that feeds back into the spring. In addition, they also serve for "water harvesting," storing it for later distribution to the beneficiaries' properties.

- The purpose of the distribution of seeds for cultivated pastures and materials for the enclosure of their pastures (sticks and cattle netting) is to **encourage the beneficiaries to conserve and recover their pastures**. It should be noted that many of the beneficiaries are waiting for the next phase of the project to plant and install the mesh, and to date only 5,800 meters of cattle mesh has been installed.
- **61 "Individual Intervention Plans" were developed** to improve pastures and manage water consumption. These plans were personalized, considering each beneficiary's environment and reality.



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- The **intervention area was increased from protecting 40 hectares of pastures to 70.10 hectares.** This was a response of the communities once they understood and started witnessing the success of the project.
 - **A Communal Tool Bank was established,** consisting of wheelbarrow, shovel, pickaxe, pry bar, and crowbar. Considering that the proposed activities regarding the water and pasture components required tools to facilitate labor, we found it pertinent to manage the acquisition and delivery of a tool kit for each beneficiary community. The possession of these tools is collective, and the management of their use is under the administration and responsibility of the authorities and members of the community. An "individual loan" has been implemented for each user so that they can carry out the actions set out in their plans, and once completed, they are required to return the tools to the same community.
2. **For objectives not met, or major milestones that were delayed, please identify any challenges, different steps you could have taken or lessons learned.**

As mentioned in the previous report, as part of the project **we have faced challenges related to the climate factors (water scarcity from a drought) and social factors (protests)** that have occurred in the intervention area. We adopted strategies that have mitigated their effects, limiting the objectives initially set and leaving us with lessons learned.

Climate factors

Since the end of 2022, the department of Puno has been suffering from a severe drought, which is still the situation today. Livestock and agricultural activities have been the most affected. The response of authorities to this situation has been the issuance of several legal norms, the most recent being the "Declaration of emergency due to the imminent danger of a water deficit," which includes Puno, among other departments of Peru. This situation enables Regional and Local Governments to implement disaster management actions within their jurisdiction to mitigate their effects and thus cope with the shortage of rainfall.

The measure adopted by the authorities (construction of wells) does not apply to the alpaca region, meaning the communities affected by this project were not contemplated to receive this support.



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Although we have carried out the activities that were proposed in the "Individual Intervention Plans" in both water and pasture components, our expected results have not been obtained. Additional rainfall was required for their implementation.

Social factors

From December 2022 to March 2023, the department of Puno observed an "indefinite strike," with a closure of public and private institutions, schools, businesses, among others. The entire population was subjected to a lockout, since the highways were blocked, limiting the movement and transit of people and vehicles.

Considering that the physical office of Asociación Pro-DIA (our counterpart organization in Peru) is in the district of Pucara, the work team was forced to suspend its face-to-face activities, returning to the virtual world with the limits that this implies, without being able to travel to the alpaca farming communities in order to continue with the technical accompaniment and the activities planned within the project. Therefore, we had to reschedule activities starting in April when the strike was lifted, thus extending the deadline for the completion of the second stage of the project.

Faced with these challenges, the team had to adapt to them, for which the following strategies were proposed within the project:

- Without the possibility of being able to travel to the physical office, located in the district of Pucara, we had to return to the implementation of remote work.
- Effective and fluid communication with our technical team and beneficiaries has been essential for making shared decisions and adjusting to unforeseen situations.
- Flexibility with the rescheduling of scheduled and planned activities with the beneficiaries, postponing them to a later date and when social conditions were optimal.
- With businesses closed due to the social conflict, we had to postpone the purchase of seeds and fencing materials (mesh, sticks, etc.).

On the other hand, we believe that one of the steps we could have taken was to strengthen risk management among all parties involved in the project, which would have allowed us to mitigate delays in some activities.

A lesson learned is the importance of continuous monitoring of the meteorological reports issued by SENAMHI (National Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Peru) in the department of Puno, which allows us to foresee and manage short and medium-term risks within the project.



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3. **What lessons did you learn that would be valuable to others and how can we help you share them?**

We learned that it is necessary to have a "Contingency Plan" to face unforeseen situations, whether climatological or social, including strategies to deal with different scenarios and thus minimize the impact that these could have on the implementation of a project. The formation of a contingency plan will ensure that the proposed objectives will be met.

Our experience could be shared on the Posner Center's digital platforms.

4. **How did completing the Equity & Power Analysis provided by the Posner Center impact this project or your teams, if at all?**

Completing the Equity and Power Analysis provided by the Posner Center had an important impact on our team and on the project. During the development of the workshops the analysis was addressed, encouraging the participation and empowerment of the beneficiaries who have been active in the proposal and implementation of the activities contained in the "Individual Intervention Plans." This has allowed for decision-making to be comprehensive and inclusive, with an effective understanding of the dynamics of power and equity in the communities.

On the other hand, it has improved community participation, and the decision-making was democratic, involving all beneficiaries, both men and women.

It has taught the whole team to consistently apply Equity and Power Analysis within projects to ensure that they are inclusive and equitable.

5. **In what way(s) will this effort continue? Consider both the learning from this project as well as the continuation of this project or partnerships. If the effort will continue, how will it be sustained? If there are no plans to continue the project or effort, why not?**

The recovery of wetlands and restoration of native pastures is a gradual process that can take several years. The results can be observed in the short, mid, and long term, depending on several factors such as the state of soil erosion, pasture degradation, among others. It is important to be able to continue with the identified activities and plans to guarantee the sustainability of the project and obtain results. Therefore, our efforts will focus on:

- Continue training beneficiary communities to strengthen the focus on climate resilience in the face of climate change, respecting their ancestral knowledge and traditional practices.



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- Explore funding and collaboration opportunities with other private entities focused on sustainable development and biodiversity conservation, to continue with the activities planned within the project.
- Seek alliances with government entities focused on tree planting, planting and water harvesting in the high Andean zones and protection of Andean ecosystems.
- Carry out periodic monitoring visits to the beneficiaries' farms to follow up on the status of the pastures.
- Conduct workshops with the beneficiary communities to modify the individual plans initially proposed, considering the water deficit conditions that the Peruvian altiplano has been facing. Demand other emergency measures and additional activities that allow us to adjust the intervention strategies.
- Extend the installation of geomembrane wells to more beneficiaries, as well as the installation of mesh.
- Elaborate a "Contingency Plan" that includes a follow-up of the meteorological reports issued by SENAMHI as well as strategies to respond to social contingencies that may arise in the future.
- Continue documenting our experiences and lessons learned within the project.

Partnership and Collaboration *Share more about how the work went..*

6. Within your collaborative partnerships: What worked and didn't work? What did you learn from your successes and failures?

What worked:

1. Collaboration between the organizations has been effective and productive. Each of the organizations has played an important role in the project, such as:
 - Financing, through the contribution of economic resources (Chijnaya Foundation).
 - Field experience, technical assistance, and access to the Pro DIA-Network); and
 - Active participation of the alpaca communities in the different stages, which has allowed the activities carried out to be in line with their individual reality



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and local context, considering their ancestral knowledge and traditional practices in pasture and water management. This is reflected in the "Individual Intervention Plans".

This synergy between the institutions has allowed the project management to assume commitments, establish strategies and coordinate processes to achieve the proposed objectives.

2. Periodic meetings and fluid communication for the execution, follow-up and monitoring of the activities programmed within the project, as well as making joint decisions during the challenges we faced (protests and drought).
3. The decision to create a "Community Tool Bank" as well as the installation of the geomembrane wells. This has turned out to be a good idea, since it has motivated the beneficiaries to become more involved in the activities proposed in their "Individual Intervention Plans" and to conserve the scarce water on the beneficiaries' properties for its efficient distribution.

What has not worked:

1. The fact that we did not have a "Contingency Plan" in the project meant delays and a limited impact on the objectives set. With the extended absence of rain and the social protests that took place in the intervention area, we were limited in our ability to travel to the alpaca communities to provide technical advice, as well as the respective monitoring and evaluation.
2. The opportunity for the distribution of seeds for the installation of cultivated pastures was delayed, due to the protests and road blockades. This meant the planting of seeds was also delayed.
3. We understand that it is necessary to plan for an "emergency" scenario in the event of social upheaval or water shortages that may occur within the project, and alternative strategies should be considered to avoid suspending programmed activities.

Resources *Share resources with the Posner Center Community. Ensure you have consent to share from all authors, producers, or people in each shared item.*

7. **Are there any collaboration tools or lessons learned you would be willing to share with others in the Posner Center community? Please include a link or email them to lauren@posnercenter.org.**

None for the moment



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8. **Are there any photos or screenshots you can share with us of the project so far? Please include a link or email them to lauren@posnercenter.org.**

Please find the photos attached

Feedback *Provide feedback to the Posner Center.*

9. **What feedback do you have for the Posner Center and the International Collaboration Fund in the following areas:**
 - A. **Centering equity and inclusion in the grantmaking process**
 - B. **Responding to grantees' needs**
 - C. **Communication**
 - D. **Reporting requirements (including this progress report)**
 - E. **Anything else:**

It would be interesting if, through the Posner Center, organizations that have received support could share their experiences and testimonies. This exchange of information could be valuable for both parties, as it would allow them to establish activities, anticipate scenarios or challenges that may arise in the implementation of the project.