

## ***Acción Andina 2023/2024 Final Season Report*** **May 2024**



*Polylepis* forest landscape in Jujuy, Argentina. January 2024. Credit: Árbol y Vida

⇒ **15 implementing partners**      ⇒ **5 countries**      ⇒ **22 project landscapes**

- 1,183 hectares reforested: 98 nurseries producing 3.4 million native trees planted in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru;
- 33 project leaders and 210 project coordinator and nursery staff supported at local partner organizations;
- 117 local communities and an estimated 25,000 people participating in restoration and conservation activities.

[Global Forest Generation](#) (GFG) is enormously grateful for your support to GFG and [Acción Andina](#). January 2023 to March 2024 was *Acción Andina*'s sixth season. Six seasons of implementing high quality, holistic forest restoration through growing existing projects and on-the-ground implementing partner organization capacities, and adding new partners and projects every season. Testament to the dedication and commitment of local *Acción Andina* partners and communities in project landscapes, internationally led by ECOAN and GFG, are two major recognitions: winning [The Earthshot Prize](#) and the designation of *Acción Andina* as a [UN World Restoration Flagship](#) initiative.

These awards and recognition are proof of the growing impact of *Acción Andina* in the high Andes and across the region, as well as the particularly collaborative and coordinated nature of the initiative. One exemplifying event is the *Acción Andina* partner summit, which took place in Córdoba, Argentina in September 2023. *Acción Andina* partners see the initiative as much more than a “program,” and are eager to grow their organizations and projects, as well as actively participate in the strategic scaling of *Acción Andina*. We are pleased to share this [most recent video](#) to demonstrate the diversity and far-reaching impacts of local *Acción Andina* partners in their own words.

[We invite you to view select photo and video highlights from the season here.](#)

## **ACCIÓN ANDINA 2023-2024 RESULTS**

*Acción Andina's* holistic approach to forest ecosystem restoration and conservation includes diverse activities in reforestation, protection of existing forests, local leadership development, and local community engagement and support. In the 2023-2024 season, *Acción Andina* included 15 local partner organizations implementing projects in 22 high Andean forest landscapes in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru.

### 2023-2024 *Acción Andina* Restoration Activities & Results

This season *Acción Andina* added three new local partners to the initiative and launched a total of five new projects. In Argentina, Fundación Bosquizar added a project in Jujuy, northern Argentina, where it expanded one existing nursery and built three more in three communities. Germinar, a new partner in Tucumán, northern Argentina, has been working with one existing nursery, and has decided to build a second one for next season closer to reforestation sites after experiencing some difficulties with transporting seedlings during heavy rains. These experiences are typical for new partners, who regularly receive support from other *Acción Andina* partners and the *Acción Andina* management team to make improvements for future project implementation. In Chile, for example, new partner Bosques y Vida built one nursery, but it took longer than expected to reach agreements with the community it works with in Tarapacá, northern Chile. While this meant it would only be able to plant its goal of 5,500 *Polylepis* in April 2024, *Acción Andina* is a long-term initiative that promotes taking the time to build positive relationships with local communities.

In Peru, new partner Instituto para la Conservación de Especies Amenazadas (ICEA) launched a project in Abancay, southern Peru, where it built one nursery and involved over 150 people from the local community in reforestation activities. Also in Peru, *Acción Andina* co-founder and lead implementing agency ECOAN launched one new project in Calipuy, northwestern Peru. There ECOAN is working within the Calipuy National Sanctuary, growing and planting native trees with seven communities. The table on the following page shows tree planting results for all *Acción Andina* partners and projects this season.

Table 1. *Acción Andina* Local Partners, Projects, Native Trees Planted, and Staff Supported

Country	<i>Acción Andina</i> Partner	Project Location	Native Trees Planted	Hectares Reforested <sup>1</sup>	Species planted (%)	Number of Nurseries	Project Leaders	Nursery Leaders/ Project Coordinator Staff
Argentina	<a href="#">Fundación Bosquizar</a>	Córdoba, Central Argentina	178,352	55.74	100% <i>Polylepis australis</i>	1	1	8
		Jujuy, Northern Argentina	55,680	15.9	100% <i>Polylepis tomentella</i>	4	1	3
	<a href="#">Fundación Actividades Biosféricas (FAB)</a>	Córdoba, Central Argentina	229,057	60.28	100% <i>Polylepis australis</i>	17	2	8
	<a href="#">Germinar</a>	Tucumán, Northern Argentina	35,000	10	100% <i>Polylepis australis</i>	1	1	1
	<a href="#">Árbol y Vida</a>	Jujuy, Northern Argentina	70,000	17.18	71% <i>Polylepis australis</i> ; 29% <i>Polylepis tomentella</i>	6	2	8
Bolivia	<a href="#">Asociación Armonía</a>	Tunari National Park, Cochabamba, Central Bolivia	320,280	71.8	56% <i>Polylepis subtusalbida</i> , 44% Other high Andean species ( <i>Kageneckia lanceolata</i> , <i>Schinus molle</i> , <i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> , <i>Buddleja coriacea</i> , <i>Alnus acuminata</i> )	2	2	6
	<a href="#">Faunagua</a>	Tunari National Park, Cochabamba, Central Bolivia	150,000	19.07	100% <i>Polylepis</i> ( <i>P. pacencis</i> and <i>P. Pepei</i> )	2	2	5
Chile	<a href="#">Bosques y Vida</a>	Tarapacá, Northern Chile	5,500	4.58	100% Other high Andean species	2	1	2
	<a href="#">Aves y Conservación</a>	Imbabura, Northern Ecuador	167,642	81.23	100% <i>Polylepis</i> spp. ( <i>P. pauta</i> , <i>P. reticulata</i> , <i>P. ochreatea</i> )	2	3	3
		Yanahurco, Central Ecuador	102,320	39	100% <i>Polylepis</i> spp. ( <i>P. pauta</i> , <i>P. incana</i> )	1		14
	<a href="#">Andean Adventures</a>	Riobamba, Central Ecuador	245,000	142.61	100% <i>Polylepis incana</i>	4	3	7

<sup>1</sup> *Acción Andina* partners also provide shapefiles of reforestation sites, which contain more accurate information and will be available from July 2024.

	<a href="#">Fondo Páramos de Tungurahua (a water protection fund)</a>	Tungurahua, Central Ecuador	280,000	99.67	62% Polylepis (P. sericea, P. incana, P. reticulata), 38% Other high Andean species (Gynoxys buxifolia, Buddleja incana, Alnus acuminata, Vallea stipularis, Oreopanax ecuadorensis)	5	1	1
	<a href="#">Fondo para la Protección de Agua (FONAG - a water protection fund)</a>	Pichincha, North-central Ecuador	227,000	162.29	43% Polylepis; 57% Other high Andean species (Gynoxys acostae, Buddleja incana, Aegiphila ferruginea, Oreopanax ecuadorensis, Baccharis odorata, Myrcianthes hallii, Cedrela montanta, Morella pubescens, Laurel de cera)	10	2	15
Peru	<a href="#">Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN)</a>	Vilcanota, Southeast Peru	600,150	135.44	98% Polylepis spp, 2% Gynoxys sp.	20	3	25
		Ccorca, Southeast Peru	87,100	19.69	100% Polylepis spp.	2		1
		Nor Yauyos Cochas, Southwest Peru	114,400	12.09	100% Polylepis racemosa	5	2	4
		Aquia, Western Peru	200,150	100	100% Polylepis spp.	5	1	4
		Cajamarca, Northern Peru	35,000	17.49	100% Polylepis spp.	2	1	2
		Calipuy, Northwestern Peru	30,000	14.99	100% Polylepis spp.	1		1
	<a href="#">Instituto para la Conservación de Especies Amenazadas (ICEA)</a>	Abancay, Southern Peru	45,000	19.1	100% Polylepis spp.	1	2	2
	<a href="#">Conservación Amazónica (ACCA)</a>	Q'ero, Southern Peru	66,906	17.7	47% Polylepis spp. (P. serrata, P. rodolfo vasquezii); 53% Other high Andean species	3	2	40
Challabamba, Southern Peru		162,229	67.22	62% Polylepis incana; 38% Other high Andean species (Alnus acuminata, Gynoxys spp., Escallonia resinosa)	2	1	50	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3,406,766</b>	<b>1,183.06</b>		<b>98</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>210</b>



Nursery construction completed in Atancama community in Abancay, Peru. May 2023. Credit: CEA

### Leadership Development & Local Partner Capacity-Building

*Acción Andina* provides ongoing leadership support to local partner organizations in an effort to make viable, long-term careers in conservation possible in these remote, high Andean environments. This season US \$364,445 was disbursed to 33 conservation leaders, and US \$572,467 to 210 project coordinators and nursery managers, and many more part-time nursery technicians. This season local partners were also able to travel to learn from each other: *Árbol y Vida*, an *Acción Andina* partner in northern Argentina, traveled to Bolivia to join *Armonía* and *Faunagua*, *Acción Andina*'s two Bolivian partners, for a *Polylepis* propagation training held by ECOAN. Back in Argentina, it spread this knowledge in three training workshops for community nursery technicians (25 participants).

*Acción Andina* partners also mix nursery technicians from different nurseries and projects to share knowledge and expertise. In Ecuador, *Andean Adventures* conducted large group training sessions with nursery technicians from different nurseries, while *Aves y Conservación* brought technicians from its five-year *Pichincha* project to help train those in its *Imbabura* project. *Fundación Bosquizar*,

in Argentina, also brought nursery technicians from its Córdoba project to help train technicians in the new project it launched in Jujuy.

In addition to regular training in propagation techniques, ECOAN in Peru also sent staff from its Vilcanota project to a course on forest seed management, with a special emphasis on *Polylepis*. In Bolivia, the *Warmi Kewiñas* trained by Faunagua and managing *Polylepis* propagation and organizing reforestation campaigns, have become well known: [a special report](#) by DW - a German television network - showcased their important role in community-led high Andean forest restoration.

### Community Engagement and Impacts

Thousands of people participate in *Acción Andina* reforestation events, from indigenous communities in Queuña Raymi tree planting festivals in Peru and university students in Argentina, to volunteers from private businesses in Ecuador and military brigades in Ecuador and Bolivia. *Acción Andina* projects brings all of these people together to restore a uniquely important ecosystem responsible for the water security of the continent. Through ongoing engagement with all of these participants throughout the season, their commitment to the initiative's goals grows.

Together with *Acción Andina* partner organizations, local communities determine: where nurseries will be built and how they will be managed; land management practices including setting aside land for reforestation and conservation of existing forests; and what products and services the local partner organization can provide with *Acción Andina* funds that will contribute to more sustainable resource management, and increase food and water security. In northern Peru, for example, ECOAN is working with the community of Aquia. The community chose to install 4 kilometers of irrigation tubing, affecting 120 families, as this infrastructure would impact the most people.

In Bolivia, Armonía set up 11 agroforestry plots with communities, including practical workshops on how to cultivate and manage this kind of agriculture. Armonía also constructed two water reservoirs in two communities, and is working with the Ministry of Education to create environmental education texts where students in the region will have a curriculum about the natural environment where they live. In Ecuador, Páramos de Tungurahua, a water fund, distributed 100 home garden kits that include lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, beets, spinach, celery, and onion.

These activities are incredibly diverse across the initiative and continue to grow each season, impacting thousands of families in hundreds of communities. The table on the following page attempts to summarize these important activities, and GFG will continue to promote and broadcast them across our other channels.

Table 2. *Acción Andina* 2023/24 Local Partner Community Engagement and Services Summary

Country	<i>Acción Andina</i> Partner	Project Location	Community Product & Services Provided	Community Impact	Environmental Education	Participants
Argentina	<a href="#">Fundación Bosquizar</a>	Córdoba, Central Argentina			4 Workshops	200 secondary and high school students 68 high school students 15 university students 16 volunteers from another NGO and public
		Jujuy, Northern Argentina			2 Workshops	47 students, 5 teachers 67 students
	<a href="#">Fundación Actividades Biosféricas (FAB)</a>	Córdoba, Central Argentina	Ecotourism Infrastructure	Roof of refuge fixed, bathrooms installed, solar panels installed	8 workshops and field trips  Earth Day Event	130 high school, secondary school and primary school students 10 family members accompanied a field trip of primary school students 100 students, 15 teachers, 3 reserve park guards
	<a href="#">Germinar</a>	Tucumán, Northern Argentina			2 Workshop	20 participants from the community 3 communities participating
	<a href="#">Árbol y Vida</a>	Jujuy, Northern Argentina			3 Workshops  2 Agriculture at home trainings	University of Jujuy with 104 participants University of Jujuy with 25 students With 4 communities 30 (16 women) and 27 (17 women) participants
Bolivia	<a href="#">Asociación Armonía</a>	Tunari National Park, Cochabamba, Central Bolivia	Agroforestry plots Irrigation and water infrastructure Water reservoirs Forest Fire Prevention & Management	11 agroforestry plots created 10 sets of tubing provided to 1 community 2 reservoirs constructed for 2 communities	Environmental education curriculum	Created for regional schools with the Ministry of Education of Bolivia

				15 sets of equipments across 4 communities		
	<a href="#">Faunagua</a>	Tunari National Park, Cochabamba, Central Bolivia	Irrigation and water infrastructure Clean cookstoves	Made improvements in 6 communities through strengthening existing infrastructure and providing tubing Testing with 10 cookstoves	36 Workshops	335 community members (141 women)
Chile	<a href="#">Bosques y Vida</a>	Tarapacá, Chile	Ecotourism training and awareness	5 workshops with 1 community		
Ecuador	<a href="#">Aves y Conservación</a>	Imbabura, Northern Ecuador	Water catchment systems Livestock management Community infrastructure Local agriculture Irrigation and water infrastructure	Improved 1 system benefitting 225 families 2 workshops with 2 communities (62 participants) Improved community hall, bridge, and bathrooms in 1 community 2 mortiño (Andean berry) cultivation workshops (78 participants) Delivery of tubing in 4 communities		
		Yanahurco, Central Ecuador	Community infrastructure Livestock management Local agriculture	Maintenance on community hall and school in 1 community 1 workshop with 9 participants 1 mortiño (Andean berry) cultivation workshop (20 participants)		
	<a href="#">Andean Adventures</a>	Riobamba, Central Ecuador	Water catchment systems	3 impacting 400, 380, and 400 community members respectively	2 Workshops	150 primary and secondary school students Representatives from 4 communities



	<a href="#">Fondo Páramos de Tungurahua (a water protection fund)</a>	Tungurahua, Central Ecuador	Local agriculture Irrigation and water infrastructure Natural Disaster Management	100 garden kits distributed in one parish Tubing for potable water in 2 communities Workshop for 37 participants from local communities	25 Workshops for schools 1 Workshop for the public Earth Day Event Biodiversity Day Event Recycling Workshop National Parks Day Event	917 high school and secondary school students 34 community members 350 participants from local communities 244 participants from local communities 132 participants from local communities 160 participants from local communities
	<a href="#">Fondo para la Protección de Agua (FONAG - a water protection fund)</a>	Pichincha, North-central Ecuador			7 workshops 5 field trips  1 Community leadership workshop	357 students total 30 staff from Ministry of Education 35 staff from Ministry of Health 45 youth from summer camps 34 adults and 45 students 51 high school students 17 participants
Peru	<a href="#">Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN)</a>	Vilcanota, Southeast Peru	Artisanal clean cookstoves distribution  Forest Fire Prevention & Management Ecotourism infrastructure	300 distributed to as many families in 3 communities 60 community members 11 communities on Vilcanota Trek	Radio spots	10 local and municipal radio spots on importance of Polylepis forests and water security
		Ccorca, Southeast Peru	Irrigation and water source management	Cleaned and maintained 8.5km of water channels affecting 2 communities	Radio spots	10 local radio spots about importance of Polylepis forests and caring for reforestation sites
		Nor Yauyos Cochas, Southwest Peru	Community infrastructure Livestock management	Maintenance on 1 community hall Installed fencing with 1 community and created a	3 Workshop for schools	60 secondary and high school students total

				refuge for livestock in 1 community		
		Acquia, Western Peru	Irrigation and water infrastructure	4km of tubing affecting 120 families	2 Workshops for schools 1 Field trip 1 Workshop with community members	54 primary and secondary school students 75 primary and secondary school students Before reforestation event, gave away 1000 plants for home cultivation
		Cajamarca, Northern Peru	Water catchment system and irrigation	Installed 1 system and tubing in 1 community	1 Workshop with schools 1 Workshop with community members	350 Students Participants from 2 communities
		Calipuy, Northwestern Peru			8 Workshops for community members 1 Field trip	8 communities 4 schools
	<a href="#">Instituto para la Conservación de Especies Amenazadas (ICEA)</a>	Abancay, Southern Peru	Irrigation and water infrastructure	Tubing provided affecting 120 families	10 Workshops for community members 1 Workshop for schools	336 participants 18 primary school students
	<a href="#">Conservación Amazónica (ACCA)</a>	Q'ero, Southern Peru	Local agriculture Livestock management Forest Fire Prevention & Management	3 greenhouses built and equipped in 2 communities Provided fencing materials to 20 families 43 community members trained	1 Field trip 1 Workshop for community members	1 primary school 20 participants
		Challabamba, Southern Peru	Irrigation and water infrastructure	261 rolls of tubing to as many families 280 families affected overall by maintenance to irrigation infrastructure	50 years of Manu National Park 2 Workshops for community members 2 Field trips 3 Workshops for schools	500 participants 200 participants; 1 community 3 primary schools 2 primary schools, 1 secondary school



Two-day forest fire prevention workshop in Japu Nación in Q'ero, Peru. July 2023. Credit: ACCA

### High Andean Forest Conservation

Ongoing protection of high Andean forests takes many forms in *Acción Andina* projects, from signing agreements with local communities who agree to conserve existing forest patches, to working with regional and national government agencies to create protected areas and management plans. In Aquia, Peru, for example, ECOAN turned in a final proposal for the creation of a new protected area, which the community of Aquia has stated it will recognize regardless of the legal outcome.

In Ecuador, Aves y Conservación hired two park guards from local communities located in the Water Protected Area of Otavalo, Mojanda, which it helped establish last season, who will help inform and provide direction to visitors to the area. The guards are also trained in forest fire prevention and management. Hiring the park guards is part of a greater management plan Aves y Conservación developed with communities and government institutions, which includes environmental education workshops, and scientific research about the area's biodiversity.

Similarly, Fundación Actividades Biosféricas in Córdoba province, Argentina, work with park guards in the Pampa de Achala Provincial Water Reserve to repair fencing and other infrastructure, inform and provide direction to visitors, and observe signs of invasive exotic species. Also in Argentina, Fundación Bosquizar reviewed 46 kilometers of previously installed fencing, making repairs where necessary. In many cases this fencing serves to keep livestock away from fragile forest patches. In Ecuador, FONAG also helps communities with livestock management and provides fencing to prevent horses and cattle from entering restoration and conservation sites, installing an additional

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6.3 kilometers of fencing just this season. In Q'ero, Peru, Conservación Amazónica provides similar services, installing one kilometer of livestock mesh in one community.

Forest fire prevention and management remains a priority topic in *Acción Andina*, where project landscapes have seen more forest fire events in the last few years. In Bolivia, where Armonía has trained more than 100 people from nine communities since 2021, 15 additional sets of firefighting equipment were provided to four community firefighter brigades. In Peru, ECOAN provided hands-on, practical training to 60 people in its Vilcanota project, provided equipment to two communities in its Ccorca project, and established and equipped a community firefighter brigade in its Nor Yauyos Cochabamba project.

As *Acción Andina* launches its seventh season in 2024, we look forward to keeping all of our supporters updated on our progress, and sharing new developments and improvements in the management of the initiative.

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### **ACCIÓN ANDINA CO-LEADS**

[Global Forest Generation](#) is a US-based 501(c)3 organization uniting local leaders and their communities across national borders to bring lost and degraded forest ecosystems back to life. As lead strategic partner of *Acción Andina*, GFG is guided by three fundamental principles: culture and community - building long-term trusted partnerships; collaboration - providing a critical bridge between on-the-ground conservation partners and global agencies and institutions; scale - bringing together a network of like-minded organizations who would otherwise work alone and ensuring benefits from shared resources and time-tested restoration approaches.

[Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos](#) is a Peruvian conservation non-profit and lead administrative and implementation partner of *Acción Andina*. ECOAN provides long-term protection and restoration of threatened Andean ecosystems in partnership with local communities and authorities, while ensuring quality project management, data collection and monitoring, and resolving day-to-day operational challenges and facilitating information exchange among *Acción Andina* partners.