

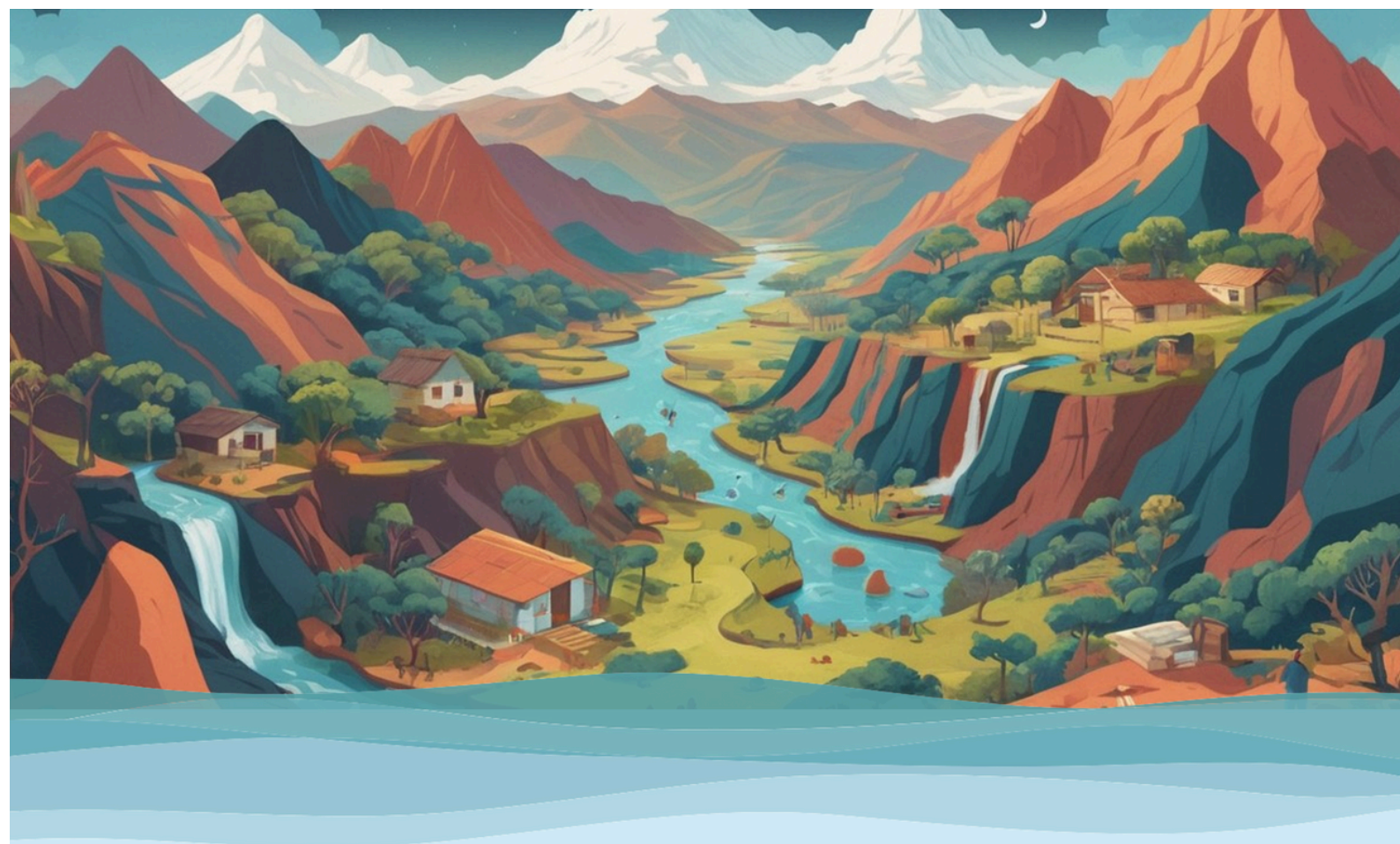


CIIFEN

International Research Centre on El Niño

Newsletter

October 2025



Dear Readers,

Over the years, the International Research Centre on El Niño (CIIFEN) has consolidated a vision of coordinated work with various stakeholders, convinced that international, inter-institutional, and community cooperation is fundamental to achieving sustainable and impactful results. The joint construction of solutions and the exchange of experiences strengthen collective capacity to face climate risks and advance toward more prepared and resilient societies.

As part of this effort, CIIFEN develops and publishes informative bulletins that gather progress, learnings, and relevant experiences within the framework of strategic projects linked to climate risk management, food security, and territorial resilience.

In the first part of this edition, we introduce CIIFEN, the Regional Climate Centre for Western South America (RCC-WSA), as well as some of our initiatives, such as specialized bulletins and the Climate Volunteer Network - Volunclima.

In the second part, we share the main milestones of currently running projects, such as ENANDES+, Andes-Droughts (Araucliclima Program), the Multi-Hazards Response Plans developed jointly with the World Food Programme, and the PROGRESS Project.

Working with strategic partners allows us to broaden horizons, combine capacities, and reach more territories that need information and tools to better adapt to the impacts of droughts, extreme rainfalls, and other hydrometeorological events.

We invite you to browse through the pages of this bulletin, where you will find relevant information about ongoing projects, as well as reflections on the importance of linking science, public policies, and community action to face the challenges of climate variability and climate change.

WHO ARE WE?

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1. Within the framework of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 54/220, focused on promoting international cooperation to mitigate the effects of the El Niño Phenomenon, and in accordance with the Guayaquil Declaration of November 13, 1998, the creation of an international research center on the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon in Ecuador was proposed

To materialize this initiative, a strategic alliance was established among three key sponsors: the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR, currently UNDRR), and the Government of Ecuador. As a result of this joint effort, on January 10, 2003, the International Research Center on El Niño Phenomenon (CIIFEN) was inaugurated in Guayaquil, Ecuador. This milestone marked the creation of an inter-agency mechanism designed to address the challenges associated with this climate phenomenon.

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Since its founding, CIIFEN has obtained important institutional achievements. In 2009, it was awarded the Sasakawa Merit Mention, a prestigious global recognition for the best initiatives in disaster reduction. Subsequently, in 2015, the World Meteorological Organization's Congress designated CIIFEN as the Regional Climate Center for Western South America (RCC-WSA), consolidating its role as a regional reference in climate management.

During the 2015-2016 period, the world faced one of the most intense El Niño events recorded since 1950, in a context of record global temperatures. Faced with this challenge, CIIFEN mobilized all its capacities to provide crucial information to countries in the region and other parts of the world. This effort was widely recognized in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/110 in December 2015.

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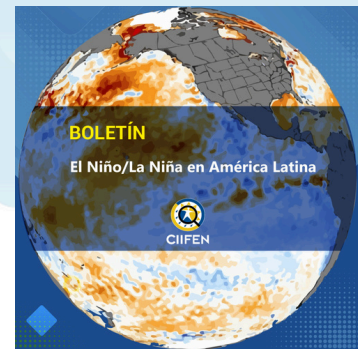
Throughout its trajectory, CIIFEN has led more than 70 projects aimed at governments, institutions, local and regional organizations, and continues to be committed to its mission of strengthening research and international cooperation to mitigate the impacts of the El Niño/La Niña Phenomenon and contribute to the sustainable development of the most vulnerable communities.

CIIFEN'S BULLETINS

In order to provide an information service to decision makers, planners, farmers, fishermen, other development actors, media, scientists, and the general population, CIIFEN currently publishes four monthly bulletins, considering its own analysis from various relevant sources of information.

EL NIÑO/NIÑA BULLETIN IN LATIN AMERICA

Compiles climate information related to El Niño and La Niña Phenomenon from a regional perspective, focused especially on the Eastern Pacific and Western South America.



SEASONAL FORECAST BULLETIN FOR WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA

This bulletin is generated using the contributions of seasonal forecasts from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of the six countries of western South America: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.



DROUGHT BULLETIN IN WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA

Based on information from monitors of the six countries, CIIFEN produces the regional drought monitor and bulletin for Western South America



OCEAN ANALYSIS BULLETIN

This bulletin aims to indicate the updated conditions of variables in the Equatorial and Eastern Pacific, especially those related to El Niño and La Niña conditions.



REGIONAL CLIMATE CENTER FOR WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA RCC-WSA



The Regional Climate Center for Western South America (RCC-WSA) operated by CIIFEN, is located within the Regional Association III (South America) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and its mission is to strengthen the operational capacities of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) of Western South America. This strengthening is achieved through the generation and delivery of climate products that respond to the region's specific needs.

The importance of the RCCs lies in the fact that their services include mandatory commitments and a series of additional functions recommended by WMO. These commitments can be adapted to the particularities of each region, from climate prediction to monitoring hydrological conditions, which allows countries in a region to have key information for climate risk management and public policy design.



RCC-WSA plays a crucial role in improving climate services in South America, providing valuable information for decision-making.

VOLUNCLIMA



The Climate Volunteer Network - Volunclima - is a citizen science initiative created and managed by CIIFEN, which throughout its trajectory has had the cooperation of different funders, such as: USAID, European Union, AECID, Adaptation Fund, and SDC. Volunclima volunteer observers report daily precipitation, drought impacts perception and the occurrence of extreme hydrometeorological events at a fixed point (station), located in areas where primarily the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services do not have monitoring networks. The data is collected using a mobile application and/or a computer platform and is stored in an open-access database for the public through the website: <https://volunclima.ciifen.org>.



Members of the Volunclima network send reports from several countries such as: Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela.



CIIFEN

PROJECTS

STRENGTHENING DROUGHT MANAGEMENT IN WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA (WSA) COUNTRIES THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT (DROUGHTS-ANDES), WITH THE SUPPORT FROM SOUTH-SOUTH AND SPANISH TECHNICAL COOPERATION - ARAUCLIMA PROGRAM



The Droughts-Andes project of the Arauclima program, led by the International Research Centre on El Niño (CIIFEN) and funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), aims to reduce the negative impacts of droughts in 6 South American countries (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela).

From challenge to action: weaving resilience in western South America

Key milestones of the project include strengthening technical and institutional capacities in the six Andean countries through workshops and educational materials with a gender and intercultural focus; drafting drought management plans in Ecuador, Colombia and Bolivia; conducting participatory diagnoses in Peru; and initiating the update of Ecuador's National Drought Plan. The main training activities will be uploaded to a virtual educational platform to ensure the sustainability of results.



Technical and educommunication workshops on "How to communicate to communities about drought?"

In Bosconia - Colombia and Tarata - Peru, technical and community capacities were strengthened through drought training, with an intercultural and gender focus, highlighting prevention measures, the importance of the key message, and the proposed communication tactics. Practical interpretation exercises on geographic information systems were also implemented.



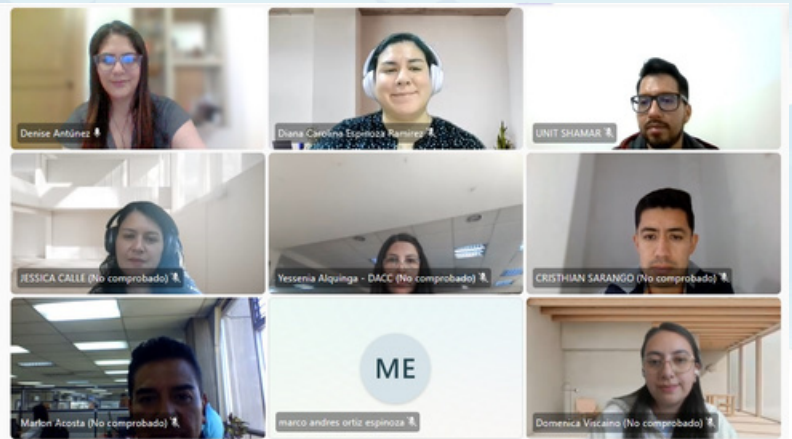
ARAUCLIMA PROGRAM'S DROUGHTS-ANDES PROJECT

XXIV Regional Climate Outlook Forum for Western South America

The project funded the XXIV Regional Forum, held in 2025 in Quito, Ecuador. This meeting brought together the meteorological services of six countries in the region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and Chile), to analyze climate conditions, assess recent droughts and collaboratively develop a regional climate outlook.

PFIRST inter-institutional participatory meeting in Ecuador for updating the National Drought Plan

Organized jointly by the Ministry of Environment and Energy and CIIFEN, the methodology for updating the plan was presented, the participatory diagnosis of the 2021-2025 Plan was initiated, and the importance of institutional participation in the collective construction of sustainable solutions was highlighted.



About ARAUCLIMA

It is the Regional Environment and Climate Change Program of the Spanish Cooperation Agency in Latin America and the Caribbean. Over its 10 years of existence, it has supported 40 projects for a total amount of 10 million euros, highlighting the experience accumulated by AECID in the region for more than 30 years.

For more information about the Program: [OTC-Aecid - Arauclima - Resource Library](#).

Here you will find the communication tactics of the ARAUCLIMA Program's Droughts-Andes project.



ENANDES+

The ENANDES project seeks to strengthen the capacity of communities and society in general to adapt to climate variability and change. To do so, it promotes the generation, dissemination, and use of reliable information based on scientific evidence, as input for decision-making and policy formulation on climate risk management and impact reduction in Chile, Colombia, and Peru.

With ENANDES+, these actions are extended to Ecuador, Bolivia and Argentina and aim to increase the resilience of 6 Latin American countries to the growing impacts of short-term climate variability and long-term climate change. With the support of Swiss researchers and experts from MeteoSwiss, the project enhances the forecasting capabilities of the responsible national authorities and supports the co-design of weather, water, and climate services throughout the region, benefiting local populations, including the most vulnerable.



The project succeeded in integrating the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) of Colombia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, and Ecuador, together with two Regional Climate Centers and two Regional Training Centers, creating an unprecedented learning space in the region.

Its main lines of action include:

1. Improve society's ability to adapt to a variable climate and reduce associated disaster risks.
2. Strengthen the resilience of priority sectors and communities to hydroclimatic threats, by empowering local actors and institutions.
3. Promote coordination and planning among national, regional, and international institutions to maximize synergies and results.

ENANDES+

CIIFEN'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Climate change projection models

A proposal has been made to select the models that best fit the region and also a Python tool to download the projection data from CMIP6 (Coupled Model Intercomparison Project, phase 6).

Strengthening National Drought Monitors and implementing the Regional Monitor for Western South America

CIIFEN has provided support to the six National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) of South America in strengthening their national drought monitors. Through collaborative work and the integration of these monitors, the Regional Drought Monitor for Western South America was developed and made operational.

Development of the Climate Service Toolkit (CST)

It's a web platform that integrates analysis and visualization tools for weather, water, and climate information, in addition to relevant publications. It uses open-source technologies and follows standards recommended by WMO. Currently, the system is being implemented on the CIIFEN/RCC-WSA information platform, in order to guarantee its sustainability.

Strengthening the Climate Volunteer Observer Network - Volunclima

CIIFEN continues to build the Volunclima network. With the information provided by volunteers, bulletins are produced featuring climate products and services. These bulletins are shared among network members, national meteorological services, and external stakeholders. The volunteer network is located in Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela.



Other contributions

Web application development in Shiny for free access to various gridded databases.

Sub-seasonal Forecasts from the ENANDES+ project.

Regional training for meteorological services and authorities.

STRENGTHENING MONITORING, COMMUNICATION AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT IN COLOMBIA - PROGRESS



Context

Within the framework of the EUROCLIMA+ project – Droughts and Floods in the Andes, national drought monitors were developed for Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile. This tool strengthens disaster risk management and improves decision-making in strategic sectors such as agriculture and energy generation.

Thanks to these results, CIIFEN, in collaboration with APC-Colombia, CORPOGUAJIRA, Rovira i Virgili University, and GIZ, is currently promoting a new phase of work aimed at strengthening national capacities in drought monitoring and management in La Guajira Department (Colombia).

To improve the monitor's quality, the PROGRESS project increases data provision, which implies expanding the density of meteorological stations, incorporating local observations and validating information through community monitoring networks.

This is the first local action initiative for the use and validation of the drought monitor.

ENFOQUE

Strengthening CORPOGUAJIRA'S IT infrastructure and climate monitoring network.

Technical strengthening of the drought monitor.

Implementation of the Volunclima Network in La Guajira Department.

Strengthening drought monitoring and EWS.

MUNICIPAL MULTI-HAZARD RESPONSE PLANS



CIIFEN has collaborated with the World Food Program (WFP) in the development of Multi-Hazard Response Plans in key municipalities of Ecuador to increase their response capacity and inter- and intra-institutional coordination, according to the guidelines of the National Secretariat for Risk Management. These processes included conducting assessments in each territory with threats and vulnerabilities analysis, developing risk scenarios, and designing Early Warning Systems (EWS) with technical recommendations and strategies to ensure their sustainability.

The interventions were carried out in a participatory manner, incorporating feedback and validation from local stakeholders involved in risk management. As a result of these projects, standardized operating procedures were developed that regulate the role of each actor in local emergency response. In 2024, plans were delivered for the cities of Guayaquil, Cuenca, Quito, Manta, Duran, Portoviejo, Rumiñahui, Samborondon and Santa Elena. During 2025, work is underway with the municipalities of Libertad, Salinas, Daule, Mejía, Santa Ana, Tosagua, Sucre, Rocafuerte, and Bolívar.





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"Building climate resilience for sustainable development"