

TUNARI Program

PROTECTING THE ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS
OF THE TUNARI NATIONAL PARK

IMPACT REPORT 2025–2026



www.armoniabolivia.org

TUNARI NATIONAL PARK: THE LAND THAT SUSTAINS LIFE IN THE COCHABAMBA VALLEY

Tunari National Park is one of Bolivia's most important protected areas. Its native forests hold an extraordinary wealth of biodiversity endemic to the Bolivian central Andes and perform functions essential to life in the Cochabamba valley, with 1.2 million people: they regulate the water cycle and the climate, protect water sources, and conserve soils. The park is also home to Quechua farming communities, settled long before it was established, who maintain a deep bond with the land.

Its southern slope alone holds 84% of the park's bird species—a clear sign of how strategically important it is for the country's biodiversity. Yet forest degradation, wildfires, and land-use change threaten the very ecosystem functions that local communities and the inhabitants of the Cochabamba metropolitan area depend on. To meet this challenge, Armonía's Tunari Program pairs the restoration of native forests with the active involvement of communities, municipal governments, and strategic partners to bring back the landscape, safeguard water, and conserve wildlife.



Protecting Tunari National Park means safeguarding water, biodiversity, soils, and resilience for Cochabamba.

Ecosystem functions of the southern slope's native forests



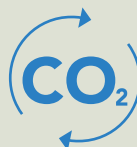
Water regulation and supply



Biodiversity conservation



Soil conservation



Carbon capture and storage



Disasters (landslides & flooding) prevention

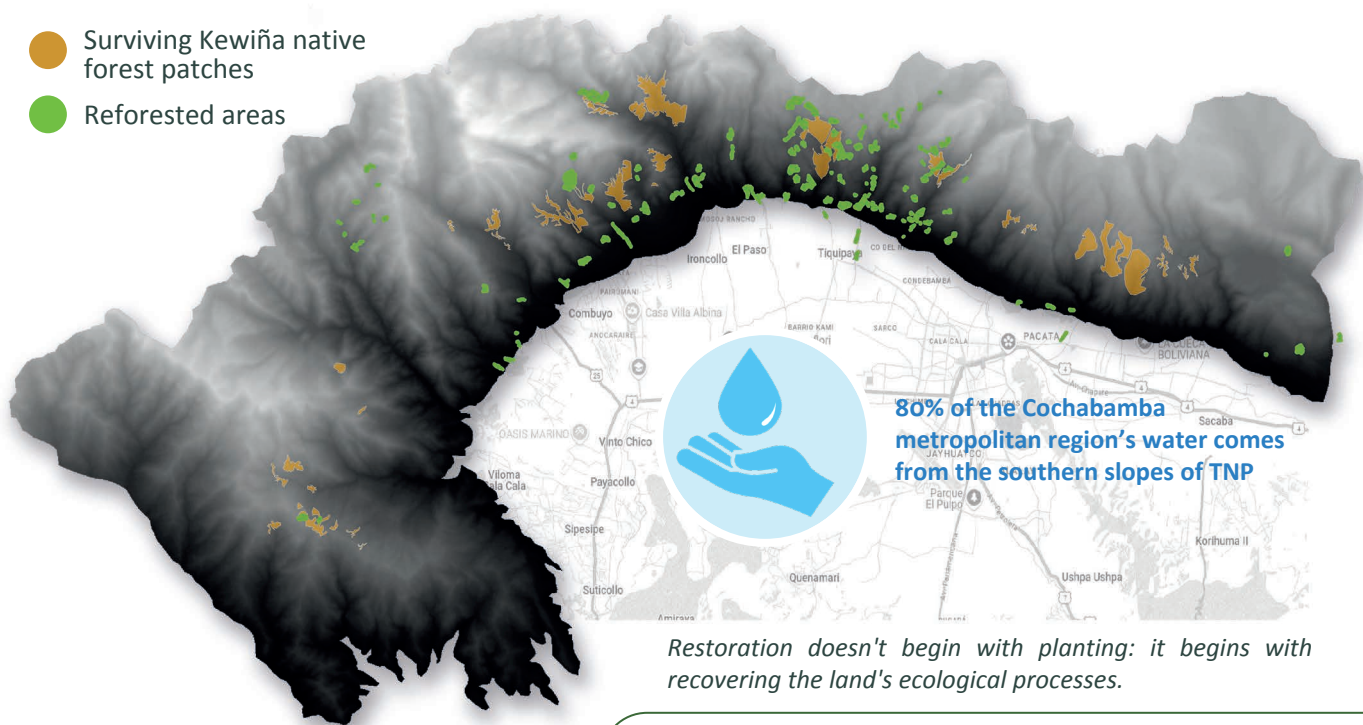


Protecting the Ecosystem functions of the Southern Slope of the Tunari National Park

RESTORING HIGH-ANDEAN FORESTS TO RECOVER THEIR FUNCTIONS

Restoring a native forest means bringing back the processes that protect water sources, sustain habitat for biodiversity, and strengthen resilience to climate change—both for the communities of the southern slope and for everyone across the Cochabamba metropolitan area. Since 2020, Armonía has worked hand in hand with communities, municipal governments, the Autonomous Departmental Government of Cochabamba, other organizations, and many volunteers to restore the ecological balance of this slope through partnerships, agreements, and stronger local capacities.

- Surviving Kewiña native forest patches
- Reforested areas



Building a model of environmental governance together with local stakeholders, aimed at sustainable and equitable development, is not a secondary goal of the program—it is the heart of our strategy. In the past year alone, between March 2025 and March 2026, we added 67.40 hectares to the area under restoration. Across these lands—spread over 10 communities in four municipalities (Quillacollo, Sacaba, Tiquipaya, and Vinto)—we planted 250,000 native tree seedlings.

Cumulative impact through March 2026

1,809.02	hectares of native forest protected
504.71	hectares reforested
1,252,000	native seedlings planted
>12,000	people involved, including community members and volunteers



RECOVERING HABITATS TO CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY



Kewiña
Polylepis subtusalbida
Vulnerable (VU)

Lloque
Kageneckia lanceolata
Vulnerable (VU)



Cochabamba Mountain-Finch
Poospiza garleppi
Endemic to Bolivia

Giant Conebill
Conirostrum binghami
Lives only in Polylepis forests
Near Threatened (NT)



Bolivian Chinchilla Rat
(Abrocoma boliviensis)
Endemic to Bolivia
Critically Endangered (CR)



Cochabamba Water Frog
(Telmatobius hintoni)
Endemic to Bolivia
Vulnerable (VU)

Conserving biodiversity requires continuity. That is why the work we began in 2020 prioritizes recovering the high-Andean forests of Tunari's southern slope, whose structure and connectivity are vital for species found nowhere else on Earth. At the heart of this effort is the emblematic Kewiña (*Polylepis subtusalbida*), a tree almost exclusive to this mountain range, alongside the Lloque (*Kageneckia lanceolata*); both species, threatened with extinction, are keystones of these ecosystems and guide the restoration of the landscape.

12 native species grown in nurseries, including

2 species listed as Endangered

Our work is decisive in preventing the extinction of species endemic to Bolivia's central Andes—a biological heritage found in no other country, which makes protecting it a priority. Among the most emblematic are the Cochabamba Mountain Finch (*Poospiza garleppi*), the Cochabamba Water Frog (*Telmatobius hintoni*), and the Bolivian Chinchilla Rat (*Abrocoma boliviensis*). The *Polylepis* forests, now critically fragmented, are also the only refuge for birds such as the Giant Conebill (*Conirostrum binghami*) and the Tawny Tit-Spintail (*Sylviothorhynchus yanacensis*), among others.

The continuity of restoration lets us focus the work on species that depend on high-Andean forests.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ACTION FOR RESTORATION

Restoration lasts when communities take part in the decisions, recognize the benefits of the forest, and have economic alternatives compatible with conservation. Their knowledge of the land makes it possible to set priorities, protect ecosystems and their vital functions, and connect ecological recovery with local well-being. Since 2020, 38 communities committed to caring for their water sources and native forests have joined our restoration program, driving profound change from the ground up.



Conservation lasts when environmental solutions also respond to local needs and opportunities.

Our work links restoration with actions that strengthen community resilience: developing local capacities through the collective design of community projects, supporting strategic planning, building infrastructure to store and distribute water, sustainable productive initiatives such as agroforestry systems—in partnership with the NGO Agrecol—and the conditions for community-based tourism. Together, these efforts ease the pressure on the landscape and create incentives to sustain the commitment to the land.

Cumulative impact through March 2026

- 2,181** families benefiting from the program's actions
- 50** families benefiting from agroforestry systems
- 10** water reservoirs for irrigation and fire response
- >14M** liters of water captured in reservoirs

BUILDING LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR FIRE PREVENTION

Wildfires are one of the greatest threats to the native forests, biodiversity, and livelihoods of the southern slope of Tunari National Park: in just a few hours they can wipe out years of restoration work. In the face of this risk, the communities of the protected area have taken on the role of first responders in controlling fire.

Cumulative impact through March 2026

125 community firefighters trained

33 ♀ **92** ♂

11 community brigades formed in 4 municipalities

66 upper-watershed community members engaged in developing a fire-prevention protocol

5 communities engaged in developing a fire-response protocol

Prevention is part of restoration: it reduces the risk of losing forests, biodiversity, and livelihoods.

That is why, since 2022, we have been advancing a local risk-management program to protect the landscape. It combines prevention, preparedness, and rapid response through the training and equipping of community brigades of forest firefighters, together with intercultural strategies for fire monitoring and control. Among its greatest achievements are the incorporation of these brigades into the Emergency Operations Committee (COE)—the inter-institutional body that coordinates emergency response—and the active participation of five communities and more than 60 community members in developing protocols for fire prevention, management, and control.

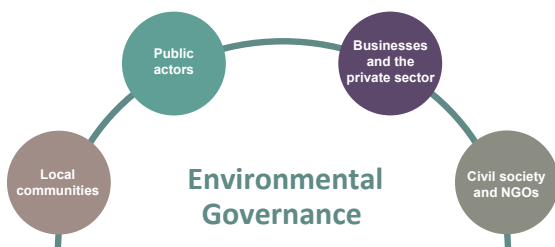


TOWARD ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE THAT SUSTAINS CONSERVATION

Consolidating environmental gains requires solid governance. Restoration, the protection of water sources, fire prevention, and community work all depend on institutions and social actors able to agree on priorities, coordinate responsibilities, and make decisions based on evidence.

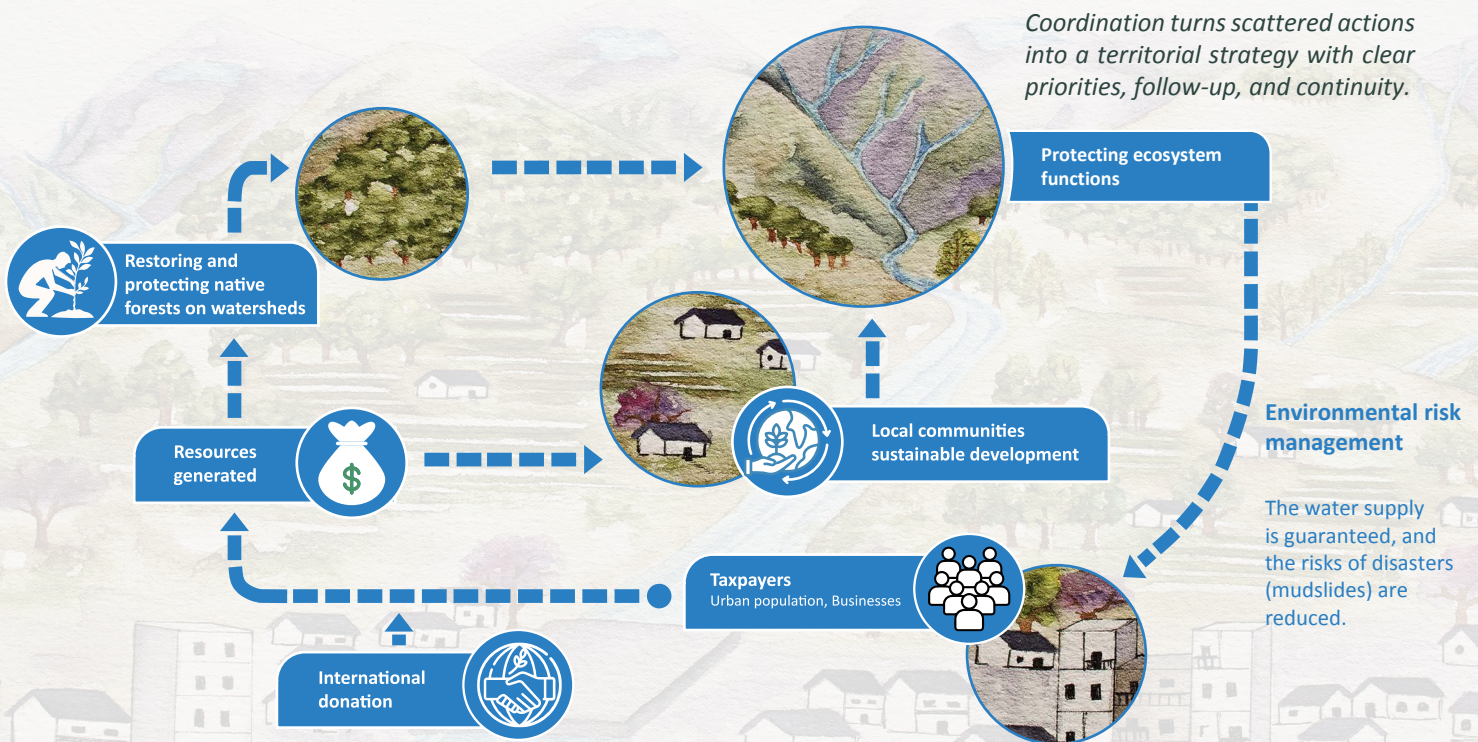
Since 2024 we have been advancing a model of environmental governance in Tunari National Park. Through technical assistance, the generation of information, and planning tools, we bring together the work of SERNAP, the departmental government, municipal governments, and local communities. This integration decisively strengthens the management of the protected area.

Long-term sustainability requires shared priorities, clear rules for allocating resources, and mechanisms for monitoring and accountability that make it possible to guide investments and verify results. Within this framework, since 2025 we have been developing a financial, environmental, and social sustainability mechanism grounded in risk management, integrating prevention, timely response, and mitigation.



Progress in environmental governance through March 2026

- 5** coordination platforms with public-sector actors
- 80** officials from the metropolitan region trained
- 4** strategies for Community Integrated Watershed Management Plans
- 9** socioeconomic studies in communities across three municipalities
- 5** assessment protocols for protected areas



The Tunari Program is made possible thanks to the support of:



Asociación Armonía is a Bolivian non-governmental organization with three decades of experience in biodiversity conservation and the sustainable development of local communities. Its work combines science, ecosystem restoration, the strengthening of protected areas, and collaboration with communities to protect priority species and landscapes across the country.

The Tunari Program is part of this long-term commitment. On the southern slope of Tunari National Park, Armonía advances a strategy that integrates native-forest restoration, community strengthening, fire prevention, and environmental governance to protect the ecosystem functions that sustain life in the Cochabamba valley.

This work is carried out together with communities, public institutions, national and international allies, and conservation organizations, generating evidence-based solutions that strengthen the territory's resilience and deliver lasting benefits for people and nature.

Armonía is the Bolivian partner of:



Fotos: Norma Espinoza, Daniela Aguirre-Torres, Paul Jones, Daniel Alarcón, Marizol Hidalgo, Patricia Mendoza/BAI y Victor Hugo García-Soliz.

Armonía kindly thanks the Fenwicks for their continued support.

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