

Project data**CHAIR GROUP:** Irrigation and Water Engineering (IWE)**RESEARCH GROUP:**

Project leader: Rutgerd Boelens (WASS)

Coordinator: Jeroen Vos (WASS)

Communication and Training specialists (WUR-contracted):

Nynke Post Uiterweer

Leontien Cremers

Collaborating universities:

- The Netherlands: Irrigation and Water Engineering Group (IWE) - Centre for Water and Climate – Wageningen University (**WUR**)
- Spain: Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya – **UPC**, Barcelona
- Bolivia: **Centro AGUA** – Universidad Mayor de San Simón, Cochabamba
- Colombia: Instituto de Investigación y Desarrollo en Abastecimiento de Agua, Saneamiento Ambiental y Conservación del Recurso Hídrico - **CINARA**, Universidad del Valle, Cali
- Ecuador: Universidad Central del Ecuador - **UCE**, Quito
- Peru: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú – **PUCP**, Lima
- Peru: Universidad Nacional Pedro Luis Gallo - **UNPRG**, Lambayeque

Collaborating non-governmental organizations:

Justicia Hídrica /Water Justice alliance (international, IWE-coordinated)**WATERLAT** network (coordinated by Newcastle University)**CAMAREN**, Quito, Ecuador**SIPAE**, Quito, Ecuador**IPROGA**, ONG Lima, Peru**CBC** (Centro Bartolomé de Las Casas), Cusco, Peru**CGIAB** (Comisión para la Gestión Integral del Agua en Bolivia), Oruro, Bolivia**FINANCED BY:** ALFA III, EuropAid (EU)**GRADUATE SCHOOL:** WASS**SPANISH PROJECT TITLE:** RAP-GIRH, Red Andina de Postgrados en Gestión Integrada de los Recursos Hídricos**ENGLISH PROJECT TITLE:** Network for Andean Postgraduate Programmes in Integrated Water Resources Management**EXPECTED PROJECT PERIOD** from 23 December 2011 till 23 September 2014**SUMMARY OF THE PROBLEM DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVES** (in English)

The program RAP-GIRH - "Network for Andean Postgraduate Programmes in IWRM" - is executed by the Andean Water Consortium, which includes seven universities and several NGOs, in coordination with the international Justicia Hídrica /Water Justice alliance (IWE-coordinated). RAP-GIRH is a three year program that aims to improve postgraduate research and education programs on issues of integrated water resources management (IWRM) at five universities in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

The crisis of water in the Andean countries is worsening. The demand for water is increasing, because of demographic pressure, the development of national industry, hydroelectric plants, and especially the growth of agricultural production (predominantly the growth of cultivation for export and production of

biofuels). At the same time, there is a reduction in supply of water because of the degradation of the natural vegetation in the headwaters of basin, climate change, the exploitation of aquifers and contamination of water by extractive industries, sewage and industrial dumping. In most cases the most vulnerable social groups suffer the most from the water problem.

The present formation of the post-graduate students / researchers in the Andes is inadequate to provide professionals with the training and skills needed to deal with the water crisis, and also in the field of research. In addition, the participation of disadvantaged strata, and above all women, in postgraduate programmes is still relatively low.

The overall objective of the programme is:

The development of highly qualified human resources in IWRM through postgraduate research programmes in the Andean countries with innovative, critical and interdisciplinary training. This will contribute to the construction of strategies and policies for managing water in the Andean region with a scope and an orientation towards social cohesion and water justice.

The specific objectives of the action are:

1. The institutionalization of a permanent network of exchange and cooperation between the Andean universities and collaborate with the Justicia Hidrica / Water Justice Alliance;
2. To establish and improve post-graduate programmes in IWRM with high quality and a common part of the curriculum ("common trunk course") and better access and retention for students from disadvantaged strata and women;
- 3 Facilitate and improve applied and participatory research within the postgraduate programmes in coordination with sector the public, companies and organizations water users.