



# FUNDACIÓN FONDO AGUA POR LA VIDA Y LA SOSTENIBILIDAD (FFAVS)

## VALLE DEL CAUCA

In the Cauca Valley, Colombia, there are about 2,750 sugar cane producers. Together they represent a large proportion of the Colombian sugar sector. In addition, the flat area of the geographical valley of the Cauca River, is a pole of industrial development and seat of 23 municipalities, 3 departments, reaching approximately 3.5 million people. There are approximately 410,000 ha of which 230,000 ha are sugarcane plantations. It is estimated that the city of Cali takes water from the Cauca River to supply approximately 70% of its population. The population, which lives in the territory is of a multi-ethnic nature, the territory is shared among mestizos, afro-descendants, indigenous and white people.

There is an important deforestation in the Valle del Cauca watersheds due to conflicts generated by land-use changes, inadequate use of water, the alteration and loss of strategic natural ecosystems such as moors and Andean forests, in addition to climate change, population increase and illegal mining. All these factors have caused a severe stress on several basins, more than 50% of the basins show water scarcity problems, particularly during the summer season.

For decades, river associations and local NGOs have been aware of the problem and have worked together with farmers to protect the basin. However, due to the lack of resources and a coordination network, they could not make strategic investments in other watersheds. Therefore, the creation of a Water Fund (WF) in this region has supported the creation of strategic agreements between the different water users and the authority. In addition to traditional water source protection activities (riparian buffer zones, forest protection, etc.), the WF has fostered environmental awareness among the population and has driven the sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity protection of the region.

Aware of the strategic value of conservation efforts to recover the hydrographic basins of the Valle del Cauca region, in 2009 the Fondo Agua por la Vida y la Sostenibilidad was born as a social and environmental initiative of the Agroindustry Sugar Cane Sector.



## THE POWER TO CONVENE DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS AROUND A COMMON GOAL

Created in 2009, the Fondo Agua por la Vida y la Sostenibilidad began as an Agreement of Understanding between companies from the sugar sector, Asocaña, Cenicaña, Water users associations and other private companies. Asocaña has been a great leader of this initiative and managed the Fund until the creation of the Foundation (FFAVS) which was created in September 2016. This organization is made up of 12 sugar mills, Celsia, the energy company of Grupo Argos and The Nature Conservancy.

The Foundation co-finances agreements in which the interested parties contribute at least with an equal amount to the in-cash contributions that are financed by the Foundation.



SECTOR  
AGROINDUSTRIAL  
DE LA CAÑA

asocaña

### KEY CONTRIBUTIONS TO WATER SECURITY

- Since its creation, the FFAPVS has invested more than \$28,355 million Colombian pesos in 29 municipalities where more than 3.5 million inhabitants are supplied with water.
- In 2010, the modeling of watersheds was done to determine the priority areas for conservation. The cartography that shows the modeling of watersheds was validated with different organizations and local leaders.
- To date, the FFAVS has signed 123 agreements and contracts with public and private entities in the 29 hydrographic basins that are in the area of influence of the Fund (41,629 ha).
- The FFAVS has received different recognitions at the global and national level such as the Environment Protection Award in 2017, and the Clinton Global Initiative Recognition.
- A study conducted in La Vega micro-basin between 2013 and 2016 after having restored 60% of the Cauca Valley watershed, showed that despite of the increase in the average annual rainfall, the sediments showed a reduction close to 50%, and the maximum flow of the river decreased from 5,723 to 1,510.

### SOCIAL IMPACTS:

- **716 families** participating directly in the processes and 18,000 families indirectly benefited.
- **44 community organizations** strengthened in their organizational and operational aspects.
- **392 sustainable production modules** implemented.
- **32 schools** with environmental and water awareness programs.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- **1,108** water sources protected.
- **1,037 kilometers** of riparian forests, moors, native forests and stream banks.
- **12,621 ha** in natural regeneration and protection.
- **1,863 ha** of extensive livestock with more environmentally friendly practices (protein banks and forest strips).
- **1,145 ha** with agroforestry systems.
- Sowing of **613,567** trees of different native species.
- **1,531 ha** with landscape management tools.
- **42** wastewater management systems.
- **180** rural aqueducts.
- Hydrological monitoring system on the Santo Domingo and Isabelilla rivers in the municipality of Toribio, Cauca (tributaries of the Palo River) to measure river flows and have an early warning system.

### PROTECTION DECLARATORIES

- **10** natural reserves.



RISARALDA

VALLE DEL CAUCA, COLOMBIA



### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To preserve water through the conservation and restoration of watersheds and contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the communities that inhabit them.



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### STRATEGIC LINES

- Integral management of water resources.
- Conservation of biodiversity.
- Adaptation to climate change.
- Sustainable production systems.
- Environmental education.
- Institutional strengthening.

### MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF FFAVS AS OF DECEMBER 2018

WATER FUND PHASE	OPERATION
# of hectares implemented	<b>22,024 ha</b>
Families participating in projects upstream	<b>2.786</b>
Total investment US\$	<b>\$15,906,222</b>

### FFAPVS RESULTS AS OF DECEMBER 2017

The Foundation is part of the Water Funds group created and strengthened by the Latin American Water Funds Alliance, an agreement between the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the FEMSA Foundation, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in order to contribute to water security in Latin America and the Caribbean through the creation and strengthening of Water Funds.

