

Reactivation of Junin Lake Management Committee gives hope to threatened species

Title The [Association of Andean Ecosystems-ECOAN](#) and [National Service of Protected Areas of Peru](#) joined forces to reactivate the Management Committee of Lake Junin. Lake Junin or Chinchaycocha is located in the Peruvian Central Andes, more than 4,100 meters above sea level. This ecosystem has unique and threatened endemic bird species worldwide such as [Lake Junin Giant Frog *Batrachophrynus macrostomus* \(EN\)](#), [Junin Grebe *Podiceps taczanowskii* \(CR\)](#) and [Junin Rail *Laterallus tuerosi* \(EN\)](#) and it is an important stopover site for migratory species. In 1974 the government of Peru recognized the Lake Junin as an *area of international importance and named it National Reserve*. In 1997 the site was recognized as a [wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention](#), and in 2004 as an [Important Bird Area-IBA](#). In 2003 the Local Management Committee was created, but it was not active due primarily to lack of funding to cover transportation costs of the Committee members. With the start of the project of *"Multi-participatory Environmental Education Program and reactivation of the Local Management Committee of the Chinchaycocha Wetland?"* in May 2011 with the support of [BirdLife International](#) and funded by [Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation](#) and thanks to the joint efforts between the [Association Andean Ecosystems - ECOAN](#) and the [National Service of Protected Areas ? SERNANP](#), the new Management Committee was forged and strengthened, creating a regulation and updated work plan.



Members of the Management Committee

Local, regional and national authorities as well as rural communities have demonstrated a positive change in their perception of the Committee. This change has been due to the increasing number of member institutions in the Committee, and to ensure the resolution,

dialogue and corrective actions through discussions. The Committee currently brings together 22 public and private institutions, such as provincial and district municipalities, rural communities, civil society organizations and a total of 50 individual participants. *The Committee, together with the local authorities will help ensure appropriate management of the suitable habitats for threatened species at Lake Junin such Junin Grebe, Junin Rail, Lake Junin Giant Frog and Andean Mountain Cat* All these efforts have made a huge difference; *there is now a stronger and consolidated Committee in place, with increased decision-making skills and participation power.* It is a great start that needs to be secured for the maintenance of this habitat and the living beings that inhabit it. The support to strengthening this group will continue by consolidating their work through training on governance matters, management in the frame of a green economy and environmental services benefits. The work plan will help to secure the continuity of the Committee and to designate responsibilities to each member of the Committee. Further information: Constantino Auca: caucca@ecoanperu.org Alan Chamorro: alan_chc@ecoanperu.org