

The contribution of GSI's Catchment Passport Methodology to Water Stewardship in Ica and Aconcagua Catchments

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In 2020 and 2021-2022, Good Stuff International applied the Catchment Passport[©] Methodology to two key catchments producing agricultural products from Europe; Ica¹, Peru, and Aconcagua², Chile. This paper presents a summary of the main activities conducted and why they are relevant for water sustainability, water stewardship and value chain resilience.

Acknowledgements

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Rationale behind the Catchment Passport Methodology

Response to an agri value chain need: produce and communicate executive key messages of the catchment water situation, bring catchment-level opportunities forward and make them actionable

The Catchment Passport as a tool was born as a response from several market requests to depict the water situation of a catchment comprehensively and scientifically, but also in a condensed way. The user can systematically visualise and understand the information available on local catchment delineations, precipitation, the catchment water balance, the aquifer situation, landuse, governance, initiatives, protected areas and key ecosystems, as well as key messages and actionable opportunities. For the Catchment passport, we use a QGIS project and a thoroughly referenced systematic 30-slide power point presentation. Subsequently, the catchment passport is put in its online form, GSI's Watershed Information System, leading to the final interactive Catchment Passport.

The Catchment Passport works as a communications tool used internally in the company, between the sustainability teams and procurement and product development teams, as well as at the executive/managerial level. In our experience, the Catchment Passport empowers sustainability managers to push for key decisions on strategic planning and allocation of budgets

¹ <https://www.naturespride.eu/en/sustainability/projects/trialling-catchment-passports-to-guide-collaborative-action-in-high-water-stress-areas>

² <https://www.naturespride.eu/en/news-blogs/news-blogs/our-water-stewardship-journey> and [https://mail.nwp.nl/extranet/Chili/Webinars/Presentations Webinar 4/Diego Arevalo GSI.pdf](https://mail.nwp.nl/extranet/Chili/Webinars/Presentations%20Webinar%204/Diego%20Arevalo%20GSI.pdf)

in the company's meeting rooms. On the other side, it serves as a communications tool between value chain partners and catchment stakeholders.

Collective water stewardship in action

The natural next step is to complete and validate the Catchment Passport results and its opportunities with an inclusive and balanced group of local catchment stakeholders. All opinions, conflicted interests, initiatives and challenges are documented and incorporated into the catchment passport in a condensed way and are used to add robustness to results. Opportunities are discussed in the context of a locally-developed catchment vision and transformed into a draft Roadmap of action which is validated again with local stakeholders. The Roadmap contains short- and long-term potential actions for both local stakeholders and international value chains towards increasing catchment resilience.

Outcomes of the application of the Catchment Passport methodology in Ica and Aconcagua

- ✓ International value chains are regarded as the fresh element in the water stewardship process: International agricultural value chains interested in long-term engagement in Ica and Aconcagua and in the resilience of those value chains were the fresh element in both projects, and actually surprising to local stakeholders. The process does not aim at creating new projects that may be disconnected from ongoing local initiatives, it rather aims at supporting what is already going on from the point of view of strategic investments towards resilient value chains. The process is water stewardship in action³.
- ✓ Alignment and transparency: Ica and Aconcagua Catchment Passports generated alignment on the catchment water situation among local stakeholders and international value chains.
- ✓ Unified repository of key data and information: GSI's Watershed Information System serves as repository of the Ica and Aconcagua validated Catchment Passports, with access (password protected) to maps, relevant data, key messages, and opportunities.
- ✓ Voice for the small ones: Through the process, government, small agricultural producers and other stakeholders had the opportunity to participate and contribute to the validation of results and roadmap. Stakeholder balance was ensured throughout the process.
- ✓ Actionable: A validated Roadmap of action for both catchments is available, detailing actions that could be collectively undertaken at the catchment level in the context of a resilient catchment. The roadmap of action offers direction to agricultural value chains wanting to engage in the catchment by providing clarity on high-impact and short-

³ The reason why water stewardship surfaced is that governments around the world have been unable (not having the political power) to deal with the water challenges at hand. The water stewardship approach moves at least a serious part of the responsibility for water management back to society, including international value chains.

medium term actions, as well as long-term actions like the development of multi-stakeholder water stewardship platforms.

- ✓ Several indicators of the AWS framework were directly addressed in an efficient way: For example, catchment maps, catchment water balance, stakeholder engagement, collective actions, and action plan. The process and data are potentially usable by those sites located in the catchment who are pursuing AWS certification.
- ✓ Support catchment vision and catchment water stewardship programme: The catchment passport and validated roadmap of action are transparent, independent, apolitical, and collaborative tools designed to facilitate engagement and dialogue, to inform the catchment visioning process and to support the development of a unified water stewardship work programme with engagement of international value chains.

Learnings

As part of the Catchment Passport methodology, a learnings document was generated for each catchment. Some key learnings are: First, it is indeed possible to generate a common understanding and alignment on the catchment situation between local producers and international value chains. Second, local producers are still apprehensive that if the catchment situation is disclosed, international value chains will move away. Value chains should become more explicit about their long-term commitment to the places and producers, and to the creation of resilient catchments as a pre-requisite of resilient value chains. Third, the pathway to true value chain resilience is the co-design of a relevant work programme and collaboration for inclusive dialogue. Finally, the Catchment Passport methodology has proven to be a collaborative, effective, and non-prescriptive methodology supporting local/global co-creation.

Outlook

GSI is committed to Ica and Aconcagua, and by this we mean that we are using our expertise and networks to support the increase of Ica and Aconcagua natural capital and the well-being of their peoples. As such, we envisage the following next steps in the process:


- Capacity building of other value chains and value chain partners sourcing from Ica and Aconcagua on the process, on the Catchment Passport results and roadmap.
- Open, collaborative and free access to the Ica and Aconcagua Catchment Passports through the Watershed Information System, for engaged and committed agricultural value chains.
- Communications between international agricultural value chains and local stakeholders to affirm engagement and commitment and start further developing the roadmap.
- Creation of a multi-stakeholder water stewardship platform of dialogue and action towards a resilient catchment with participation of international value chains, and

further detailing of the roadmap into a more concrete catchment water stewardship work programme.

If you want to know more, please contact erika@goodstuffinternational.com.

Annex

Screenshot of Ica's Catchment Passport as presented in GSI's Watershed Information System



Watershed Information System

An online tool to efficiently organise, store and provide access to watershed information for collective water action

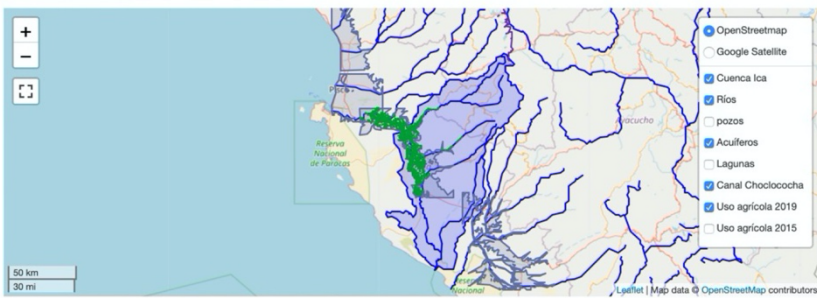
ica

- Ica Catchment
- Pasaporte de Cuenca
- English Section
- Contexto Socio-Geográfico
- Balance hídrico
- Gobernanza
- Ecosistemas
- Cambio climático
- Mensajes Principales
- Oportunidades
- Referencias

Balance hídrico

Maps Images

Get your location



Balance hídrico

Fuentes de agua

- Río Ica, con Caudal importante de Enero a Marzo. De Jun-Ago prácticamente seco y Transferencia Choclococha, Transfiere agua todo el año a Ica
- Sistema de acuíferos** interconectados Ica-Villacurí-Lanchas, con **Recarga principal de Enero a Marzo**, en época seca, la única recarga ocurre a partir del sistema de Choclococha (Ver sección imágenes al final de la página)

Usos de agua

- Agrícola 81%, doméstico 12%, Pecuario 2%, Industrial 5% (Uso de agua subterránea Valle de Ica 2017-2018, Ministerio de Agricultura y Riego de Perú, Compendio Nacional de Estadísticas de Recursos Hídricos)
- Estimativos de áreas bajo riego (ANA, 2017): Ica = 31310 ha, Villacurí = 15.124 ha