

## PRESS RELEASE

### **The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI) is investing in Latin America's water security and climate adaptation.**

**Mexico City, December 2019.** The International Climate Initiative (IKI), which is promoted by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) by decision of the German Parliament, is joining the Latin American Water Funds Partnership as a new partner to promote water security in the region after the approval of a technical cooperation agreement that will benefit the Water Funds model.

IKI is a key element of Germany's climate financing and the funding commitments in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Initiative places clear emphasis on climate change mitigation, adaptation to the impacts of climate change and the protection of biological diversity. These efforts provide various co-benefits, particularly the improvement of living conditions in partner countries.

The Partnership strongly believes in the coordinated action of actors from different sectors as the best mechanism to encourage the transformation towards a water secure world. The Partnership itself is an example of collaboration across sectors and the adhesion of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) brings the expertise and commitment of the German Government showing how different sectors can and must work together to solve the great global challenges such as water security and climate change.

Additionally, IKI will strengthen the Water Funds to become a major engine for climate change adaptation to reduce water risks for major cities in Latin America. With their support Water Funds will work to mainstream ecosystem-based adaptation strategies in their work. Nature-based solutions as protection and restoration of natural habitats and implementation of best-agricultural practices contribute to ensure water flows regulation and reduce risks in face of climate change related events.

"Having the IKI initiative as part of the LAWFP represents how Water Funds are increasingly making a positive impact on how water is managed, and how cities can become more resilient to Climate Change through investments in nature-based solutions. It will also contribute to strengthening the Partnership's capacity to support Water Funds directly so they can deliver ecosystem based adaptation strategies at scale, while at the same time help trigger enabling conditions from the policy, corporate and financial perspective so the funds can be sustainable and achieve their targeted impact goals for nature and people" said Aurelio Ramos, GM Conservation and Innovation, Latin America, The Nature Conservancy.

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"IDB is very pleased to join forces with IKI to position Water Funds as a sustainable climate adaptation and resilience model for stressed urban watersheds in Latin America and the Caribbean. We are convinced about the importance to combine green and grey infrastructure solutions to really make a difference on water security", said Sergio I. Campos G., Water and Sanitation Division Chief, Inter-American Development Bank.

Since its creation in 2011, the Latin American Water Funds Partnership (LAWFP) has been actively contributing to Latin America and the Caribbean's water security through the creation and strengthening of Water Funds.

"In FEMSA Foundation we know that only through collective action we will be able to face the problems of the 21st century. That is why we are excited to find partners with whom we share the vision of a water secured Latin America. We enthusiastically welcome IKI to the Latin American Water Funds Partnership who has been working for seven years and that will surely be enriched by the extraordinary experience that Germany can share with our region" said Mariano Montero, Director of FEMSA Foundation.

Thanks to the technical assistance and seed funds provided by the Partnership, multiple Water Funds have been created across the region. In order to do so, the LAWFP has been a key contributor for the creation and strengthening of the Water Funds methodology. The LAWFP has further clarified the critical success factors in every stage of the methodology. This co-creative process called Desired State is now the Partnership's standard methodology for managing Water Funds in the Region. Currently, there are 24 Water Funds created in 8 countries in Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil.

Water Funds have proven to be effective organizations that design and enhance financial and governance mechanisms that unite public, private and civil society stakeholders, around a common goal to contribute to water security through sustainable watershed management and nature-based solutions. To learn more about Water Funds visit [www.waterfunds.org](http://www.waterfunds.org)

**Latin American Water Funds Partnership (LAWFP):** It is an agreement created in 2011 between the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the FEMSA Foundation, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Climate Initiative (IKI) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to contribute to water security in Latin America and the Caribbean through the creation and strengthening of Water Funds. The Partnership supports Water Funds through scientific knowledge to achieve and maintain water security through nature-based solutions; the systematization, management and dissemination of knowledge; capacity-building and technical support; the promotion of inclusive dialogue among relevant stakeholders in the region to boost collective action; active participation on water governance; and the leveraging of public and private resources. Visit [www.waterfunds.org](http://www.waterfunds.org) or follow us on Twitter (@Fondos\_de\_agua) and Facebook.com/Alianza Latinoamericana de Fondos de Agua

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**The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** It is a global environmental organization dedicated to the conservation of lands and waters on which life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative and practical solutions to the most urgent challenges of our world so that nature and people can prosper together. We are addressing climate change, conserving land, water and oceans on an unprecedented scale, providing food and water in a sustainable way and helping to make cities more sustainable. We work in 72 countries, using a collaborative approach that involves local communities, governments, the private sector and other partners. To learn more, visit [www.mundotnc.org](http://www.mundotnc.org) or follow @MundoTNC on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

**FEMSA Foundation:** For the past 10 years, at FEMSA Foundation we have worked to make positive impacts in people and communities by advancing social investment projects for sustainability. We further conservation and sustainable use of water, strengthen early childhood development, and promote Latin American art and culture through the FEMSA Collection. For more information, visit our website [www.femsafoundation.org](http://www.femsafoundation.org) or follow us on Facebook (FundacionFEMSA) and Twitter (@FundacionFEMSA).

**Inter-American Development Bank (IDB):** The Inter-American Development Bank is devoted to improving lives. Established in 1959, the IDB is a leading source of long-term financing for economic, social and institutional development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The IDB also conducts cutting-edge research and provides policy advice, technical assistance and training to public and private sector clients throughout the region. More information at [www.iadb.org](http://www.iadb.org), [blogs.iadb.org/agua/](http://blogs.iadb.org/agua/), @BIDagua and [Facebook.com/BancoInteramericano](https://www.facebook.com/BancoInteramericano)

**International Climate Initiative (IKI):** This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag. Learn more about IKI on its website <https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/> or on Twitter (@iki\_bmu).

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