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LAKE TITICACA

Background

Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable lake in the world. It is a designated Ramsar site, with unique biodiversity, and most of its population is formed by Indigenous groups, who consider the lake sacred. The lake is highly vulnerable to climate change and faces severe problems of water pollution from mining activities, urban waste waters and agriculture.

Key achievements to date

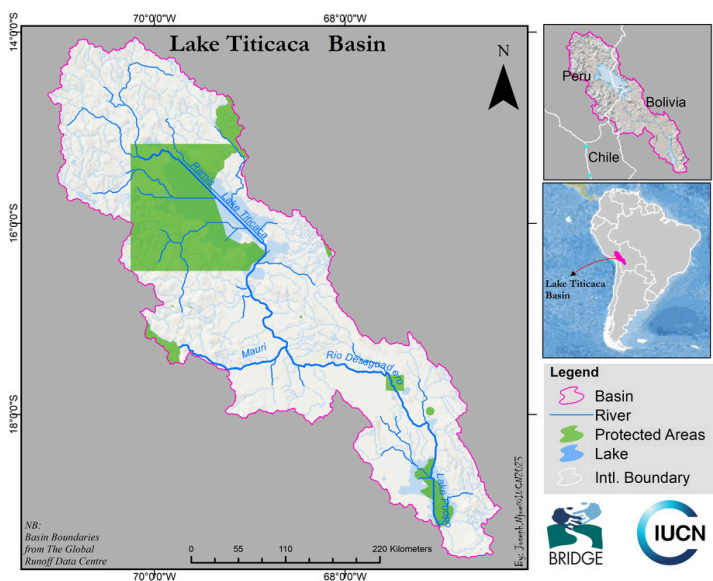
- Technical strengthening of the Binational Authority of Lake Titicaca (ALT) and national institutions.
- Successful exchange of experiences between ALT and the Rhine Commission.
- Creation of a Champion Network of Indigenous Women and a Citizen Science Programme.
- Water governance frameworks are better connected to subnational levels and enable the participation of multiple stakeholders.
- Improved transboundary water governance frameworks.

BRIDGE implementation

BRIDGE has operated in the basin since 2012. BRIDGE's main goal in the region and in the basin is to enhance transboundary cooperation mechanisms to improve sustainable basin management both at the national and at the local level and local livelihoods.

Basin objectives for Phase 5

- Continued collaboration with ALT to ensure a holistic and coordinated management of the Lake Titicaca system.
- Support the negotiations of new institutional set up and development of joint governance vision between both countries.
- Enhance the role of women in transboundary water management.
- Strengthen capacity of Campions Network to mobilise water cooperation and benefit sharing.



Basin at glance

- Total area (km²): 145,253
- Population: 3,100,092
- Climate zone: Subtropical highland - semiarid
- Rainfall (mm/yr): 800
- Countries sharing: Bolivia and Peru
- BRIDGE operating in the basin since: 2012

CROSS-SECTORAL AND INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION

The Binational Authority of Lake Titicaca (ALT) is the main Transboundary organisation for the Titicaca basin. It has international status with administrative, technical and financial autonomy and it is dependent on the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia and Peru. Created in 1996 under a binational agreement between the countries, ALT's main roles include: study and harmonisation of legal and regulatory frameworks related to water management, support and promotion of the conservation and restoration of basin ecosystems, establishment of water quality standards, management of programmes and operation of transboundary infrastructure. Every member contributes to the maintenance of the organisation under a cost-sharing arrangement (dam construction and work costs are shared equally).

The main partners in the implementation of activities in the lake have been ALT and Agua Sustentable (Bolivian NGO and IUCN member). Potential partners for increasing cooperation in the future are the Ministries of Environment, local Universities, other organisations such as the Bartolomé de las Casas Foundation, IRD, IMARPE and local municipalities.

"Mujeres Unidas en Defensa del Lago Titicaca" is an organisation of more than 50 indigenous women who live on the shores of the Lake. Known for their clean-up campaigns and water quality monitoring through citizen science, they are now influential advocates for women's role in the sustainable management of this shared ecosystem. They actively participate in their local governments and are invited to international forums to speak in defence of their Sacred Lake, highlighting the important role that women, community and local actions have in improving the environmental conditions of the Lake and influencing its governance.

Additional information

BRIDGE website:
www.waterandnature.org/initiatives/bridge

Water Law and Governance website:
www.waterlawandgovernance.org/bridge

LinkedIn:
[IUCN Water and Wetlands](https://www.linkedin.com/company/iucn-water-and-wetlands)

BRIDGE contacts

Maria Laura Piñeiros
 Laura.Pineiros@iucn.org
 BRIDGE Project Coordinator - Southern American Region