Rehabilitation of the Rimac River

An Analysis of Citizen Participation for the Sustainable Rehabilitation of the Rímac River

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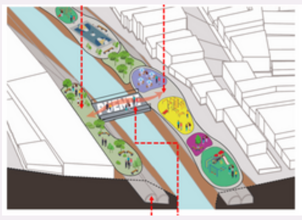
Introducion

The Rímac River, spanning from the high Andes to Lima, suffers ecosystem deterioration from mining, urban, and industrial pollution, harming species and human health. Loss of native flora and weak government management highlight insufficient environmental protection and justice.

Before

After



Reserch Question

How can citizen participation enhance the design and long-term sustainability of interventions aimed at rehabilitating the Rímac River as a functional and inclusive public space?

Methods

1 DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

- **Sources:** 2 academic sources, 18 institutional reports, 6 technical documents, and 16 news items
- **Focus:** Urban context of Lima, environmental and social problems of the Rímac River, citizen participation
- **Goal:** To identify the main requirements for the rehabilitation and social integration of the Rímac River, this stage incorporates an auto ethnographic perspective.

2 COMPARATIVE CASE STUDIES

- **Cases:** River Remedios, River Xochimilco
- **Focus:** Urban pressure, pollution, risa, action and stake
- **Goal:** Comparison of references to identify information that helps in the rehabilitation of the Rimac River

3 EXPERT INTERVIEW

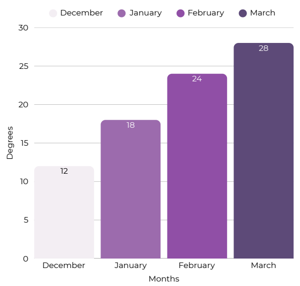
- **Expert:** River restoration
- **Goal:** The expert from the Watershed Management Group was chosen for his knowledge of river restoration, which would help in understanding the challenges and limitations of the urban and ecological environment of the Rímac River.

Results

1 Document Review and Analysis

Climate

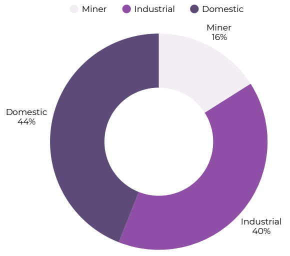
Mild months with rain



Goals
Reduce the vulnerability of urban areas to seasonal flooding.

Water

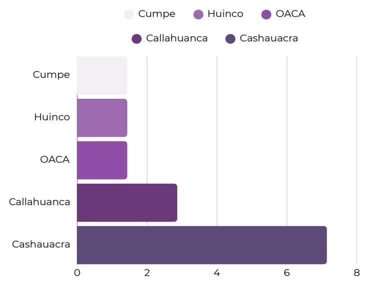
Mild months with rain



Goals
Improve water quality by reducing domestic and industrial wastewater discharges.

Clean Communities

Mild months with rain



Goals
Reduce the accumulation of solid waste in the riverbed and urban edges.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

1. Monitoring + cleaning + community design
2. Greater ownership and care
3. Sustainable interventions
4. Public, live and inclusive river

2 Case study comparative and analysis

Criterion	River Rímac	River Remedios	River Xochimilco
Urban pressure	High	Medium	Low
Pollution	Heavy metals	Sediments and garbage	Nutrients, invasive
Risks	Restrooms	Vectors and odors	Eutrophication
Actions	Cleanliness, education	Bioengineering	Chinampas and biofilters
Stake	Limited	Active	Very active
Results	Partial improvements	Life returns	Clearer water

3 Interview and analysis

According to the expert interview, citizen participation is essential for sustainable Rímac River rehabilitation. Bioremediation and treatment plants alone are insufficient. Effective interventions require a holistic approach combining technology, infrastructure, environmental education, and community involvement. Residents should participate in planning, maintenance, and supervision to ensure designs like green areas, rain gardens, and pathways meet local needs. Active engagement links residential, municipal, and government efforts, creating inclusive, long-lasting public spaces.

1 + 2 + 3 =

Citizen participation is needed to generate a true connection with the river, because no matter what technical method or system is implemented; without community involvement, the recovery cannot be sustained or have a real impact

Disccussion + Conclusion

- The economic vulnerability of communities along the Rímac, driven by low incomes, informal employment, and environmental risks, highlights the need for targeted interventions. River rehabilitation could stimulate local economic activity, tourism, and urban development. Ensuring sustainable outcomes requires coordinated planning, environmental management, and active community participation.
- Incorporate the vaulting system to better channel water flow, reduce overflows during rainy seasons, and protect adjacent urban areas.
- The proposal is conceived as a strategic and phased framework rather than a single fixed intervention, allowing adaptation to institutional, financial, and political constraints.
- Activate riverbanks as public spaces, and seek international funding.
- The Rímac River faces severe pollution, biodiversity loss, and flood risks, affecting surrounding ecosystems and communities. Effective rehabilitation requires continuous monitoring, ecological restoration, and community involvement.

Recommendation

These phased, adaptable recommendations aim to guide long-term river rehabilitation, using grants to fund studies, works, and programs that ensure technical continuity, environmental sustainability, and community participation.

ROUTE TO UNESCO FUNDING

1. Include the river on the national "Tentative List"
2. Submit Nomination File
3. Evaluated by the Consultative Bodies of the Convention
4. World Heritage Committee Decision
5. NATURAL HERITAGE
6. Request funding from UNESCO
7. Present a proposal for the rehabilitation of the Rimac River
8. FINANCING

FINANCING PATHWAY FOR THE IDB

1. Define the scope of the project and its relevance to water.
2. Prepare a technical, social and environmental profile of the project
3. Coordinate with local or national authorities
4. Include a social and environmental sustainability component
5. Submit the formal financing request to the IDB

FINANCING PATHWAY FOR CAF

1. Register the project within CAF's Water Program
2. Request support under the Technical Cooperation / Non-reimbursable modality.
3. Coordinate with local or national authorities
4. Demonstrate continuity of the project already started in Rímac.
5. Formalize the application through Local Government / Ministry.

Reference

National Water Commission. (2021). *Culverting the Río de los Remedios will improve its hydraulic functioning*

UNESCO. (s.f.). *International Assistance*

IDB. (s.f.). *Direct subnational governments' financing*

CAF. (s.f.). *CAF will support the recovery of the Rimac River in Lima.*