

INTRODUCTION

In Brazil, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), in partnership with the Center for Sustainability Studies of Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGVces), started in 2018 the “El Agua nos Une” initiative.

The main objective of this initiative is to promote the water resources management in Brazilian companies, with an approach of life cycle assessment.

In November 2018, a process of incorporating the water footprint concept began in 3 companies of different productive sectors in Brazil. In return, the companies assumed an internal commitment to reduce the use and impacts on the water resource and also to develop actions with the value chain.

The following companies participate in the first cycle of the project's activities: Companhia Brasileira de Alumínio (CBA), Klabin and Votorantim Cimentos (VC).

The companies that initiate this process must assess the water footprint of their most representative product and implement a plan to reduce the water consumption and direct and indirect impacts on water.

Between November 2018 and March 2020, the Brazilian initiative worked together with companies to develop the various activities of the study, which included: choice of product to be studied, definition of objective and scope, preparation of the process map, data collection, elaboration of the life cycle inventory, modeling in the software, interpretation of the results and elaboration of the water footprint reduction plans. From April to December 2020 (project extension phase), the companies will finally have their reduction plans in place. This publication presents the results of the corporate water footprint in Brazil.

Components of El Agua nos Une – SuizAgua Brasil Initiative

WATER FOOTPRINT TRAINING



Formation of companies in methods and tools for quantifying the water footprint

WATER FOOTPRINT ASSESSMENT



Development of water footprint studies to quantify the environmental impacts of products (quantity and quality)

WATER FOOTPRINT REDUCTION



Development and implementation of water footprint reduction projects based on calculated results

NETWORK AND COMMUNICATION



Conduction of workshops and exchange of experiences with different stakeholders: fostering a **community of practice** in water resources management

RESULTS

This publication compiles the results achieved by the project between 2018 and 2020, around the implementation of the El Agua nos Une in Brazil.

Three major Brazilian companies participate in the project: Companhia Brasileira de Alumínio (from the mining and construction sector), Klabin (paper and cellulose) and Votorantim Cimentos (mining and construction).

Main Results :

- 3 companies developed water footprint studies during the “El Agua nos Une” project.
- USD 141,360.00 invested by the 3 companies for carrying out water footprint studies and implementing reduction plans.
- Strategic partnerships that contributed to the Project: ACV Brasil and Brazilian Network of the Global Compact.

- 3 Technical training on methods and tools for quantifying the water footprint.
- 1 workshop and 2 webinars to exchange experiences with different stakeholders.

Expected results until December/2020

- Implementation of plans to reduce the use and direct and indirect impacts of water.
- The reduction plans are expected to save water and improve treatment, benefiting several actors who share the water resource in the basins.
- Holding events to disseminate the water footprint technique in the business context and promote more efficient water management.

Expected results of the El Agua nos Une Project - SuizAgua Brasil



Training



Water Footprint Studies



Impacts Reduction



Promotion of Events



Partnerships



Publications