

**Table S1: Complementary quotes**

Categories	Subcategories	Quotes
Drought's history		<p>‘Around six years ago one can see, one can notice a [decrease]. Let me see, the last strong rain here was in 2000-2009, if I am not mistaken, and it was a good storm ... and also I notice, as a son of a farmer, I’m always aware of the snow In the mountains.’<sup>1</sup></p> <p>‘In terms of precipitation I do not know, but in terms of snow reservoirs and amount of water that we get, it has been much worse. Yes, it has intensified.’<sup>2</sup></p> <p>‘Yes, since around six years, we have noticed that water deficit has increased, in the Aconcagua River and its tributaries mainly’<sup>3</sup></p>
Drought causes		<p>‘One cause of this is the bad distribution of water, the Water Law.’<sup>4</sup></p> <p>‘From the damage that many mining companies cause to glaciers, to eternal snow that we had at some point [in time]; all that damage is produced by the people themselves.’<sup>5</sup></p> <p>‘There are people who I frequently come across [in the town] and they say to me ‘Do you know what? All season I had water only once’ ..., and meantime the big crop farmers fill their irrigation dams and water doesn’t reach others’ land’.<sup>6</sup></p>

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<sup>1</sup> Interviewee from government (government personnel), Paine.

<sup>2</sup> Interviewee from private sector, Paine.

<sup>3</sup> Interviewee from civil society, Los Andes.

<sup>4</sup> Interviewee from civil society, Rinconada.

<sup>5</sup> Interviewee from government (government personnel), Los Andes.

<sup>6</sup> Interviewee from government (government personnel), Rinconada de Los Andes.

Impacts on the environment	Landscape	<p>‘The landscape in summer here, when it rained and snowed, it was beautiful, we had the snow even in the bottom of the valley, and because we had more water to irrigate of course everything was greener.’<sup>7</sup></p> <p>‘Look, I have friends who are hunters and they go a lot to the hills. They say that the hills is now dust, there is no vegetation to feed the native animals.’<sup>8</sup></p>
	Flora and fauna	<p>‘They left, the Plumbeous Rail [<i>Pardirallus sanguinolentus</i>]; it is a bird in this area. It is been years since I do not see a Plumbeous Rail.’<sup>9</sup></p> <p>‘For example, I used to go to the hill to hunt frogs, and there were [frogs], there were fountains that had water, there were frogs and today there is nothing, today there is nothing.’<sup>10</sup></p> <p>‘We used to go to ... the Zaino, in the sector of Jahuel, it was common to see little foxes, <i>degúes</i>, those brush-tailed mouse that are native to here. Now you see nothing, barely a rabbit or ..., there is nothing. What are they going to eat if there is no water?’<sup>11</sup></p>
Impacts in the water management	Irrigation issues	<p>‘Drought has definitely had an effect in the Aconcagua Valley. Restrictions, which mainly affect farmers, have been placed on water usage, and special measures have been taken to safeguard drinking water.’<sup>12</sup></p> <p>‘Well, where the problem of drinking water supply is more evident, here there are 500 home gardens, and those who live in at the end [of the</p>

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<sup>7</sup> Interviewee from government (government personnel), San Felipe.

<sup>8</sup> Interviewee from private sector, Rinconada de Los Andes.

<sup>9</sup> Interviewee from private sector, Rinconada de Los Andes.

<sup>10</sup> Interviewee from civil society, Los Andes.

<sup>11</sup> Interviewee from private sector, San Felipe.

<sup>12</sup> Interviewee from private sector, Los Andes.

Drinking water supply

The efficient use of water

irrigation canal] are always complaining that they get too little water and it is not enough to irrigate, it is not like before when water flow was greater.’<sup>13</sup>

‘Crops whose owners are holders of conditional water use rights are the most affected ones, because ... they depend on the existence of leftover water from permanent water use rights, and here there is practically no leftover water, there is no surplus water’.<sup>14</sup>

‘In summer, there were some days when [drought] caused the water systems to burst because of air bubbles produced while the system was running.’<sup>15</sup>

‘For example, where I live there is a problem with water pressure .... In summer, I prefer to bathe with cold water than trying to get hot water. In this season, well, besides that the plumbing is old, it keeps breaking. ... In my area we spent three days without water, ... not with the water turned off, but with so little water coming out of the tap ...eventually you realize that something is changing.’<sup>16</sup>

‘... but sanctions [fees], are the only way to regulate the consumption, to keep control of water consumption. There are some studies that show that a five members family should use about 25 cubic meters of water at normal and efficient rates of usage, so those who use more are using more water because the want to have a pretty garden or a pool, to have a clean car, and

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<sup>13</sup> Interviewee from private sector, La Pintana.

<sup>14</sup> Interviewee from private sector, Los Andes.

<sup>15</sup> Interviewee from government (government personnel), San Felipe.

<sup>16</sup> Interviewee from government (government personnel), Los Andes.

		all that has a cost.’ <sup>17</sup>
		‘... I have been one of the most creative. I have made gardens out of stones, with cactus that survive with the morning mist or of nothing else. You have to continue adapting.’ <sup>18</sup>
	The economy of Rural Drinking Water Committees (APR)	‘Most of them [population in the area], a 60%, lives from agriculture, and by having no harvest their incomes get reduced, therefore, occupationally it affects us [because] ... they are restricted for the water issue, and the debts for drinking water bills increase.’ <sup>19</sup>
		‘The test drilling that we usually saw has decreased ... registries show that each time we have less water availability.’ <sup>20</sup>
		‘There are some sectors that have presented many complications, such as the northern sector, on the border with the district of Putaendo, where APRs ... collapsed because of the water issues.’ <sup>21</sup>
Impacts to productive sectors	Impacts in Agriculture	‘... And that is what many farmers do - they don’t just throw out the fruit, they are uprooting the plants. There are many farmers who have peach trees and many of them are pulling them out.’ <sup>22</sup>
		‘These dry years have brought many problems ... I own three hectares of land that I cannot irrigate; I am paying for water and I cannot irrigate. In the case of bees [apiculture], ... bees drink a lot of water and honey has a 70%

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<sup>17</sup> Interviewee from private sector, San Felipe.

<sup>18</sup> Interviewee from private sector, San Felipe.

<sup>19</sup> Interviewee from private sector, Santa María.

<sup>20</sup> Interviewee from private sector, Santa María.

<sup>21</sup> Interviewee from government (government personnel), San Felipe.

<sup>22</sup> Interviewee from government (government personnel), Rinconada de Los Andes.

		water content, so it affects them.’ <sup>23</sup>
		‘Well, it has been in a totally negative way. Water users need to buy water hours, and an hour of water is very expensive nowadays- the cheapest a user found was 7000 CLP (Chilean pesos) the hour, the most expensive has been 25000 CLP the hour ... and if products are going to cost the same for the final consumer, the extra cost comes out of the farmer’s pocket.’ <sup>24</sup>
	Impacts in tourism	‘The other thing is that at the level of the tourism operators, well, for everybody the water is expensive and scarce, but- for example, there are many recreational places that use drinking water, which in this moments is very expensive. Tourism activities which depend on dams also face a great deal of issues with water scarcity; rivers are very dry and, therefore, every day there are fewer natural lagoons.’ <sup>25</sup>
		‘In fact this area has characterized by the people from Santiago who came to the Hospital River. People came to camp, they were there all summer, there were many people who came to stay there during January ... they came to spend the summer here and they enjoyed the whole season, but now there is little tourism and very few people come to this area.’ <sup>26</sup>
Socio-economic impacts	Labor and costs of life	‘The price of water is really high right now, and that is the first big effect of drought- that water has become more expensive.’ <sup>27</sup>
		‘[The drought] has intensified more and more. We, as farmers, realize that is very much needed for the crop fields, for everything y and also for the

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<sup>23</sup> Interviewee from private sector, Rinconada de Los Andes.

<sup>24</sup> Interviewee from government (government personnel), San Felipe.

<sup>25</sup> Interviewee from private sector, Rinconada de Los Andes.

<sup>26</sup> Interviewee from private sector, Paine.

<sup>27</sup> Interviewee from private sector, Rinconada de Los Andes.

## Quality of life

city, because if we cultivate less vegetables and fruits, then [the city supply] will also decrease, or the costs for the city will increase too.’<sup>28</sup>

‘Exactly, I do not have water, and our well is at most six meters deep. This was the well I used to fill my swimming pool; now I cannot even have my swimming pool- it has affected me even in this way, in a personal matter.’<sup>29</sup>

‘... We had had so little water [rain] and the amount of volatile particulate material nowadays I think is of 90% of the mine waste. How does that impact us? Wind carries the material towards the surrounding communities, and we have a community 100 meters from the mining waste site, ... All the people that live there could develop some problem, such as silicosis or some breathing issues, because the particulate matter is very small and it is important to consider that it contains arsenic, it has copper, it has silver, it contains zinc, it containing different materials ...’<sup>30</sup>

‘Off the Aconcagua River, near San Felipe, natural pools used to form there and were spectacular for swimming. That no longer exists.’<sup>31</sup>

‘In my personal life, from the emotional point of view, I see animal and plant species that are being affected.’<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Interviewee from private sector, Rinconada de Los Andes.

<sup>29</sup> Interviewee from private sector, Paine.

<sup>30</sup> Interviewee from government (government personnel), Rinconada de Los Andes.

<sup>31</sup> Interviewee from civil society, San Felipe.

<sup>32</sup> Interviewee from civil society, San Felipe.

Conflicts and social problems.

‘Yes, from the point of view of the farmers, it has been a big fight because before, it wasn’t necessary to schedule irrigation shifts; now they irrigate using these turn systems, which has caused some problems for the Farmer’s Association.’<sup>33</sup>

‘Nowadays we have to get up at three AM to get water, argue with the neighbor - with whom we had never argued before, travel long distances... it is a physical and psychological trying, and we have also clashed with the neighbors, as I told you, because we all want to irrigate.’<sup>34</sup>

‘When there are people willing to shoot each other for water, this means that [water] is missing, that is another [important] indicator.’<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Interviewee from civil society, Los Andes.

<sup>34</sup> Interviewee from government (government personnel), Santa María.

<sup>35</sup> Interviewee from private sector, La Pintana.