



After 8 p.m. today, water from the Cauca River will begin to flow again through the Ituango Hydroelectric Project's spillway

Tonight water will begin its journey from the hydroelectric Ituango project's reservoir to the spillway discharge well and from there to the Cauca River. The flow will increase to an approximate rate of 8 cubic meters per hour within the next 72 hours.

In this way, and as was referred to in the technical planning for the closure of the second intake gate, the goal of gradually beginning to restore, in less than four days, the water levels of this hydro-graphic basin between the dam site and the La Mojana region in the department of Sucre, Colombia is being met.

The operation was initiated at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon, when spillway floodgates 2, 3 and 4 started to be sequentially opened and monitored, a large structure that is able to divert up to 22,400 cubic meters of water per second towards the river; significant quantity if one takes into account that in the heaviest rainy seasons of the area only between 5,000 and 6,000 cubic meters per second are recorded in the Cauca River.

The EPM's Chief Executive Officer, Jorge Londoño De la Cuesta asserted that this step is meaningful, above all, for what it represents for the protection of people's lives in the Lower Cauca and the environment.

The CEO highlighted all the assistance rendered by the authorities and municipality's communities, as well as the role that people have played, among EPM officials, contractors, fishermen and representatives of



various entities, to mitigate the damage to the environment and to the people's activities that occurred in the river when the second intake floodgate closed last Tuesday afternoon.

“We will continue to work to reverse the damages, it is an EPM commitment dating back to the start of the project, but above all because it is part of the company's values to always, in all activities, take the greatest responsibility when it comes to communities and the environment.”

The water that flows through the spillway will continue to increase as time goes by. Between Sunday and Monday, the river is expected to return to normal historic water levels for this time of year, which is considered dry season.

Without Risk

Although the start of discharge does not represent any type of risk for communities, as the river's water level will continue to gradually rise in a controlled manner downriver from the project, it is important that those who live or are on the banks of the Cauca River this weekend, paying particular attention to the authorities and follow the following recommendations:

- The Cauca River water level will slowly begin to rise. Therefore, it is important to not get into the river or get close to its banks.
- The river's water level will increase little by little until it reaches a common level for this time of year and very similar to the one seen by inhabitants of the Lower Cauca a week ago, prior to the closure of the second intake floodgate. However, in the event a sudden change is



detected, it is important to notify the community's evacuation leaders, who will then inform the Disaster Risk Management Municipal Council.

- While the operation returns to normal, moving up activities, such as boating, fishing or transportation on the waters of the Cauca River should be avoided.
- In any event, it is advisable to keep your cell phone charged and loaded (battery and minutes) to receive and make calls or send emergency text messages, if necessary.
- It is recommended that you stay informed from local radio stations and official messages issued by each municipality's Mayor's office, the DAPARD, the Red Cross, the fire department and EPM (@epmestamosahi).
- In order to not cause confusion, on social media and in person-to-person conversations it is requested that information and content that is disseminated be from official sources.
- Remember which designated meeting point corresponds to your community and pass this along to your family. If you are unfamiliar, community leaders will provide you with the information.
- Keep the "life kit" at hand to have it in the event of an evacuation.

To address concerns, you can call EPM's service line 018000413825.