

Status of sustainable mountain development at the national and international levels. Overview of the results, impacts and changes achieved by partners, in particular with reference to the statements of resolution

Summary of the most important activities and results achieved by CONDESAN since 2007 in furthering mountain:

- **Communication and networking mechanisms - Resolution paragraph 33**

1. INFOANDINA, COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION PLATAFORM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THAT ENABLES INFORMATION MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE WEB

From its creation, InfoAndina has fulfilled the role of communication and information dissemination for the Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andes Eco-Region (CONDESAN). As time has passed and experience has been gained, the InfoAndina project has recognized the need to promote as its main working axis the generation of knowledge, dissemination of information and promotion of learning among the different actors within sustainable mountain development. During 2008, InfoAndina has supported reflection processes around its partners' experiences, contributed with partners' political incidence work, promoted different information services related to sustainable mountain development and has been in constant search of innovative forms of communication and information sharing.

During the last years InfoAndina has centered its efforts towards information management that promotes generation of knowledge that supports reflection processes and facilitates the work partners are doing on sustainable mountain development in Latin America. A central activity was the implementation of dynamic and decentralized webs for second level organizations specialized in development topics. These web pages facilitate access and dissemination of relevant information for the region. We currently have implemented the following web pages: ASOCAM, a Template for implementation of thematic web portals, an Extranet for Partners: <http://www.asocam.org>; PDRS: <http://www.gtz-rural.org.pe>; RAMP PERU: <http://www.ramp-peru.org.pe> and a monitoring system for the First Inventors Follow-up Program; the Challenge Program on Water and Food Andean Basin System (CPWF-ANDES): <http://www.infoandina.org/andean/>; a Web Portal for IdeeLe Magazine: <http://www.revistaideele.com>; and Information mechanism on Paramos (MIP): <http://www.paramo.org>; and the new web for the Urban Harvest program: <http://www.uharvest.org>.

2. ELECTRONIC CONFERENCES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS SPACES FOR EXCHANGE AND COLLECTIVE LEARNING

CONDESAN's Electronic Conferences provide virtual communication spaces that simulate face-to-face meetings, and facilitate the organized exchange of experiences around specific topics. During 2007-2009 CONDESAN and InfoAndina organized the following conferences:

- "Social Vision of Water in the Andes: Water, Trade and Regulations" This conference sought contributing to reduce tensions between state and civil society regarding public policies on hydrological resources and services and to the analysis of reform proposals. The final report can be found in: <http://www.infoandina.org/site.shtml?x=8249>.
- "Environmental Hydrological Services in the Andes" Part of the 2008 Panorama Andino Process. The objective was to generate new knowledge and promote citizen dialogue, guide actions of the different regional development actors, promote policy

recommendations and achieve the integration of existing information in the region. Contributions and conclusions were presented in an International Conference in February 2009 and used for the final Panorama Andino document and accompanying scientific papers (to be published). <http://www.infoandina.org/ServiciosHidrologicos2008>

- **“Food Crisis: challenges and opportunities in the Andes”** aimed at deepening reflections on food crisis in the Andes region, the potential of Andean crops, evaluating measures being taken at country level and recommending other measures or studies needed. One recommendation was to watch over common interests in face of protectionist and unequal trade measures that are being adopted by centralist countries. Another recommendation was to avoid policies that favor the use of food product or their replacement by other crops for bio-fuel production. <http://www.infoandina.org/crisisalimentaria/>
- **Electronic forum “Rural Territorial Development and Governance of Natural Resources: reflections in the Andes” (May-June 2009)**. International and regional experiences were presented, showing the effective application and the organized, systemic and holistic contributions of Rural Territorial Development Approaches to the governance of natural resources. A conclusion drawn is that good natural resource governance under the proposed approach need the development of decentralized governmental systems under a premise of transparency and inclusion of all key actors.

3. MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP SECRETARIAT IN LATIN AMERICAN

CONDESAN hosts the MPS decentralized hub for Latin America (MPS-LAH). The LAH has been following-up the development of a Regional TCP (Technical Cooperation Program), proposal led by Argentina and Peru as part of the activities to build capacities among the members of the Andean Initiative. One of the points that has been settled and permitted the advancement of the proposal was the recognition of Peru as the co-management of the project. Another point is the revitalization of the National Mountain Work Groups in the region. The LAH has also been giving follow-up to a national TCP (Institutional strengthening for the development of milk production chains in mountain regions of Peru), proposed by the Regional government of Cajamarca Peru with the support of ITDG. The LAH Officer participated of conversations between ITDG, the FAO representative in Peru and representative from the regional office of the Ministry of Agriculture to search for ways to take the TCP proposal ahead.

In February 2009 the decentralized hub hosted a meeting in Manizales Colombia where focal nodes of the Mountain Partnership’s Andes Initiative from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina and Chile got together to discuss joint activities and decide on how to move forward the regional TCP above mentioned. Aside from participating and sponsoring the electronic forums above mentioned on Food Crisis and Rural territorial development, the LAH has co-organized together with the CAN, CONDESAN-Ecuador and ECOBONA a face-to-face dialogue on Mining and Mountains in March 2009.

4. MOUNTAIN FORUM FOR LATIN AMERICA

Mountain Partnership is a community of people with the deep interest in mountain and issues of sustainable mountain development worldwide. In order to fulfill its mission, the MF uses modern and traditional communications, supports networking and capacity building and encourages members to be proactive in advocating sustainable development of mountain areas. Membership of Mountain Forum is free and open to anyone wishing to participate. In Latin American, InfoAndina is the Node of Mountain Forum.

Within the framework of the collaboration between the Mountain Partnership and the Mountain Forum a **Who is Who** mapping exercise of key organizations in the field of Sustainable Mountain Development (SMD) was carried out by the Mountain Forum over the 2008.

The objective of the mapping exercise was to identify traditional and new actors in sustainable mountain development in order to enhance synergies and use comparative advantages between the many mountain stakeholders. For this, systematic access to information about organizations working on sustainable mountain development is essential.

The mapping exercise was a joint activity of the Mountain Partnership and the global Mountain Forum network. In Latin American and Caribbean we have recollected around 273 from different sectors and countries. See: <http://www.mtnforum.org/wisw/index.php>

• **Transboundary cooperation - Resolution paragraphs 15 and 27**

1. PANORAMA ANDINO ON PAYMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, THE 2008 REGIONAL SYNTHESIS PROCESS

Panorama Andino is a participatory process aimed at stimulating and supporting the community of practice, integrating existing information regarding a specific topic, promoting the critical analysis of this information and generating new knowledge. The process provides elements for political incidence, promotion of citizen dialogue and to guide the actions of different development actors.

In 2008, CONDESAN engaged in an in-depth analysis of the offer and demand of hydrological environmental services (HES) in the Andes to better understand political, economic and social barriers that limit the functioning of these schemes and identify and propose alternatives to implemented. In order to do this, the current state of knowledge, practice and policy regarding the topic in the region was documented.

Regarding knowledge, it was found that in the Andes there is still a need to further understand hydrological processes and HES to be able to give value to these services. Among the main conclusions regarding the state of the action regarding conservation or recuperation of HES financial mechanisms in the Andes, we found that there are few cases that have a complete initial evaluation that scientifically demonstrated the need, place and way in which these actions should occur to recover HES.

Lastly, a revision of the environmental policy frame in the seven countries in the Andes region showed that there are no public strategies or policies that make specific reference to HES tools. Nevertheless there is one exception: Colombia has a draft of a National Strategy for Payment for Environmental Services under discussion.

2. PARAMO ANDINO PROJECT (PPA), REGIONAL PROJECT THAT GIVE ADDED VALUE TO GENERATION OF INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE.

This project is a merging point for the design, integration and put into practice of initiatives that contribute to overcoming the main barriers for conservation of biodiversity and protection of the paramo's hydrology. It additionally seeks the compatibility between conservation and sustainable use. The project is financed by GEF, executed at regional level by CONDESAN and at national level by its different partners (ICAE from the Universidad de los Andes en Venezuela, Alexander von Humboldt Institute in Colombia, the Fundación EcoCiencia in Ecuador, and the Mountain Institute in Peru). There are a dozen pilot sites, in the four

participating countries, from which we are learning that through concrete actions we can contribute to local conservation under different biophysical and socio economic conditions.

The PPA has proponed to contribute to the conservation of paramos in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, taking into account the diverse national realities and the environmental benefits conservation can bring to humanity in general and more specifically to local populations. Likewise, it seeks to recognize value and stimulate Andean paramo culture, by performing key Management activities, involving people linked to the ecosystem that will build on education processes, raising awareness and research.

By the end of the Project we hope to see retribution/payment schemes in place, which reward efforts that contribute to the conservation of the Andes paramo. These schemes will be gradually inserted in policies at different scales: local, hydrographic watershed, national and Andean.

3. MAP OF THE NORTH AND CENTRAL ANDES ECOSYSTEMS

Mapping of the North and Central Andes ecosystems was done as part of the implementation frame of the Andes Environmental Agenda. This was done through interinstitutional collaboration between the Andes Community General Secretariat, Intercooperation's Regional ECOBONA program, the BioAndes Program, NatureServe, EcoCiencia, The Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resources Research Institute, the Instituto de Ciencias Ambientales y Ecológicas - Universidad de Los Andes (ICAE-ULA), the Teledetección Laboratory - Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina (UNALM), the Centro de Datos para la Conservación - Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina (CDC-UNALM), and RUMBOL SRL.

The map permits the identification, classification and diagnosis of the different ecosystems. Data gives concrete guidelines for the preparation of biodiversity management plans and for the elaboration of policies oriented towards sustainable development of the region.

This study integrates some knowledge collected at country level, and transforms it through a homologation process creating a regional panorama on the state of biodiversity conservation in the Andes Cordillera. With this macro vision, new management priorities can be established and integration of Andean countries around the need to face challenges derived from the administration of biological resources can be encouraged. Adoption of Joint policies and coordinated positions at International forums are among these challenges.

The North and Central Tropical Andes have an extension of 1'542.644 Km from the West of Venezuela to the border between Bolivia, Chile and Argentina. This region is considered the region with the world's greatest biological richness and Diversity.

4. PARMUNDI

The 2nd Paramos World Congress took place in the city of Loja June 21-27, 2009. As with the first congress, the aim of this meeting was to position paramos as a strategic ecosystem within the international, national and local areas, and to promote the definition of joint commitments and action strategies for their preservation and sustainable management. The event gave opportunity for the exchange of information, knowledge, practices and know-how will be promoted, as well as the discussion and establishment of conclusions and recommendations through conferences, discussion panels, community forums and workshops about several issues related to the management and conservation of the paramos, all organized within four mayor symposiums:

1. Characterization and diagnosis of the current state of paramos.
2. Effects of climatic change on paramos.
3. Soil usage in paramos: impact, dynamics and tendencies.
4. Action, management and conservation tools for high plateaus.

Expected results from this event were:

- An **official declaration** recognizing the important of the paramos and stressing to authorities the need to adopt conservation and adequate Management measures
- **Deeper knowledge** on the characteristics and state of conservation of paramos at world level, through conferences, panels and work groups that is documented in written papers.
- **Agreement and action plan** giving priority to geographic regions that need immediate attention due to their importance and the threats they face.
- **Strategic alliances** built during the congress to take forward conservation and sustainable Management processes at all levels.