



Sustainable Agriculture  
and Rural Development  
**MOUNTAIN POLICY PROJECT**



## Activities in South America

### The Global Mountain Program (GMP) and CONDESAN based at the International Potato Centre (CIP)

**Overall Objective:** To foster sustainable mountain development in the Andean region through the promotion of a better understanding of the agro-ecological, biophysical and socio-economic processes, and conduct research and development in the field of natural resource management.

#### **Searching solutions to foster and promote sustainable mountain development**

**The Global Mountain Program (GMP)** is a system wide programme of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a strategic alliance of countries, international and regional organizations, and private foundations supporting 15 international agricultural Centers. Its main goals are to use science-based solutions, together with local knowledge and collaborative work to foster sustainable mountain development and promote better understanding of the agro-ecological, biophysical and socio-economic processes, directly impinging on the livelihoods of mountain people. The GMP works closely with regional programs such as the Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN) in the Andes, with the African Highlands Initiative in Africa (AHI) and is partnering with ICIMOD in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas.

**CONDESAN** is an association of public and private sector partners working together on research, training, development and policy initiatives promoting the protection of natural resources and improvements in welfare and equity for the people of the Andes. The overall goal of the consortium is to improve livelihoods and the environment in the Andean eco-region through the promotion of integrated and multi-disciplinary responses in associated research and development issues. The objective of CONDESAN is to create regional capacity to conduct research and development projects based on the understanding of natural resource management, and to develop environmentally sound production systems and policies that enhance life in the Andes, particularly in the highlands.

Both programmes are institutionally based in the **International Potato Centre (CIP)**, one of 15 CGIAR Centres around the world. Its mandated research areas are potato and sweet potato improvement and use and natural resource management of potato- and sweet potato-based systems.

#### **Strengthening SARD-M policies at the national level**

GMP/CONDESAN, as a Regional Focal Point of the SARD-M Project, facilitates communication, coordination and networking with other partners, while supporting the design and implementation of project activities in the Andean Region. Regional Focal Points advocate for SARD policies in mountain regions and work closely with relevant entities at the regional and national levels.



- ▲ Assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of mountain policies in the Andes;
- ▲ Facilitation of information sharing, communication, coordination and networking with other partners;
- ▲ Mobilisation of potential partners in the project;
- ▲ Fostering of public awareness with regards to the concrete application of SARD mountain policies.

### Performing policy assessments in the Andean region

Breaking poverty cycles, managing fragile resources and conserving the environment in mountains is dependent, in part, on providing enabling environments and the tools, information and support to mountain communities and individuals to act. Part of the enabling environment has to be provided by the government by means of policies and laws that reflect the needs of civil society. Mountain policies are manifold. They tackle the development and use of factors such as water, genetic diversity, migration, infrastructure, conservation, education, mining, land ownership and tenure, etc. In most Andean countries many of these policies are considered inadequate, not enforced or non-existent.

The development of policies for sustainable development is an **iterative process** that allows for the national and local levels to act in a coordinated and participatory manner to develop coherent policies that balance the economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development. Given that SARD is a process that involves **multiple sectors strongly linking agriculture and rural development and stakeholders at all governance levels**, the assessments will pay attention to the opinions of the different components of society at various levels, i.e. national and decentralized levels of government and civil society, including the private sector, and will also take into consideration the multi-sectoral nature of SARD.

Within this framework GMP/CONDESAN is performing the following activities to assess the strengths and weaknesses of mountain policies, including social, economic, environmental, legal and institutional aspects, in relation to SARD principles and to consider the possibility of establishing an incentive-based mechanism to conserve natural resources. The results may also be applicable to other mountain regions beyond the Andes, namely in Columbia and Peru.

- ▲ Collect policy information on specific natural resources management (NRM) problems as perceived at the grassroots level with a focus on water and soil management, using specific case studies in the Andes;
- ▲ Analyse the existing policies for NRM in the broader context of SARD at local, national and regional levels;
- ▲ Report results and begin a dialogue with local and national representatives on how to improve policies and concerned institutions.

A workshop will be organized in Autumn 2006 with representatives of each of the countries to present findings and recommendations and to discuss future directions. A report of the collected information and findings will be written.

## Contact Information



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