

South America Electoral Group Report (2018-2019)

On the session for “Regional perspectives and considerations from the electoral groups” (March 26, 13:30-15:00), please report about the activities of your respective constituency on the Mountain Partnership’s four pillars of work: (1) advocacy, (2) communications and knowledge management, (3) capacity development and (4) joint action.

Each person will have 3 minutes to report. Therefore, for each pillar of work, please focus on one main achievement/result in 2018 and on one main item that you would like to accomplish under each pillar in 2019.

(1) advocacy

In the latest meeting of the Andean Initiative in December 2018, we have approved the **Manual of Procedure of the Andean Initiative**. This manual establishes the bases of operation to guide the actions of the Initiative and helps to strengthen the role of this institution as the regional leader in mountain matters.

However, the document must be improved and updated as the Initiative evolves and acquires a higher level of development over time. **2019** will be its first year of enforcement and thus it will be subject to review and modifications.

Concerning **resource mobilization**, the Initiative has agreed in the use of funds provided by Euroclima+. These funds will finance the next Annual meeting of the Initiative in **2019**, in order to guarantee the participation of all the members of the Council.

(2) communications and knowledge management

We have advanced in the elaboration of a **Communication Strategy**, including the logo and graphic image for the initiative.

Although all the countries of the region have made efforts to promote the International Mountain Day, we expect to strengthen the Communication Strategy during **2019** as a way to coordinate joint initiatives that trigger social impact on the issue.

(3) capacity development

In this case we have particular examples of capacity development initiatives in the region.

In august 2018 the National Mountain Committee of **Chile**, supported by GEF and UNEP, organized the “**Access to Mountains Seminar**” to create conscience to responsibly access to the mountains.

In the case of **Argentina**, during 2018 we have implemented **FAO Telefood** projects in mountain schools. In these projects we have developed school farms with greenhouses and farmyard animals. They have the double objective of producing foods and, at the same time, create an educational space that enhances learning and generates a substantial change in the nutritional diet of the community and their families, since most of the students created their own family farm after this experience.

The cultivation techniques respond to an agroecological vision, since the communities use organic fertilizers and pest control techniques without synthetic pesticides. On the other hand, they carried out additional activities with products of the native flora. They developed creams and soaps that are used by students, parents and teachers.

We expect to continue working very closely in these kind of projects with FAO in **2019**, since the ones already implemented were very successful and Argentina is interested in developing new projects in more mountainous areas.

(4) joint action

We have approved the **Biannual Work Plan 2018-2019** of the Initiative. This document is very relevant for the region, since it allows a correct coordination to advance in the the implementation of the Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change in the

Andes, developed in consensus by the 7 member states of the Initiative with the support of CONDESAN and UN Environment.

Finally, there was a proposal of updating the **Tucuman Action Plan**. The Technical Secretary will submit a draft during this year to be analyzed by the member states of the Initiative.