

Regional Dialogues 2024

FOR THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF ANDEAN
MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS



CONDESAN
Consortio para el Desarrollo Sostenible
de la Ecorregión Andina



CLÚSTER DE COOPERACIÓN
EN LA REGIÓN DE LOS
ANDES TROPICALES Y
AMÉRICA CENTRAL

Introduction

The Regional Dialogues are virtual meetings to bring science closer to policy and practice, and to outline innovative ideas on the sustainable development of the Andean mountains.

For three decades, CONDESAN has been promoting processes of knowledge management, science-policy dialogue and exchange of experiences at the Andean level and with other mountain ranges, in order to build an integral and renewed vision of the mountain socio-ecosystems of our region.

In this regard, CONDESAN, together with the Humboldt Institute and the UN Environment Programme: UNEP, implemented in 2021 a series of virtual conversations called Regional Dialogues, spaces dedicated to the exchange of knowledge and experiences between key actors, disciplines and mountain regions.

The specific objective of these meetings was to learn about and communicate the latest and most innovative experiences in the management of high altitude ecosystems, in order to jointly build ideas and guidelines for the sustainable development of the mountain landscapes of the Andes, taking into account the current scenarios of local and global changes. The result was a [document](#) of recommendations for the topics discussed in each dialogue:

**Knowledge generation for integrated management:
understanding our mountains**

**Mountain governance and participation: better
organized for our territories**

**Conservation, restoration and management: balancing
production with conservation**



Proposal

CONDESAN, together with CLOC Conéctate A+ Network and its A@A Program, proposes to hold a new edition of the Regional Dialogues in 2024.

The same four moments will be implemented: three virtual discussions, one for each topic, plus a fourth moment for the elaboration of a document of recommendations or policy brief, addressed to implementers and decision makers.

1

Dialogue 1: Governance and participation (March 7th)

There is important progress in good governance and democratization of decision-making processes in mountain landscapes in the Andes. We want to share key cases of local and national experiences, and the key continental perspective that the Andean Mountain Initiative has for the region.

2

Dialogue 2: Conservation, restoration and production (Apr 4th)

The challenges for the sustainability of food systems, ecosystems and environmental services are related to the reduction of natural spaces, land degradation and abandonment of rural territories. Let's connect with innovative cases of integrated management of high altitude territories.

3

Dialogue 3: Integrated knowledge management (May 9th)

It is not possible to understand the territorial configuration of our ecosystems and high altitude societies in the Andes, without comprehensive interpretations at different scales. Updated, integrated and quality socio-environmental information is key to strengthen sustainable land management and governance processes, from the local to the continental level.

4

Generation of a policy brief July 2024

The systematization of the three dialogues will result in the elaboration of a policy brief that will summarize the most innovative ideas presented and discussed within the three conversations. We hope it will result in a useful tool for project and policy implementers and decision makers to improve their actions in Andean socio-ecosystems at all levels.

Methodology

Each virtual regional dialogue will consist of the following moments, with a total duration of two hours:

- 1 A brief introduction by the organizing team
- 2 An initial background lecture on the progress of the subject under discussion.
- 3 A panel of four mini or flash talks: three from Andean territories and one with a regional perspective or from another mountain range.
- 4 Question-and-answer section with discussion with the participation of the moderator and the general public.
- 5 Final thoughts, next steps and closing remarks by the organizing team.



Regional dialogue 1

Governance and participation (March 7th)

Dialogue approach:

Governance and participation in mountain socio-ecosystems in the Andes is a challenging matter at all scales. The presence of different visions and the number of key stakeholders involved makes participation and decision-making processes very complex. However, the importance of high altitude areas to guarantee ecosystem services and livelihoods makes managers, implementers and inhabitants reach minimal agreements on their sustainable development.

Key contributions of this dialogue:

- Share different models of governance that could be replicable and scalable.
- Share innovations in the inclusion of traditionally marginalized sectors of society.
- Share experiences from other mountain ranges.

Good governance is one of the most important pillars for sustainable ecosystem management. The multiple ways in which Andean mountain population choose to govern their natural resources have profound consequences on their quality of life and on the permanence of the services obtained from ecosystems. Understanding this diversity of models is also key to promoting participatory management of our territories and their ecosystems, an essential step for long-term sustainability.

The generation of information and knowledge management for decision making is key to a good governance process. Up-to-date information relevant to the problems faced in mountain territories, together with efficient communication processes in clear language, can make the difference when making decisions and avoiding basing them on preconceptions or non-evaluated assumptions. It is also important to promote dialogue between different visions and knowledge, promoting greater articulation between urban and rural territories in the Andes.

A challenge where much work remains to be done is in understanding the links between governance and sustainable land management; and the balance between the market, production, regulation and social capital, and changes in production to generate lower impact activities. It is important to incorporate these lines of research in long-term knowledge generation initiatives to strengthen governance processes.

Governance and participation (March 7th)

8:30-8:35

Brief introduction by the organizing team

8:35-9:10

Opening conference:

Andean Mountain Initiative: progress and challenges for regional and global advocacy (25 min + 10 min Q&A)

Karen Price and Vilisa Morón, CONDESAN

9:10-9:50

Flash talk 1

What has been going on with the Pact for the forests of Antioquia?

Colombia

(10 min)

Patricia Tobón

Flash talk 2

La Minga de la Montaña celebrates its first anniversary. What have we learned?

Ecuador

(10 min)

Ángel Onofa

Flash talk 3

Mountain Working Group of **Chile**

(10 min)

Lorena Pérez

Flash talk 4

Alpine Convention: priority topics for the 2024 conference

(10 min)

Alenka Smerkolj

9:50-10:20

Q&A and discussion with speakers and the general public

Moderators: Karen Price and Vilisa Morón, CONDESAN

10:20-10:30

Final thoughts, next steps and closing remarks

María Argüello, CONDESAN

Times correspond to GMT-5 time zone: Quito, Lima, Bogotá



Regional dialogue 2

Conservation, restoration and production (April 4th)

Dialogue approach:

The management of Andean mountain territories still faces great challenges to adequately balance conservation with production. Thousands of rural and urban livelihoods depend on the food grown on their land, but also on high altitude water, fertile soil, air exchange and even the contemplation of landscapes of exceptional beauty. The risks of natural disasters, accelerated land degradation and the effects of climate change make the task of protecting, restoring and producing in a balanced way, even more complicated.

Key contributions of this dialogue:

- Make the word and the strategy of conservation comeback as a key strategy in maintaining ecosystems that are viable in the long term.
- Show interesting experiences of territory and landscape management that combine different sectors and strategies, and that are replicable and scalable.

Although conservation, restoration and production strategies are increasingly being planned together, many challenges still persist in the sustainable management of landscapes and productive and food systems in high altitude territories in the Andes. The challenges to their sustainability are related to natural hazards, land degradation and abandonment of rural territories. Added to this is the loss of natural ecosystems and the services they provide.

In this sense, it is necessary to generate information to understand the dynamics that influence land management processes. Understanding, for example, the relationship between changes in agricultural or livestock practices implemented in productive reconversion strategies and ecosystem processes and services is key in order to design comprehensive strategies based on interdisciplinarity and with sustainability in mind.

The monitoring of vegetation and fauna, the effort to better understand land tenure and its changes over time, the strengthening of local organization, and the planning of productive activities are strategies that should go hand in hand. Thus, the work on a given Andean territory ranges from the generation of knowledge to the adoption of strategies and the implementation of policies and incentives. Long-term work in learning sites can be key in this context, especially if the ecological and social impacts of alternative land management is explicitly monitored and widely disseminated.

Conservation, restoration and production (April 4th)

8:30-8:35

Brief introduction by the organizing team

8:35-9:10

Opening conference:
Land degradation and integrated management of mountain landscapes (25 min + 10 min Q&A)
Manuel Peralvo, CONDESAN

9:10-9:50

Flash talk 1
Conservation
(10 min)
John Paul
Rodríguez, IUCN
Species Survival
Commission

Flash talk 2
Sustainable
agriculture
(10 min)

Flash talk 3
Sustainable
livestock
production
(10 min)

Charla 4
How to restore a
wetland destroyed
by mining?
Perú
(10 min)
Vivien Bonnesoeur,
CONDESAN

9:50-10:20

Q&A and discussion with speakers and the general public
Moderator: to be defined

10:20-10:30

Final thoughts, next steps and closing remarks
Rossana Proaño, CONDESAN

Times correspond to GMT-5 time zone: Quito, Lima, Bogotá



Regional dialogue 3

Integrated knowledge management (May 9th)

Dialogue approach:

Integrated socio-environmental monitoring is vital to understand the current territorial configuration of Andean mountain socio-ecosystems and the trends of their changes in the coming decades. Only by linking multiscale and socioecological approaches is it possible to understand new phenomena such as teleconnections, the global movement of people and raw materials, and changes in land cover and land use. The ultimate motivation is for data to be incorporated into planning tools and decision making processes, hence the need to network and adequately communicate results.

Key contributions of this dialogue:

- Present the state of the art of integration between social and environmental monitoring in the Andes.
- Share innovations such as the concept of long-term learning sites.
- Share regional experiences.

It is still a major challenge to make comprehensive, multi-scale and long-term analyses of the complex socio-environmental dynamics of the Andean mountains. The rapid climatic and land use changes of recent decades can only be explained and predicted by incorporating different perspectives. What are the key factors that determine the response of these ecological and social systems to climate change and land degradation? How does the incidence of these drivers of change and the responses of Andean socio-ecosystems vary across the enormous diversity of environmental, ecological, social and cultural conditions that characterize the region?

To answer these questions, reliable, accessible and long-standing socio-ecological information is needed. The integrated analysis of this information allows us to understand the processes of territorial configuration from the local to the continental level. This, in turn, requires transdisciplinary approaches and the articulation of scales, understanding high mountain landscapes as complex mosaics of natural and transformed systems.

This purpose is linked to two other equally important challenges. On the one hand, this information, derived from long-term research and monitoring, must be effectively integrated into decision making and policy definition, responding to the needs of territorial planning and management, and including the design and implementation of strategies for conservation, restoration and sustainable land management. On the other hand, this analysis and design should be developed through an inclusive process, with the participation and visions of different actors with diverse knowledge.

Integrated knowledge management (May 9th)

8:30-8:35

Brief introduction by the organizing team

8:35-9:10

Opening conference:
State of the art of socioenvironmental monitoring in the Andes (25 min + 10 min Q&A)
Ezequiel Aráoz, IER

9:10-9:50

Flash talk 1
Integrated Monitoring of High Mountain Socioecosystems in **Colombia**
(10 min)
Camilo Rodríguez,
Instituto Humboldt

Flash talk 2
Land Degradation Observatories in **Ecuador**
(10 min)
Manuel Peralvo,
CONDESAN

Flash talk 3
Progress in **continental** monitoring
(10 min)
Luis Daniel Llambí,
CONDESAN

Flash talk 4
Proposal for the creation of a **continental** observatory network, ROSA
(10 min)
Julieta Carilla,
IER

9:50-10:20

Q&A and discussion with speakers and the general public
Moderator: Petra Wallem, Centro de Ecología Aplicada y Sustentabilidad

10:20-10:30

Final thoughts, next steps and closing remarks
Luis D. Llambí, CONDESAN

Times correspond to GMT-5 time zone: Quito, Lima, Bogotá



Timeline

