

## THE ANDES INITIATIVE

**Moderators:** María Esther Bondanza (Argentina) and Ana Maria Ponce, CONDESAN – InfoAndina – Foro de Montañas (Peru)

### Participants:

Enrique Visaga A.	Peru / FAO
Carlos Cattaneo	Department of Agriculture (Argentina)
María del C. Saravia	Department of Tourism (Argentina)
Ramón Gonzalez	Cuba / Turquino – Manati National Plan Committee
Leonel Iglesias	Mexico / National Forestry Commission
Rolando Alfaro	Peru / Puno Regional Government
Merle Faminow	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
Marthadina Mendizábal	Bolivia, Rio + 10 (Ministry for Sustainable Development)
Beatrice Meyer	Swiss/Peru Cooperation
Renzo Ugarte	Committee for the Promotion of Peru (PROMPERU)
Luis Bernedo Rocca	PROMPERU
Rafael Esponda Villar	National Council for South American Camelids (CONACS, Peru)
Alfredo Miro-Quesada	Peruvian University of Applied Sciences
Maria Menéndez	Institute of Agricultural Technology (Argentina)
Julio Calderón	UNEP – Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
Gloria Cristina Flórez	United Nations University
Héctor Cisneros	Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)
Rubén Patrouilleau	Department of the Environment and Sustainable Development (Argentina)
Graciela Antonietti	National Parks Administration (Argentina)
Rosalaura Romeo	Interim Secretariat for the Mountain Partnership (FAO-Rome)

Following a wide-ranging exchange of opinions, the participants decided to identify the items considered to be of common interest and to which top priority should be given.

### **ITEMS TO WHICH PARTICIPANTS ATTACHED TOP PRIORITY**

- Environmental health
- Land management
- Conservation and Biodiversity
- Watersheds
- Reassessment of protected ecosystems
- Sustainable agricultural development
- Livestock raising in the High Andes
- Data-sharing
- Reassessment of the Andean culture
- Promotion of regional regulations concerning mountain conservation
- Mining activities in mountain areas
- Tourism and sport in mountain areas
- Obtaining financial resources
- Reassessment and conservation of traditional species
- Conservation of endangered native species (Vicuna census)
- Climate change and natural disaster relief
- Thermal waters (Health and Hydrotherapy) - Tourism
- Awareness-raising and communication
- Education and Training

### **ITEMS WHICH IMPINGE ON OTHER PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES**

- Watersheds
- Livestock raising in the High Andes
- Gender

- Regional regulations
- Coordination with watershed management research
- Climate change and disaster relief

## OTHER COMMENTS

1. **Mexico** suggested that governments (local and regional committees) be encouraged to participate in the initiative. It considers itself to be a country with problems similar to those of the Andean countries.
2. **Cuba** offered to share its experiences with National Committees on Mountains.
3. The participants suggested promoting the participation of young people and taking a gender approach in the Andes Initiative's activities.
4. As work on the priority items mentioned in paragraph I is progressing, participants will be gradually drawing up a regional action plan.

## FUTURE MEASURES

- **CONACS** is to organize an awareness-raising event on vicuna conservation in Peru.
- **CONDESAN** has offered to lend support in organizing regional seminars on watershed management, taking as a model the seminar on watersheds held in Bogota (8 -10 November 2004).
- **UNEP** has offered to organize workshops to raise awareness of endangered species.
- **CONDESAN-InfoAndina** will lend support to the monitoring of this initiative through virtual forums, in conjunction with the Secretariat.
- The Partnership Secretariat was asked to organize further regional meetings in the Andes.