

By conserving the montane forests of the Andes, we are tackling climate change



Theme

Forests

Country

Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina.

Partners

The forestry authorities of the countries that participate in the programme.

General information

Forests are important for regulating water in river basins. They play a unique role in sequestering CO₂ to mitigate global climate change and are home to an incomparable biodiversity. In the Andes, they play a strategic role in the development of climate risk mitigation and adaptation measures.

Project objective

Andean Forests works in the conservation of forests, carbon reservoirs, water resources and forest species native to the Andes, by consolidating and scaling up the policies, practices, tools and plans of successful innovation in the region.

Beneficiaries

The local community around the Andean forests, Local universities, private entities, and local organisations in the areas within the project's scope, which promote forest management.

Budget

Total: CHF 16,000,000

SDC contribution: CHF 6,272,000

Other estimated contributions: CHF 9,728,000

Duration

October 2014 – August 2018

Contact

Global Programmes in the Andes

Swiss Cooperation SDC

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The 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development gave priority to forest conservation, because of the strategic role forests play in providing goods and services for sustainable development. The 2015 COP 21 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change positioned forest conservation and restoration as an instrument fundamental to the fight against global warming.

The Andes have lost about 35m hectares of forest, at a pace of between 6 to 21 per cent since the 1990s. This is a situation which demands immediate attention in view of the rising threats linked to deforestation and global warming. With this panorama, the Andean Forests Programme aims to consolidate and scale up innovative mechanisms in instruments, practices and policies, to make significant improvements in forest conservation and sustainable management, ensuring farmers' livelihoods and helping to reduce greenhouse gas emission and tackle climate change. It will foster new forms of collaboration and networking between the scientific community, national programmes, the private sector, civil society and government, in order to improve knowledge transfer and the global call to action.

The **Andean Forests Programme**, as part of the Global Programme Climate Change of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), combines expert knowledge, relevant practices and the establishment of regional and international guidelines on the subject. It contributes to and is based on the current and successful experience of expert agencies on the international agendas for forests and climate change.

Lines of action

- **Generating knowledge and dialogue**, strengthening the network of think tanks in the region and in Switzerland, to promote monitoring and applied research systems on different scales, generating relevant information to contribute solid evidence and the sustainable management of the montane forests of the Andes, considering climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- **Building up evidence about the experience**, through a network of practices and intervention sites, it will promote the application of successful strategies for the sustainable management of Andean forests, considering climate change adaptation and mitigation processes.
- **Advocacy for scaling up**, providing opportunities for meetings and discussion, in order to scale up existing national, sub-national and local initiatives in the sustainable management of Andean forests, strengthened by the policies, tools and outlines of validated incentives, considering climate change adaptation and mitigation processes.



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Expected outcomes

- National environment authorities incorporate into their policies the instruments and outlines validated by the Programme, to promote the sustainable management of montane forests in the Andes, and discuss experiences in the framework of policy dialogue and south-south cooperation with other countries in the Andean region.
- Sub-national and local governments adopt and apply the instruments and outlines validated by the Programme, to promote the sustainable management of montane forests in the Andes.
- The local community in the intervention areas diversify their livelihoods and benefit from maintaining / increasing their natural capital.
- Practice communities in the Andes at national and regional level composed of stakeholders from academia, the public sector and civil society discuss their experience and lessons learned that contribute to montane forest conservation in the Andes.
- Global and Andean regional policy-makers have information and lessons learned about adaptation and mitigation activities, for managing montane forests in the Andes, channelled via the Global Programme Climate Change of Swiss Cooperation (SDC) and others.

For further information

www.cooperacionsuiza.pe

www.bosquesandinos.org