

From the Andes to the Amazon: Interdependence and Innovative Actions for Climate Adaptation

November 11, 5:00-6:30 pm, Estação AMAZÔNIA SEMPRE no Museu Goeldi – Auditorium

Context: In recent years, mountains have gained recognition in the global climate agenda thanks to initiatives like the Mountain Partnership, SDC's Adaptation at Altitude Programme, and leadership from countries such as Andorra, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and Perú. Scientific evidence from IPCC reports and dialogues under the UNFCCC, including COP28 and SBSTA-60, has underscored the vulnerability of mountain ecosystems and their link to water, biodiversity, and disaster risks. However, the critical interconnection between the Andes and the Amazon, essential for regional resilience, remains insufficiently addressed. There is a key opportunity in Belem to position mountains as vital reservoirs of climate stability and to promote an integrated Andes–Amazon agenda that unites science, diplomacy, and cooperation.

Challenges and Opportunities: The Andes–Amazon region faces interconnected challenges that require coordinated action across scientific, political, and financial spheres. Despite growing attention to forest ecosystems, their connectivity with mountain ecosystems remains insufficiently reflected in climate and biodiversity agendas. Closing this gap demands stronger science–policy interfaces, strategic alliances, and innovative financing. Significant knowledge and monitoring gaps persist, limiting the ability to apply policy, planning, and cooperating. Institutional frameworks, requiring coordination among countries, sectors, and governance levels to advance shared strategies on water security, ecosystem resilience, and adaptation. COP 30 provides a unique opportunity to build a common evidence base, strengthen alliances among Andean, Amazonian, actors, to position Andes–Amazon connectivity as a strategic axis within global climate and biodiversity frameworks.

Objective of the Event: Foster a collaborative process among Andean, Amazonian, and international actors to explore and highlight the ecological interdependence between mountains and tropical forests, with a view to positioning this connectivity as a strategic axis in climate adaptation, water security, and conservation agendas. Promote a collaborative review of scientific evidence and field experiences that support the Andes–Amazon connection and its implications for ecosystem resilience. Strengthen strategic alliances between Swiss and Latin American institutions to co-design initiatives for climate change adaptation and sustainable development in this strategic region.

Expected Outcomes

- Identify knowledge gaps, emerging issues, and research priorities on environmental and social connections between the Andes and the Amazon.
- Consolidate strategic messages on Andes–Amazon interdependence for inclusion in global climate and biodiversity agendas (UNFCCC and CBD).
- Reaffirm the need to foster interregional and multiactor commitments recognizing the Andes as critical reservoirs of water and biodiversity for the region.

Panelist



Marylaure Crettaz Corredor: Head of the Regional Thematic Hub in Lima, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) focusing on Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Water.



Maria Apostolova: Coordinator of the Amazon Basin Water Resources Management Project at OTCA. Expert in international cooperation and transboundary water governance in Latin America.



Verónica Gálmez: Sector Lead Specialist at the IDB's Amazonia Coordination Unit, focusing on climate and natural resources in the Andes–Amazon. Formerly with the Green Climate Fund and Helvetas.



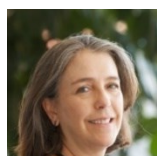
César Aréstegui: Deputy Director of Global Environmental Affairs at the Directorate of Environment, under the General Directorate for Multilateral and Global Affairs of Peru. Former Deputy Director of the Pacific Alliance.



María Argüello: Executive Director of CONDESAN, with 30+ years of experience in natural resource management and environmental governance, promoting sustainable development through science and regional collaboration.



Luis Daniel Llambí: Program Coordinator of Adaptation at Altitude, with 20+ years studying how climate and land use shape Andean biodiversity and resilience.



Paula Caballero: Director for Latin America at The Nature Conservancy. She works on new strategies and innovative partnerships to conserve the planet's most biodiverse region and promote sustainable development.

Programme

- **Opening remarks:** SDC and Secretary General of the Andean Community (CAN).
- **Presentations:** Scientific insights on Andes–Amazon interdependencies (CONDESAN & TNC).
- **Panel Discussion:** Multi-stakeholder dialogue on evidence, cooperation, finance, and governance.

- **Closing:** Reflections by Colombia's Ministry of Environment and key messages towards COP30.

Logistics:

- **Language:** English with interpretation (Portuguese, Spanish – please bring your own headphones), **duration** 90-minute, followed by a cocktail at the Planetary Embassy Chalet, **venue:** Estação AMAZÔNIA SEMPRE no Museu Goeldi –Auditorium,
- **Contacts:** CONDESAN Karen Price Ríos karen.price@condesan.org , **SDC:** Marylaure Crettaz marylaure.crettaz@eda.admin.ch