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>> SYNTHESIZE MOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE <<

Submitted Abstract

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Abstract

One of the most important challenges for informed decision making on climate change adaptation in the Andes is the development of effective and integrated knowledge generation and management strategies on key topics including long-term monitoring of Andean socio-ecological dynamics in the face of rapid climate change and adaptation policies and solutions being implemented. In this contribution, we provide an overview of a series of knowledge generation/ management strategies implemented within the framework of the Adaptation at Altitude Programme in the Andes. The strategy has involved five key interrelated lines of work: 1. Strengthening of continental long-term monitoring networks analyzing the impacts of climate change (GLORIA-Andes and the Andean Forest Network); 2. Promotion of more integrated approaches to monitoring through the promotion/consolidation of learning sites in Nevados (Colombia), Tupicocha (Perú) and the Andean-Chocó (Ecuador); 3. Development of syntheses analyses/publications of climate change adaptation policies across scales and ecosystem based adaptation solutions in the Northern and Central Andes; 4. the development of an integrated research agenda and an Andean platform of socio-ecological indicators; and 5. The generation of a series of spaces for regional dialog among researchers, practitioners and decision makers to discuss advances and challenges for knowledge co-production, management and integration for sustainable ecosystem management and climate change adaptation in the region. Based on this experience we discuss some of the most significant advances in the last decade in the consolidation of long-term monitoring and information on climate change impacts and lessons for the implementation of adaptation policies and solutions. Then we discuss some of the most important open challenges for knowledge generation and management for climate change adaptation in the region in terms of promoting: a) financial and institutional sustainability; b) a more transdisciplinary socio-ecological perspective; c) strengthening links with national (official) / international platforms; d) refine and consolidate agreements and platforms for information access and exchange; e) and strengthening participatory approaches / citizen science.