



Red de Observatorios Socio-ecológicos para los Andes (ROSA)

Initial steps towards the creation of ROSA, an Andean Socio-Environmental monitoring Network

Between May 15th and May 20th twenty-eight participants involved in Andean research and management attended the workshop in Yerba Buena, Tucuman, Argentina, to discuss the operational and conceptual bases of ROSA (Red de Observatorios Socio Ambientales de los Andes), a network designed to coordinate long-term socio-ecological monitoring efforts in the Andean region.

During three days researchers from all the Andean countries, Brazil and Germany, stakeholders of local administration (provincial and municipal governments) and representatives of the main environmental NGO of the region (Fundación ProYungas) identified the main knowledge and data gaps in Andean systems and the questions to be addressed by the network. Debates on the representativeness of different socio-ecosystems and eligibility of nodal monitoring sites were supported by a novel land system classification and mapping. After discussing funding strategies, the participants agreed to organize the steering structure of the network in three geographic sectors; North, Central and Southern Andes.

The discussion session was followed by a three-day trip to recognize the main socio-environmental features in an elevational gradient including the urban area of Yerba Buena and the surrounding mountain ranges and crossing contrasting biomes from rainforests to deserts. In the field trip participants witnessed and discussed the main socio-environmental patterns and processes that shaped the landscape for the last two thousand years.

The workshop constituted the face to face session of the **Participatory Land Observatories for Sustainable Andes: leveraging the tools of Earth observation and land system science to build a network of socio ecological observatories for the Andes**, that includes three additional online meetings. The workshop was jointly organized by National University of Tucumán and the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (Argentina), Freie Universität Berlin (Germany), University of Los Andes (Venezuela) and Global Land Program (GLP); it was funded by European Space Agency and Future Earth and CONDESAN provided logistic support.