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Hydrological Monitoring of Andean Ecosystems Initiative

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Key Message

The goal of the Hydrological Monitoring of Andean Ecosystems Initiative is to improve the conservation and management of High-Andean ecosystems by providing information on the hydrological response of these ecosystems and how different land-uses affect their water yield and regulation capacity. The initiative fills a gap left by widespread hydrological modeling exercises that suffer from lack of data, and by glacier monitoring under climate change.

Summary

The initiative proposes a hydrological monitoring system involving precipitation, discharge and land cover monitoring in paired catchments. The methodology is accessible for non-specialist organizations, and allows for generation of evidence of land use impact on hydrology in the short term i.e., a few years. In this way it supports decision making on the preservation of the hydrological services of the catchment.

The initiative aims at a high number of paired catchment sites along the Andes, in order to draw regional conclusions and capture variability, and is connected to more detailed hydrological research sites of several Andean universities.