



InfoAndina Progress Report

Reporting period: October 2001 - July 2002

InfoAndina – Latin American Node of the
Mountain Forum



August 2002

Introduction

During the first quarter of 2002, InfoAndina has continued its self-sustainability efforts, and successfully raised funds equivalent to 25% of its annual budget, selling information services (E-conferences) to diverse partners. In April 2002, SDC officers from Lima and Bern have worked closely with InfoAndina to develop a vision for its next phase of operations beyond 2003. This visioning exercise derived on some innovative action lines, which will be considered for a pilot project to be implemented by InfoAndina in 2003. Lessons learned from this experience will serve as input for future operational phases.

I. INFOANDINA STAFF

During the reporting period, InfoAndina Staff was composed by the following persons:

- Project leader : Ana Maria Ponce, Communication specialist
- Full time assistant: Musuq Briceno, System Engineer

II. INFOANDINA OBJECTIVES

Created in 1996 as the information arm of CONDESAN the Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (www.condesan.org), InfoAndina is based in Lima, Peru, at the Headquarters of the International Potato Center. InfoAndina operates the Latin American node of the Mountain Forum since 1997, as a regional platform in Latin America to facilitate information exchange on conservation and development of mountain regions. InfoAndina reaches over 2,000 users through moderated regional discussion lists and benefits 10,000 users registered with the global Mountain Forum network. It has pioneered in Latin America the organization of bi-lingual e-conferences on issues related to sustainable development, moderated by regional specialists.

III. INFOANDINA MEMBERSHIP

InfoAndina users register institutional and individual members in the Mountain Forum database. InfoAndina has also on-line members subscribed to InfoAndina regional and thematic lists in two difference servers: Bellanet and Topica

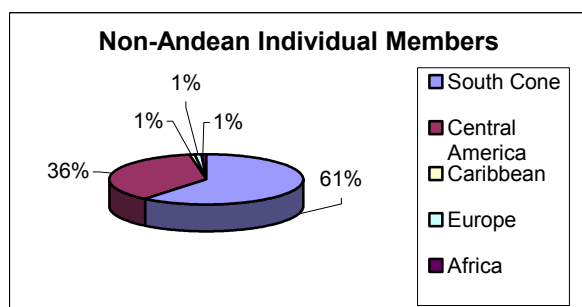
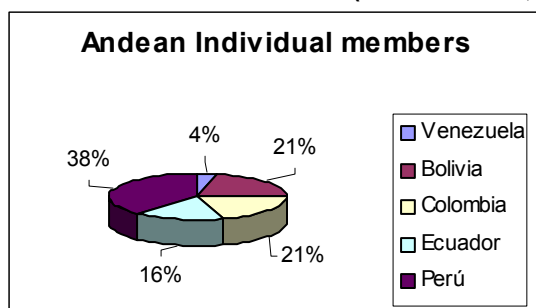
1. Latin American registered Members in Mountain Forum Database Since October 2001:

	September 2001	July 2002	New Members
Individual members	317	415	58
Institutional members	19	45	26
TOTAL	336	460	84

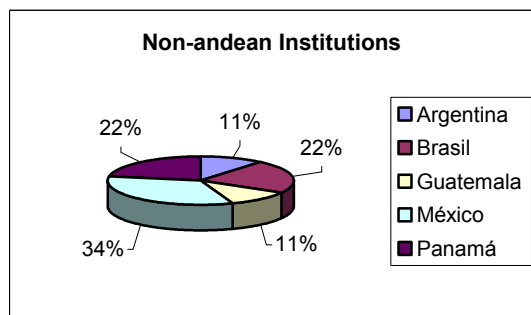
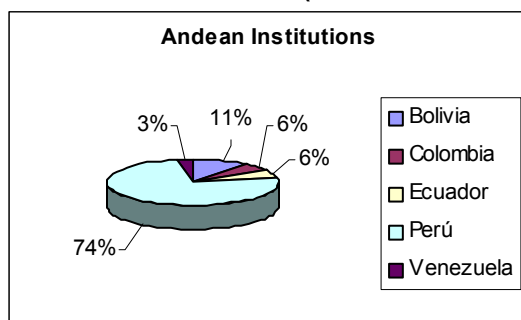
Geographic Composition of Latin American registered MF membership By July 2002:

An analysis performed in the MF database, indicates an increase in the non-andean membership, which sums a total of 110 members, 61% from the South Cone, and 36% from Central America and the Caribbean.

A. Individual Members (Andean= 305, Non-Andean=110)



B. Institutional members (Andean institutions=36, Non Andean: 9)



IV. INFOANDINA ON-LINE SERVICES

InfoAndina on-line services include the general InfoAndina list, reaching 1,202 users, to disseminate InfoNotas newsletter on regional issues. Other on-line services provided are specialized thematic lists and moderated e-conferences. The table below shows the members subscribed to the regional and thematic lists:

InfoAndina Lists& E-Conferences	Sept 2001	Jun 2002	New Subscribers
General Regional List:			
• InfoAndina list	948	1,202	254
Regional Thematic lists:			
• Paramos	530	632	102
• Paramos-Peru	0	30	30
• PERU_AIM2002	30	51	21
• BOLIVIA_AIM2002	114	114	0
• CT-CONDESAN	20	25	5
E-Conferences			
• InSitu 2001 E-conference	0	149	149
• Rural Municipalities E-conference	0	310	310
TOTAL list subscribers	1,478	2,237	845

• WEB Design & Hosting:

\$300 USD were received from TMI-Andes for the PERU_IYM2002 WEB design and hosting

• WEB Virtual Bookstore services:

A total of \$300 USD were received from e-commerce through the Virtual Bookstore at CONDESAN WEB site.

V. INFOANDINA OFF-LINE SERVICES: TRAVELLING WORKSHOPS AND IYM 2002 EVENTS

Since 2001, InfoAndina organizes periodic Travelling Workshops to promote the use of Internet resources for sustainable development of remote rural regions. InfoAndina has organized Travelling workshops in Ecuador (Riobamba and Quito, June 2002, in coordination with SDC Intercooperation-Quito), and Cajamarca (July, 2002). As result of these workshops, InfoAndina recruited 26 new institutional members and 58 individual members for the Mountain Forum. During IYM2002, InfoAndina promotes and participates in the National Working Groups for the IYM2002 in Peru, attending periodic planning meetings.

VI. LANGUAGE(S) : InfoAndina list server communications are primarily in Spanish, but English is used for E-Conferences and CONDESAN WEB.

VII. GENERAL ACTIVITIES: MEETINGS, AND PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN

E-CONFERENCES

- **November 2001:** InfoAndina organized the “**InSitu 2001 E-Conference**”. This was the fourth forum of the InSitu Series, E-Conference on InSitu Conservation of Biodiversity, moderated by Dr. Miguel Holle, leader of the ARTC project at CIP. 131 people from 32 countries participated in this bilingual forum (English and Spanish) including Asian, African, North American, South American and European countries. A total of 41 women participants attended. A total of 19 case studies were submitted to this successful forum, these are available in English and Spanish in CONDESAN WEB site: (<http://www.condesan.org/infoandina/Foros/insitu2001/index.htm>) and will be available also in CD-ROM format.

REGIONAL IYM2002 EVENTS

- **December 2001:** IV Symposium of the Andean Mountain Association (AMA-Merida). InfoAndina organized the “**II Workshop for Information Networks for Sustainable Development**”. This workshop was co-sponsored by CIAT-REDECO and other regional partner networks. As result, a steering committee for REDISAL(www.redisal.org) was created, and the participant networks decided to cooperate for the sustainability of this alliance co-sponsoring their WEB site, and future meetings. The Committee defined their statutes and mission, their services and deliberations for selection criteria of other potential members.
- **February - April 2002:** The [Mountain Forum](#) was commissioned by UNEP to conduct a series of 10 [electronic consultations](#) in the frame of the BGMS organization. CONDESAN-InfoAndina, which operates the Latin American node of the Mountain Forum, supported the process in the region disseminating summaries of the documents and soliciting commentaries through its regional lists, in close coordination with GISN, translating them into English. InfoAndina sponsored a regional competition to select the best Latin American case studies on each of the 10 themes. The collected regional case studies are available in Spanish WEB site at: <http://www.condesan.org/infoandina/foros/bishkek>.

InfoAndina assumed the leadership of the e-consultation on topic **E1: "Water, natural resources, hazards, desertification, and climatic changes"**. Excellent case studies and comments were collected and translated into English. The consultation was fully bilingual, and articles were stored in the MF global WEB site in English (<http://www.mtnforum.org/bgms/papere1.htm>), and in the regional WEB site in spanish (<http://www.condesan.org/infoandina/foros/bishkek/>)

- **May 2002:** InfoAndina facilitated regional and global exchange among the **High Summit** participants in Mendoza. Presented a paper titled **"Promoting strategic alliances among regional information networks for sustainable development"**, and moderated the video-casting conferences of the High Summit-Mendoza multi-conference between Mendoza, Nepal, Nairobi and Milan each day.
- **June 2002:** InfoAndina co-organized and presented posters at the **"II International Symposium for Mountain Ecosystems"** in Huaraz, Peru (June 11-12, 2002). InfoAndina Facilitated the interaction of the Group sub-committees through the PERU_AIM2002 list, and designed a WEB site for the Workshop with sponsorship of TMI-Andes: www.condesan.org/peruaim2002. The PERUAIM2002 list is still active, and is being used for national coordinations towards Johannesburg and Bishkek events.
- **May 2002:** InfoAndina nomination was accepted for the **"Tech Museum Awards 2002"** initiative, <http://www.thetech.org/techawards/>, created for innovators from around the world in the categories of health, education, environment, economic development and equality

PARTICIPATION IN DISTANCE LEARNING INITIATIVES

- **February - March 6,** InfoAndina participated a virtual workshop on **Enhancing Training with Technology**, organized by CIP's training program in coordination with Texas A&M University. Its goal was to expose CIP regional staff to the use of web-based technology and to test the applicability of distance-learning technologies to training activities in the regions. The program included online conferences and classes.

VIII. ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF INFOANDINA SERVICES

The following text is extracted from the survey performed by the Mountain Forum in August, 2002:

- *"I am working in a proposal for a project in a coastal community of Cuba, which belongs to the second most important watershed. The territory shows serious problems of water management, desertification, contamination, lack of fuel for domestic use, etc. Thanks to the material received from InfoAndina on water management issues and forums, I have obtained a wider vision of these problems, learn about other management alternatives, proposals of community management projects and participatory approaches."(Felix Yanes S., Cuba)*
- *"INDEI an organization based in Argentina was trying to organize an event for IYM2002, and thanks to the valuable assistance of InfoAndina, we were able to disseminate the event proposal, and we contacted CONDESAN. Now we are preparing a national IYM2002 event in Salta(Argentina) in September 2002. The network has also provided valuable scientific material for our work" (Raul Kalinsky, INDEI, Salta, Argentina)*

- *I am the Coordinator of Natural Resources Group of FAO Regional Office in Chile. The information provided through InfoAndina is shared with our group, and have been useful, and Infoandina has also disseminated several news from our offices. The InfoNotas provide us a good panorama of what is going on during the IYM2002 within our region in Latin America. This information is interesting and keeps us updated ”... (L. Gaviria, FAO-Chile)*
- *InfoAndina made it possible for us to present in the High Summit-Mendoza our project titled “Tierras Blancas Natural Reserve”, in the Department of San Carlos in Argentina..... (Ernesto Luis Lima, Argentina)*

IX. COMMUNICATIONS: DOCUMENTS ON WEB, LIST SERVICES POSTINGS, PUBLICATIONS LIST, MEDIA COVERAGE, ARTICLES WRITTEN IN JOURNALS

- A.Ponce; J.Posner; E.Mujica: **“Promoting Low Cost communication for the Andes”**. Mountains of the World International Symposium in Preparation for the International Year of Mountains (IYM2002). Interlaken, Switzerland, September 2001.
http://www.wms2001.ch/cd/publications/publication_165.html
- A.Ponce: **“Alliances of Information Networks for sustainable development in Latin America: The REDISAL case”**. High Summit Multi-Conference, Mendoza, Argentina, May 2002. <http://www.montagna.org/high-summit/ramericalatina/Politica/pol-AmLa11.20rm5ponceabstracteng.rtf>
- A.Ponce: **“InfoAndina: The Information network of CONDESAN” - II Workshop of Information Networks (REDISAL)**, Merida, Venezuela, November 2001

X. FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AND SOURCES OF FUNDING

Project title	Source of funding	Funding Amount	Project duration
E-Conference: “Municipalities and local governments”	SANREM-Andes Ministry of Social Welfare, Ecuador SDC	2,500 1,000 5,000	June-July 2002
BGMS E-Consultations	UNEP	13,000	Feb–Apr2002
E-Conference “Soil Fertility Management in the Andes”	MOS-Andes project	2,000	Sept-Oct 2002
WEB Hosting (PERUIYM2002)	TMI-Andes	300	June 2002
TOTAL funds raised		23,800 \$ USD	

XI. PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE:

- **“InfoAndina vision beyond 2003”**

In response to SDC request, InfoAndina initiated in April 2002 a participatory exercise to develop a vision for its next operational phase beyond 2003. An internal SWAT analysis survey was performed among CONDESAN/CIP stakeholders, networking partners, MFS and GISN, to evaluate InfoAndina services, its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. **The result of this SWAT was discussed in a one-day workshop, titled “SDC-InfoAndina Vision Development Workshop”** (April 30th, 2002) Giancarlo De Picciotto from SDC-Berne and Richard Kohli from SDC-Lima participated. CONDESAN Coordinators, and the Mountain Forum Executive Secretary attended also this workshop.

As result of this workshop, we shared with our regional membership the results from the vision exercise, requesting their opinion and recommendations to consolidate the vision. The results will be discussed with MF and CONDESAN Boards. **(See results of the Vision Development exercise in Annex I).**

Three main aspects resulting from this vision exercise will be discussed with MF and CONDESAN Boards:

- 1) **Balance of InfoAndina membership,**
- 2) **Explore some innovative lines based on market demands, and**
- 3) **Positioning new innovative InfoAndina working lines in respect to CONDESAN thematic priorities.**

- **E-Conference: “Soil Fertility Management in the Andes”**

This conference will be sponsored partially by MOS-Andes project leaders: (Dominique Herve (IRD-France) and Lina Sarmiento (Venezuela). The conference will be organized between September and October 2002, with the moderation of MOS-Andes project leaders and CONDESAN/CIP specialists.

- **@LIS “Alliances for Information Society” initiative of the European Union**

CONDESAN-InfoAndina is working with CIAT in this new initiative since July 2002, with involvement of regional partners from Central America (CIAT), Andes (CONDESAN) and the South Cone (TIC Bolivia). The proposal will promote e-inclusion of rural farmers with a demonstrative project of information technologies including Telecenters. It is still under construction in a preliminary phase, will be submitted in October 2002.

XII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO KEY PARTNERS

- **SDC Intercooperation offices in Quito** for their support to co-organize **the InfoAndina Travelling Workshops in Quito and Riobamba** (June 2002)
- **CIAT-REDECO and CIAT Communications Unit** for their co-sponsorship of the **II Meeting of Information Networks (REDISAL)** in Merida, Venezuela (November 2001)
- **ARTC Project leader**, (Dr. Miguel Holle) for his in-kind contribution with the active moderation of the successful **InSitu 2001 E-conference** organized by InfoAndina (November 2001)
- **SANREM**, for their co-sponsorship of the **II E-Conference “Rural Municipalities and Participatory Management in Mountain Regions”**
- **SDC**, for their continued support and active participation in the development exercise of **“InfoAndina vision beyond 2003”**

- **CONDESAN Coordination**, for their in-kind contribution to the organization of the **Latin American contest of case studies for BGMS E-Consultation**
- **GISN** and **MFS** for their continued technical and moral support of our daily node management duties

XIII. SUB-REGIONAL/SUB-NODES ACTIVITIES

- **The Paramo Group**

On November 28, 2001, in the framework of the IV International Symposium on Sustainable Development in the Andes (AMA-Mérida 2001), over 40 representatives of research institutions and governmental, non-governmental and rural organizations from Andean and European countries agreed to form the [Paramo Group](#), an international network for exchange of information and experiences, discussion, and definition of action lines for conservation and management of the Andean *paramos* in the tropical Andes of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and northern Peru. The Paramo Group works to preserve biodiversity and safeguard hydrological resources of the Andean paramos in benefit of local mountain communities. InfoAndina facilitates interaction among members, creating the **MF-Paramos list** hosted in Bellanet server, with 620 subscribers.

- **The Peruvian PARAMOS Group**

The National Paramos Groups was promoted by CONDESAN since January 2002, as a national initiative to coordinate the work with in the frame of the regional Paramos group actions. To facilitate the interaction among participants, InfoAndina has created a discussion list in Topica (**Paramos_Peru**), which is open to national institutions who wish to join. It has now 26 subscribers registered.

- **REDISAL (www.redisal.org)**

Since 2001, InfoAndina has promoted a partnership of regional information networks for sustainable development in Latin America. These networks serves 10,000 users in the region. REDISAL has a steering committee formed by 4 networks: InfoAndina (Andes), REDECO (Colombia), REDEPAPA (Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia), REDESMA (Bolivia). REDCAPA (Brasil). The Steering Committee is now developing its statutes, it has an elected Executive Secretary, who designed a **WEB site** (www.redisal.org) describing its objectives, services and statutes. REDISAL organize periodic regional workshops supported by partner networks.