



# INTERNATIONAL GLACIER AND MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS FORUM

*First Circular*

10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2016, Huaraz, Perú

## Organized by

National Research Institute in Glacier and Mountain Ecosystems (INAIGEM)

## Sponsored by

Ministry of Environment (MINAM)

National Water Authority (ANA)

National Service of Protected Natural Areas by the State (SERNANP)

National Agrarian University (UNALM)

National University Santiago Antunez de Mayolo (UNASAM)

National Civil Defense Institute (INDECI)

CARE Peru

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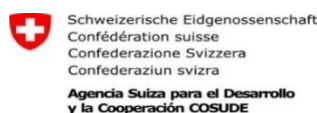
Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion (CONDESAN)

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation

Mountain Institute (TMI)

Nature and Culture (NCI)

American Climber Science Program (ACSP)



## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The International Glacier and Mountain Ecosystems Forum will be held in the city of Huaraz, Peru from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of August 2016.

## **BACKGROUND**

The largest chain of tropical mountains in the world, comprising thirty peaks higher than 6000 meters above sea level, is the Cordillera Blanca; located in Ancash, Peru. In 1975, the Huascarán National Park was created, covering the entirety of this Cordillera over 4000 m.a.s.l. This area was later declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO because of its unique characteristics, and is also the core of the Huascarán Biosphere Reserve.

However, Peru has lost more than 40% of its glaciers (ANA, 2014) and is considered the third most vulnerable country to climate change worldwide.

The loss of these water reserves is worrying as more than 50% of the population is concentrated in the arid Peruvian coast, which only has access to 1.8% of the country's water resources and therefore it depends on water that comes from the mountains. To this is added the fact that 49% of electricity, used by the nation, comes from hydroelectric plants (MINEM, 2014). It is also important to consider that there is population growth and therefore increased energy and water needs.

Another important consequence of climate change, largely affecting the Peruvian Andes and other mountain parts of the world, is the increased risk of disasters by avalanches, landslides, mudslides and alluvium, among others; and food insecurity of their populations. These consequences are added to the loss and fragmentation of its highly endemic and biodiverse ecosystems, but extremely fragile, due to unsustainable human interventions; reducing the provision of environmental services, deepening poverty, conflicts, and therefore the vulnerability of their populations.

Research on these issues are disperse at the national level. There is also a need to increase research because they are new problems continually being identified, which require more in-depth studies.

It is in this context that the "National Research Institute in Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems" (INAIGEM) arises, aiming to promote and expand scientific and technological research in the field of glaciers and mountain ecosystems, promoting sustainable management for the benefit of people living in or benefiting from these ecosystems.

It is expected that, based on the research of glaciers and mountain ecosystems carried out so far (and research agendas identified and unidentified), public institutions, private companies and authorities make informed and coordinated decisions.

It is in this sense that the INAIGEM leads the organization, with the support of organizations with extensive experience in the above issues, the "International Glacier and Mountain Ecosystems Forum", which aims to exchange experiences and knowledge about glaciers and mountain ecosystems, promoting opportunities for cooperation between public institutions, civil society, business and academia to the application of research to the sustainable development of mountain populations.

## **THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS**

Thematic working groups seek to exchange experiences gained during investigations, and will be held the first two days of the event. These are:

### **1. Risks associated with glacier and mountain ecosystems**

- Causes and risk exposure in mountain ecosystems
- Threat level of risks and dangers
- Identify the risks of mountain ecosystems
- Instruments and methodologies for the identification and assessment of risks
- Prevention, preparedness and response, mitigation and monitoring
- Economic impacts and indicators
- Experiences

### **2. Water resources of glaciers and mountain ecosystems**

- Importance of water resources
- Surface and groundwater: inventory
- Quantity and quality of water
- Methodologies for quantification
- Functionality of hydrological and climate models associated with glaciers
- Evidence-based practices/sustainable management of water resources
- Watershed management

### **3. Biodiversity and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems to ensure food security**

- Identify risks (critical areas) in relation to food security
- Degradation of ecosystems (soil quality and biodiversity)
- Protection/conservation of mountain biodiversity vs. investments
- Recovery of ancestral knowledge and biodiversity for Peruvian cuisine and improved nutrition
- Monitoring of biodiversity in order to ensure food security

### **4. Funding mechanisms for the management of mountain ecosystems.**

- Conceptual framework and current situation of funding mechanisms
- Gaps and challenges
- Strengths and opportunities we have as a country to generate more investment in mountain areas
- Experiences and lessons learned
- Bottlenecks and measures in funding mechanisms

## Considerations for participation as speaker

- Abstracts of 600 words maximum.
- Abstracts should include: title, name of authors, research objective, methodology, findings, information from the authors and main theme concerned (from the working groups).
- Word count does not include the title, names of authors, tables, institution, images, or published articles.
- Abstracts may contain two tables and two images at most. These should be placed at the end of the summary.
- Include published articles that fit the theme being considered.
- Limit Delivery Date: **Sunday, 30.4.2016.**

Send email to: [figem@inaigem.gob.pe](mailto:figem@inaigem.gob.pe)

## EXHIBITION OF PROJECTS (by posters)

The exhibition project seeks to exchange experiences and current research. From the projects a total of 28 posters, which will be displayed on the outside of the conference room, during the days of the forum, will be elected.

### Selection criteria

- Research related to the main theme of the event.
- Indicate all authors and institutions involved.
- Send summary of the research describing the context, objectives and conclusions.
- Indicate the current phase of the project.
- Maximum length: 300 words.
- Limit Delivery Date: **Sunday, 30.4.2016**

Send email to: [figem@inaigem.gob.pe](mailto:figem@inaigem.gob.pe)

## FINANCING

The forum provides funding, which is limited to covering costs of participation such as accommodation, food and travel expenses. Please complete the attached form until 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.

Financial support will be exclusively intended for the exponents of the thematic working groups, and shall be subject to the availability of funds and the total number of applications.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FORM

Name		Gender	
Institution			
Position			
Telephone		Cel phone	
E-mail			
Title of Exposition			
Address			
Financial support requirement	Accommodation costs		
	Mobility costs in the country		

## ARRIVAL AND ACCOMMODATION

The event will be held in the city of Huaraz, located 400 km. north of the city of Lima. The information for booking and hotel registration will be communicated in the Second Circular.