

**Session title:** Andean communities in the face of global change: Risks, uncertainties and opportunities for transformation

**Session chairs:** Diana Sietz (Wageningen University, The Netherlands) and Giuseppe Feola (University of Reading, United Kingdom)

**Type of session:** Speed talks with 5 presenters each 5 min followed by 20 min of discussion in smaller groups and 10 min wrap-up of discussions. In preparing this session, we invite all presenters to share an extended abstract or manuscript (3000-8000 words) at latest 2 weeks prior to the conference to facilitate a constructive discussion. We have a preliminary agreement to guest-edit and publish those contributions that fulfil international quality standards in a special feature of the *Region Environmental Change Journal*. To ultimately facilitate the distribution of findings in the Andean region, an edited book in Spanish language is envisaged.

**Session abstract:**

Andean communities are considered to be among the most vulnerable to multiple environmental and socio-economic stressors, such as trade liberalisation and climate variability, which are projected to further increase in the future. Operating in the dynamic high mountain context, Andean communities have used sophisticated strategies to manage risks and seize opportunities. However, it is unclear to what extent these strategies contribute to the communities' resilience under the pace and magnitude of current environmental and socio-economic variability and future change. This session aims to discuss the ecological and social processes that shape the resilience of Andean communities in the face of regional and global change. Since research on these topics has gained importance in the Andes during the past decade, we deem it appropriate to engage in a critical debate of insights and future research directions. In particular, this session aims at shedding light on the following questions:

- What type of changes and adaptation, including reactive or anticipatory actions, take place?
- What factors shape a community's resilience to regional and global change?
- Which entry points of transformational change can be identified to foster sustainable interactions between human population and ecosystems?

Thus, this session will stimulate debate within the theme of "Analysing and promoting change and transformation". It will provide a platform to discuss concepts, tools, case studies and development scenarios. In particular, we invite empirical contributions that engage with the evolution of Andean socio-ecological systems in the context of weather risks, glacier dynamics, land use, biodiversity and institutional changes. Examples of successful resilience building and analyses of failure are particularly welcome. Moreover, we are interested in studies addressing the importance of agency, uncertainties and scales as well as comparative analyses that reveal similarities and differences in the development paths of socio-ecological systems. Overall, this session opens up possibilities for reconsidering the role of local communities in facilitating transformation and subsequently for redefining research priorities. It is an attempt to strengthen the international scientific network investigating resilience and transformation in the fragile high mountain context of the Andes.

➔ **Abstract submission required by 16 August 2013 (Central European time)**

<http://www.resilience2014.org/call-for-abstracts-sessions>