



PROVIA PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH ON
CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY,
IMPACTS AND ADAPTATION

PROVIA SECRETARIAT
P.O. BOX 30552,
Nairobi 00100, KENYA
Tel: +254 (20) 762-3231
provია@provია-climatechange.org
www.provia-climatechange.org

14th September, 2011

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to tell you about an important global initiative called PROVIA (Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation), which has just been launched with the support of leading scientists and decision-makers in the area of climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation (VIA).

What is PROVIA?

PROVIA aims to provide direction and coherence at the international level for research on VIA. UNEP took the initiative to organize PROVIA with the scientific community and provides its secretariat and other support. It is a joint effort by UNEP, WMO and UNESCO. It will be part of the World Climate Programme with responsibility for VIA, and will contribute to the new Global Framework for Climate Services

You can find more about PROVIA by visiting the website (<http://www.provia-climatechange.org>)

What is PROVIA's purpose?

PROVIA addresses the lack of international direction of research toward gaps in VIA knowledge, especially those gaps that are important to fill in order to achieve major policy objectives. PROVIA's main activity is the identification of such key knowledge gaps, and the coordination of funding and expertise for research to fill them. It will not generally undertake this research itself. For this, it will work closely with the global change programmes of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

How is PROVIA organised?

PROVIA is guided by a Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). A list of its members is given in Appendix A. I serve as Chair of the Committee, which currently has interim status. We will be making the transition to full SSC status next year. For day-to-day administration, PROVIA has a small Secretariat located at UNEP Headquarters.

What is PROVIA currently doing?

So far, PROVIA has started four activities, all concerned with providing guidance and direction:

1. Develop a prioritised international agenda for research on VIA., and communicate this to governments and international agencies,
2. Provide scientific information on VIA to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and similar bodies, especially information that will enable more effective adaptation.
3. Establish a bi-annual international conference on adaptation to help improve the coherence of the VIA research community. The 2012 International Conference on Climate Change adaptation will be in Tucson, Arizona (USA) May 28-30, 2012. See the conference website: <http://www.adaptation.arizona.edu/adaptation2012>
4. Develop revised guidance on research methods in VIA, to improve the robustness of future assessments.

For more details on these activities visit PROVIA's website <http://www.provia-climatechange.org>



PROVIA PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH ON
CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY,
IMPACTS AND ADAPTATION

PROVIA SECRETARIAT
P.O. BOX 30552,
Nairobi 00100, KENYA
Tel: +254 (20) 762-3231
provia@provia-climatechange.org
www.provia-climatechange.org

Have your say, now, on the prioritisation of international research in VIA

We are asking for your input to an important initiative: The identification of the top 30 VIA research issues that need urgent solution in order unlock action in responding to climate change.

PROVIA has funded a team, led by Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig at Columbia University, to help identify the key research areas in VIA on which international agencies and governments should concentrate their research effort. In the coming days you will find a questionnaire on our website asking for your expert comment on the draft research prioritisation that has emerged, so far, from the deliberations of a foresight panel. After analysing expert responses from you and others, the Columbia team will integrate these with a separate analysis of VIA research priorities by policymakers, and then will report the integrated set of research priorities in 2012 at the Planet under Pressure Conference (London, March 2012), the 2012 Adaptation Conference and at Rio+20 (June 2012).

Play your part in PROVIA

There are several ways to be involved in PROVIA. We welcome suggestions from VIA experts who would like to be members of the Scientific Steering Committee. We are looking for representation of all relevant fields of study, and all regions, and age groups. Terms of appointment are two years. Also, we will always welcome suggestions on activities that PROVIA should undertake. Please write to Martin Parry (martin@mlparry.com or provia@provia-climatechange.org).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Martin Parry

Chair,
Interim Scientific Steering Committee of PROVIA



PROVIA PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH ON
CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY,
IMPACTS AND ADAPTATION

PROVIA SECRETARIAT
P.O. BOX 30552,
Nairobi 00100, KENYA
Tel: +254 (20) 762-3231
provia@provia-climatechange.org
www.provia-climatechange.org

Appendix A: Members of the PROVIA Interim Scientific Steering Committee

Prof. Martin Parry (Chair), Imperial College London

Prof. Chris Field, Stanford University

Prof. Chris Gordon, University of Ghana

Prof. Richard J.T. Klein, Stockholm Environment Institute

Dr. Saleemul Huq, Centre for Advanced Studies, University of Bangladesh

Dr. Balgis Osman-Elasha, African Development Bank

Professor Lin Erda, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences

Dr. Ian Noble, Formerly World Bank - lead on adaptation

Prof Jean Palutikof, Australian National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility

Prof Anand Patwardhan, Indian Institute of Technology

Prof. Cynthia Rosenzweig, NASA Goddard Inst. for Space Studies, New York City

Ms. Carolina Zambrano Barragan, Municipality of the Metropolitan District of Quito, Ecuador

Ex officio:

Dr. Joseph Alcamo, Chief Scientist, UNEP

Dr. Ghassem Asrar, Director, WCRP, WMO (alternate: Mr. Avinash Tyagi, Director, CWD, WMO)

Mr. Peter Dogsé, Manager, Intersectoral Platform on Climate Change, UNESCO