

Part One: Action Pledge

Title of Action Pledge:

Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA).

Overall objective:

PROVIA responds to both objectives of NWP (i.e. assisting in improving understanding and making informed decisions and practical adaptation actions and measures).

Action Pledge purpose:

The overarching objectives of PROVIA are to advance research on vulnerability, impacts and adaptation related to climate change, and to coordinate and facilitate the dissemination and practical application of this research for the benefit and value of society.

Actions:

PROVIA has four core activities that it is currently implementing as part of its programme of work 2011-12:

- i) Develop, and communicate to governments and international agencies, international agenda for research on vulnerability, impacts and adaptation.
- ii) Provide scientific information on vulnerability, impacts and adaptation to the UNFCCC and similar bodies, especially information that will enable more effective adaptation.
- iii) Increase the coherence of the vulnerability, impacts and adaptation community, by developing more improved interaction.
- iv) Increase the robustness of vulnerability, impacts and adaptation assessments by developing revised guidance on research methodology.

PROVIA is currently developing its programme of work 2012-15, which will include a continuation of the four core activities and addition of new activities.

PROVIA's activities are implemented by the PROVIA Secretariat guided by the Scientific Steering Committee in partnership with UNEP, UNESCO and WMO, and in collaboration with research institutions such as the Earth Institute at Columbia University, the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), and the University of Arizona.

Expected results:

The outputs of PROVIA's activities will be shared freely with experts, practitioners and decision-makers of the vulnerability, impacts and adaptation community (VIA) at large on <http://www.provia-climatechange.org>

- i) Develop, and communicate to governments and international agencies, international agenda for research on VIA.

The objective is to identify the main gaps in knowledge in VIA, communicate these to the research and policy community, and thus prioritise research and funding.

There will be two foresight-type gap analyses of knowledge: Firstly by scientists and secondly by the policy community, followed by an integration of these. Draft listings of priorities will be on-line for public comment from April 2012. Communication of conclusions on key knowledge gaps will be by dialogue with decision-makers, research funders and researchers.

ii) Provide scientific information on VIA to the UNFCCC and similar bodies, especially information that will enable more effective adaptation.

The objective is to establish a formalised means of communicating scientific knowledge about adaptation to the UNFCCC (including knowledge on vulnerability and impacts where these are relevant to the work of the UNFCCC). This will include information that would be of assistance to the Adaptation Fund, to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and to the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation (NWP). The mechanisms to achieve this are currently being developed.

iii) Increase the coherence of the VIA research community, by developing more improved interaction.

The objective is give greater focus to research on VIA, by improving communication within the research community. The prime task is to communicate the priorities in research in VIA and help research scientists access funding for these priority topics. One means of achieving this will be to convene a bi-annual international conference on VIA. Others include a web newsletter and regional seminars on developments in method. PROVIA will co-host 'Adaptation Futures: 2nd International Conference on Climate Change Adaptation 2012' in Tucson, Arizona, USA, 29 -31 May 2012 (with co-hosts University of Arizona and Arizona State University).

iv) Increase the robustness of VIA assessments by developing revised guidance on research methodology.

The objective is to ensure there is greater comparability of VIA assessments. Different guides on research method are currently quite varied and sometimes not comparable. The IPCC Guidelines and UNEP Handbook have not been updated since 1994 and 1996 respectively. A survey of current guidance has been completed, and revision has now begun of a new Guidance publication scheduled for publication in 2012. A first draft of the revision will be on-line for publication comment from May 2012.

Indicators of achievement:

Indicator 1: Strong link between PROVIA and the VIA scientific /research community is established.

Means of verification: References to PROVIA and PROVIA outputs by decision-makers at national and sub-regional levels in developing countries.

Indicator 2: Facilitating reporting to policymakers and civil society of the latest results from VIA community. Gaps in VIA research and emerging issues are identified.

Means of verification: Governments decisions, meeting reports, ISBN, URL

Indicator 3: New interface between the scientific community and policymakers involved in VIA issues are established.

Means of verification: Increased access of target audiences to relevant climate change assessments and information for decision-makers and long-term planning.