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MATTERS RELATED TO UNFCCC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES

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

(Submitted by the IPCC Secretariat)

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MATTERS RELATED TO UNFCCC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES

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

1. Introduction to PROVIA

Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) addresses the lack of international coordination of research on climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation (VIA), and identifies research gaps and initiates processes to close them. It responds to the call by the scientific community for a more cohesive and coordinated approach on VIA research works, and the critical needs to harmonize, mobilize, and communicate the growing knowledge-base on vulnerability, impacts and adaptation. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) took the initiative to establish PROVIA and currently provides it with secretariat support. PROVIA serves a new and growing network of scientists, practitioners and decision-makers working towards identifying research gaps and meeting policy needs in climate change vulnerability, impact and adaptation research in collaboration with its implementing partners.

SCOPE

PROVIA is being developed through Three Phases:

Phase One – Start-up Phase (2010-2011): During this period the governance structure and Secretariat is set up. Initial activities and implementation plans agreed, formalized and put into place. Detailed plans for Phase Two decided.

Phase Two – Operational Phase (2012-2013): PROVIA through its activities and products began to fulfill its major coordination and convening tasks among the VIA research community.

Phase Three – Production Phase (2014 onwards): PROVIA will be fully operational, and continue its coordination of major activities of the VIA research community. During 2013 basic decision will be taken on the longer-term funding size of the PROVIA Secretariat to effectively sustain the initiative.

The scope, range, and resource needs for the functions and core services of PROVIA will expand from one phase to the next. The PROVIA Work Programme for 2010-11 (the Initial Phase) consisted of four priority activities, agreed by the Interim Scientific Steering Committee. PROVIA is committed to deliver the current four PROVIA activities mentioned below. Two important publications: a) publication of global VIA research priorities, the gap analysis of this work is based on a broad range of sources including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group Reports, peer-reviewed articles; books; white papers; and conference, workshop, and meeting proceedings, presentations and notes, and b) the revised VIA guidelines and assessment tools that need to be delivered to governments, international agencies and individual experts. This delivery will need continued engagement with users through workshops with experts, and one-to-one meetings with governments.

1. ***Defining global research priorities to support adaptation planning and implementation.*** In particular, PROVIA has identified important emerging issues from the perspective of both the science community as well as the policy community. In preparing the International Agenda of Research in VIA, the gap analysis was based on a broad range of sources including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II Reports, peer-reviewed articles; books; white papers; and conference, workshop, and meeting proceedings, presentations and notes.

A summary of findings was presented as part of a PROVIA communication strategy: a) at the 'Planet under Pressure' Conference March 2012; b) at the 2012 Adaptation Conference, Tucson May 2012 in published form; c) Rio+20 by informing policymakers about PROVIA's important contributions.

2. ***Provide advice and scientific information to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other international bodies, to enable more effective adaptation.*** PROVIA provides scientific information to the UNFCCC process, and is now a designated partner of the Nairobi Work Programme. PROVIA was involved in the Research Dialogue of Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in 2011. This year PROVIA has been asked to lead in the SBSTA Research UNFCCC – a brief presentation on the draft PROVIA list of global research priorities in VIA. In discussion at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) in Durban, several countries suggested the inclusion of a reference to PROVIA in the decision on National Adaptation Plans.
3. ***Strengthen communication within the Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation Research Community and provide an interface with stakeholders affected by climate change.*** This includes the PROVIA website (www.provia-climatechange.org). There is now an established biennial PROVIA International Adaptation Conference. UNEP is the co-sponsor of a biennial International Adaptation Conference, with the 2nd Conference recently held at the University of Arizona, May 2012. A call for offers to host the 3rd International Adaptation Conference 2014 has already produced 8 offers. The PROVIA Chair has issued a bi-monthly circular to the research community.
4. ***Improving practices of assessing climate change vulnerability, impacts, and adaptation.*** The plan for the "Revised Guidance on Methods of Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment" is now on the PROVIA website for public comment. The document itself will be published in late 2012.

PROVIA's project over 2011-2012 will produce important products that need to be delivered to governments, international agencies and individual experts. The delivery will need continued engagement with users through workshops with experts, and one-to-one meeting with governments and regional seminars. PROVIA's engagements have already strengthened communication with the VIA research community and provided an interface with stakeholders affected by climate change.

UNEP has supported PROVIA since its inception and informed Governments during the Governing Council in 2012. This has brought PROVIA to a more active presence at the global and national level and interest from governments and international agencies.

In addition to continuation of 2010-11 activities, PROVIA is considering the following proposed Activities approved by its SSC for 2012-13:

1. Methods of building capacity in adaptation to climate change
2. Methods of developing adaptation and other socio-economic scenarios
3. Monitoring current vulnerability, impacts and adaptation, and avoiding potential surprises

GOVERNANCE

The governing body of PROVIA is an international Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). The SSC sets the general scientific direction of PROVIA and supports efforts to communicate findings to scientists, policymakers and other stakeholders. The committee also guides the Secretariat in the implementation of the Work Programme. Scientific Working Committees are established by the SCC, on topical issues related to the programme of work, as needed.

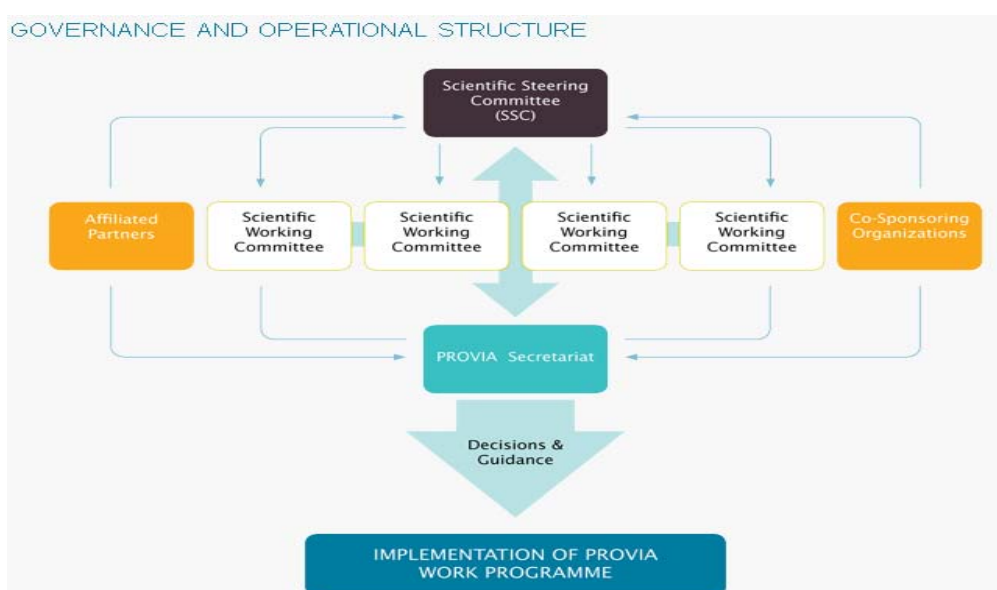
UNEP supports governance and guidance PROVIA, including approval of SSC membership, by mutual agreement among all implementing partners. Implementation of PROVIA's programme takes place through coordination with the SSC and the implementing partners in an analogous fashion to other multi-agency sponsored components of the World Climate Program such as World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and Global Climate Observing System (GCOS).

STRUCTURE

PROVIA is serviced by a Secretariat located at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi. The Secretariat also serves as a secretariat for the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) and is responsible for project management and day-to-day administration of the programme.

The collaborative partnership coordinates with relevant agencies and programmes of the United Nations system and provides support towards the implementation of PROVIA's programme of work. At present, the programme is supported financially by UNEP.

Other affiliated partners, including climate change research related networks and research institutions are involved in the implementation of PROVIA's programme of work. These partners are invited as observers in the Scientific Steering Committee.



The SSC sets the general scientific direction of PROVIA and supports efforts to communicate findings to scientists, policymakers and other stakeholders. It guides the Secretariat in the implementation of the Work Programme and establishes Scientific Working Committees. The SSC is composed of a Chair and 14-20 distinguished members from the scientific community at large, including *ex officio* members from co-sponsoring organizations.

FUNDING

UNEP has supported PRO-VIA since its inception, and has commenced the four activities approved by the SSC members, including Secretariat support, supervisory support from the UNEP Chief Scientist Office and also assistance from the Scientific Assessment Branch.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) process background and UNEP approach

The WMO Congress agreed with UNEP's position that the former World Climate Impacts Assessment and Response Strategies Programme (WCIRP) component of the World Climate Programme (WCP) was not the right set up to respond to the needs of the research community concerned with the vulnerability, impacts and adaptation aspects of climate science. The WMO Congress approved UNEP's request to dissolve WCIRP, and has delegated to WMO-Executive

Committee a decision on the UNEP request to replace it with a more cohesive and coordinated approach to international VIA research provided by PROVIA.

UNEP welcomes WMO's decision to a formal closure of WCIRP component of WCP and to assess PROVIA for inclusion as a component of the WCP. UNEP envisions PROVIA as developing synergies with and being complementary to WCRP in using the best available climate information to assess vulnerability and impacts, and to facilitate adaptation programs. PROVIA is evolved to provide a platform for scientists working on VIA aspects of climate science (a counterpart to WCRP). UNEP is committed to further develop, strengthen and promote PROVIA, and to be a significant contributor to Global Framework Climate Service (GFCS), as a component of WCP.