



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



# PRO-VIA: Proposal for a New Organization to Support Research on Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation

Briefing at World Climate Change Conference III, Geneva, 31 August 2009

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## Are existing global research programmes able to:

1. Offer a single research programme, equivalent to WCRP, focused on **impacts** and **response** to climate change?
2. Deliver the high quality information on impacts being increasingly requested by policy-makers?
3. React to policy requests regarding impacts and adaptation with due urgency?
4. Provide a coordinated global framework for deploying national funding to address key policy-related questions?
5. Serve as an umbrella organisation for covering research needs in relation to new scenarios and other international activities?

Source: Based on T. Carter from PRO-VIA Scoping Meeting, June 2009



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## Basic idea of PRO-VIA (P)rogramme of (R)esearch (O)n Climate Change (V)ulnerability, (I)mpacts and (A)daptation

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A proposed research programme: To provide focal point for research community concerned with *vulnerability, impacts, and adaptation (VIA)* to climate change.



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# Goals for PRO-VIA activities

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## 1. Support Current Research

- (Self) coordination of VIA research; ongoing exchange of latest scientific understanding on climate change *vulnerability, impacts, and adaptation*.
- Develop and harmonize methods and tools for VIA analysis and research and dissemination
- Conduct intercomparisons of impact models
- Provide platform for information exchange between VIA research community and the climate modeling and integrated assessment communities
- Organize participation of VIA community in international exercise to develop new scenarios for AR5. (Urgent activity – begins 2010)



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## **Goals for PRO-VIA activities**

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### **2. Facilitate New Research**

- Set up international research committees in priority VIA areas with overall goal to accelerate, consolidate, and harmonize research
- Hold workshops and other activities to articulate new research agenda
- Set up meetings with international research donors to increase access of VIA scientific community to research funding sources.



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## Goals for PRO-VIA activities

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### 3. Forge a New Bridge to Policy

- Provide ongoing interface between scientific community & policymakers and other stakeholders regarding VIA research – meetings, conferences.
- Provide clearinghouse for information and communication:
  - Facilitate *annual reporting* to policymakers & civil society of latest VIA results (e.g. newly identified areas of impact, new results relevant to adaptation policy).
  - Organize semi-annual global conferences of VIA research community
- Regionalize global VIA research results
- Carry out capacity building in developing countries for VIA research and policy activities



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# How should PRO-VIA be governed?

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1. PRO-VIA driven by the scientific community → Steering Committee composed of scientists
2. Strong interaction with policymakers/stakeholders → Secretariat to be located at UNEP (under consideration). With close collaboration with other UN agencies, other organizations.



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## **Summing Up PRO-VIA (Programme of Research On Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation**

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A proposed research organization:

- An umbrella organization for scientists researching climate change vulnerability, impacts and adaptation
  - Run by the scientific community
  - And supported by a central UN secretariat
  - Focusing on research, but also forging new links between the scientific and policy communities.
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