



IAI Summer Institute on Vulnerability Associated with Climate Variability and Climate Change in Central America and the Caribbean

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, October 26 – November 8, 2003

The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) is pleased to announce its Summer Institute on Vulnerability Associated with Climate Variability and Climate Change in Central America and the Caribbean. This activity will be co-sponsored together with the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), the Organization of American States (OAS), the United National Development Programme (UNDP) and will have the collaboration of other partner organizations. Other collaborating organizations are: EIRD, CIESAS, FLACSO, WMO, CRRH.

Objectives: The central objective of this Summer Institute is to contribute to the development and strengthen the local and regional capacity to deal with vulnerability associated with climate variability and climate change in the region of Central America and the Caribbean.

Programmatic Objectives:

1. Provide participants with a comprehensive and integrative framework approach to better understand climate variability and change and its potential impacts on some productive sectors in Central America and the Caribbean;
2. Provide information on the evolution of vulnerability and risk patterns associated with climate variability and change in Central America and the Caribbean and on the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of existing disaster risk management initiatives;
3. Examine the vulnerability, including its social aspect, associated with climate variability and change to determine its causes and identify possible responses that can lessen its negative impacts in the region;
4. Build relations and improve communication among natural, social scientists and disaster risk professionals, researchers, managers and decision makers and maximizing the use of existing capability mechanisms.

Institutional Objectives:

1. Develop a cooperative network of professionals in the region that can exchange knowledge and experience in future activities, share data and promote exchange and training of local professionals, as well as the development of partnership among governments, industries, communities;
2. Develop a multi-institutional partnership of national and international organizations working in Central America and the Caribbean to promote capacity building and the transfer of scientific and technological knowledge;
3. Connect local and regional professionals and institutions in Central America and the Caribbean with other initiatives and networks of other organizations dealing with the same

subject in other regions of the Americas (e.g. IAI, IACD, OAS, UNDP, WMO, IPCC, UNFCCC, AIACC, etc);

4. Inform local and regional professional on the funding opportunities available to support projects dealing with vulnerability associated with climate variability and change, disasters prevention, mitigation strategies and related fields.

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Tentative Program: Summer Institute organizers are developing an exciting program that should be of interest to many professionals coming from the natural and social sciences background and professionals such as resource managers, and policy and decision makers involved with the multiple dimensions of vulnerability in Central America and the Caribbean.

The two-week Summer Institute will include lectures from leading experts, seminar discussion and case study presentations, as well as time to work with colleagues in a one to one basis in small working groups.

The curriculum of the Institute will include the general topics outlined below:

Module 1: Fundamental concepts

Why to study Climate Variability and Climate Change associated with Vulnerability of Natural and Anthropological Systems?

Basic scientific aspects of Climate Variability (i.e., ENSO) in the region

Basic scientific aspects of Climate Change in the region including the issue of Mitigation and Adaptation

Extreme Events from a Climatology and Impact View

Basic Concepts of Regional Climate Variability and Climate Change Modeling and their association with Vulnerability of Systems

Socioeconomic Aspects of the Impacts of Climate Variability and Climate Change

Module 2: Potential Applications

Why is it important to analyze Vulnerability and Adaptation to Disasters?

Hazards, Risk, Vulnerability, Early Warning Systems and their factors

Methods and Tools in the Management of Resources in Risk Prevention (simulation exercise)

Evaluation of Vulnerability and Risk (including social vulnerability and adaptive capacity as part of the process)

Perception and Evaluation as part of the Risk Reduction Process

Summer Institute Activities: The Summer Institute will be organized around a variety of activities, many of them highly participatory. One program coordinator will present introductory lectures to establish a common concept base. Subsequently, several guest lecturers will address in depth specific topics of the program. Guest lecturers will come from academic institutions, government agencies, non-governmental and international organizations. Participants will also carry out hands-on exercises to apply the concepts learned. In addition, case studies and a field trip will also be important components of this capacity building Institute.

Who Should Apply? Professionals that need and can benefit from a better understanding of climate variability and change, on the planning and applications of policy and actions to deal with vulnerability, extreme events, disasters and their related socioeconomic impacts. Examples of type and profile of suitable candidates and organizations are provided below:

Type of professionals: natural resources managers, governmental officials, community leaders, policy and decision-makers, stakeholders and users of climate information in important socioeconomic sectors of the countries in Central America and the Caribbean.

Type of organizations: organizations working in agriculture, water resources, health, tourism, coastal zones and disaster prevention, relief and mitigation agencies, civil defense from governmental and non-governmental organizations, associations, communities and industries.

Academics and researchers: early to mid-career scientists from natural and social sciences working on vulnerability studies.

Eligibility:

Eligible applicants must be affiliated with a resource, policy, research management institution, governmental or not, university or research centers.

Eligible countries to apply: applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident of a member country of the IAI, OAS or UNDP from Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Belize, Barbados, Haiti, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and St. Kitts and Nevis.

Participants from Central America and the Caribbean will have priority in receiving financial support.

Language and Computer Requirement: The activities of the course will be conducted in Spanish; however simultaneous interpretation (Spanish-English) will be available. Nevertheless, it is desirable that participants have also fluency in English. Furthermore, participants will be expected to have fundamental computer skills.

Requirements for Financial Support:

- Applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident of a member country of the IAI, OAS or UNDP from Latin America (permanent residents must send a copy of visa). Funding priority will be given to applicants from Central America and the Caribbean;
- If Spanish or English is not the mother tongue, attach a certificate of Proficiency in the Spanish or English language;
- Academic background: Bachelor's degree in a field that is related to the areas to be covered by the course;
- Minimum of 3 years of working experience in the areas to be explored by the course: agriculture, water resources, health, tourism, disaster, coastal zone and/or climatology associated with vulnerability issues;
- The course is addressed to professionals that need and can benefit from the application of climate variability and change, on the planning and applications of policy and actions to deal with vulnerability, extreme events, disasters and related socioeconomic impacts, for example: natural resources managers, governmental officials, community leaders, agriculture, water resources, health, tourism, risk managers, civil defense authorities, and young scientists working in vulnerability studies;
- Physical aptitude to be able to meet the requirements of the course attendance (recent medical certificate);

- Full attendance of the two weeks is required as well as participation in all course program activities.

Financial Support: Travel to and from Santo Domingo, housing, meal expenses, local transportation, and health insurance will be provided to selected participants (maximum of 20 participants). In addition, 1-3 slots will be available to international organizations interested in sponsoring their own participants to the course, as long as they can demonstrate the benefits of this training to their current programs and activities.

This activity is being co-sponsored by a number of collaborating organizations:

- The IAI and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will cover the cost of lodging, meals, travel insurance and materials of the course;
- The Inter-American Development Agency (IACD) and the Organization of American States (OAS) will provide a round trip ticket in economy class from the participant's country of residence to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Financial Support Application - How to Apply: The submission of applications consists of 2 phases that are complementary and not optional:

Phase I: applicant should fill out the OAS 98 form and send it by internet as a preliminary request to the Summer Institute. The OAS 98 form is available at the [OAS's Educational Portal of the Americas](http://www.educoea.org/Portal/?culture=en) at <http://www.educoea.org/Portal/?culture=en> (see Fellowships and Application Forms). After that, the applicant should receive an electronic message confirming receipt of the submission of the form. Then, the applicant should attach this electronic confirmation message to the official forms in phase II.

As this form is available in PDF format only and cannot be filled in on line or saved as an attachment, we suggest that applicants print it out, fill it out, scan it as an electronic file and send it as an attachment to the OAS as described above. Alternatively, applicants can pick up a printed form at the office of the OAS in the applicant's home country or request a copy to email portal@iacd.oas.org OR Applicants can download the same OAS 98 form at the IAI Summer Institute website at www.iaisummerinstitutes.iai.int in RTF format, fill it out and save it electronically before sending it by internet.

Phase II: Applications must be presented on the official [Fellowship Application Form \(OAS Form 98 again\)](#) available in PDF format at the OAS's website. Forms are also available from the Offices of the General Secretariat in member countries (Check the OAS website on [GS/OAS offices in Member States](#)). Forms may also be obtained from the OAS Headquarters by sending an e-mail to portal@iacd.oas.org or by writing to: Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development, Fellowships Program, 1889 F St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

Application documents:

1. OAS Form 98;
2. Recent medical certificate;
3. Certificate of language proficiency (if Spanish or English are not the applicant's mother tongue);
4. Copy of visa if applicant is a permanent resident (not citizen) of an IAI, OAS or UNDP member country;
5. Academic background: Bachelor's degree diploma in a field that is related to the areas to be covered by the course);
6. Institutional letter of agreement from employer or academic institution (if student enrolled in graduate program). Letter must state the employer's agreement of the applicant's

