

Currently we are working regionally in the subject:

Addressing climate adaptation education, research and networking in South America: The CliVIA initiative.

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Abstract

Purpose - Climate change and variability are both a developmental issue as well as an environmental one. Adaptation to Climate change and variability has gained a prominent place on global and local policy agendas, evolving from mainly climate risks impacts and vulnerability assessments to mainly adaptation action, imposing new defies to Higher Education (HE). The goal of this article is to introduce the Climate Vulnerability, Impact, and Adaptation (VIA) Network (CliVIA-Net): A South American university-based coalition aimed at achieving a Science for/of Adaptation.

Approach - CliVIA-Net is a collaborative effort by academic groups from across the spectrum of the natural, social and health sciences focused on improving climate VIA on education, research and practice. In consonance with international literature and practices, the network shifted from a discipline-oriented approach to an interdisciplinary and Earth System Science (ESS)-oriented one. It seeks to advance fundamental understanding, participatory practice-oriented research, and to develop a problem orientation question/solving answering methodology. A set of cases studies illustrates how CliVIA-Net faces adaptation and sustainability challenges in the 21st century.

Findings - Focusing on interdisciplinary graduate education, practice-oriented research and problem orientation practice on climate threats which are already threatening the environment, populations' well-being, and sustainability, allows for the co-production of knowledge and solutions, as well stakeholders' buy-in and commitment.

Originality/Value - CliVIA-Net draws upon the results of evolving interdisciplinary approaches on global change and VIA education, the research partnership with stakeholders and decision-makers to develop environmental and health outcomes, e.g. vulnerability indicators and scenario planning.

Keywords - Higher Education, adaptation, Practice-oriented research, Problem-oriented, sustainability, VIA indicators.