



Participatory Research as a Research-Practice Interface to Analyze Vulnerability and to Reduce Disaster Risk on Fogo Volcano, Cape Verde

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In many practitioners handbooks as in many scientific publications or international directives about disasters and development, has arisen a consensus about disaster risk reduction (DRR). It should firstly better integrate socio-economical factors from daily pattern to strengthen livelihoods. Secondly, it should adopt context-appropriate measures to develop local communities' capacities in facing risks. Thirdly, it should be based on real collaboration between the different scales of action (institutional and upper levels stakeholders, local stakeholders, communities) to merge scientific, technical, political and local knowledge. If things are theoretically well-established, practically speaking difficulties remain to develop this collaboration and to find a research methodology which could combine all knowledge to help practitioners to find better solutions in DRR and in resources management. The MIAVITA European research Program aims at (1) better analyzing vulnerability and capacities of communities living on volcanoes by developing a methodology which adopts a multi factors approach, and (2) enhancing collaboration between researchers, practitioners and communities.

This communication proposes to present and discuss the methodology and results obtained for the community living on Fogo Volcano in Cape Verde. The methodology developed for assessing vulnerabilities and capacities was based on participatory research. Focus group discussions with specific adapted tools were organized with the main social groups of the community. These people are part of the process of risk assessment. The main key findings about this methodology will be presented, as well as the profile of the community, using a multifactor analysis.

This communication also present the strategy used for results communication with institutional local and national stakeholders. This strategy is based on the organization of a participatory 3D mapping session in the Fogo caldeira. It provides a tool for dialog between all stakeholders and the community, the researchers being only a mediator. This dialog lays on different activities and thematic focus group around the mapping: people discuss together about resources, land conflicts, security toward volcano, contingency plan based on local reality, constraints and strengths. To create communication between stakeholders and the community is crucial in Fogo, since the village is located within the Fogo Natural Parc, which implies constrains of landuse. The strongest constrains deal with land farming and cattle, which most of families rely on, whereas some others take profit of the park through tourism. The case of Fogo shows how risk reduction policies should address the larger issues of development (education, health, basic services, land tenure and concurrency relationship between activities) to reduce people's vulnerability and secure their livelihoods in facing not only volcanic but also drought and economic hazards.