ANTICIPANDO LA CRECIDA Anticipating the flood

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There are evidences that many regions of the world and in particular South America are experimenting significant changes in the intensity and/or frequency of extreme events -e.g. rainfall, floods-. These events have large and broad impacts, especially in the most vulnerable socio-economic populations. The aim of the present work is to show the progress achieved in the *Anticipating The Flood Project* (*Anticipando la Crecida*), whose main focus is to contribute to the improvement of the disaster risk management associated with intense rain events and southeasterly wind driven floods in "La Ribera" region, located at Quilmes City of the Buenos Aires province, Argentina. The project is based on research and participative activities with the involved local stakeholders, such as: habitants, public servants and different professional institutions of research and development. The Ribera region encompasses 7,000 of th ose habitants in a 22 km^2 vulnerable zone located by the Rio de la Plata coast at 20 km at the south of Buenos Aires City. The river is an extensive and shallow estuary with a NW-SE oriented funnel shape. The persistent and moderate to strong winds from the south/southeast usually induce floods along the southern coast of the river; a phenomenom locally known as "*sudestada*". The Project explores social and environmental consequences associated to these floods and articulate with the adaptation strategies to such events, with its predictions knowledge and state of the art technologies. The interdisciplinary approach is expected to integrate scientific knowledge (both natural and social) about the phenomenon, with the own community's -people and institutions- knowledge. Different disciplinarian acknowledgements are assembled in this Project. The anthropological method is designed to capture and analyze reality through the perspectives of different social actors, beyond participant observations and open interviews are complemented with the geographic territorial analysis and the meteorological and oceanographic diagnosis capturing the necessary information for optimizing risk and flood maps with the object of improving prediction tools. In adds to achieve a partial result of the development of this Project, it has already been done a field activity with local Civil Defense and an interdisciplinary workshop was also held with local stakeholders, professors, researchers and students of meteorology, oceanography, social sciences and engineering as well as professionals of different national state institutions such as National Weather Service, Navy Hydrographic Service, National Institute of Water and National Geographic Institute. The meeting improved the communication among scientist from different disciplines and local authorities, and he lped to identify vulnerable regions where contingency plans has to be improved. In this context, concrete questions to be answered by each particular discipline has been formulated and raised. Therefore, an integrated process was initialized in the operative approaching of the complex phenomena. The field work enables a correlation between empiric results with pre-existent official and academic information. The workshops promote the inter-institutional and inter-

disciplinary communication and developments. The further progress of this Project is planned in the realization of additional participative workshops with the community, specific courses and field trips for collecting social and territorial information, which will be used to update and improve flood risk maps of the region. Also, collecting environmental data from past events will be used in meteorological and oceanographic diagnosis to improve current forecast tools. On the other hand, the communication channels of information are planned to be revisited.