

ENHANS International Workshop “Extreme Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk in Africa” 2011

The ENHANS is a project of the International Council for Science (ICSU) led by the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. ENHANS supporting partners are the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the International Geographical Union (IGU), the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (IUTAM), the Scientific Committee of the Program “Integrated Research on Disaster Risk” (IRDR), and the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) of IOC-UNESCO. The ICSU Regional Offices for Africa (ROA), Asia & the Pacific (ROAP), and Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) are involved in the relevant parts of the project providing links to the regions.

The principal goals of the ENHANS project are (i) to improve understanding of critical phenomena associated with extreme natural events and to analyze impacts of the natural hazards on sustainable development of society; (ii) to promote studies on the prediction of extreme events reducing predictive uncertainty and on natural hazards mitigation; to bring the issues into political and economical policies; (iii) to disseminate knowledge and data on natural hazards for the advancement of research and education in general and especially in developing countries; and (iv) to establish links and networks with the international organizations involved in research on extreme natural hazards and their societal implications setting up a consortium of experts of ICSU Unions and several major intergovernmental and multi-national organizations involved in the project. The goals of ENHANS will be achieved via scientific meetings and open forums bringing together research experts, decision makers, and disaster management, insurance agency and mass media practitioners. The project will place a special emphasis on the importance of research on extreme natural hazards and disaster risk mitigation in the most vulnerable regions of the world, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Africa, in the Middle East, in Asia, and the Pacific region.