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'Understanding volcanoes and society: the key for risk mitigation'



Strategy for social appropriation of geoscientific knowledge of communities living in the area of influence of Puracé (Colombia) volcano

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Under a process approach, addressing Risk Management Disaster involves issues inherent to the knowledge of the territory and therefore the study of hazards in a geographical context, that should be complemented by the analysis of the vulnerability of communities living in hazardous volcanic areas. From this perspective the Colombian Geological Survey (SGC) and the National Unit for Risk Management of Disaster (UNGRD) have been strengthening inter-institutional work, which has made progress in building a strategy for the social appropriation of geoscientific knowledge whose fundamental purpose is to reduce the risk and potential volcanic disasters. Within this edu-communication strategy there are participatory meetings of exchange and “knowledge dialogue” between the institutions and communities (indigenous reservations) settled in the area of influence of Puracé volcano, allowing to involve different visions and actors: local and traditional authorities, educational community, children, youth, teachers, parents, etc. Taking as start point the recognition of the environment they live and their relationship to the volcano, there has been meetings for the recovery of collective memory and the construction of new knowledge, directed toward the understanding of volcanic phenomena, monitoring, eruptive history of the volcano, the new version of the map of volcanic hazards and the strategies aimed at reducing the risk from prevention, seeking to contribute from knowledge (technical and traditional) a cultural response having as proposal to assume from risk management to safeguard lives within a territory that also has life.