

Database analysis for the diagnosis of national capacities when coping volcanic crises

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A diagnosis on monitoring instrumentation at the institutions responsible for surveillance of volcanoes and training of the human resources is very timely because both play an important role when attending volcanic crises. On the other hand, communication among scientists and technicians from these institutions must be improved in order to establish institutional cooperation to help minimizing the effects of volcanic eruptions.

As outcome of this research, we introduce a web-based database, which contains information about active volcanoes at most Latin American countries and their volcano monitoring institutions, including the different types of instruments and a variety of features such as periodicity of monitoring. This database is a tool that allows evaluating in detail the national capacities when coping with volcanic crises. A Monitoring Index can be developed in order to assess volcanic risk along with other parameters. For selected Latin American countries we analyze those capacities. Updating of the data depends on every institution providing the data.

This application is currently hosted at the Instituto de Geofisica at UNAM in Mexico, and can be accessed remotely and updated in real time.

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