

# **El Niño Affairs training and education in Latin America**

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El Niño Affairs, a new educational initiative at NCAR's Center for Capacity Building, is an attempt to catalyze interest in climate and climate-related impacts throughout Latin American countries and communities. It is designed to emphasize the importance and necessity of the contributions of physical, biological, social sciences, and humanities to the understanding of air-sea interactions in the equatorial Pacific Ocean that have worldwide implications for ecosystems, individual and societal well-being. The scientific understanding of El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO [ENOS in Spanish]) has progressed greatly since the mid-1960s and forecasting of its onset and progression has improved greatly as well, though much research remains to be done. El Niño Affairs underscores the fact that El Niño is not just an issue for scientists to research, but is one that must become of concern to the general public and the leaders who represent them in government.