

**Principal Researcher: Sergio Villamayor – Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona**

**Title:** Socio-Environmental Vulnerability in Rural Spain.

**Main purpose of the project:**

*The aim of SEVERAS is to develop multi-scale indexes of Socio-Environmental Vulnerability in Rural Spain and use them to explore integrative policies that can reduce said vulnerability.*

**Design/methodology/approach:**

*SEVERAS will assemble so far disconnected climatic, census, land-use and rural development data into a unique socio-environmental database. The indexes will be elaborated and validated with key stakeholders through participatory planning workshops (“rural vulnerability laboratories”) where rural citizens and policy makers will also co-design policies aimed at reducing vulnerability.*

**Potential results:**

*SEVERAS will result in a series of rural vulnerability maps at different territorial scales and time horizons; an inventory of archetypical socio-ecological contexts and rural vulnerability pathways in Spain; and a series of policy proposals to mitigate rural vulnerability and their implementation challenges.*

**Social relevance of the research:**

*SEVERAS will advance our understanding on the compounded effects of socio-environmental drivers of rural vulnerability; provide a new quantitative tool for rural development diagnosis and policy making in Spain; and empower rural citizens by involving them in the development of the indexes and new policies.*

**Originality/value of the project:**

*SEVERAS will pioneer a new interdisciplinary research agenda for the joint study of social and environmental drivers of rural vulnerability; develop a new methodology to systematically assemble and generate quantitative and qualitative data for the study of vulnerability in Spain; explore the feasibility of new integrative rural development policies; and pave the way for a longer-term observatory.*