



SESSION DESCRIPTION

C2 Global examples for researcher-practitioner collaboration

Presentations

Date: Friday, May 30, 2014

Time: 09:00-10:30

Rooms: S34-35

Language: English

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Organized by: ICLEI

OBJECTIVE

The cooperation between scientists, practitioners and policymakers is crucial in developing evidence-based adaptation plans. However, local governments typically face the challenge of reaching out to and involving scientists, while researchers often have difficulties communicating data and information in a way that it is applicable to urban planners. In order to overcome the traditional 'researcher-practitioner-divide' new approaches have to be developed and experiences need to be shared to facilitate fruitful collaborations.

This session will look at examples from both the Global North and Global South, where scientists, local government authorities, and other stakeholders have closely worked together to support evidence-based decision-making. It will begin with a presentation exploring the potential of communities of practice and collaborative learning techniques for building capacity at the local government level in New Zealand. Following, the experiences of the city of Kosice with involving climatologists in the vulnerability assessment process will be shared, as an example for improving the communication and application of scientific knowledge in practice. An action research project applied in the city of Dar es Salaam will then provide a perspective from the Global South. The project uses a multi-criteria analysis to investigate the synergies that evolve through collaborations between scientists and key government officials. Finally, findings and outcomes of ICLEI's AsianCitiesAdapt (ACA) Project, which links scientists and policymakers to develop science-based local adaptation strategies and plans, will be discussed, using the case study of Baguio city.

OUTCOMES

- The participants will learn about specific examples of researcher-practitioner collaboration;
- By looking at the initial outcomes and experiences of the projects, participants will gain a deeper understanding of how bridging the science-policy divide can increase the adaptive capacity of local governments and individual stakeholders; and
- They will be able to take this knowledge with them to apply in their own cities.

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator will provide an overall introduction to the session topic and contributors. **(5 minutes)**
- Each presentation will be allotted 10 minutes. **(4 x 10 minutes)**
- The facilitator will manage questions and answers. **(40 minutes)**
- Closing remarks by the facilitator. **(5 minutes)**



CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Carrie Mitchell, Assistant Professor, University of Waterloo, Canada*

Presenter *Stephen Flood, Researcher, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand*

Enhancing adaptive capacity through communities of practice in New Zealand

This presentation will introduce the Climate Changes Impacts and Implications (CCII) Project aimed at updating and improving projections of climate trends, variability and extremes across New Zealand. The project links a wide range of stakeholders with climate modelers through communities of practices to define the type of information required for decision-making and adaptive capacity building at the local government level. This presentation will demonstrate the potential of collaborative learning techniques and the coordinated development of knowledge to enhance the adaptive capacity of regions, cities and individual stakeholders.

Presenters *Andrej Steiner, Director, Carpathian Development Institute, Kosice, Slovak Republic*
Michal Schvalb, Program Analyst, Carpathian Development Institute, Kosice, Slovak Republic

Applying knowledge to practice: The experience of Kosice city, Slovakia

This presentation will share the results of involving climatologists in the vulnerability assessment process of the city of Kosice. The collaboration included regular meetings with the city adaption expert team, methodology preparation and the assessment of climate hazards. Our experience suggests that the majority of climatologists have difficulties explaining climate data and expected climate change impacts in a way that is digestible to practitioners. It will be discussed how collaboration between practitioners and scientists can improve the communication and application of scientific knowledge in practice.

Presenter *Nathalie Jean-Baptiste, Research Fellow, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Leipzig, Germany*

The need for science-policy interactions in the city of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

This presentation will introduce an action research project applying a multi-criteria analysis to respond to flooding in Dar es Salaam. The project has been set up at the community level to identify gaps in current mainstreaming initiatives and develop an approach for participative decision-making. Initial results and lessons learned will be showcased, such as the need for establishing science-policy interdependencies to transfer the knowledge necessary for managing risks across sectors at local levels. The collaboration between local scientists and key government officials will then be discussed as a means to identify appropriate community-based adaptation approaches as well as prepare and empower local authorities in the long run.



Presenter *Dymphna Javier, Assistant Professor, University of the Philippines, Baguio, Philippines*

Science-based adaptation planning in Baguio with the AsianCitiesAdapt project

This presentation will outline ICLEI's AsianCitiesAdapt (ACA) Project, implemented in eight pilot cities in India and the Philippines. The project provided opportunities for linking scientists and policymakers to develop science-based local adaptation strategies and plans. A number of key players including city officials, stakeholders, scientific partners, and ICLEI have been involved in the different processes seeking to identify possible local implications of climate change and appropriate adaptation strategies. Using the city of Baguio, Philippines as case study we will highlight key findings, processes and outcomes of the ACA Project.

Further recommended reading

Climate Changes Impacts and Implications (CCII) Project and related materials:

<http://stephenflood.ie/>
