Indigenous people and climate change adaptation

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Key messages

Aboriginal people have limited capacity to be involved in debates about climate adaptation

1. Climate change communication is currently inequitable

2. Aboriginal capacity for adaptation strengthened through participatory research and monitoring
Engaging Indigenous Australians in climate adaptation

- Significant land owners and custodians (e.g. NT - 85% coastline and 44% land area – remote and isolated)
- Vulnerable group already facing significant social and economic challenges
- Socio-cultural and economic attachment to place is very high – dependence on natural resources
- Managers of significant natural and cultural resources
What is the issue?

1. **Inequitable access to climate change information** – need to tailor communication
   - Content and delivery of information
     - Internet is rarely appropriate
   - Appropriate scale of information
     - No community-scale projection
   - Little opportunity for communication
     - By definition – a ‘two-way’ flow of information

2. **Participatory adaptation**
   - Engaging people and building capacity to make decisions
     - Valuing Indigenous Knowledge Systems
     - Community-based monitoring using Indigenous indicators
1. Tailoring communication

• Content
  • Create a plain English communication ‘package’
  • Images should tell the story; storybooks
  • Audio-visual, DVDs incorporating local actors
  • Tailored communication = time and $
1. Tailoring communication

• Delivery
  • Face-to-face delivery with follow-up materials
  • Use existing networks and institutional frameworks
  • Important who delivers information. A ‘road show’ with familiar faces.
2. Building capacity for participatory adaptation

• Building capacity for adaptation
  • Valuing Indigenous Knowledge Systems
  • Community-driven research
  • Partnering in research of mutual benefit
Participatory Adaptation

- Building capacity for adaptation
  - Community monitoring for climate change
  - Indigenous indicators
Facilitating equitable access to information

Key messages

1. Aboriginal people have limited capacity to be involved in debates about climate adaptation

2. Create tailored communication packages – content and delivery needs to be appropriate for the audience

3. Build Aboriginal capacity for adaptation through participatory research and monitoring
Thank you

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