Lessons learned from an Integrated Assessment and Action Methodology for climate change adaptation in rural Fiji

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Aim: To pilot CC adaptation in an integrated approach to exposure sectors, & internalize CC adaptation at rural communities

Focus: Coastal Areas & Water Sector
Challenges
- e.g. Methodology

• Required development of a “simplified” method suited to Fiji’s communities

• To develop a method which embraces integration, i.e. “top – down” & “bottom – up” approaches

• A method which can address the complex interaction of CC induce stresses & account for other induced stresses, whilst remain simple
The Methodology

Integrated Assessment & Action Methodology for Climate Change, DRM & Sustainable Development

[PACE-SD Methodology]
The Method

Has 3 components:

(1) The 7 Steps
(2) The Procedural Framework
(3) The Strategic Adaptation Framework
Method: The Procedural Framework

1. Consultation 1
   - Preliminary participatory V&A assessment
   - Participatory V&A assessment
   - Participatory adaptation planning

2. Consultation 2
   - V&A assessment
   - Planning Consultation 3
   - Implementation

3. Consultation 3
   - V&A assessment
   - Adaptation planning

Evaluation and monitoring: community and facilitator
Method: The Strategic Adaptation Framework

Project level 1: ‘Soft’ measures & sustainable resources management plans for ‘B’ to ‘F’

Project level 2: ‘Soft’ and ‘hard’ measures & sustainable resources management plans for ‘B’ to ‘F’

Project level 3: ‘Soft’ and ‘hard’ measures, sustainable resources management plans plus programmes for ‘B’ to ‘F’
Lessons Learned

(1) Proper project management system and coordination set-up are essential
(2) Proper community-based awareness and relevant training programmes are essential
(3) Community leadership or management system plays an important role in project implementation and uptake.
(4) Community involvement is essential for success and sustainability of the adaptation initiative
(5) Support from outside groups is important
(6) Information about climate change needs to be disseminated and shared
(7) Long-term monitoring, maintenance and evaluation are needed (5-10 years)
Overall Guiding Rule

Have we done everything possible for this project to effectively address the impacts of climate change and provide a sustainable contribution to community development?
Adaptation Activities Water Scarcity Sites

e.g. Druadrua Island

- Construction of a dam
- Construction/realignment of piping system from the dam to the village
- Improvement/installation of rain harvesting system
- Groundwater assessment and drilling
- Installation of additional water tanks (central storage system)
- Setting up of a pressurized reticulation system
- Rehabilitation of traditional water sources/systems
Water Scarcity
Improved Design
Coastal Sites

e.g. Buretu village

- Infilling of eroded portions along the river bank
- Construction of bank protection structures using local materials, re-enforced with treated pine poles
- Construction of walkways
- Planting of vetiver grass for bank stabilization
- Setting up of sign boards to control boat speed
- Assessment for drainage improvement works
- Improvement of traditional drainage system
Planting vetiver grass
Community leadership & participation
The vital role of women
Vetiver hedgerow six months after planting
Test of the structure – during high river flows
Other Benefits – an example
USP V&A Postgraduate Course – Capacity Bldg in the PIC region
The End

Thank you!

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