Engaging community service organisations in climate change adaptation

Findings from an empirical study in Victoria
Outline

1. Project background & approach
2. Methodology
3. Findings: social learning for adaptation
4. Project impact & outputs
1 Project background & approach
Project:
“Implementing tools to increase adaptive capacity in the community and natural resource management sectors”
• 15-month project funded by the Victorian Government (VCCCAR & Dep of Health)
• Five researchers from three universities
• Six government agency partner organisations

Research questions:
• To what extent are government-funded NRM and community service agencies impacted by climate change
• How can they best be supported to adapt?
• What role can adaptation support tools play?
Social learning and organisational adaptive capacity

• Social learning in organisations as collective action and reflection that occurs among individuals and groups (Keen et al. 2005)
• Examining the ‘relational spaces within organisations that cut across the formal organisational structures for learning and adaptation, and which relate individual to social learning’ (Pelling et al. 2008)
Methodology
Methodology

1. Stakeholder workshop to scope out project approach
2. Reviews of literature on the impacts of climate change on primary health, community and NRM sectors
3. Review of current institutional context for climate change adaptation for each sector
4. 72 semi-structured interviews (45-90min each) across 44 organisations, using soft systems methods (Checkland & Haynes 1994; Checkland 2000)
5. Qualitative data analysis using NVivo10
6. Action-led research on implementing adaptation tools with five organisations and final stakeholder workshop
7. Development of a program design framework for facilitating adaptation among government-funded agencies
Findings: social learning for adaptation
Developing organisational adaptive capacity

- Agree on principles for engaging in adaptation
- Designing a process for increasing the adaptive capacity of an organisation
- Evaluate organisational adaptive capacity
- Undertake activities to establish the context and enable action
- Employ tools to support adaptation planning
Principles for enabling social learning for adaptation in the community services sector

- Adaptation is a relational process of actively engaging with an organisation
- Agreeing on a set of working principles to build trust
Evaluating organisational adaptive capacity

- ‘The extent to which an organisation is able to make well-informed, short and long-term decisions to plan for and respond to the negative impacts of climate change and take advantage of the potential opportunities posed by climate change’

- Gain an understanding of current adaptive capacity
- Could be a self-assessment

Ballard, D. et al., 2013. PREPARE - Barriers and enablers to organisational and sectoral adaptive capacity – qualitative study Part of the PREPARE Programme of research on preparedness, adaptation and risk Contact

Kuruppu, N. et al., 2013. Understanding the adaptive capacity of Australian small-to-medium enterprises to climate change and variability Final Report Institute for Sustainable Futures, Sydney
Getting going: context-setting activities to build momentum

• Use communicative activities that elicit the context for adaptation
  – Rich pictures
  – Historical timelines
  – System mapping
  – Reflections and sharing individual learning

• Start small, gradually develop momentum
Choosing appropriate support tools

- Select tools to match current organisational capacity to adapt
- Process tools most suitable for small organisations at the beginning
### Examples of suitable tools*

| Frame, Scope and Identify Context | • Adaptation Notepad  
| • Adaptation Navigator map |
| Assess Impacts, Risk and Current Vulnerability | • LCLIP  
| • Climate Q |
| Consider Vulnerability to Future Climate Change | • Victoria's Regional Climate Change Summary Reports |
| Identify, Assess and Implement Options | • AdOpt  
| • BACLIAT and Speed BACLIAT |
| Monitor, Evaluate and Review | • AdaptME  
| • Making Adaptation Count |

Project impact & outputs
Project outputs

Thank you

All projects outputs are available from the VCCCAR website:

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