WP4 Forest Vulnerability Assessment (FVA)
Adaptive capacity, barriers to adaptation and vulnerability

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Objectives for WP4

1) To review the adaptation options including planning and management strategies and mechanism used to deal with both climatic variability and climate change;

2) To identify and review the current availability of tools and guidance used to inform planning and policy for climate change adaptation by forest managers in government, business and NRM sectors; and

3) To identify the particularly vulnerable forests or regions on the basis of both potential impact and adaptive capacity.
A conceptual diagram of the planning horizon timeframe in the context of climate variability and climate change.

Source: Jones and Mearns (2005)
Proposed methods

- Desk top review of adaptation options, including planning and management strategies and mechanisms, used to deal with both climate variability and climate change in the four classes of forests i.e. plantation/farm forests; productive native forests, conservations native forests, environmental plantings (within an NRM framework).

- Desk top review and phone interviews with key stakeholders to identify and review the current available tools and guidance used to inform planning and policy for climate change adaptation by forest managers in government, business and NRM sectors.
Proposed methods

• Conduct a pilot study to develop and trial questions to address the adaptive capacity, barriers and vulnerability of forests to climate change. Develop a series of primarily open ended questions for use in semi-structured interviews.

• Conduct semi-structured phone interviews with forest managers and policy makers identified by Work Package 1. Use a snow-balling technique to identify other key stakeholders in each of the four classes of forest (Hobbs & McIntyre 2005).
Proposed methods

- Link with Work Package 3 (Socio-economic impacts review) to conduct a social learning workshop. The workshop be used to:

  - Identify the particularly vulnerable forests or regions on the basis of both potential impact and adaptive capacity.

  - To rank and add level of uncertainty to the adaptive strategies, barriers to adaptation and vulnerability identified during the phone surveys and address how these should be included in policy and management.

  - Write-up the findings of the phone-survey and workshop.
Deliverables

- Completion of desk top review of adaptation options, including planning and management strategies and mechanisms, development of questions for semi-structured interviews, scheduling phone interviews (4 weeks post commencement)
- Completion of pilot study trialling semi-structured interview questions (6 weeks post commencement)
- Completion of semi-structured phone interviews with stakeholders identified in WP1 (10 weeks post commencement)
Deliverables

• Completion of mid-project progress report to NCCARF (12 weeks post commencement)

• Completion of stakeholder social-learning workshop (with WP3) (TBC, ca. 13 weeks post commencement)

• Completion of final report for WP4 (24 weeks post commencement)
Feedback from FVA Steering Committee

- There is a potential overlap between WP2 and WP4 in assessing impacts. Therefore it is important that these two WP teams work closely together.
- The results from WP1 should feed into WP4, and work activities need to be scheduled to allow this.
- This WP needs to cover the broad perspective of natural resource management.