Stakeholder Networks and Institutions

Description	The stakeholder networks and institutions approach focuses on understanding those who make the decisions and how they relate to one another. Building adaptive capacity over long time scales depends on understanding these relationships. Institutions can be viewed as the collective rules, norms, and shared strategies that define stakeholder behavior. This approach posits that understanding present capacity is key to predicting how it is likely to evolve in response to future risks. These relationships can be complex, and unraveling them can require the use of a number of tools (see below). Each stakeholder has different objectives, resources, and responsibilities, all of which must be investigated. Some stakeholders may have little voice in the process or may be assigned responsibilities in only part of the issue. New stakeholders may emerge and relationships may alter, particularly in a crisis.
Appropriate Use	Useful in determining the present adaptive capacity and how that capacity might be developed in the future. In general stakeholder approaches are oriented toward research teams that support policy making. They help set the framework for evaluating specific measures, and thus from an early part of the decision process, as well as helping to monitor capability over a longer term.
Scope	Global, but most appropriate at national or local level.
Key Output	Characterization of stakeholders and institutions in terms of levels of participation, positions, and boundaries in policy making. Insight into institutional capacity to adapt.
Key Input	A mixture of quantitative and qualitative data depending on actual tools employed in the approach.
Ease of Use	Varies, but application of some tools requires specialist training in policy analysis. Some can be readily adopted by practitioners.
Training Required	Some training is useful, but expertise in policy analysis is more important than specific analytical techniques.
Training Available	Many training courses on stakeholder engagement exist, such as The Environment Council. The EC FIRMA project (http://firma.cfpm.org/) produced a training course in agent based, participatory integrated assessment that includes useful material on stakeholder analysis.
Computer Requirements	Varies.
Documentation	Working papers on institutions, institutional analysis, stakeholders, and case studies in England, The Netherlands and Spain are available or forthcoming on the Societal and Institutional Responses to Climate Change and Climatic Hazards web site. http:// http://firma.cfpm.org/ and http://www.geo.ucl.ac.be/LUCC/research/endorsed/01-sirch/SIRCH.HTML.
Applications	The SIRCH project has evaluated stakeholders and institutions in the context of changing risk of drought and floods.
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Cost	No cost.
References	See Documentation above.