

Expert Meeting: Socio-economic information

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Lessons learned and best practices

- Incorporating socio-economic information is important both for assessing vulnerability and adaptation options
- Sometimes it's worth getting more detailed data, sometimes it's not
- Geo-spatial presentation of data is effective for communicating results
- Many guidelines and frameworks emerging

Data gaps and needs

- Wide range of data needed, location and sector specific
- Much information available, but not accessible, is housed in many different places, and often aggregated
- Some data housed in one institution, with individuals
- Data collection (for adaptation) difficult to justify
- Lack of:
 - Historical data
 - Household/micro level data
 - Subsistence-based info
 - Valuation of ecosystem services
 - Cost-benefit analyses
- Capacity to translate data into information/knowledge required for decision-making limited

Integration

- Integrating socio-economic with bio-physical info relatively new and evolving
- Integrating qualitative information and traditional knowledge challenging
- Integration demands a multi/inter-disciplinary approach

Recommendations: data collection

- Target/refine data gathering – look for data relevant to sustainable development first
- Make better use of existing data gathering mechanisms
- Provide incentives for data gatherers
- Raise awareness of climate issues within socio-economic data collection agencies

Recommendations: data use

- Link climate change community through networks (existing or new) to lever information/experiences
- Facilitate collaboration between institutes and countries
- Strengthen dialogue between users and providers
- Update guidelines for vulnerability and adaptation assessment to focus more on adaptation
- Generate tailored packages of relevant information where country capacity is limited