

Tool for Environmental Assessment and Management (TEAM)

Description	This software package creates graphs and tables that allow experts to compare the relative strengths of adaptation strategies using both quantitative and qualitative criteria. TEAM assists the user in evaluating issues such as equity, flexibility, and policy coordination. The user lists the strategies across the top of the table and the evaluation criteria down the side, then enters a score indicating the relative performance of each strategy under the various criteria. This table can then be used to construct a variety of graphs of the data. It will not necessarily identify the optimal strategy (unless one strategy outperforms all others in all criteria), but is instead designed to allow the user to more clearly see the strategies' relative strengths and weaknesses.
Appropriate Use	TEAM is useful when it is important to consider a wide range of criteria and to explicitly identify unquantifiable and uncertain aspects associated with potential adaptations. It should be used in conjunction with other decision-making tools (e.g., cost-benefit analysis, discussion and workshops with key decision-makers).
Scope	All locations; covers coastal zones, water resources, agriculture, as well as a general assessment component; national or site-specific.
Key Output	Relative effectiveness of alternative adaptation measures across a range of criteria.
Key Input	A ranking of how well policy objectives are met using alternative strategies.
Ease of Use	Relatively easy to apply; more rigorous results require more analysis; only basic computer skills are needed.
Training Required	A user with an understanding of key policy objectives could achieve proficiency in 1 to 2 days.
Training Available	Contact Susan Herrod-Julius for more information (see Contacts below).
Computer Requirements	IBM-compatible 386 with a 3.5" drive and a mouse; Microsoft Windows 3.1 and Excel 5.0c spreadsheet software.
Documentation	Smith, A., H. Chu, and C. Helman. 1996. Tool for Environmental Assessment and Management: Quick Reference Pamphlet. Decision Focus Incorporated, Washington, DC. Smith, A., H. Chu, and C. Helman. 1996. Documentation of Tool for Environmental Assessment and Management. Decision Focus Incorporated, Washington, DC.
Applications	Used in China, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Trinidad, Italy, Egypt, and Malawi.
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Cost	Free to obtain documentation.
References	Burton, I., J. Smith, and S. Lenhart. 1998. Adaptation to climate change: Theory and assessment. In <i>Handbook on Methods for Climate Change Impact Assessment and Adaptation Strategies</i> , J. Feenstra, I. Burton, J. Smith, and R. Tol (eds.). UNEP and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.