Climate Change Adaptation and Community Development

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Introduction

- Dr. Jackie Dawson
- Canada Research Chair in Environment, Society, and Policy
- Director of an interdisciplinary research laboratory – Environment, Society, and Policy Group (www.espg.ca)
- Focus on the human and policy dimensions of climate change
Remote – accessible by sea and air (far from national centres or 'mainland')

Reliance on climate-sensitive economies (tourism and natural resources (oil / agriculture))

Colonial History and a Strong Indigenous population

Strong cultural connection to the ‘Land’

One of the more climate-sensitive regions of the nation

Large visitor/tourist to local ratio
Climate Change Adaptation

Vulnerability = Exposure - Sensitivity + Adaptive Capacity

Coping Range

Approaches to CC and Community Adaptation Assessments

\[ V_{ist} = f(E_{ist}, A_{ist}) \]  \hspace{1cm} (1)

where \( V_{ist} \) = vulnerability of community \( i \) to stimulus \( s \) in time \( t \); \( E_{ist} \) = exposure of \( i \) to \( s \) in \( t \); and \( A_{ist} \) = adaptive capacity of \( i \) to deal with \( s \) in time \( t \).

Fig. 1. Urban climate change vulnerability and risk assessment framework.
1. Keep it Simple!

**Directly with Communities:**

- 1. Identify Risks
- Identify Opportunities
- Identify Solutions to decrease risks and increase opportunities

2. Watch out for Policy Side-effects

*Coasting Trade Act (Jones Act)*

$120,000 duty tax
3. Let socio-economic questions define natural (bio-physical) science questions more often

4. Redefine the level of the conversation
Conclusion: some lessons learned

- Keep the approach simple (risk, opportunity, solution)
- Watch out for policy ‘side-effects’
- Let socio-economics inform biophysical science more often
- Re-define the discussion to the local level and on topics that concern residents (livelihoods)

Strong Climate Change Adaptation Planning for Community Development is just – GOOD PLANNING

Thank-you

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