

# Closing the Gap: Gap..Gap..Gap..Gap...Gap...(what gap?) Capacity Development and Communicating Science

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48th Session of the Subsidiary Body for Science & Technological Advice (SBSTA) 10th Meeting of the Research Dialogue 3 May 2018, 14:00 - 19:00; WCCB Foyer and Room GENF, Bonn Germany





Capacity Development ...what it's about

- 1. Understanding: regional and cultural diversities that exist in the region; traditional knowledge is powerful (....one size does not fit all)
- 2. Educating: providing better opportunities for early-career researchers & practitioners through training; engaging youth through social media & networking opportunities...
- 3. Creating: opportunities for informal dialogues with stakeholders at subregional levels (addresses common issues, builds trust, sense of ownership and is less intimidating)...
- 4. Engaging: in activities that involve all stakeholders and listening to those who are most at risk...
- 5. Sharing and communicating: the most important factor across the region is the human factor: sharing information, data, transferring knowledge, experiences and best practices...





#### Communication

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### Context of communication

- Bottom-up
- Top-down
- Science-Science
- Science-policy
- Policy-science

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- Science-community
- Policy-community
  - Globally: S-S; N-S, and S-N

"Communication & networking should go hand in hand to increase the effectiveness and uptake of recommendations developed through a co-generation process....."

policy maker at science-policy dialogue



# Science Communication

Science communication for the community

#### The communicator considers the audience...

- Residential location (urban, rural, local and indigenous communities)
- Internet accessibility
- Financial status
- ✤ Language
- Education level and age
- Storytelling linking the facts with real-life situations





### Science Communication

Science communication for the decision maker

On scenarios and uncertainties....

#### The communicator builds the crucial factor of trust by

Effectively communicate uncertainties by developing scenarios for planning processes..

- Scenarios are crucial to the planning and assessment process
- Standardized protocols should be in place for developing scenarios so that indicators can be developed and reported systematically
- Scenarios methodologies, capabilities and constraints need to be communicated transparently
- Ensure participatory approaches
- Consider more robust, no-regret scenarios in planning processes
- Consider and communicate the co-benefits ensure that all stakeholders understand the rising costs of inaction





Science-Policy Interface Southeast Asia

- 1. For programmes suggested by scientists, having local champions in the policy sector can really help implement programmes that matter.
- 2. Where internet access is available, **social media** can be used as part of advocacy and awareness raising efforts to get community support
- 3. Interface has to be actively managed. Governance is about who controls what and how such control is exerted. In this context, **science should be brought to local levels** to contribute critical inputs so that decision makers have a diversity of information to shape, plan and implement policies at the local level.
- 4. Partnerships between the science and policy communities need to be looked at with the aim of **identifying** what works and what doesn't.
- 5. There is a need to **expand partnerships** to other sectors. The private sector and development communities need to be included.





Science-Policy Interface South Asia

- 1. Researchers needed to identify **short-term and long-term actions** when delivering scientific outcomes to policy makers.
- 2. To motivate scientists to policy-related studies, there needs to be a mechanism to **monitor and evaluate research activities that have been effective on the ground in policy developments** and reward such incentives.
- 3. The best approach to transfer scientific findings to policy planning is to **hold face-to-face discussions** between scientists and policy makers and identify specific persons required for such dialogue.
- 4. Even with limited resources, science can reach end users in two ways: i) work closely with **intermediary agents** such as media; and ii) **articulate the impact of scientific findings with human issues** so that policy makers and communities can easily absorb.
- 5. Policy communities lack interest in science-policy dialogues compared with scientists. To make it more attractive **involvement of a science champion** or respected person in the country is recommended.





Science-Policy Interface Temperate East Asia

- 1. Communication gaps slow down the transfer of knowledge between scientists and policymakers and the establishment of science-based practices.
- 2. To increase the quality of scientific research and future projections, more ground-level data collection and data sharing are needed. This, in turn, requires **more financial investment**.
- 3. Integrating local data and traditional/indigenous knowledge with global knowledge can lead to sustainable development while reducing climate impacts.
- 4. Policy planning needs to reflect various social and natural factors/drivers. While frequency of change in socioeconomic data varies from country to country, policymakers should consider and adapt to these changes.



5. Decision makers need to accept the uncertainty of scientific data and adapt their policy plans to minimize impacts.



#### **Concrete practices**



#### Tool is **simple, informative and cost-efficient.** Designed as a rapid assessment tool for community resilience to:

- support climate adaptation planning across government departments,
- articulate needs to a variety of stakeholders--- provincial government, NGOs, etc.
- Provide useful information that can be gathered without significant expertise,
- fill a critical information gap many governments have and can be used as part of regular planning processes.



#### More information:

http://www.apngcr.org/resources/items/show/2028





#### **Concrete practices**

## Building Capacity for Reducing Loss & Damage Resulting from Slow and Rapid Onset Climatic Extremes through Risk Reduction and Proactive Adaptation within the Broader Context of Sustainable Development

- Strengthened partnerships, risk reduction project development, specialized capacity building, documenting current approaches and recommending better approaches for improved policies
- Post-project toolkit/handbook: Building Capacity for Reducing Loss and Damage by Natural Hazards: A Guidance Manual for Good Practices: The guidance manual will assist by connecting risk to climate impacts, vulnerability of exposure units and the role of adaptation in enhancing capacity to address risks for both slow-onset and extreme events.
- Trained practitioners who now have the know-how and potential for leadership in CCA, DRR, and L&D. The skills developed are suitable for leadership roles in DRM and Climate Change project management, especially with vulnerable communities.
- Realization that investing in enhanced capacity for disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and building resilience at all levels is a "no regret option" for climate change adaptation.



More information: http://www.apngcr.org/resources/items/show/ 1946







# Thank you!

#### **APN Secretariat**

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# Want to learn more about what APN does?



#### Our member

#### countries

- 22 member countries
- + approved countries

participation criterion.



United States of America



#### Facts and figures

- > Funded **412** projects since 1996
- > Provided over **\$28,000,000** disbursed as project grants
- > Over **60%** of all projects are led by developing country researchers/practitioners
- > APN research projects directly engaged over 2600 people (2010-2015)
- > More than **180** peer-review publications, over **640** tangible outputs (2010-2015)
- > APN capacity building projects directly engaged more than **4000** people (2010-2015)





Research

#### Collaborative Regional Research Programme (CRRP) and other focused activities

- **CCCV** Climate Change and Climate Variability
- **BES** Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- **CATMD** Changes in the Atmospheric, Terrestrial and Marine Domains
- **RUSD** Resources Utilization and Pathways for Sustainable Development
- **RRR** Risk Reduction and Resilience
- > Cross-cutting issues
- > science-policy linkages
- > human dimensions of global change





# Capacity building



- > The CAPaBLE Programme
- **PDTW**: Proposal Development
  Training Workshop
- Hands-on training through APN funded projects
- > APN Mitra Award
- International processes (IPBES, IPCC, etc.)



Products and outputs



APN E-Lib	Reports, proceedings, guides, tool kits and other outputs from APN funded projects
	www.apn-gcr.org/resources/
Science Bulletin	Peer-reviewed articles from APN funded projects http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/browse?collection=7
Policy Briefs	Policymaker-oriented concise summary of APN project outputs <a href="http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/browse?collection=10">http://www.apn-gcr.org/resources/items/browse?collection=10</a>
APN Updates	Regular email updates from the APN Secretariat <a href="http://www.apn-gcr.org/eml/lists/?p=subscribe&amp;id=4">http://www.apn-gcr.org/eml/lists/?p=subscribe&amp;id=4</a>