

Climate Adaptation Framework Regional Research Final Report



Project Reference Number: CAF2015-RR18-NSY-
Jacobson

Optimizing climate change adaptation through enhanced community resilience

The following collaborators worked on this project:

1. Dr Chris Jacobson, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia, cjacobso@usc.edu.au
2. Prof. Patrick Nunn, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia, pnunn@usc.edu.au
3. Prof. Tim Smith, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia, tsmith5@usc.edu.au
4. HE Kim Nong, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, Kimnongmoe@yahoo.com
5. HE Emtotim Sieng, University of Battambang, Cambodia, totem_ubb_edu@yahoo.com
6. Dr Phong Tran, Institute for Social and Environmental Transitions, Vietnam, giaiphongjp@gmail.com
7. Dr Tuan Tran, Hue University of Economics, Vietnam, tuantranhuu@yahoo.com



Copyright © 2015 Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research
APN seeks to maximise discoverability and use of its knowledge and information. All publications are made available through its online repository “APN E-Lib” (www.apn-gcr.org/resources/).
Unless otherwise indicated, APN publications may be copied, downloaded and printed for private study, research and teaching purposes, or for use in non-commercial products or services. Appropriate acknowledgement of APN as the source and copyright holder must be given, while APN’s endorsement of users’ views, products or services must not be implied in any way. For reuse requests: <http://www.apn-gcr.org/?p=10807>

Table of Content

Table of Content	3
Project Overview.....	4

Project Overview

Project Duration	: 15 months
Funding Awarded	: US\$ 45,000
Key organisations involved	: Dr Tran Tuan Anh, Hue University, Vietnam; Mr Terry Trethowan, My Nguon Chanseng, Mr Ratha Rein, University of Battambang, Cambodia; Dr Stacy Crevello, Mr Chantan Chea, and Mr Mok Kona, FAO, Cambodia; Mr Bun Tutyarith, Ptea Teuk Dong, Cambodia; Battambang and Siem Reap Provincial Governments, Cambodia; Chamkar Samrong and Lvea Krang Commune Council, Cambodia; Ms Renee Currenti, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia; Mr Chou Panith, University of Nagoya, Japan.

Project Summary

Rural communities throughout the Asia-Pacific are generally more exposed to climate-driven changes to their livelihoods than those in larger/urban communities. We developed and piloted a community resilience tool to be used to support climate change adaptation within existing development planning pathways. Our framework included 39 key questions based around the outcomes related to (i) livelihoods and environment, (ii) infrastructure, (iii) community, and (iv) climate change and disaster management. In rural Lvea Krang (Cambodia) community outcomes were most concerning, limited by ineffective collaboration, and plan implementation funding. In peri-urban Chamkar Samrong, all outcomes except climate and disaster management were of concern, with plan implementation funding and information the most limiting factors. In peri-urban Thuy Thah Commune (Vietnam), climate and disaster management were most concerning, with plan implementation funding the most significant contributor. In rural Vinh Hai commune, livelihood and environment outcomes were of most concern but again, plan implementation funding and information contributed to poorer outcomes. Building resilience requires context-based consideration of desired outcomes and factors that affect them. Our assessment tool provides a simple and cost-efficient means for monitoring the long-term effectiveness of un-co-ordinated aid donor projects in supporting community-based adaptation to climate change.

Keywords: Community resilience, adaptation, assessment, Cambodia, Vietnam

Project outputs and outcomes

Project outputs:

- Community Resilience assessment framework
- Community Resilience assessment methodology

- Community Resilience policy dialogue process
- Tools to support community resilience assessment
- Community Resilience assessment guidebook, including case studies, in three languages, available online
- Policy briefing for community resilience and adaptation planning (four Communes)
- Publications on community resilience

Project outcomes:

- Delivery of a piloted tool for assessing community resilience
- Identification of areas to improve resilience in four Communes in Cambodia and Vietnam
- Identification of adaptation options based on resilience assessment in four Communes

Key facts/figures

- 12 focus groups engaging more than 70 community members
- 3 regional policy dialogues involving more than 30 provincial government officials, NGO staff, International donors, aid workers and university officials
- Average community resilience score in Cambodia of 50.5/76
- Average community resilience score in Vietnam of 55//76
- 5 young scientists engaged and trained in data collection, analysis and translation
- Guidebook requested to be used as a basis for community (Commune) planning in Battambang Province, Cambodia

Potential for further work

The assessment toolkit developed as part of this project can be readily used by Commune Councils as part of annual community (Commune) planning exercises and to mainstream climate change adaptation into development initiatives. Further work could be undertaken to develop aligned quantitative proxy indicators where sufficient financial resources exist to measure them (e.g. water quality as a measure of the quality of the natural environment, food security index as a measure of access to resources in times of crisis/stress). The sensitivity of the tool to detect changes in resilience on the basis of adaptation activities should be examined. Our project work in conjunction with FAO-initiated surveys on food insecurity has also highlighted the need to consider how best to engage marginalised groups in resilience and vulnerability assessments, given that this indicator consistently scored poorly.

Publications

1. Tran, T., Tran, P., Anh, A.T. And Jacobson, C. (2016) Community resilience assessment and climate change adaptation planning, a guidebook. University of the Sunshine Coast, Hue University of Economics (in English and Vietnamese). ISBN ISBN-10: 1-925476-05-7 ISBN-13: 978-1-925476-05-7. 76 Pages.
2. Jacobson, C. and Ngoun, C. (2016) Community resilience assessment and climate change adaptation planning, a guidebook. University of the Sunshine Coast, University of Battambang (in English and Khmer). ISBN 10: 1-925476-04-9, ISBN-13: 978-1-925476-04-0. 96pages.

- Jacobson, C., Crevello, S., Nguong, C., and Chea, C. (accepted) Resilience and vulnerability assessment as the basis for adaptation dialogue: a Cambodian example. In: Serrao-Neumann, S, Coudrain, A, and Coulter, L. (ed.s) Developing and communicating climate change information for decision-making. Springer.

Awards and honours

n/a

Pull quote

“This project provided a process that helps communities to work with provincial partners to identify how they can adapt to climate change using existing resources in transformative ways. The community resilience assessment guidebook is cost and time efficient, and it gave community members the confidence to identify the cross-cutting nature of climate change impacts and the support they needed to address these to senior government officials” Dr Chris Jacobson, project leader

Acknowledgments

In addition to key organisations listed above, we wish to acknowledge the co-contribution of the University of the Sunshine Coast of \$10,000 USD

Please see two additional technical reports for full project detail:

- Tran, T., Tran, P., Anh, A.T. And Jacobson, C. (2016) Community resilience assessment and climate change adaptation planning, a guidebook. University of the Sunshine Coast, Hue University of Economics (in English and Vietnamese). ISBN ISBN-10: 1-925476-05-7 ISBN-13: 978-1-925476-05-7. 76 Pages.
- Jacobson, C. and Ngoun, C. (2016) Community resilience assessment and climate change adaptation planning, a guidebook. University of the Sunshine Coast, University of Battambang (in English and Khmer). ISBN 10: 1-925476-04-9, ISBN-13: 978-1-925476-04-0. 96pages.