



Information

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Partners

- 4 European and one South African research institutes

Funding

- 7th EU Framework Programme

Project duration

- Start: January 2014
- End: December 2016

Objectives

- Improve the capacities in producing, translating and delivering scientific knowledge to decision makers, with an emphasis on key actors in adaptation to global environmental change, particularly climate change.
- Promote exchange of expertise and experience between partners in modes of research oriented towards the needs of environmental governance
- Develop and test a methodological approach to assess local governments' knowledge needs for coastal adaptation to climate change which is transposable between Europe and Africa
- Improve existing capacity to conceptualise and communicate research and research uncertainties to enhance its usability, comprehension and impact

Milestones

- Exchange activities
- Interaction with local government
- Specialist workshop

CONTEXT

A central element in climate change adaptation planning is scientific knowledge of climate change impacts, vulnerability and response options. However, research shows that there are many barriers to the utilisation of scientific research for adaptation planning. Some are related to the institutions that might use it and how they make decisions while others concern the usefulness and usability of this emerging body of knowledge. An important part of accepting scientific knowledge is also the appropriation of knowledge from policy makers' side; sometimes the language chosen or the vehicle for transporting knowledge are not the most appropriate ones. Knowledge co-production between researchers and decision-makers is often suggested as a means to link knowledge producers to users. Research must not only produce advances in scientific knowledge, but also feed into planning, decision making and action.

An important part of the climate negotiations has been the consideration and also the implementation of knowledge transfer programs between developed and developing nations. With this proposal, we also intend to support this international initiative focusing mainly in Africa. In this continent, where capacities to adapt are constrained by existing development challenges, climate variability and change poses major threats to coastal areas and coastal urban settlements where increasing numbers of people live.

METHODS

1) seconded researchers to develop competencies in modes of stakeholder-relevant research; 2) the development of new insights, approaches and practical skills to putting research into use; and 3) expansion of international transdisciplinary networks

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In this initiative, we are particularly concerned with local governments and their ability or preparedness to deal with the impacts of climate change on the coast. Local governments have important responsibilities in coastal management and are key actors in adaptation to climate change. This is because climate change has implications for many local government functions related to coastal management such as allocating land for development, providing water and sanitation, constructing and maintaining infrastructure, and promoting local economic development. In many parts of the world, the responsibilities of local governments are increasing as a result of decentralisation policies. Moreover, this is often the tier of government through which national policies get implemented at the local level.

PRODUCTS

Research exchange and common scientific papers