

Workshop on Data Gaps for Research and Action on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation

To be held in conjunction with the Adaptation Futures Conference
1 June 2012, Tucson, Arizona, USA

Spatial data are critical for assessment of vulnerability, impacts and adaptation (VIA) to climate change. Yet there remain significant gaps in the availability of relevant spatial data for all regions of the world, and the quality of global and regional data sets varies considerably by theme and by region. There are also issues such as lack of consistent time series and scale and format incompatibilities. This user workshop seeks to bring together major stakeholders to identify high priority data weaknesses and gaps and to identify partnerships for addressing them. Major areas of focus will include:

- Vulnerable groups: poverty maps, population maps by age and sex, maps of ethnic and linguistic groups, refugee maps, hard-to-reach populations
- Urban area and critical infrastructure maps: urban density and economic activity maps, roads, railways, ports, dams, reservoirs, drainage, sanitation and waste management facilities, power systems, and emergency services
- Sectoral data: key data layers in sectors such as agriculture, human health, biodiversity conservation, water resource management, transport, telecommunications, and energy
- Hazards: best practices for mapping climate hazards such as floods, droughts, cyclones, and storm surges and present and future exposure of people, infrastructure, and livelihoods
- Adaptive capacity/resilience: subnational data on governance and institutional capacity, conflict maps, data on emergency services, education and labor data

In order to identify vulnerable systems, sectors and groups and potential adaptation responses, it is important to understand likely climate impacts. Therefore, time will also be devoted to discussing climate model data availability and formats and best practices for using climate data.

The goals of the workshop include:

1. Develop a list of high priority data sets that need to be improved or created.
2. Identify partnerships of organizations that could work together to address those data weaknesses or gaps.
3. Kick start discussions of data needs and gaps in the reorganized global change research program under Future Earth, and what would be needed in order to create a crosscutting platform and/or program for data that is coordinated, prioritized, and sustained.

This workshop is by invitation. For inquiries, please contact SEDAC deputy manager Alex de Sherbinin at adesherbinin@ciesin.columbia.edu or by phone at +1-845-365-8936.

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