



# IHDP Open Meeting 2009

7th International  
Science Conference on the  
Human Dimensions of  
Global Environmental Change

26-30 April 2009  
World Conference Center Bonn  
UN Campus  
Bonn, Germany

The Social  
Challenges of  
Global Change

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Time: Wednesday 29 April 14:00 – 15:30 / 16:00 - 17:30

## Vulnerability, Resilience and Adaptation Assessments with regard to Known and Unknown Hazards in the Context of Climate Change? Requirements, Case Studies, Similarities and Differences

Organized by: UNU EHS

Panelists: Prof. Ian Burton, Prof. David Alexander, Dr. Terry Cannon, Fabrice Renaud / Jörn Birkmann  
Venue: Verwaltungsanbau, World Conference Center Bonn, Room 1.97

This session will focus on problems of assessing and measuring vulnerability, resilience and adaptation to natural hazards that are known and that are unknown for many people exposed in the context of climate change. Short statements and presentation are followed by a more intensive discussion on the requirements.

## Quality Criteria for Adaptation and Vulnerability Assessment

Organized by: UNU EHS

Panelists: Stefan Kienberger / Z\_GIS Salzburg, Jörn Birkmann and Susanne Krings / UNU-EHS  
Venue: Verwaltungsanbau, WCCB P 1.97

Assessments of adaptation, e.g. in the context of climate change, are receiving growing attention. It is currently being tried to link up both research communities and to find ways in which the vulnerability of societies can be decreased through adaptation. However, the role of different spatial and time scales that influence vulnerability and need to be considered when developing adaptation measures as well as potential secondary effects have often been neglected. In order to systematically investigate this research field and to make the assessment of adaptation applicable to a wider context and to various regions, quality criteria for adaptation measures should be defined. This way, the handling of uncertainties regarding the further development of climate change and extreme events within the measures and strategies could also be monitored.

Key questions that should be discussed during the session are: What would be the benefit of quality criteria for adaptation and vulnerability assessment and what can they actually deliver? How can these criteria be generalized for different types of studies? Which type of criteria can be applied to ex-post studies of vulnerability and which type needs to be applied in order to investigate the dynamics of vulnerability and the uncertainty regarding adaptation strategies? How can these quality criteria help to ensure a focussed governance process with respect to the further mitigation and adaptation to climate change and extreme events?