



# 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

IHDP Secretariat | Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10 | D-53113 Bonn | P +49 (0)228 815 0600 | F +49 (0)228 815 0620  
www.openmeeting2009.org | openmeeting@ihdp.unu.edu

Time: Wednesday 29 April 11:00 - 12:30

## Pro-poor Climate Change Adaptation: Engaging Local Institutions and Local Voices across Different Scales

Organised by: World Bank

Convenor: Robin Mearns, Social Dimensions of Climate Change Program, Social Development Department, World Bank

Panelists: Arun Agrawal, University of Michigan, Carina Bachofen, Social Development Department, World Bank, Livia Bisikova, IISD, Anne Kuriakose, Social Development Department, World Bank, Minna Kononen, Social Development Department, World Bank, • Nicolas Perrin, Sr. Social Development Specialist, Social Development Department, World Bank

Venue: WCCB Plenarsaal

### A. CONTEXT

The IHDP Open Meeting will focus on four major social challenges including dealing with demographic challenges, dealing with limited resources and ecosystem services, establishing social cohesion while increasing equity at various levels and adapting institutions to address global changes. These issue areas will be juxtaposed with cross-cutting themes such as forecasting techniques in a social science perspective; system changes and transitions; and the role of research in addressing these issues.

The Social Dimensions of Climate Change (SDCC) Program of the World Bank aims to enhance understanding of vulnerability; promote socially inclusive, climate-resilient policies and operations in developing countries; and focus on issues of equity and social justice. In view of this, three major studies housed in the SDCC Program are particularly relevant for discussion at the IHDP Open Meeting; namely the social component of the Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change Study; Costing Adaptation based on Local Institutions; and Area Based Development and Climate Change Adaptation.



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## B. BACKGROUND

Each of the three studies focuses on engaging vulnerable and disadvantaged socioeconomic groups in collaborative analysis of what adaptation means in particular contexts for distinct groups of people and on bridging the gap between community needs and priorities at the micro level and policy processes at the macro level. Special emphasis is given to the need for high-level policy development and planning to be informed by lessons learned and insights gained at the local level. In each of the studies, participatory analysis will seek to engage those most directly concerned in discussion of what may be plausible means of adapting to likely future climate trends as well as the pros and cons of alternative adaptation options.

More specifically, the social component of the Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change Study (EACC) will provide micro-level analysis in order to inform calculations of global costs of adaptation in all developing countries, thereby complementing the top down aggregated perspective on the cost of adaptation for an economy. The country cases for the EACC study are Bangladesh, Vietnam, Ghana, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Bolivia. The methodology of the social component is designed to help determine what adaptation means for the different vulnerable groups in different livelihood settings. Notably, workshops focused on participatory scenario development are a key feature of the methodology; they will help to characterize various adaptation pathways possible for different livelihood groups, given their identified vulnerabilities and assets in prevailing conditions of uncertainty. Participants will include representatives of vulnerable livelihood groups (i.e. local experts, and community members, etc).

The study Costing Adaptation based on Local Institutions (CALI) will explore the local costs and benefits of adaptation measures and their relationship to local institutions in three countries: Yemen, Ethiopia and Mali. The objective of the CALI study is to make recommendations to decision makers in development projects and government agencies regarding risks, costs and benefits of adaptation options in rural context and institutional investments necessary to facilitate cost-effective adaptation.

Finally, the study Area Based Development and Climate Change Adaptation (ABDCC) aims to provide in 6 countries recommendations to decision makers and government agencies regarding institutional investments necessary to facilitate cost-effective adaptation and how territorial development initiatives can enhance the adaptive capacity of local actors and communities in the face of climate change. The ABDCC study will focus on case studies linked to World Bank operations in West Africa (Senegal, Burkina Faso and Niger) and in Latin America (Peru, Dominican Republic and Mexico).

Notably, all three studies focus on linkages across local spatial, governance and political economic contexts in multiple sectors, among different actors and across different scales. The studies demonstrate their interconnectedness



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to the diverse social challenges and themes of the IHDP Open Meeting and thus make them a compelling topic for discussion at this session.

### B. PANEL SUMMARY

The aim of the session will be to present the rationale and corresponding methodology of the EACC, CALI and ABDCC studies highlighting the differences and commonalities between the objectives of each (i.e. promoting pro-poor climate change adaptation at different levels such as the territorial approach as a meso-scale intervention or macro-level costing and planning exercises, etc). Dr. Arun Agrawal will open the session with a presentation on the need to bridge the gap between micro-level community priorities and macro-level policy processes, highlighting the critical role of local institutions, governance mechanisms and involvement -- in addition to international agreements -- in tackling climate-related hazards. This session will provide a very important opportunity for the SDCC team members to obtain feedback from the diverse audience on the different approaches to operationalizing pro-poor climate change adaptation.