

Development in a Hostile Climate: Exploring the Adaptation–Development Nexus

Conveners:

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Developing countries are disproportionately vulnerable to a changing climate, and are likely to be impacted ‘first and worst’ as the world warms. In this context, adapting to climate change is of critical importance, and is closely intertwined with longstanding development trends and needs. Climate change threatens past development achievements, and continued development improves adaptive capacity. As a result, scholars have argued that adaptation is equivalent to “climate-resilient development,” (Fankhauser 2010, 24), or “development in a hostile climate” (Stern 2009, cited in Fankhauser 2010, 24).

At the same time, adapting to climate change poses an additional burden to developing countries. Industrialised countries have thus pledged to support adaptation in developing countries by mobilizing \$100 billion annually for adaptation and mitigation needs. Importantly, these resources are intended to be “new and additional,” in order to assure that development aid is not being simply re-labelled as adaptation finance. Ever larger amounts of finance are thus being invested in adaptation-relevant development projects. Some researchers even expect that “future support for adaptation could be of the same order of magnitude as that of development aid” (Scoville-Simonds §1).

Given the close links between adaptation and development, this panel seeks to explore the linkages between the adaptation and development research communities. It focuses on connections and differences between the global development and environment agendas, notably the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change, disaster risk management under the Sendai Framework, and international principles of aid effectiveness agreed in Paris, Accra and Busan.

We invite contributions that explore and examine this adaptation-development nexus from a variety of perspectives. Contributions may address questions such as:

(How) is adaptation different from, or similar to, development? (When) does it make sense – from a conceptual and/or practical point of view – to separate adaptation from development? Who is interested in a separation, who may prefer to focus on overlaps, and why?

How does climate finance and the international pledge to “mobilise” \$100 billion annually for adaptation and mitigation in the developing world affect “regular” development funding? What about countries vulnerable to climate change but not eligible for development aid such as some small island developing states?

How do donors and recipients differ in their understanding of the adaptation—development nexus?

How can the various global development and environment agendas work together? What areas should be addressed separately?

What roles can key actors (international governance institutions, private sector businesses, NGOs and civil society, etc.) play in supporting adaptation and development?

How do we need to rethink development under a changing climate?

The panel seeks both theoretical and empirical contributions from a range of disciplines, including development studies, adaptation research, political science, anthropology and economics.

References

Fankhauser, S. (2010). The Costs of Adaptation. *WIREs Climate Change* 1(1): 23–30.

Scoville-Simonds, M. (2016). The Governance of Climate Change Adaptation Finance—An Overview and Critique. *International Development Policy |Revue internationale de politique de développement* 7.2.