

Insights and Tools for Adaptation: Learning from Climate Variability
November 18-20, 2003
Marriott at Metro Center
Washington, D.C.

Guidance for Presentations

Presentations are intended to provide examples of research and experience that relate to the session topic. The key objective of a presentation is to stimulate discussions as to how insights gained from research and practical experience can provide principles and methods to be used for exploring and refining adaptation options across time scales.

Please note the time allocated for each presentation is **8 minutes**. Presenters are asked to ensure their presentations are congruent with the objectives of the breakout sessions stated below.

The overall objectives of the breakout sessions are:

- Draw out and synthesize lessons learned (both successes and failures) across case studies on climate variability;
- Identify constraints in current research projects and capacity building, as well as limits of knowledge;
- Identify where lessons from variability can and cannot be applied to adaptation to longer-term change;
- Identify opportunities for the future, including key gaps in research, programs and capacity building.

Presentation Format and Media

If you plan to use overhead transparencies, please inform us when you register.

If you plan to use electronic presentation media, we ask that you **please bring your presentation on a CD to the registration table no later than 8:00 AM on the morning of the day you are presenting.**

- We will be collecting your presentations at the registration table each morning and putting them on the appropriate computer.
- We expect all electronic presentations to be in Power Point or in Flash v6.0.
- Please include your last name in the presentation file name.
- The CD should not be CDRW, meaning once it is burned it cannot be written to.
- Please make sure that the CD is generally readable on common CD drives.

If it not possible to bring in your presentation on a CD, please bring it in on a USB storage device, or allow ample time for us to be able to transfer it from your computer. If you bring a laptop, and do not have your presentation on a CD, please ensure that your computer has a USB port or a floppy disk. **We cannot guarantee the availability of ZIP drives, SmartMedia, Compact Flash, or other memory transfer devices.**

Please note that neither power point presentations nor transparencies are required.

Working Group Questions

Lessons from Variability

Concurrent Sessions: Fresh Water Supply and Management, Sustainable Food Supply, Public Health, and Risk Management and Disaster Preparedness
Tuesday, November 18, 1:45 - 3:45 PM

What coping strategies have been effective (and ineffective) in the face of current climate variability (e.g., droughts and floods and their impacts on water management, agriculture, livelihoods, health and safety, forest management, urban planning) and how well would these hold up in the face of long-term change? Where do they not hold up in cases of longer-term change?

How can we take all that has been learned about the importance of scale (temporal, spatial, societal) and build it in productively to (1) an on-going dialogue with stakeholders and (2) the development of the research agenda and its products?

Capacity Building (Institutions, Infrastructure, and Education)

Concurrent Sessions: Domestic Perspectives, International Perspectives
Wednesday, November 19, 9:00 – 10:45 AM

What institutional structures facilitate or impede adaptation? How do we build flexible systems and adaptive institutions?

What do we know about how people make decisions under uncertainty and what roles do social, political, and economic factors play in how individuals and societies cope with climate variability? How do we improve capacity to support decision-making under uncertainty?

What factors influence the ability (and willingness) of societies, institutions, and individuals to adapt to climate variability? What are the implications for building capacity to adapt to climate change?

Communication, Dissemination, and Evaluation

Concurrent Sessions: Domestic Perspectives, International Perspectives
Wednesday, November 19, 11:00 AM – 12:45 PM

What dissemination channels, information formats, and communication methods have been effective in communicating climate information for decision-making? What criteria and methods have you used to evaluate communication? What role has communication played in helping societies and economies adapt to the present climate? Are the same approaches likely to be efficient and effective for communicating the information needed to adapt to climate change? Why or why not?

What are the best practices developed on interannual timescales for improving interactions between stakeholders and the research community, and supporting public discussion of and participation in planning, adaptive management, and policymaking? How might these approaches apply to climate change adaptation, and what are the limits of their applicability?

Tools and Products

Wednesday, November 19, 2:15 – 3:45 PM

Where have we been successful in transferring research beyond individual insights and into operational change? Which of the tools and products designed to help societies adapt to climate variability might also be helpful in adapting to climate change? How are they likely to hold up under climate change?

Where can we offer insights/recommendations back to the climate observation/modeling/research/forecasting community in terms of the production of climate information (e.g., downscaling, articulating the effects of climate change on the skill of seasonal predictions; importance of changes in dominant patterns of variability in the context of longer-term changes)?

Performance Measures and Program Evaluation

Wednesday, November 19, 2:15 – 3:45 PM

What performance measures are effective for documenting and measuring changes in policy, management, and decision-making based on climate information? How do you measure the success or failure of adaptive strategies?