

**AIACC Project Development Workshop:
Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation**

**Third World Academy of Sciences, Trieste, Italy
3-14 June, 2002**

1. Workshop Background and Objectives

AIACC held the second of two project development workshops 3-14 June in Trieste, Italy. The purposes of the workshops are to assist the more than 20 AIACC regional study teams to further develop and prepare to implement their study designs, evaluate relevant methodologies, initiate training in selected methods, and promote further learning during the implementation of the regional studies. The theme of this second project development workshop was climate change vulnerability and adaptation assessment. The previous workshop, held in April at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, UK, took up the problem of climate change scenario development and application.

This report provides a brief summary of the workshop in Trieste, a summary of participants' evaluation of the workshop, and a compendium of participants written comments on the workshop objectives, content, design, sessions and other aspects.

More than 100 participants from 45 countries attended the vulnerability and adaptation workshop, which was hosted by the Third World Academy of Sciences at the campus of the International Center for Theoretical Physics in Italy. The Stockholm Environment Institute – Oxford co-organized the workshop.

The workshop was constructed around six major themes: vulnerability concepts and assessment, adaptation evaluation, stakeholder analysis and engagement, risk assessment and climate outlooks, sectoral impact assessment, and integrated regional assessment. The themes and emphases of the workshop reflect a "second generation" approach to climate change assessment that places understanding vulnerability at the center of assessment, engages stakeholders in the assessment process, and gives priority to generating and communicating information that is relevant to adaptation decisions of stakeholders (see START Network News, Issue No. 7, May 2002).

2. Workshop Themes and Outcomes

Plenary presentations on each of the major themes provided broad overviews of the topics and available methods for analysis. Case studies presented by selected AIACC regional study teams illustrated how these concepts have been employed in previous climate change assessments. Small breakout sessions provided more detailed treatment of specific assessment methods and concepts such as vulnerability indices, vulnerability mapping, multi-criteria evaluation, coping ranges, agricultural and water impact models, and integrated assessment models. Sessions in the computer lab provided participants opportunities to work with a selection of modeling tools. Several of the AIACC regional study teams volunteered to give presentations at the end of the first week on their planned approaches for vulnerability and risk assessment, evaluation of adaptations, and stakeholder analysis and participation. On the next to last day of the workshop, every regional study team presented their study objectives, intended methods of analysis, possibilities for incorporating lessons from the workshop into their regional study, the relevance of their study to adaptation decisions, and plans for publication of results. Many of the presentations made at the workshop will soon be

distributed to participants on CDs. They also will be made available through the AIACC website to other interested persons (http://www.start.org/Projects/AIACC_Project/aiacc.html).

Regional study teams also had time to consult one-on-one with AIACC mentors, invited speakers, and experts from other study teams, as well as to work with members of their own team to plan for implementation of their projects. These interactions helped move each of the projects toward more integrative, interdisciplinary assessment and proved to be an extremely valuable aspect of the workshop.

On the last day of the workshop participants discussed the challenges that they will face when carrying out their regional studies of climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation. The challenges include gaining skill with unfamiliar methods and tools of analysis, acquiring needed tools and data, getting access to published scientific literature, successfully engaging stakeholders, publishing and communicating results, and synthesizing common lessons from the many individual AIACC regional studies.

The discussion highlighted a number of resources that AIACC participants could draw upon to help overcome the challenges. First among these are the considerable expertise and experience of the members of each study team. This expertise might be supplemented by drawing in others from the region with relevant knowledge, either informally (e.g. to seek their advice or to peer-review interim products) or formally (e.g. adding persons to the study team to fill gaps in the expertise of the team). Another important resource is the expertise of members of other AIACC study teams, either within one's region or from other regions. One of the great benefits of the workshop was the opportunity for participants from the different AIACC regional studies to interact with each other, learn each other's areas of interest and competence, and discuss possible collaborations. Two of the Asia region teams have already collaborated to hold a joint training workshop on hydrologic modeling. Future regional workshops will provide further opportunities for such interactions. Also, AIACC will soon develop an interactive web-resource to facilitate continued communication among study teams for sharing experiences, expertise, relevant publications, data, and results from their studies.

Regional study teams may also seek guidance from AIACC mentors to troubleshoot problems that arise during the project. Nine mentors have been engaged to assist AIACC regional study teams. The mentors will offer advice on selection and application of analytic methods and tools, sources of data and modeling tools, training opportunities, and names of additional experts to consult. The mentors will review interim products of the studies and facilitate publication of papers in peer-reviewed journals.

Many of the study teams indicated a need for further capacity building activities such as site visits to work with researchers from other institutions or to take additional training courses. Other teams highlighted the need for additional resources to effectively engage stakeholders in their assessment activities. AIACC is presently seeking funding from potential donors to respond to these needs. An announcement about support for such activities is anticipated in August 2002.

It was agreed at the Trieste workshop that the AIACC regional study teams would play a large role in planning the regional workshops to be held in Africa, Asia and Latin America in early 2003 and late 2004. Among the objectives of the regional workshops are: (i) to encourage the preparation of scientific papers and provide opportunities for review of draft papers by peers, (ii) to facilitate collaboration and sharing of information,

experiences and solutions to common problems across regional study teams, (iii) to engage with regional stakeholders, and (iv) to provide a mechanism for synthesis of the AIACC regional studies along both regional and thematic lines.

3. Workshop Evaluation by Participants

3.1. Overview

Workshop evaluation forms were distributed to all regional study team participants at the beginning of the workshop. Forty-one persons completed and returned the forms out of a total of 76 study team participants.

The responses to the evaluation forms are summarized in this document. Participants were asked to score their satisfaction with different aspects of the workshop from 1 (not at all satisfied) to 5 (very satisfied). They were also asked to provide qualitative written evaluations. Sections 3.2 to 3.5 summarize the quantitative scores for four aspects of the workshop: course objectives and structure, workshop design, workshop modules, and plenary presentations. The qualitative written comments are reported in Section 3.6.

Overall, the responses indicate general satisfaction with the workshop, most reporting that they were satisfied or very satisfied that the objectives of the workshop were attained, that the workshop design was appropriate, that most course modules advanced their understanding, and that the content of plenary presentations was of good quality. However, the relatively high satisfaction reported by respondents obscures some important issues that arose during the workshop. Some participants voiced dissatisfaction that there was insufficient hands-on training with models that will be needed to assess impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation. Some also felt that what training was done with models was too rudimentary, while others found the training to be challenging due to lack of previous experience with the tools. A few participants voiced the view that some topics were dealt with in insufficient detail to permit participants to be able to implement the presented ideas when they return home to work on their projects.

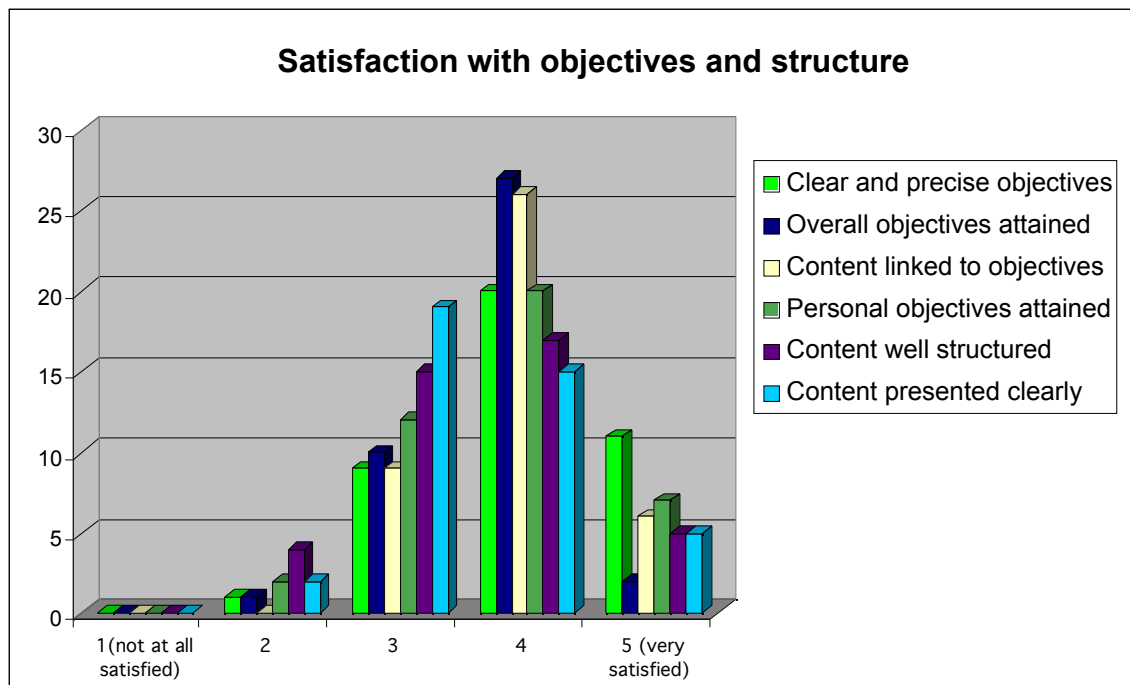
Discussions during the workshop led to an understanding that these shortcomings are difficult to overcome given the breadth of material being covered, the different levels of knowledge and skills of participants, and the technical depth of training that can be provided in a two-week workshop. Participants recognized that their study teams would have to be resourceful to find ways to fill remaining gaps in the knowledge and skills that they will need to successfully implement their research. A variety of strategies were discussed, including drawing additional experts into their teams, collaborating with other AIACC teams to obtain needed expertise, using some of their grant funds for further training, and calling upon the AIACC mentors for advice. These capacity building needs will require ongoing attention as the study teams set to work on their projects.

3.2. Objectives and structure

Participants were asked to score their satisfaction with different aspects of the workshop objectives and structure from 1 (not at all satisfied) to 5 (very satisfied). Figure 1 presents the frequencies of scores from 1 to 5 for clarity of objectives, attainment of workshop objectives, linkage of workshop content with objectives, attainment of participant's personal objectives, well structured content, and clear presentation of content.

Approximately 3/4 of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied (score of 4 or 5) that the workshop objectives were clear, that the objectives were attained and that the workshop content was linked to the objectives. About 2/3 of respondents were also satisfied or very satisfied that their personal objectives for the workshop were met. Only about 1/2 of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied that the workshop content was well structured and presented clearly. Only two respondents were dissatisfied (score of 2) with the workshop objectives, attainment of objectives, linkage of workshop content and objectives, or clarity of presentation of workshop content. Four respondents were dissatisfied with the structure of the workshop content. No respondents reported being not at all satisfied (score of 1) with the workshop objectives or structure. The relatively lower satisfaction with the structure of the workshop content is thought to reflect difficulties in sequencing presentations because of problems scheduling the relevant experts to come to Trieste.

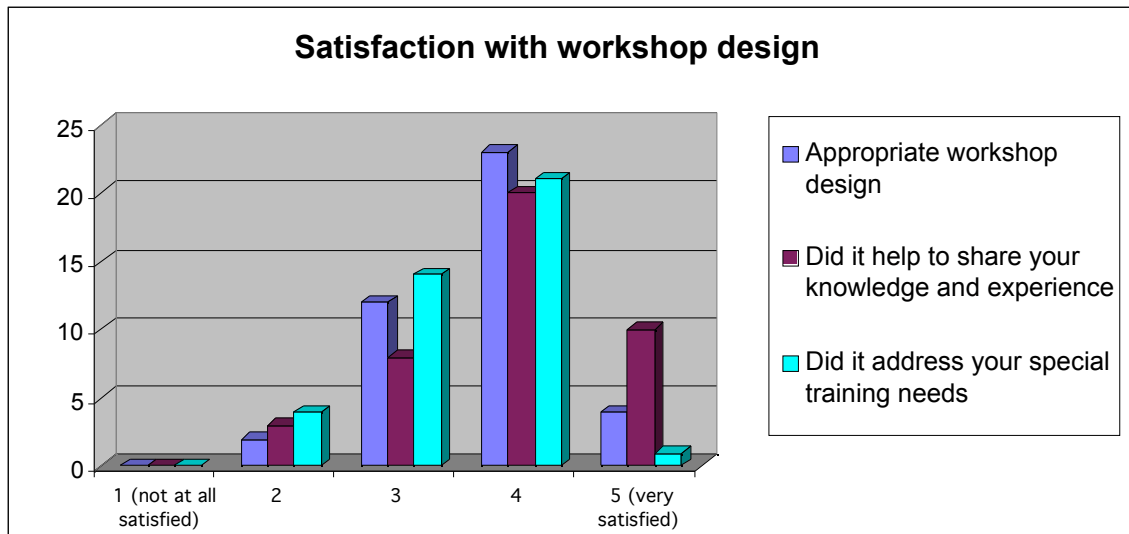
Figure 1



3.3. Workshop design

Participants were asked to evaluate the workshop design, or the modes of working (a mixture of plenary presentations, breakout sessions, participant presentations, small working groups, 1-on-1 work, discussion sessions etc). About 2/3 found the workshop design to be appropriate or very appropriate and 3/4 found that the design helped or helped them very much to share their own knowledge and experience. Roughly half were satisfied or very satisfied that the design met their special training needs. Four persons indicated dissatisfaction with the appropriateness of the workshop design, their ability to share their own knowledge and experience within that design, or that their special training needs were not met. No respondents reported that they were not satisfied at all with the workshop design.

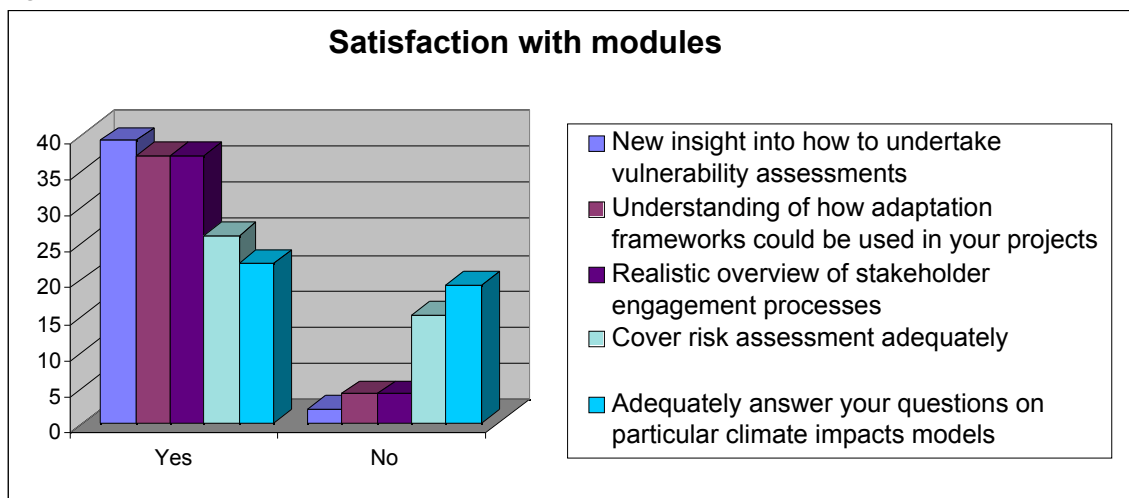
Figure 2



3.4. Modules

The workshop was constructed around a number of modules: vulnerability concepts and assessment, adaptation evaluation, stakeholder analysis and engagement, risk assessment, and sectoral impact assessment. Most respondents reported satisfaction with the modules on vulnerability assessments, adaptation frameworks, and stakeholder engagement processes. About 2/3 of respondents were satisfied with the risk assessment module and just under 1/2 were satisfied with the climate impacts module.

Figure 3

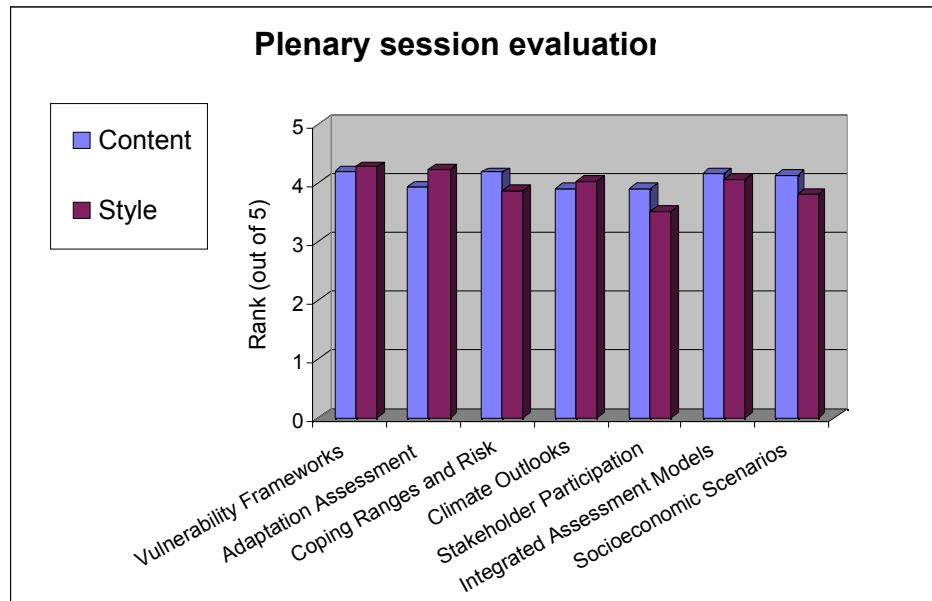


3.5. Plenary Presentations

Fifteen presentations were made in plenary during the workshop. Participants were asked to evaluate their satisfaction with the quality of the content of each presentation and the style of the presentation. Figure 4 presents the average scores for seven of the plenary sessions. The sessions presented here are those that dealt with topics that are

key to the curriculum of the workshop. The average scores are mostly near 4 for both quality of content and style for the plenary sessions.

Figure 4



3.6. Written Evaluation Comments

Following is a compendium of written evaluation comments from workshop participants.

3.6.1. Comments on the overall objective and contents of the workshop

Content

- Vulnerability content seemed to dominate when we are trying to go forward with adaptation. The methodological links between studying vulnerability and studying adaptation are still not entirely clear. Same goes for executing links between engaging policy makers and using the models
- Focus was more on human systems. I wonder what would happen if we tried to focus more on coupled human-environment systems
- The workshop was biased towards socio-economic vulnerability, impacts and adaptation rather than the natural science so could have been a more balanced one
- Highly satisfied; resourceful/informative; stimulating ideas for laying out clearer/narrower project scope and framework
- The contents were adequate both in breadth and depth
- Perhaps an overview of each sector and the kinds of impacts each might experience - human, economic, coast, tourism, animal, plant, other organisms, infrastructure, agriculture, water, food, land use, livelihoods, ecosystem, health etc.
- There could be more practice in application sessions. More detail on specific scenario generation vulnerability assessment and climate change models as well as more field trips
- We would appreciate more activities in vulnerability assessment, mapping, indicators

- The overall objectives were clear and content-rich in areas identified under the objectives. Can't cover everything in two weeks but my hope was we would answer questions such as: How do we conduct a vulnerability analysis and an adaptation analysis?
- Overall objectives were well achieved. Future course it is a good idea to have more practice in application sessions; more detail on specific models for scenario generation, vulnerability assessment and climate change.
- Overall objectives well articulated and were attained to a high degree. The content of the workshop is sufficient and covered all the projects aspects
- Satisfied but more hands-on experience should have been there
- I was expecting more in-depth exposure to methodology
- Little on the applications of the different methods presented. Confusing some time

Presentations

- The presentation was highly variable from very clear to a little too difficult to understand
- Would liked to have seen more speakers from AIACC projects - there are innovative methods in the projects that could have been shared. Participants did not come to the workshop without any method experience - in fact some are experts. It was also clear that some speakers did not know how to orient talks to the goal of the session topic
- Some plenary presentations of project team could be helpful
- In some presentations the title was not actually what was presented. It seems that perhaps the lecturers do not have clear ideas about what to share

Structure

- Good although the structure was a little disjointed - each day had a specific objective but the range of sessions was often so different that they didn't match up
- The workshop was very beneficial in that it enabled project team members to communicate with others and discuss problems encountered and/or methods used. It would have been more valuable had their been more plenary sessions
- Objectives and content were suitable; the time allocation however was not
- Too much content for too little time
- There was too much information to be absorbed in a very short period of time and less time to reassess what kind of information had been learned and whether particular information was more important than other information
- The schedule was too tight that at times a more in-depth discussion and hands-on training skills development was sacrificed.

3.6.2. Comments on the design of the workshop

Strong points

Sessions

- Breakout sessions are a good approach to avoid attending sessions of no interests to participants
- Parallel breakout sessions work well with teams, not with individuals, so our being in teams meant this worked well
- Breakout sessions addressed more specific issues with good interaction opportunities
- Wrap up each day and feedback was helpful
- Combination of plenary with breakouts worked well and could be reinforced with fieldtrips to research institutes, universities, government programmes etc, to increase the networking experience for participants

Design

- Very interactive and informative with regards to what other AIACC projects were operating/being planned and the potential methods/building blocks that could be employed in one's project
- Design satisfactory considering the time allocated for the program
- Dynamic and was not always the same
- Thematic approach
- Systematic design
- Interactive approach, hand-on training
- Multidisciplinary is the strong point of the design
- Broad range of issues covered
- Addressed key issues
- Participatory and hands-on with flexibility in the workshop schedule
- Opportunity to meet the other groups
- Informal discussions among students and facilitators
- Open discussions during plenary and breakout sessions
- An attempt at computer-based hands-on studies for mapping etc.
- The reliance on a diverse faculty, authorities in relevant fields
- Bridge the gap between quantitative and qualitative and downscaling

What could be improved on

Content

- Maybe the themes were too disperse and a presentation that could join the themes would help
- More clarity would have been better
- Study case workshops
- Hands-on exercises especially for participatory tools

Timing

- Better management of long discussions of side topics which often wasted time that could be better spent talking about actual topic of talk would be beneficial
- More time/sessions for each project to meet/discuss with regional mentors
- Could be improved by allocating more time to identified needs oriented training on regional basis
- Too many breakout sessions; some of the sessions could have been collapsed into plenary sessions so that all participants take part
- The duration could have been shorter (7 or 8 days instead of 12)
- Shorter tea/lunch breaks would have reduced the length of the workshop each day as the hours were too long
- Scheduling should not be so tight
- Much time wasted (in terms of waiting for facilitators to be available)
- More break time needed. A better structure would have been 2-3 days and then 1/2 day off, then 3 days more. The days were too long
- Need more time for individual project discussions and analysis

Projects

- Too little attention was paid to the specific needs of individual projects
- More time should be allocated to address the specific needs of projects
- Would have been good to have _ hour meetings with regional mentors sooner in meeting (similar to the one we had with Tom at the end) to get more focussed on directions and issues or concerns that were addressed during meeting. In some cases we didn't realise a topic was relevant until after the presentations.

Logistics

- Project groups could have been consulted as to what they would like to gain out of the workshop during the preparatory stages
- More PI's communication with the organisers before the course; it will improve the course design content
- Photocopied materials that are in colour do not come out clearly - some not readable
- Parallel sessions should have been designed in such a way that the sectoral people could attend
- Parallel sessions denied full participation/learning
- Breakout session could have been organised as a mixture of natural science and social sciences. Since it was not, some useful sessions in the same category were on parallel, so we missed some
- Hard to decide what session to attend and there were no other times to hear the presentations. Presentations of some groups did not attain the proposed objectives mainly the final presentations
- Greater interaction between team members and resource persons should be increased

3.6.3. Comments on logistics

Venues

- Venues were very hot from midday onwards; air-conditioning would have been good
- Air conditioning in some rooms really bad. Felt light-headed at times which is not good for concentrating!
- Sound was not always good, seating unfriendly, OHP pathetic
- Presenters need to use microphone - sometimes background noise or conversation drowned out unamplified voices. Loudspeaker at top of pillar, not behind orator
- The center post in front of the plenary sessions room is a big obstruction

Accommodation

- Accommodation and travel arrangements were excellent - well done Sheila and thanks for all the directions (wouldn't have made it without them)
- Accommodation in Holiday Inn was not adequate
- Dinner is very expensive at Holiday Inn
- Accommodation and practical arrangements were good but arrangement for dinner at Holiday Inn was not
- Hotel fine, except no hot water in mornings
- Accommodation was very comfortable
- Would have like to stay in Trieste
- What I don't like was the location of Duino's hotel (Holiday Inn); very isolated, we didn't have anything to do when we arrived at 19:00 everyday
- Would have been better for informal networking if we were all in the same hotel and could take the same bus
- In terms of accessing resource persons for discussions after hours, living in separate hotels discouraged this
- Hotel is situated away from city centre so time consuming to go down town and back
- The organisers and facilitators are separated although we talk about interaction, partnership and sharing

Timing

- Too long days - some plenaries are too much
- Timing was OK - perhaps we could have moved the whole schedule 1 hour earlier
- Afternoon sessions could have ended earlier than 6.30

- Programme was a bit intense - an afternoon off to sleep or explore would have helped early in the week
- Too much time working. You cannot be working at full 10 hours/day during 2 weeks
- Days are quite long - but needed to fit in a lot of sessions - so justified
- Duration of workshop was extremely longer than what a participant can absorb. The content of the course could have shortened to 9-4/5pm
- Timing contradicts world cup competition

General

- Travel could have been better arranged. Pick up at the airport, reimbursement of travel fare not common to all
- Organisers could be of greater assistance to participants by arranging meeting them at the airport/train station etc.
- Justification/rationale for payment of DSA was not communicated or shown to participants
- All high cost arrangements were attended but small but more important matters such as microphone was not properly looked after
- Sheila did an excellent job; Sara was very helpful and so NICE!

3.6.4. Comments on whether regional mentors were helpful

Why

- It was very helpful for widening the knowledge on objectives of climate scenarios - downscaling all Integrated Assessment Modelling and stakeholder participation.
- Helpful because apart from providing general overview they provided regionally specific insights and experiences
- It provided the opportunity for us to compare project issues and to discuss regional issues
- Help clarify project framework and scope and build confidence and competence; Wish to have more communications/meetings with mentors during the study
- Reducing/removing confusion
- Clarification of framework design which is so important to making good project
- It helps to identify and understand some points in our project that could be improved or solved in other ways, or face considering the aspects that you did not at the beginning
- I had a new view of the project because I had contact with the social issues in the region and from other projects
- Clarity on what kind of contribution I would make to my project
- The exchange of information from their work that can serve as input for our own
- Clarifying project objectives and the importance of the project's outputs for decision makers, policy makers and other stakeholders in general
- I am able to raise issues/concerns regarding our project of which our regional mentor very satisfactorily addressed. The idea of regional mentoring is excellent
- Chance to exchange ideas and experiences and plan for future collaboration during project implementation cycle
- We were able to get new ideas such as clues for materials/methodologies we were lacking
- Mentors could obtain a more precise view of each project, also participating in the discussions of the potential collaborations among regional projects

Improvement

- For regional mentors to be effective, they should ideally be 'part of the project' rather than 'overseers' where intervention is viewed on a 'higher plane' than that of the projects
- Yes but need to improve this aspect
- Suggested the ways in which our project can contribute to knowledge gaps yet specific methodological issues not addressed

Specific mentors

- Roger and Saleem both helped provide potential direction and approaches to us (facilitators and stakeholders rather than researchers) and how to mesh our 2 somewhat methodologically different projects together. I just hope they have an opportunity to work with our PI and modeller.
- Roger Jones was a great intellectual facilitator. Anand was helpful to increase my knowledge on socio-economic aspects.
- Roger tried to tell us 'don't be too ambitious' and don't make your project complicated.
- We had a good meeting with Ian Burton.

Not met yet

- Have not had any meetings so can't comment.
- I'm not exactly sure who our regional mentor is as I have not met him yet.
- I have no regional mentor.
- Did not meet with them.

3.6.5. Comments on vulnerability sessions

Praise

- They were most beneficial - enabled individual team members to voice their experiences and the strengths and weakness associated with different techniques
- Interesting and stimulating most of the time
- In view to our project, these sessions were very useful, providing us with a broad analysis of how to face the vulnerability assessment

Improvements

- More hands-on experience
- Need for hands-on exercises on vulnerability assessment
- We got acquainted with a lot of tools although did not have enough time to get a better feeling about how they could be applied in our project. Our task should be to understand them better in order to be able to apply them.
- VA should have been given more prominence and time with hands on work
- Getting to the nuts and bolts on how to conduct vulnerability assessments even if AIACC projects are 'research' projects
- Could be more helpful if there was discussion of case studies on vulnerability indexing and selection of indicators
- Would like to work more on GIS applications on vulnerability assessments on practical hands-one exercises
- Considering most countries that have submitted a national communication and so have an initial vulnerability assessment, we needed more emphasis on how to take that information forward from step 4 to 5,6,7 of the IPCC methodology or other methods for adaptation
- Software/ tools should be provided

Specific demands/comments

- UV-B did not receive attention
- Tony's session on PRA should have been a plenary session. More practical methodological example - the nuts and bolts on indicator construction for example.
- GIS - last session especially helpful as more interactive. Demonstration of possible techniques of more value than trying to get participants to use software
- Need to provide more for health hazard assessment relevant to climate changes because it's something much more complicated

3.6.6. Comments on how adaptation sessions were useful for projects

General

- Need more time for this aspect
- The discussion of coping ranges of thresholds was challenging and conceptually interesting. The problem is operationalising it
- How to use models, indicators and integrated approach as well as how to engage stakeholders in planning appropriate adaptation for drought
- Broader ideas - ways in which adaptation option/ measures could be derived

Improvements

- This is an important area for almost all the projects. The standard of presentation is not satisfactory
- This was the weak aspect of the workshop. It was easy to describe the problems but the ideas for adaptation were few
- At this, still very general stage, only an overview of how necessary it is to integrate data; more specifics when we narrow down to individual projects/ case studies

Focus

- We were concentrating only on biophysical/ sectoral adaptations but how we can think little ahead more on national/ policy adaptation.
- It is important and necessary to identify coping ranges and thresholds and decision adaptation that are robust and flexible. Must examine physical as well as socio-economic conditions.
- Spent relatively little time on analysing sectoral adaptation options.
- The types of adaptation that may be possible from the community to policy level.

Examples

- More real life example are needed. More contact with real life adaptation to link theory to practice
- More examples would be useful
- Quite clear for the idea but still need more specific detail on some aspects; disaster adaptation. When can we do adaptation? Ahead of time or when?
- Involvement of fieldwork for measuring adaptation levels

3.6.7. Comment on climate impact model sessions

Praise

- Gave a clear understanding of what some of the models offered and where to find assistance. It was really important to know what was available.

- Because of the heterogeneity of the attendants, what was presented was well balanced and enough.

General

- I don't think I would feel comfortable selecting one model over another (although not my role)
- Very different programmes - still not sure which will be more relevant to my project although they were all well presented!
- SRES dominated
- Water impact sessions a bit elementary
- Need to take more time on some basics
- Should give more time on models especially for those who are new on the areas

Not covered

- There were not enough numbers of integrated models for sectoral analysis
- There wasn't much on climate change impact on ecosystems
- We did not have enough time to discuss on development of models
- Toolkits should be provided
- More close knowledge on model structure practice in model function
- More discussion needed of the limitations of modelling and how qualitative data and techniques can complement
- Suitable methods for different regions especially in context of downscaling and reliability of output

Hands-on

- There should have been enough time to go through (hands on) some climate models
- More time is needed and models should be applied to specific problems
- Hands-on experience preferred in model execution

3.6.8. Comments on risk sessions

Praise

- Excellent - very valuable information which I most certainly will account for in defining adaptation options
- It shows that the link between risk and vulnerability to climate change and the likes of adaptation
- Very good sessions - risks can be both directly or indirectly influenced by climate change but it is important that mitigation takes into consideration these factors

Uncertainties

- At the end did still could not get clear understanding of differences between risk coming from Climate Change and risk related to activities in agricultural development
- I still don't feel comfortable quantifying risk (or for that matter evaluating adaptation). I would have to draw on a consultant to carry out some things, but have begun to realise that I can't know everything I need/want to in CC field. Unfortunately in developing countries lack of capacity means one ends up doing more than one should.
- The approach for risk assessment is very different for in developing countries as was presented in Charles Kelly's presentation
- The sessions didn't adequately cover the part on how to relate short-term hazards to long term climate change in impact and adaptation analysis

Improvements

- The amount of time allocated for this session was not enough
- More detail needed
- The presenters needed more time to facilitate the answering of questions
- The sessions would have been more rewarding if adequate examples were given
- Must be more specific
- Indirectly mentioned often - did not get to actual session on risk assessment so feel unable to comment
- More emphasis on specific techniques with practical exercises
- More time for hands-on

3.6.9. Comments on stakeholder sessions

Praise

- Sessions were informative and thorough. Enjoyed this and found it of great help.
- The breakout sessions were practical and useful, particularly those based on actual field experience (Moz study, Gina's work, Venice case)
- I learnt a great deal concerning how to approach stakeholders and the importance of listening attentively etc.
- Breakout/lunchtime talks especially useful, interesting, active and well run
- It was very helpful, as I understood that I have to communicate with wide range of stakeholders from the beginning
- These sessions described explicitly the route/s to take in engaging stakeholders and were quite thought provoking

Improvements

- More time should have been devoted to this very important issue
- Still felt that too little was mentioned in regard to how to make policy makers listen to your ideas - but then Saleemul's session was very good
- Implementing the toolkit provided will be the real challenge to us as individuals. I would have liked more time to 'practice' tools
- There are some weak points in stakeholders engagement processes but we did not discuss about it
- Engaging stakeholders is something very unique for any research project. There are various toolkits that have been experienced by many people that could give us some ideas how to do it in the same situation in our project
- Need more emphasis on communication and conflict resolution

General

- Could have received much less time and attention
- I liked Bruna and Angela's sessions; Erika's was some confusions and with Tim Downs as he did not speak on Mexico and the content was not the same as the title
- The stakeholder relevance and participation was highlighted and established in a very interesting way
- I realise how difficult it is to communication science to stakeholders; Gained some basic knowledge. Need and hope to improve my understanding by peer consultation and reading suggested material
- The toolkit provided was good; taking into account that stakeholders are very different in each country, obviously we will have to adapt that toolkit to our reality

3.6.10. General remarks on the course

General

- The course was quite informative from its broad content
- It was excellent to broaden my knowledge, especially in social science areas
- The course exposed me to a new perspective of the problem of any project. It has also provided me appropriate toolkit to prosecute the project
- A real eye-opener to me as I had not previously considered human, health, agriculture aspects of climate impacts
- A lot of useful information was gathered. Course allowed me to be fully engaged in the project for the first and I believe the information exchange with team members and AIACC staff would help to start the project implementation sooner
- AIACC should now plan regional courses in coordination with regional project needs. This means that facilitators to the courses need to formulate their course material based on the relevant project proposals
- This was an excellent workshop, which covered quite a bit of ground. Operationalising coping ranges and risk assessment was an important aspect for me. More over, having mentors is a definite plus
- Making materials available is very much commendable
- Organisers wanted to do the best and to improve all the time. Very adaptive mind of the organisers
- I think the course has provided some answers about how to put socio-economic aspects within the structure of the research design. Personally I've been enlightened and educated by the course
- A lot of new tools and information but not enough time to digest everything. Breakout groups ideal but sometimes you missed good sessions so perhaps more repeats
- The course has been beneficial. It brought up some issues we had little or no background knowledge of and enhanced the ability and capability of the experts
- Very fruitful, educating, enlightening
- Good workshop, allows to build up a community
- The need to balance concepts and the extent of them makes very difficult to do a better job
- The organisers believed that everybody had the same background in CC which was not true. Some of us were too new to understand everything
- Good level concerning lectures
- Very useful for analysis and different kinds of methodologies to undertake our research. In particular, it was very helpful to modify some priorities in the project. We had the opportunity to initiate the collaboration among regional projects

Improvements

- Course designed well but is a little long
- Nice overview but not enough detail on within sector/methodological category - presenters focused too much on their own methodological favourites
- 2 weeks are very long. Applied session on real examples would have helped
- Great course - a little more structure may have helped. I think more attention must be paid to engaging the audience - some presentations were very dull
- Too much time of work/day; too general presentations
- Should have chance to evaluate breakout facilitators - Tony from Nigeria and Max Campos were excellent!
- Wish I'd been exposed to much of the material prior to attempting vulnerability approaches
- Most presenters did not effectively answer questions directed to them.

- The course was good, if a bit long. I think some of the talks could have been more specific, less conceptual and general. It would have been good to have had opportunities for projects to share method issues and problems with each other.
- Maybe we have to spend some time for extra reading and sharpening the skills gained after returning. Too much of 'economics' and less climate scenarios
- Value of certificate could have been enhanced if it is given as 'following or completing' a course on CC adaptation rather than just 'participation'

Thanks

- Thank you all!!
- Lots of appreciation to the organisers
- We learnt lots of things. Thank you for inspiring us. Very informative, contents are good but the style could be improved. Anyway, good start for the project
- Appreciate very much the effort that has put into organise this workshop and the objectives have been achieved to a great extent. Contacts got established here would be helpful to fulfil them
- Thanks very much. I learned a lot during the last 2 weeks. The course is very useful, efficiently organised, resourceful. I'm very happy with it
- A big thank you to Sara and Shiela. They worked really hard all workshop time and made it possible
- Thank you Neil and Sara and the rest of the gang for all your hard work and dedication
- Excellent! Sincere thanks to Sara, Neil, Tom, Roger and Saleem
- Cool! We love it, enjoy and benefit.